

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING INDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT & STRATEGY

NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed to produce the London Borough of Havering (LBH) indoor and outdoor sports assessments and strategies and its open space assessment. This work will provide key evidence to support development of an updated Havering Local Plan.

With regard to the Indoor Sports Assessment and Strategy work, the Council's stated objectives are to:

- ◀ Undertake a local authority wide assessment of indoor sport and recreation facilities, building upon existing information, to establish the quantity and quality of existing provision and any additional provision required to meet future needs to 2031.
- ◀ Develop a strategy and realistic action plans for indoor sports provision. The action plan will need to be prioritised and realistic in recognition of diminishing public resources and limited budgets.
- ◀ Follow best practice advice including Sport England's: "Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance" and "Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance".
- ◀ Provide a robust evidence base to ensure the timely and sound preparation of the Havering Local Plan dates and other planning policy documents and to provide parameters for developing a toolkit for the council / developers.
- ◀ Provide a clear direction on where future investment from the Council or external sources should go in the LBH area.
- ◀ Provide clear and justified conclusions.
- ◀ Provide advice and guidance on how to maintain an up-to-date record of existing provision in terms of condition, demand, aspirations of clubs etc.

The Indoor Sports Assessment and Strategy will replace the previous Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Assessment Report and Strategy, completed in 2016. The scope includes all sports halls larger than three badminton courts in scale, swimming pools, health and fitness suites and other specialist provision (combat sports, cycling, squash, indoor bowls, indoor tennis, ice sports and gymnastics and trampolining).

Since completion of the previous Indoor Sports Assessment and Strategy in 2016 there have been numerous changes to provision, along with increasing demand. Public leisure sites have received high levels of investment, such as the replacement of Hornchurch Leisure Centre, and new leisure centres in Rainham and Romford. This report is, therefore, a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities within the LBH, identifying need (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision).

Evidence about provision and overall need detail:

- ◀ A clear picture of the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities serving the area within the local authority and adjacent authorities.
- ◀ A clear understanding of existing and future demand for facilities considering local population data, local and national participation rates, unmet, latent, dispersed and future demand, local activity priorities and sports specific priorities.
- ◀ The resultant required level of provision in quantity, quality, accessibility and availability terms and develop key findings and facility implications that could be used by the Authority with reference to a Toolkit for provision.

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Intelligence and needs assessment detail:

- ◀ A documented assessment of current use and future need for sports / amenity facilities within the authority; focusing on the quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand until 2031.
- ◀ Identification of all sites to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Identification of education facilities which could be utilised to address identified deficits in provision.
- ◀ Detail with regard to need to inform development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ Detail with regard to need to inform the assessment of planning applications – linked to a toolkit via which contributions can be best directed to enhance existing provision.

Development priorities:

- ◀ A priority list of realistic and deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ◀ Proposed potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g., for educational sites.

Financial budgeting:

- ◀ Advice in respect of achieving the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch and sports facility provision.
- ◀ Prioritisation of internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ Evidence to help secure internal and external funding including S106 / CIL funding linking to potential developments coming forward.

The audit

The audit was conducted between October 2023 and January 2024. Where access was not available KKP carried out non-technical quality assessments via desk research. Where possible the quality of this was supplemented utilising virtual 'walk arounds' of the health and fitness suites or videos and photos present on operators' websites or in discussion with operators.

1.2: Scope of the project

This report provides detail as to what exists in LBH, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth, and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/sports covered include sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, dance/aerobic studios, squash, indoor tennis, indoor bowls, combat sports, gymnastics and trampolining, boxing, combat sports, cycling, ice skating and ice hockey. In delivering this report KKP has:

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

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Romford is the largest of seven town centres in the Authority. It is historically known as a market town with strong ties to the leather industry, and now offers a high street shopping experience with a combination of large retailers and individual traders. The other main towns are Upminster, Hornchurch, Elm Park, Harold Hill, Collier Row and Rainham.

Havering has good transport links with Central London via London Underground, London Overground and regular bus services. The M25 provides excellent transport links to other outer London authorities as well as the M1. The A12 Passes through Romford, connecting the Authority with Chelmsford and central London. Despite this, transport connectivity when travelling between the north and south of the Borough is poor.

1.4: Report structure

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

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

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

- ◀ Section 2 - review of background policy documentation (national/regional/local) and a profile of the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the Authority.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sport halls provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 8 - assessment of indoor bowls.
- ◀ Section 9 – assessment of indoor tennis.
- ◀ Section 10 – assessment of gymnastics and trampolining.
- ◀ Section 11 – assessment of combat sports.
- ◀ Section 12 – assessment of cycling.
- ◀ Section 13 – assessment of ice sports.
- ◀ Section 14 – strategic recommendations.

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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1: National context

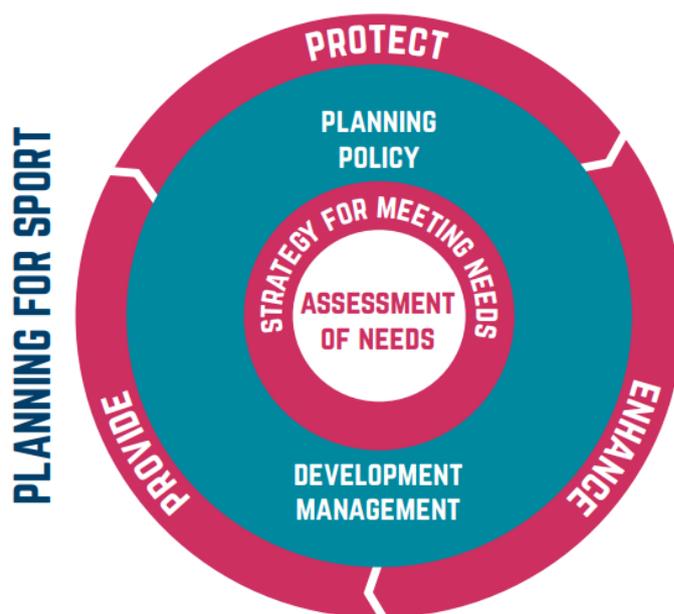
The Government [Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity](#) has the focus on increasing physical activity, making sport more welcoming and inclusive, and ensuring the long-term financial and environmental sustainability of the sector. In addition, the recently launched cross-departmental National Physical Activity Taskforce has a focus on environmental sustainability in the sector, clear targets for increasing physical activity rates and a new vision for leisure facilities in 2023.

Get Active sets out how the government will work with the sector to achieve these aims by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to get active. Central to this is a focus on ensuring that children establish a lifetime of engagement with sport and physical activity. This is accompanied by the introduction of national targets for participation to help hold Government and the sector to account for delivering the change that is needed.

Sport England

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

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model

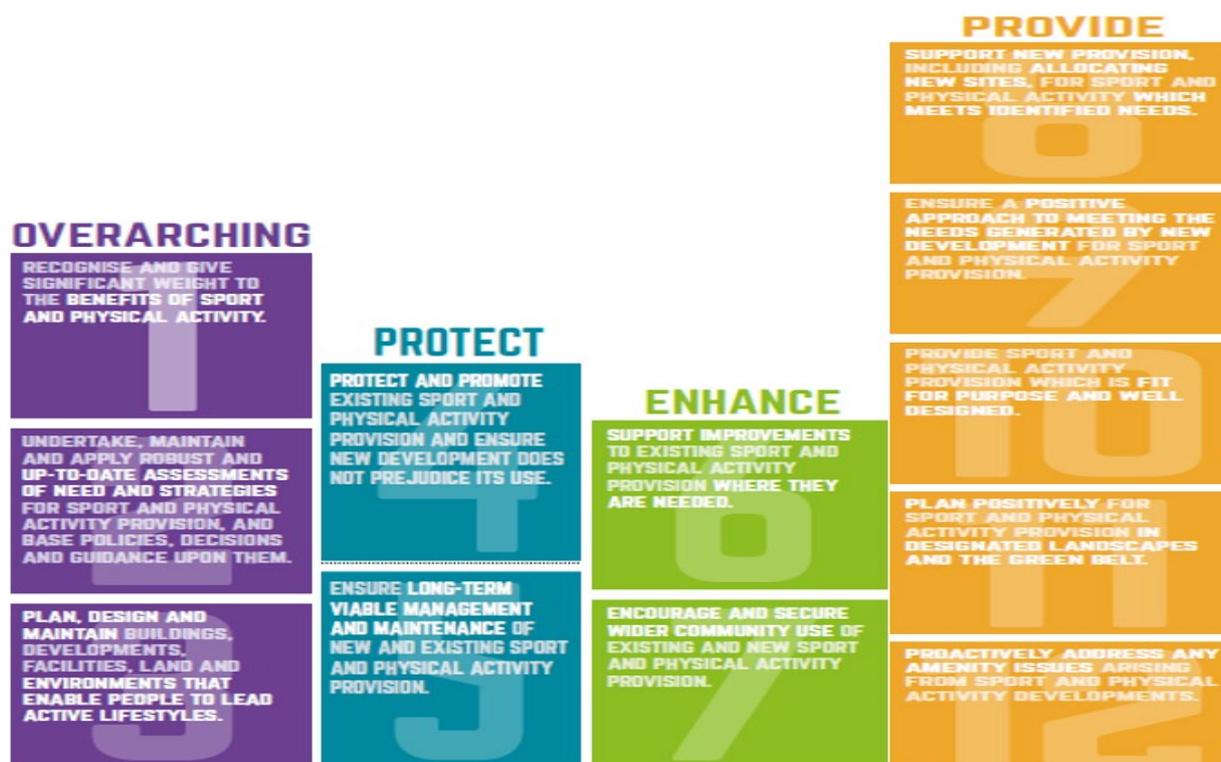


Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

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Figure 2.2: Sport England's 12 planning principles



Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

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

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

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

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues that communities and people need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the main opportunities to make a lasting difference. They are designated as a building blocks that individually would make a difference but tackled collectively could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

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- ◀ Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health, and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

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

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

Sport England: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 January 2021¹

Activity levels for adults had been increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented drops in activity during the first few weeks of full lockdown between mid-March and mid-May 2020. The proportion of the population classed as active dropped by 7.1% (meaning that there were just over 3 million fewer active adults).

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

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

The proportion of children and young people reportedly active mid-May to late July 2021 fell by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer meeting the recommended level of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. The impact was greater for some groups than others. Whilst all were impacted in terms of activity levels, girls fared better than boys, whilst those from black and mixed backgrounds saw more pronounced drops in activity levels.

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

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

¹ Link to Sport England - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 January 2021

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Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020²

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

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

Findings reveal that community sport and physical activity makes an annual contribution of £85.5 billion to the country (in 2018 prices) through social and economic benefits. Its social value – including physical and mental health, wellbeing, individual and community development – is more than £72 billion, provided via routes such as a healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime, and stronger communities. It also generates more than £13bn in economic value. The economic value includes more than 285,000 jobs that employ people within the community sport and physical activity sector.

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

Sport England: The Future of Public Sector Leisure

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

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

- ◀ 68% of sports halls and swimming pools were built 20+ years ago. Although more than £150m was invested in the opening of new public leisure and swimming facilities in 2018/19³, with another £200m worth of assets in construction or planning there remains significant levels of ageing public leisure stock. LBH bucks this trend, providing an excellent case study for local authority investment into its public leisure stock.
- ◀ 72% of all school swimming lessons take place in a public leisure facility, which included both the statutory learn to swim programme and the water safety curriculum across primary schools. Swimming club usage is also predominantly based at public leisure facilities.

² Link to Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020

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

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The leisure sector emerged from the pandemic in a fragile state. Emergency funding⁴ helped to avert financial catastrophe and enabled the additional costs of maintaining public assets and reopening services to be met. This funding is, however, finite and is largely exhausted. At best, financial pressures risk limiting the ability of stakeholders to deliver against their commitments; at worst they may result in the permanent closure of some services or facilities.

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

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

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

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

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

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

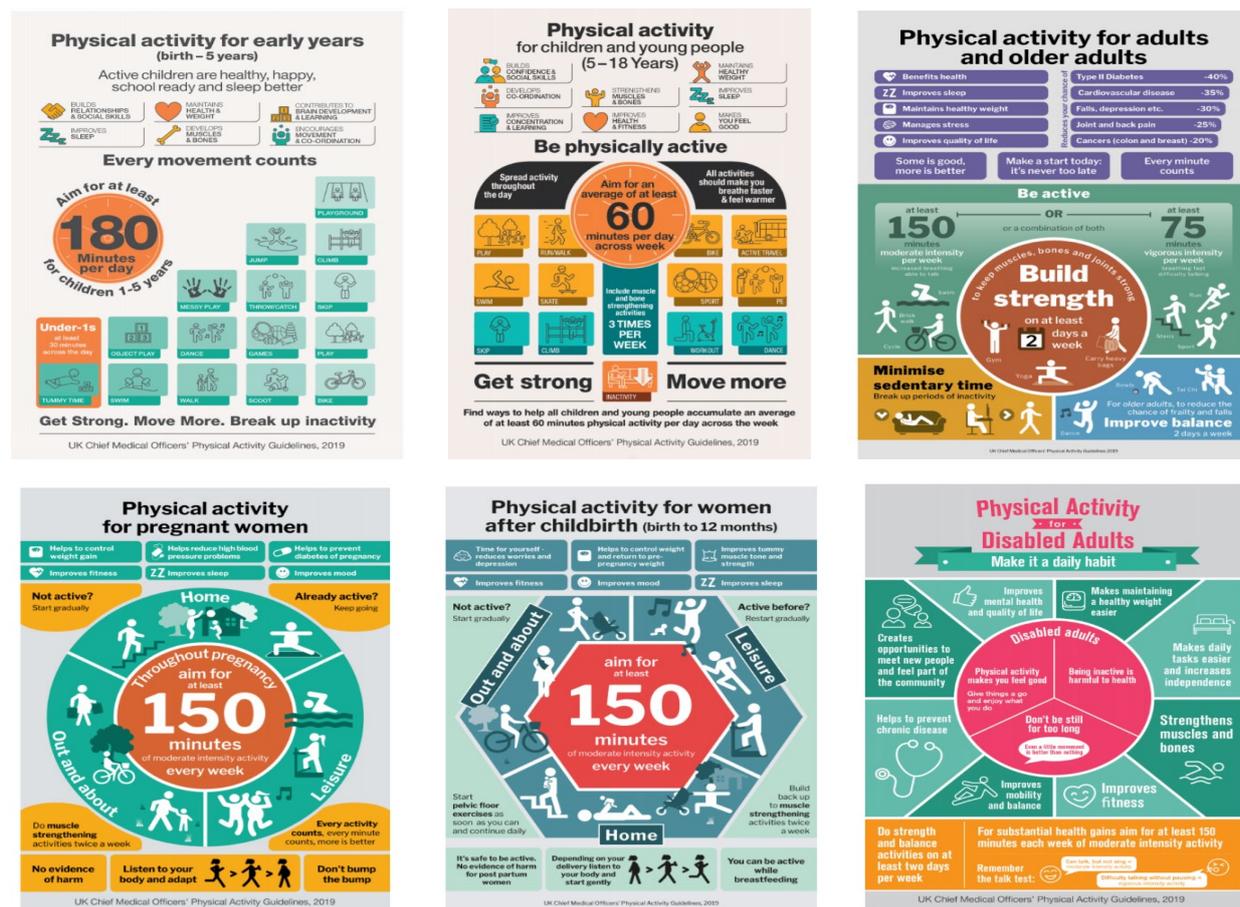
Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities. Key factors for each age group are as follows:

- ◆ Under-5s (infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers): should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.
- ◆ Children and young people (5-18 years): should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- ◆ Adults (19-64 years): for good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- ◆ Older adults (65+): should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

⁴ Local authorities invested £160 million The National Leisure Recovery Fund £100m, Leisure operators drew on £171 million of reserves alongside further relief measures such as the Government's furlough scheme

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Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



The report also recognises an emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT). Available evidence demonstrates that high intensity interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance. This option has therefore been incorporated into the recommendation for adults.

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2024 report

This report notes that poverty in the UK has now increased to just below pre-pandemic levels. Available data provides evidence that more than one in five people now live in poverty (including 4.2 million children. Of these, 40% are described as being in 'deep poverty', with an income considerably below the standard poverty line. Certain groups of people face particularly high levels of poverty. They include (figures relate to 2021/22 unless otherwise stated):

- ✦ Larger families – where 43% of children in families with 3 or more children were in poverty.
- ✦ Families whose childcare responsibilities limit their ability to work – 44% of children in lone-parent families were in poverty.
- ✦ Many minority ethnic groups – many households have higher rates of child, very deep and persistent poverty.

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- ◀ 31% of disabled people are in poverty. This rate is higher (at 38%) for people with a long-term, limiting mental health condition.
- ◀ 28% of informal carers (those with caring responsibilities). They have limited ability to work and unpaid social-care givers experience an average pay penalty of nearly £5,000/annum.
- ◀ Families not in work – more than half of working-age adults (56%) in workless households are in poverty - compared with 15% in working households. Around two-thirds of working-age adults in poverty actually live in a household where someone is in work.
- ◀ Part-time workers and the self-employed - the poverty rate for part-time workers was double that for full-time workers (20% compared with 10%). Self-employed workers are more than twice as likely to be in poverty as employees (23% compared with 10%).
- ◀ 43% of people living in rented accommodation and 35% of private renters are in poverty after housing costs.
- ◀ Families claiming income-related benefits.

Environmental sustainability

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

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

[Sport England](#) reports that ⁵climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to counter this very real threat.

It proposes that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development to, and the resultant environmental impact of, say, new swimming pool development. This applies to determining whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embedded or to build anew⁶. In establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggests some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

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

⁵[Sport England Environmental Sustainability policy](#)

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Investment in school sport

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

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

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

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

The Physical Literacy Consensus Statement for England – Sport England (2023)

This has been developed to facilitate a shared understanding of physical literacy for those working in the sport, education, physical activity, recreation, play, health and youth sectors. It offers a broad overview of physical literacy, why it matters and how it can be developed and supported.

Developing a consensus on the term physical literacy has been a priority, as understanding what impacts people's relationship with movement and physical activity throughout life will enable those working in the sector to ensure their offer is as appealing as possible.

In essence, physical literacy represents the extent to which individuals have a positive relationship with movement and physical activity. The Youth Sport Trust has published findings evidencing that a total of 4,000 hours of physical education (PE) have been lost from the curriculum of state-funded secondary schools. PE hours have fallen victim to more time spent online, poor school attendance and declining health and wellbeing levels in young people. Since 2012, the amount of PE in England has fallen by more than 12%.

Evidence also shows that children with high levels of physical literacy are twice as likely to engage in sport and physical activity. In later life, adults who feel they have the opportunity, ability and enjoy being physically active are more likely to be so. To increase physical activity in both children and adults, it is important to consider the cultural and environmental factors which affect physical activity levels alongside the influence of previous experiences.

Ensuring good quality and regular PE in schools is considered to be essential to improving the mental and physical wellbeing of young people and will enable young people to develop new skills, achieve greater academic success and live longer, happier, healthier lives.

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Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund

In 2023, a funding pot of £63 million was announced to ease the pressure on leisure centres with managing the cost of operating, maintaining and heating swimming pools. This is being managed by Sport England and is available to all pools run by councils and charities and all those run on behalf of councils. LBH received £316,000 in phase one of the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund and received an additional funding in phase two for Central Park Leisure Centre.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2023

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

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

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

Summary of national context

In the context both of emergence from the global pandemic and the highly challenging economic environment, there is a need to reconnect communities, reduce inequality and create stronger societies. The aim is to create a catalyst for change, with sport and physical activity a key driver and people in all age groups either getting or remaining active. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to support this aim is a key requirement of the planning system in line with national policy recommendations.

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2.2: Local context

Havering Local Plan (2016 – 2031)

This sets out the Council’s ambitious vision and strategy for future growth and sustainable development over the period to 2031. The vision for the Local Plan is **to create a clean, safe and proud Borough for people to live and visit**. To achieve this, LBH has set out a series of objectives which it hopes to deliver over the time period for the Plan.

The plan focusses on creating high quality, safe neighbourhoods where local people want to live. To accommodate future population growth, a minimum of 18,930 dwellings of various sizes will be built in the Authority over the plan period. Ensuring that current and future residents of Havering can live healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities is a priority in the Local Plan.

To promote healthier lifestyles, the Local Plan set out the following key ambitions:

- ◀ Replacement of Hornchurch Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Provision of a new leisure centre in the south of the Borough.
- ◀ Enhanced facilities and a wider range of uses of Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre.
- ◀ New leisure provision within the Rainham and Beam Park Strategic Development Area.

Since the publication of the Local Plan, Hornchurch Leisure Centre has been replaced by Harrow Lodge leisure Centre and a new leisure centre has been built in Rainham.

In addition to enhancing the current sport and physical activity offer, LBH will protect and enhance cultural provision, provide increased training and employment opportunities with modern workspaces, and support sustainable transport options to improve accessibility from and within Havering.

Whilst working towards the objectives set out in the Local Plan, LBH will protect and enhance the Borough’s Green belt and improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of public open spaces.

The Havering Vision

The Havering Vision combines the corporate plan and workforce strategy to deliver a range of outcomes across three themes: people, place and resource.

Table 2.1: The Havering Vision

Theme	Objective
People	Create a safe authority with equal opportunity for all. Ensure the best health and social outcomes are guaranteed. Young people are inspired to reach their full potential. Empower communities to look after themselves and each other. Residents are supported to live healthier, independent and more socially connected lives. Adopt a whole systems approach to tackle childhood obesity.

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Theme	Objective
Place	<p>A clean and green place to live.</p> <p>Easy and safe methods of transport.</p> <p>Affordable new housing development which is in line with the Borough's character.</p> <p>Housing tenants and leaseholders receive good service.</p> <p>Attract and deliver regeneration.</p> <p>Enhance the Authority's art, history, leisure and culture offer.</p>
Resource	<p>Create a financially resilient Council which provides value for money services.</p> <p>The Council is engaging with local communities.</p> <p>The Council is an employer of choice.</p> <p>The Council is digitally enabled.</p>

Havering's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024

Life expectancy is slightly better than average in the Borough and has increased in recent decades but there are significant inequalities between communities and population groups. The rate of increase in life expectancy has slowed, with many of the additional years of life gained lived in poor health. To address this the Health and Wellbeing Board strategy vision is to ensure that **'everyone in Havering enjoys a long and healthy life; and has access to the best health and social care services'**. To achieve this, it sets out its priorities against key themes.

Table 2.2: Havering's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Theme	Priority
Wider determinants of health	<p>Assisting people with health problems (back) into work.</p> <p>Provide strategic leadership for collective efforts to prevent homelessness and the harm caused.</p>
The communities we live in	<p>Improve support to residents whose life experiences drive frequent calls on health and social care services.</p> <p>Realising the benefits of regeneration for health and social care services.</p>
Lifestyles & behaviours	<p>Reduce obesity and tobacco harm</p> <p>Improve health settings within early years providers, schools / colleges</p>
Health & social care services	<p>Development of integrated health and social care services for CYP and adults at locality level.</p>

In 2021 Havering Council adopted a plan to tackle climate change in the Authority. This involves transforming current practise across nine objectives:

- ◀ People – Optimize skills and potential to support a sustainable future.
- ◀ Public protection – Ensure economic development and growth is achieved with sustainability.
- ◀ Business Continuity – Resilience and a strong response to climate change related events
- ◀ Stakeholder and community – Encourage local people to drive the agenda.
- ◀ Waste – Reduce, reuse, recycle and save costs.
- ◀ Energy management – Increase renewable energy usage and reduce emissions.
- ◀ Built environment – Well adapted homes and businesses.
- ◀ Transport – reduce emissions from all forms of transport.
- ◀ Procurement – Council spending to support transition to carbon neutrality.

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London Sport (Active Partnership)

This active partnership covers the authority of Havering. Its strategy vision is **‘to make London the most active city in the world’**. It sets six long-term goals which, when achieved, will make a fundamental difference to resident physical activity levels in London. These are:

- ◀ Increase physical activity levels among less active adults.
- ◀ Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life.
- ◀ Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives.
- ◀ Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active.
- ◀ Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives.
- ◀ Ensure evidence, data and high-quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

Leisure operator

Everyone Active (EA) is responsible for managing more than 200 centres nationwide. Since 2016, it has been contracted to manage the five council public leisure centres. This includes Rainham Leisure Centre, which opened in July 2023, and Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre which opened in 2021. The latter replaced Hornchurch Leisure Centre. EA’s current management contract is due to expire on 30 September 2036. EA is also responsible for the management of Abbs Cross Health and Fitness.

London Borough of Havering Indoor Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy 2016-2031

As is noted earlier, the strategy vision is ‘to transform lives through participation in, and enjoyment of, sport and physical activity’. The linked recommendations are to:

- ◀ Support and facilitate the Romford Leisure Development. As a result of this recommendation, Sapphire Ice and Leisure opened to the public in February 2018.
- ◀ Replace Hornchurch Sports Centre with an appropriately sized, accessible facility capable of hosting swimming galas and local clubs. Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre replaced Hornchurch Sports Centre, which opened in April 2021.
- ◀ Provide an accessible, ‘right sized’ facility in South Havering. Rainham Leisure Centre was opened to the public in July 2023.
- ◀ Investigate the feasibility of upgrading and/or expanding school sports hall stock and changing provision to provide community use.
- ◀ Work closely with local clubs and NGBs to develop specialist facilities, particularly for athletics, cycling, gymnastics and indoor tennis.

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Summary of local policy

LBH has identified several initiatives to create a borough which is an attractive place to live, work and visit. The current Local Plan features 20 objectives across themes including increasing the amount of affordable housing, protecting and enhancing the local culture, improving local transport networks and operating in a more sustainable manner to protect the environment. Improving the health and wellbeing of local residents is a central premise throughout the Local Plan.

The Havering Vision outlines the plans to deliver outcomes based on people, place and resources. Its ambition is that Havering will be a place where people can reach their potential whilst making use of good transport links and living in affordable, high-quality housing. The Authority will attract and deliver regeneration and have a council which supports local people by providing value for money services and embrace digital technology.

The importance of health and wellbeing is recognised in Havering and is evidenced by the development and refurbishment of public leisure centres over the last decade. This process has focused on creating a sustainable sport and leisure offer with affordable access for local people.

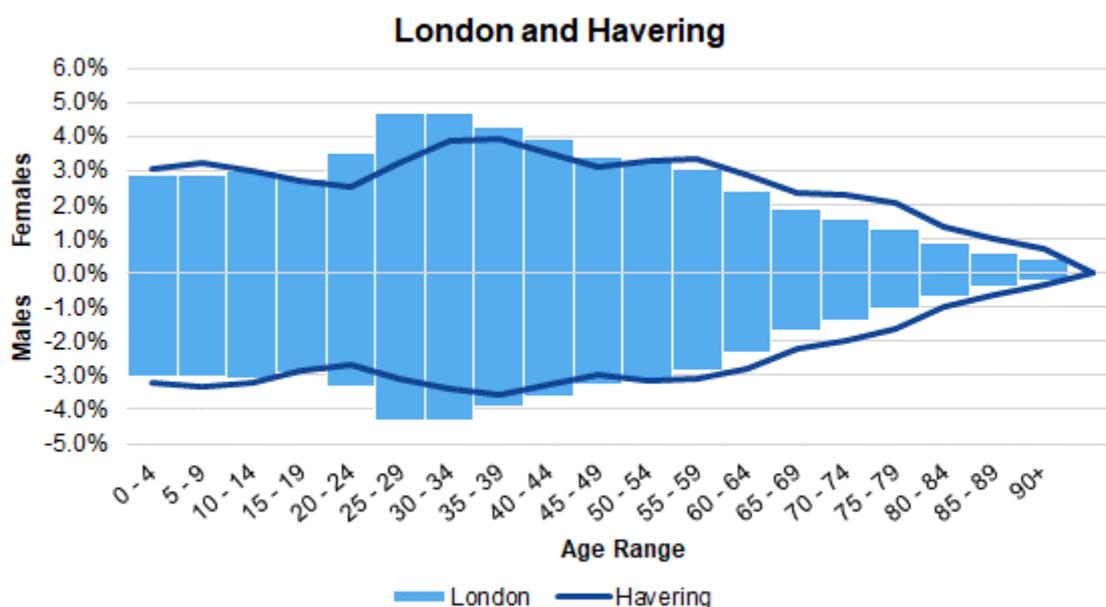
By providing opportunities for local people to take part in sport and physical activity, Havering's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024 seeks to enable more people to return to work following illness and ease the burden on healthcare services. Partnerships have been formed with London Sport and Everyone Active to achieve this, with the latter currently managing all six of Havering's leisure centre sites.

2.3: Demographic profile

Population (Data source: 2022 Mid-Year Estimate MYE, ONS)

The total population of Havering is 264,703 comprising 128,043 males and 136,660 females. The following chart illustrates the population's age and gender composition. Overlaying the dark blue line for Havering on top of the blue bars for the region makes it easy to see where one dataset is higher or lower than the other.

Figure 2.4: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Havering and London.

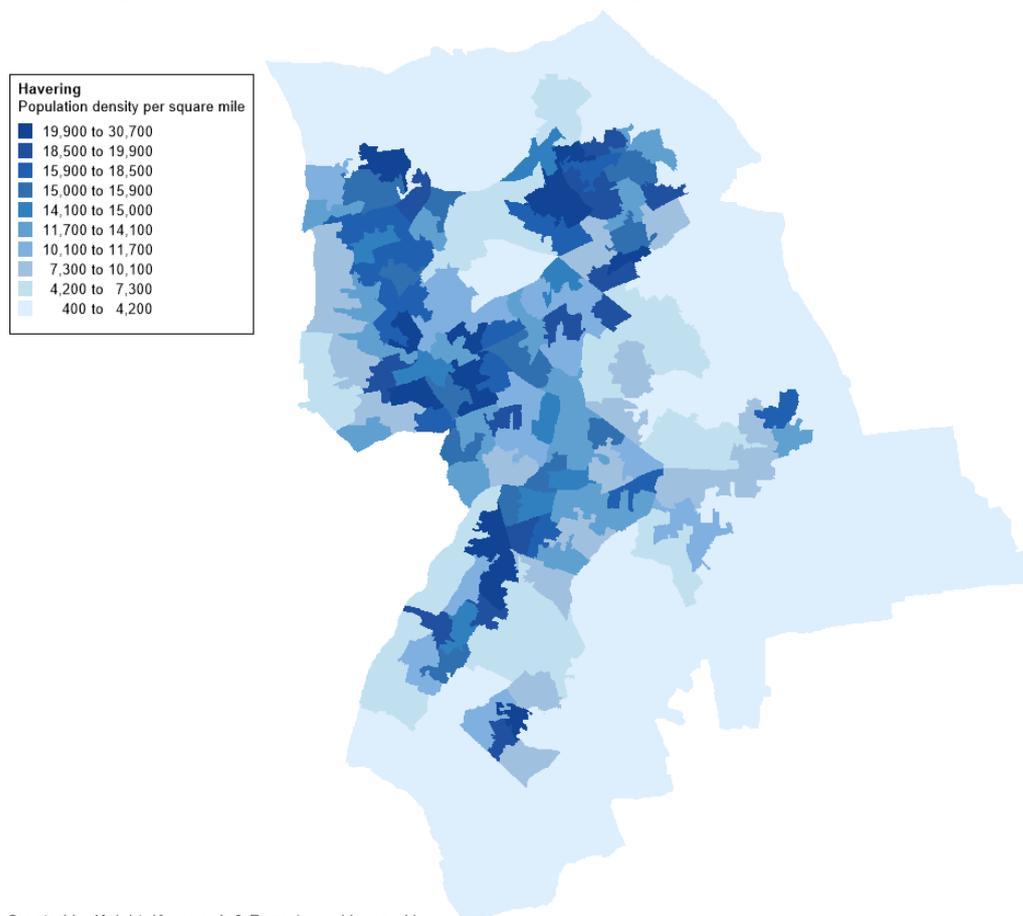


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There is a lower proportion of 20-34 year olds in Havering (Havering: 18.8%, London: 24.9%). This might indicate a lower level of demand from what are generally regarded as the main sports participation groups and also from young families. There are, however, more in the age groups from 70-79 (Havering: 8.0%, London: 5.3%).

The population density map is based on lower super output areas (LSOAs) from the most recent ONS Census. It covers all parts of the country irrespective of whether the SOA is in an area of high-density housing and flats or it covers farms and rural villages. Map shading allows concentrations of population to be easily identified, for example, major urban areas such as flats, terraced houses and estates tend to be illustrated via the darkest shading while rural areas, housing adjoining parks and other non-residential land uses tend to be the lightest.

Figure 2.5: Population density 2021 Census: Havering (LSOAs).



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Ethnicity

(Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

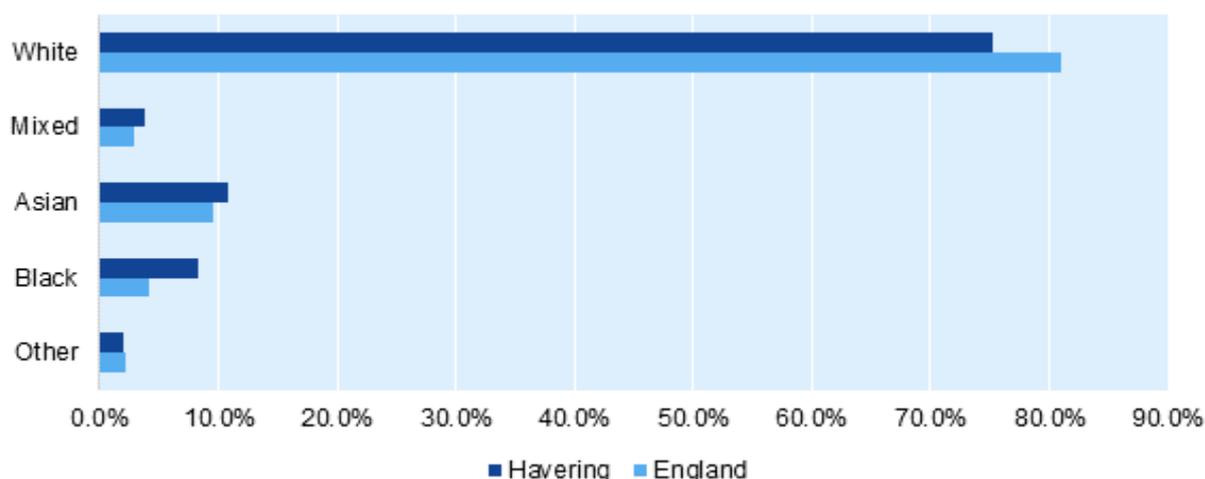
In broad terms, Havering's ethnic composition is in line with that of England as a whole. According to the 2021 Census, the largest proportion (75.3%) of the local population classified its ethnicity as White; this is lower than the comparative England rate of 81.0%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 10.7% this is slightly higher than the national equivalent (9.6%).

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Table 2.3: Ethnic composition – Havering and England

Ethnicity	Havering (#)	Havering (%)	England (#)	England (%)
White	197,314	75.3%	45,783,401	81.0%
Mixed	9,747	3.7%	1,669,378	3.0%
Asian	28,150	10.7%	5,426,392	9.6%
Black	21,567	8.2%	2,381,724	4.2%
Other	5,274	2.0%	1,229,153	2.2%
TOTAL	262,052	100.0%	56,490,048	100.0%

Figure 2.6: Ethnicity in Havering and England.



Crime (Data source: Crime in England and Wales year ending June 2023, ONS)

Crime data is only available for police force areas. Havering is in the Metropolitan Police Force Area, which comprises 32 local authorities (Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, City of Westminster, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston Upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond Upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest). The population of Havering accounts for 3.0% of the Metropolitan Police Force Area.

During the 12 months to June 2023 the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in the Metropolitan Police was 100.8. (2022 MYE) This is markedly higher than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 92.5. The number of recorded crimes in the Metropolitan Police area has risen (by 4.0%) since June 2022. (2021 Census) The number for England and Wales has risen by 1.1% over the same period.

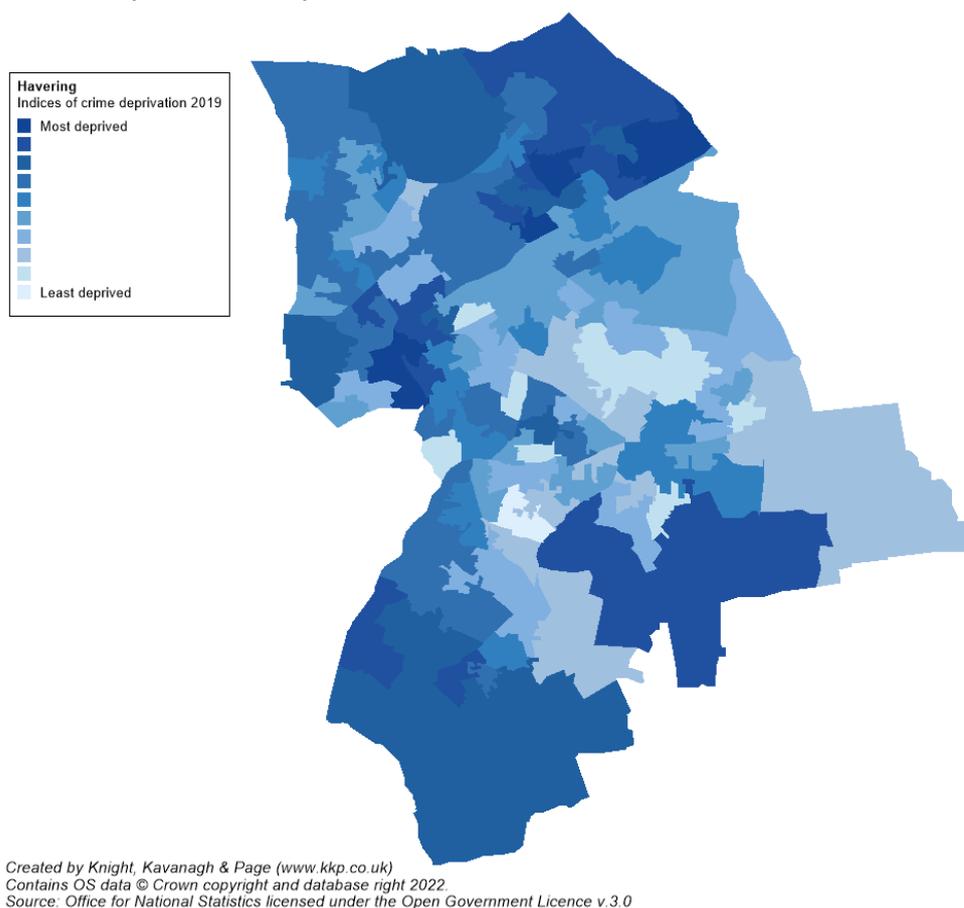
Table 2.4: Comparative crime rates: Havering and England & Wales.

Area	Recorded crime (Jul '22 - Jun '23)	Population 2022 MYE	Recorded crime per 1,000
Metropolitan Police	892,775	8,855,333	100.8
England & Wales	5,572,143	60,238,038	92.5

As an alternative to the crime figures for police force areas the Index of Deprivation measures the risk of personal and material crime at a more local level. In Havering, 24.9% of the population are in the top three cohorts most at risk compared to 30.0% nationally.

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Figure 2.7: Map of crime deprivation.



Income and benefits dependency (Data source: Nomis 2023)

The median figure for full-time earnings (2022) in Havering is £40,659; the comparative rate for the London is £41,408 (+1.8%). For Great Britain it is £35,496 (-12.7%).

6,645 people in Havering claimed out of work benefits⁷ in October 2023. This is an increase of 57.5% compared to March 2020 (4,220).

Deprivation (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG)

Relative to other parts of the country Havering experiences low levels of deprivation; fewer than one in six of the Borough's population (16.6%) lives within areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 34.7% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

The pattern is broadly replicated for health. A small proportion of Havering's population (4.0%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 56.4% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

⁷ This includes both Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit. Universal credit also includes other benefits including employment and support allowance (ESA) and child tax credits.

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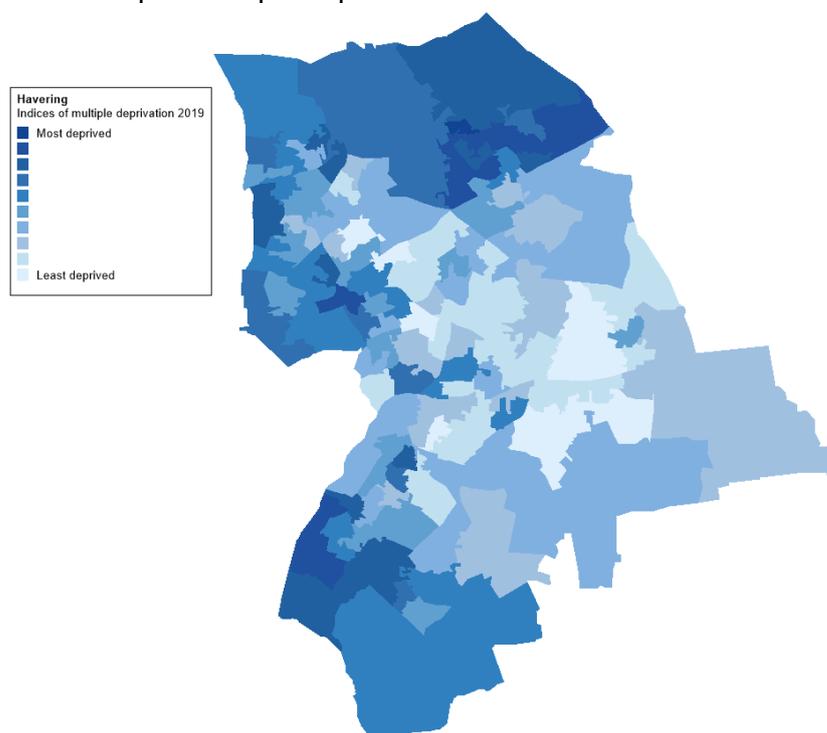
Table 2.5: IMD cohorts – multiple deprivation in Havering.

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	1,622	0.7%	0.7%
20.0	16,393	6.6%	7.2%
30.0	23,483	9.4%	16.6%
40.0	21,546	8.6%	25.3%
50.0	34,958	14.0%	39.3%
60.0	31,596	12.7%	52.0%
70.0	33,343	13.4%	65.3%
80.0	29,836	12.0%	77.3%
90.0	39,332	15.8%	93.1%
Least deprived - 100.0	17,266	6.9%	100.0%

Table 2.6: IMD cohorts – health deprivation in Havering.

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
20.0	3,366	1.3%	1.3%
30.0	6,673	2.7%	4.0%
40.0	9,387	3.8%	7.8%
50.0	24,311	9.7%	17.5%
60.0	26,412	10.6%	28.1%
70.0	38,516	15.4%	43.6%
80.0	41,262	16.5%	60.1%
90.0	63,916	25.6%	85.8%
Least deprived - 100.0	35,532	14.2%	100.0%

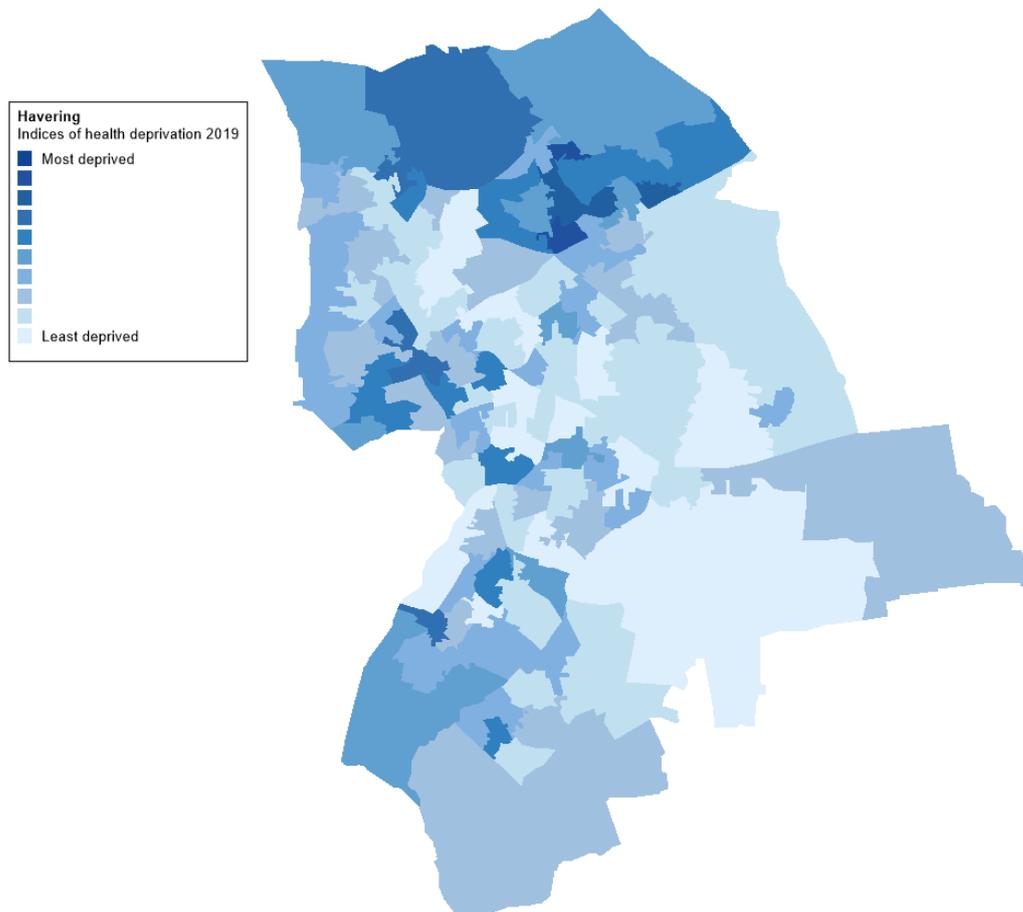
Figure 2.8: Map of multiple deprivation



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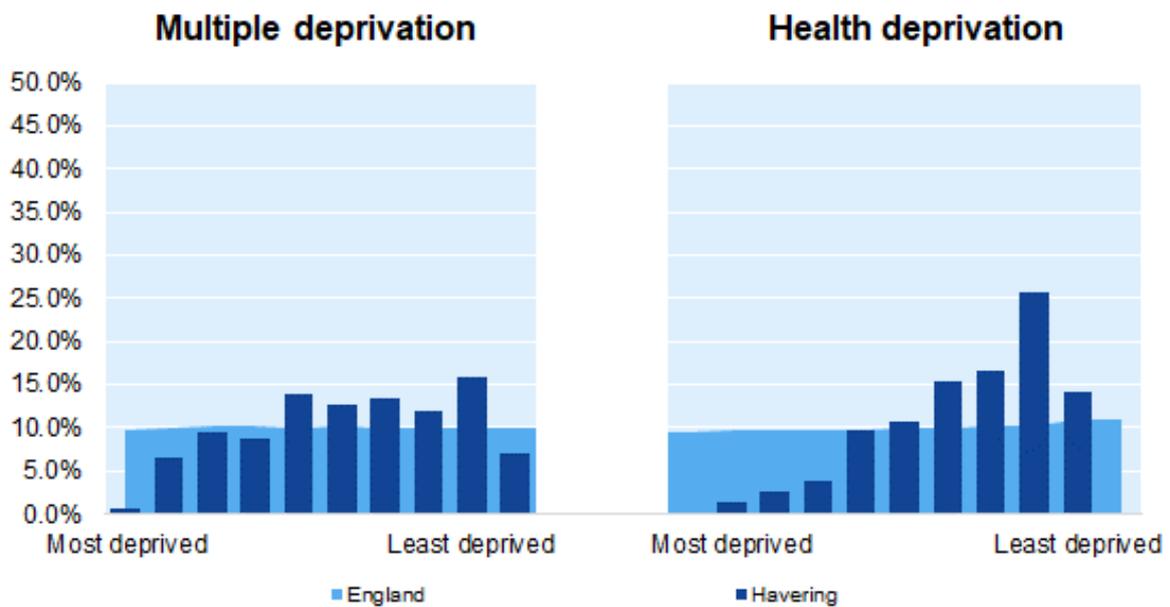
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Figure 2.8: Map of health deprivation.



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Figure 2.9: Index of multiple and health deprivation.



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Health data (Data source: ONS)

Differing from normal patterns for areas with lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Havering is similar to the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.7 compared to 79.4 for England, and the female equivalent is 83.5 compared to 83.1 nationally⁸.

Weight and obesity (Data Sources: NCMP⁹ and NOO¹⁰)

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

Adult rates of obesity or overweight in Havering are above national and regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

Figure 2.10 – Adult and child obesity rates (2021)

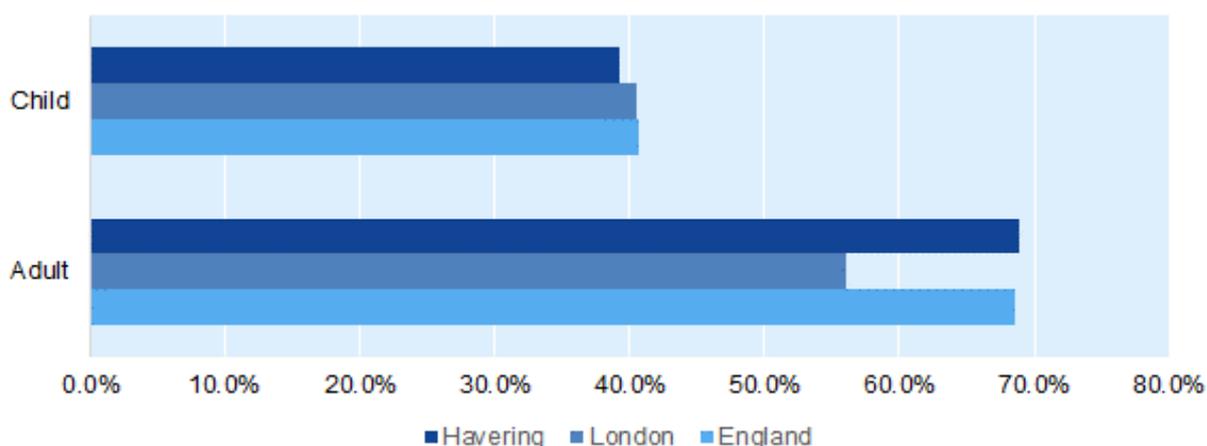
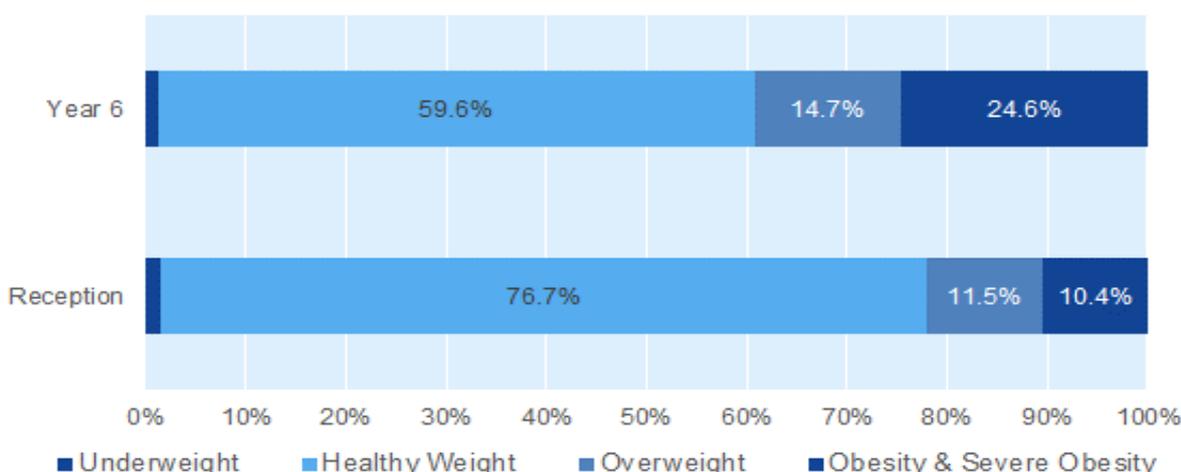


Figure 2.11 – Child weight – reception and year 6 (2021)



⁸ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020.

⁹ National Child Measurement Program

¹⁰ National Obesity Observatory

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As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4-11; one in ten children (10.4%) in Havering are obese in their reception year at school and 11.5% are overweight. By Year 6 this rises to one quarter (24.6%) being obese and 14.7% being overweight. In total by Year 6 two in five (39.3%) are either overweight or obese.

Active Lives Survey (Data Source: Sport England November 2021/22)

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified in Table 5, a higher percentage of the Havering population is inactive compared to England and the London and a lower percentage is considered to be active. This is specified by Sport England as follows:

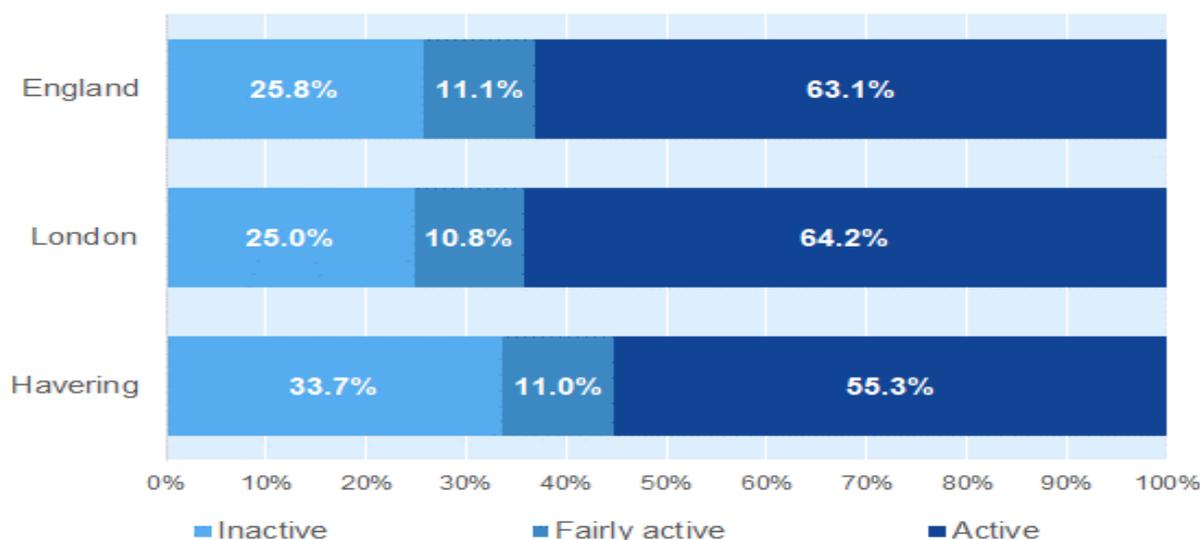
- ✦ Inactive - <30 minutes per week.
- ✦ Fairly Active – 30-149 minutes per week.
- ✦ Active – 150+ minutes per week.

Table 2.7: Active Lives Survey results: November 2021/22.

	Inactive #	Inactive %	Fairly active #	Fairly active %	Active #	Active %
England	11,874,800	25.8%	5,131,700	11.1%	29,062,000	63.1%
London	1,773,500	25.0%	767,900	10.8%	4,564,800	64.2%
Havering	70,600	33.7%	23,100	11.0%	116,000	55.3%

Rate/population totals for sport and physical activity levels (excluding gardening) of adults (16+) in English local authority areas.

Figure 2.12: Levels of activity (Active Lives 2020-2021)



Popular sports (Data Source: Sport England Active Lives Survey November 2020/21)

This enables identification of the top five sports within Havering. In Havering around one fifth of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is athletics in which 12.0% of adults report participating on a relatively regular basis.

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Table 2.8: Most popular sports in Havering.

Sport	Havering #.	Havering %	London #	London %	England #	England %
Fitness	44,900	21.7%	2,121,100	29.7%	11,374,600	24.9%
Athletics	25,000	12.0%	1,243,900	17.4%	6,252,000	13.7%
Cycling	18,800	9.1%	1,416,000	19.8%	7,472,900	16.4%
Football	5,900	2.8%	262,700	3.7%	1,451,700	3.2%
Swimming	5,000	2.4%	355,200	5.0%	2,001,600	4.4%

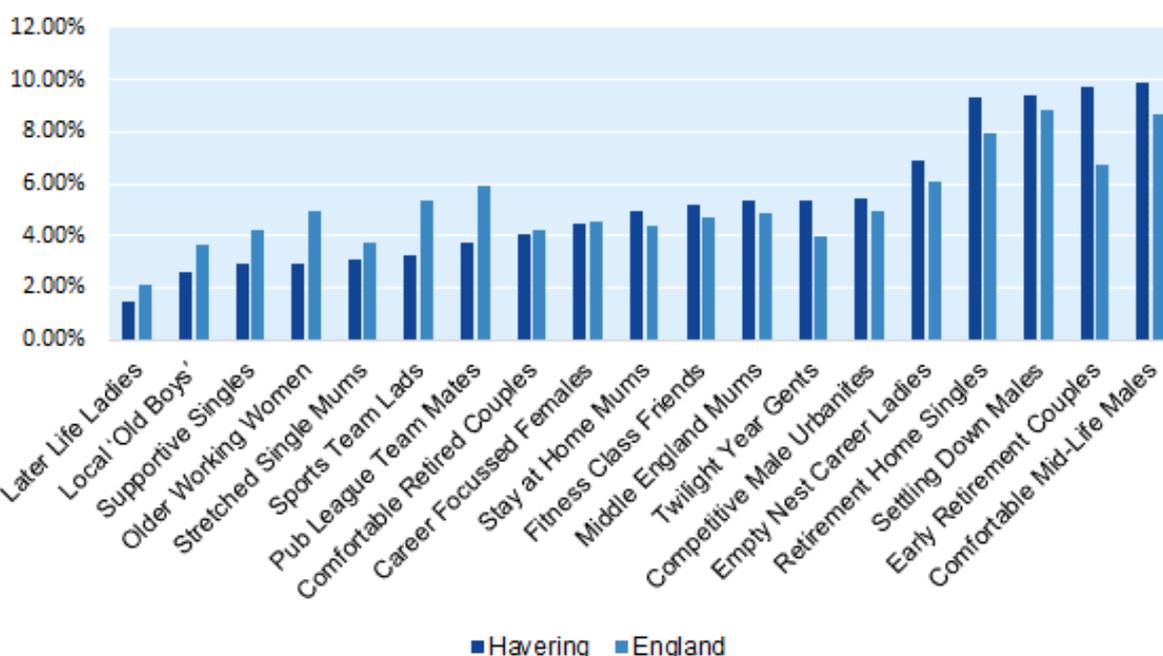
Sporting segmentation (Data source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation web tool)

Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. Profiles cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people take part in, other interests, the newspapers that they read etc. Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

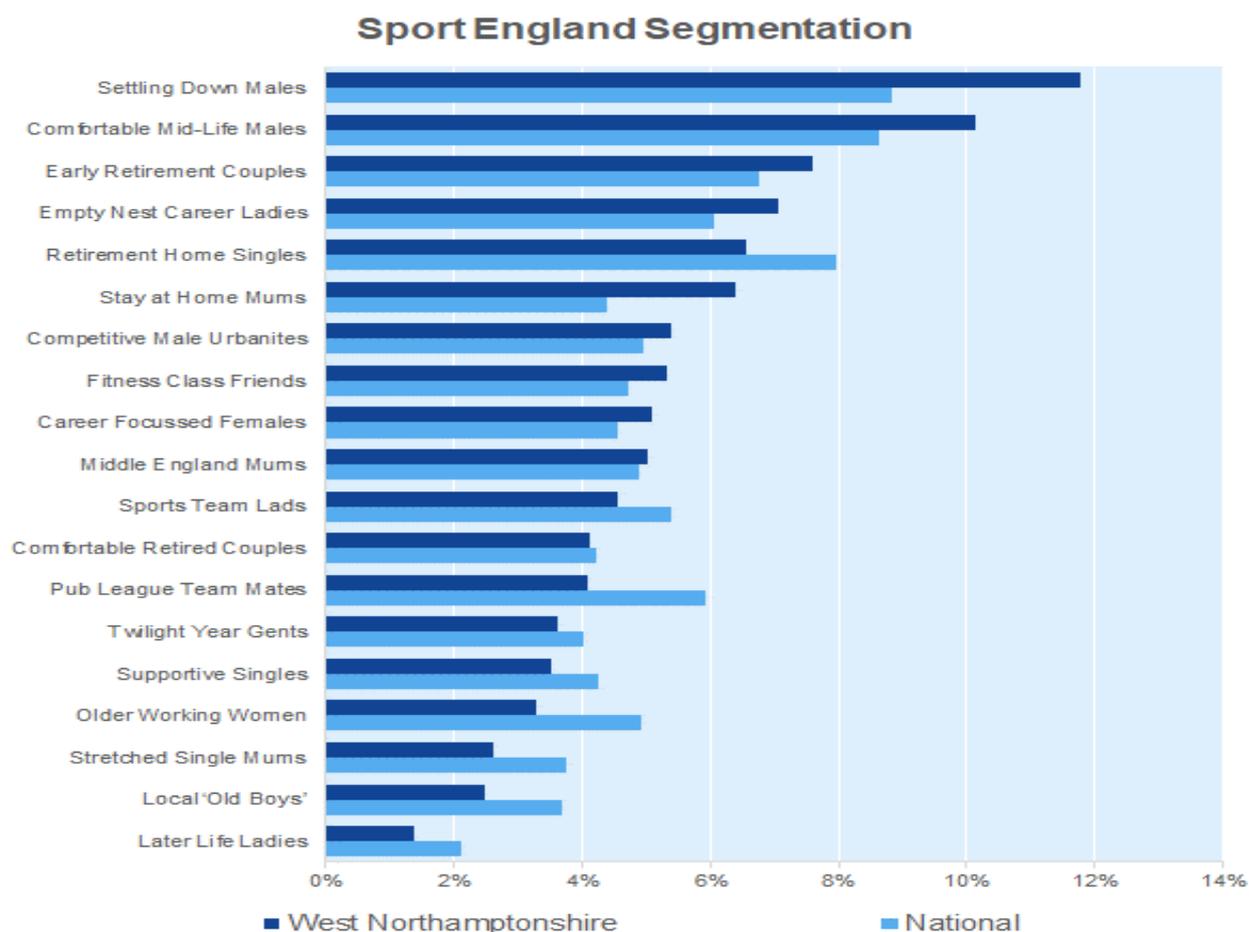
The segmentation profile for LBH indicates 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' to be the largest segment at 9.9% (17,779) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Early Retirement Couples' (9.74%) and 'Settling Down Males' (9.44%).

At the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies' with only 1.46%, 'Local 'Old Boys'' (2.59%) and 'Supportive Singles' (2.89%).

Figure 2.13: Sport England Market Segmentation – Havering compared to England.



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Mosaic (Data source: 2022 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

This is a similar consumer segmentation product. It classifies all 28.6 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data is then used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour. The dominance of the top five Mosaic classifications in Havering compared to the country as a whole is evident inasmuch as they represent more than two thirds (71.5%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of 40.5%.

Table 2.9: Mosaic – main population segments in Havering.

Mosaic group description	Havering #	Havering %	National %
1 - Senior Security	41,326	16.0%	6.8%
2 - Suburban Stability	41,225	16.0%	5.6%
3 - Domestic Success	37,200	14.4%	8.8%
4 - Aspiring Homemakers	36,532	14.2%	10.5%
5 - Family Basics	28,089	10.9%	8.8%

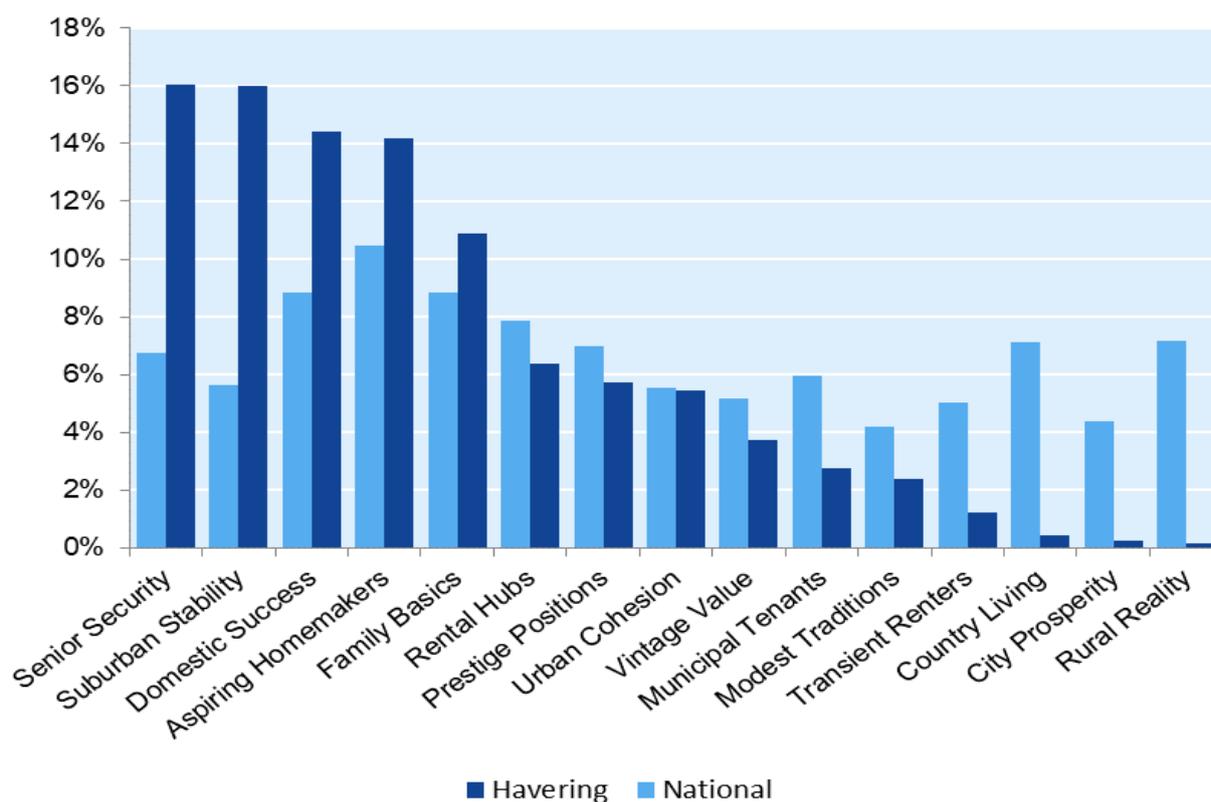
The largest segment profiled is the Senior Security group. It accounts for 16.0% of the adult population in the area - more than two times the national rate (6.8%). They are defined as elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own. Property equity gives them a reassuring level of financial security. This group includes people who have remained in family homes after their children have left, and those who have chosen to downsize to live among others of similar ages and lifestyles.

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Table 2.10: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Havering

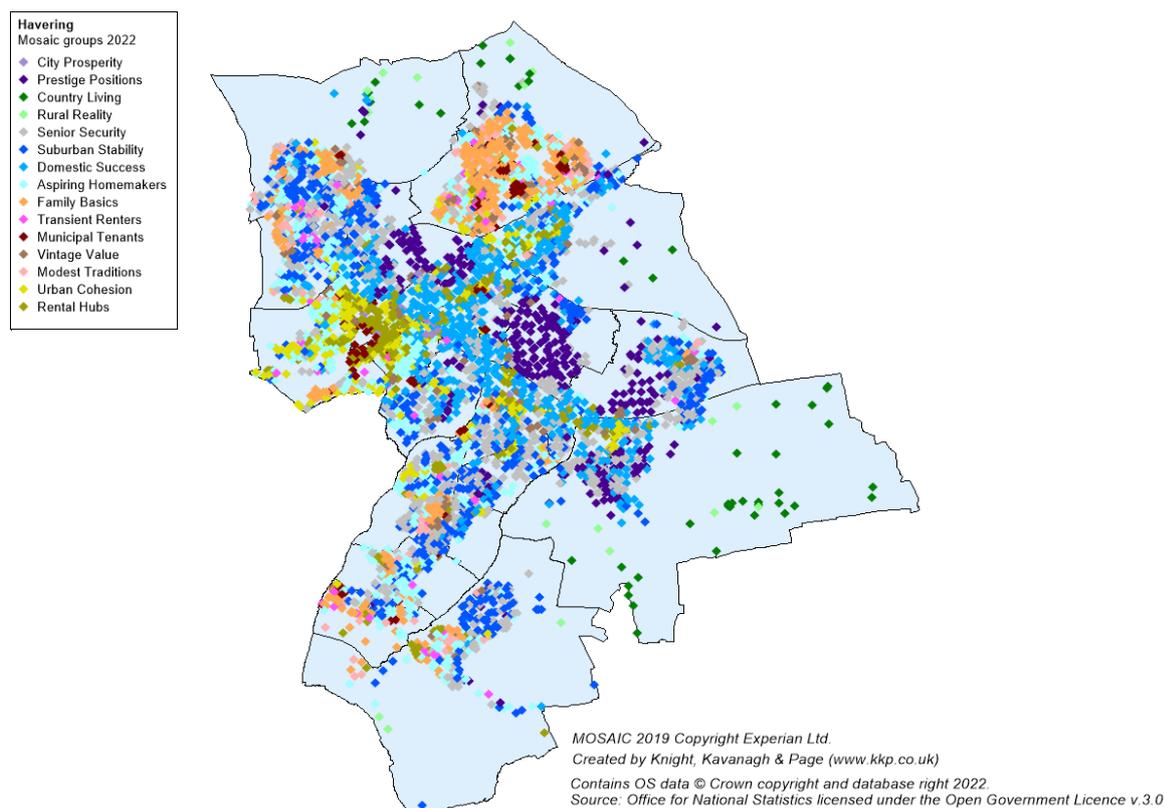
Category	Description
Senior Security	Elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own. Property equity gives them a reassuring level of financial security. This group includes people who have remained in family homes after their children have left, and those who have chosen to downsize to live among others of similar ages and lifestyles.
Suburban Stability	Typically, mature couples or families, some enjoying recent empty-nest status and others with older children still at home. They live in mid-range family homes in traditional suburbs where they have been settled for many years.
Domestic Success	High-earning families who live affluent lifestyles in upmarket homes situated in sought after residential neighbourhoods. Their busy lives revolve around their children and successful careers in higher managerial and professional roles.

Figure 2.14: Mosaic segmentation – Havering compared to nationally.



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Figure 2.15: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Havering.



Population projections (Data Source: 2018-based population projections, ONS)

The most recent projections indicate a rise of 8.4% in Havering’s population (+21,603) between 2018-2031. Over this extended timeframe there are fluctuations at different points across the majority of age groups. The key points for Havering are outlined below:

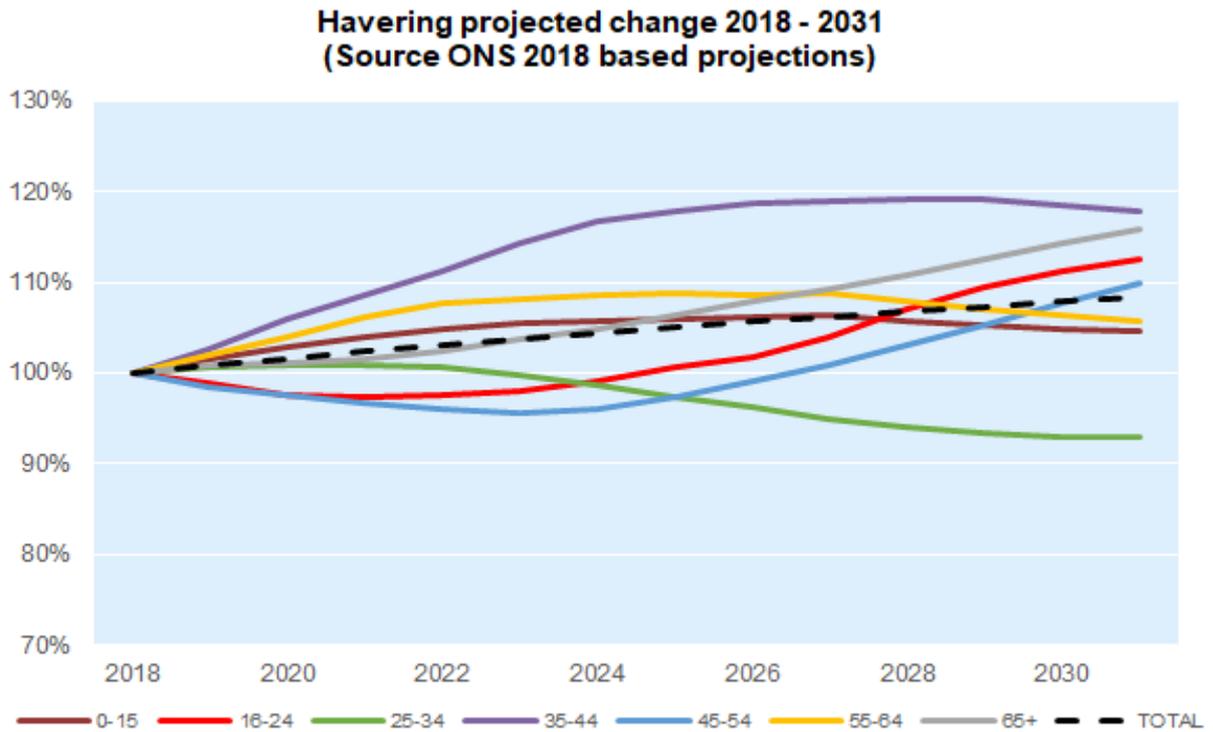
- ▶ The number of 0-15 year olds, rose by 2,993 (+5.8%) in the period to 2024.
- ▶ There is a predicted decrease in the number of 16-24 year olds, -1.0% in the first period (-256) followed by an increase of +13.8% (+3,948) in the second period.
- ▶ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+; by +4.9% (+2,298) in the first period continuing to rise to +16.0% (+7,415) for the 2018-2031 period. This group represented 18.0% of Havering’s population in 2018 and is projected to be 19.3% by 2031.

Table 2.11: Havering – ONS projected population (2018 to 2031)

Age (years)	2018 #	2024 #	2031 #	2018 %	2024 %	2031 %	2024 Change	2031 Change
0-15	51,778	54,771	54,118	20.1%	20.3%	19.4%	105.8%	104.5%
16-24	25,658	25,402	28,901	10.0%	9.4%	10.3%	99.0%	112.6%
25-34	36,130	35,656	33,599	14.0%	13.2%	12.0%	98.7%	93.0%
35-44	33,549	39,151	39,562	13.0%	14.5%	14.2%	116.7%	117.9%
45-54	34,231	32,863	37,658	13.3%	12.2%	13.5%	96.0%	110.0%
55-64	30,028	32,624	31,725	11.6%	12.1%	11.4%	108.6%	105.6%
65+	46,436	48,734	53,851	18.0%	18.1%	19.3%	104.9%	116.0%
Total	257,810	269,201	279,413	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	104.4%	108.4%

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Figure 2.16: Projected population change (2018 – 2031).



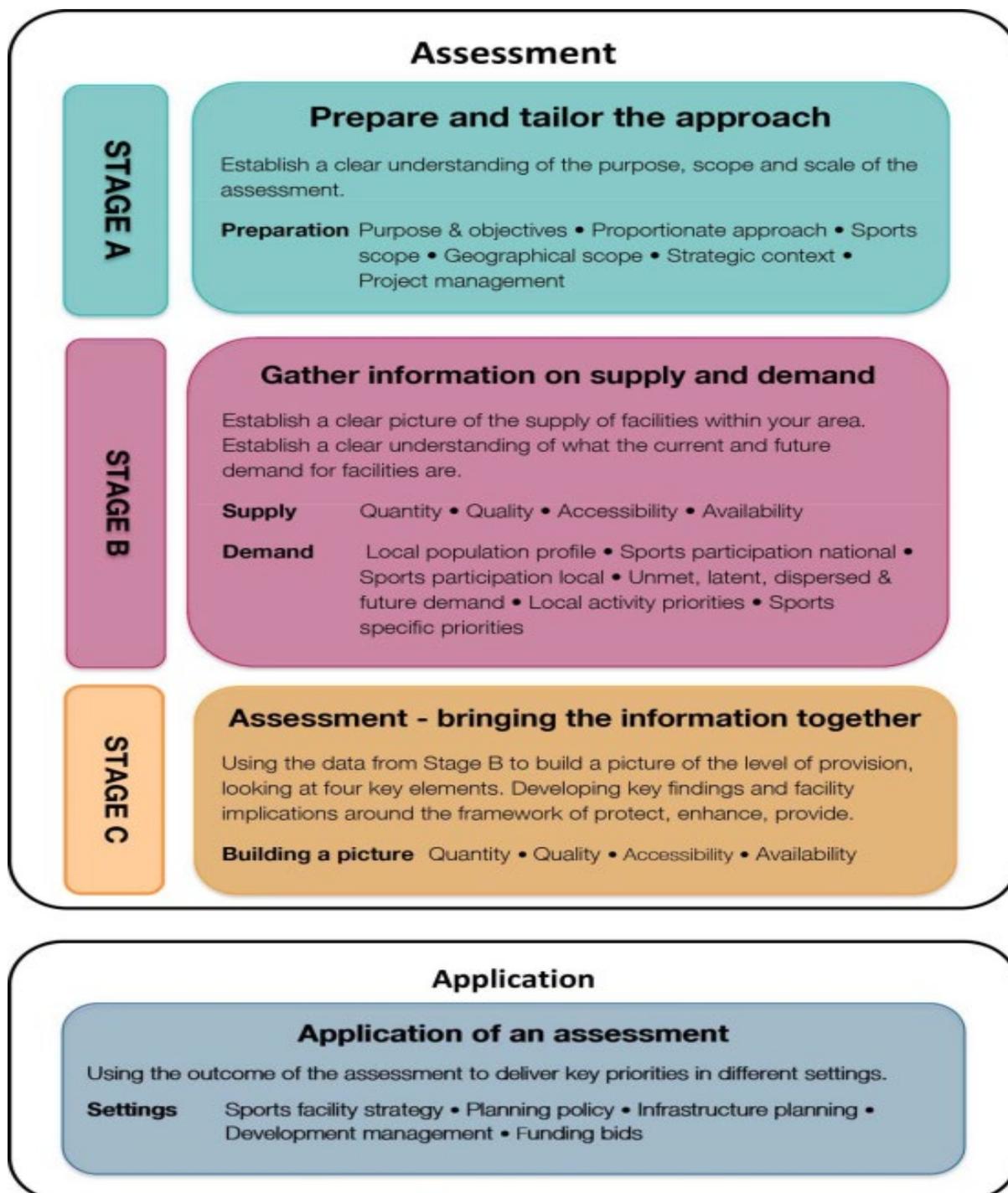
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SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

As noted above, the assessment of provision is based on the Sport England Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



This is the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (excluding playing pitch provision which has been assessed separately within the Playing Pitch Strategy and uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance).

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

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

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon levels of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it is possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section.

The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It identifies where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and, where appropriate, to protect or rationalise the current stock.

3.2: Site visits

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

Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was delivered. Via the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' and describes (e.g.):

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

The assessment forms utilised capture quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the categories set out in Table 3.1 overleaf. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc. are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded.

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Maintenance and facility ‘wear and tear’ is considered as is compliant with the Equality Act, although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements receive an overall quality rating.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

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

3.3: Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for facility types listed in Sections 3-15 enables identification of areas currently not served. These vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of ‘effective catchment’; the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users (used in the Sport England Facilities Planning Model - FPM). Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities. This, coupled with KKP’s experience of working in/with leisure facilities and use of local data enables identification of catchment areas for sports facilities as follows.

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area
Sport halls, health and fitness, swimming pools, squash courts, combat sports, cycling	20-minutes’ walk/ 20 minutes’ drive
Indoor bowls/tennis centre, dedicated gymnastics centre, athletics track, ice rink	30-minutes’ drive

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SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

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

They are generally considered to be of greatest value if of at least 3+ badminton courts in size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. However, 4+ court sports halls provide greater flexibility as they can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. They also tend to have sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics and, thus, offer more sports development flexibility than their 3-court counterpart. There is often variance in the dimensions of 4-court halls, and only those which meet current Sport England Design Guidance of 34.5m x 20m can accommodate the full range of indoor sports, especially competition/league activities.

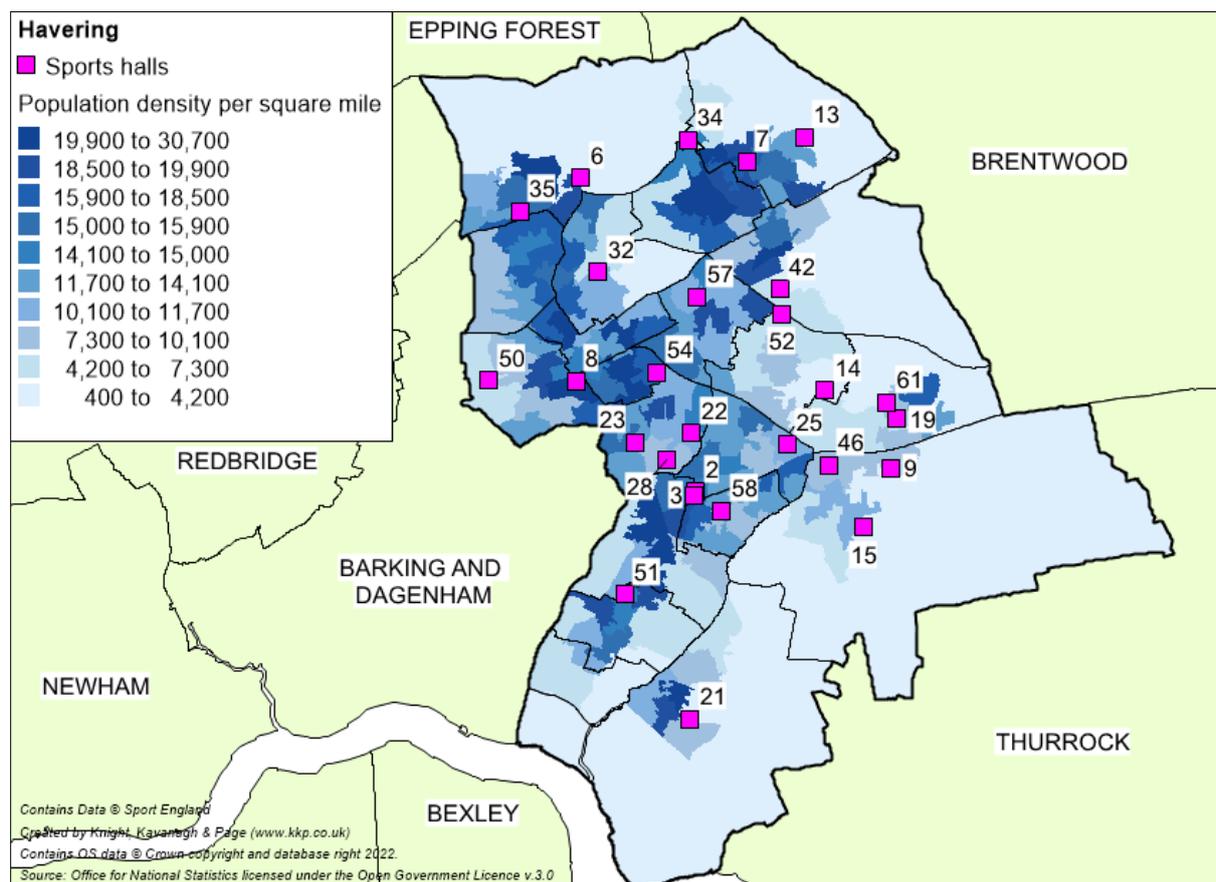
Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day-to-day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports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

4.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 42 sports halls accommodating 98 badminton courts. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall on site.

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



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Table 4.1: All sports / activity halls in Havering

Map ID	Site name	Number of courts
2	Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College	1
2	Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College	0
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	4
6	Bower Park Academy	4
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	4
8	Concordia Academy	1
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	4
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	1
13	Drapers Academy	4
14	Emerson Park Academy	0
14	Emerson Park Academy	4
15	Gaynes School Language College	4
15	Gaynes School Language College	1
19	Hall Mead School	4
19	Hall Mead School	1
19	Hall Mead School	0
21	Harris Academy Rainham	4
21	Harris Academy Rainham	1
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	4
23	Harrow Lodge Primary School	1
23	Harrow Lodge Primary School	1
25	Havering Sixth Form College	4
28	Hornchurch High School	4
28	Hornchurch High School	1
32	Marshalls Park Academy	4
32	Marshalls Park Academy	0
34	Noak Hill Sports Complex	1
35	North Romford Community Centre	2
42	Redden Court School	3
42	Redden Court School	1
46	Sacred Heart Of Mary Girls School	4
50	St Edwards C Of E School & 6th Form College	4
50	St Edwards C Of E School & 6th Form College	0
51	The Brittons Academy	1
51	The Brittons Academy	1
52	The Champion School	4
52	The Champion School	0
54	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	5
57	The Royal Liberty School	4
57	The Royal Liberty School	3
58	The Sanders School	4
61	Upminster Hall Sports Association	0
-	Total courts	98

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

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Sports halls are well distributed throughout the authority with more located in more densely populated areas.

Twenty of the sports/activity halls have two or fewer badminton courts marked out. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, the size of these smaller halls limits the range and scale of recreational/sporting activity that can be accommodated.

Several sites have more than one activity/sports hall. An example is Hall Mead School, which has three. Only sites with sports halls containing three or more marked badminton courts were subject to assessment for the purpose of the needs assessment as these can accommodate a range of sports and be potentially used by the community depending on the access policy.

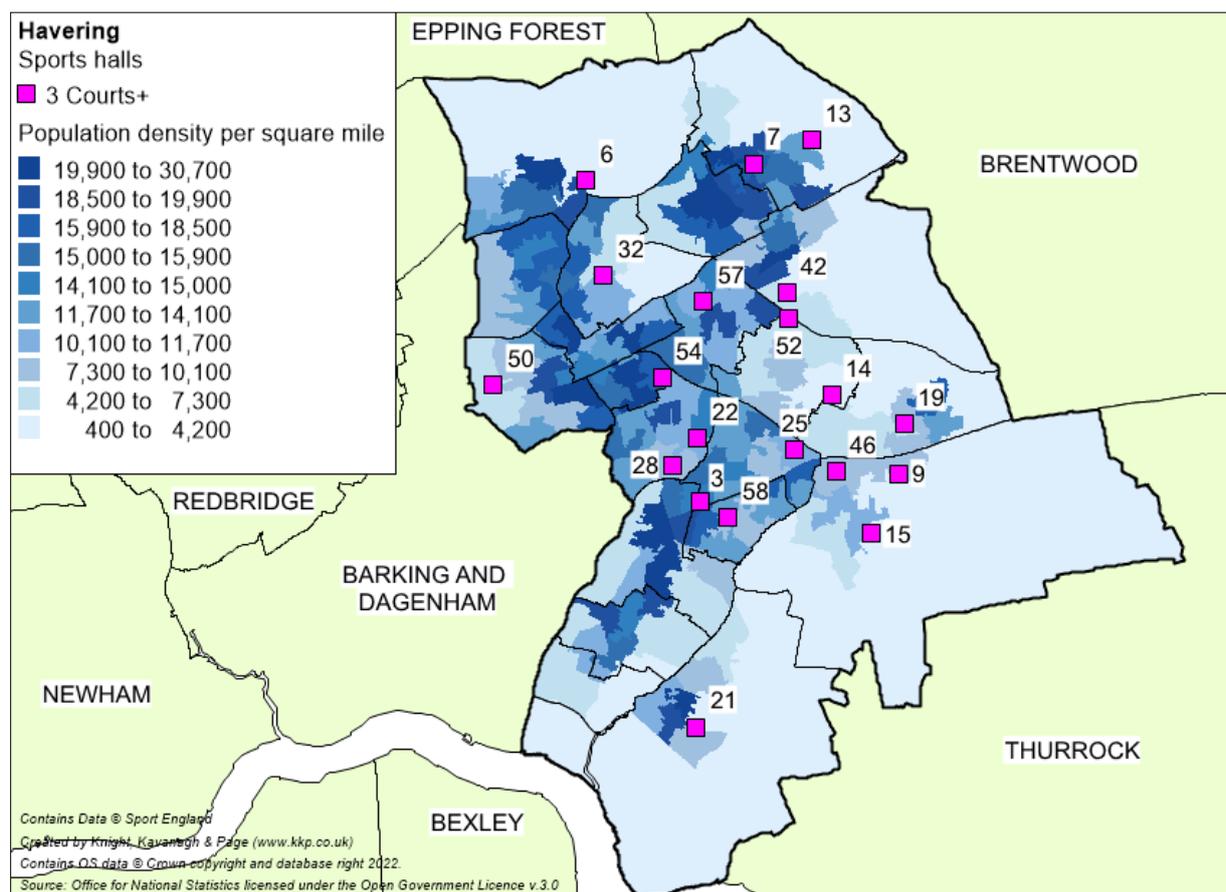
21 sports halls in Havering have 3+ marked badminton courts (totalling 83 badminton courts). Table 4.2 provides details of all 3+ sports halls in Havering, whilst Figure 4.2 shows the location.

Table 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

Map ID	Site name	Courts
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	4
6	Bower Park Academy	4
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	4
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	4
13	Drapers Academy	4
14	Emerson Park Academy	4
15	Gaynes School Language College	4
19	Hall Mead School	4
21	Harris Academy Rainham	4
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	4
25	Havering Sixth Form College	4
28	Hornchurch High School	4
32	Marshalls Park Academy	4
42	Redden Court School	3
46	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	4
50	St Edwards C of E School & 6th Form College	4
52	The Champion School	4
54	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	5
57	The Royal Liberty School	4
57	The Royal Liberty School	3
58	The Sanders School	4
-	Total	83

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Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts on population density



As with most authorities the 4-court sports hall is the most common size hall. A larger sports hall (4+ courts) has the ability to cater for sports that require more floor space such as futsal and handball or can offer multiple courts for events and competitions. The largest sports hall is located at The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls, which has 5 marked badminton courts.

Sports halls with 3+ courts are well distributed in the north of the Authority, serving the more densely populated areas such as Romford and Hornchurch. There is less provision in the south of the Authority, with a lack of provision in the Romford area when compared to the Authority's other larger settlements.

Facility quality

All 3+ court sports halls were subject to non-technical assessment to ascertain quality. Assessments took place between October and November 2023. Any investment made after this date is not accounted for. Known or planned investment is mentioned in the site notes.

Access was not obtained to the sites listed below. Despite numerous attempts to contact the facility, no response was received:

- ◆ St Edwards Church of England School and Sixth Form College.
- ◆ Marshalls Park Academy
- ◆ Coopers Company and Coborn School.
- ◆ The Sanders School.
- ◆ Redden Court School.

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Figure 4.3: Quality of 3+ sports halls on population density

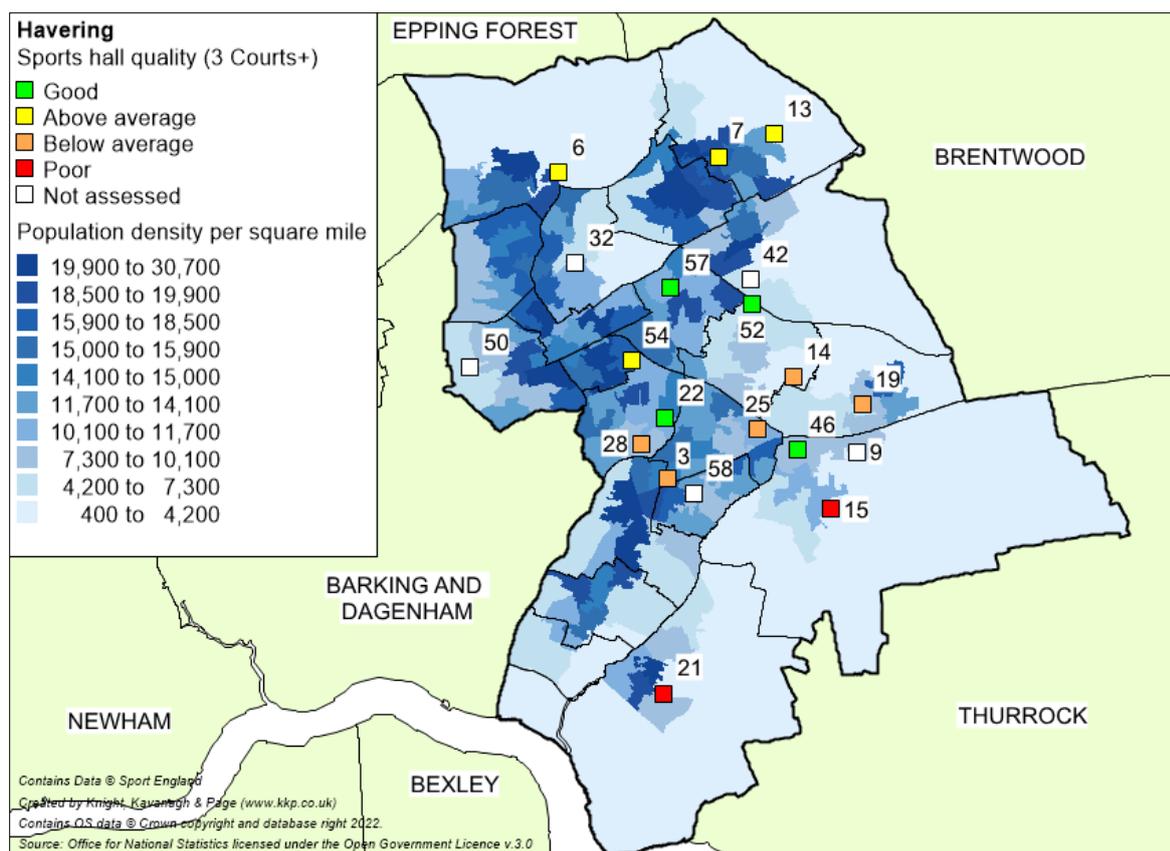


Table 4.3: Quality of 3+ sports halls

ID	Site name	Courts	Court condition	Changing
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	4	Below average	Below average
6	Bower Park Academy	4	Above average	Below average
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	4	Above average	Above average
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
13	Drapers Academy	4	Above average	Not assessed
14	Emerson Park Academy	4	Below average	Poor
15	Gaynes School Language College	4	Poor	Not assessed
19	Hall Mead School	4	Below average	Above average
21	Harris Academy Rainham	4	Poor	Poor
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	4	Good	Good
25	Havering Sixth Form College	4	Below average	Not assessed
28	Hornchurch High School	4	Below average	Above average
32	Marshalls Park Academy	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
42	Redden Court School	3	Not assessed	Not assessed
46	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	4	Good	Not assessed
50	St Edwards CofE School/6th Form College	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
52	The Campion School	4	Good	Not assessed
54	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	5	Above average	Below average
57	The Royal Liberty School	4	Above average	Above average
57	The Royal Liberty School	3	Good	Above average
58	The Sanders School	4	Not assessed	Not assessed

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There are four good quality sports halls (15 courts), five above average (21 courts), five below average (20 courts) and two poor quality (8 courts). As noted above, five sports halls (19 courts) were not assessed.

Changing room provision for sports halls at educational sites was largely unassessed due to pupil use at the time of the site visit. In general, changing room quality is commensurate with sports hall quality, and generally not as modern as changing facilities at public leisure sites. However, Hall Mead School has undertaken an extension to the building in which the sports hall is situated to create larger and better-quality changing facilities.

Residents in the north of Havering have better access to sports halls of good/above average quality. Residents in the south generally have access to below average and poor-quality halls.

Table 4.5: Reported quality issues at below average and poor-quality sports halls

Site name	Rating	Audit findings
Abbs Cross Health and Fitness	Below average	The sports hall has received little refurbishment since built in 2004 and looks tired as a result. The flooring is dated and in need of replacement. It has several patch repairs, and the lines need re-marking. A (now repaired) leak in the roof has caused water damage to the floor. The indoor cricket nets have been decommissioned. LED lights were installed in 2022.
Emerson Park Academy	Below average	The roof is prone to leaks. This is having an adverse effect on the quality of the sports hall floor surface. There are plans to replace the current LED lights to improve quality and energy efficiency. The School has been granted planning permission to replace the existing 4-court sports hall with a new 3-court sports hall with changing rooms. The current timescale for this is unknown.
Hall Mead School	Below average	An older style sports hall in need of modernisation.
Gaynes School and Language College	Poor	The overall building is dated and tired, it has had minimal refurbishment/investment. New flooring is required due to damage and general wear and tear due to its age. LED lights were installed in 2022.
Harris Academy Rainham	Poor	The décor is old fashioned, with poor quality halogen lights. The granwood floor is old and in need of replacement or refurbishment. The site reports having difficulty with temperature control, it is often too warm during the summer and too cold in winter.
Havering Sixth Form College	Below average	Some refurbishment has been undertaken such as line repainting and LED light installation however, it is an ageing facility.
Hornchurch High School	Below average	The facility has received limited investment in the last decade. The décor is old fashioned, and the lighting is of poor quality.

The audit identified that the 4-court sports hall Central Park Leisure Centre is currently operating as a two-court hall. This is reportedly due to the need for increased space to accommodate health and fitness and group exercise; however, it is reported that free weights have caused damage to the surface. In addition, equipment is being stored on the edge of two of the courts. Everyone Active's view is that because of the site catering for a high volume of members

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attending group exercise sessions, it has to use the sports hall for these sessions particularly as there is not, in its view, an adequate studio space on site.

The sports hall at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre has good court run offs and good quality lighting aligned correctly for badminton. The general décor is good, with no visible damage/wear and tear to existing nets, curtains or walls. As evidenced in table 4.6, the local authority investment into opening in Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre makes it the newest sports hall in LBH.

In 2023, The Champion School invested in a new 4-court sports hall containing an ECB approved vinyl surface suitable for indoor cricket with new cricket nets. This can also be used for badminton, basketball and volleyball. LED lighting has been installed.

The Francs Bardsley Academy for Girls, Bower Park Academy and The Drapers Academy have recently had LED lights installed to improve energy efficiency at the sites. Bower Park Academy also refurbished the air conditioning system in 2020. The sports hall at The Drapers Academy has received regular refurbishment; a new floor was installed in 2021 alongside increased storage space.

The Royal Liberty School is the only site in Havering which has two sports halls with 3+ courts. Its 4-court sports hall was originally the only one on site. Its floor has been refurbished, lines repainted and wall décor undertaken (2021). LED lights have also been installed. A 3-court sports hall was built in 2020 with LED lights and a sprung rubber floor.

A prominent factor in the below quality rating of sports halls in Havering is the lack of recent investment. One example is Harris Academy Rainham (below average quality) where the sports hall has had no major refurbishment since it was opened. As a result, the floor is in poor condition and requires replacement. At facilities where recent refurbishment has taken place, provision tends to be of above average or good quality. For example, the 4-court sports hall at The Royal Liberty School is of above average in quality despite its age.

Table 4.6: Date of opening and refurbishment of sports halls

Site	Year built / opened	Last refurbished	Age since opened/refurbished
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	2004	2022	2
Bower Park Academy	1942	2020	3
Central Park Leisure Centre	2004	-	20
Coopers Company & Coborn School	1971	-	53
Drapers Academy	2012	2021	3
Emerson Park Academy	1968	2007	17
Gaynes School Language College	1965	2022	2
Hall Mead School	1965	2021	3
Harris Academy Rainham	1971	-	53
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	2021	-	1
Havering Sixth Form College	1999	2019	5
Hornchurch High School	1965	2017	7
Marshalls Park Academy	1996	-	27
Redden Court School	1969	2004	20
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	2004	2023	1
St Edwards C Of E School & 6th Form College	1982	2008	16
The Champion School	1996	2023	1

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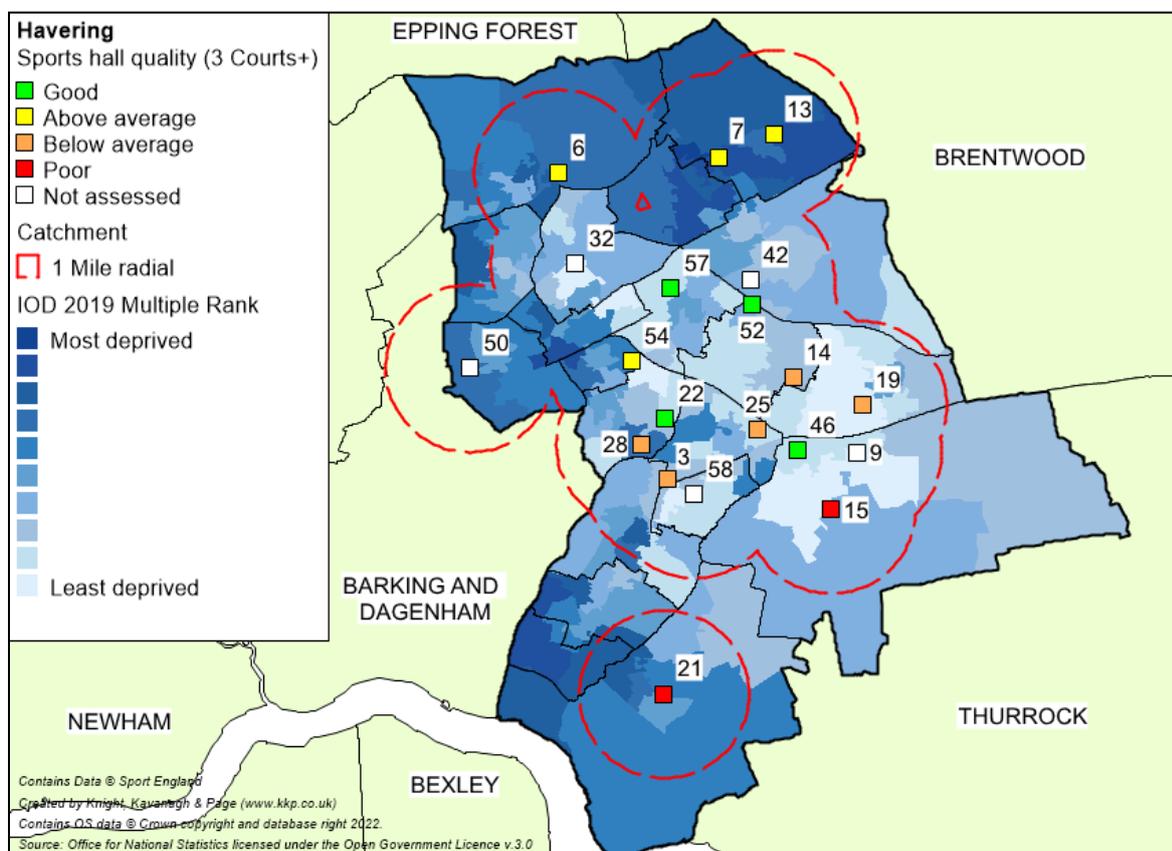
Site	Year built / opened	Last refurbished	Age since opened/refurbished
The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	2004	-	20
The Royal Liberty School (4 court)	1970	2021	3
The Royal Liberty School (3 court)	2020	-	4
The Sanders School	1995	2002	22

Most sports halls have benefitted from some form of investment/refurbishment in the last 20 years. This is reflected in audit findings. At the sites where access could not be gained, refurbishment may have taken place more recently than suggested, for example, at Coopers Company & Coborn School.

Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to and from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for urban areas and a 20-minute drive time for rural areas.

Figure 4.4: All sports halls with 3+ courts on IMD with one-mile radial catchments

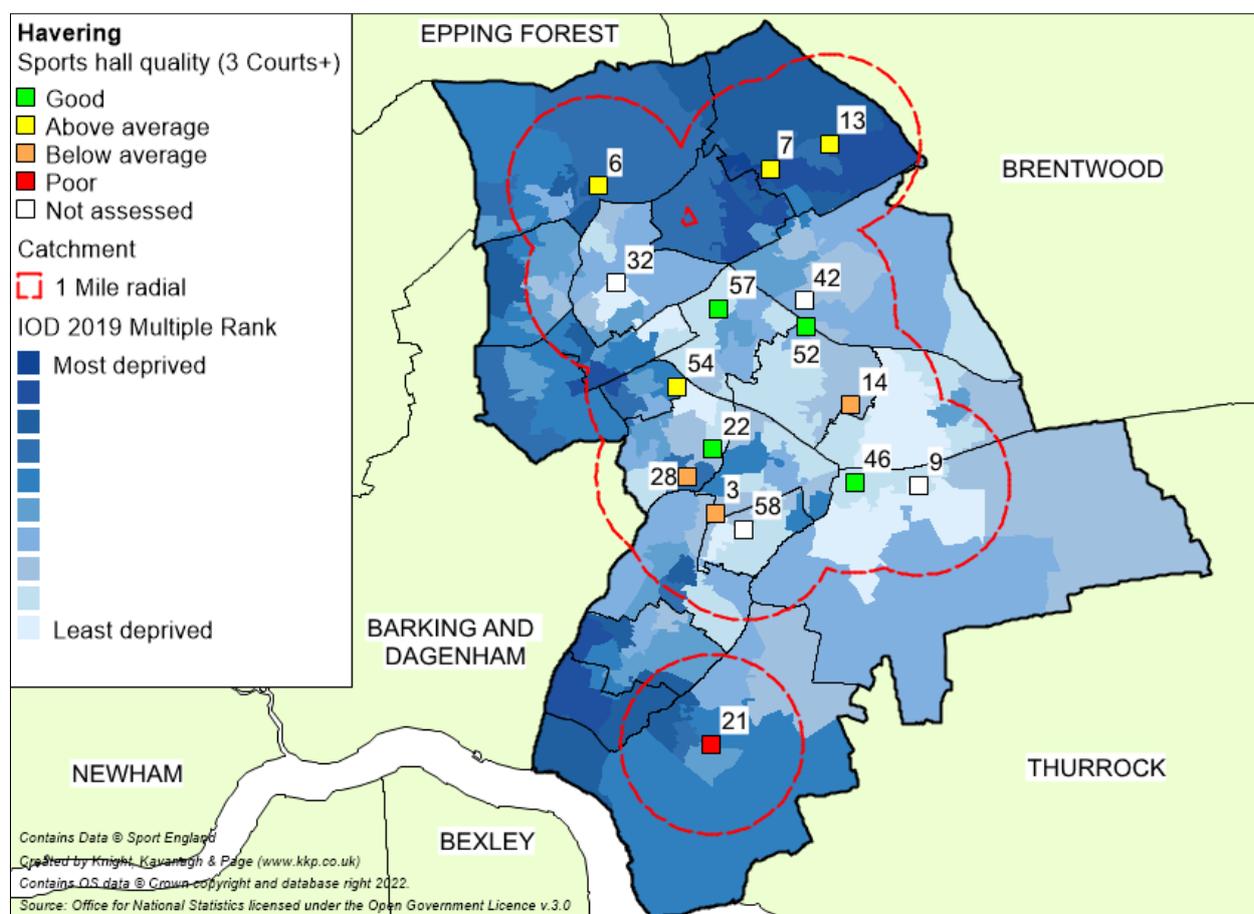


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Table 4.6: Accessibility to community use sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	1,622	0.7%	1,622	0.7%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	16,393	6.6%	14,602	5.9%	1,791	0.7%
20.1 - 30	23,483	9.4%	17,554	7.0%	5,929	2.4%
30.1 - 40	21,546	8.6%	18,407	7.4%	3,139	1.3%
40.1 - 50	34,958	14.0%	29,543	11.8%	5,415	2.2%
50.1 - 60	31,596	12.7%	26,251	10.5%	5,345	2.1%
60.1 - 70	33,343	13.4%	27,983	11.2%	5,360	2.1%
70.1 - 80	29,836	12.0%	24,946	10.0%	4,890	2.0%
80.1 - 90	39,332	15.8%	37,643	15.1%	1,689	0.7%
90.1 - 100	17,266	6.9%	17,266	6.9%	0	0.0%
Total	249,375	100.0%	215,817	86.5%	33,558	13.5%

Figure 4.5: Community use sports halls with 3+ courts on IMD with one-mile radial catchments



In Havering, 86.5% of residents live within a one mile walk of a sports hall. This reduces to 80% of residents (200,411) when applying the same calculation to sports halls with community access. There are 41,498 people in Havering living in defined areas of higher deprivation (0-30% IMD bands). They are predominantly located in the north, northwest and southwest areas of the Authority. The four sites which serve these areas are:

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- ◀ Drapers Academy.
- ◀ Central Park Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Bower Park Academy.
- ◀ Harris Academy Rainham.

Table 4.7: Accessibility to community use sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	1,622	0.7%	1,622	0.7%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	16,393	6.6%	14,030	5.6%	2,363	0.9%
20.1 - 30	23,483	9.4%	17,401	7.0%	6,082	2.4%
30.1 - 40	21,546	8.6%	15,182	6.1%	6,364	2.6%
40.1 - 50	34,958	14.0%	21,990	8.8%	12,968	5.2%
50.1 - 60	31,596	12.7%	23,475	9.4%	8,121	3.3%
60.1 - 70	33,343	13.4%	27,556	11.1%	5,787	2.3%
70.1 - 80	29,836	12.0%	23,999	9.6%	5,837	2.3%
80.1 - 90	39,332	15.8%	37,254	14.9%	2,078	0.8%
90.1 - 100	17,266	6.9%	16,937	6.8%	329	0.1%
Total	249,375	100.0%	199,446	80.0%	49,929	20.0%

It is reported that 21.5% of the population do not have access to a car (2021 Census). This means that 21,806 people in Havering are reliant on public transport or walking/cycling to get to a sports hall. This can add to the cost of participation.

All of Havering's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a publicly accessible sports hall with 3+ badminton courts, or a sports hall of equivalent dimensions.

Sports halls are generally located in areas of lower deprivation. The north, northwest and southwest of the Authority

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside the authority, 19 sports halls with 3+ courts are located within two miles (indicative of how far people may travel) of Havering's boundary. They offer 78 courts, 38 of which are in Barking and Dagenham. Two sports halls in neighbouring authorities are larger than any within Havering. Barking and Dagenham has one six-court facility, as does Thurrock. Four facilities have been identified to the south of Havering, however, these are not (actually or perceptually) as accessible as the radial catchment suggests given the location of the River Thames. Table 4.8 provides a detailed list of all 3+ court sports halls in neighbouring authorities within a 2-mile radial catchment of Havering:

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Figure 4.6: Sports halls on IMD background with 2-mile radial catchment and 20-minute drive time

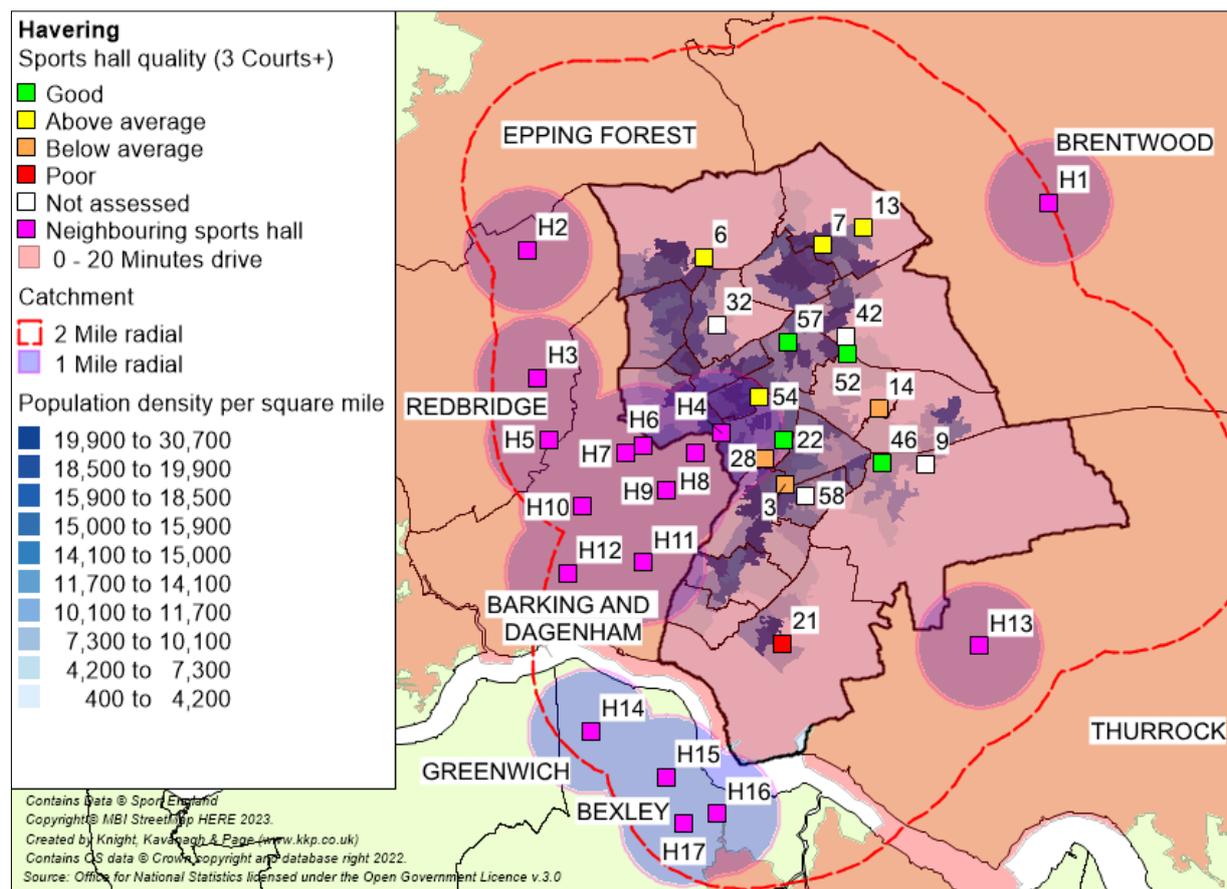


Table 4.8: Neighbouring sports halls with 3+ courts

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H1	Brentwood County High School	4	Sports club / CA	Brentwood
H2	Forest Academy	3	Sports club / CA	Redbridge
H3	Atam Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Redbridge
H4	YMCA (Thames Gateway)	4	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham
H5	Mayfield School (Dagenham)	4	Sports club / CA	Redbridge
H6	Robert Clack School (Upper)	4	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
H7	Becontree Heath Leisure Centre	4	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham
H8	Barking & Dagenham College	4	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham
H9	Eastbrook School	5	Sports club / CA	Barking and Dagenham
H9	Eastbrook School	3	Sports club / CA	Barking and Dagenham
H10	Sydney Russell Leisure Centre	6	Sports club / CA	Barking and Dagenham
H11	Dagenham Park Leisure Centre	4	Sports club / CA	Barking and Dagenham
H12	Castle Green Leisure Centre	4	Sports club / CA	Barking and Dagenham
H13	Harris Academy Ockendon	4	Sports club / CA	Thurrock
H13	Harris Academy Ockendon	6	Sports club / CA	Thurrock
H14	Harris Garrard Academy	3	Sports club / CA	Bexley
H15	Trinity School (Belvedere)	4	Sports club / CA	Bexley
H16	Erith Leisure Centre	4	Pay and play	Bexley

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ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H17	King Henry School	4	Pay and play	Bexley

Availability and facility management

Management and ownership vary. LBH owns three venues with 3+court sports halls, all of which are managed by Everyone Active. School sports halls tend to be owned and managed in-house; however, Harris Rainham Academy uses a third-party lettings agent to manage bookings and staffing. Abbs Cross Health and Fitness is located within the sports centre at Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College, which has a direct arrangement with Everyone Active to manage the facility.

The audit found the following sites to be used privately only:

- ◀ Hall Mead School.
- ◀ Havering Sixth Form (New City College).
- ◀ Gaynes School Language College.
- ◀ St Edwards Church of England School and Sixth Form.

Hall Mead School provided community use opportunity for local clubs prior to the redevelopment of its site. This was cancelled during the development, forcing clubs to relocate. The School reports that as a result of this there is now limited demand for use and, for this reason, it does not currently offer community use.

Consultation with Havering Sixth Form (New City College) indicated that none of its facilities are currently available for community use. This has been the position since it opened. However, staff indicated that offering community use could be a viable option to generate funding to ensure that the quality of its facilities remains appropriate. The site has a good supply of parking and entrances at both the front and rear.

Gaynes School and Language College does not currently offer community use, however, it did express an intention to do so in the future. Consultation with Everyone Active indicated this could be a potential site for investment to create a dual use site given the facilities at the School.

Desk research suggests St Edwards Church of England School and Sixth Form does not offer community use and that the sports hall is retained for school use only. The School did not respond to consultation requests and, thus, its disposition and future aspirations to offer community use are unknown.

Once privately used sports halls are removed from analysis, there are 18 sports halls across 17 sites in Havering with 3+ courts. This equates to 70 available courts.

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Table 4.9: Ownership and management of 3+ court sports hall facilities with community access

Site name	Ownership	Management
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Academy	Everyone Active
Bower Park Academy	Academy	In house
Central Park Leisure Centre	LBH	Everyone Active
Drapers Academy	Academy	In house
Emerson Park Academy	Academy	In house
Harris Academy Rainham	Academy	School Space
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	LBH	Everyone Active
Hornchurch High School	Community school	In house
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	Community school	In house
The Champion School	Community school	In house
The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	Academy	In house
The Royal Liberty School	Community school	In house
Coopers Company & Coborn School	Community school	In house
Marshalls Park Academy	Academy	In house
Redden Court School	Community school	In house
The Sanders School	Community school	In house

Desk research suggests that four of the five sites which did not respond to consultation requests offer community use, these are:

- ◀ Coopers Company & Coborn School.
- ◀ Marshalls Park Academy.
- ◀ Redden Court School.
- ◀ The Sanders School.

Despite the limited information available, consultation with local clubs suggests there is community use in some capacity at these four schools, however the extent of this is unknown.

Only two sports halls in Havering offer daytime (off peak) availability to community users (13%). Availability during the day and relevant programming can be important (and attractive) for residents who wish to use facilities at such times (such as older people, unemployed, home workers and shift workers). Given that the number of older people in the authority is increasing, providing adequate daytime available sports hall space is essential.

Given the nature of school sites, their availability is limited to evenings and weekends. This also significantly lowers the number of hours which Abbs Cross Health and Fitness is able to provide to the local community, as it is located within the grounds of Abbs Cross Academy. The following five schools provide community use outside of school hours seven days per week:

- ◀ Drapers Academy.
- ◀ Harris Academy Rainham.
- ◀ Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School.
- ◀ The Champion School.
- ◀ The Royal Liberty School.

Emerson Park Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls provide community access six days per week (they are closed on Sundays), whilst Bower Park Academy only offers weekday use. The most significant reason given for this is the lack of staffing available.

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Table 4.9 details the total community use hours available for each sports hall. Figures are calculated using intelligence gathered via the audit and desk research. Table 4.10 details the used capacity at each site. The percentages have been determined based on booking information provided by the site information gained through consultation. It is not possible to exactly gauge used capacity due to the changing nature of bookings on a week-by-week basis, the seasonality of sports and the varied use of sports halls for school exams.

Table 4.10: Opening hours and activities in sports halls 3+ courts in Havering

Community use hours	ID	Site	Courts	Main sports played
None	15	Gaynes School Language College	4 + 1	None
None	19	Hall Mead School	4 + 1	None
None	25	Havering Sixth Form College	4	None
None	50	St Edwards CofE School/6th Form	4	None
20.0	6	Bower Park Academy	4	Badminton
20.0	28	Hornchurch High School	4 + 1	Tennis, badminton
24.0	14	Emerson Park Academy	4	Badminton, futsal, gymnastics
29.5	57	The Royal Liberty School	4	Badminton
29.5	57	The Royal Liberty School	3	Badminton, soccer
31.0	54	Frances Bardsley Academy - Girls	5	Badminton, combat sports, soccer
34.0	21	Harris Academy Rainham	4 + 1	Badminton, football
34.0	46	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	4	Badminton, soccer, futsal, hockey
34.5	13	Drapers Academy*	4	Badminton, combat sports, gymnastics
44.5	52	The Champion School	4	Cricket, volleyball, badminton, football, futsal
58.5	3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	4	Badminton, gymnastics, combat sports
106.0	7	Central Park Leisure Centre	4	Badminton, group exercise, basketball
106.0	22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	4	Badminton, gymnastics
42**	9	Coopers Company/Coborn School	4 + 1	Gymnastics indoor cricket, Futsal, martial arts
38.5**	42	Redden Court School	3 + 1	-
36**	32	Marshalls Park Academy	4	-
20**	58	The Sanders School	4	-

*Usage verified by the school not the facility operator

**Usage provided by Sport England Active Places Power database

Used capacity

Non-technical site audits identify the used capacity of each sports hall. Used capacity is the percentage of available community use hours used. Sport England identifies 80% as a 'comfortably full' benchmark so, for example, the 34.5 hours available at Drapers School are used for 90% of the time whereas the Champion School is available for 44.5 hours per week during the peak period and is operating at 70% of used capacity.

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Table 4.11: Used capacity of sports halls

Used capacity	Site
0%	Hall Mead School
0%	Havering Sixth Form
0%	Gaynes School Language College
0%	St Edwards Church of England School and Sixth Form
15%	The Royal Liberty School (4-court)
20%	The Royal Liberty School (3-court)
45%	Bower Park Academy
50%	Harris Academy Rainham
65%	Central Park Leisure Centre
70%	The Champion School
78%	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre
85%	Abbs Cross Health and Fitness
85%	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School
90%	Drapers Academy
90%	Emerson Park Academy
90%	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls
*	Hornchurch High School
Unknown	Marshalls Park Academy
Unknown	Coopers Company and Coborn School
Unknown	The Sanders School
Unknown	Redden Court School

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

Consultation with Hall Mead School, Havering Sixth Form and Gaynes School and Language College confirmed that there is no community use at these sites. Desk research also did not unearth evidence of community use at St Edwards Church of England School and Sixth Form.

The Royal Liberty School has low levels of community use in both its 3-court and 4-court sports halls given the quality of the site and its locality to Romford and Hornchurch. Consultation with England Netball confirmed demand for sports hall space in this area, however, there are no netball markings on the floor of the 4-court sports hall. Three court sports halls are not suitable to sports such as netball, basketball or handball and as such, clubs are likely to choose other venues in Havering or neighbouring authorities.

Five sites in Havering are operating above Sport England's 80% threshold where they are deemed to be comfortably full. This demonstrates the high demand for sports hall space in Havering. In addition to this, The Champion School and Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre are also operating near the benchmark. All other sports halls in havering have capacity to accommodate further demand.

Emerson Park Academy is operating at 90% used capacity although it is only available for 24 hours per week. Drapers Academy is also operating at 90%; it is available for 34 hours per week. The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls is operating at 90% used capacity but does not currently offer community use on Sundays. These are examples of where community use hours could potentially be extended if club demand can be evidenced and other issues such as staffing can be accommodated for.

Hylands Tennis Club has exclusive use of the sports hall at Hornchurch High School. This is due to the funding agreement which has been in place since the sports hall and tennis facilities

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were built. As such, the School cannot accept any sports hall bookings without the Club's permission. Given these circumstances, used capacity is difficult to calculate as Hylands Tennis Club use varies depending on weather conditions and the number of members in attendance.

Future developments

Consultation with Everyone Active suggested that it has aspirations for Central Park Leisure Centre's disused outdoor tennis courts to be redeveloped to host a larger studio space for group exercise activities in a frame and fabric type structure. This would enable the 4-court sports hall to revert back to sports hall activity. No planning permission has been submitted as part of this potential development.

4.2: Demand

NGB consultation

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

Badminton England (BE)

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

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

The Badminton Facilities Strategy Model 2020-2030 – Havering overview

Badminton participation statistics

- ◀ 2.64% of adults (73.73%; male and 26.27%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days¹¹. This equates to **5,400 regular adult players**.
- ◀ 6.00%¹² of juniors¹¹ have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **842 regular junior players**.
- ◀ It is estimated that 7.10% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **9,000 occasional adult players**¹³ (4.43% latent demand).

Demand

- ◀ The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **1,800 court hours** (current demand).
- ◀ The presumption is that **regular junior players** play once per week for 45 minutes and that their average need is for 4 players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **159 court hours** (current demand).

¹¹ ALS states that people that have participated at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that they participate every week

¹² ALS states that 6.0% of juniors nationally (14-15 year olds) have played at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes this has been extended to include 11-13 year olds.

¹³ Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

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- ◀ The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **231 court hours** (latent demand).
- ◀ To service all badminton demand there is a need for **2,190 court hours** per week.
- ◀ Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **341 court hours**.

Supply

- ◀ There are 20 (3+court) sports halls containing 84 courts in Havering.
- ◀ One hall is for private use only; thus 80 courts are available for badminton.
- ◀ The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Havering during stated peak time is **2,622**¹⁴
- ◀ 55.00%¹⁵ of badminton courts in Havering meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **1,428** court hours¹⁶.
- ◀ There is a need for **153.36%** of the **1,428** good quality peak time court hours, available each week, to service current and latent badminton demand.
- ◀ Additional court hours required per week in 2030 are **341**.

Strategic overview

Consultation with BE outlined the need for increased quality and availability of badminton courts in Havering, particularly during school holidays as several clubs report losing access to school facilities over these periods. BE also highlighted that several schools are unable to offer community use in sports halls/activity halls when examinations are taking place as the space needed for desks and chairs. This can equate to 10 weeks per year in some circumstances.

Eagles Badminton Club is the only affiliated club in the authority. It has c.120 members. A further six unaffiliated clubs were identified during the audit:

- ◀ Cedars Badminton Club.
- ◀ Corinthians Badminton Club.
- ◀ Wychelm Badminton Club.
- ◀ Hare Badminton Club.
- ◀ Harold Hill Badminton Club.
- ◀ Hunters Badminton Club.

Club consultation

All clubs were approached for consultation; no response was received from Cedars Badminton Club, Corinthians Badminton Club, Wychelm Badminton Club and Hare Badminton Club despite numerous requests. A summary of the club consultation is as follows:

Eagles Badminton Club was originally set up as a community-based club with support from Havering Council. It is currently based at Emerson Park Academy, using the 4-court sports hall four times per week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. It loses access to the facility during school holidays and during exam season and reports a lack of other options across Havering during this period. It is, as a consequence, forced to cancel sessions at these times, which has a negative impact on participation.

It previously operated out of other facilities in Havering, such as Bower Park, Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre and Hornchurch Leisure Centre. At one point a number of sessions at Bower Park were cancelled at short notice which forced the Club to relocate. Harrow Lodge Leisure

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

¹⁵ National figure: 75.0%

¹⁶ Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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Centre is suitable for badminton however availability during peak times at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre and Central Park Leisure Centre is limited.

Hunters Badminton Club moved to Harris Rainham Academy in 2023, having previously been based in Dagenham. It currently has exclusive use of the 4-court sports hall on Tuesdays evenings from 19:00-21:30 and has c.18 members. It reports having had difficulty locating a suitable facility prior to moving to Harris Rainham Academy as there are few halls which offer the required run-off space and changing facilities. The Club had plans to re-enter the local badminton league, however, the change of location has meant that it now has fewer and less experienced participants.

Security of tenure for badminton clubs is poor given the reliance on school sites, as evidenced by Eagles Badminton Clubs occasional use of public leisure sites when Emerson Park Academy is unavailable.

Netball

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

The strategy outlines its intention to:

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

At the heart of its purpose, EN commits to remaining dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority and to work to address the gender participation gap in the sport which has widened since the Pandemic. Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, EN pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

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

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

The elite game is also a focus. EN's ambition is that the Vitality Roses will be the best female sports team in the world. It thus has to support the national team to win consistently on the world stage and to have an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court and set new standards. Professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority – with a specific focus on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events and creating more careers in the sport.

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

Facility development

Facility development aspirations stated within EN's Strategy are to:

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

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

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

EN reports that the sport is growing fast nationally. Its YouGov¹⁷ report indicated that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport. In addition, at the time when the report research was undertaken, 71% of clubs reported that more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Netball is played both indoors and outdoors. For outdoor provision please refer to the 2024 LBH Playing Pitch Strategy. Current indoor provision in Havering is as follows:

- ◀ Back 2 Netball sessions are designed to re-introduce players to the sport. Sessions are run by coaches. Currently no Back 2 Netball sessions being delivered in Havering, however desk research suggests that some sessions were delivered at Redden Court School prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- ◀ Walking Netball (netball played at a walking pace). This is designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. It was indicated during consultation that weekly walking netball sessions are held at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre, however, these are limited to 20 participants. There is more demand for these sessions than can currently be accommodated at Harrow Lodge.

¹⁷ <https://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/2019/10/02/netball-world-cup>

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The audit identified four clubs within Havering, three of which are affiliated to England Netball. Netball clubs in Havering compete in the Essex Metropolitan Netball League.

Table 4.12: Netball clubs in Havering

Club name	Affiliated	Club response
Manor Met Netball Club	Yes	No
Romford Netball Club	Yes	No
Marshalls Netball Club	Yes	No
Essex Wanderers Junior Netball	No	No

England Netball confirmed that commercial netball leagues are present in Havering, however, participation is inconsistent, reportedly due to limited interest. Both Go Mammoth (on Wednesday evenings) and Leagues for You both use facilities at Marshalls Park Academy.

Club consultation

Each club was contacted several times by both KKP and England Netball to take part in the audit, however no responses were received. The following is a summary of netball clubs in Havering based upon desk research and information provided by England Netball:

Manor Met Netball Club participates in the Essex Metropolitan Netball League, utilising facilities at Drapers Academy on Thursday evenings. Desk research indicates that it runs a range of junior teams and uses a combination of indoor and outdoor facilities for its training sessions.

Romford Netball Club has four senior teams competing in the Essex Metropolitan Netball League.

Marshalls Netball Club hires indoor facilities at Marshalls Park School on Thursday evenings for training purposes. It competes in the Essex Metropolitan Netball League.

Essex Wanderers Junior Netball Club hires the sports hall at Emerson Park Academy. It provides netball participation for young people aged 8-18, with teams competing regionally.

The Essex Metropolitan Netball League was contacted for consultation; however, no response was received. Desk research suggests that League matches take place outside Havering, in the sports hall at Redbridge Sports Centre.

Basketball (BBE)

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

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

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To increase the opportunities to play the game at every level, BBE has produced a facilities strategy which aims to create community hubs including, where appropriate, arenas that sit at the heart of communities and are homes for the leading British Basketball League (BBL), Women's British Basketball League (WBBL) and community clubs. The stated intent is that as part of its facilities strategy implementation, BBE will regularly monitor provision in schools, colleges, universities, clubs and at local authority sites and identify any gaps, looking to improve connections between these organisations to increase the availability and affordability of facilities of the right quality.

BBE reports having no affiliated clubs in Havering. One was identified during the audit and approached for consultation; however, no response was received.

Table 4.13: Basketball club responses

Club name	Club response
RDF Basketball	No

Club consultation

A summary of basketball clubs in Havering is provided based on information provided by Basketball England and desk research carried out for the audit.

RDF is an unaffiliated club and community organisation which previously competed in the Community Basketball League. RDF deliver sessions across Havering, Barking and Dagenham to develop life skills in young people and promote the importance of physical and mental wellbeing. It no longer appears to play competitive matches.

Indoor cricket

Essex Cricket Board is the overarching NGB for cricket in Havering. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children in the County.

The Essex Cricket Board confirmed that specialised indoor cricket facilities in Havering are limited. Where clubs use 4-court sized sports halls for winter training, there is insufficient space for pace bowlers to complete a full length run up. In addition, the quality of the flooring at educational sites is often problematic. As such, many clubs travel outside of the Borough to indoor cricket facilities in Ockenden and Leyton, however, these sites are reportedly at capacity.

Indoor cricket is most often played between two teams of six or eight players. It can take place in any suitably sized multi-purpose sports hall offering amateur and professional cricketers an option to play the game during winter months.

The Havering Cricket League runs an indoor competition during the winter months for junior teams ranging from under 9's to under 15's. This is hosted at Coopers Company & Coborn School in its sports hall. League officials were contacted to discuss this however, no response was received.

The Champion School installed a new ECB approved vinyl surface in 2023 in its 4-court sports hall. The School reports that several clubs are looking to use the facility over the winter months in preparation for the new season.

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Volleyball

Two sports halls in Havering have volleyball line markings. The courts are located at The Campion School and Bower Park Academy, however, England Volleyball confirmed there are no affiliated or unaffiliated volleyball clubs in Havering. No club demand was identified as part of the audit.

Futsal

There are six facilities at which futsal activity regularly takes place. Chelsea FC Football Foundation uses the sports hall at Noak Hill Sports Complex to deliver sessions for young people aged 7-11 years. Its sessions take place on Thursday evenings and cost £6.00 to attend. No membership is required. Commercial operator Gol provides indoor football and futsal sessions in the Hornchurch area. Desk research indicates that its sessions take place mainly at Redden Court School, Coopers Company & Coborn School and The Campion School. The Finta Futsal Academy has a dedicated indoor AGP facility located in Upminster, at which it delivers sessions for young people up to the age of 15 years. No disabled specific futsal sessions were identified in the audit.

4.3: Future demand and the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

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

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

Table 4.13: Sport England: Sports Facilities Calculator

	Population 2018: (ONS)	Population estimate: 2031 (ONS)
ONS population projections	257,810	279,413
Population increase	-	21,603
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	+6.25 courts (+1.56 halls)
Estimated cost*	-	£4,828,475

(Build costs as of Q3 2022)

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. It appears that the projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for sports hall space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 6.25 (badminton) courts, up to 2031.

Investment is required in improving the quality, capacity and availability of the existing stock prior to considering the development of a new sports hall. Given the low used capacity at sites such as The Royal Liberty School, Bower Park Academy and Central Park Leisure Centre, sites should consider increasing the number of hours they make available to meet future demand prior to considering the development of new provision.

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4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Havering has 42 sports halls containing 98 badminton courts. It has 21 sports halls with 3+ courts (83 badminton courts).	There is capacity at existing facilities to accommodate existing demand and an increase in population. Emerson Park Academy plans to replace its 4-court sports hall with a 3-court hall. Central Park Leisure Centre is currently operating as a 2-court hall due to health and fitness classes taking place in the hall. Ceasing to deliver fitness classes in the sports hall and/or accommodating this elsewhere would enable it to revert back to functioning as a 4-court hall. This could be resolved by covering the existing outdoor tennis courts.
Quality	Four sports halls are rated good quality, five are above average, five are below average and two are of poor quality.	Investment is needed in the below average/poor-quality sports halls. Residents in the north of Havering have better access to good quality sports halls than those in the south. Investment is required at Harris Academy Rainham, however, the School did not state any intention to undertake maintenance work in the immediate future.
Accessibility	80% of the LBH population lives within 1 mile of a community accessible sports hall. All residents live within a 20-minute drive of a sports hall with community use.	Maintain a good relationships between clubs, schools and the Council to ensure that community access remains possible.
Availability (Management and usage)	17 sports halls provide some form of community availability. Seven facilities are currently operating at the Sport England threshold of 'comfortably full'. Five halls are operating below 70% used capacity and thus could accommodate increased demand. Two public leisure centres provide daytime availability.	Ensure schools continue to offer peak time availability to cater for local sports clubs. Consider options to extend school community use hours where used capacity is above 80% e.g., Emerson Park Academy, Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls and Drapers School. Several clubs report losing access to school facilities during exam periods. The Council and partners should seek ways to encourage schools to ensure that facilities are open all year round where possible.

Strategic summary

- ◀ Each facility is important to the community served and all venues need to be protected in accordance with paragraph 102 of the NPPF.
- ◀ The quality of below average and poor sports halls needs to be improved. This is particularly the case with Harris Academy Rainham, which serves Havering's population in the south of the authority.
- ◀ Educational sites are providing a significant volume of sports hall space during peak times. Relationships between clubs, NGB's and schools should be maintained to ensure accessibility remains high.
- ◀ Everyone Active report that group exercise demand is so high that classes are occupying sports hall space at Central Park Leisure Centre. This fitness expansion into the sports

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hall should arguably be challenged given the sports hall demand in the Authority. Consideration should also be given to the potential to develop a new studio on this site capable of meeting the demand for group exercise amongst other sports (such as tennis, netball and gymnastics). This would reduce the pressure on the operators to have the 4-court sports hall operate as such.

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SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

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

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

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England.

Swim England’s report ‘A Decade of Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England’ provides a national analysis of the current swimming pool stock across England. It notes that the average age of a pool built from 1960 onwards is 43 years. On this basis it suggests that many of these pools are now coming to the end of their lifespan.

Many pool operators were placed in a serious financial situation during the pandemic, when many local authorities provided emergency financial support through direct grants, deferred payments or loans to subsidise pool operators who had suffered loss of income due to pool closures.

UK Government’s £100 million National Leisure Recovery Fund also provided assistance to enable pools to re-open once restrictions had been lifted. Despite this, Swim England reports that 206 pools (including 68 public pools) closed, either permanently or temporarily over the period of the Pandemic.

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

5.1: Supply

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

Lidos are included in the assessment where they are of 160m²+ and are offering an extensive programme (Learn to swim, casual and club swimming) and are open all year round.

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Quantity

The audit identifies 16 swimming pools at 11 sites. This includes all pools irrespective of size and access. There comprise three learner/teaching pools, one lido, one diving pool and 11 main pools (20m+ and larger than 160m²). Learner/teaching pools assist with programming (and income generation) at the public leisure centre sites in particular.

Swimming facilities are well located and distributed across the Authority. The main settlements such as Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham are all served by public leisure centre pools. Figure 5.1 outlines the location of all swimming pools in the Authority.

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Havering

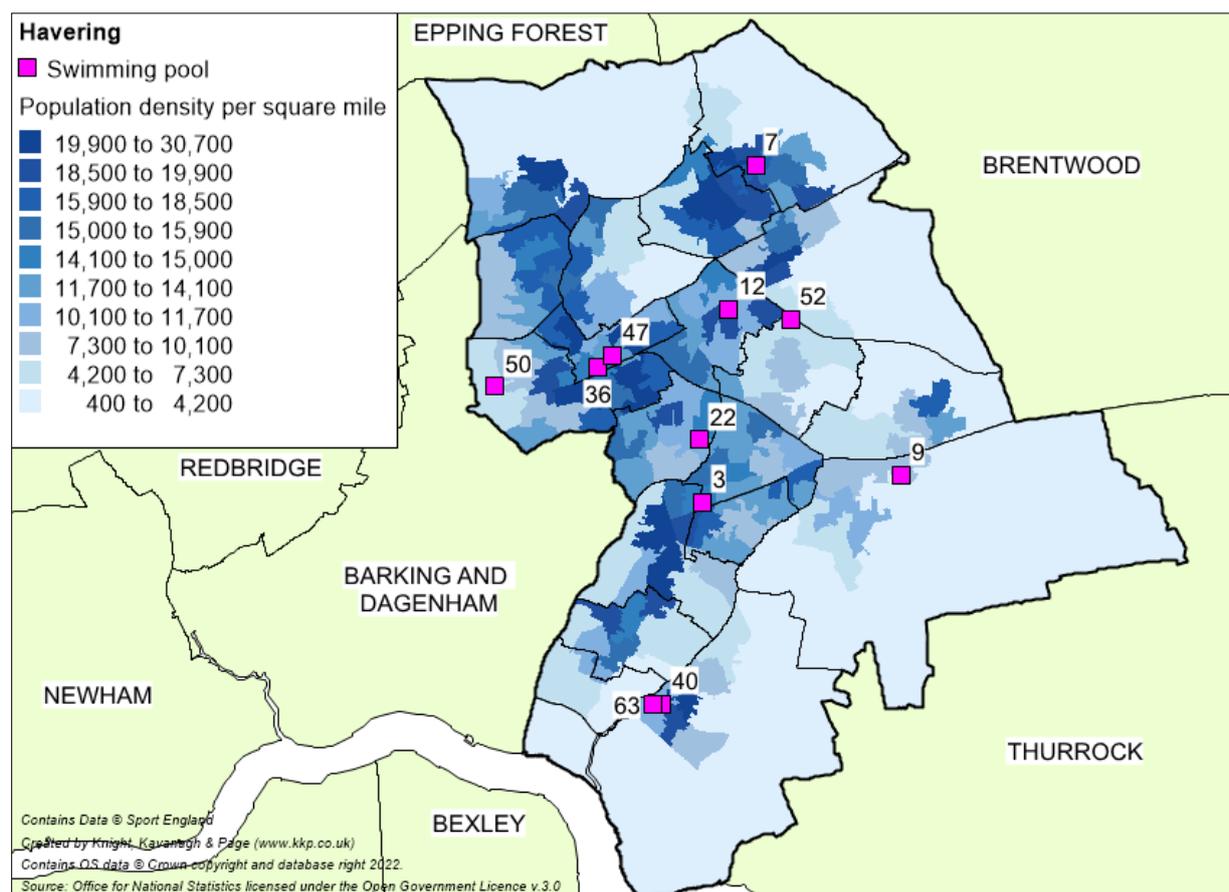


Table 5.1: All swimming pools in Havering

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m ²)
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Main/general	6 x 25m	375
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	325
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 12m	72
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	Main/general	4 x 25m	188
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Main/general	3 x 25m	250
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Lido	1 x 20m	200
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Main/general	8 x 25m	425
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Diving	0 x 20m	300
36	Nuffield Health	Main/general	4 x 20m	240

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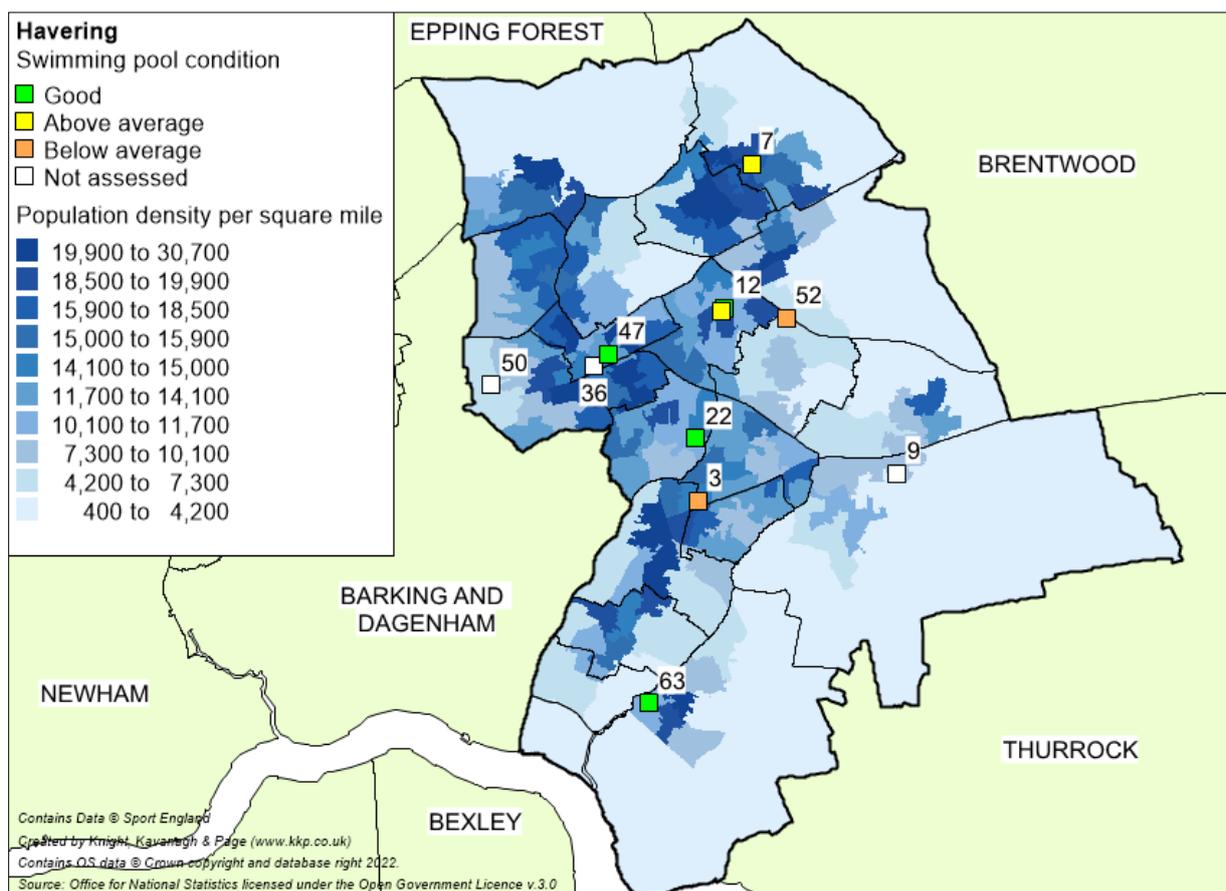
ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m ²)
36	Nuffield Health	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 6m	36
40	Rainham Village Primary School	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 10m	40
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Main/general	0 x 15m	120
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Main/general	8 x 25m	425
50	St Edwards CofE School & 6th Form College	Main/general	4 x 25m	200
52	The Champion School	Main/general	4 x 25m	200
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	Main/general	6 x 15m	325

The largest swimming pool is at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre, situated at the heart of the Authority within close proximity to both Romford and Hornchurch. When factoring in other pool space within Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre, there is a total supply of water amounting to 725m². This makes it a key strategic site for swimming.

Quality

Four of the 11 main pools are good quality, two are above average, two are below average and three could not be assessed due to a lack of response to visit/consultation request. KKP's non-technical visual assessments also encompass review of changing provision as this also plays a significant role in influencing and attracting users. In general, changing facilities are of similar standard to pool quality.

Figure 5.2: Swimming pools larger than 160m² with quality ratings.



The supply of good and above average quality swimming pools is well distributed throughout the Authority.

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Quality assessments are set out in Table 5.2 below. Some changing rooms could not be assessed due to them being in use at the time of audit.

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

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Pool condition	Changing condition
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Main/general	6 x 25m	Below average	Above average
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	Above average	Above average
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	Main/general	4 x 25m	Not assessed	Not assessed
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Main/general	3 x 25m	Good	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Lido	1 x 20m	Above average	Above average
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Main/general	8 x 25m	Good	Good
36	Nuffield Health	Main/General	4 x 20m	Not assessed	Not assessed
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Main/General	8 x 25m	Good	Good
50	St Edwards C of E School & 6th Form College	Main/General	4 x 25m	Not assessed	Not assessed
52	The Champion School	Main/General	4 x 25m	Below average	Not assessed
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	Main/General	6 x 15m	Good	Good

The good quality swimming pools in Havering are located at a mix of commercially operated facilities and public leisure centres. Rainham Leisure Centre, Sapphire Ice & Leisure and Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre all provide a good quality swimming offer, generally as a result of the recent investments and age of the facilities. All public leisure sites have a good level of disability access.

The Rainham Leisure Centre swimming pool opened in 2023. The pool depth is 1.2m throughout, which provides a challenge for club use unlike the other pools in the Authority. Whilst there is currently no club use at Rainham Leisure Centre, it is expected that club use will increase in the future.

Sapphire Ice and Leisure is an attractive and modern swimming facility with good spectator seating. No issues related to plant are reported and regular maintenance is undertaken. There are two good quality pools at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre. In addition to the 8-lane 25m pool, there is a diving pool with moveable floor. It has two springboards and two platform boards.

Central Park Leisure Centre is older than the aforementioned good quality facilities and reports having issues with its the plant room, such as old pipework. Everyone Active confirmed that it has an ongoing issue keeping the pool temperature at an acceptable level. It also suggests that this facility requires investment to improve its energy efficiency. Refurbishment to the pool and changing facilities has ensured the facility still looks of an acceptable standard for users however, there some non customer-facing areas require investment.

Abbs Cross Health and Fitness has been subject to regular maintenance to keep the pool in working order. EA, which manages the site on behalf of the school, reports ongoing issues with the air handling unit, but that it struggles to secure funding as this pool is located within school grounds. The facility has recently had investment, new LED lights and a new boiler was installed in 2021. Changing rooms were refurbished in 2021 following a ceiling leak. Overall the facility is ageing, is well used, and as such, is declining in quality. The audit assessed it to be below average in quality.

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The Champion School pool provides community accessibility in the form of club and commercial swimming lesson use. It is of below average quality primarily due to its age and décor. The tiles surrounding the pool need re-grouting to improve pool aesthetics. Due to use at the time the changing rooms could not be assessed however a school representative confirmed that their age and quality was similar to that of the pool.

Table 5.3: Age of swimming pools (160m²+) and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	2004	2021	3
Central Park Leisure Centre	2004	2021	3
Coopers Company & Coborn School	1971	2007	17
David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	2005	-	19
David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	2005	-	19
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	2021	-	3
Nuffield Health	2001	-	23*
Sapphire Ice & Leisure	2018	-	6
St Edwards C of E School & 6th Form College	1972	2008	16
The Champion School	1970	2005	19
Rainham Leisure Centre	2023	-	1

The oldest pool in the Authority is situated at the Champion School. The reported lack of refurbishment since 2005 is reflected in its quality rating.

Rainham Leisure Centre is the newest of the swimming pool stock. Overall, the current supply of swimming pools in Havering is well maintained and receives regular refurbishment.

Nuffield Health is identified in Sport England's Active Places database as last having been refurbished in 2001. However, given the commercial nature of the facility and the generally considered to be high quality offering of the Nuffield Health brand has, it is considered unlikely that the pool has not received refurbishment for over 20 years. Nuffield Health were contacted to discuss refurbishment to the swimming pool; however, no response was received.

Accessibility

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

Figure 5.3 and Table 5.4 illustrate the walk-time based accessibility of all swimming pools in Havering.

Catchment analysis indicates that 73.7% of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool 160m² or larger that has some level of community use. Of the 41,498 people living in areas of higher deprivation in Havering (i.e., those living in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 30,182 (73%) live within one mile of a swimming pool. The north and southwest of the Authority are perceived to be areas of higher deprivation in Havering. Both of these areas are in close proximity to public leisure sites, Central Park Leisure Centre in the north and Rainham Leisure Centre in the south.

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54% of the population live within one mile of a pay and play accessible swimming pool. This would suggest that swimming pools are generally well located to attract users from areas of higher deprivation, assuming that other barriers to access can be overcome.

Drive time catchment suggests that all of Havering's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool larger than 160m² as evidenced in Figure 5.4.

Figure 5.3: Accessibility of swimming pools in Havering

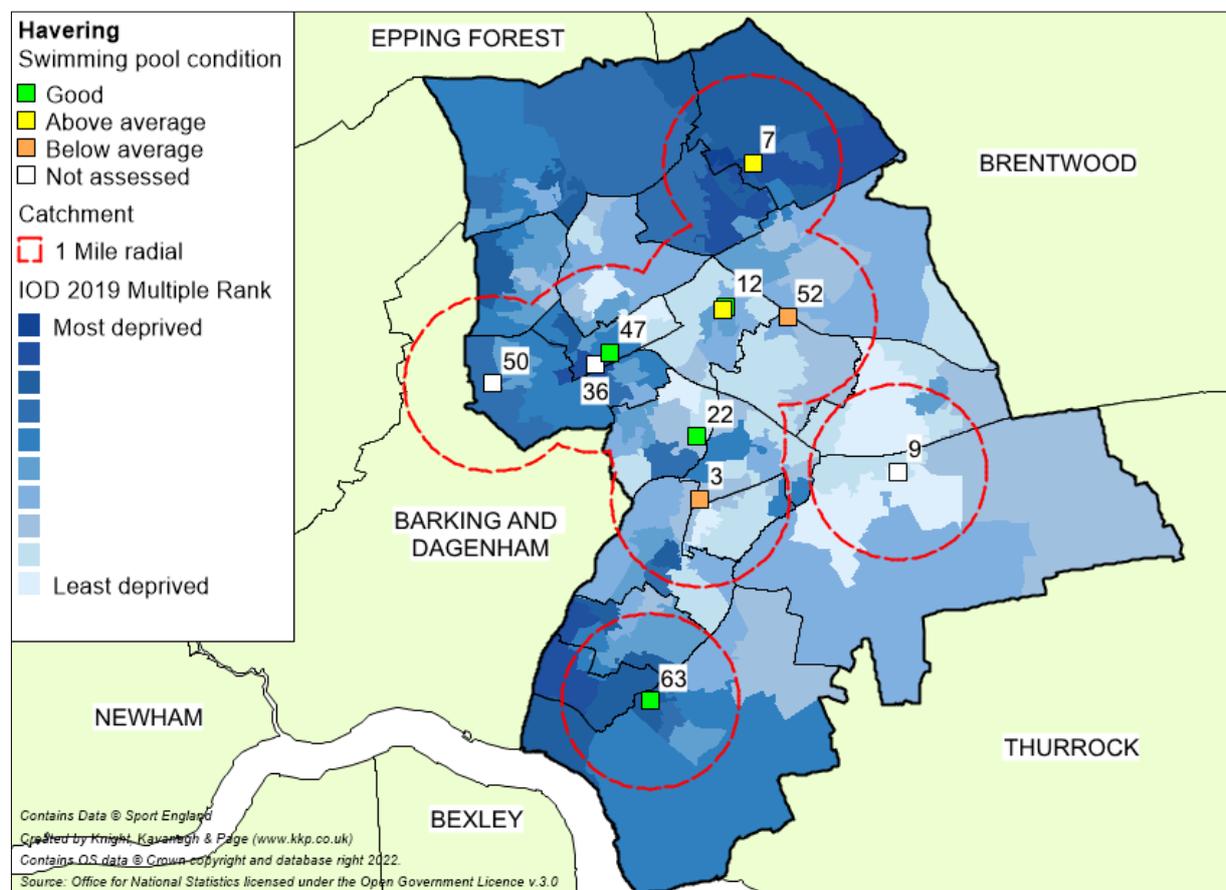
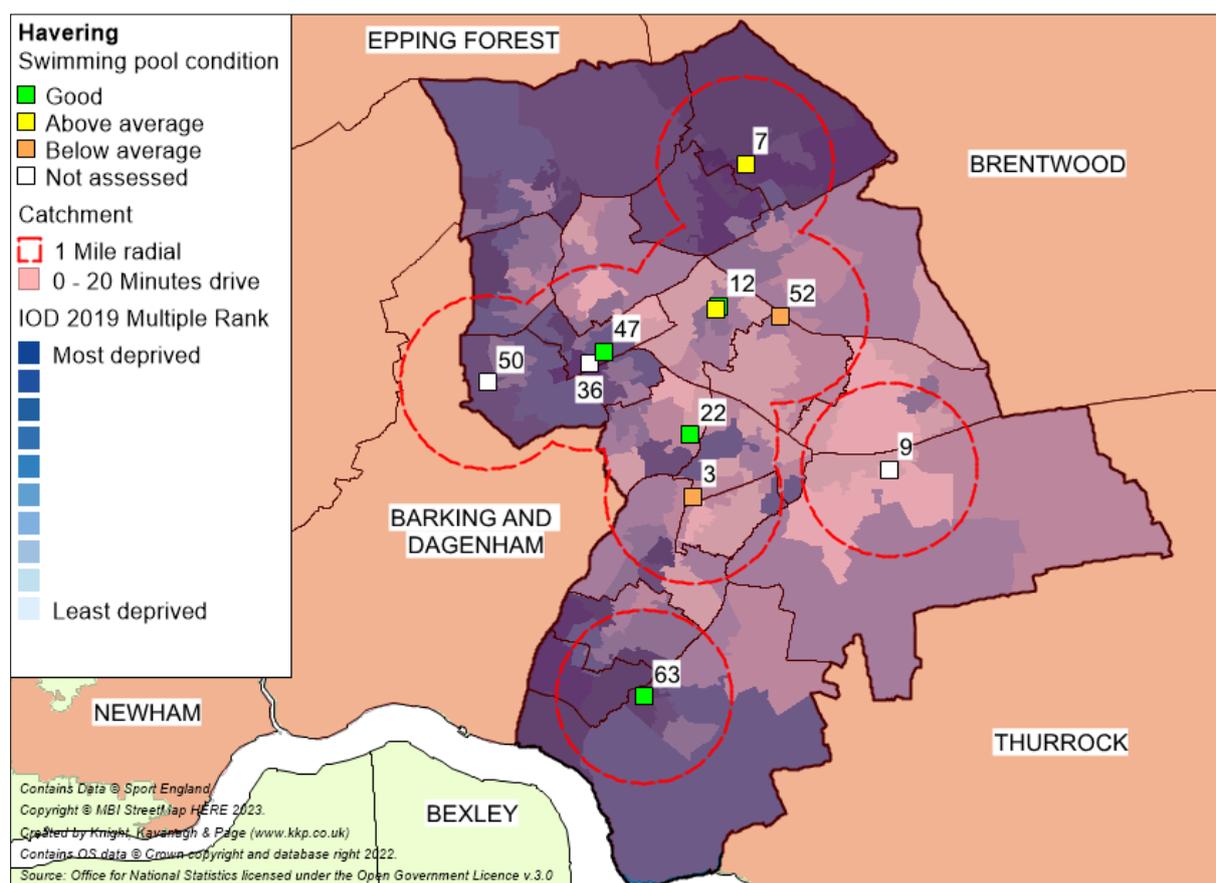


Table 5.4: Accessibility of swimming pools in Havering

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	1,622	0.7%	1,622	0.7%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	16,393	6.6%	14,227	5.7%	2,166	0.9%
20.1 - 30	23,483	9.4%	14,333	5.7%	9,150	3.7%
30.1 - 40	21,546	8.6%	15,482	6.2%	6,064	2.4%
40.1 - 50	34,958	14.0%	25,842	10.4%	9,116	3.7%
50.1 - 60	31,596	12.7%	22,963	9.2%	8,633	3.5%
60.1 - 70	33,343	13.4%	21,380	8.6%	11,963	4.8%
70.1 - 80	29,836	12.0%	19,851	8.0%	9,985	4.0%
80.1 - 90	39,332	15.8%	33,121	13.3%	6,211	2.5%
90.1 - 100	17,266	6.9%	14,965	6.0%	2,301	0.9%
Total	249,375	100.0%	183,786	73.7%	65,589	26.3%

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Figure 5.5: Swimming pools within 20 minutes' drive time



Availability of swimming pools

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

Table 5.4: Access policy of swimming pools

Site name	Access policy
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Pay and play
Central Park Leisure Centre	Pay and play
Coopers Company & Coborn School	Sports club / CA
David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Registered membership
David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Registered membership
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Pay and play
Nuffield Health	Registered membership
Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Pay and play
St Edwards C of E School & 6th Form College	Sports club / CA
The Campion School	Sports club / CA
Rainham Leisure Centre	Pay and play

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

Five pools can be accessed on a pay and play basis – all are public leisure centres. These also have membership options which are more cost-effective than the pay and play offer. Abbs Cross Health and Fitness is also available on a pay and play basis. It is also operated by Everyone Active which is the operator of the four public leisure facilities.

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Commercial health and fitness operators which provide pools offer access via registered membership only. This is the case for three pools in Havering, located at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) and Nuffield Health. While acknowledging that commercially managed facilities can cater for specific market segments, they are not always available to all sections of the community and may not necessarily be affordable to all households. The three pools based at schools, offer community use in the form of swim schools or swimming club use but do not offer individual pay and play access.

As mentioned previously, lidos are included in the assessment where they are of 160m²+ and are offering an extensive programme (Learn to swim, casual and club swimming) and are open all year round. The lido at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) is open all year round, however, access is restricted by the requirement to have a high-cost membership. It is not available for public swimming, club swimming and swimming lessons.

Taking all the above into account, the following facilities are available for general public use and pay and play access.

Table 5.5: Swimming pools with pay and play access

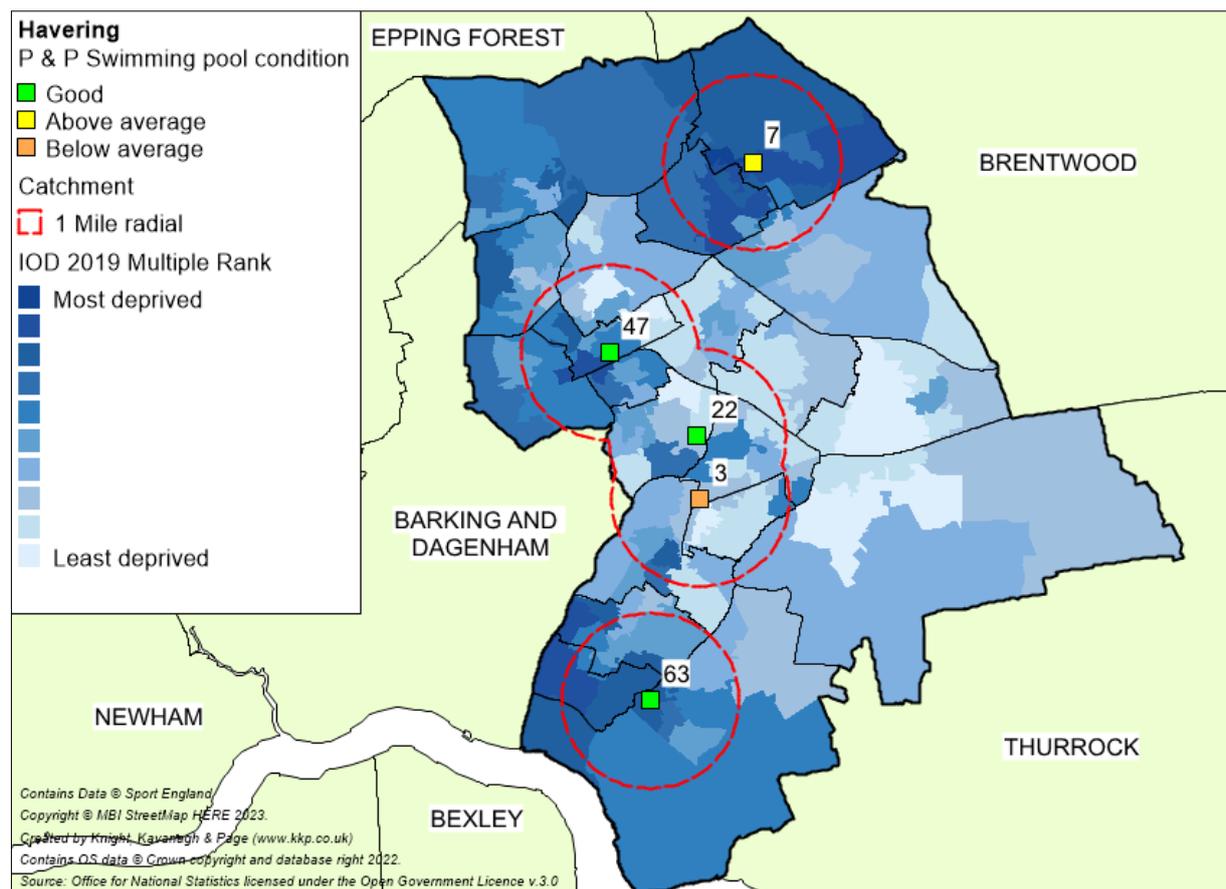
Site name	Access policy
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Pay & play
Central Park Leisure Centre	Pay & play
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Pay & play
Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Pay & play
Rainham Leisure Centre	Pay & play

Table 5.6: Accessibility of pay and play pools in Havering

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	1,622	0.7%	1,622	0.7%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	16,393	6.6%	13,701	5.5%	2,692	1.1%
20.1 - 30	23,483	9.4%	14,187	5.7%	9,296	3.7%
30.1 - 40	21,546	8.6%	11,652	4.7%	9,894	4.0%
40.1 - 50	34,958	14.0%	23,155	9.3%	11,803	4.7%
50.1 - 60	31,596	12.7%	14,339	5.7%	17,257	6.9%
60.1 - 70	33,343	13.4%	15,667	6.3%	17,676	7.1%
70.1 - 80	29,836	12.0%	14,943	6.0%	14,893	6.0%
80.1 - 90	39,332	15.8%	19,235	7.7%	20,097	8.1%
90.1 - 100	17,266	6.9%	6,232	2.5%	11,034	4.4%
Total	249,375	100.0%	134,733	54.0%	114,642	46.0%

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Figure 5.6: Pay and play pools quality on IMD 1-mile catchment



Facilities in neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside an authority. Eight pools (160m²+) across seven sites are located within two miles of the Havering boundary; two in Brentwood, one in Redbridge, two in Barking and Dagenham, two are in the authority of Thurrock and one in Bexley. Five sites offer pay and play access, one requires registered membership and two can be accessed via sports club or community association.

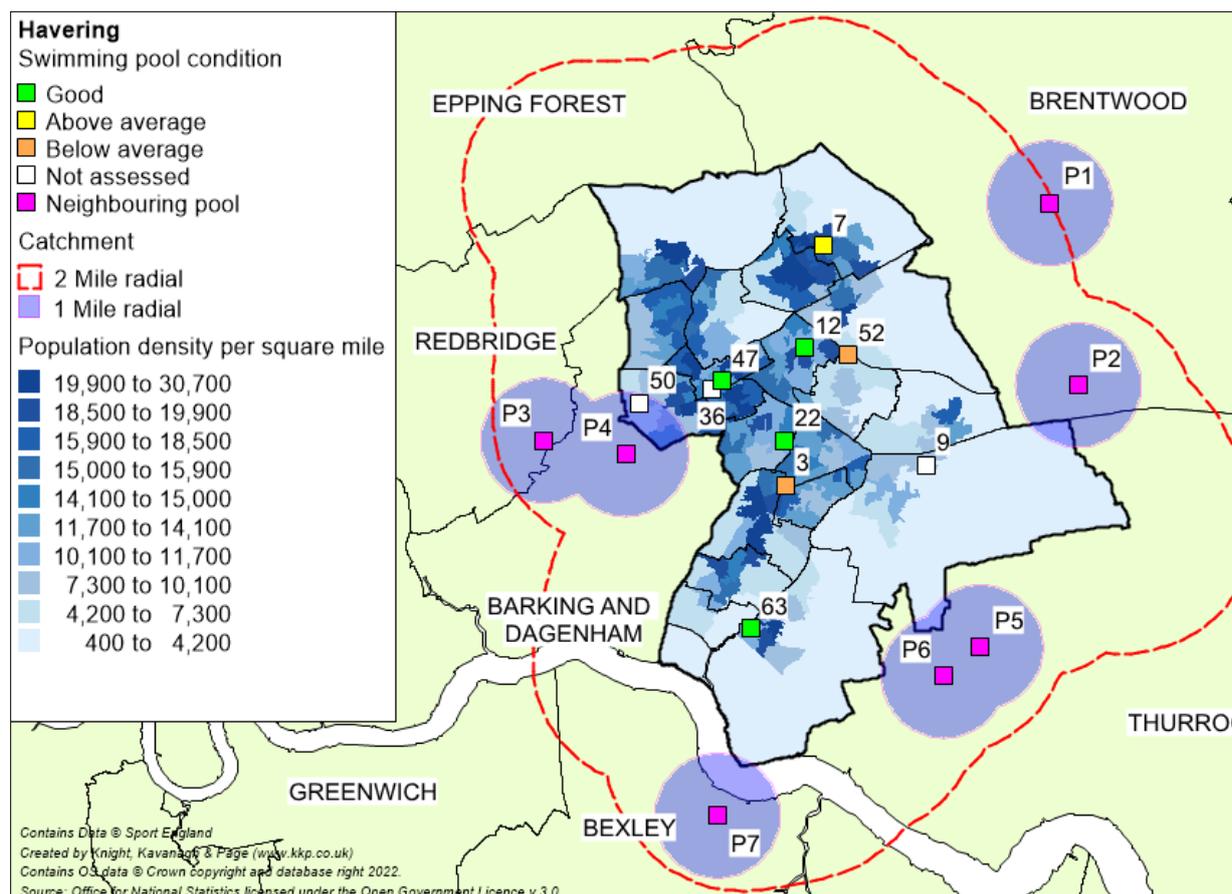
Table 5.7: Neighbouring community available pools within 2-mile radial of Havering

ID	Site name	Lanes/length	Access type	Authority
P1	Brentwood County High School	4 x 27m	Sports club/CA	Brentwood
P2	Clearview Health & Racquets Club	6 x 25m	Reg. membership	Brentwood
P3	Mayfield Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Redbridge
P4	Becontree Heath Leisure Centre*	10 x 25m	Pay and play	Barking & Dagenham
P4	Becontree Heath Leisure Centre	4 x 50m	Pay and play	Barking & Dagenham
P4	Becontree Heath Leisure Centre	0 x 13m	Pay and play	Barking & Dagenham
P5	Harris Academy Ockendon	5 x 22m	Sports club/CA	Thurrock
P6	Impulse Leisure	5 x 25m	Pay and play	Thurrock
P7	Erith Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Bexley

(*The audit identified a discrepancy with the information in the APP database, this table has been updated to reflect the current facility mix).

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Figure 5.7: Swimming pools located within 2 miles of Havering's boundary



Source: Active Places Power 05/04/2023

Becontree Health and Leisure Centre offers significant supply. It has a 10-lane 25m swimming pool, a 4-lane 50m pool and a learner teaching pool. Due to the size and scale of the facility, it is considered likely that it is attracting residents from LBH.

Erith Leisure Centre is located in Bexley, which is situated within 2-miles of the Havering boundary. Given the location of the River Thames, residents in Havering are very unlikely to be accessing the facility.

Future enhancements / new developments

As of the audit date, no known new swimming pool developments are planned in the area.

5.2: Demand

Consultation with Swim England confirms that in relation to UK wide participation local authorities with swimming pool water deficits are its highest priority. It notes that:

- ◀ Community use swimming pools provide the accessible water space for a diverse range of water activities, which the general public and sports clubs are both able to use.
- ◀ Havering currently has a good supply of community available swimming facilities, able to cater for a diverse range of swimming activities.

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Club consultation

The audit identified four swimming clubs, one diving club and two commercial swimming school providers currently utilising swimming pools with community access in Havering. All clubs and organisations were invited to take part in consultation. KKP received responses from three as detailed below.

Hornchurch Swimming Club currently has c.220 members of which 150 are active on a regular basis. A significant proportion of its junior members transition from the Everyone Active learn to swim programme as a result of a close relationship between the operator and the club.

It hires three facilities in the Authority; sessions take place at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sundays. Coopers Company & Coborn School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with a further session at The Champion School on Tuesday evenings.

The Club stated that the cost of pool hire is becoming unaffordable, and that as a result it has had to shorten the length of the session at the Champion School. Despite this, it is actively recruiting and has space for c.50 additional active members.

It is also recruiting coaches, often recruiting older members to help deliver junior sessions with the club contributing to them obtaining coaching qualifications. Coaches report that young people are behind the expected level of swimming ability as a result of interruption to sessions during the Covid-19 Pandemic, so the Club is looking to increase staffing to combat this.

Three swimming clubs did not respond to consultation request. The following information on them is based on desk research.

Romford Swimming Club is based at Abbs Cross Health and Fitness, Sapphire Ice & Leisure and Central Park Leisure Centre.

Havering Dolphins Swimming Club hires school swimming pool stock. It uses the Champion School on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays and Coopers Company & Coborn on Monday and Sundays. Finally, **Killerwhales Swim Club** uses Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre.

Cridders Swim School currently uses the swimming pool at Coopers Company & Coborn on four days per week to run a successful learn to swim programme. Consultation suggests that used capacity at Coopers Company & Coborn is it would like to increase the amount of pool time it currently uses but is unable to do so due to lack of availability. **Kays Swim School** operates a similar model but no response to consultation requests was received.

Havering Cormorants Diving Club uses wet and dry facilities at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre hiring the diving pool on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. It would like to increase its number of pool hours as a result of reaching capacity at both of its weekday sessions. The Sunday session is also close to capacity. It has circa 75 active participants each week.

It reports that facilities are of good quality and meet its needs. Prior to its demolition, the Club utilised Hornchurch Leisure Centre where the pool had a bubble machine (provided at the Club's expense – cost c. £20,000). The Club was informed that the new facility would have this equipment but it is yet to be installed. The equipment is essential to ensure diver safety when performing new or difficult dives. The Club reports that, as a result of it not having this amenity it is currently losing members, often to clubs outside the Borough who can provide this option.

Havering and Ilford Scuba Diving Club provides scuba diving lessons and activities for new and experienced divers and has its own clubhouse with a small hall, which is used for land-based

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training, and a bar. It does not currently access any indoor swimming pools in Havering or neighbouring authorities, as all dives take place in open water.

Swimming lessons

Children’s swimming lessons are delivered at all five publicly accessible pools in Havering. Current lesson volumes are as follows:

- ◀ Central Park Leisure Centre – c.2194 (78% full)
- ◀ Abbs Cross Health and Fitness – c.147 (63% full)
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre – C.2413 (86% full)
- ◀ Rainham Leisure Centre – C.695 (84% full)
- ◀ Sapphire Ice and Leisure – c.2231 (89% full)

On average swim programmes at the EA sites are operating at 80% capacity.

Everyone Active reported that the number of young people on learn to swim programmes at Central Park Leisure Centre reduced significantly as a result of Sapphire Ice and Leisure opening.

Free swimming sessions for those under the age of eight is available at limited times, and additional free-swimming sessions are available for those if full time education in Havering over the course of the school holidays. Disability swim sessions take place free of charge at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Sapphire Ice and Leisure on Sunday afternoons.

5.3: Sport England’s Facilities Calculator (SFC)

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

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

Table 5.8: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Population 2021 (ONS)	Population estimate 2031 (ONS)
ONS population projections	257,810	279,413
Population increase	-	21,603
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	4.46 lanes / 1.11 pools
Estimated Cost		£5,250,021

(Build costs as of Q3 2022)

Calculations assume that the current swimming pool stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for swimming space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.46 lanes (equivalent to 1.11 swimming pools, or one five lane swimming pool, up to 2031 (estimated cost: £5,250,021).

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In the shorter term, programming at all key public leisure sites should be investigated to ensure that the most popular activities are available at peak times. This should include opportunities for pay and play swimming, learn to swim programmes and club use.

5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

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

Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 16 pools across 11 sites. 11 are pools larger than 160m ² .	Everyone Active report spare capacity at public leisure sites and there is no need for additional swimming pools at present. In the longer term, consider installing a learner/teaching pool at Rainham Leisure Centre to reduce programming pressures on the main pool.
Quality	Four pools are good quality, two are above average, two are below average and three could not be assessed.	Residents have access to good quality public leisure centre-based swimming pools. Investment is needed to improve/maintain the quality of swimming pools located at school sites as they provide community use options for clubs and swimming lesson providers during peak hours.
Accessibility	Almost three quarters (74%) of Havering's population lives within a one mile walk of a swimming pool larger than 160m ² . This increases to 100% when calculating the number of residents in Havering who live within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool. Pay and play access is available within a 1-mile walk for just over half (54%) of Havering's residents.	Accessibility to swimming pools in Havering is good. There is a need to ensure that school pools have investment as and when required.
Availability (Management and usage)	Six pools are available for pay and play use. A further three can be accessed via registered membership at a commercial operated facility. Three facilities, all located at schools, only offer pool access to swimming clubs and commercial learn to swim schools.	There is a need to undertake regular reviews of programming at leisure centre pools to ensure a balanced programme which means the whole community (including casual swimmers) is suitably provided for.

Strategic summary

- ✦ Each facility is important to the community served and should be protected in accordance with Para 102 of the NPPF.
- ✦ Swimming pool quality in Havering is good. Good quality swimming pools are well dispersed across the Authority to provide good access for residents.
- ✦ Sapphire Ice and Leisure and Rainham Leisure Centre report high used capacity levels, however, demand can be catered for at other Everyone Active sites.
- ✦ In the longer term, subject to demand consider the installation of a learner/teaching pool at Rainham Leisure Centre to reduce programming pressures at the site.

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SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

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

Fitness studios also vary in their size and function, from relatively large rooms within leisure centres often containing a sprung floor, to smaller spaces (often within community and village halls) which may serve as dedicated spinning (indoor cycling) studios or to hold virtual fitness classes. Studio based timetabled classes such as Pilates, yoga, dance, step, boxercise and Zumba usually generate a significant amount of activity within publicly operated provision and comprise a core benefit of a health and fitness membership.

In terms of trends in the market, prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found that membership levels dropped by around 5% since 2019 as a result of the Pandemic and numbers of facilities had also reduced. This correlates with ALS data which measured regular pre-Pandemic activity levels at around 14 million. Pure Gym and GLL remain the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

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

Larger health and fitness gyms containing a mix of flexible spaces (such as cardio, free weights and boxing equipment, (80 stations +¹⁹) remain central to the financial viability of public sector leisure centres. When combined with multiple studio facilities offering a good mix (and sufficient number) of classes, these usually offer the most profitable spaces within a typical leisure centre.

The past decade or so has also seen a growth in the prevalence of operators offering 'functional fitness' type equipment and activities. This form of fitness is a type of strength training that readies your body for daily activities and includes lifting, loading, pushing, pulling, squatting and hauling. This is manifested both in terms of small private facilities, and the incorporation of functional fitness spaces within publicly operated health and fitness facilities.

6.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 27 health and fitness gyms in Havering, with a total of 1,796 stations. Generally, they are located in more densely populated areas, such as Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham. Spatially, there is a good spread across the Borough, with all main population centres being served.

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

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

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Figure 6.1: All health and fitness gyms on population density

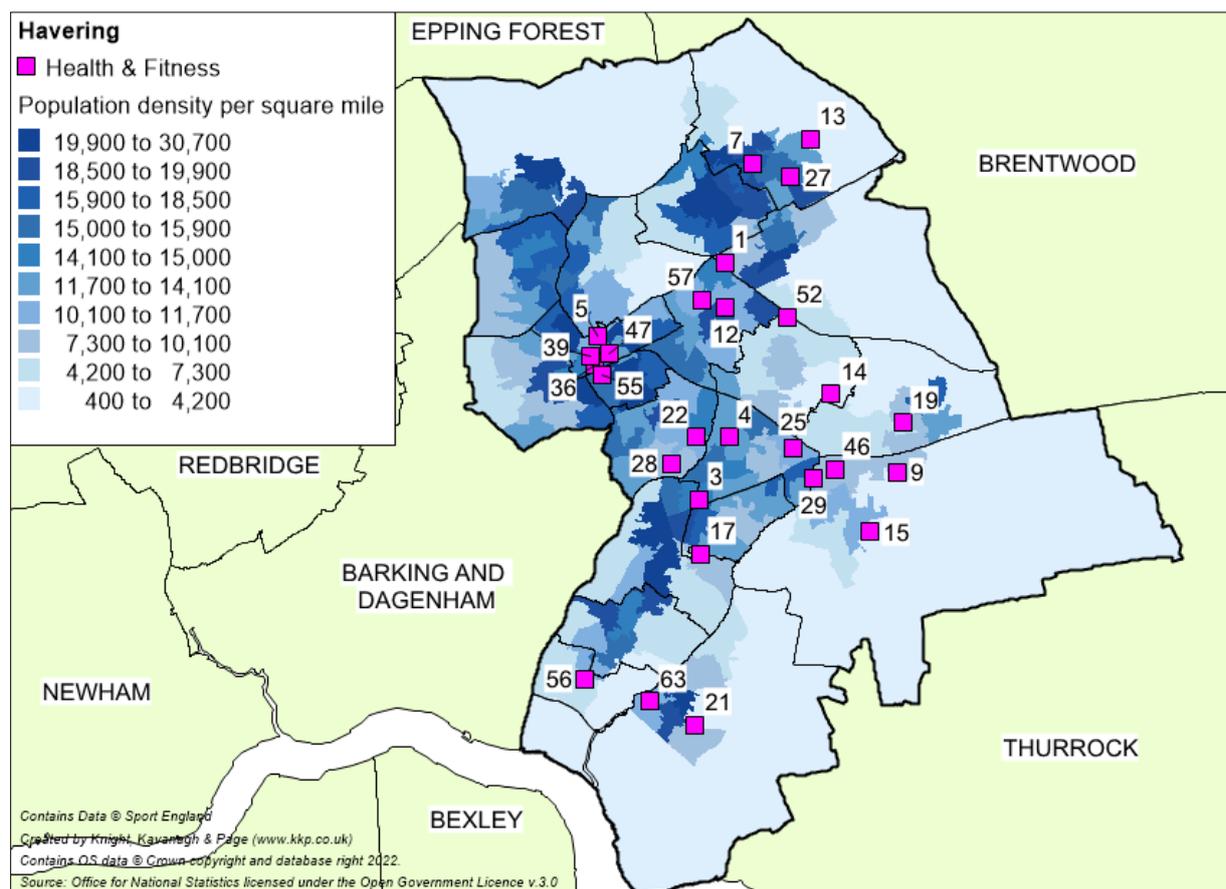


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Havering

ID	Site name	Stations
1	Ab Salute Gym Ltd	85
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	60
4	Anytime Fitness	125
5	Better Gym	150
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	140
9	Coopers Company & Coborn School	10
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	110
13	Drapers Academy	10
14	Emerson Park Academy	16
15	Gaynes School Language College	8
17	Girls Allowed Gym	20
19	Hall Mead School	15
21	Harris Academy Rainham	20
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	100
25	Havering Sixth Form College	22
27	Heavenly Ladies Gym	11
28	Hornchurch High School	15
29	Hornchurch Stadium	14
36	Nuffield Health (Romford)	118
39	Puregym	220
46	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	12

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ID	Site name	Stations
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	95
52	The Champion School	20
55	The Gym Group	170
56	The Origin Health & Fitness	130
57	The Royal Liberty School	25
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	75
-	Total	1,796

Fitness facilities with fewer than 20 stations are typically not assessed/considered large enough to be a community gym although they can service small sections of the community. When the smaller facilities are removed from the supply calculation, 18 facilities with 20+ stations which offer 1,685 stations in total, remain.

Table 6.2: Health and fitness suite (20+ stations)

ID	Site name	Ownership	Stations
1	Ab Salute Gym Ltd	Commercial	85
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Academy	60
4	Anytime Fitness	Commercial	125
5	Better Gym	Commercial	150
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	LBH	140
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Commercial	110
17	Girls Allowed Gym	Commercial	20
21	Harris Academy Rainham	Academy	20
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	LBH	100
25	Havering Sixth Form College	Further Education	22
36	Nuffield Health (Romford)	Commercial	118
39	Puregym	Commercial	220
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	LBH	95
52	The Champion School	Academy	20
55	The Gym Group	Commercial	170
56	The Origin Health & Fitness	Commercial	130
57	The Royal Liberty School	Academy	25
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	LBH	75
-	Total		1,685

There are nine gyms of significant size (with 100+ stations). There is a lot of competition in the area for good quality provision from a number of national chain providers. Four facilities are owned by LBH (22%) the remainder are owned by education providers or are commercially operated.

Quality

All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. Three are rated as good quality, 12 above average and two below average. One site was not assessed.

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Figure 6.2: Health and fitness gym quality (20+ stations)

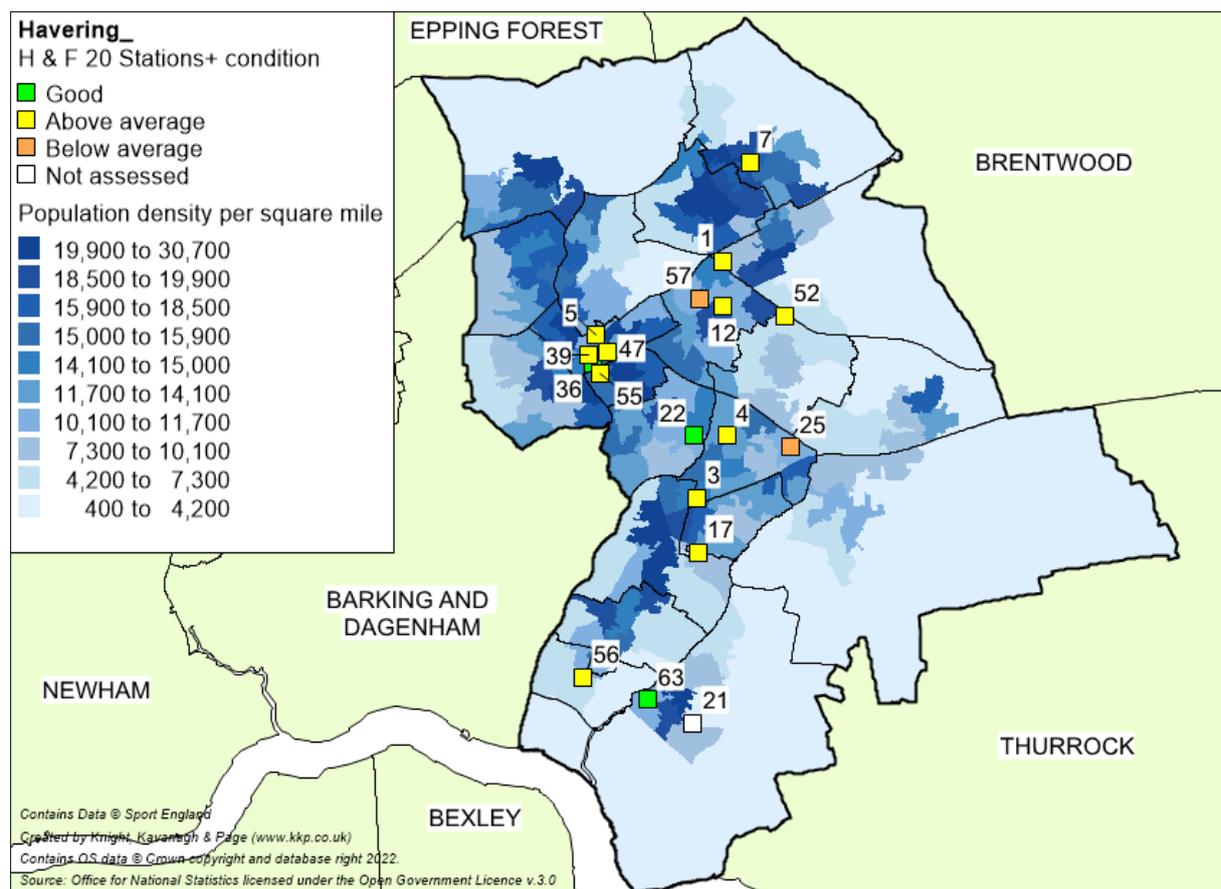


Table 6.3: Health & fitness suites with 20+ stations by condition

ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
1	Ab Salute Gym Ltd	85	Above average
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	60	Above average
4	Anytime Fitness	125	Above average
5	Better Gym	150	Above average
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	140	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	110	Above average
17	Girls Allowed Gym	20	Above average
21	Harris Academy Rainham	20	Not assessed
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	100	Good
25	Havering Sixth Form College	22	Below average
36	Nuffield Health (Romford)	118	Good
39	Puregym	220	Above average
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	95	Above average
52	The Champion School	20	Above average
55	The Gym Group	170	Above average
56	The Origin Health & Fitness	130	Above average
57	The Royal Liberty School	25	Below average
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	75	Good

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Everyone Active confirmed that the health and fitness suite at Sapphire Ice and Leisure is difficult to maintain at the correct temperature. The suite is situated above the swimming pool and below the ice rink. This causes significant expense due to the heat transfer between the conflicting hot and cold areas of the building.

Rainham Leisure Centre is the newest facility, it opened in 2023. Everyone Active indicated that the demand has been substantial. Central Park Leisure Centre is the largest public leisure centre in the area. It is reported that the facility was extended in 2017 and that, as a result, membership doubled to c.6,000. New equipment was installed in 2023, with changing room refurbishment in 2022. Refurbishment has also been undertaken at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre, which is due for new equipment in 2025.

Abbs Cross Health and Fitness (operated by Everyone Active) is the largest publicly accessible school provision. It has been refurbished and new equipment was installed in 2017. However, the changing rooms are dated and do not match the quality of the fitness suite. Give the high levels of competition in the area, there is a need for a high-quality offer and, comparable quality changing provision is important to enable the facility to compete commercially with others in the locality.

Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target people/communities who face barriers to participation. It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that the various private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

As with pools and sports halls, appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to health and fitness suites to determine provision deficiencies or surpluses. The normal acceptable standard for an urban area is a 20-minutes' walk time and 20-minute drive time for a rural area.

Over 71% of Havering's population lives within 20 minutes' walk of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations and community access. Consequently, 28.6% of the population is likely to need to use a car or public transport to access facilities. All residents in Havering live within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible facility with 20+ stations.

The majority (81%) of people living in areas of higher deprivation live within one mile walk of a health and fitness gym in Havering.

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Neighbouring facilities

Health and fitness facility users do not just use venues in their own authority. As a consequence, those within two miles of the border are considered. There are 20 health and fitness venues within two miles of the Havering authority border. Six offer pay and play access whilst the remainder all require some form of membership. Ten are in Barking and Dagenham, three in Brentwood, three in Redbridge and one in Thurrock. There are three facilities located in Bexley which are within 2 miles of the Havering boundary, however the location of the River Thames significantly reduces the accessibility of these facilities.

Figure 6.4: Health and fitness suites with walk and drive time catchment on IMD

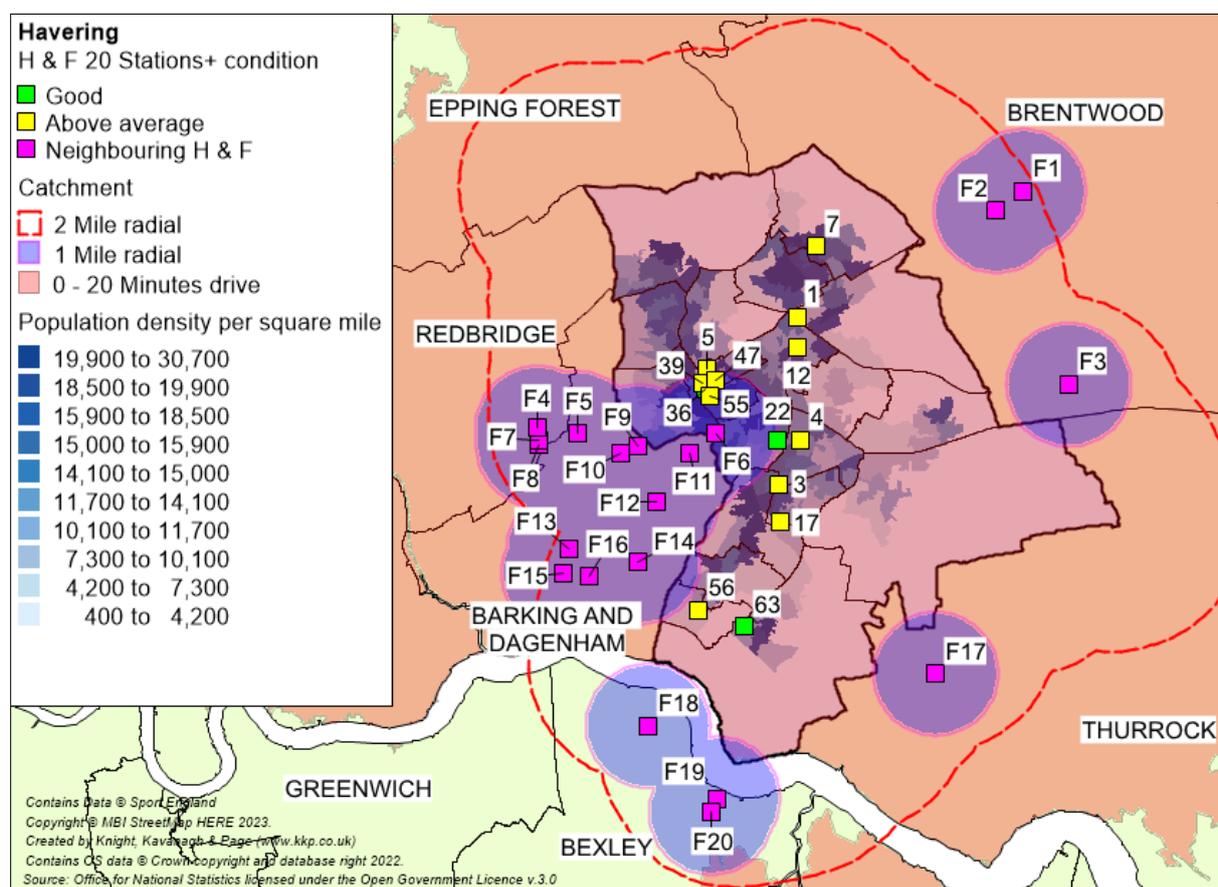


Table 6.5: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of Havering

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F1	Better Gym	130	Reg. membership	Brentwood
F2	Ab Salute Gym Ltd	100	Reg. membership	Brentwood
F3	Clearview Health & Racquets Club	110	Reg. membership	Brentwood
F4	The Gym Group	117	Reg. membership	Redbridge
F5	Anytime Fitness	100	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F6	YMCA (Thames Gateway)	82	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F7	Mayfield Leisure Centre	40	Pay and play	Redbridge
F8	Energise Health Club for Women	26	Reg. membership	Redbridge
F9	Robert Clack School (Upper)	50	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F10	Becontree Heath Leisure Centre	140	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham

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ID	Site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F11	Barking & Dagenham College	50	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham
F12	Golds Gym	125	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F13	The Body Factory	22	Pay and play	Barking and Dagenham
F14	Dagenham Park Leisure Centre	34	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F15	Castle Green Leisure Centre	40	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F16	The Gym Group	170	Reg. membership	Barking and Dagenham
F17	Impulse Leisure	165	Pay and play	Thurrock
F18	Snap Fitness	150	Reg. membership	Bexley
F19	Energie Fitness (Erith)	50	Reg. membership	Bexley
F20	Erith Leisure Centre	90	Pay and play	Bexley

Source: Active Places Power 05/04/2023

Availability and programming

Sport England's classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. However, the cost of monthly membership fees can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that those which may be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on facilities which offer cheaper membership options.

Of the 18 health and fitness suites with 20+ stations, nine offer some element of pay and play, through the pre-purchase of a one-day pass or pay on arrival. All nine of the gyms offering pay and play also offer a monthly membership scheme, which may work out as a more cost-effective option based on regular usage. Five gyms in Havering only offer access via registered membership. Four health and fitness suites with 20+ stations offer no community use, all located at educational sites.

Table 6.6: access policy of fitness gyms (20+ stations)

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
1	Ab Salute Gym Ltd	85	Pay and play
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	60	Pay and play
4	Anytime Fitness	125	Reg. membership
5	Better Gym	150	Pay and play
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	140	Pay and play
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	110	Reg. membership
17	Girls Allowed Gym	20	Reg. membership
21	Harris Academy Rainham	20	Private use
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	100	Pay and play
25	Havering Sixth Form College	22	Private use
36	Nuffield Health (Romford)	118	Reg. membership
39	Puregym	220	Pay and play
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	95	Pay and play
52	The Champion School	20	Private use
55	The Gym Group	170	Pay and play
56	The Origin Health & Fitness	130	Reg. membership
57	The Royal Liberty School	25	Private use
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	75	Pay and play

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Champion School hired out its health and fitness suite on site to a personal trainer who delivered sessions through a registered membership scheme.

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The School indicated that it would be open to accommodating a similar arrangement in future. The facility can be accessed via an external entrance meaning no access to other school buildings is required and there are no safeguarding concerns.

All other education sites discussed staffing as the main reason for not catering for community use in the school's health and fitness suites. In total, there are 14 health and fitness suites containing more than 20 stations and offering some form of community use, this equates to 1,598 stations.

Table 6.7: Pricing structure of health and fitness suites with community use and 20+ stations

Site name	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Ab Salute Gym Ltd	£7.50	£440.00	£39.50	£50.00 per month option for cash payment
Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	£8	£249.90 / £499.90	£24.99 / £49.99	EA - junior (£22.99), gym, swim and classes (£34.99), platinum (£49.00), concession (£29.99), online offer of £9.99 per month
Anytime Fitness	-	£450	£42.99	24-hour use
Better Gym	£15	£240	£24	Multi-site access available for increased cost
Central Park Leisure Centre	£8	£299.90 / £499.90	£34.99 / £49.99	EA - junior (£22.99), gym, swim and classes (£39.00), platinum (£49.00), concession (£29.99), online offer of £9.99 per month
David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	-	Unknown	Unknown	The pricing structure for this facility could not be identified during audit.
Girls Allowed Gym	-	-	£44	Off peak (£33), rolling contract (£49.50), student (£33.00), Gym only (£30.80) and online only (£22.00) options also available.
Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	£8	£399.90 / £499.90	£39.99 / £49.99	EA - junior (£24.99), gym, swim and classes (£39.99), platinum (£49.99), concession (£34.99)
Nuffield Health (Romford)	-	-	£75	Off peak membership is available for £64 per month
Puregym	£9.99	-	£18.99	24-hour use
Sapphire Ice & Leisure	£8	£299.90 / £499.90	£29.99 / £49.00	EA - junior (£24.99), gym, swim and classes (£34.99), platinum (£49.99), concession (£29.99) and swim only (£27)
The Gym Group	£9.99	-	£24.99	24-hour use
The Origin Health & Fitness	-	£280	£24.99	Also boxing facility
Rainham Leisure Centre	£8	£299.90 / £499.90	£34.99 / £49.99	EA - junior (£22.99), gym, swim and classes (£39.00), platinum (£49.00), concession (£29.99), online offer of £9.99 per month

*Pricing as advertised in December 2023

As shown, the cost of accessing health and fitness facilities varies across the Authority. The five sites managed by Everyone Active offer the most comprehensive membership; this includes gym, swim and class use with prices varying dependent upon age. Everyone Active sites also offer pay and play use, however, access requires online registration, and places can only be guaranteed when booked through the website. The cost to book a pay and play session during general swim times is £8.00.

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Ab Salute Gym provides the cheapest pay and play option in Havering at £7.50 per session. At the opposite end of the sale, Better Gym is the most expensive, costing £15.00 per session. (This excludes David Lloyd (Gidea Park) as the specific current pricing structure is unknown).

The membership at Nuffield Health and Everyone Active (Platinum) membership enables users gain access to private GP access, free guest passes and a free PT session every three months amongst other benefits.

Membership at the public leisure centres offer multi activity options (e.g., swimming and fitness classes) and multiple site usage. It is recognised that well run health and fitness facilities with studios can offset the costs and enhance the financial viability of other venue elements such as swimming pools and in many instances are used to cross subsidise such facilities.

Everyone Active currently operates an exercise referral scheme in partnership with We Are Undefeatable. It consists of a 12-week programme which is designed to help individuals' self-manage long-term health conditions such as asthma, arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity.

Future developments

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

6.2: Demand

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

Table 6.8: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Havering (ONS Data)

	Curent (2018)	Future (2031)
Adult population (16+ years)	206,032	225,295
UK penetration rate	16.0%	17.0%
Number of potential members	32,965	38,300
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	57,689	67,025
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	961	1117
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	1,281	1,488

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

Based upon UK penetration rates there is current need for 1,281 stations in Havering. This will grow to 1,488 by 2031, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times). When comparing the current number of community available stations (1,598) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a positive supply balance of c.317 stations. This indicates that there is capacity to accommodate future demand from projected population growth. To counter this, the KKP audit has identified high participation rates across the authority and it is presumed that there will be some import and export of demand whereby residents in the Authority will access facilities in neighbouring local authorities, especially larger sites and vice versa.

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It is not uncommon for the private sector to identify niche markets and fill them with stations which make the market appear congested. The key issue is that while some of these may be budget operators this does not necessarily make them available to people/communities who face barriers to participation and people from areas of (relative) disadvantage (as cost is only one factor which may hinder usage). It could be argued that this applies particularly to those who require transport to access such facilities.

Some free swimming and badminton access for the over fifties is made available at Harrow Lodge, Sapphire Ice and Leisure, Rainham Leisure Centre and Central Park Leisure Centre at limited times. It is necessary to obtain a (free) leisure card (either online or at the centres) to access these options.

All leisure centres in the Borough have implemented a cashless system. The price point and the requirement to register, book and pay online in order to access 'pay and play' sport and leisure provision means that the option could be restrictive. It is important that people are able to access provision without barriers. Whilst centres are generally well used, there is a need to create opportunity for those that are considered to be digitally excluded.

Supply and demand analysis

Fitness facilities are an important facet of leisure provision and have been a successful addition to sports centres over the past three decades. Income derived can help offset the cost/underpin the viability of other areas of provision such as swimming pools or targeted physical activity programmes (i.e., GP referral).

6.3: Dance studios

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

There are 31 studios in Havering, across 17 sites; of these 27 were subject to a non-technical assessment.

Table 6.9: Table of studios in Havering

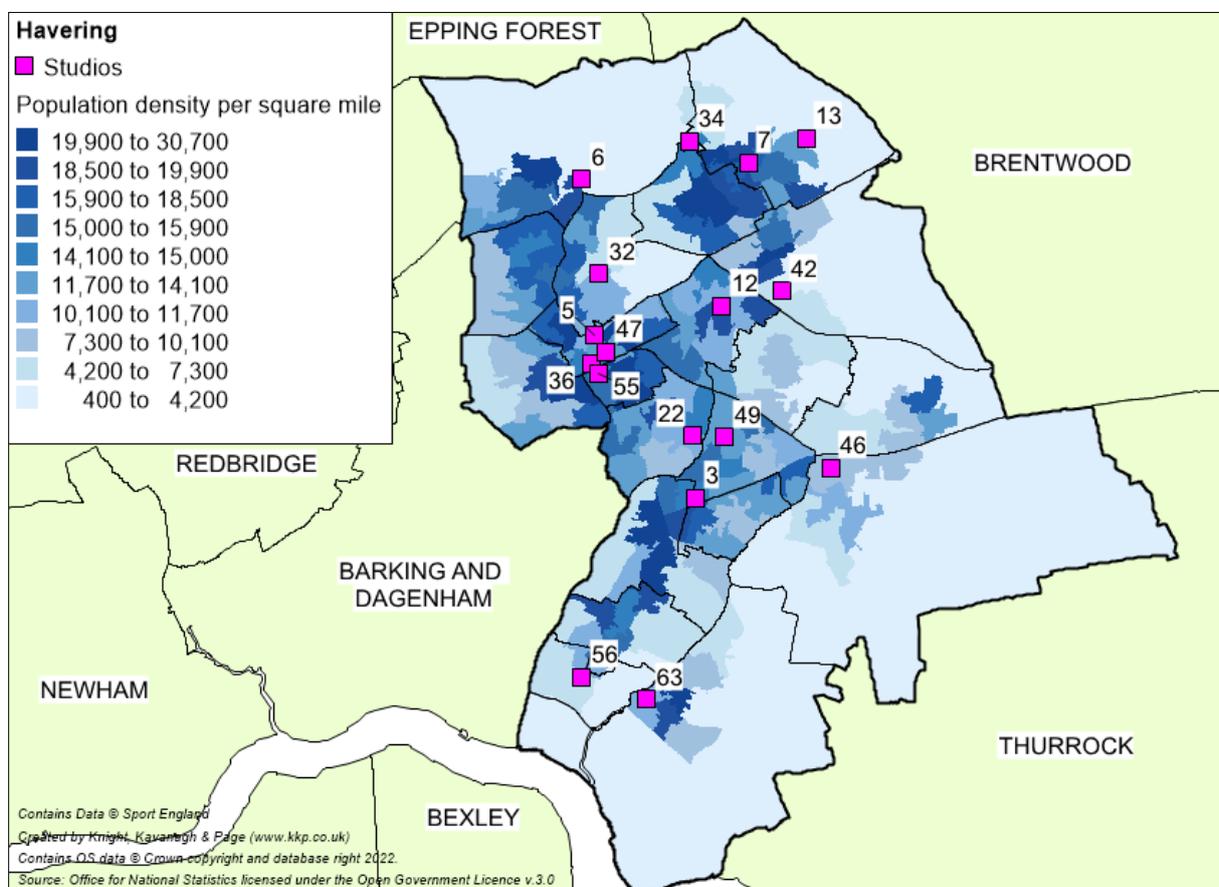
ID	Site name	Sub- type	No.	Access	Condition
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Fitness	1	Pay and play	Above average
3	Abbs Cross Health & Fitness	Cycle	1	Pay and play	Above average
5	Better Gym	Fitness	1	Pay and play	Above average
6	Bower Park Academy	Fitness	2	Sports club / CA	Below average
7	Central Park Leisure Centre	Cycle	1	Pay and play	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	Fitness	3	Reg. membership	Good
13	Drapers Academy	Fitness	1	Sports club / CA	Above average
22	Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre	Cycle	2	Pay and play	Good
32	Marshalls Park Academy	Fitness	2	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
34	Noak Hill Sports Complex	Fitness	1	Pay and play	Above average
34	Noak Hill Sports Complex	Fitness	1	Pay and play	Below average

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ID	Site name	Sub- type	No.	Access	Condition
36	Nuffield Health	Fitness	3	Reg. membership	Good
42	Redden Court School	Fitness	1	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
46	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School	Fitness	1	Private use	Below average
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	Cycle	2	Pay and play	Above average
49	Squad Fitness	Fitness	2	Reg. membership	Not assessed
55	The Gym Group	Fitness	3	Reg. membership	Above average
56	The Origin Health & Fitness	Fitness	1	Reg. membership	Above average
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	Cycle	1	Pay and play	Good
63	Rainham Leisure Centre	Fitness	1	Pay and play	Good

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

Figure 6.5: Studios in Havering



In terms of access policy, 12 studios can be accessed on a pay and play basis. A further 12 can be accessed via a registered membership, and six via a sports club/community association. One studio, located at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School, is private use only and not available to the community.

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6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	<p>There are 27 health and fitness suites containing 1,796 stations.</p> <p>18 of the 27 have 20+ stations, totalling 1,685 stations.</p> <p>14 sites providing 1,598 stations are available to the community.</p> <p>There are 31 studios, 30 of which offer some form of community access.</p> <p>There is a current modelled positive supply demand balance of facilities in the area.</p> <p>The audit identified high demand and participation rates in the area.</p> <p>Havering is likely to import demand from neighbouring authorities.</p>	<p>Whilst there is currently sufficient supply, should the upward trend continue, there may be a need to increase the volume of provision in the area.</p> <p>There is significant demand at Rainham Leisure centre, as per consultation with Everyone Active.</p>
Quality	<p>The majority, 15 of the 18 20+ station health and fitness suites are good or above average in quality. Two are below average and one was unassessed.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide high quality provision and maintain quality across the stock.</p>
Accessibility	<p>The majority (71%) of Havering residents live within a one-mile radius of a health and fitness suite. This increases to 100% when considering those who live within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible facility.</p> <p>The majority (81%) of people living in areas of higher deprivation live within a one mile walk of a facility.</p> <p>There is a large supply (20) of gyms located in neighbouring authorities - within 2 miles of the Havering boundary.</p>	<p>Accessibility in Havering is good, with each of the main settlements in Havering having access to a good or above average quality health and fitness facility.</p>
Availability (Management and usage)	<p>There are nine publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in Havering.</p> <p>A further five can be accessed via registered membership.</p>	<p>Ensure that health and fitness facilities cater to the full range of market segments. Currently, commercial gyms are vital to providing a budget membership option in the Authority, unlike the public leisure centres. These facilities, however, do not typically offer concessionary rates and programmes to enable people with barriers to participation to engage.</p>

Strategic summary

- ◀ Current and future demand is well catered for given the quantity and quality of existing health and fitness suites in the Authority.
- ◀ Rainham Leisure Centre is an attractive facility to use, and as such receives high levels of demand. Encourage providers to offer affordable pay and play options for people who do not wish to commit to registered memberships.

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SECTION 7: SQUASH

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

Table 7.1: England Squash strategic aims:

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

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

- ◆ Drive increased participation in the game, with a radical advance in equality, diversity and inclusion.
- ◆ Inspire and train a community of world class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level, who drive participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ◆ Sustain world-leading talent pathways and programmes for high performing players who achieve success on the global stage and inspire others to realise their potential.
- ◆ Empower creativity and innovation in the game and in ES's culture, using ideas and technology to support the squash community and to engage with new audiences.
- ◆ Spearhead new and creative ways to enhance the visibility and appeal of squash at local, national and international levels, including the pursuit of Olympic inclusion.
- ◆ Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the Climate and Ecological Crisis.

ES has set a benchmark of one court per 10,000 people in each local authority in order for squash to thrive. It estimates that there is currently one court per 12,617 people in England. This reflects the significant number of court closures and/or non-replacements when new facilities are developed to replace older venues - seen over the past two decades.

Havering's current population is 257,810 (ONS 2018) and it has just three courts. Applying the ES model would suggest that there is demand for an additional 23 courts to meet local community needs. When taking future population growth (to 2031) into account there is a need for 28 courts.

7.1 Supply

There are three squash courts in Havering, all located at David Lloyd (Gidea Park).

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Table 7.2: Squash courts in Havering

ID	Site name	Normal	Glass backed	Total	Condition
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	3	0	3	Below average

Figure 7.1: Location of squash courts in Havering with 20-minute drive time

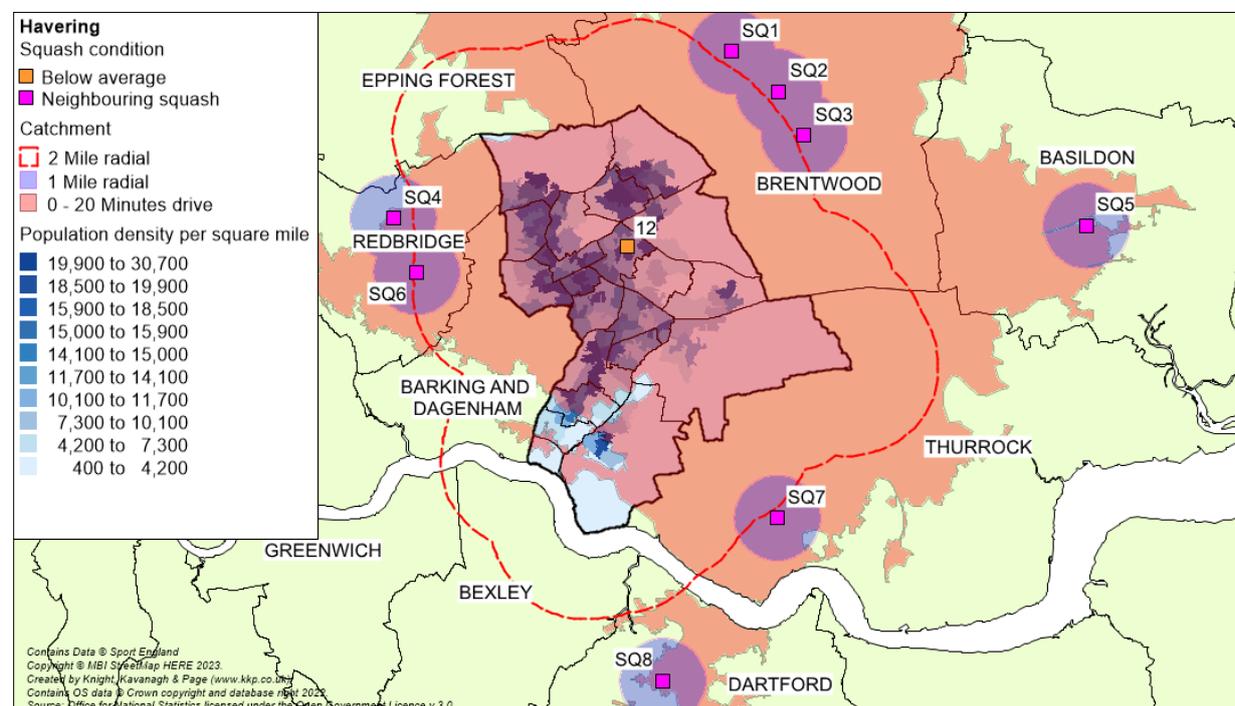


Table 7.3: Squash courts in neighbouring authorities within 20 minutes' drive time of Havering

ID	Site name	No.	Court type	Authority
SQ1	Old Brentwoods Sports Club	2	Normal	Brentwood
SQ2	Brentwood Centre	2	Normal	Brentwood
SQ3	Brentwood School Sports Centre	4	Glass-backed	Brentwood
SQ4	Redbridge Sports & Leisure	5	Normal	Redbridge
SQ4	Redbridge Sports & Leisure	2	Glass-backed	Redbridge
SQ5	David Lloyd (Basildon)	1	Glass-backed	Basildon
SQ6	Ford Sports & Social Club (Newbury Park)	2	Normal	Redbridge
SQ7	Bannatyne Health Club	2	Glass-backed	Thurrock
SQ8	David Lloyd (Dartford)	3	Glass-backed	Dartford

Source: Active Places Power 07/12/2023

Quality

All three squash courts at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) are of below average quality. Consultation with a representative from David Lloyd Gidea Park confirmed that they are due for refurbishment in 2024. The side walls are heavily marked. The back wall is in better condition as this is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz and therefore better maintained. It has good quality lighting and all the bulbs have been upgraded to LED.

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Accessibility and availability

Approximately 93% of Havering's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility. 23 courts at eight sites are located within a 20-minute drive time catchment of the Authority

Squash courts at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) are not available on a pay and play basis and can only be accessed via the purchase of a membership. Outside Havering (within the 20-minute catchment) only Brentwood Centre offers pay and play options. Old Brentwoods Sports Club and Ford Sports & Social Club offer squash via a club membership. The remaining five facilities within the catchment all require a registered membership to gain access.

Future developments / changes to provision

David Lloyd (Gidea Park) has no intention to increase or remove squash provision at the site.

7.2: Demand

England Squash was invited to take part in consultation with regard to squash provision in Havering. Despite multiple attempts to contact, no response was received. David Lloyd indicated that its courts are rarely used and cater for a small demand although it has, on occasion, run internal squash ladder leagues.

Club consultation

The audit did not identify any squash clubs within Havering.

7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Squash	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are three traditional squash courts in Havering. A further 23 courts can be accessed within a 20-minute drivetime.	Based on the ES benchmark, Havering has an under supply of 23 squash courts. This will increase to 28 courts by 2031. The audit identified limited demand at David Lloyd and no reported demand at leisure centre facilities.
Quality	The courts at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) are of below average quality.	Improve the quality of the courts at David Lloyd (planned).
Accessibility	Over 93% of Havering's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility.	-
Availability (Management and usage)	There is no pay and play facility in Havering. There is one pay and play site (two courts) within two miles. Membership is required to access the courts at the David Lloyd Centre	No sites offer pay and play provision in Havering. Consider installing squash courts at existing leisure centres or as part of future developments subject to sufficient demand and viability being identified.

Strategic summary

- ◀ Squash provision in Havering is severely lacking in relation to its population.
- ◀ Its three courts (at the David Lloyd Centre) are only accessible via registered membership.
- ◀ Squash provision should be considered when developing additional or new leisure centres in Havering subject to sufficient demand and viability being identified.

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SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EIBA stated priorities are:

- ◀ Recruitment of participants.
- ◀ Retention of participants.
- ◀ Clubs are recommended to:
 - ◀ Develop and implement a robust sports development plan
 - ◀ Actively review the Sport England 'Buddle' website.
 - ◀ Actively promote the club in the local community amongst those who are able bodied and disabled. Wheelchair users and visually impaired people are particularly keen on the sport of bowls.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

²⁰ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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EIBA Outline Plan 2022-2025

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

- ◀ Getting core bowlers back playing following COVID lockdowns.
- ◀ 45-59 year old participants.
- ◀ Volunteers.
- ◀ Health and Wellbeing.
- ◀ Inclusivity – women, ethnic communities.
- ◀ Facilities: build, improve, retain.
- ◀ Youth and the family.
- ◀ Disability.
- ◀ Competitions.
- ◀ Internationals.
- ◀ Promotion.
- ◀ Commercial partnerships.

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

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

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

The Sport England funding for the 2022-2025 period, focuses on the delivery of:

- ◀ **Club hubs:** ensure that all clubs remain sustainably positioned at the heart of the communities, and there are good pathways to increase membership.
- ◀ **Communities:** develop healthy bowling communities, with good quality competitions, options to increase coaches and volunteers and healthy relationships between clubs.
- ◀ **Health and wellbeing:** support clubs promote health and wellbeing of members with a range of programmes and activities.
- ◀ **Inclusion:** ensure clubs are as inclusive as possible, promoting the sport to all including females and people from diverse communities.

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

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

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8.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

There is one dedicated indoor bowls facility in the authority; Havering Indoor Bowls Club. It has eight rinks. There are four indoor bowls facilities within 20 minutes' drive time (see Figure 8.2 overleaf).

Figure 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Havering & within 30 minutes' drive time

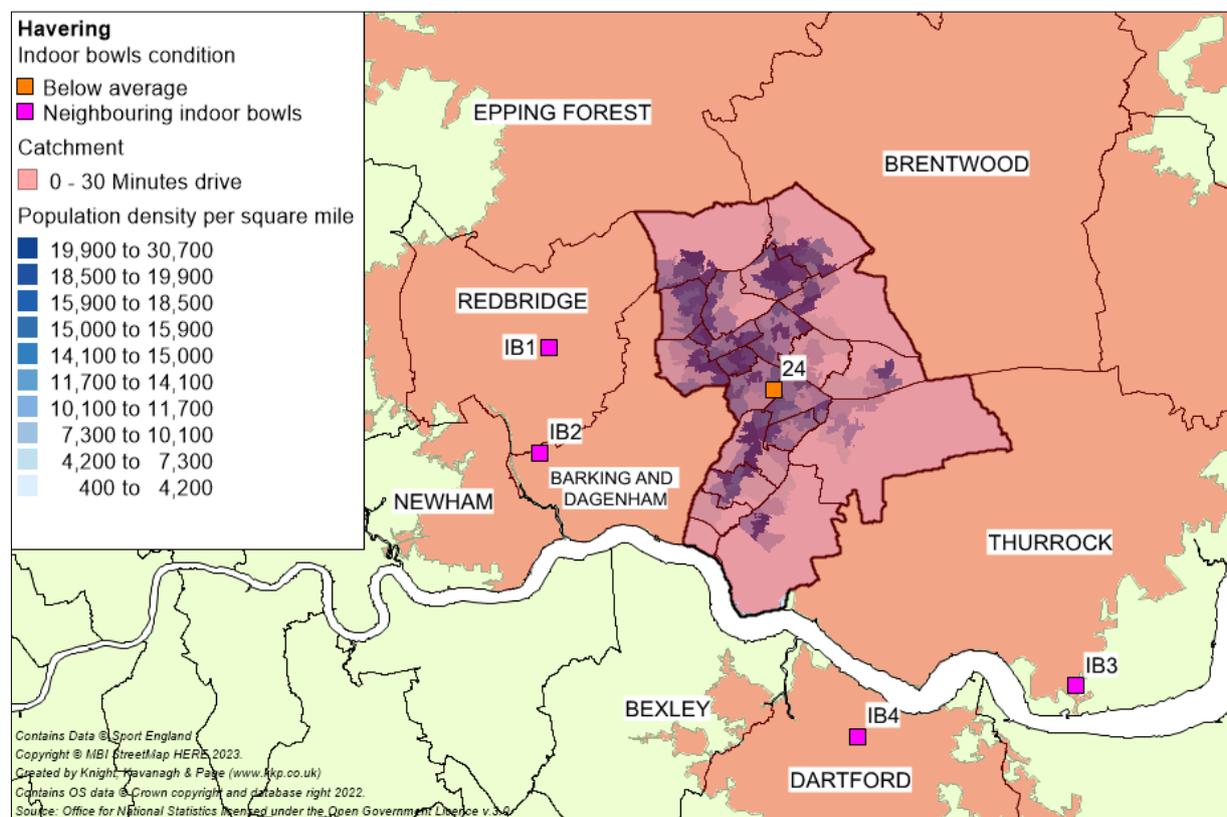


Table 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Havering

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Condition
24	Havering Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports club / CA	Below average

Table 8.2: Indoor bowls facilities within a 30-minutes' drive

ID	Site name	No. of rinks	Access type	Authority
IB1	Ilford & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd	4	Sports club/CA	Redbridge
IB2	Barking & District Indoor Bowls Club	6	Pay and play	Barking & Dagenham
IB3	Tilbury Community Association	6	Sports club/CA	Thurrock
IB4	Dartford Stone Lodge Indoor Bowls & Social Club	6	Reg. membership	Dartford

Havering Indoor Bowls Club is rated as below average in quality. The playing carpet is approximately 18 years old and has been regularly maintained. The audit identified no short-term ambition to replace it as it no sinking in fund is in place to do so. Changing facilities are dated and no major refurbishment has been undertaken in recent years. LED lights have been

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installed above the playing surface and throughout the rest of the building to reduce energy consumption. The Club has 80 years left on the lease of the building from the Council.

Short mat bowls is also taking place at two sites in the Authority. Rush Green Community Centre has a weekly roll up of indoor bowls on Thursday evenings between 19:30 and 21:30. Collier Row Community Centre has previously also delivered short mat indoor bowls however, this is sporadic and dependent on demand.

Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole Havering population lives within a 30-minute drive of an indoor bowls facility within the Authority.

Availability

Havering Indoor Bowls Club requires membership and a booking fee to access it. The Club is available during the day and in the evening, seven days per week.

Two facilities in neighbouring authorities can be accessed via sports club/community association, whilst Barking & District Indoor Bowls Club offers a pay and play option. Dartford Stone Lodge Indoor Bowls & Social Club Ltd can be accessed via a registered membership.

8.2: Demand

Consultation with EIBA and Havering Indoor Bowls Club suggests that there is currently sufficient provision in the area and adjoining authority areas. The Club offers three membership types to accommodate indoor bowling, social and corporate members. The Club currently has c.900 members in total, of which c.600 members are playing members. Consultation with the Club suggests it could accommodate a further 400 playing members before reaching capacity.

Club membership is generally decreasing, which has been the case since the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Club receives two or three new members each month through word of mouth, however, this does not compensate for the number of members each year which do not renew memberships.

Despite the increasing running cost of the venue, the Club has attempted to continue to ensure that bowls is an affordable activity. It charges £70 for an annual membership and £4 for two hours play. The Club is keen to receive assistance with its marketing and advertising to help it to attract new members.

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8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor bowls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is one indoor bowls facility in Havering, containing 8 rinks.	Retain and support the existing facility.
Quality	The 8-rink facility is below average in quality primarily as a result of its age.	Create a sinking in fund to ensure the carpet can be relaced at an appropriate time. Seek funding to improve and modernise the ancillary provision.
Accessibility	All Havering residents live within a 30-minute drive of an indoor bowls facility.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Havering Indoor BC provides access via registered membership, which is reasonably priced. Barking & District Indoor Bowls Club is located within 30-minutes of the Havering border; it offers pay and play access. Havering Indoor Bowls Club serves a specific population in Havering and is a key facility for daytime activity. It provides both bowls participation and social opportunities for local residents.	This is a key facility for providing daytime activity. Seek opportunities to diversify the offer to the wider community to increase participation to remain viable. Continue to build connections in the local community by hiring out the function room.

Strategic summary

- ◀ There is no requirement for increased indoor bowling facilities in Havering. The Havering Indoor Bowls Club has significant spare capacity to accommodate new members.
- ◀ The Club requires investment to become more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions. In conjunction with the Council, it should seek funding opportunities to 'invest to save'.

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SECTION 9: INDOOR TENNIS

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

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

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

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

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

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in Havering. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

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

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

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

9.1: Supply

Indoor tennis is based on specialist facilities which appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within with a 30-minutes' drive time catchment. There is one indoor tennis facility in the authority, David Lloyd (Gidea Park) - it has seven courts.

Quality and quality

The seven carpet courts at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) are above average in quality. Five are marked for doubles tennis and two are singles courts. Two of the double's courts are also overmarked with badminton lines. The carpets are well maintained but are showing signs of wear. Consultation identified that funds are in place to refurbish the facility when required.

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Figure 9.1 Indoor tennis facilities in Havering and within 30 minutes' drive time

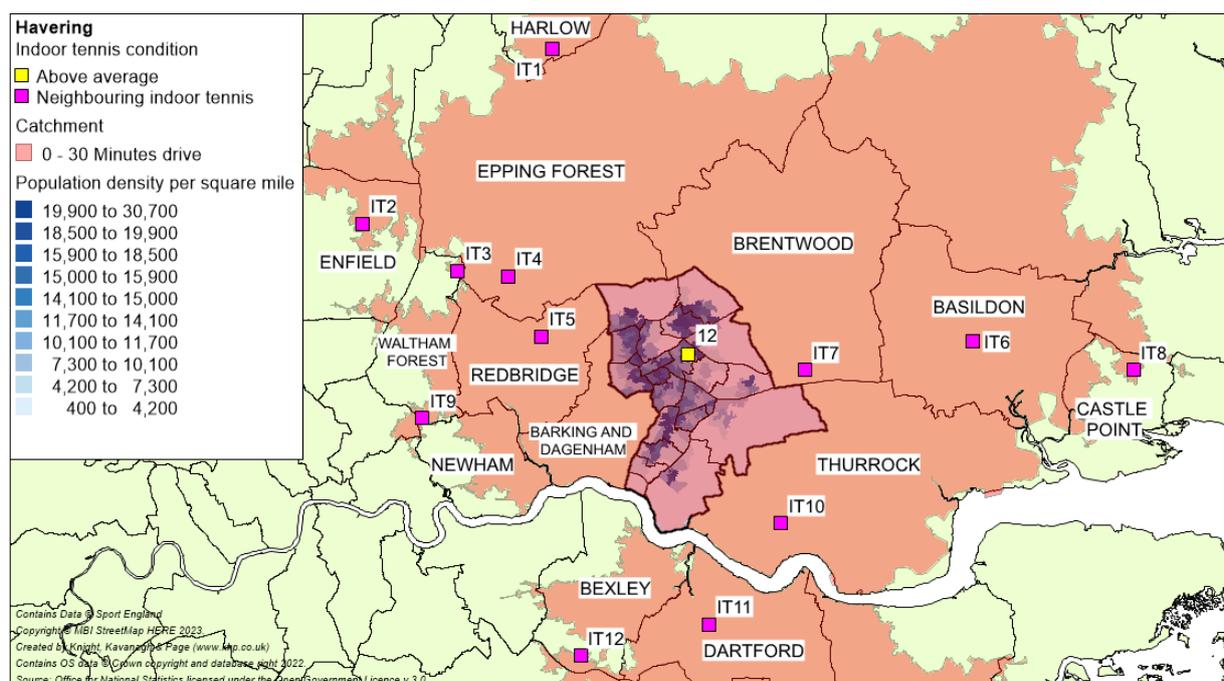


Table 9.1: Indoor tennis sites in Havering

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
12	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	7	Reg. membership	Above average

A further 17 facilities are located outside of the Authority and within a 30-minute drive.

Table 9.2: Indoor tennis provision in neighbouring authorities

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Authority
IT1	Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	10	Sports club / CA	Harlow
IT2	David Lloyd (Enfield)	6	Reg. membership	Enfield
IT3	The Connaught Club	2	Reg. membership	Waltham Forest
IT3	The Connaught Club	2	Reg. membership	Waltham Forest
IT4	David Lloyd (Chigwell)	8	Reg. membership	Epping Forest
IT4	David Lloyd (Chigwell)	2	Reg. membership	Epping Forest
IT4	David Lloyd (Chigwell)	2	Reg. membership	Epping Forest
IT5	Redbridge Sports & Leisure	8	Reg. membership	Redbridge
IT6	David Lloyd (Basildon)	2	Reg. membership	Basildon
IT6	David Lloyd (Basildon)	6	Reg. membership	Basildon
IT7	Clearview Health & Racquets Club	6	Reg. membership	Brentwood
IT7	Clearview Health & Racquets Club	1	Reg. membership	Brentwood
IT8	Deanes School Sports Centre	3	Sports club / CA	Castle Point
IT9	Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre	4	Pay and play	Waltham Forest
IT10	Bannatyne Health Club	2	Reg. membership	Thurrock
IT11	David Lloyd (Dartford)	6	Reg. membership	Dartford
IT12	David Lloyd (Sidcup)	2 + 1	Reg. membership	Bexley

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Accessibility and availability

Drive time catchment modelling confirms that all Havering residents live within a 30-minute drive of an indoor tennis facility. No pay and play accessible indoor courts are available in Havering. As noted above, the only indoor facility is the David Lloyd (Gidea Park) Centre; it requires a membership to access which may be unaffordable for some residents.

Of the 17 facilities in neighbouring authorities, 14 require a registered membership to access. One (the Lee Valley Tennis and Hockey Centre) offers pay and play provision.

9.2: Demand

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

There is a need to monitor demand for indoor tennis courts at outdoor court venues. This will be captured within the Borough's Playing Pitch Strategy 2024.

9.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	David Lloyd (Gidea Park) is the sole facility for indoor tennis in Havering, with seven carpet courts.	No additional demand for indoor tennis has been identified.
Quality	The site is rated as above average quality with suitable ancillary provision. Funds are in place to replace the playing surface when needed to retain its quality.	Maintain court and changing room quality and replace playing surface when required.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of an indoor tennis facility.	-
Availability (Management & usage)	There is no pay and play facility in Havering. This is available outside of the Authority at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.	Seek opportunities to enable a pay play offer in the authority.

Strategic summary

- ◀ Enable pay and play opportunity in the Borough either via development of a community use agreement with David Lloyd (for which there may not be an appetite) or consider the potential to cover outdoor courts to enable indoor activity.

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SECTION 10: GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING

In 2023 British Gymnastics released its new strategy – Leap Without Limits: A New Vision for a New Era. The strategy is developed as a shared vision for gymnastics across all four home nations.

To help achieve the vision It focuses on five ‘leaps’:

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

To bring the vision to life, British Gymnastics are working on the following actions:

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

The new strategy outlines six key impacts:

- ◀ More people enjoying the sport and its benefits, across all abilities, ages, and backgrounds, and as a gymnast, coach, club owner, official or fan.
- ◀ Everyone is safe, supported and is able and confident to speak up, whatever their role or involvement in gymnastics.
- ◀ More inspirational moments that are seen, shared and enjoyed by more people.
- ◀ The NGB membership experience is a positive one, which meets your needs, is easy from start to finish. and being a member of British Gymnastics is something that provides you with both pride and value.
- ◀ Members/participants feel connected to British Gymnastics and trust it to be positive custodians of this incredible sport.
- ◀ A united sport, where everyone is working together to ensure that collectively we deliver an uplifting gymnastics experience for all.

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10.1: Supply

There are eight sites providing gymnastics provision in Havering, two of which are dedicated facilities.

Figure 10.1: Gymnastics provision in Havering

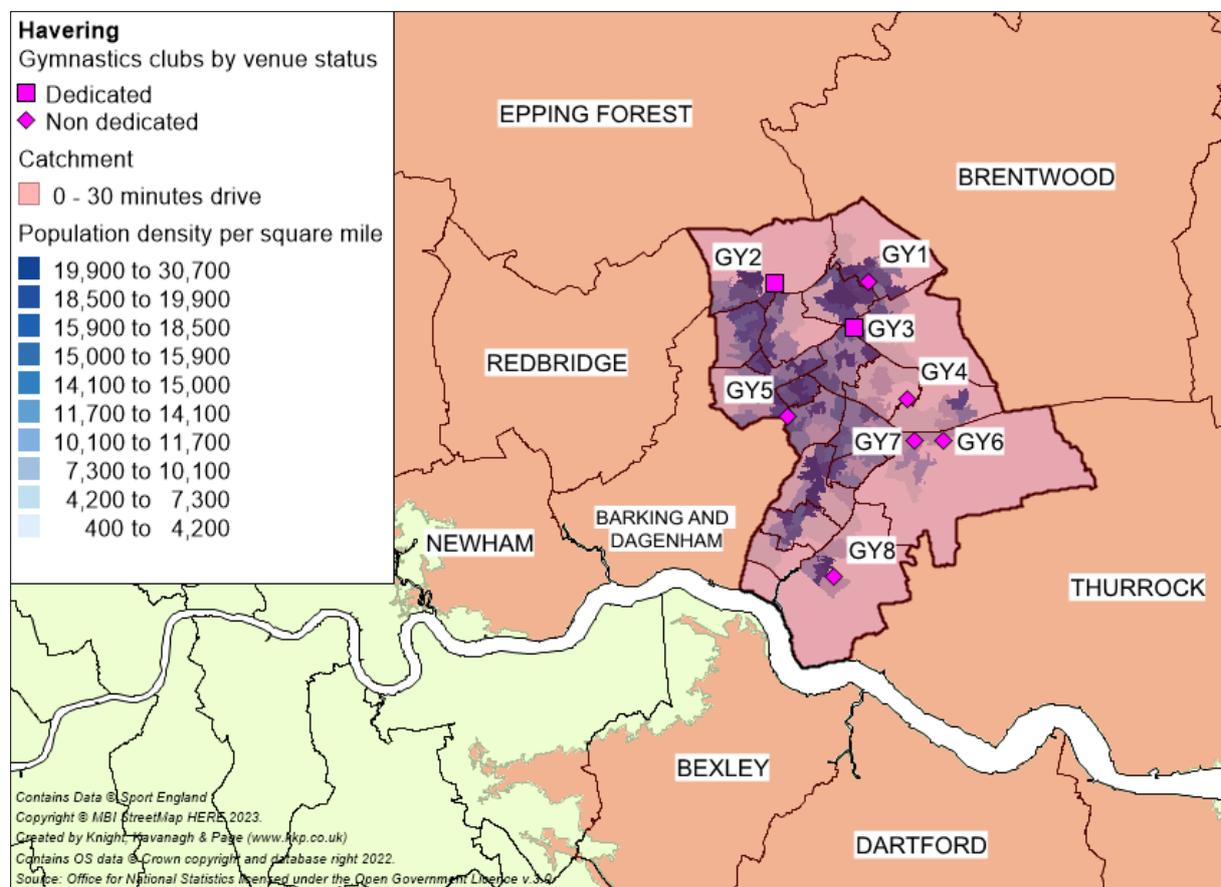


Table 10.1: Dedicated gymnastics facilities in Havering

Map ID	Site name
GY2	Harlequin Gymnastics Club
GY3	Havering Gymnastics Club

Table 10.2: Non dedicated gymnastics facilities in Havering

Map ID	Site name	Club name / operator
GY4	Emerson Park Academy	Jaybee Gymnastics
GY8	Harris Academy Rainham	Jaybee Gymnastics
GY5	YMCA Romford	Jaybee Gymnastics
GY6	Coopers Company & Coborn School	Catleaps Gymnastics
GY1	Central Park Leisure Centre	Aspire Gymnastics
GY7	New Windmill Hall	Tumble Tots Grays (Upminster)

Harlequin Gymnastics Club and Havering Gymnastics Club both operate dedicated facilities in the Authority. Neither responded to consultation request, therefore specific information about them and their venues could not be accessed.

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Accessibility and availability

Gymnastics facilities appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As shown in Figure 10.1 the whole Havering population lives within 30 minutes of a non-dedicated gymnastics facility.

10.2: Demand

British Gymnastics reports that participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. It also reports substantial demand and that many clubs have waiting lists - restricting access to gymnastic activity due to lack of time within dedicated and generic facilities. As with most indoor based sports, membership levels were impacted by the Pandemic although British Gymnastics reports that the sport is experiencing a strong recovery with current membership numbers tracking c.5% below 2019 levels.

A key part of the NGB's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs, leisure providers and other partners to move to their own dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes. It provides a range of products and programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities which are successfully driving membership growth and retention across the country.

British Gymnastics confirmed that safeguarding existing dedicated sites within Havering was a priority, whilst supporting clubs to increase participation and expand provision. It also highlighted that the availability of qualified coaches is a limiting factor in clubs delivering additional sessions. Catleaps GC has been on the project list for a number of years and is identified as a priority for facility development.

Club consultation

All six clubs identified in the audit were invited to be part of the consultation, three of which responded.

Aspire Gymnastics has been operating from Central Park Leisure Centre since 2006, originally providing recreational gymnastics for boys and girls. It has since been represented at national finals and in GB squads. It stated that storage is an issue as too much time is lost setting up and taking down equipment. In 2015, it started using Hornchurch High School for its squad gymnastics in the evenings and Central Park on weekends for recreational activity, however, access to the school is no longer available.

Aspire has 160 members of which c.100 are recreational gymnasts. Currently, it only has access to the two (badminton) court space at Central Park Leisure Centre, which is not sufficient for its needs. As is noted elsewhere in this report, the other half of the sports hall is allocated for group exercise which causes considerable noise, making effective teaching difficult. The Club is actively looking for another facility in the Authority, however, it requires a 12m x 12m space with high ceilings – which is proving to be problematic. It reports having a waiting list of c.50 people.

Jaybee Gymnastics hires three facilities in Havering for floor, vault and recreational gymnastics: Emerson Park Academy, Harris Academy Rainham and YMCA Romford. It would ideally like to amalgamate these sessions in one facility as this would reduce staffing and logistical requirements. The Club stated that Emerson Park Academy provides a good

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supply of storage, which is not the case at other sites, however, its changing and toilet facilities are of a poor standard.

Jaybee Gymnastics currently has c.600 members and reports having a waiting list of more than 200 young people. To accommodate more members, it needs to find a larger facility which can accommodate the full programme.

Catleaps Gymnastics is based at Coopers Company and Coborn School on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturdays alongside delivering main sessions six days per week at The Robert Clack Leisure Centre in Dagenham. It only has access to one quarter of the sports hall at Coopers Company and Coborn School; this means that each session has a capacity of 24 young people. The Club caters for 160 participants at the school per week and has a waiting list of c.100 people. It delivers recreational gymnastics for both boys and girls.

It would like to move all its activity to a single venue, ideally in the Upminster area. The Club has previously had planning permission rejected when attempting to create a community hub focused on gymnastics. A new facility would need approximately 7,000ft² with 8-metre height clearance.

Harlequin Gymnastics Club, Havering Gymnastics Club and Tumble Tots Grays (Upminster) did not respond to consultation request.

BG reports that Harlequin GC has c.250 affiliated members, and Havering GC has c.70.

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	There are two dedicated gymnastics facilities in Havering. These are used by Havering Gymnastics Club and Harlequin Gymnastics Club. Gymnastics participation also takes place at six non-dedicated facilities in the Authority.	Catleaps Gymnastic Club and Jaybee Gymnastics Club are both delivering sessions at multiple facilities. All clubs report a requirement for larger scale facilities to accommodate demand.
Quality	No reported quality issues.	-
Accessibility	All of Havering's residents reside within a 30-minute drive time of a club/venue within the Authority.	-
Availability (Management & usage)	Several clubs in Havering report having capacity issues as a result of unsuitable facilities.	Support clubs to find larger, dedicated facilities to decrease waiting lists and increase participation.

Strategic summary

- Work with British Gymnastics to help to ensure that clubs can gain access to suitable facilities to accommodate their operation and help reduce waiting lists.
- Consider the need to accommodate further gymnastics sessions within leisure centre sports halls with capacity to accommodate them.
- A long-term solution needs to be sought for Aspire Gymnastics Club for which the noise transfer and the reduced space available to accommodate it because of the Everyone Active expansion of its group fitness programme into the sports hall is a challenge for the Club. It has sufficient demand to validate the use of a full sports hall space.

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SECTION 11: COMBAT SPORTS

This section focuses on the supply and demand position for combat sports in Havering. Supporting data sets for provision of combat sports clubs and facilities are limited and as such KKP undertook a desk research exercise to identify combat sports activity present at facilities in the authority. It was identified that significant activity is taking place for nine²¹ disciplines. Below is summary outlining various forms and definitions of each martial arts discipline²²:

Karate

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

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

Tai Chi

Tai Chi, also known as Tai Chi Chuan, is an ancient Chinese martial art that combines gentle physical movements, deep breathing, and mental focus. It is practiced for its health benefits, meditation, and self-defence. The philosophy behind Tai Chi is rooted in Taoism, an ancient Chinese philosophy that emphasizes harmony, balance, and the cultivation of internal energy or "qi" (pronounced "chee"). By practicing Tai Chi, individuals learn to redirect and neutralize incoming attacks using circular and yielding movements, rather than relying on brute force.

There are several different styles of Tai Chi, with the most widely practiced ones being the Yang, Chen, Wu, Sun, and Hao styles. Each style has its own distinctive characteristics, forms, and training methods, but they all share the fundamental principles and philosophy of Tai Chi. The recognised governing bodies for Tai Chi in England are The Tai Chi Union for Great Britain and the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts (BCCMA).

Taekwondo

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

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

²¹ Other disciplines are present in the Authority, these are listed where relevant in Table 9.2.

²² Descriptions were sourced via desktop research utilising world federations websites.

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Judo

Judo originates in Japan and is a recognised Olympic Sport. It primarily focuses on throws and grappling techniques to overcome an opponent. The goal is to take down the opponent to the ground and immobilise them with pins or submission holds. Judo practitioners, known as judoka, aim to achieve victory through technique, leverage, and timing rather than relying solely on brute strength.

Training comprises practicing techniques, throws, grappling manoeuvres, and learning to fall safely (known as "ukemi"). It also includes the study of "katas," which are formal exercises that simulate self-defence situations. Judo places great emphasis on discipline, respect, mutual welfare, and personal development. In England, Judo is primarily governed by England Judo, which sits under the umbrella of British Judo.

Ju-Jitsu

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

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

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

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

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

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

Kickboxing

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

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

Boxing

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

The vision of EB's new strategic plan²³ (2022-2027) is "inspiring and transforming lives through boxing", to achieve this it has identified four key objectives which are accompanied by specific strategies. The objectives are:

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

Table 11.1: EB strategies attached to the four key objectives

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

11.1: Supply

KKP's audit identified 17 dedicated combat sports venues in Havering. A further 24 non-dedicated venues are identified as accommodating combat sports activity. Tables 11.2 and 11.3 below outline activity across the Authority. Combat sports facilities are not included within Active Places database as a facility type, and thus this report focuses on facilities within Havering only.

²³[Link to England-Boxing-2022-27 Strategy](#)

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Figure 11.1: Combat sports facilities in Havering with drive time catchment (30-minutes)

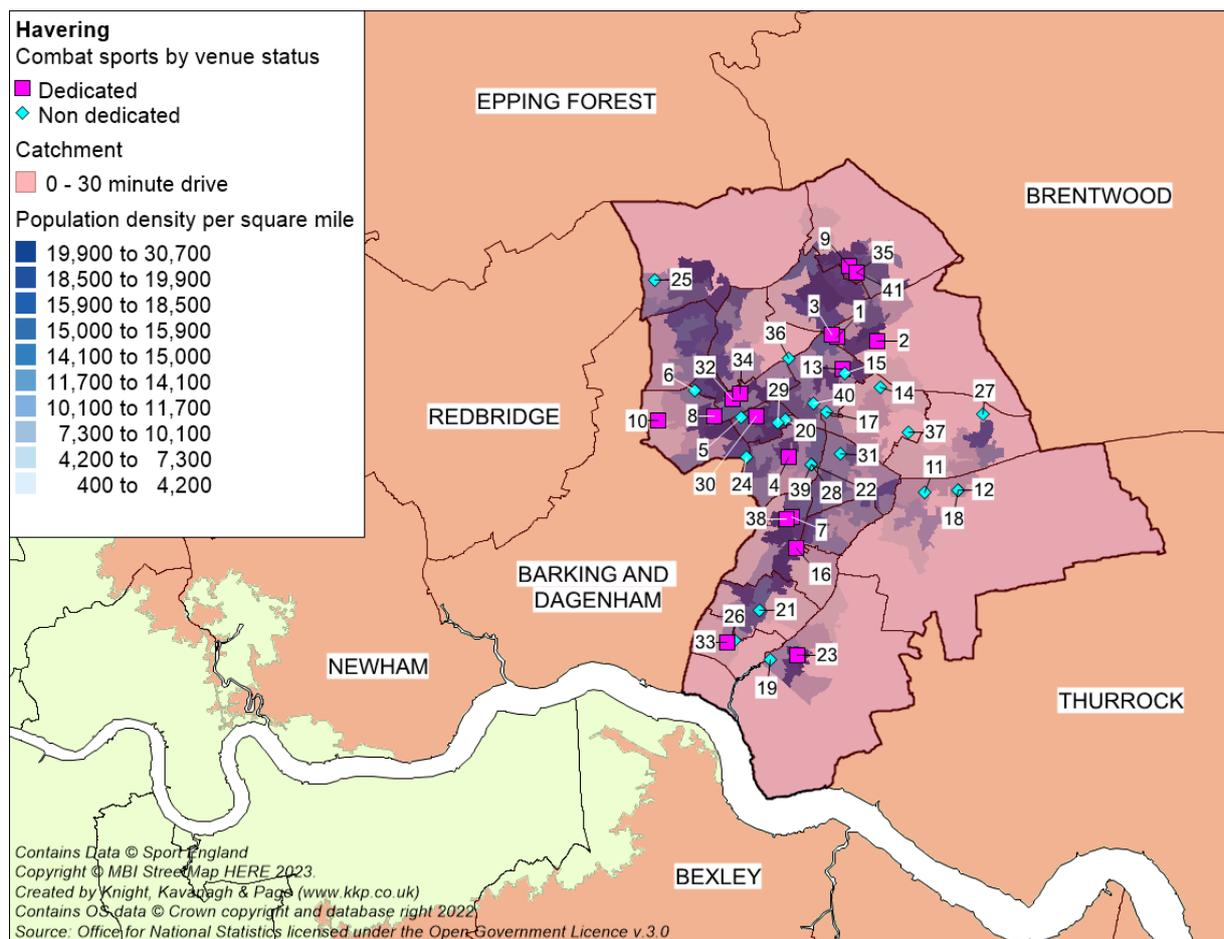


Table 11.2: Dedicated combat sports facilities in Havering

Map ID	Site name
1	Academy of Wing Chun Kung Fu Self Defence
2	Alma Amateur Boxing Club
3	As Karate Academy
4	Battlefield Muay Thai Gym
7	Essex Ringside
8	Falcon Kickboxing Club
9	Five Star Amateur Boxing Club
10	Ford Judo Club
13	Greenwood Boxing and Fitness
16	Hornchurch & Elm Park Amateur Boxing Club
23	MJS Fitness and Therapy
30	The art of boxing training studio
32	The MMA Clinic
33	The Origin Health and Fitness
34	Ultimate Fitness PT
38	Your Gym Fitness - Hornchurch
41	Fight Klub

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Table 11.3: Non-dedicated combat sports facilities in Havering

Map ID	Site name	Resident club/operator
5	The Gym Group	Bushin Martial Arts (HQ)
6	St John's Church	Chow Gar Praying Mantis Kung Fu Academy
11	St Lawrence Church Hall	Forza Karate Club
12	Coopers Company and Coburn School	GKR Karate
14	The Champion School	Havering Judo Club
15	Ardleigh House Community Association	Havering Jui-Jitsu Academy (Grace Barra Havering BJJ)
17	Emerson Park Social Club	Hornchurch Karate Club
18	Coopers Company and Coburn School	John Hegan Academy
19	The Royals Youth Centre	Kaichou-Kai Karate
20	Frances Bardsey Academy for Girls	Kaizen Gunns Karate Club
21	South Hornchurch Community Hall	Kazoku Karate-Do
22	Harrow Lodge Sports Centre	Kokoro kai Ju-Jitsu club
24	YMCA Romford	Modern Shotokan Karate
25	Forest Row Centre	New Era Karate
26	Silver Hall Social Club	Rainham Black Dragons Judo Club
27	St Peters Catholic Church	Shinin Kai Karate
28	Harrow Lodge Hornchurch	Shinin Kai Karate
29	Hylands Primary School	Southern England School of Karate
31	Fairkytes Arts Centre	The Kwoon School of Wing Chun & Qigong
35	Harold Hill Community Centre	WaKarishin Jujitsu
36	St Michaels Church	Wing Chun Kung Fu
37	Emerson Park Academy	Wing Chun Kung Fu
39	Harrow Lodge Park	Zhen Wei Academy
40	Arnaud Lodge	Zhen Wei Academy

Figure 11.1 illustrates the good supply of combat sports facilities in Havering, with each of the main residential areas well catered for. There are fewer facilities in the east and south of the Borough reflecting, to a degree, the fact that they are more sparsely populated.

Accessibility and availability

All Havering residents live within a 30-minute drive of a combat sports facility. All facilities are accessible via pay and play or membership arrangements via the resident club/operator at each venue.

11.2: Demand

All 35 clubs/operators were approached for consultation, however, only one responded despite numerous requests.

Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy currently delivers sessions four times per week at Ardleigh House Community Association. The Academy reports that the site often closes without notice due to staffing issues, which causes sessions to be cancelled. As a result of this, it has considered relocating to an alternative facility (which could potentially be dedicated). However, options for this are limited. The current facility has approximately 130m² combat/training area plus showers and adequate parking all of which would have to be replicated at a new facility. Consideration has been given to the hiring of school sports halls, however, there is considered to be too much unavailability during exam periods and school holidays.

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Ardleigh House Community Association does not currently provide storage for Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy as this comes at an additional cost. The Academy is currently using a shipping container in close proximity to the site however, this is prone to leaks causing damage to equipment. It is essential that a new site could accommodate storage of equipment.

The Club reported a spike in interest following the Pandemic and is at capacity with 60 active members. It has a waiting list with a further 35 potential members on it, however, further participants cannot be accommodated in the current space.

11.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	There are 17 dedicated combat sports venues in Havering. In addition, combat sports activity is delivered in some form at 24 non-dedicated venues.	Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy indicates aspirations to source a larger venue to increase capacity.
Quality	No quality issues have been identified by Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy, however, issues with its current storage arrangements were reported.	Identify other storage options for Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy until a new site can be found with suitable facilities and adequate storage.
Accessibility	All Havering residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of either a dedicated or non-dedicated combat sports facility.	None identified.
Availability (Management & usage)	Clubs/operators generally operate on the basis of pay & play access with membership systems in place for regular members.	It is likely that given the lack of suitable facilities identified by Havering Ju-Jitsu Academy, other combat sports will be facing the same difficulty. There is a need to support clubs to expand provision where possible to meet demand.

Strategic summary

- ◀ There is a strong presence of combat sports clubs in Havering, evidencing high participation levels. Given that clubs tend to be commercial operators, scope for support is limited however, it should be recognised that combat sports providers offer alternative routes into sports and physical activity and should therefore be supported where possible.
- ◀ There is a need to ensure that, where possible, combats sports clubs have security of tenure, good quality facilities that are fit for purpose and are able to meet the demands of the population.

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SECTION 12: CYCLING

British Cycling (BC) is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◀ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◀ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◀ Mountain biking – trails
- ◀ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

BC aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased reflecting recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

BMX Freestyle is a particular growth discipline, which featured in the Olympic Games for the first time in Tokyo 2020 and will feature again in Paris 2024. It is based around riders performing routines which consist of sequences of executing tricks. It can be carried out in various settings such as flat ground, urban street settings, on dirt jumps, and on halfpipes/constructed ramps. In competition, riders are judged on quality of performance (difficulty, originality and style). BMX Freestyle tends to appeal to young people in particular and engage with a diverse audience interested in lifestyle, non-traditional sports, and urban and street culture.

12.1: Supply

There is no indoor cycling facility in Havering. A BMX track is located at Central Park, which features in the London Borough of Havering Open Space Assessment 2023.

12.2: Demand

British Cycling confirms that there are two cycling clubs based in Havering; Romford Cycling Club and Hornchurch Cycle Club. A further three local groups were identified via desk research. All clubs/groups were approached for consultation, however, no response was received. The below is a summary of cycling demand based on desk research and information provided by British Cycling:

Hornchurch Cycle Club was founded in 2014 and has c.190 members. It caters for riders of all abilities on Saturdays and *ad hoc* weekday sessions, whilst more experienced riders participate on Sundays. It also offers road cycling and off-roading. All rides depart from the car park at Queen's Theatre on Billet Lane, Hornchurch.

Romford Cycling Club was formed in 2012 and has c.33 current members. It takes part in road racing, MTB races, time trials and social riding.

Havering Cycle Touring Club was established in 1968 with the purpose of providing physical activity and social opportunities for adults in Essex. It meets at Roomes Stores in Upminster and cycles into the Essex countryside (to avoid road traffic). Participation is free as a beginner; however, regular participation requires membership with Cycling UK.

Becontree Wheelers Club provides competitive and social road racing and off-road events. It runs weekly time trial events on Friday evenings, which are open to any cyclists affiliated with cycling time trials. On Sunday mornings, it meets for a social ride of varying lengths – to which newcomers are welcomed.

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Upminster Slowbies meet outside St Laurence Church Hall in Havering on Friday mornings. Each ride is approximately three hours long. Information about this group is limited.

Thames Chae Forest Trust in partnership with Cycle Confident provide free of charge sessions for young people and adults of all abilities. Adapted bikes are also available free of charge. Sessions are delivered during school holidays.

12.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	There is no indoor cycling or BMX facilities in Havering. An outdoor BMX track is located at Central Park. Of the five clubs identified, three offer competitive cycling with two meeting for social rides.	Insufficient demand has been identified to justify development of a dedicated cycling facility in Havering.
Quality	-	-
Accessibility	-	-
Availability (Management & usage)	-	-

Strategic summary

- ✦ Research findings do not evidence any demand for a dedicated cycling facilities in the Authority.
- ✦ Work with British Cycling to ensure cyclists have access to good quality cycle routes and safe road conditions.

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SECTION 13: ICE SPORTS

This section focusses on the supply and demand for indoor winter sports in Havering. Indoor ice rinks provide opportunity for winter sport participation in areas where the climate does not lend itself sports played on ice. Ice rinks are used for a range of sports but are traditionally used for ice skating, ice hockey and curling, attracting competitive matches, competitions and recreational use.

Ice skating

British Ice Skating (BIS) is the NGB for the sport of Ice skating in the UK. BIS currently oversee six disciplines of ice skating:

- ◀ Long track
- ◀ Short track
- ◀ Synchronised
- ◀ Ice dance
- ◀ Pairs
- ◀ Singles

Skate UK is the approved learnt to skate programme developed by BIS, teaching techniques across eight stages. The skills developed through the course form the basis of other ice-skating disciplines as well as hockey and curling. The sessions are delivered at local rinks by BIS instructors as part of BIS's initiative to make skating a more inclusive sport.

Ice Hockey

Ice Hockey UK (IHUK) is responsible for the governance of Ice Hockey in the UK, which is currently undergoing a review of leadership and governance requirements. Clubs compete in a pyramid league structure, with the Elite Ice Hockey League being the pinnacle.

Curling

British Curling supports the development of elite curling in Britain with the intention of creating sustainable Olympic and paralympic success. British Curling opened the National Curling Academy in Stirling (Scotland) in 2017 to ensure Team GB remain at the forefront of curling.

Non-traditional sports are also played on indoor ice rink facilities such as sledge hockey, rinkball, broomball and bandy. Whilst these sports are growing in popularity, participation is still generally low.

13.1: Supply

Havering has one indoor ice rink, located at Sapphire Ice and Leisure as shown in Figure 13.1 overleaf.

All Havering residents live within a 30-minute drive of an ice rink.

The Sapphire rink was installed in 2018 and is above average in quality. It is located on the third floor of the leisure centre which provides challenges keeping it at the correct temperature, undertaking repair work (getting maintenance equipment up to the third floor) and with the conflicting demands for heat and cold beneath the ice. (The swimming pool on the ground floor, the fitness gym in the middle and ice pad on top).

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Everyone Active confirmed that the top layer of ice had previously been replaced in 2020. This process is due to be repeated in 2024. The site has 900 spectator seats and is managed by an external organisation on match days.

Figure 13.1: Ice rink in Havering

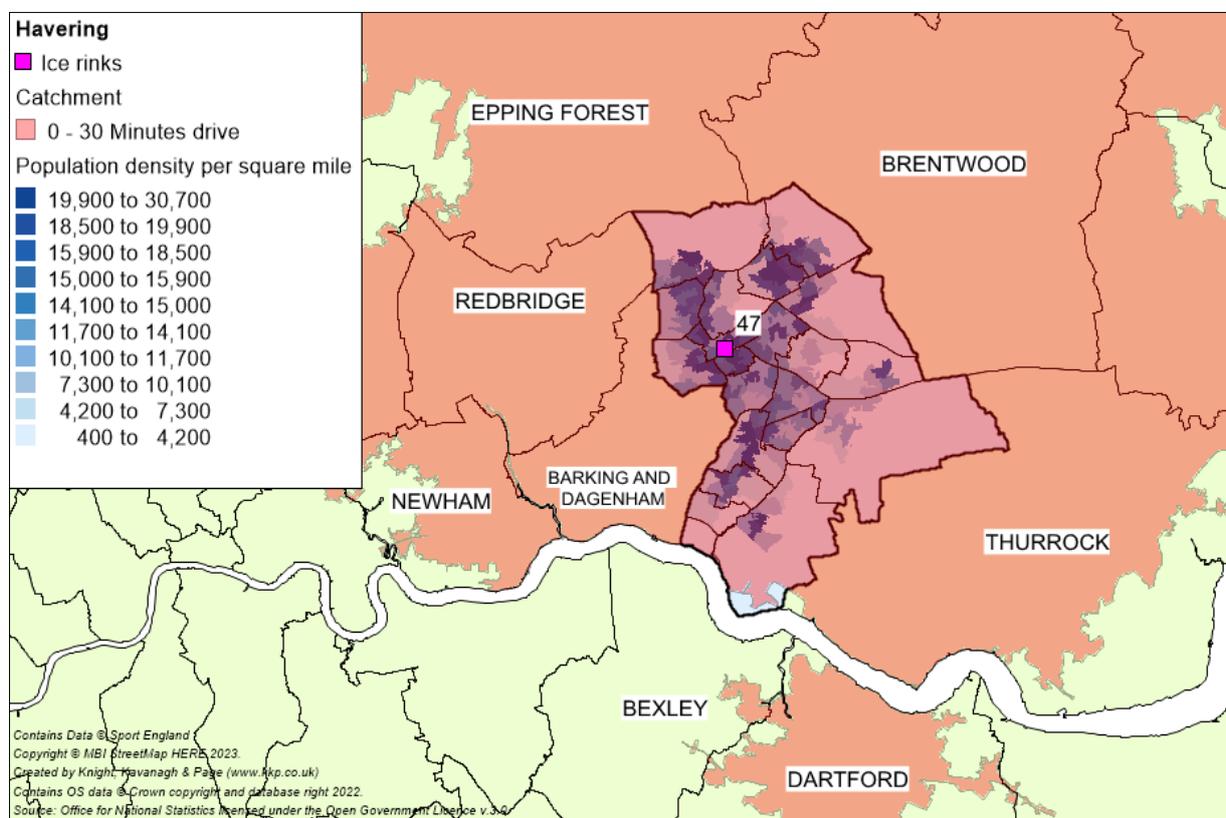


Table 13.1: Ice rinks in Havering

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Condition
47	Sapphire Ice & Leisure	1	Pay and play	Above average

13.2: Demand

Everyone Active confirmed that ice skating and ice hockey are the most popular activities at Sapphire Ice and Leisure.

Ice Skating

Data provided by Everyone Active evidenced that public skate opportunities run between two and three times per day in the autumn/winter period. Competitive ice hockey fixtures take priority when fixtures are scheduled. Other events such as family disco, parent and child skating and parties also have regular timeslots within the timetabling to ensure ice skating demand is met.

There is also a strong demand for BIS Skate UK course, with daily learn to skate programmes. Skate UK sessions take place during peak times (19:15-21:00) every day. Consultation with Everyone Active indicated that progression pathways are assisting the recruitment process of junior ice hockey teams. In total to date, 35 young people have transitioned through Skate UK and featured for the Raiders.

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Patch Skate sessions (advanced skaters) are timetabled to provide an adequate training period for more advanced and professional skaters. These take place on mornings, afternoons and evenings including during the peak period on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Patch Skate sessions are limited to morning periods during weekends as junior and senior matches are prioritised.

Ice Hockey

The Romford Ice Hockey Academy consists of five junior teams, all of which use the facility for training and match purposes. Junior Hockey teams utilise the facility on Wednesday's evenings from 17:00 until 22:00 and Friday 17:50 until 21:15. Senior teams within Raiders Ice Hockey have recognised the need to take more responsibility in junior payer development.

Romford Buccaneers compete in the National Ice Hockey League Division one, playing fixtures on Saturday evenings, with training Tuesday evenings. The Buccaneers was founded to bridge the gap between players in the Romford Ice Hockey Academy and the Raiders. The Raiders compete in the Planet Ice National League, training Thursday and Friday evenings with matches taking place on Sundays. Everyone Active confirmed priority is given to Raiders training and matches, with between 500 and 800 spectators typically in attendance.

Romford Renegades and Romford Rebels are recreational teams using the facilities for training and match purposes. Romford Rebels train from 22:00 to 23:00 on Sunday evenings, whilst Romford Renegades have the same time slot on Saturday evenings.

13.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	There is one ice rink in Havering.	There is no requirement for additional ice provision in the Havering area.
Quality	The rink is above average in quality. The top layer of ice is due for replacement in 2024.	Undertake necessary refurbishment to ensure the facility remains good quality for club and recreational use.
Accessibility	All residents in Havering live within a 30-minute drive of Sapphire Ice and Leisure.	-
Availability (Management & usage)	Pay and play, club use and scheduled programmes all feature in Everyone Active's timetable.	-

Strategic summary

- ✦ Continue to work with Ice Hockey UK and BIS to drive up participation.
- ✦ Ensure that Sapphire Ice and Leisure continues to provide suitable programming to enable club use, learn to skate and that pay and play users have good accessibility to a range of activities at an affordable cost.

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SECTION 14: INITIAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategy which follows will take account of the findings of this needs assessment, the Authority's demographic make-up and the Council's vision. There is a general requirement to continue to invest in sports facilities in Havering to ensure that they are fit for purpose for the 21st Century (e.g., welcoming, clean, attractive, flexible spaces, wide programme offer, ability to learn to swim cost-effective to manage and operate etc). This should lead to increased participation and a more active Borough. Strategy recommendations are likely to be predicated upon some or all of the following:

- ◀ In line with LBH's carbon reduction targets, ensure that existing facilities are made as energy efficient as possible, and that new development considers energy efficiency as a high priority.
- ◀ Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance, and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities.
- ◀ Collaborate with education sites to ensure that sports hall quality remains at/rises to an appropriate standard and that they continue to be made available for community use.
- ◀ Collaborate with education sites to ensure that swimming pool quality remains at/rises to an appropriate standard and that they continue to be made available for community use.
- ◀ Given the increased number of 35–44-year-olds and people aged over 65, look to support providers to increase the range and level of activities and opportunities for these groups.
- ◀ Several clubs in different sports in the Authority are at membership capacity due either to current facility size or reliable availability. Look to support clubs seeking to access new/different facilities to enable them to continue to grow participation. Sports to which this applies include gymnastics, netball, swimming and combat sports.
- ◀ Ensure that memberships and specific activities are available to people living in the Authority's more deprived communities via enabling low cost, increased use of community facilities (e.g., activity halls and community centres).
- ◀ At the point of operator contract renewal, review the cost and the processes via which people are able to participate on a casual (pay and play) basis at the Authority's public leisure centres. Ensure that this is straightforward and, for example, that the requirement for online membership and related sign up/booking processes do not function as a deterrent or digitally exclude key groups. All operators and facility managers should undertake regular reviews of pricing structures to ensure accessing sport and physical activity is affordable.
- ◀ Central Park Leisure Centre has considerable spare capacity during peak times. Review programming to ensure that club demand, pay and play use and organised group exercise can fill gaps in current scheduling.
- ◀ Consider options to aid gymnastics clubs looking to accommodate all sessions under one roof to ease the burden on staffing and accommodate further demand.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) to increase levels of sport and physical activity in the wider community.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs (with/via the leisure operator) to ensure facility and workforce development programmes are geared to meeting the needs of all clubs and residents.
- ◀ Consider options for investment driven by the operator at Central Park Leisure Centre to address the needs and demands of various sports identified in this report. This might include a feasibility study for developing the two disused tennis courts to make an indoor space, for example:
 - A multi-use indoor space marked out for sports such as netball and indoor tennis, alongside gymnastics and group exercise. This could possibly include installation of an air hall or frame and fabric type structure.
 - There is a need to consider this in line with Playing Pitch Strategy (2024) findings which may identify opportunities for outdoor sports facility development e.g. padel tennis.

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- In tandem, develop additional studio space attached to the existing leisure centre.
- Returning the sports hall to a 4-court space catering for the variety of uses for which there is demand or convert it into a permanent gymnastics facility.

(This would address the immediate centre issue of group fitness space demand and potentially help to cater for demand for indoor netball training and match-play as well as providing the Council with an option to offer pay and play indoor tennis).