



MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

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

This needs assessment report (known as the Assessment Report) presents a supply and demand assessment of indoor and built sport facilities across the area and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' Guidance. It is, therefore, a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities in the Melton Borough Council (MBC) area, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies).

It is part of a wider series of inter-related documents for sport and recreation that also include a playing pitch strategy (PPS).

The inter-relationship between the portfolio of documents must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also access indoor facilities for matches/training or use such areas on an informal basis. Similarly, there are indoor sports venues which feature playing pitches and/or other outdoor facilities.

The audit was conducted between September and November 2022. The process took place shortly after the Country's emergence from the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a consequence, some sites and facilities were considered to still be in recovery.

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

1.2: Scope of the project

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

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

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

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The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Review relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional, and national strategic context.
- ◀ Analyse local population demographics at present and in the future (up to 2036).
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities plus identification of potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◀ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

This process follows Sport England's Assessment Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) methodology for assessing indoor sports facilities need. It also accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.3: Background

Melton is a local government district with borough status in north-eastern Leicestershire, England. It is named after its main town, Melton Mowbray. It is a rural area at the heart of the East Midlands and is the 10th smallest district (by population) in England.

According to the 2021 Census, Melton Borough has a population of 51,743. Melton Mowbray is the largest town and contains over half the population of the entire Borough (27,737). With the exception of Melton Mowbray, the borough comprises a high percentage of rural space and there are 70 small villages.

Two major roads connect the east and west of the district with Melton Mowbray. The A606 is a transport link between the southeast of the borough, through Melton Mowbray, and the west. The A607 connects the northeast of the borough with the southwest, and also passes through Melton Mowbray.

Melton has borders with six other local authorities. In the north, it shares a small border with Newark and Sherwood, whilst to the northwest and northeast it borders Rushcliffe and South Kesteven respectively. It shares a border with Charnwood to the southwest and Harborough in the south. To the southeast is Rutland.

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Figure 1.1: Melton with neighbouring authorities



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1.4: Report Structure

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

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

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

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

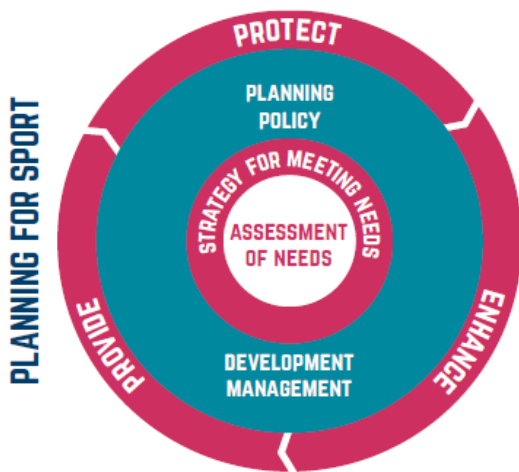
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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1: National context

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for Melton BC applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG).

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



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

Applying them will ensure that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunities for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings.

These apply to all areas of the planning system at all levels, for example strategic, local authority and neighbourhood planning levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Figure 2.2: Sport England’s 12 planning principles



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Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

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

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

The three key Strategy objectives are:



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

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

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

Activity levels for adults had been increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented 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 which found it harder to be active before Covid-19 are also finding it hard now. Inequalities between different groups have persisted since lockdown restrictions began in March. Those who have found it hardest to stay active include:

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

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

Sporting 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

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

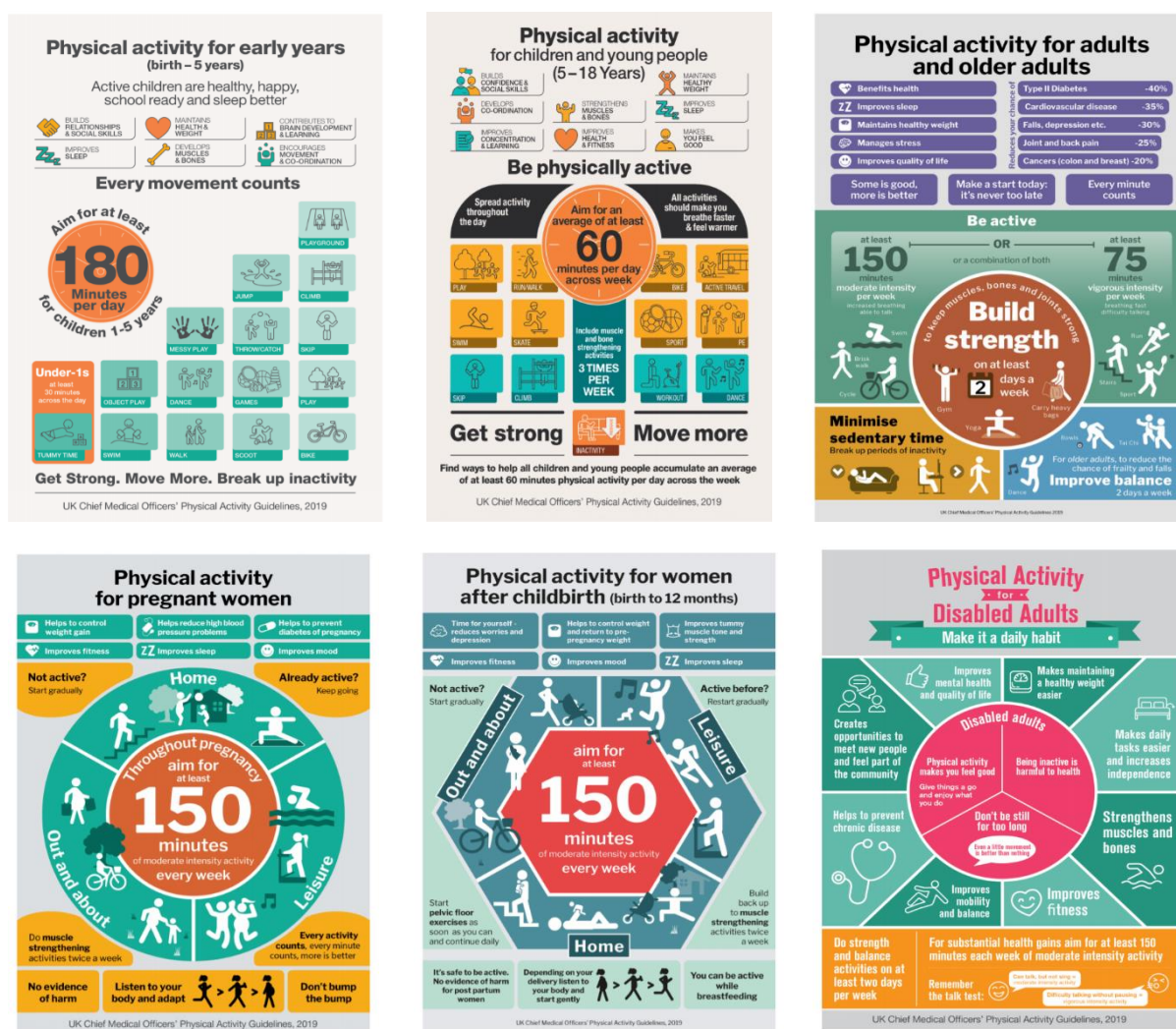
Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health, and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing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

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

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The report 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.

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



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

Investment in school sport

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

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The action plan has three overarching ambitions - that:

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

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

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

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021

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

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development:

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed need. 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 in paragraph 98, 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.

Cost pressures affecting the leisure industry

Insight produced by the [Local Government Association](#) suggests that councils continue to face substantial inflationary, Covid-19 related, and demand-led pressures which affect their ability to efficiently operate leisure provision.

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

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

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

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

Environmental sustainability

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

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

MBC has addressed the issue of climate change as priority four of its 2020-2024 corporate plan. The ambition is to make all in house operations and functions carbon neutral by 2030, with the rest of the borough carbon neutral by 2050.

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A climate change working group has been established to ensure these aims are met by working on the following projects:

- ◀ The creation of a baseline study and trajectory report. This found that the Council has the ability to reduce its overall emissions by 77% before 2030. This can be achieved by reviewing current policy to ensure the prioritisation of more efficient materials as opposed to replacing outdated equipment with like-for-like.
- ◀ Funding schemes have been implemented to reduce carbon emissions from housing. Installing external insulation on 16 houses and 49 solar PV on council housing properties has cost £500,000. Private sector households have received £208,500 of funding to install solar PV. A further £550,000 has been allocated to upgrade cavity/external wall and loft insulation. This will benefit approximately 50 low-income households.
- ◀ Electric vehicles and charging points – working as part of a wider group of authorities to secure large scale funding for electric vehicle investment. MBC's aims are to install a electric vehicle solar charging hub in one council-owned car park, whilst considering using electric vehicles as part of its maintenance teams and housing repair fleets.
- ◀ The development of an action plan. This will involve collaborating with Association of Public Service Excellence to create an in-house action plan comprising short, medium and long-term goals to ensure that the 2030 target is met. Further to this, MBC intends to produce a climate change strategy and action plan for the wider Melton Borough.

[Sport England](#) report that ¹climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to this very real threat.

It proposes that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development 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 embodied or to build anew². 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 the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- ◀ Change behaviour, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ Passive design - Building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ Fabric efficiency Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ Minimise initial energy demand to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ Efficient systems Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems.
- ◀ On-site renewables Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ Off-site renewables - only use energy providers who use renewable energy.

¹<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Environmental%20Sustainability%20check%20list.pdf?VersionId=7XfZPDhHKoKHpfKqk165MMWdxwCmYsPO>

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Summary of national context

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

2.2: Local context

Melton's Corporate Plan 2020-2024

This sets out the Council's long term aims to shape and develop the district. Its purpose is to focus the full resources of the Authority on improving and sustaining the economic, social, and environmental fabric ensuring that Melton is a place residents, businesses and visitors can be proud of. The key priorities to achieving this are summarised below:

- ◀ Excellent services positively impacting on our communities.
- ◀ Providing high quality council homes and landlord services.
- ◀ Delivering sustainable and inclusive growth in Melton.
- ◀ Protect our climate and enhance our natural environment.
- ◀ Ensuring the right conditions to support delivery (inward).
- ◀ Connected and led by our community (outward).

Melton District Local Plan

As per guidance from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), MBC's Local Plan covers a 25-year period between 2011 and 2036. It was formally adopted in 2018. The vision is to ensure that by 2036 Melton will be a thriving place to live, work and visit. The foundations will be a balanced workforce, a mix of new and established local employers and excellent transport links between boroughs and with wider centres such as Leicester and Nottingham. The following strategic issues were identified:

- ◀ Ageing population – it is expected that by 2023, deaths will increase over births in the borough.
- ◀ Insufficient and incorrect types of new housing – first time buyers and those on lower incomes are finding it increasingly difficult to move to the borough.
- ◀ Insufficient workforce – due to the ageing population, employers have experienced difficulty recruiting for lower paid positions.
- ◀ Traffic congestion within town centres is high – this is due to poor connectivity between towns and villages in the borough.
- ◀ The risk of flooding hinders the possibility of new development sites, as does the protection of heritage sites within the borough.
- ◀ The north-east of the borough lacks an outdoor park sufficient to cater for that area.
- ◀ The limited supply of freehold sites in the area, which are often used by small medium enterprises. In addition, the lack of modern office space in the town centre could be negatively impacting footfall during daytimes.

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The following strategic objectives have been put in place to tackle the issues identified:

- ◀ Address the stock of current housing accommodation to better suit the needs for affordable housing.
- ◀ Utilise current assets such as heritage sites, equestrianism facilities and local cuisine to attract more tourists to the area.
- ◀ Create a more balanced economy consisting of more knowledge-based jobs and wages. A significant factor in this will be offering more training opportunities to increase educational attainment.
- ◀ Reduce the need to travel by car by offering more public transport. This in turn will decrease the traffic flow through Melton Mowbray.
- ◀ Improve the access to community services and facilities such as schools, social care, recreation, sport and broadband. Reducing health inequalities is also a top priority.
- ◀ Whilst attempting to improve the local environment, MBC have identified the need to protect the rural character and historical heritage of the borough. This will be considered when addressing issues such as limiting the potential damage during periods of flooding.
- ◀ Tackle air pollution, minimise use of carbon resources and promote the use of renewable energy.

Melton Borough Council Housing Strategy 2021-2026

This aims to address the issues within housing which have been further developed on the back of Brexit and the pandemic. These include:

- ◀ Shortfall of social housing.
- ◀ Very few empty homes.
- ◀ Lack of accessible homes for those with mobility issues, which is extremely prevalent due to the aging population.
- ◀ Population size in the area is expected to increase by at least 2,400 by 2043.
- ◀ The current smaller proportion of smaller homes and flats in the area and larger proportion of detached houses. This makes it less affordable for those on lower incomes or first time buyers.

MBC is considering how existing homes can be adapted to better suit the demand for housing and accommodation in the area. Building of new houses will only make up a small percentage of the total housing and requires development of other key infrastructure such as leisure centres and schools. It is expected that many skilled tradespeople will retire over the next few years, so MBC has joined partnerships such as the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to ensure housing demand can be met. Findings suggest that:

- ◀ Up to 70 new affordable homes need to be built each year.
- ◀ A proportion of those new homes need to be available for rental.
- ◀ Currently, MBC are only on track to supply approximately two thirds of the current demand.
- ◀ Since 2015, the Help to Buy Scheme has helped 202 people buy their own home.
- ◀ Fuel poverty is more common in the rural areas (12.7% as opposed to 8.8% in Melton Mowbray), as buildings are often older and less efficient.

The Housing Strategy addresses need to improve Borough energy efficiency. Currently, 28% of local CO² emissions come from housing; this is above both county and regional averages. Similar patterns are identified in MBC's energy performance certificate (EPC), with only 31% of houses rated 'good' compared to the national average of 40%. A target has been set to

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reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Those who are classed as vulnerable or fuel poor have been prioritised to ensure the worst performing homes. Based on local challenges, MBC has developed four strategic housing strategy objectives:

Figure 2.4: Overview of MBC's Housing Strategy 2021-2026



Active Together

Active Together is a county wide initiative for Leicestershire which aims to make sport and physical activity not only more accessible but part of everyday life. It is one of 43 active partnerships in England which works with the public and local partners to transform lives through sport and physical activity. It has identified the following three priorities to build more active communities across the county in the 'Physical Activity Framework 2022-2023':

- ◆ People – working with early years, education providers and other partners to ensure active lifestyles are maintained throughout the course of life.
- ◆ Places – utilising the best assets and skills within each community to be the most effective. The design of homes, streets and workplaces should encourage activity and movement whilst considering the environmental impact.
- ◆ Partnerships – creating a system whereby the importance of the benefits of physical activity are recognised in healthcare, education, housing and both private and public organisations in terms of social return on investment.

Live Well Leicester

Live Well Leicester is a campaign designed to encourage locals to live healthier lifestyles by offering support and advice on four health related issues:

- ◆ Losing weight & healthy eating
- ◆ Stopping smoking
- ◆ Physical activity
- ◆ Reducing alcohol

Live Well Leicester provides expertise collaborating with relevant and professional partners such as the NHS, Change 4 Life and Drinkaware.

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Leicestershire 2018-2021 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

JSNA's are completed to better understand present and future public health and wellbeing requirements. This involves collaboration between local authorities and clinical care commissioning groups (CCGs) amongst other partners. Melton falls under the Leicestershire 2018-2021 JSNA. As part of this, 19 areas for investigation were developed, which led to the following plans and actions:

- ◀ Adopt a whole systems approach to tackle obesity in children, young people and adults.
- ◀ More priority should be given to walking and cycling as modes of transport.
- ◀ Ensure that weight management programmes reach black and mixed ethnic groups
- ◀ Support programmes that tackle family holiday hunger.
- ◀ Develop workplace based programmes to reduce inactivity in sedentary workforces.

Given that Melton is just one area within the Leicestershire County as a whole, it should be considered that the findings of these reports may not represent an accurate picture of Melton due to the contrasting demographics it potentially has with the wider county.

Operating Melton's leisure centres

Everyone Active has been the Council's leisure operator for Waterfield Leisure Centre and Melton Sports Village for over 10 years. Contracts were due to expire in 2022, however, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, MBC took the decision to extend them until March 2024. It has been reviewing its options with the most likely outcome that it will go out to tender for a 25-year contract with a 5-year break clause. It is hoped that it can coincide with plans to replace/improve the quality of existing facilities.

The Council has been exploring the feasibility of replacing the two facilities with a single flagship venue. This could also co-locate with a new GP surgery. High level costings indicate it might necessitate in the region of £30-£40m investment.

Summary of local context

The drive to reduce health inequalities and improve the quality of life for residents within Melton Borough and the wider county is evident. The need to tackle high levels of inactivity has been recognised, with acknowledgment that doing so will have wider societal benefits. The lack of suitable housing for those on lower incomes or first-time buyers has been acknowledged, as has the ageing population and the need to ensure correct systems are implemented to provide good quality social and health care.

To meet Council's climate commitments, it is advised that outdated systems need to be replaced with more energy efficient buildings, to meet the Council's climate commitments. The key to addressing these issues will be the continuation of partnership work between stakeholders and investing to save projects.

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2.3: Demographic profile

The following is an overview of Melton based on data taken from nationally recognised sources. It reflects the most up to date information presently available although it should be noted that new data is published regularly, often at different intervals.

Population and distribution (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS):

The total population, from the 2021 Census, in Melton was 51,743. This comprised of 25,245 males and 26,498 females. The map below (based on lower super output areas (LSOAs)) illustrates how sparsely populated the majority of Melton borough is. It is followed by a chart illustrating Melton's population's age and gender composition relative to that of the region.

Figure 2.5: Population density 2020 MYE: Melton (LSOAs)

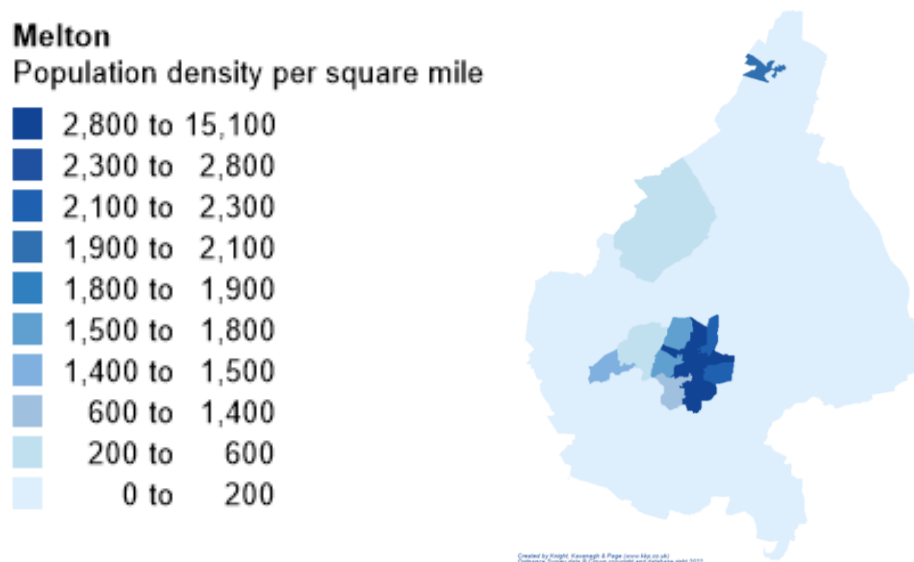
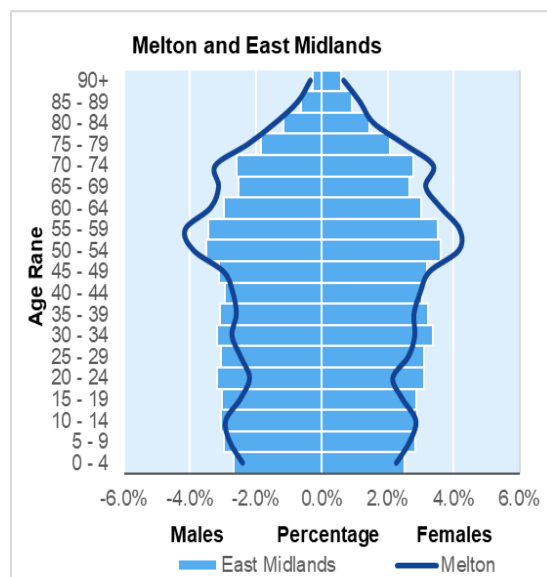


Figure 2.6: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Melton and the East Midlands



Melton has a lower proportion of 15-39 year olds compared to East Midlands as a whole, with 25.3% and 31.2% respectively. There are, however, more in the 50-79 age groups (Melton = 41%, East Midlands = 34.5%). These groups are likely to have a higher disposable income and may also still be physically active.

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Ethnicity (Data source: 2021 census of population, ONS):

Melton's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. Nearly 97% of the local population classified their ethnicity as White - substantially higher than the comparative England rate of 81%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 1.2%. This is much lower than the national equivalent (9.6%).

Table 2.1: Ethnic Composition – Melton and England

Ethnicity	Melton		England	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
White	50,142	96.9%	45,783,401	81.0%
Mixed	659	1.3%	1,669,378	3.0%
Asian	599	1.2%	5,426,392	9.6%
Black	192	0.4%	2,381,724	4.2%
Other	160	0.3%	1,229,153	2.2%
Total	51,752	100.0%	56,490,048	100.0%

Crime (Data source: 2022 Recorded Crime, ONS):

Crime data is only available for police force areas. Melton is in the Leicestershire Police Force Area, which covers nine local authorities (Blaby, Charnwood, City of Leicester, Harborough, Hinckley And Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Oadby And Wigston, Rutland). The Melton population accounts for 4.6% of the Leicestershire Police Force area.

During the 12 months to July 2022, recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in Leicestershire were 92.7; this is higher than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole (91.3). The number of recorded crimes in Leicestershire has risen significantly by 11.8% since July 2021, the number for England and Wales has also risen significantly (by 11.8%) over the same period.

Table 2.2: Comparative crime rates - Melton and England & Wales

Authority	Recorded crime (Aug '21 – Jul '22)	Population 2020 MYE	Recorded crime per 1,000 population
Leicestershire	102,628	1,107,597	92.7
England & Wales	5,453,405	59,719,724	91.3

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 Melton, 5.6% of the population are in the top three cohorts most at risk compared to 30% nationally.

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Figure 2.7: Index of crime deprivation

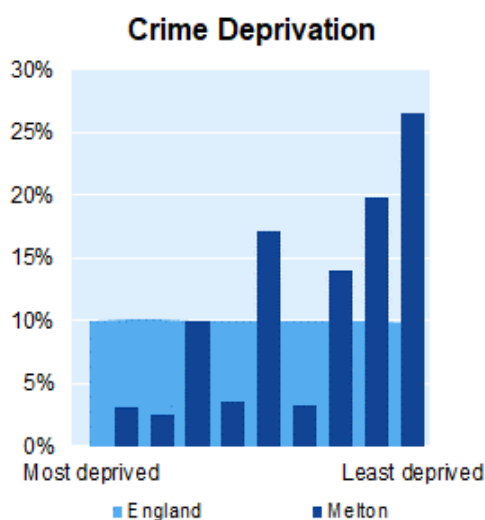
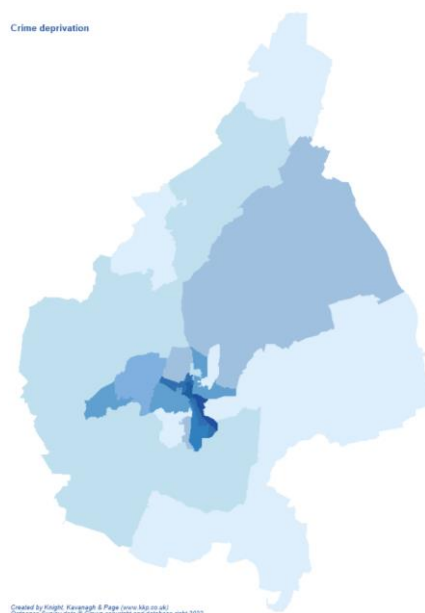
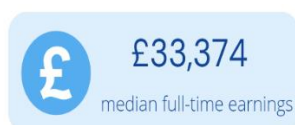


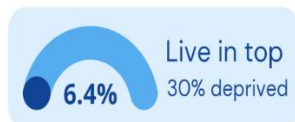
Figure 2.8: Crime domain comparisons



Income and benefits dependency (Data source: nomis 2022):



The median figure for full-time earnings (2022) in Melton is £33,374; the comparative rate for the East Midlands is £31,392 (-5.9%) and for Great Britain it is £33,394 (+0.1%).



In November 2022 there were 815 people in Melton claiming out of work benefits³; this represents an increase of 30.4% when compared to March 2020 (625).



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

Relative to other parts of the country Melton experiences low levels of deprivation; 1 in 16 of the Borough's population (6.4%) falls within the areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 50.1% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple-deprivation, is seen in relation to health – yet less so. Just over 1 in 8 of Melton's population (13.2%) falls within the areas covered by the four most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.40%. Conversely, 66.4% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

³ 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 2.3: IMD cohorts - Melton

IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	20.0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	30.0	3,284	6.4%	6.4%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	40.0	3,418	6.7%	13.2%	6,702	13.2%	13.2%
	50.0	1,799	3.5%	16.7%	3,775	7.4%	20.6%
	60.0	8,376	16.4%	33.1%	3,461	6.8%	27.4%
Least deprived	70.0	8,559	16.8%	49.9%	3,192	6.3%	33.6%
	80.0	4,665	9.2%	59.1%	10,726	21.0%	54.7%
	90.0	10,780	21.2%	80.2%	14,002	27.5%	82.1%
	100.0	10,075	19.8%	100.0%	9,098	17.9%	100.0%

Figure 2.9: IMD multiple and health deprivation

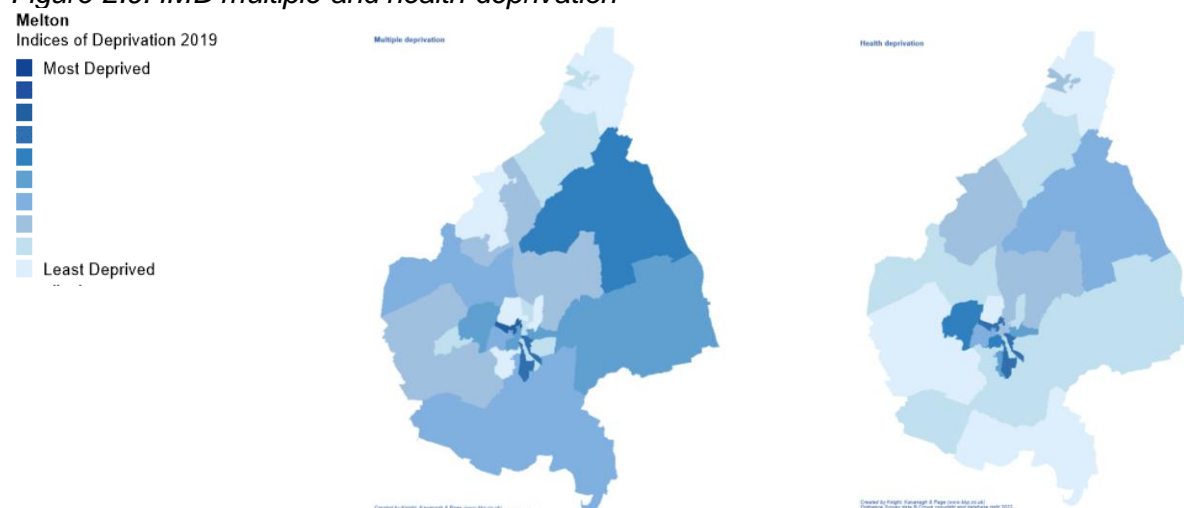
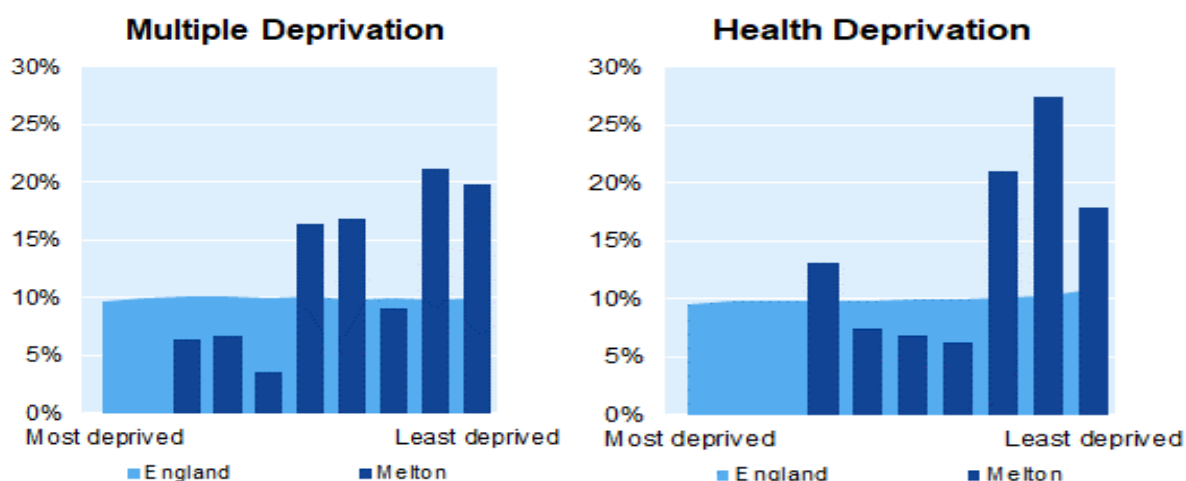


Figure 2.10: IMD and health domain comparisons – Melton and England.



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Health data (Data sources: ONS):

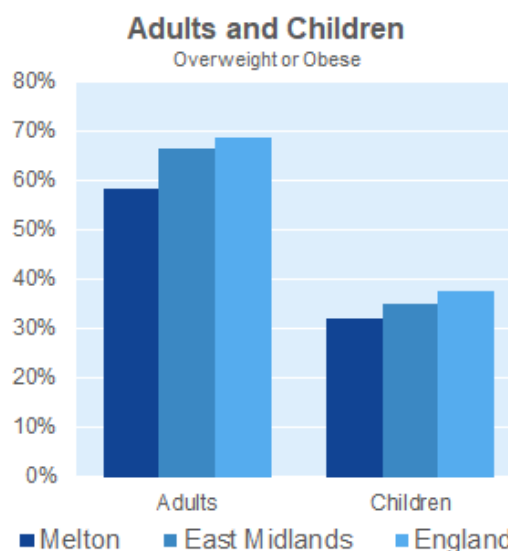
In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Melton is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 80.7 (England; 79.6) and the female equivalent is 83.8 compared to 83.2 nationally.⁴

Weight and obesity (Data sources: NCMP⁵ and NOO⁶)

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 obesity⁷ are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

Adult rates of being either overweight or obese in Melton are below national and regional rates. Child rates are also below both national and regional rates.

Figure 2.10: Adult and child obesity rates



Health costs of physical inactivity

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

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

The whole Melton population falls within the boundaries of NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group – CCG. This covers Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Melton, Oadby & Wigston and Rutland).

The total annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity for the CCG within which Melton falls is estimated at £2,632,074.

When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCG (£819,029) are 1.6% above the national average (£806,244) and 1.0% below the regional average (£827,050).

⁴ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

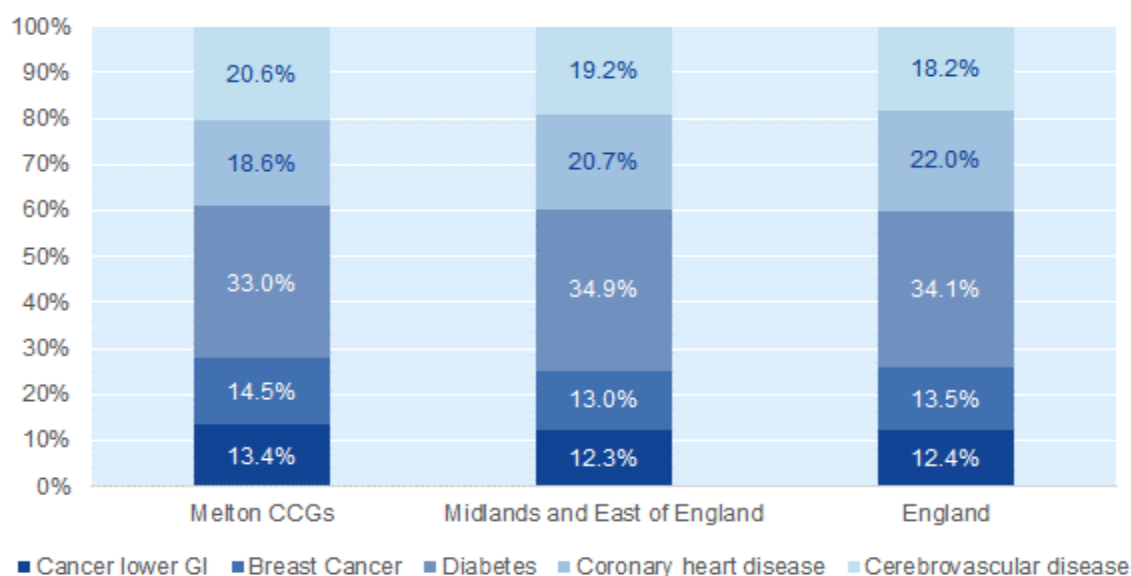
⁵ National Child Measurement Program

⁶ National Obesity Observatory

⁷ Adult Weight Data is for the period 2016-2017. The child data is for the period 2017-2018

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Figure 2.11: Health costs of physical inactivity



Active Lives Survey 2020/21

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified below, a lower percentage of the Melton population is inactive compared to England and the East Midlands and a higher percentage is considered to be active.

Figure 2.12: Levels of activity

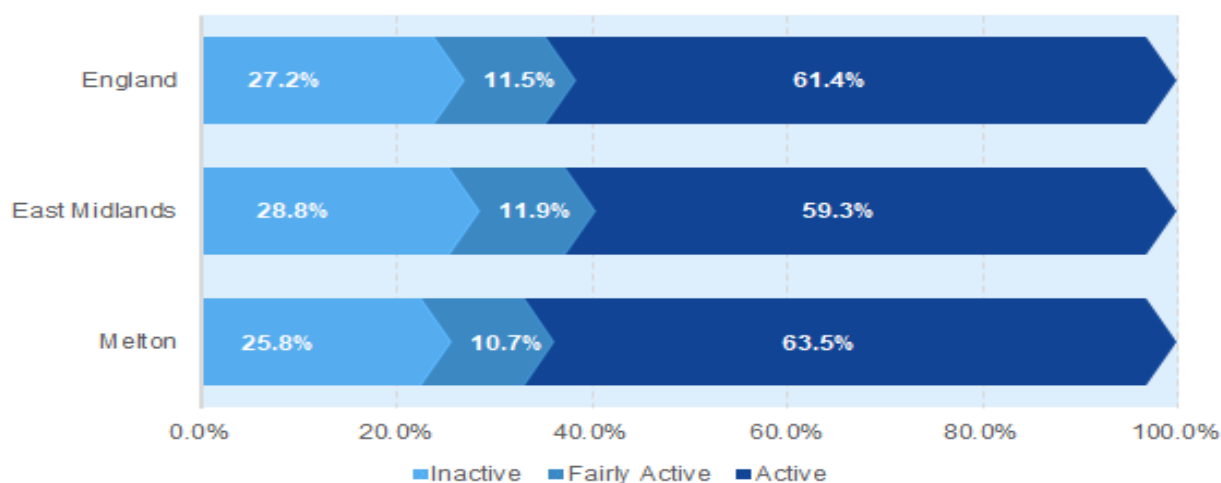


Table 2.4: Active Lives Survey results November 2020/21

	Inactive (<30 minutes per week)		Fairly Active (30-149 minutes per week)		Active (150+ minutes per week)	
England	12,410,300	27.2%	5,248,600	11.5%	28,039,000	61.4%
East Midlands	1,140,800	28.8%	472,500	11.9%	2,350,000	59.3%
Melton	11,000	25.8%	4,500	10.7%	27,000	63.5%

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

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The most popular sports and physical activities

ALS also makes it possible to identify the top five sports within Melton. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in Melton around 3 in 10 of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 18.5% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.



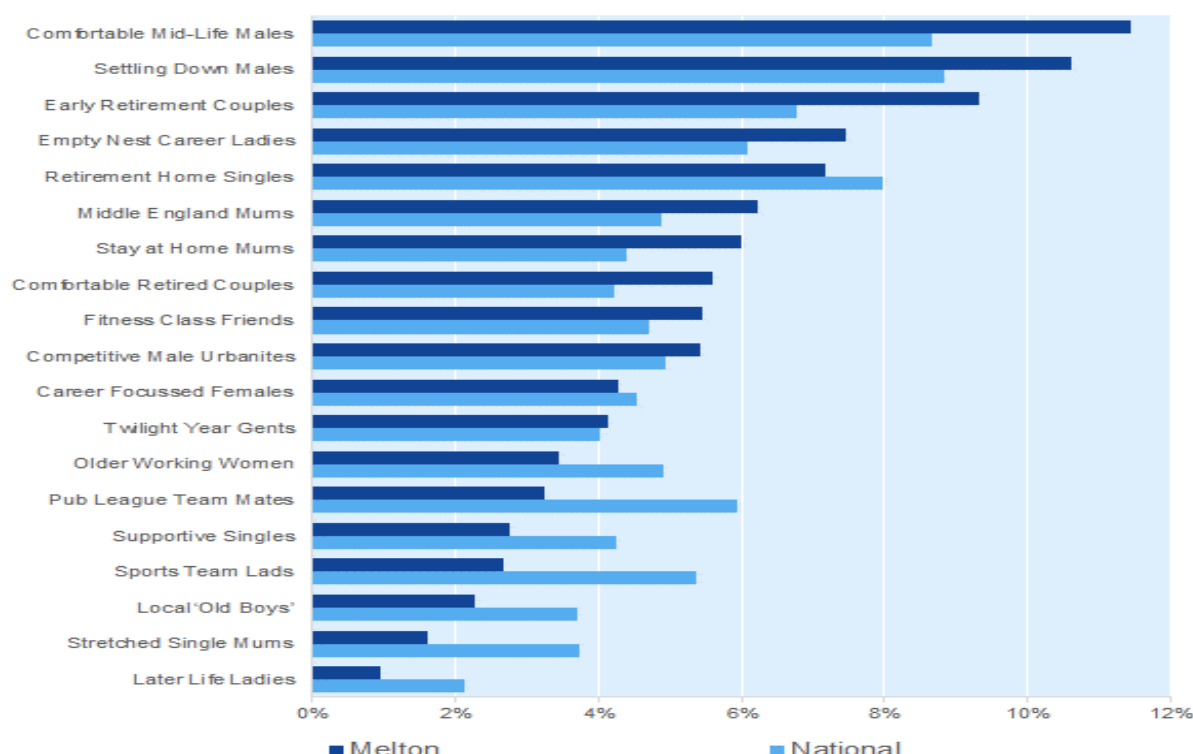
Table 2.5: Most popular sports in Melton (Source: SE Active Lives Survey Nov 19/20)

Sport	Melton		East Midlands		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Fitness	11,900	28.2%	1,025,700	26.1%	12,720,400	28.0%
Cycling	7,800	18.5%	688,700	17.5%	8,289,500	18.2%
Athletics	7,100	16.7%	557,400	14.2%	7,097,500	15.6%
Swimming	2,300	5.4%	169,800	4.3%	2,355,300	5.2%
Golf	800	2.0%	63,700	1.6%	806,800	1.8%

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

Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments to provide insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country.

Figure 2.13: SE segmentation – Melton compared to England



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They 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. Segmentation is designed to enable partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

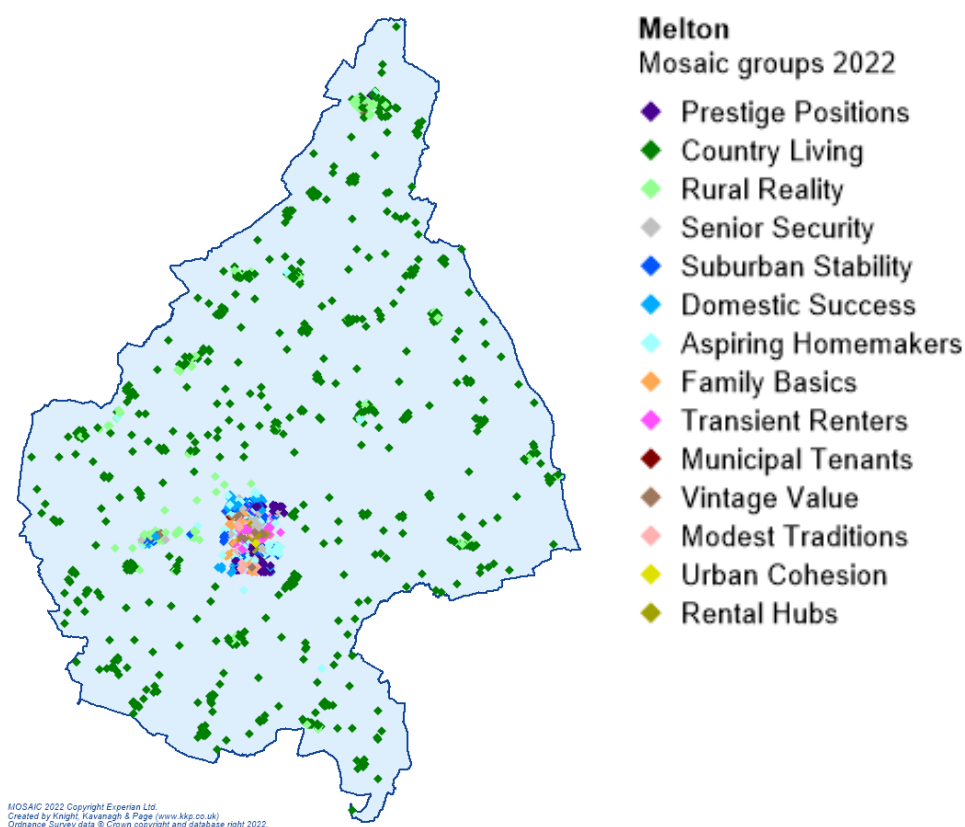
The profile for Melton indicates that 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' is the largest segment of the adult population at 11.42% (4,494) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (10.6%) and 'Early Retirement Couples' (9.33%).

At the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies (0.96%), 'Stretched Single Mums' (1.61%) and 'Local 'Old Boys" (2.27%).

Mosaic (Data source: 2022 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2022 is a similar consumer segmentation product and classifies all 28.6 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data can be used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour and tends to be used to draw out population characteristics for the backdrop to library usage and other non-sporting activities. The following table shows the top five mosaic classifications in Melton compared to the country as a whole. The dominance of these five segments can be seen inasmuch as they represent 7 in 10 (70.4%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just under 2 in 5 (39.2%).

Figure 2.14: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Melton



The largest segment profiled for Melton is the Country Living group; at 31.3% of the local adult population, this is 4 times the national rate (7.1%).

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Table 2.6: Mosaic – main population segments in Melton

Mosaic group description	Melton		National %
	#	%	
1 - Country Living	16,486	31.3%	7.1%
2 - Rural Reality	6,640	12.6%	7.2%
3 - Aspiring Homemakers	6,622	12.6%	10.5%
4 - Suburban Stability	3,821	7.3%	5.6%
5 - Domestic Success	3,541	6.7%	8.8%

Table 2.7: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Melton




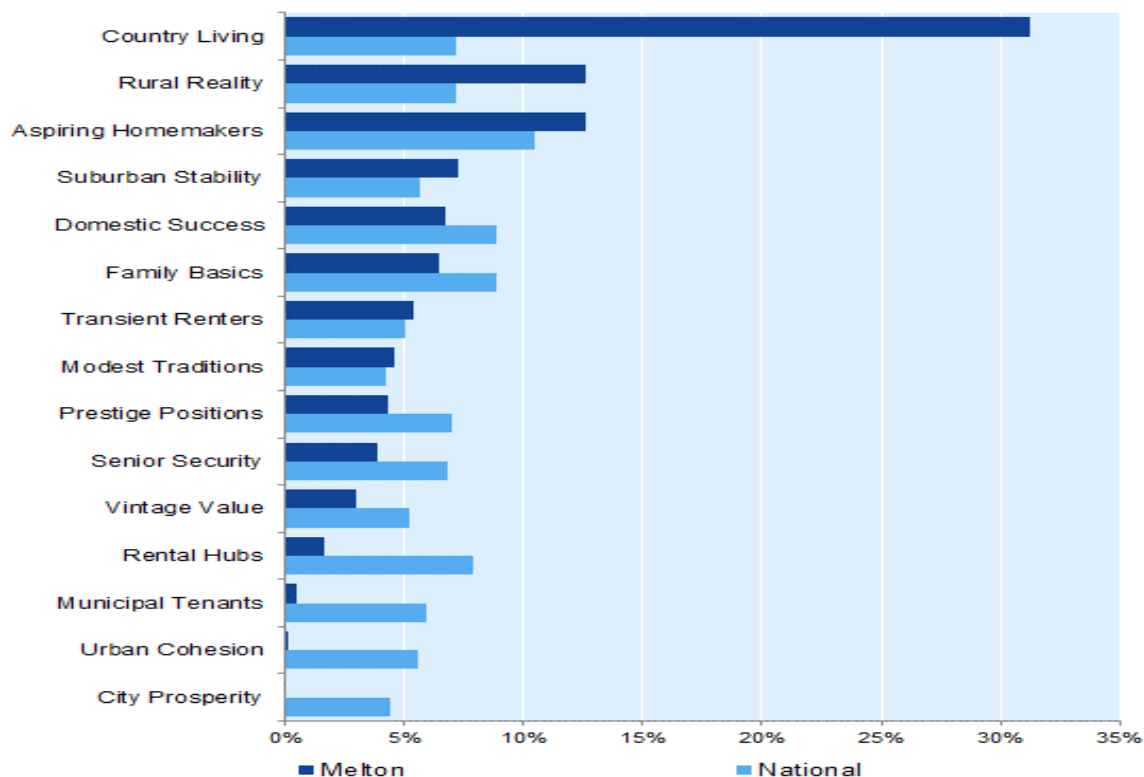
Country Living		Well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities. Some people are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired and others commute distances to professional jobs.
Rural Reality		People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
Aspiring Homemakers		Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.

Figure 2.15: Mosaic segmentation – Melton compared to nationally



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Population projections

Strategic planning: Change over 18 years (2018 to 2036⁸) ONS

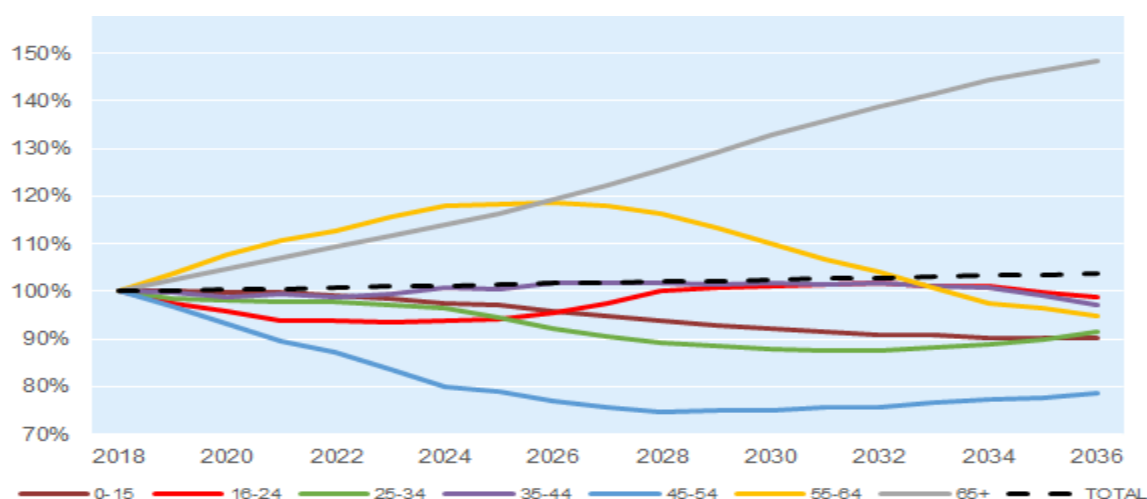
There will be a rise of 3.8% in Melton’s population (+1,922) over the 18 years from 2018 to 2036. Over this timeframe, several key points for Melton are outlined below:

- By 2027, the number of 0-15 year olds will fall by -458 (-5.1%).
- The predicted decrease in the number of 16-24 year olds, -2.5% in the first period (-107) followed by growth of 1.4% (+61) in the second period. This may make, Sport England’s target to ‘increase the number of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week’ difficult.
- The number of 45-54 year olds falls by 24.3% over the first half (-2,002) and increases by 3.6% over the second half (225).
- There will be a continuous increase in the number of persons aged 65+. This is estimated to be +22.4% (+2,582) in the first period rising to +48.4% (+5,577) over the whole 2018-2036 period. This age group represented 22.6% of Melton’s population in 2018 will account for 32.3% of the total by 2036 - this is one third of the population.

Table 2.8: Melton - ONS projected population (2018 to 2036)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2036		
	2018	2027	2036	2018	2027	2036	2018	2027	2036
0-15	9,033	8,575	8,159	17.7%	16.5%	15.4%	100.0%	94.9%	90.3%
16-24	4,371	4,264	4,325	8.6%	8.2%	8.2%	100.0%	97.5%	98.9%
25-34	5,097	4,613	4,661	10.0%	8.9%	8.8%	100.0%	90.5%	91.4%
35-44	5,536	5,634	5,385	10.8%	10.8%	10.2%	100.0%	101.8%	97.3%
45-54	8,247	6,245	6,470	16.1%	12.0%	12.2%	100.0%	75.7%	78.5%
55-64	7,290	8,595	6,919	14.3%	16.5%	13.1%	100.0%	117.9%	94.9%
65+	11,526	14,108	17,103	22.6%	27.1%	32.3%	100.0%	122.4%	148.4%
Total	51,100	52,035	53,022	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	101.8%	103.8%

Figure 2.16: Projected population change (2018 -2036) ONS



⁸ Office for National Statistics 2018-based population projections (data released March 2020)

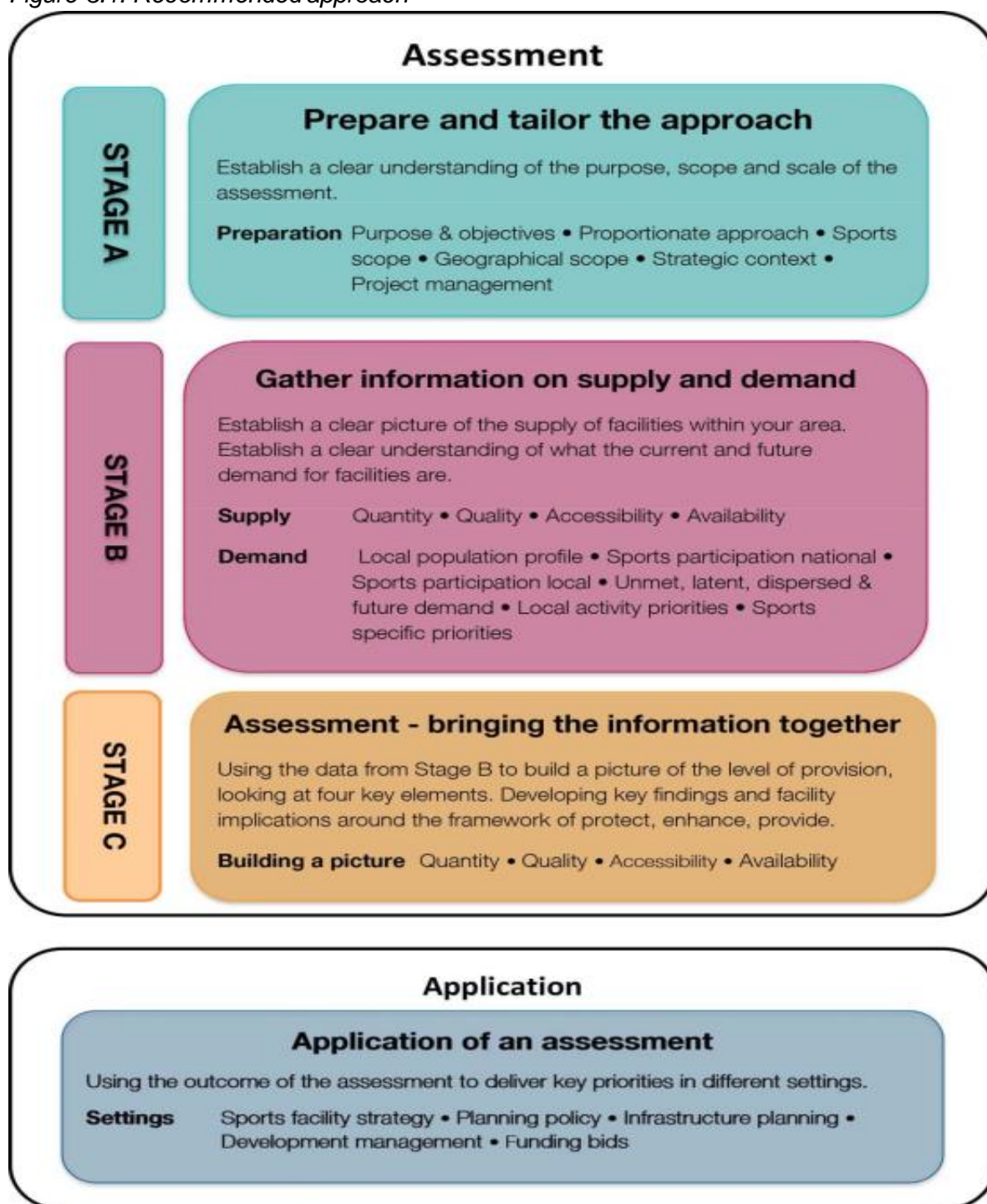
MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

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

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



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

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

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

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

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

3.2: Site visits

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

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

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

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INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

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

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

3.3 Catchment areas

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

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

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

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SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are key sports facilities for community sport and allow a range of sports and recreational activities to be played. The standard methodology for measuring them is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. They are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least three badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. It should be noted, however, that a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than their 3-court counterpart.

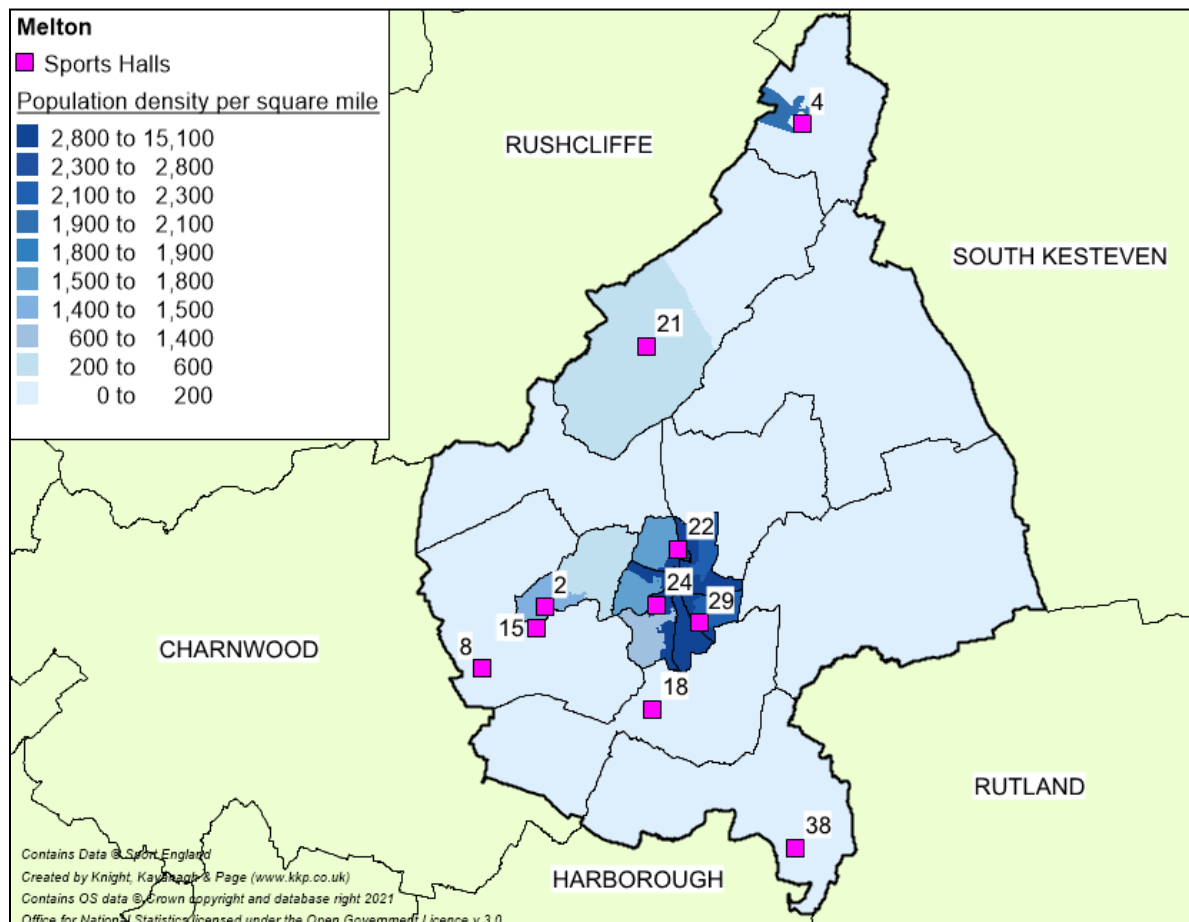
Larger halls, (e.g., those with 6-8 courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day to day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment considers all 3+ court facilities in Melton. Halls that function as specialist venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

4.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 11 sports halls accommodating 29 badminton courts in Melton borough.

Figure 4.1: All sports halls on population density



MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.1: All sports halls/activity halls in Melton

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Map ID	Site name	Courts
2	Asfordby Acres	3	21	Hose Village Hall	1
4	Belvoir High School	4	22	John Femeley College	4
4	Belvoir High School	1	24	Long Field Academy	4
8	Brooksby Melton College	4	29	Melton Sports Village	4
15	Frisby Village Hall	0	38	The Grange Therapeutic	3
18	Great Dalby Primary School	1	TOTAL		29

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

Four of the sports halls listed have two badminton courts or fewer. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, their size limits the range and scale of recreational/sporting activity that can be accommodated. Belvoir High School has more than one activity/sports hall on site. Table 4.2 identifies the four halls excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., they have fewer than three marked badminton courts).

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

Map ID	Site name	Courts
4	Belvoir High School	1
15	Frisby Village Hall	0
18	Great Dalby Primary School	1
21	Hose Village Hall	1
TOTAL		3

The remaining seven sports halls have 3+ marked badminton courts as set out in Table 4.3 and shown in Figure 4.2. They are distributed in the Borough's more densely populated areas. Spatially there are provision gaps in the north, east and south areas however, they are rural and sparsely populated and there is, thus, low demand for larger sports hall provision.

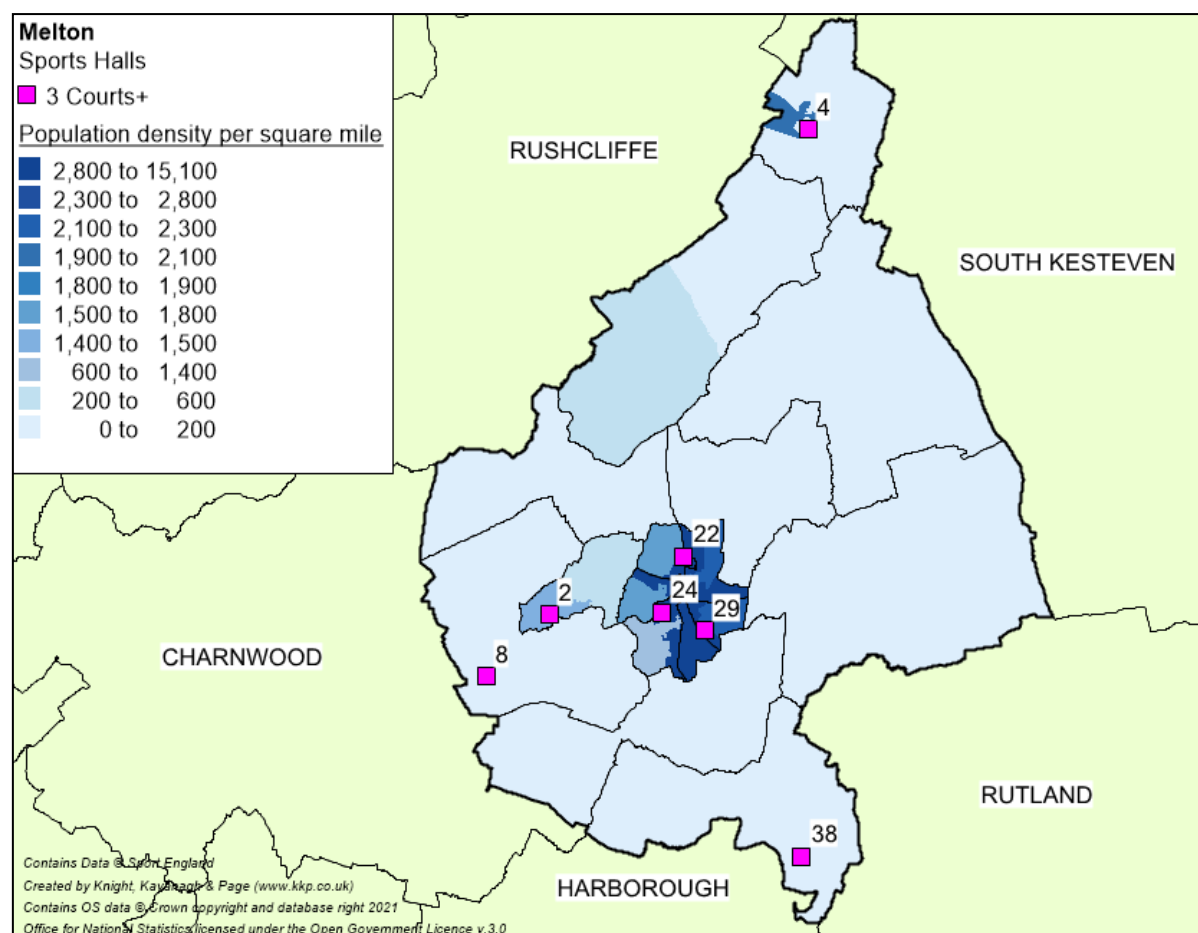
Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ courts

Map ID	Site name	Courts
2	Asfordby Acres	3
4	Belvoir High School	4
8	Brooksby Melton College	4
22	John Femeley College	4
24	Long Field Academy	4
29	Melton Sports Village	4
38	The Grange Therapeutic School	3
TOTAL		26

All the larger sports halls have four courts with the exception of Asfordby Acres and The Grange Therapeutic School which have three.

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Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts



Facility quality

All the 3+ court sports halls except the Grange Therapeutic School (to which access was not obtained) were subject to a non-technical assessment to ascertain quality. These took place in October 2022, so sports hall investment undertaken after this date is not accounted for.

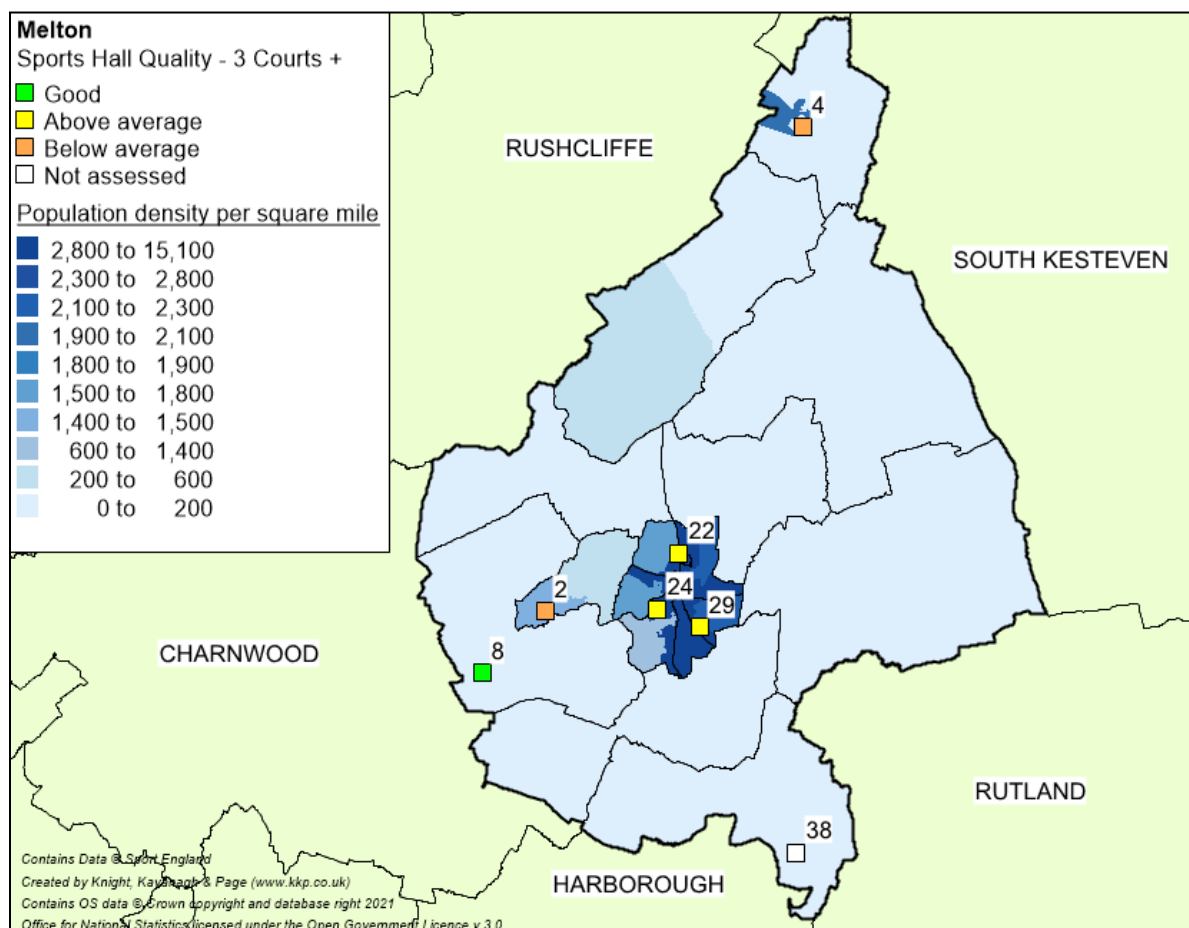
Table 4.4: Quality of sports halls

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
9	Asfordby Acres	3	Below average	Not assessed
12	Belvoir High School	4	Below average	Not assessed
17	Brooksby Melton College	4	Good	Good
21	John Ferneley College	4	Above average	Above average
28	Long Field Academy	4	Above average	Above average
36	Melton Sports Village	4	Above average	Below average
38	The Grange Therapeutic School	3	Not assessed	Not assessed

Most halls other than the one at Asfordby Acres, have been refurbished at some point over the last 20 years. There is no detail about this with regard to the Grange Therapeutic School.

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Figure 4.3: Quality of sports halls 3+ courts



The (4-court) sports hall at Brooksby Melton College is the only one assessed as good quality, three are above average and the remainder below average. The Grange Therapeutic School was not assessed. Consultation with Brooksby Melton College highlights that its facility opened seven years ago and is still in pristine quality showing minimal signs of wear and tear (primarily due to it being used privately by the College only and the closures experienced during the Covid-19 lockdowns).

The John Ferneley College site is rated above average it is a modern hall and reports good usage levels. Long Field Academy is also rated as above average quality. It has under floor heating and the sports hall space has soundproofing. It has also recently been refurbished. A new floor was installed at Melton Sports Village in May 2022. The operator reports high levels of maintenance to ensure the quality remains high at this venue.

Changing provision quality is generally commensurate with that of sports halls. Melton Sports Village is the exception (its sports hall floor was refurbished in 2022 and is considered better quality than the changing rooms). This sports hall does not have any partition nets which limits programming options; as a result, it only accommodates whole hall bookings.

Whilst the operator is investing in customer areas, facility fabric, design and non-customer facing areas generally reflect its age (opened 1965). There is a need to modernise it to meet modern user needs and activity trends and to make it more efficient to operate.

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Table 4.5: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls *

Site	Year built/ opened	Year refurbished	Age since opened / refurbishment
Asfordby Acres	1988	-	34
Belvoir High School	1973	2004	18
Brooksby Melton College	2015	-	7
John Ferneley College	2010	-	12
Long Field Academy	2010	-	12
Melton Sports Village	1997	2022	1
The Grange Therapeutic School	1985	-	37

*Years are as specified in Active Places Database 20/12/2022

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 an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area:

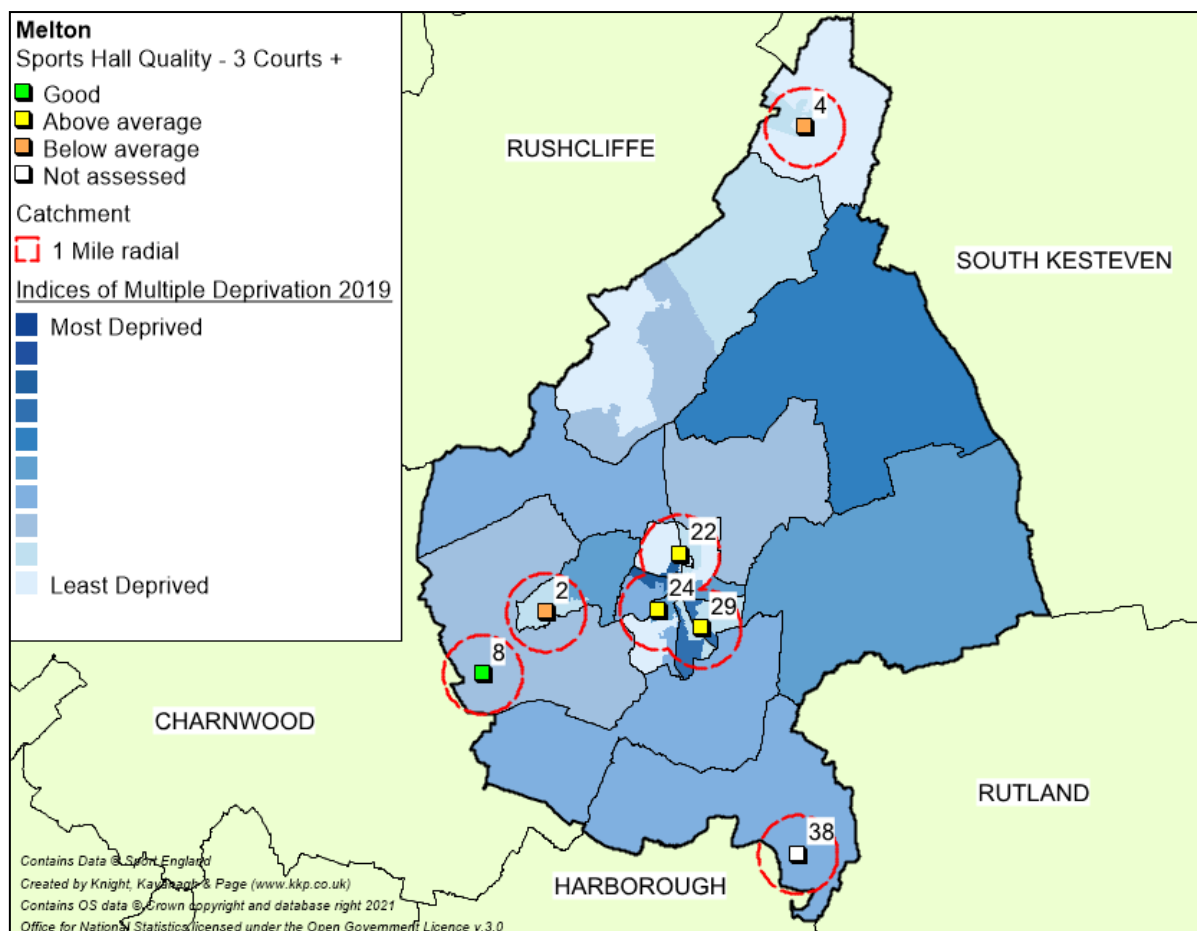
- 27,874 residents live within one mile of a sports hall (54.7% of the total population).
- 3,284 people (6.4% of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- Of these, the majority (2,912; 88.6%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.

Table 4.6: Accessibility to sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Melton		Sports halls minimum 3 courts+ catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,284	6.4%	2,912	5.7%	372	0.7%
30.1 - 40	3,418	6.7%	3,053	6.0%	365	0.7%
40.1 - 50	1,799	3.5%	0	0.0%	1,799	3.5%
50.1 - 60	8,376	16.4%	4,318	8.5%	4,058	8.0%
60.1 - 70	8,559	16.8%	2,474	4.9%	6,085	11.9%
70.1 - 80	4,665	9.2%	459	0.9%	4,206	8.3%
80.1 - 90	10,780	21.2%	8,442	16.6%	2,338	4.6%
90.1 - 100	10,075	19.8%	6,216	12.2%	3,859	7.6%
Total	50,956	100.0%	27,874	54.7%	23,082	45.3%

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



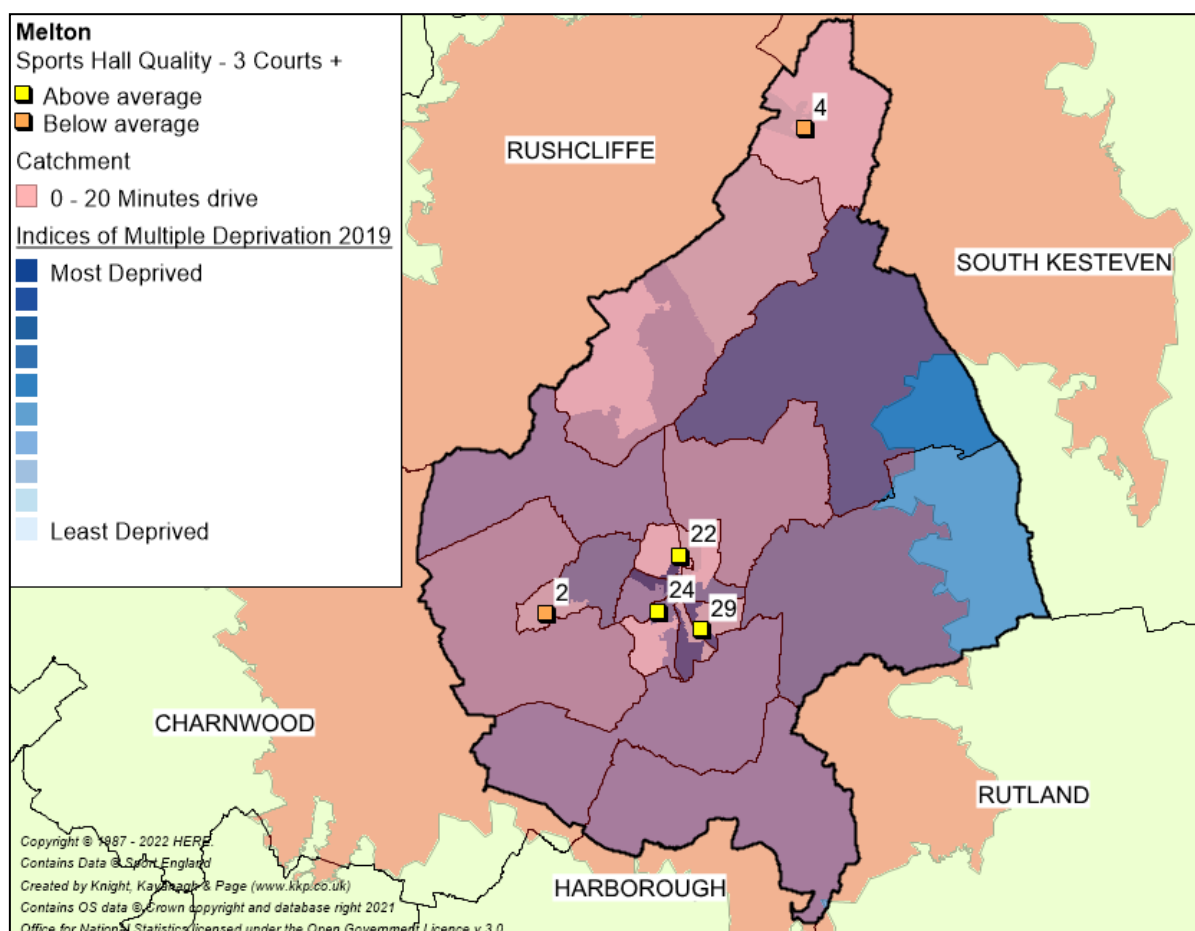
It is reported that 13.1% of the population do not have access to a car meaning that just under 3,000 people in Melton’s population are reliant on limited public transport or walking to get to a sports hall. This can add to the cost of participation.

The fact that 88% of those living in areas of higher deprivation live within one mile of a sports hall suggests that the current location of the sports halls is good especially for a rural authority.

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that over 96% of Melton’s population lives within a 20-minute drive of a publicly accessible sports hall with three or more badminton courts, or sports hall of equivalent dimensions. This is shown in Figure 4.6 overleaf.

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Figure 4.5: IMD with 20 minutes drive time (excluding private use)



Facilities in neighbouring local authority areas

There is only one site in neighbouring authorities within two miles of the local authority boundary. Catmose Sports Centre. It has two halls, an 8-court hall and a 3-court hall. It is likely to be attracting residents from the Southeast of Melton to use its facilities. For some residents, it may be the closest facility.

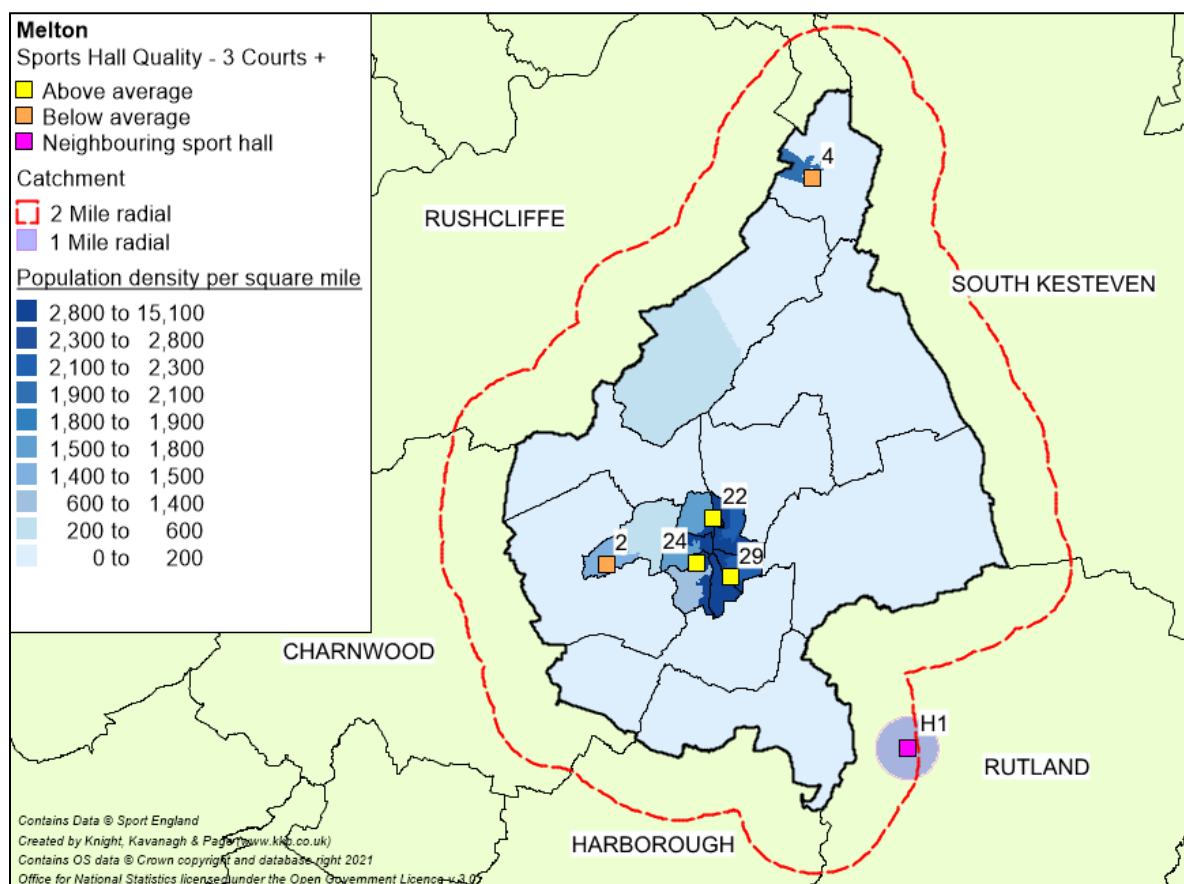
Table 4.7: neighbouring sports halls – minimum 3 court (excluding private use)

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H1	Catmose Sports Centre	3	Pay & Play	Rutland
H1	Catmose Sports Centre	8	Pay & Play	Rutland

Source: Active Places Power 24/01/2023

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Figure 4.6: Neighbouring sports halls with community use (2 mile boundary)



Availability and facility management

Sports hall management and ownership varies. MBC owns one which is managed by the Council’s leisure provider, Everyone Active, the rest are managed in house. Three are used privately only by the relevant education establishment.

Table 4.8: Ownership and management of sports hall facilities

Site	Ownership	Management
Asfordby Acres	Sports club	Sports club
Belvoir High School	Academy	Private use only
Brooksby Melton College	Community school	Private use only
John Ferneley College	Community school	In house
Long Field Academy	Academy	In house
Melton Sports Village	Local Authority	Trust (Everyone Active)
The Grange Therapeutic School	Independent School	Private use only

Asfordby Acres sports hall is owned and managed by Asfordby Acres Football Club. The majority of usage is for its own football teams. As it is only a 3-court hall, it has limitations in respect of what sports could hire the facility.

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Daytime availability

Daytime availability is limited due to the constraints on education sites. Melton Sports Village and Asfordby Acres are the only sports halls that are publicly available during the day. The others are located on education sites – of these, the ones available for community use are limited to evening access only.

Table 4.9: Community use hours and activities that take place in sports halls in Melton

Community use hours		Map ID	Site	Total courts	Main sports played
None		38	Grange Therapeutic School	3	N/A
		4	Belvoir High School	4	N/A
		8	Brooksby Melton College	4	N/A
40+	46	24	Long Field Academy	4	Badminton, netball, indoor cricket, volleyball
	48	22	John Ferneley College	4	Basketball, badminton, indoor football
	92.0	29	Melton Sports Village	4	Basketball, netball, table tennis, 5-a-side football, walking football, indoor hockey, dance, martial arts
	122	2	Asfordby Acres	3	Football

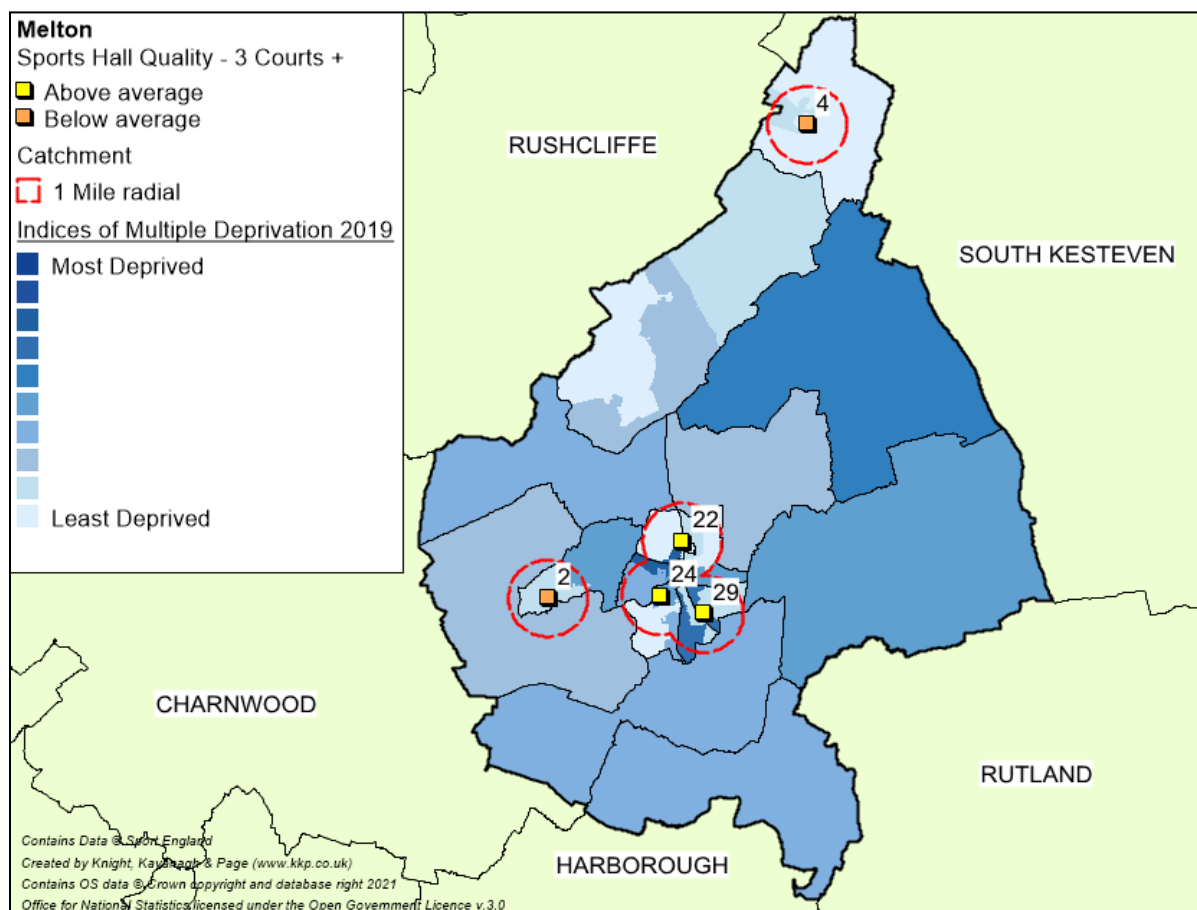
Traditional mainstream sports are catered for at most sites. Melton Sports Village has the most varied programme; this includes some of the less traditional sports such as indoor hockey, dance and martial arts. Some older people prefer to use facilities during daylight hours and, given that the number/proportion of older people (aged 65+) in the Authority is rising (from 22.6% in 2018 to 32.3% in 2038) daytime access will be a challenge in the future.

Table 4.10: IMD 2019: Melton 3+ courts excluding private use, 1-mile radial

IMD 10% bands	Melton		Sports halls minimum 3 courts+ excluding private use. Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,284	6.4%	2,913	5.7%	371	0.7%
30.1 - 40	3,418	6.7%	3,054	6.0%	364	0.7%
40.1 - 50	1,799	3.5%	0	0.0%	1,799	3.5%
50.1 - 60	8,376	16.4%	4,322	8.5%	4,054	8.0%
60.1 - 70	8,559	16.8%	2,209	4.3%	6,350	12.5%
70.1 - 80	4,665	9.2%	198	0.4%	4,467	8.8%
80.1 - 90	10,780	21.2%	8,444	16.6%	2,336	4.6%
90.1 - 100	10,075	19.8%	6,220	12.2%	3,855	7.6%
Total	50,956	100.0%	27,360	53.7%	23,596	46.3%

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.7: sports halls (3+ courts) by condition on IMD; 1 mile walk time (exclude private use)



Future developments

There are no known plans to develop new sports halls in the Borough other than the aspiration to replace MSV and Waterfield Leisure Centre with a single wet/dry facility.

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's Discover Badminton 2017-2025 strategy presents its vision to be one of the nation's most popular and to win World, Olympic and Paralympic medals. Key objectives are to:

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

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Badminton Facilities Strategy Model 2020-2030 – Melton overview

Badminton participation statistics

- 1.95% of adults (42.44%; male and 57.56%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days⁹. This equates to **800 regular adult players**.
- 6.00%¹⁰ of juniors⁹ have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **167 regular junior players**.
- It is estimated that 6.01% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **1,700 occasional adult players**¹¹ (4.06% 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 **267 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 **32 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **44 court hours** (latent demand).
- To service all badminton demand there is a need for **343 court hours** per week.
- Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **13 court hours**.

Supply

- There are seven (3+court) sports halls containing 26 courts in Melton.
- One hall is for private use only; thus 23 courts are available for badminton.
- The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Melton during stated peak time is **866**¹²
- 69.57%¹³ of badminton courts in Melton meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **592 court hours**¹⁴.
- There is a need for **57.94%** of the **592** 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 **13**.

Strategic overview

There are below average badminton participation rates in line with ALS findings. Just two affiliated clubs suggest a relatively weak badminton infrastructure. Two thirds of facilities meet the BE quality threshold.

BE performance centres

Elite and talented players must currently travel out of the area to access a Performance Centre. The nearest ones are located in Leicester and Nottingham.

⁹ 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

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

¹² 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

¹³ National figure: 75.0%

¹⁴ Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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Both BE affiliated clubs were approached for consultation; however, only Melton Old Grammarians BC responded.

Table 4.11: Badminton club locations

Badminton club name	Home facility
Melton Old Grammarians BC	Long Field Academy
Meltonshire BC	Long Field Academy

Club consultation:

Melton Old Grammarians Badminton Club: is based at Long Field Academy. It facilitates opportunity for adults and juniors but has limited capacity for more members. It has 40 junior and 35 adult members with a 60:40 male to female ratio. It fields seven adult teams. It has aspirations to renew membership lost during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns.

It reports that c. seven years ago, the some of its more talented players set up their own club creating a second in the area and that this had a detrimental effect. As a result, it changed focus, became more of a community club and now actively promotes the sport in schools.

It hosts a junior coaching programme (supported by Rutland Sports Association) attracting hundreds of children to participate from the various schools that it visits. It also actively promotes sessions on social media and advertises the Club.

It hires the Long Field Academy sports hall on a Monday evening for four hours and a Wednesday and a Thursday for two hours per week. It reports that the caretakers take good care of the site and that it is a good facility, the sports hall is painted a good colour (it is not a white wall which is a challenge in the local area) and the floor is good quality. The changing rooms and toilets are stated to be adequate but not good quality. Most Club players turn up changed and ready to play.

The Club reports limited sports hall availability and that it would struggle to obtain additional timeslots or venues as there is limited provision in the area. It does, however, plan to introduce pay-and-play opportunities for non-badminton players as a recruitment tool to get them involved in the sport.

Coaching courses are funded by the Club itself and it has a good structure in place to do this. Coaches 'pay back' via volunteering their time to coach a number of hours at Club sessions. It reports that it has an adequate number of coaches to meet its needs.

Despite multiple requests, the Meltonshire Badminton Club did not respond. Desk research indicates that it is also based at Long Field Academy; it hires the sports hall on a Tuesday evening for two hours.

Netball

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

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The strategy outlines the intention to:

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

At the heart of its purpose, EN 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.

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.

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

- ◀ Facilitate informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi-use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all primary and secondary school environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out-of-school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all-year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports 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 the sport to be growing fast nationally with a recently commissioned YouGov^[1] report noting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport. In addition, 71% of clubs reported more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Netball is played both indoors and outdoors. For outdoor provision please refer to the 2023 Melton Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy.

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

- ◀ *Back 2 Netball*- sessions are designed to re-introduce players to the sport. Sessions are run by coaches and held at Melton Sports Village. These are delivered in partnership with Melton Marvels Netball Club.
- ◀ *Walking Netball* - this is netball played at a walking pace. It has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. One weekly session takes place at Melton Sports Village on Mondays from 11.00-12.00 and costs £2.00 per session.

The two affiliated clubs in the Authority are Melton Marvels and Melton Mowbray Netball Club. Both compete in the *Leicester Netball League as well as the Rutland County Netball League*. The Leicester Netball League is EN affiliated and runs summer (outdoor) and winter (indoor) leagues. Consultation reports that for the 2020/2021 winter season it had a total of 20 teams across two divisions.

Brooksby Melton College is the performance venue for Charnwood Rutland Netball Club.

Club consultation:

Melton Marvels Netball Club was established 10 years ago initially from a 'Back to Netball' session. It was originally for members aged 16 years+ but has gradually, over the years, has introduced a youth section.

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

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Prior to the Pandemic, it had four adult teams. Presently it has 30 adult members with two teams (one competing in the Leicester League the other in the Rutland League). There are also 40 members in its junior section (6-16 years) and it has three teams competing in the youth league. There is also a Bee netball team (for 5-9 year olds) which competes in occasional tournaments.

Prior to the Pandemic, it was based at Long Field Academy on one evening per week from 18.00 onwards. It has, since, had to transfer play to outdoor courts at Melton Sports Village due to losing its sports hall slot. According to club members, this is not ideal as this makes it weather-dependent and when raining court surfaces are slippery. It would prefer to play indoors, especially in respect of catering for its younger players. It has since regained a slot back at the school and now splits teams across both sites, with netball youth to 16 sessions held at Long Field Academy where it has a 1.5-hour weekly session.

It is important to note that its access to the school sports hall ceases completely during exam periods. This is unhelpful for competitive teams as they have no training sessions during this time and are only able to play matches at the dedicated facilities at which they compete in their respective leagues.

The Club reports that there are no suitable outdoor floodlit netball courts in the whole of Melton and that this limits its offering, hindering growth and causing it to lose promising players. These are being directed to Charnwood Rutland Netball Club. Some of its senior ladies players have also moved on to play for other Loughborough League teams.

Its connection with Loughborough Lightning provides training days/pathway hubs to/for some Melton residents.

Car parking at both the indoor and outdoor sites it uses tend to be really busy. In general, netball makes minimal use of changing facilities, as players normally arrive changed ready to play and return home to shower. Toilets are reportedly satisfactory at the Sports Village, but poor at Long Field Academy.

Club members reported being unable to access the main school toilets and instead use the old ones which are of relatively poor quality. This is a disappointing aspect of their booking as they consider themselves to provide a considerable proportion of site income. There is also no access to storage at either site so the Club has to transport equipment to and from each session.

Melton Mowbray Netball Club has 20 members; forming two open aged teams. It competes in the Leicester Netball League. All league games take place at Soar Valley College on Tuesday nights. It is dedicated to netball and is classed as a netball centre. According to the club, changing facilities and toilets are good here. Parking is sufficient but gets congested at busy times.

Its gold team plays in the higher division whereas its silver team is more recreational in focus and is just about playing and having fun.

Pre-Covid, it had its own training sessions hiring courts at Brooksby Melton College and paying for its own coaches to lead these sessions. Because it has struggled with player numbers this was cancelled. Players complain that the venue was not located near to them and was slightly out the way.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The two clubs now train together at Melton Sports Village on Monday evenings and the Melton Mowbray club has now also moved back to Long Field Academy. The two clubs have not merged and remain separate entities although they are in discussion about this eventuality. It is reported that outstanding financial matters remain to be resolved before further discussion can take place.

Basketball (BBE)

BBE is the NGB for the sport in England. Its latest strategy, Growing Basketball Together 2018-2024 aims to give direction, focus and advert for all stakeholders to help leverage a better future for basketball and support the thousands of people benefitting from our sport.

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

- ◀ Grow and retain participation.
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure.
- ◀ Have a world-class talent system.
- ◀ Be a high performing NGB.

The one affiliated club in the Borough is Melton Mowbray Kings Basketball Club.

Club consultation:

Melton Mowbray Kings Basketball Club was founded in 1973. It has c.70 members of varying ages and runs three men's, one women's and two junior teams plus a disability group. It is based at the sports hall at John Ferneley School where it hires three hours every evening Monday to Thursday for its various teams' coaching sessions and matches.

It also has a partnership with the Beavers (Belvoir Sports Activities) based in Leicester. This group actively coordinates sessions in the area with young children and schools. Players that show an interest in a particular sport are linked to the Club enabling it to grow its junior membership.

Its main concern is the lack of volunteer coaches. It has offered the parents of junior members the chance to take coaching and refereeing courses but this has not resulted in as many recruits as it would have liked.

It reports that John Ferneley College has a good facility that meets its needs. The Club has replaced the basketball nets on occasions when they have ripped and has access to the changing rooms which it considers to be of standard quality. It is primarily its men's teams which use them, most other players shower and change at home.

It reports post Covid membership numbers to be on the rise. More people have tended to take part and have changed their mindset on physical activity and wellbeing. There is an uptake of people wishing to be more active.

It is growing as its U16's moved into the U18's category providing more adult male members and another team to field. It aspires to bring more women to the game but, thus far, the local sessions hosted in conjunction with the Council have not been that successful. Users acquire an initial interest but then drop off as time goes by.

BBE was contacted on several occasions, but no response was received.

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INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

This 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 (district) 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.

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 Melton’s population will lead to an increase in demand for sports halls to accommodate demand.

Table 4.12: Sport England: Sports Facilities Calculator

	Provision for 2018 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2027 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2036 population (mid-year estimate)
ONS population projections	51,100	52,035	53,022
Population increase	-	+935	+987
Facilities to meet additional demand	3.52 14.08	3.58 halls 14.33 courts	3.65 14.61
Estimated cost	£9,986,383	£10,169,108	£10,361,996

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will marginally increase demand for sports hall space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 0.25 courts up to 2027 and 0.28 badminton courts up to 2036 (estimated cost: £192,888).

Investment is required in improving the quality and capacity of the existing stock prior to considering the development of a new sports hall.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Sports halls		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Melton has 11 sports halls at 10 sites (29 courts). It has with 3+ courts at seven sites (26 badminton courts).	There is some capacity at existing facilities to accommodate an increase in population.
Quality	One sports hall is good, three above average, and two below average quality halls. One was unassessed.	Investment is required at the below average sports halls if they are to meet modern user expectations. There is a need to maintain the quality of the three above-average sites.
Accessibility	96% of the population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a sports hall. 54.7% of the population lives within 20 minutes' walk of a sports hall. 88.6% of deprived area residents live within one mile of a sports hall. Catmose Sports Centre which is within two miles of MBC's border has an 8-court and 3-court sports hall.	Main population settlements in the Borough are serviced by sports hall facilities. For some residents, the nearest sports hall may be located in a neighbouring authority.
Availability (Management and usage)	The limited current daytime availability in the area is provided at Melton Sports Village and Asfordby Acres. MSV is limited due to school booking commitment (two hours per day). MBC owns one facility - managed by Everyone Active. The other is managed in house by the education provider/club. Three are only used only by the education establishment.	Continued good relationships between schools and clubs are required to ensure continued/increased use of sites. Programming is of key importance to enable daytime access for older people. Positive engagement with education providers is needed to maintain and increase community access.
Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Assessment of Sports Hall Provision Report for Melton Borough Council (2022)	There is only one public leisure centre sports hall in the Borough which is Melton Sports Village. Although partially refurbished in 2022, this sports hall was opened in 1965 and so as reported, the changing rooms etc. are below average standard. The longevity of this facility should be investigated as it is located at the edge of the area with the highest demand for sports halls in the Borough. Deprivation is also highest in the northwest and southeast of Melton Mowbray, close to Melton Sports Village. There are also large parts of housing growth proposed in close proximity to it and so opportunities to negotiate development contributions towards the cost of refurbishing the whole of the building and increasing its use.	Over the period to 2036, there will be a need to modernise the two educational sports halls which opened between 2010 and 2015 – John Ferneley College and Brooksby Melton College - in order to meet community demand for sports hall which does require continued access to the educational supply.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sports halls		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Summary	<p>Each facility is important to the community served and all venues need to be protected in accordance with para 99 of the NPFf.</p> <p>The quality of below average sports halls needs to be improved.</p> <p>Good relationships with schools are essential to retain/increase community use.</p> <p>Consider whether and how community use can be extended at school sites enabling existing sport and physical activity participation to grow.</p> <p>Increase daytime access to keep pace with the growth in the number and proportion of older people.</p> <p>Netball, basketball and badminton are key sports for the area, new provision should cater for all of these sports.</p>	

SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

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

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

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

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

5.1: Supply

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

Quantity

The audit identifies six swimming pools at three sites. Three are main/general pools, one is a lido and two are learner/teaching pools. Learner/teaching pools aid programming (and income generation) at public leisure centre sites in particular.

Swimming facilities are located across the centre of the Borough, one in the centre and one each in the east and west. There is no facility in the largely rural north and south areas of the Authority.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Swimming pools in Melton

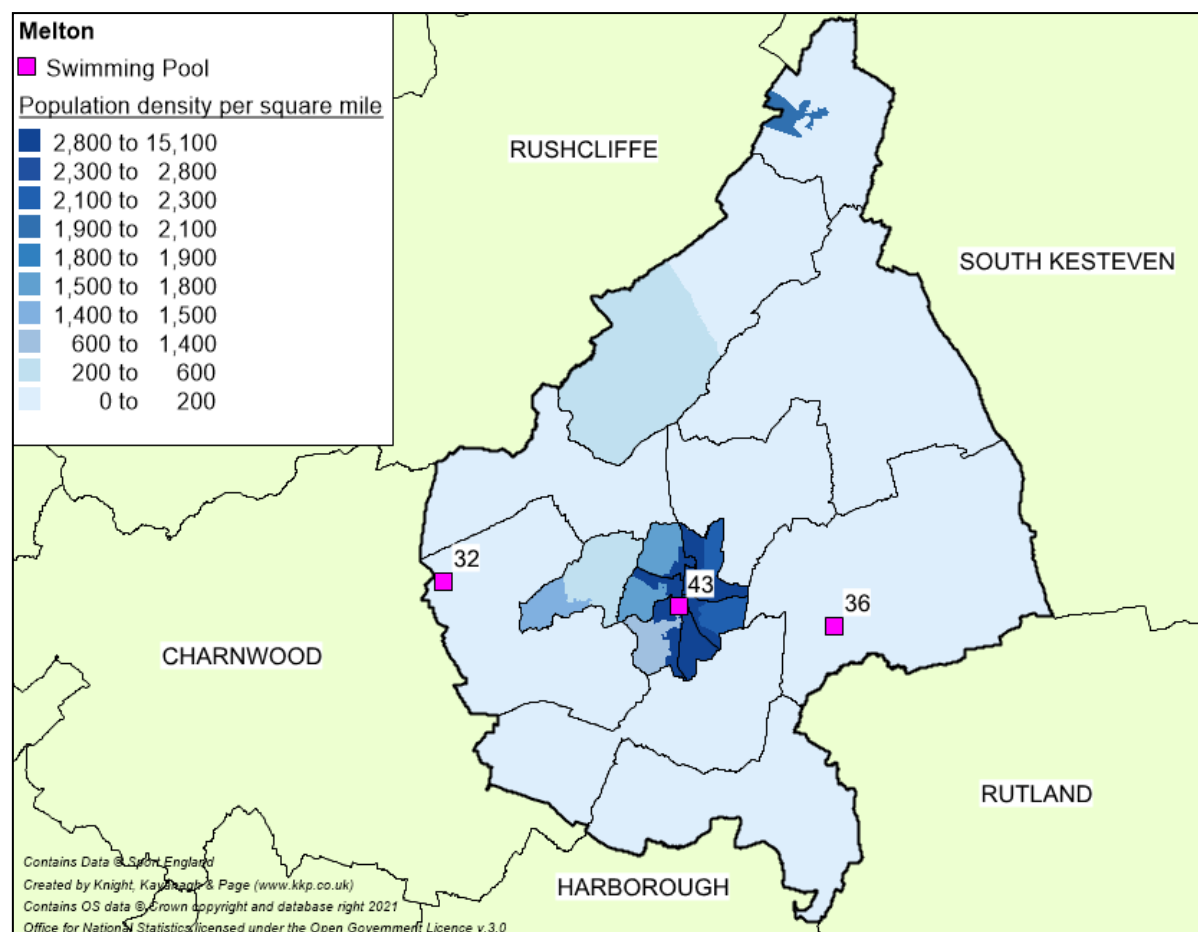


Table 5.1: Swimming pools in Melton

Map ID	Site	Facility type	Lanes	Length (m)	Area (m2)
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro & Thermal Spa	Main/general	0	25	225
		Learner/teaching	0	10	90
		Lido	0	10	90
36	Stapleford Lifestyles Club	Main/general	0	22	132
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	Main/general	5	25	268
		Learner/teaching	0	12	103

Quality

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

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.2: Quality of swimming pools

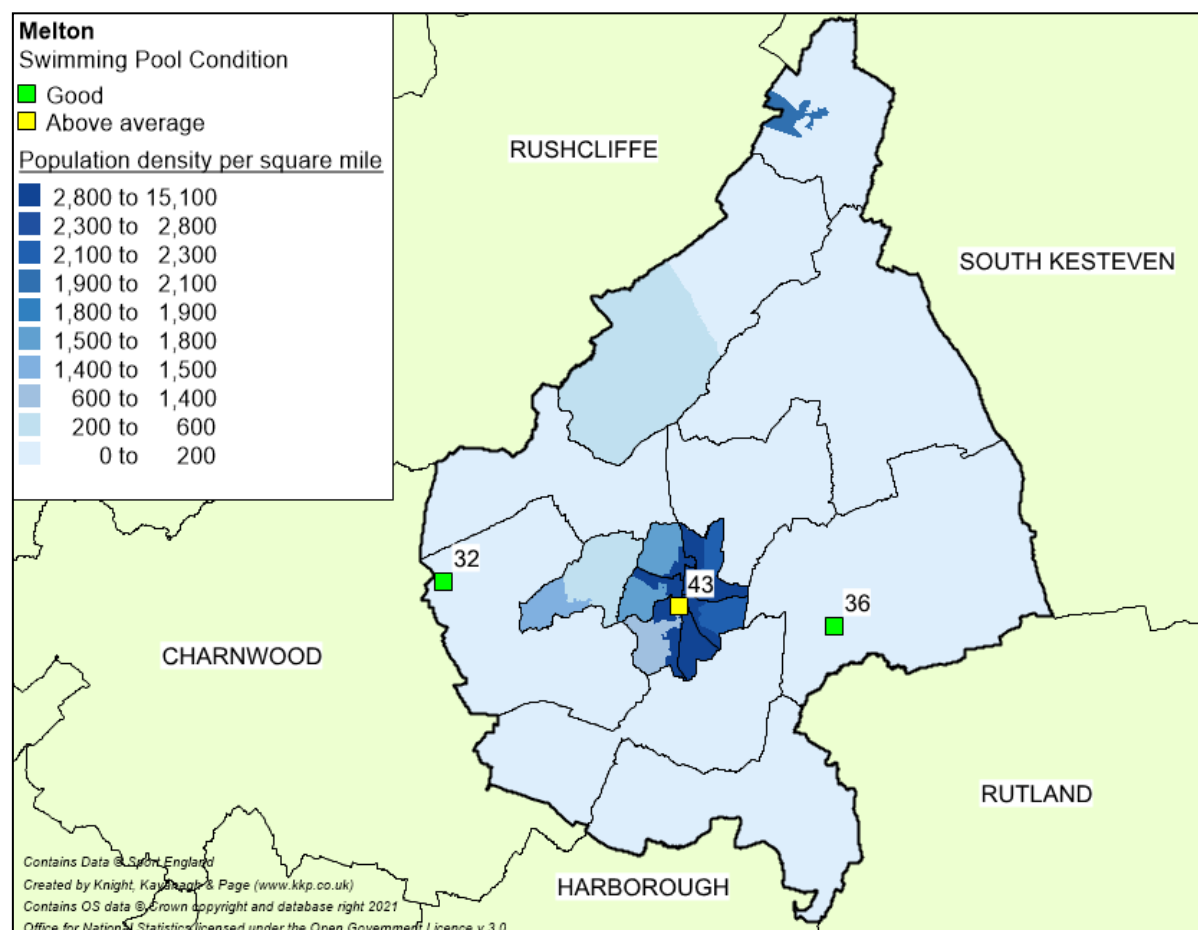


Table 5.2: Quality of 160m²+ swimming pools in Melton

Map ID	Site	Lanes x length (m)	Condition	
			Pool	Changing
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro & Thermal Spa	0 x 25m	Good	Good
36	Stapleford Lifestyles Club	0 x 22m	Good	Good
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	5 x 25m	Above average	Above average

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

Site	Year built	Refurbishment	Age (years) since refurbishment
Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa	1990	1998	25
Stapleford Lifestyles Club	1998	2010	13
Waterfield Leisure Centre	1965	2014	9

*According to Active Places Power database January 2023

The largest venue is Waterfield Leisure Centre which also has a learner/teaching pool. Changing provision is commensurate with pool condition at the sites.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

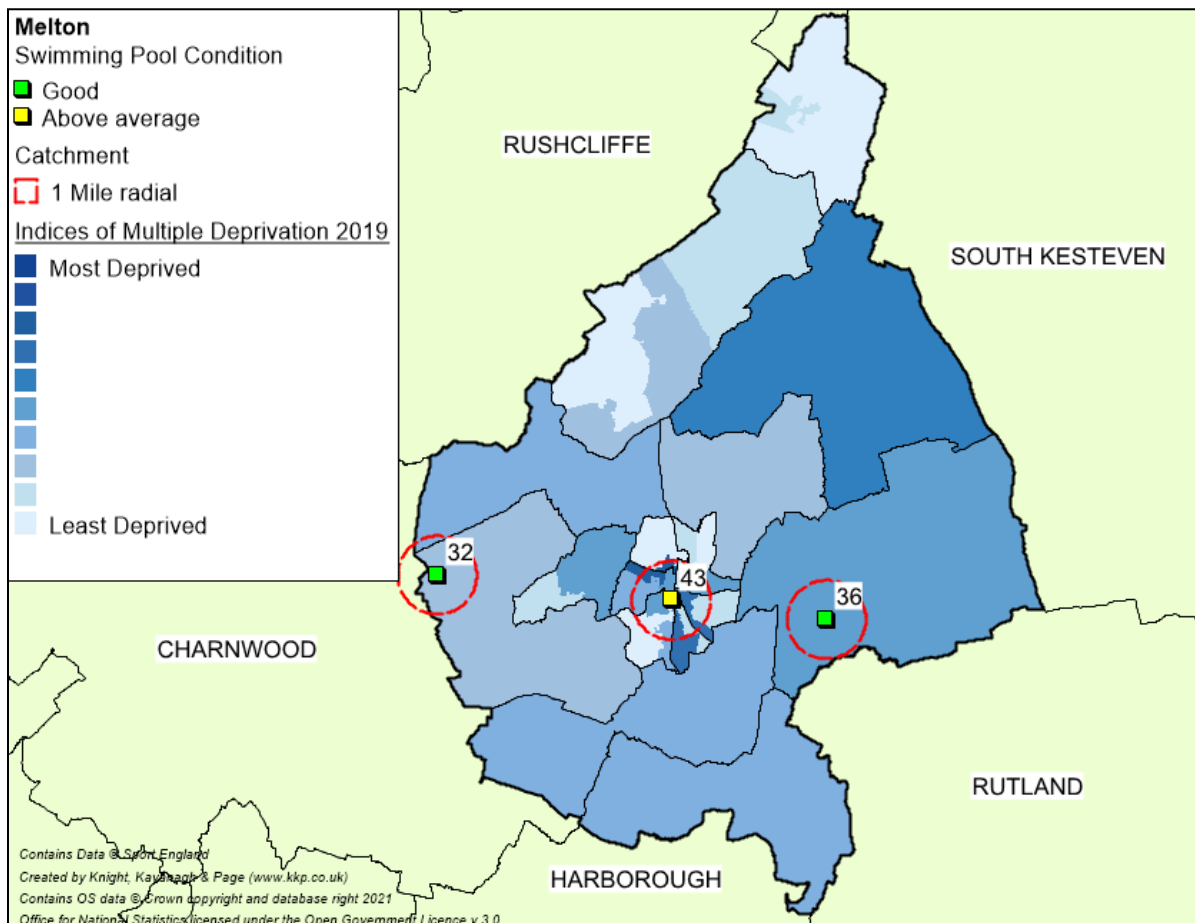
Waterfield Leisure Centre is also the oldest pool in the Borough (opened 1965) though it was refurbished in 2014. It is still using its original plant and is operating beyond its life expectancy. Consultation with staff at Waterfield Leisure Centre indicates that overall quality in respect of the general aesthetics of the pool was improved ten years ago due to a mini refurbishment. In addition, the roof condensation issue was rectified when a new roof was installed in early 2022. At this time a new BMS system was installed.

Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa is a hotel and has a spa facility as its main service. While reportedly refurbished in 1998, it is highly likely that it will have had additional investment more recently. This is also the case for the Stapleford Lifestyles Club which opened in 1998 and was refurbished in 2010.

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

Figure 5.3: Accessibility of swimming pools in Melton



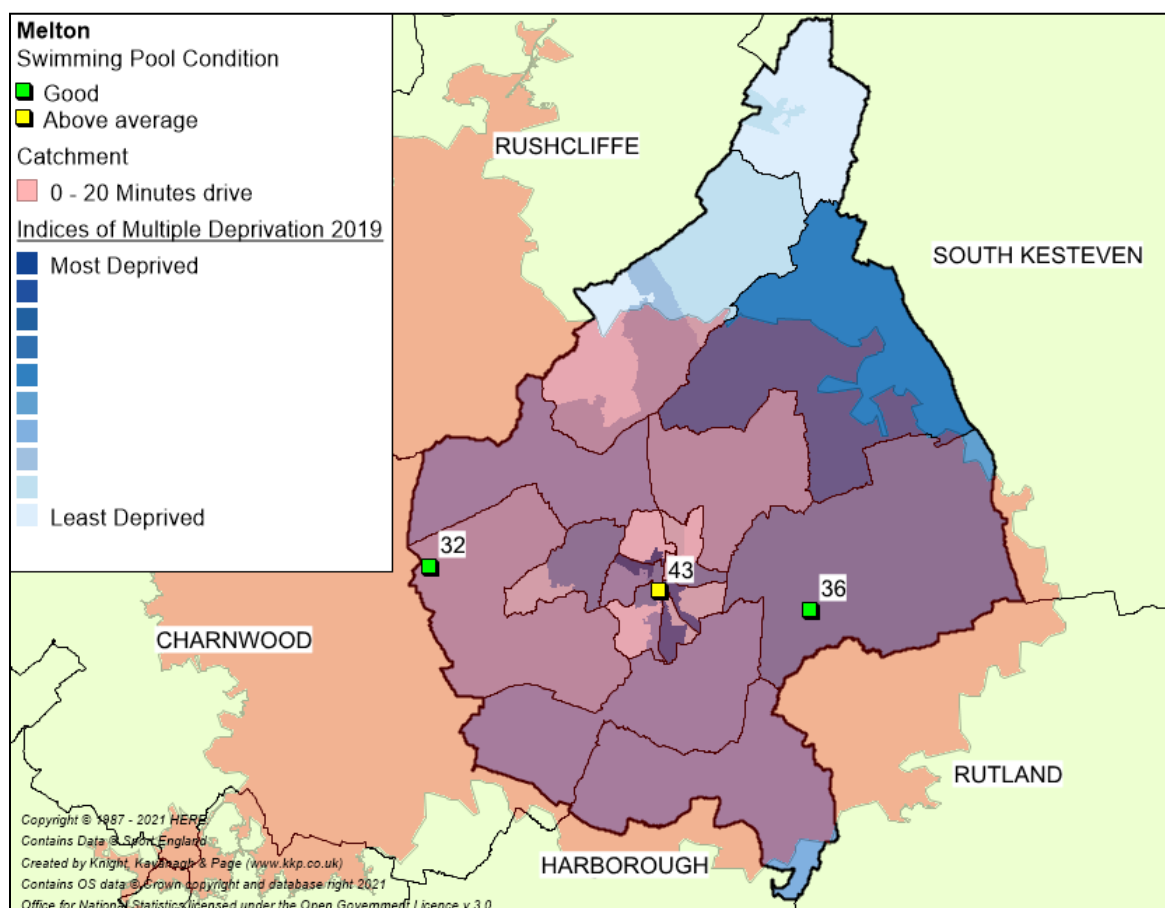
MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Just over one quarter (25.2%) of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool. Of the 3,284 people living in areas of higher deprivation in Melton (i.e., those in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 2,258 (68.7%) live within one mile of Waterfield Leisure Centre. Nearly three quarters (74.8%) of all Melton residents are likely to require transport to access a pool - which increases the cost of access. This is not unusual for a rural area.

The main swimming pool venue is, thus, well located to attract users from areas of higher deprivation. It is reported that 15% of the population do not have access to a car meaning that three in 20 of Melton's population is reliant on limited public transport or walking to a pool venue - this can add to the cost of participation.

Approximately 88% of Melton's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool as shown in figure 5.5.

Figure 5.4: All pools with 20 minutes drive time



Source Active Places Power 23/1/2023

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

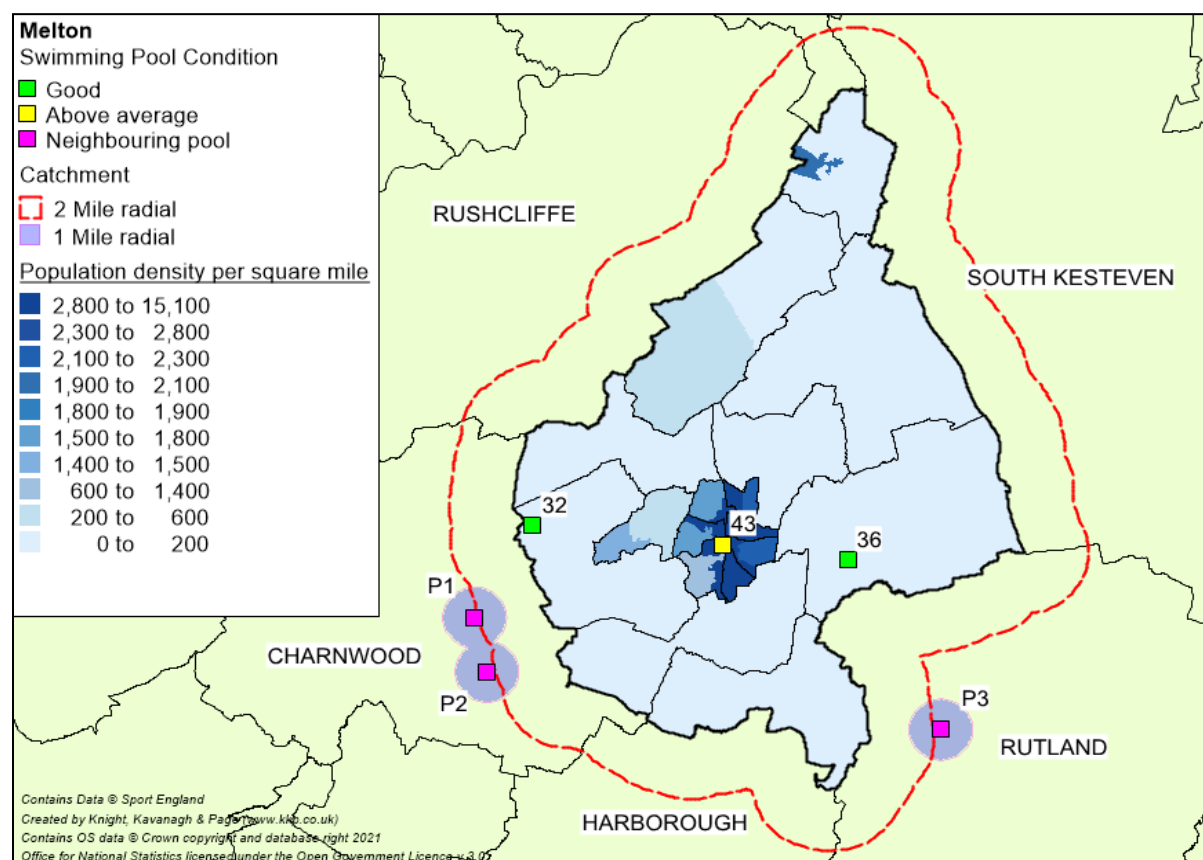
Table 5.4: Accessibility of swimming pools in Melton

IMD 10% bands	Melton		Swimming pools, 160m ² Catchment populations by IMD (1 mile radial)			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,284	6.4%	2,258	4.4%	1,026	2.0%
30.1 - 40	3,418	6.7%	1,689	3.3%	1,729	3.4%
40.1 - 50	1,799	3.5%	0	0.0%	1,799	3.5%
50.1 - 60	8,376	16.4%	4,287	8.4%	4,089	8.0%
60.1 - 70	8,559	16.8%	1,390	2.7%	7,169	14.1%
70.1 - 80	4,665	9.2%	205	0.4%	4,460	8.8%
80.1 - 90	10,780	21.2%	2,221	4.4%	8,559	16.8%
90.1 - 100	10,075	19.8%	781	1.5%	9,294	18.2%
Total	50,956	100.0%	12,831	25.2%	38,125	74.8%

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is also influenced by facilities within easy reach of the local authority.

Figure 5.5: Swimming pools located within two miles of Melton boundary



Source Active Places Power 23/1/2023

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.5 above and Table 5.5 below show there are no swimming pools within two miles of the MBC boundary. There are, however, three main pools located marginally outside the boundary in neighbouring Charnwood and Rutland; these have different access types (sports club/community association (CA), registered membership and pay and play to use the respected facilities. They are an important consideration given that there are no other community use pools within the 2-mile radial boundary.

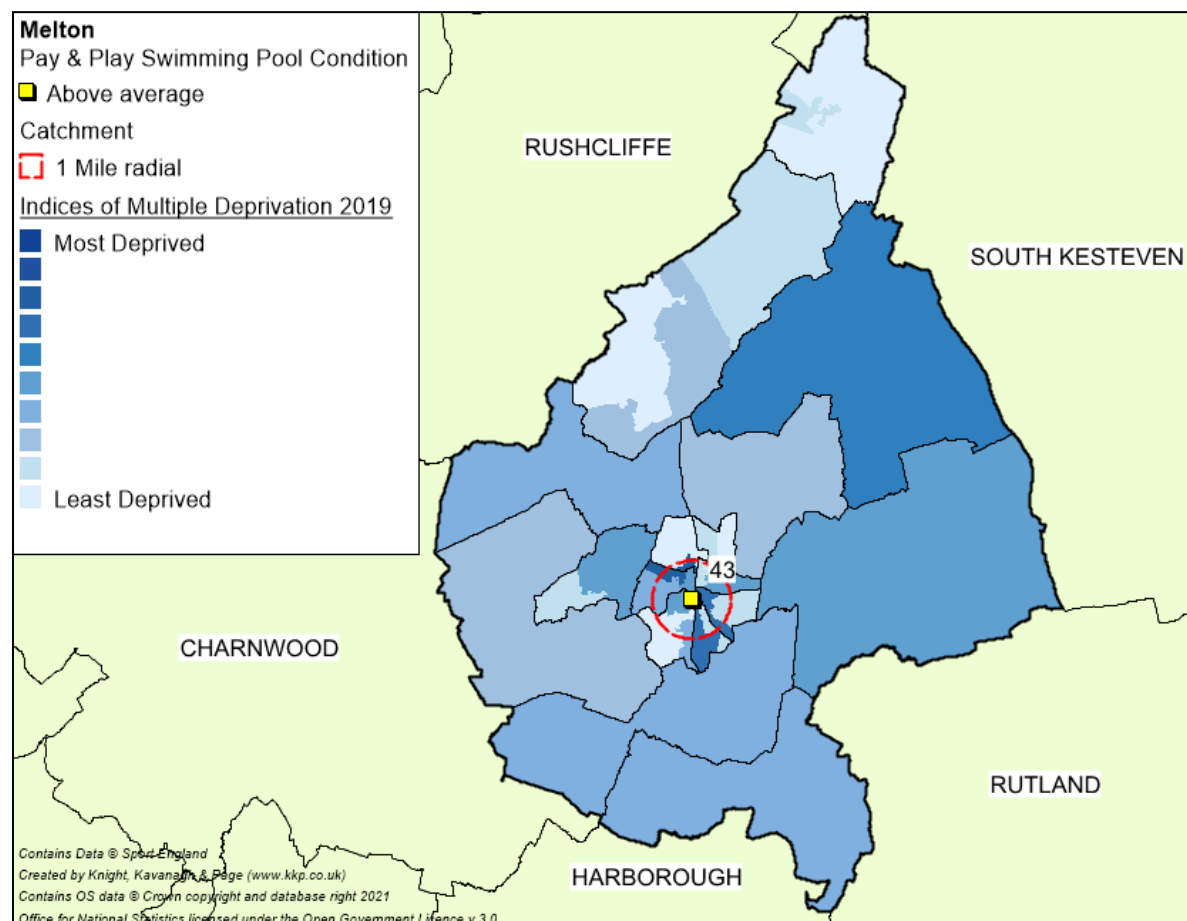
Table 5.5: Swimming pools located within two miles of Melton boundary

Map ID	Active Places site name	Pool type	Lanes / length	Access type	Authority
P1	Ratcliffe College	Main/general	4 x 25m	Sports club/CA	Charnwood
P2	South Charnwood Leisure Centre	Main/general	5 x 25m	Pay & play	Charnwood
P3	Oakham School Sports Centre	Main/general	4 x 25m	Sports club/CA	Rutland

Availability of swimming pools

Swimming pool availability differs dependent upon ownership and/or management. Facilities audited all offer some form of public access.

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



The access policy for each site is detailed below.

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Table 5.6: Access policy of swimming pools

Site	Access policy
Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa	Registered membership
Stapleford Lifestyles	Registered membership
Waterfield Leisure Centre	Pay & play

Waterfield Leisure Centre is owned by MBC and operated by Everyone Active. This is the only site in the Authority which has a pay and play access policy.

Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa is a commercial entity, where users must purchase a monthly/annual membership to access facilities or be resident in the hotel. While acknowledging that commercially managed facilities can cater for specific market segments, they are not available to all sections of the community and may not necessarily be affordable to all households. Both Ragdale Hall and Stapleford Lifestyle hotels are at the high end of the price range and therefore, are deemed to not primarily serve the majority of Melton residents.

Table 5.7. IMD 2019: Pay and play swimming pool accessibility

IMD 10% bands	Melton		Pay & Play swimming pools Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,284	6.4%	2,258	4.4%	1,026	2.0%
30.1 - 40	3,418	6.7%	1,689	3.3%	1,729	3.4%
40.1 - 50	1,799	3.5%	0	0.0%	1,799	3.5%
50.1 - 60	8,376	16.4%	4,127	8.1%	4,249	8.3%
60.1 - 70	8,559	16.8%	1,365	2.7%	7,194	14.1%
70.1 - 80	4,665	9.2%	0	0.0%	4,665	9.2%
80.1 - 90	10,780	21.2%	2,221	4.4%	8,559	16.8%
90.1 - 100	10,075	19.8%	781	1.5%	9,294	18.2%
Total	50,956	100.0%	12,441	24.4%	38,515	75.6%

Future enhancements/new developments

As of the audit date, no known new swimming pool developments are planned in the area. There is an ambition to replace MSV and Waterfield Leisure Centre with a single venue.

5.2: Demand

Club consultation:

Melton Mowbray Swim Club: is the only Swim England-accredited club in the Borough. It has 108 swimmers from the ages of 7-70 years. It is actively looking to grow to ensure it has 150 members. Currently, on its waiting list, it has 15 swimmers. There is potential room in existing classes to accommodate this demand. The Club is analysing its timings before it allows entry to these potential members.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It reported a reduction in the number of swimmers due to the Covid-19 Pandemic as all the sites in the area were closed for a significant period of time. This has impacted it financially; it hopes that this will be rectified as it advertises and recruits new members.

It is a competitive swimming club based at Waterfield Leisure Centre where it hires the pool for 10 hours per week. Ideally, it would like an additional five hours per week to accommodate its continued growth and to increase the number of classes it hosts.

In terms of the facility quality, it states that it is an old facility and there are issues with the showers (possibly connected to the boiler being old and having temperature regulation issues). Changing facilities are deemed to be satisfactory and of standard quality.

From 18.00 onwards, car parking can be very busy due to other activities taking place on-site. During the League galas it is always busy and difficult to find parking. All parking is pay and display as it is in the town centre.

The main pool has five lanes which limits the venue to hosting internal galas. To be able to host more competitions, a (25m pool) facility with six or more lanes is required.

In recent times, there has been at least one occasion whereby the facility has had to close for maintenance issues (including a new roof). This has led to club activity ceasing as there are no other available pools in the area. On this occasion it closed for c.8 weeks and as a result, the Club lost swimmers to others including Corby, Leicester Penguins and Braunstone.

The Club is currently in discussions with another in Leicestershire with regard to their high performing groups potentially gaining additional pool time by sharing with the club based in Great Glen. In terms of location this is a 45-minute drive from Melton, so it is not ideal, but it is a solution which would help to address the lack of additional pool time available locally.

Other challenges include the increase cost of pool hire and the rising cost of living. It reports having to cover a 12% increase in hire costs and that it is considering increasing its membership fees to cover this. It is, however, keen to be sensitive about this and understand that its members are also being challenged by the rise in their cost of living.

The Club mentioned that Oakham School in Rutland has a pool which it utilises. This is c.20 minutes (10 miles) away from Melton. This is not a competitive pool, so it is not ideal. It also hires a 2-hour slot in the 6-lane 25m pool at Uppingham School (Rutland) on Sundays. It costs a more to hire than Waterfield and is c.30 mins drive from Melton.

5.4: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

As noted above the SFC 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 area facility needs but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension because 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.

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INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 5.8: Sports facilities calculator

	Provision for 2018 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2027 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2036 population (mid-year estimate)
ONS population projections	51,100	52,035	53,022
Population increase	-	+935	+987
Facilities to meet additional demand	10.17 lanes 2.54 pools	10.36 lanes 2.59 pools	10.56 lanes 2.64 pools
Estimated cost	£11,017,775	11,219,372	11,432,182

Population increases will not necessitate new provision. Calculations assume that current pool stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. Projected population increases will lead to a slight increased demand for swimming space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 0.05 lanes (0.17 of a pool) up to 2027 and 0.39 lanes up to 2036; equivalent to 0.2 swimming pools, up to 2036 (estimated cost: £414,407).

5.5: Summary of key facts and issues

Swimming pools		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are six pools at three sites: three main pools (160m ² +). One is a lido and two are learner/teaching pools.	There is a need to replace the water provision at Waterfield Leisure Centre due to its age.
Quality	Waterfield Leisure Centre is rated above average, the others good quality. All pools have been refurbished in the last 25 years; Waterfield Leisure Centre nine years ago.	Invest in Waterfield Leisure Centre as it is operating with the original plant and is operating beyond life expectancy.
Accessibility	88% of the population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a swimming pool; 25% reside within 20-minutes' walk.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Only Waterfield Leisure Centre is available to the community on a pay and play basis the others require a membership to access.	Ensure that the facilities can be access by the whole community particularly those from more deprived areas and/or with particular health needs.
Other	There is a need to invest in current facilities to reduce carbon emissions and the cost of operating efficiently to meet MBC's net zero emissions pledge.	Invest to save opportunities should be considered to reduce the energy consumption.
Summary	<p>Each facility is important to the community served and should be protected in accordance with Para 98 of the NPPF.</p> <p>The Club reports demand for more pool time, there is a need to see whether this can be done whilst maintaining a balanced programme to meet all residents' needs.</p> <p>There is a requirement to maintain and improve swimming pool quality in the area via good maintenance programmes.</p> <p>Programming should be investigated to ensure the most popular activities are available at peak times.</p>	

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

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

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

Prior to the pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. Data up to the 12-month period ending March 2019, demonstrated an estimated increase of 4.7% in the number of members, 2.9% in the number of facilities and 4.2% in market value. Pure Gym and GLL remained the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The research does not count consumer health club activity using aggregators, such as Classpass and Huzzle and it's not clear how much consumer activity in the market has migrated to these services since the last report was published in 2019 or how much this might have impacted results had it been counted.

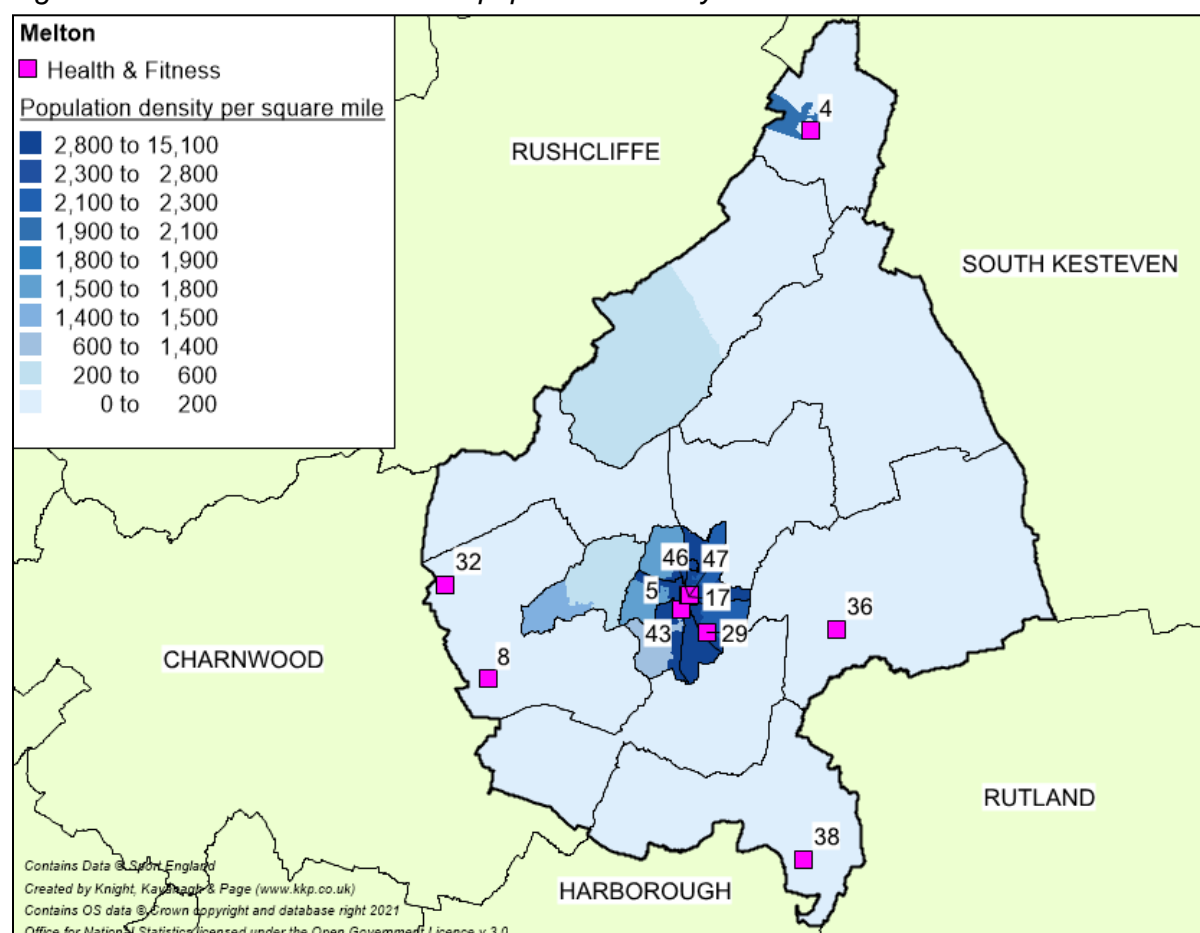
Since the 2019 report, 631 clubs have closed but 455 new facilities have opened. The overall number of sites has, thus, only fallen by 176 (2.43%) from 7,239 in 2019 to 7,063 in 2022. Half of the closed businesses failed in the first year of the pandemic, meaning the rate of losses slowed considerably after these early casualties, although the timing of the research means that post-rent moratorium closures will not have been counted.

6.1: Supply

Quantity

The 11 health and fitness gyms in Melton offer 329 stations. Generally, they are located in the main settlement area in Melton Mowbray and on the outskirts of the authority.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness on population density



Fitness facilities with fewer than 20 stations are typically not assessed/considered as they are too small to offer a membership although they can service smaller communities. When those with fewer than 20 stations are removed from the supply list, there are eight health and fitness gyms and 318 stations.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Melton

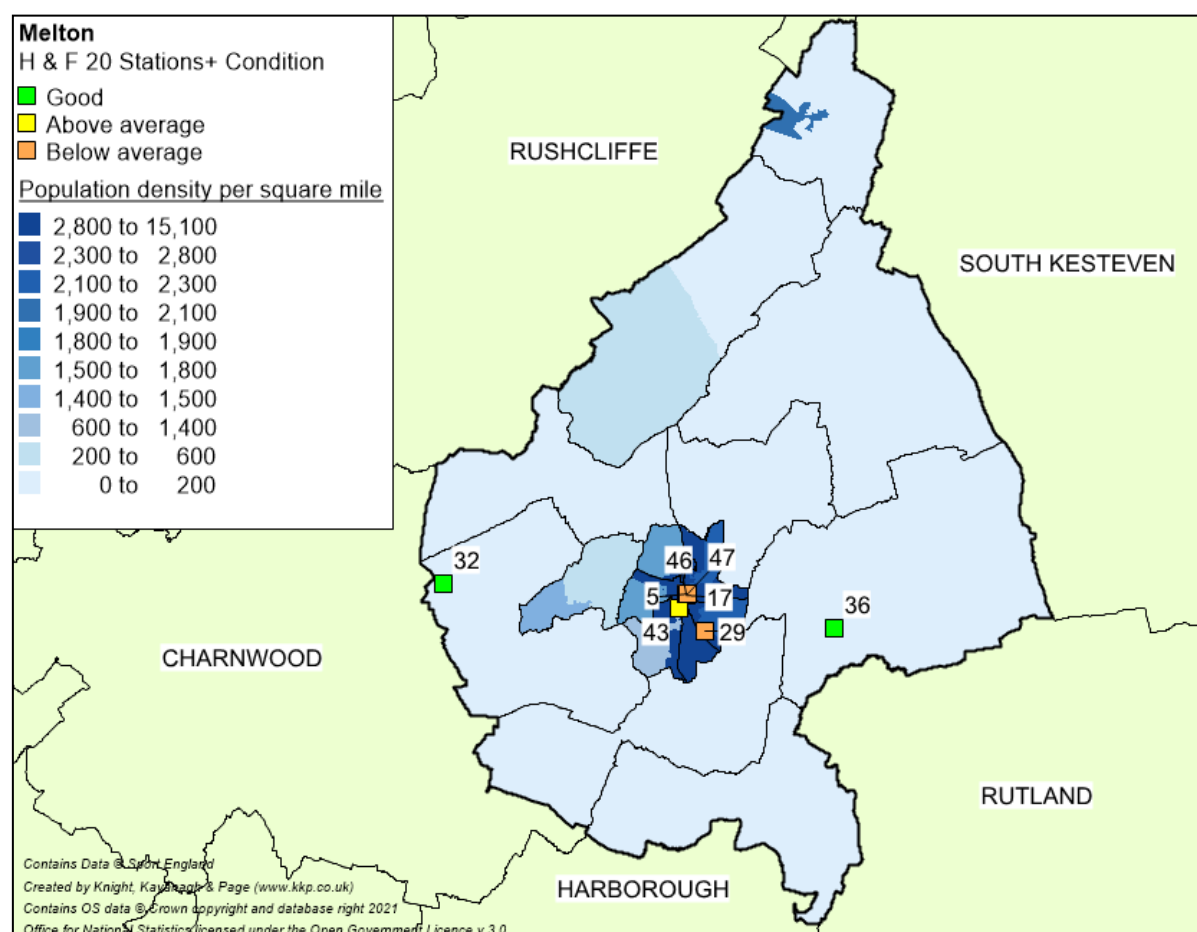
Map ID	Site	Stations
4	Belvoir High School	10
5	Bodyworx	30
8	Brooksby Melton College	16
17	Goodlife Gym Health & Fitness	45
29	Melton Sports Village	44
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa	28
36	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	36
38	The Grange Therapeutic School	5
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	75
46	Primal Fitness	20
47	The Steelyard Gym	40
	Total	349

*Did not gain access therefore unsure on the number of stations available at this site

Quality

All community available health and fitness sites have a non-technical quality assessment.

Figure 6.2: Quality of health and fitness with 20+ stations



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

Map ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
5	Bodyworx	30	Below average
17	Goodlife Gym Health & Fitness	45	Below average
29	Melton Sports Village	44	Below average
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro & Thermal Spa	28	Good
36	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	36	Good
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	75	Above average
46	Primal Fitness	20	Below average
47	The Steelyard Gym	40	Below average
	Total	318	

Two are rated good quality, one above average and the remaining five below average. MSV was refurbished in 2015 contributing to its above average quality rating. It is modern and attractive with new fitness equipment. The challenge however is that the infrastructure and plant are outdated and are showing signs of wear and tear. In addition, its foot has a persistent leak issue (on the domes) despite the several attempts to resolve this issue.

There are no known current plans to invest in the site in part due to the operator's contract nearing the end of its term. Some energy efficiency measures are in place; LED lights were installed throughout and all lights turn off automatically when there is no use.

Accessibility

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

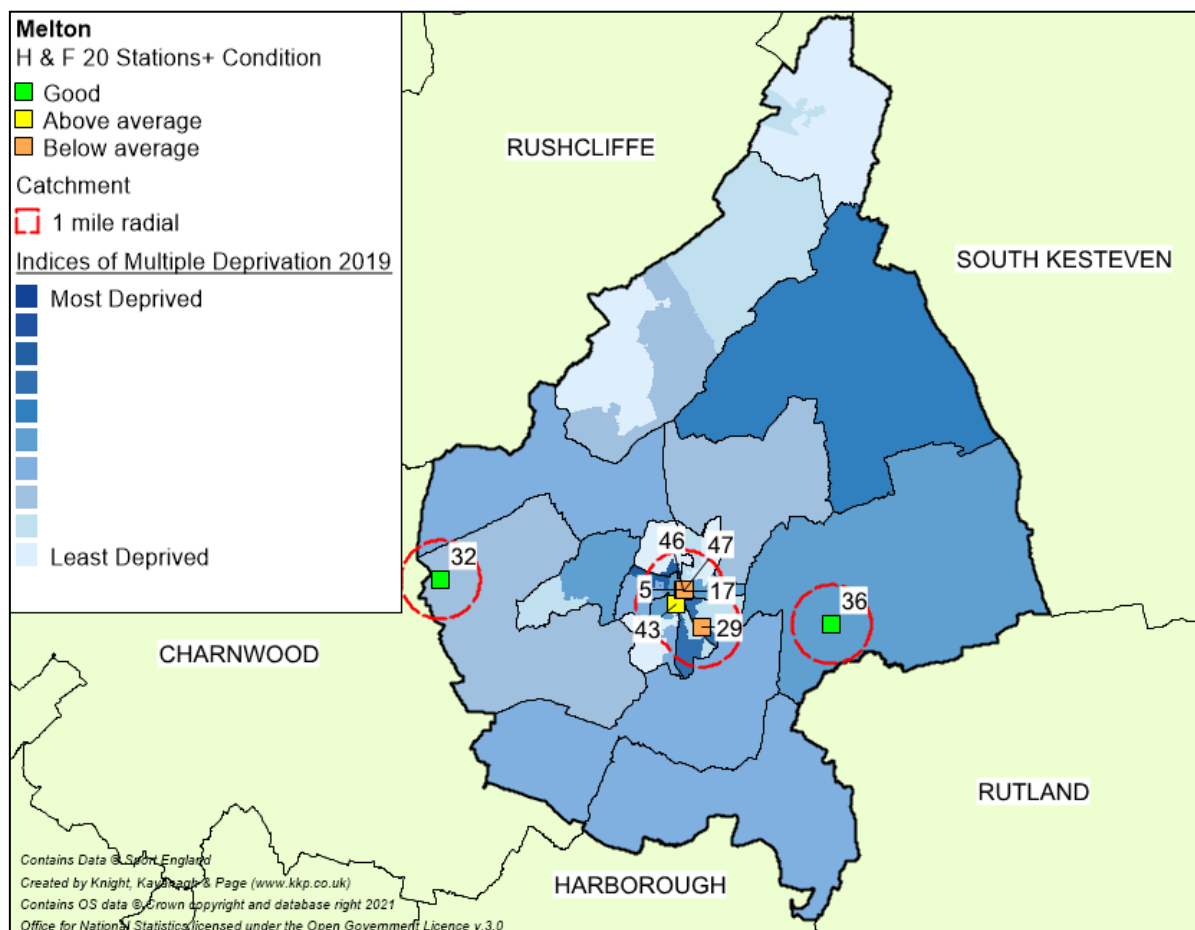
Table 6.3: Melton HF 20 stations+, 1 mile radial, IMD

IMD 10% bands	Melton		Health & Fitness, 20 stations or more. Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,284	6.4%	2,722	5.3%	562	1.1%
30.1 - 40	3,418	6.7%	3,053	6.0%	365	0.7%
40.1 - 50	1,799	3.5%	0	0.0%	1,799	3.5%
50.1 - 60	8,376	16.4%	4,799	9.4%	3,577	7.0%
60.1 - 70	8,559	16.8%	1,693	3.3%	6,866	13.5%
70.1 - 80	4,665	9.2%	209	0.4%	4,456	8.7%
80.1 - 90	10,780	21.2%	4,374	8.6%	6,406	12.6%
90.1 - 100	10,075	19.8%	2,897	5.7%	7,178	14.1%
Total	50,956	100.0%	19,747	38.8%	31,209	61.2%

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Over one third (38.8%) of Melton’s population lives within 20 minutes’ walk of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. Consequently, 61.2% of the population is likely to need to use a car or public transport to access facilities. The majority (88%) of Melton residents live within 20 minutes’ drive time of a health and fitness gym.

Figure 6.3: Melton HF 20 stations+, 1 mile radial, IMD



Neighbouring facilities

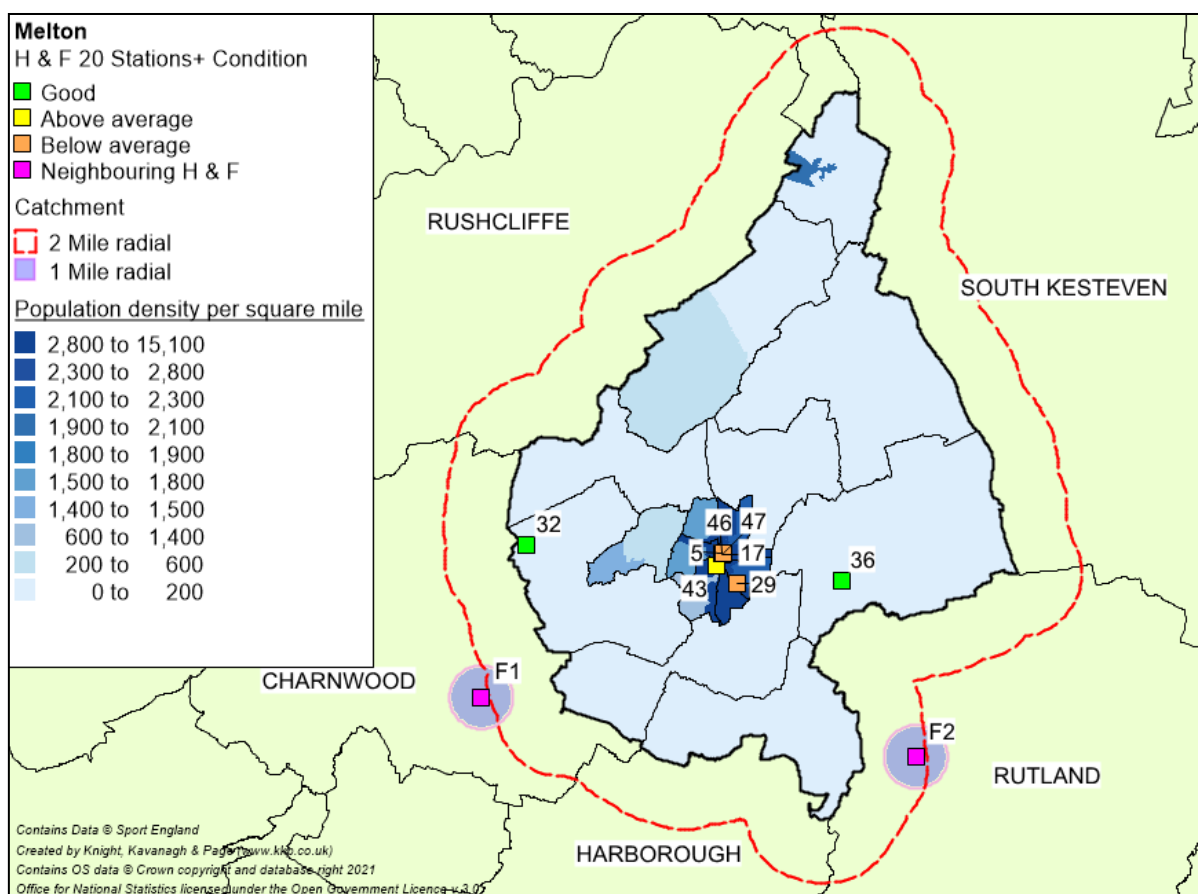
As with swimming and sports halls, users of health and fitness facilities do not just visit facilities within their own local authority, consequently, those within two miles of the border are considered in the analysis. Two venues are located within or close to the two mile Melton boundary. Both are public leisure centres which offer pay and play access. South Charnwood Leisure Centre is relatively large in size with 80 stations) and is considered likely to attract users from further afield and, thus, in this context penetrate the west of Melton.

Table 6.4: H&F 20 station+ within 2 miles of Melton’s LA boundary (excluding private use)

Map ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F1	South Charnwood Leisure Centre	80	Pay and Play	Charnwood
F2	Catmose Sports Centre	60	Pay and Play	Rutland

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Figure 6.4: H&F 20+ stations within 2 miles of Melton boundary (excluding private use).



Availability and programming

Sport England’s classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. This generally means a monthly membership fee, the cost of which can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that memberships which might be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on more available facilities (i.e., those with cheaper membership options). The access policy of the 20+ station sites in Melton is shown in Table 6.5 below.

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

Map ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
5	Bodyworx	30	Registered membership
17	Goodlife Gym Health & Fitness	45	Registered membership
29	Melton Sports Village	44	Pay and play
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro & Thermal Spa	28	Registered membership
36	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	36	Registered membership
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	75	Pay and play
46	Primal Fitness	20	Registered membership
47	The Steelyard Gym	40	Registered membership

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Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referrals nor do they necessarily actively target hard to reach groups. It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that the various private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

In Melton town centre, a number of fitness gyms compete against each other within a small area. All facilities report capacity to accommodate increased demand and are concerned about additional provision being offered in the area as it has been reported that another commercial operator (budget gym) was undertaking a feasibility study. Only the Council's public health and fitness facilities offer pay and play availability, the remaining six require a membership to access their provision.

MSV has 180 members which is low for a facility of its scale. No fitness classes take place at MSV, they are run at Waterfield Leisure Centre. This is likely to be part of the reason for this.

Table 6.6: Target audience of fitness gyms

Site name	Target audience
Bodyworx	Strength and conditioning. Mentoring programme for young people
Goodlife Gym Health & Fitness	Personal training and group fitness
Melton Sports Village	Public leisure centre
Ragdale Hall	Hotel and prestige gym
Stapleford Lifestyle Club	Hotel and prestige gym
Waterfield Leisure Centre	Public leisure centre
Primal Fitness	Boxercise and boxing club
The Steelyard Gym	Strength and conditioning

Table 6.7: Pricing structure of health and fitness facilities in Melton

Venue	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Bodyworx	Annual payment £240.00	Cash £32.00 DD £24.00	Gym only. Offers P&P at £5.00 session
Goodlife Gym Health & Fitness		£27.50 (12 months) £32.50 (6 months)	Gym only.
Melton Sports Village	£279.90 £249.90 (concession) £199.90 (junior)	£27.99 £24.99 (concession) £19.99 (junior)	Gym, exercise classes, swim (at Waterfield Leisure Centre), sauna, steam room
Ragdale Hall	£2,100 plus £400 joining fee		Gym, swim, sauna, steam A current 5-6 year waiting list
Stapleford Lifestyle Club	£850 per annum		Gym, swim, sauna, steam room
Waterfield Leisure Centre	£279.90 £249.90 (concession) £199.90 (junior)	£27.99 £24.99 (concession) £19.99 (junior)	Gym, exercise classes, swim, sauna, steam room
The Steel Yard Gym		£30.60 (12 months) £32.00 (6 months) £34.00 (3 months)	Gym only.

**prices are as advertised November 2022*

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The cheapest monthly direct debit membership is £24.00 at The Bodyworx which also offers an adult day pass from £5.00. The highest is £2,100 per annum at Stapleford Lifestyle Club where there is a £400 joining fee and currently a 5-6 year waiting list. Everyone Active offers a membership which allows access to both of its managed sites in Melton. It also offers multi-activity options (e.g., swimming and fitness classes) within its membership.

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.

Future developments

There are no known new health and fitness facilities planned for the area. Several local gym operators reported during consultation that The Gym Group had visited them and is assessing the feasibility of opening a facility in the area. The outcome of this is unknown.

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 Melton (ONS Data)

	Curent (2018)	2027	Future (2036)
Adult population (16+ years)	42,067	43,460	44,863
UK penetration rate	16.0%	16.5%	17.0%
Number of potential members	6,731	7,171	7,388
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	11,779	12,549	12,929
% of visits in peak time	65	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	196	209	215
No of stations (with comfort factor applied)	294	314	323

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

Based upon UK penetration rates there is a current need for 294 stations in Melton. This will grow to 314 by 2027 and to 323 by 2036, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times).

When comparing the number of community available stations currently available (318) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a positive supply/demand imbalance. This is not significant, (20 stations at present, 4 stations by 2027 and -5 by 2036).

The key issue is that budget operators are not necessarily available to harder to reach groups and people from areas of (relative) disadvantage (as cost is only one factor which may hinder usage). This applies particularly to people who need to pay for transport to access such facilities and where pay and play is not available. The challenge for Melton is the number of fitness gyms within or close to the town centre.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Supply and demand analysis

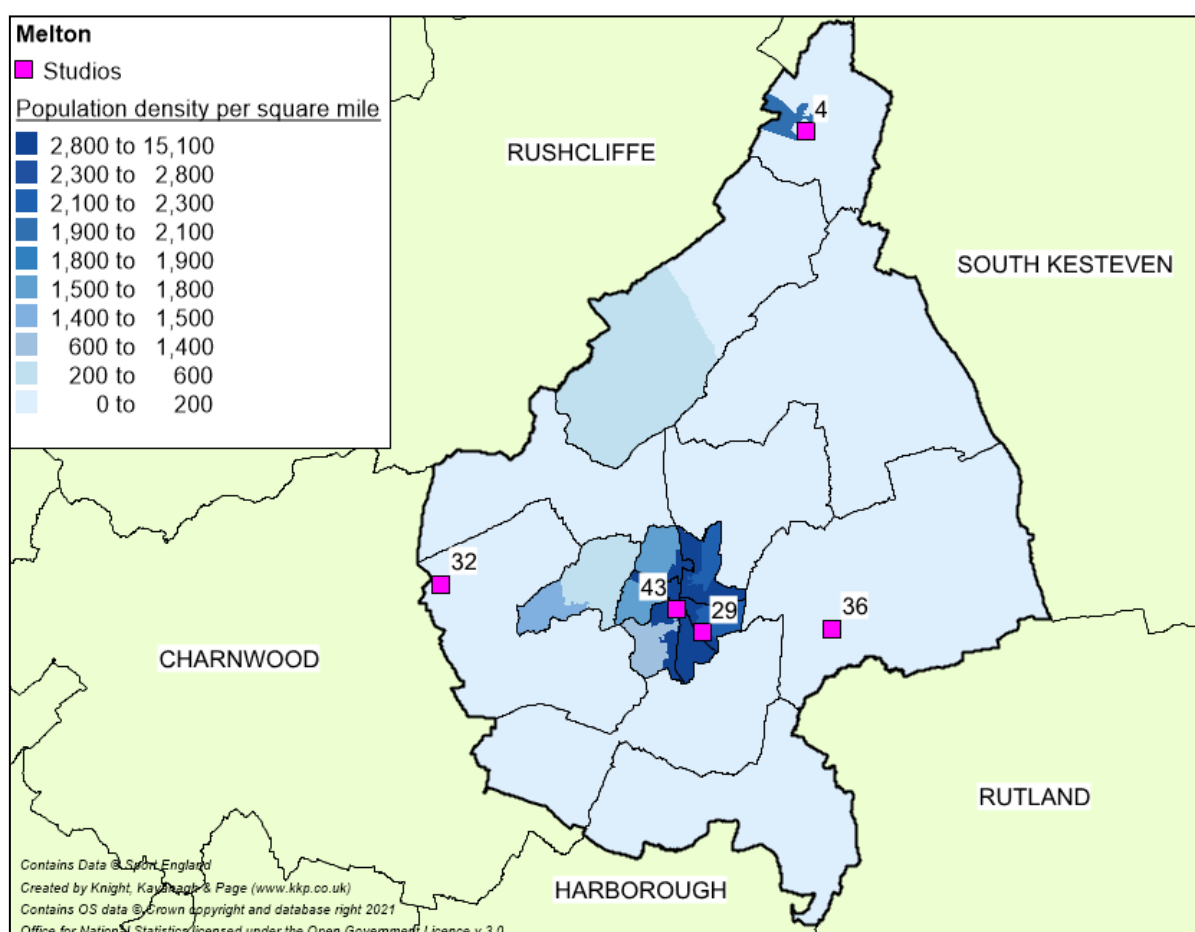
As noted, health and fitness facilities are an important facet of leisure provision. The income derived can offset the cost/underpin the viability of other aspects of provision, especially swimming and targeted physical activity programmes such as exercise on referral. The challenge is to continue to provide opportunity for people from areas of higher deprivation who are less likely to be able to afford or choose to access health and fitness and do not have the transport to access facilities. This is exacerbated by Melton’s rurality. Buses and other forms of public transport are infrequent.

Another challenge is the make-up of both MSV and Waterfield Leisure Centre. One combined wet/dry facility with a larger fitness offer could enhance swimming pool viability. Consideration should be given to increasing provision at this site.

6.3: Dance studios

There are ten studios in the borough, all of which had a non-technical assessment.

Figure 6.5: Studios in Melton



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.

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Activity types offered vary from low impact classes (i.e., Pilates and yoga) to dance, step, boxercise, and Zumba. Dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

Five studios in Melton are rated good quality, three above average and two below average. The studio at Belvoir High School is used by the school only.

Table 6.9: List of studios in Melton

Map ID	Site name	Access	Condition
4	Belvoir High School	Private use	Below average
22	John Ferneley College	Sports Club/Community Association	Above average
29	Melton Sports Village	Pay and play	Below average
32	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro & Thermal Spa	Registered membership	Good
		Registered membership	Good
36	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	Registered membership	Good
		Registered membership	Good
		Registered membership	Good
43	Waterfield Leisure Centre	Pay and play	Above average
		Pay and play	Above average

6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Health & fitness		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Of the 11 gyms, eight have 20+ stations. They eight provide 318 stations. There are ten studios. The two gyms in neighbouring authorities offer a combined total of 140 stations.	The small current positive supply/demand balance will decrease in the future (to 2036). Keep a watching brief on the number of small gyms competing in Melton
Quality	Two gyms are of good quality, one above average and five are below average.	There is a need to maintain quality and improve the condition of below average rated gyms and studios.
Accessibility	88% of the population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a gym and/or studio, 38% live within one mile of a gym. 83% of residents in areas of higher deprivation live within one mile of a gym.	Ensure that harder to reach groups, people with specific health needs or people in rural locations can access health and fitness facilities.
Availability (Management and usage)	There are two pay and play gyms with 20+ stations in Melton (and three studios), the rest require membership to access.	The key need is to cater fully for the full range of local market segments ensuring that residents from hard-to-reach groups can afford them.
Strategic summary	Fitness facilities plus dance studios offer potential to increase physical activity in the wider population. There is a positive supply/demand balance up to 2036. The financial contribution that health and fitness make to the viability of other facilities such as swimming pools is an important facet in Melton. Should a single wet/dry facility be developed it should have substantial fitness and associated studio provision to offer a comprehensive fitness programme that meets current needs and is in line with current fitness trends.	

SECTION 7: INDOOR BOWLS

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

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

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

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

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

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. 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 England¹⁵ 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 obtaining “Clubmark Accreditation”.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

EIBA Outline Plan 2017 - 2021

¹⁵ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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It was reported during consultation with EIBA that an updated development strategy is in development and is due to be released imminently. This will have the following additions and amendments.

- ◀ Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic (return to play).
- ◀ Increasing 40-59 year old participants.
- ◀ Increasing volunteers
- ◀ Health and wellbeing
- ◀ Inclusivity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The BDA is also currently finalising its vision statement for 2022-2025. Its work with the bowling NGBs will include:

- ◀ Club hubs – to encourage growth of membership and the retention of facilities.
- ◀ Communities.
- ◀ Health.
- ◀ Inclusion.

7.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club is one dedicated indoor bowls facility in Melton.

Table 7.1: Quality rating of indoor bowling centre in Melton

MapID	Site	Rinks	Access type	Condition
26	Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports Club / CA	Above average

Catchment modelling suggests that 95% of Melton’s population lives within a 30-minute drive of the Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club.

For those outside this catchment, indoor bowls facilities at the Richard Herrod Centre (IB1) and the Grantham and District Indoor Bowls Club (IB2) are the next nearest centres, assuming open club membership.

Table 7.2: Indoor bowls provision in neighbouring authorities

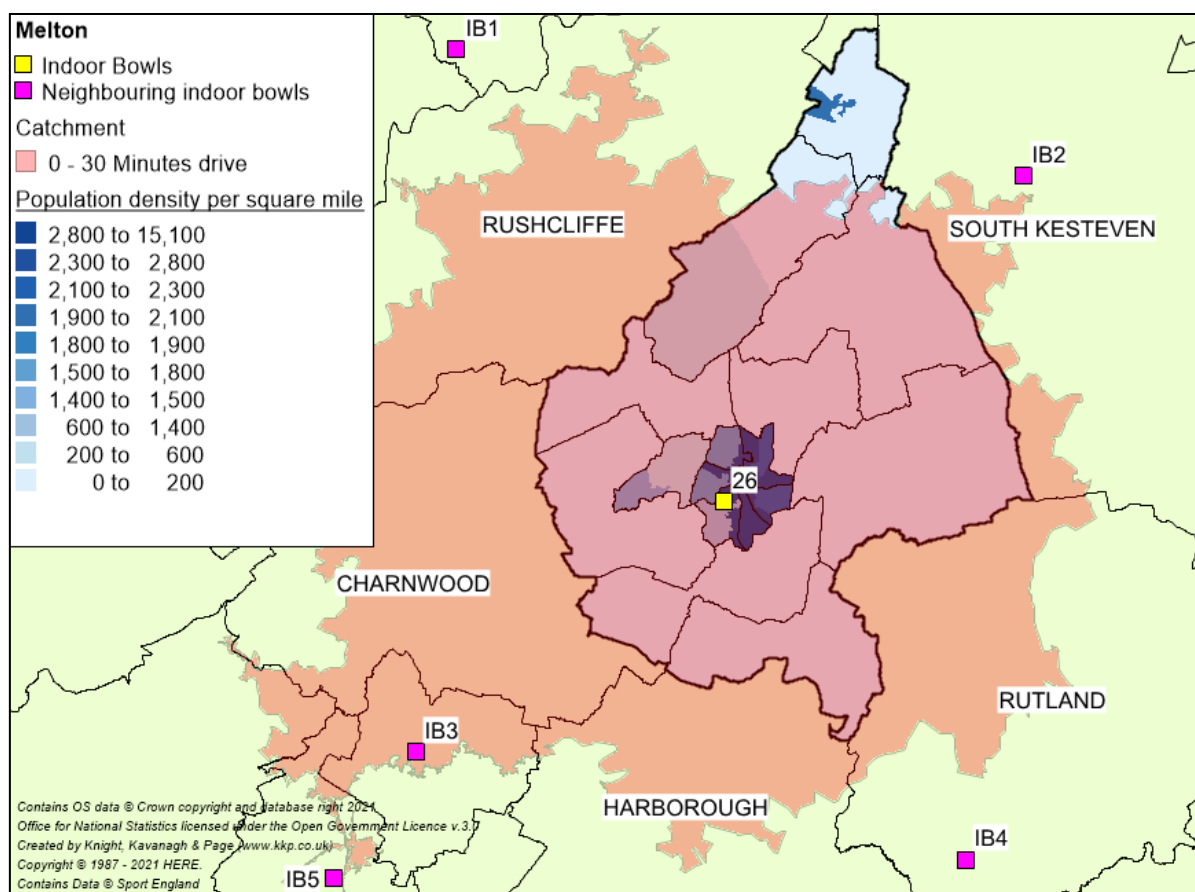
Map ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Local authority
IB1	Richard Herrod Centre	6	Sports club / CA	Gedling
IB2	Grantham & District Indoor Bowls Club	6	Registered	South Kesteven
IB3	Leicester Indoor Bowls & Social Club	9	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IB4	Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club	2	Sports club / CA	Rutland
IB5	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	6	Pay and play	Blaby

Source: Active Places Power 26/01/2023

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

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Figure 7.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Melton



Accessibility and availability

Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club allows some casual community access. Consultation indicates that it is proactive building relationships with the wider community via the hiring of its facilities and links with community organisations. It is currently operating a Warm Hub initiative where it is a safe space for people to use as a shelter from the cold. This often leads to non-players getting a feel for the sport and taking it up at different capacities.

It also provides a clear pathway for players of all levels to join it in its different categories (indoor and with its partner club outdoor). However, it should be noted that whilst its site is technically accessible to the community, a significant portion of programme time is taken up by its membership and the sheer number of indoor bowls teams training and matches.

7.2: Demand

Consultation with EIBA and Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club indicates that there is sufficient provision in the area and adjoining local authority areas.

Club consultation

Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club is a member's club with 485 members. It has eight rinks, all of which have been rated as above average quality. It reports needing 650 members to be financially viable and is working hard to recruit and diversify its offer to be more attractive.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Its focus has changed over the years and is currently on recruiting people aged 40+ as opposed to the older retired category.

It reports a significant loss of over 75-year-old members due to the Pandemic and that the majority have not returned since due to the fact that Covid is still present. It did, however, gain a few additional members when the Rushcliffe Arena converted its indoor bowls facility into a large fitness facility in 2021. Some members travel c.30 minutes to access the facility.

The facility was built in 1987 and when it first opened attracted 1,200 members attending six facilitated sessions every day. Currently, it runs five. It reports that the demise of local public transport has exacerbated this issue as it is insufficiently frequent meaning that the majority of members have to drive to access the facility.

The venue has hosted the English National Championship and presently it hosts the English Short Mat Championship which runs in March every year. It runs competitions all year round (winter and the summer). The Warren League (where outdoor bowls teams come inside to play) is also hosted at Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club. It also runs 11 weekly leagues (two a day Monday – Saturday and one on a Sunday). There are two teams in the men's over 60's league and this will increase to three next year.

It also has a junior category although this was also hindered by Covid. Prior to the Pandemic (every Saturday) it had 20 regular attendees who also competed in the Leicester Inter-League. Eight of these also competed for England at some capacity under its junior age groups. At the moment the junior section has only five members. To boost junior engagement and to rebuild the number it has started to host sessions at local schools in Melton. There is also a partnership being built with the local Scouts group whereby it is hoping to recruit younger players.

It is inclusive and constantly trying to build relationships with existing local groups. MENCAP brings c.12 people to the centre on a Tuesday morning and the University of Third Age (U3A) also has three sessions in the week and hosts activities in the committee room. The Club provides free coaching to this group to build interest in the sport. There are other frequent users of the site i.e., a computer club, a men's prostate group and a theatre group. They can be facilitated as the facility is available during the day and the Club is interested/actively encourages other uses of its spaces including the board room and office.

In terms of infrastructure, it installed LED lighting and solar panels in 2011 to help become more energy efficient. Although due to rising costs it receives less of a percentage from the solar panels system than previously. The lights will need to be replaced in the near future. Lighting replacement will be a major project due to them all (x168) needing to be upgraded at the same time. The estimated cost for this is reported to be in the region of £70,000.

The venue has been affected by a flood. This left stains on the bowling carpet. To replace them (including underlay) will cost c. £45,000. The carpet is seven years old and has already been turned. It will require replacement within the next 5-10 years. Flood damage has also led to several creaking areas on the floor. It has a concrete base with a wooden sub floor and, thus, did swell for a period.

The roof is functioning effectively but does face a persistent gutter issue which is exacerbated by the fact that gutters are located internally within the walls. There are plans to address this next year at an estimated cost of £12,000.

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The toilets (men’s, ladies and disabled) were all replaced in 2014. The Club would in the near future like to upgrade to automatic sensor taps. The estimated cost is c.£2,000 for six fittings (excluding labour).

The restaurant space had most of its furniture installed in 1987. Some of this will also need to be replaced in the near future. This space is operated by a franchise and is ran as a private business.

The Club reports having a healthy reserve bank balance, which is not used unless there is an emergency. It tries to utilise its contacts and gain donations or small loans where possible to fix smaller/ short term issues.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, it reports that the grants received from the Council during the uncertain time were essential to ensuring that the facility survived.

7.3: Summary

Indoor bowls		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is one indoor bowls facility in Melton.	There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls facilities.
Quality	It is above average quality.	There is a need to maintain quality and in the near future invest in a new sub structure and carpet.
Accessibility	Almost all (95%) of the population lives within 30 minutes’ drive of an indoor bowls facility.	No access needs
Availability (Management and usage)	Facilities are available during the day and evening - and all year round. It is necessary to be a club member to access indoor bowls on a regular basis.	No programming and pricing needs
Strategic summary	EIBA suggests that there is no requirement for additional purpose-built indoor bowls facilities in Melton now or in the near future. Given the increase in the number of older people projected, it is likely that demand for indoor bowls will increase.	

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 8: ATHLETICS

UK Athletics is responsible for the rules and regulations of athletics. England Athletics is the development and membership NGB for athletics and running clubs in England.

Consultation

There is no 400m synthetic athletics track facility in Melton. Synthetic tracks are located in neighbouring authorities within EA's recommended 20 minutes drivetime catchment. There are also three indoor athletics facilities within 40 minutes' drive time of the centre of Melton.

8.1: Supply

Figure 8.1: Outdoor athletics tracks within 30 minutes' drive-time of Melton

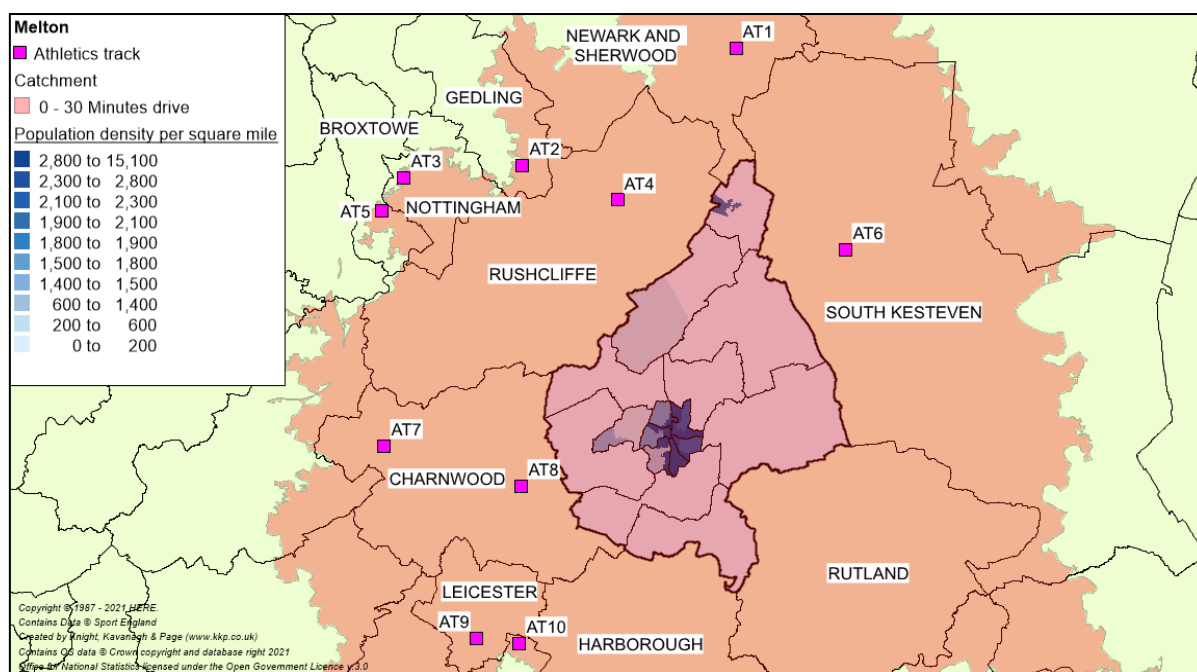


Table 8.1: Athletics tracks within 30-minutes of Melton's local authority boundary

ID	Site name	Access type	Local authority
AT1	YMCA Newark & Sherwood Sports Community & Activity Village	Sports Club / CA	Newark & Sherwood
AT2	Carlton-Le-Willows Academy	Sports Club / CA	Gedling
AT3	Harvey Hadden Sports Village	Sports Club / CA	Nottingham
AT4	Bingham Leisure Centre	Sports Club / CA	Rushcliffe
AT5	Bramcote College	Sports Club / CA	Broxtowe
AT6	Grantham Meres Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	South Kesteven
AT7	Loughborough University (2 tracks)	Pay and Play	Charnwood
AT8	Ratcliffe College	Sports Club / CA	Charnwood
AT9	Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium	Sports Club / CA	Leicester
AT10	The Roger Bettles Sports Centre	Sports Club / CA	Oadby and Wigston

Source: Active Places Power 26/01/2023

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The synthetic outdoor athletics facilities in neighbouring authorities which lie within the England Athletics recommended 20 minutes drivetime catchment are at:

- ◀ South Kesteven (Grantham).
- ◀ Saffron Lane (Leicester).
- ◀ Bingham Athletics (Bingham).

Melton district is within 40 minutes' drive-time of the nearest indoor facilities which are at:

- ◀ David Ross Sports Village (Nottingham)
- ◀ Harvey Hadden Stadium (Nottingham)
- ◀ Loughborough High Performance Centre (limited community access).

Future provision

Nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. The focus is on retention of existing facilities and development of new, innovative, entry level venues such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments.

England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches to the design of new athletics provision. These are intended to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating track provision. These three designs present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks.

Compact track - the first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shotput space. This is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

Mini track – this features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. A key advantage is that it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump or use for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym. They also feature a new design shot-put practice areas with a flattened natural slope whereby athletes throw onto the hill allowing the shots to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving them after each throw.

Active track – this is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

EA identifies Melton as a medium priority area for the development of a NewGen community running/athletics facility subject to a needs assessment. Its facility "optimisation" report highlights potential demand in/around Melton. EA reports that this would have a 20-minute drivetime population catchment of 72k of which c. 20k would be under 24 year olds. Whilst this is not sufficient to warrant a full 400m track it is enough to justify a NewGen CompactTrack, MiniTrack or ActiveTrack.

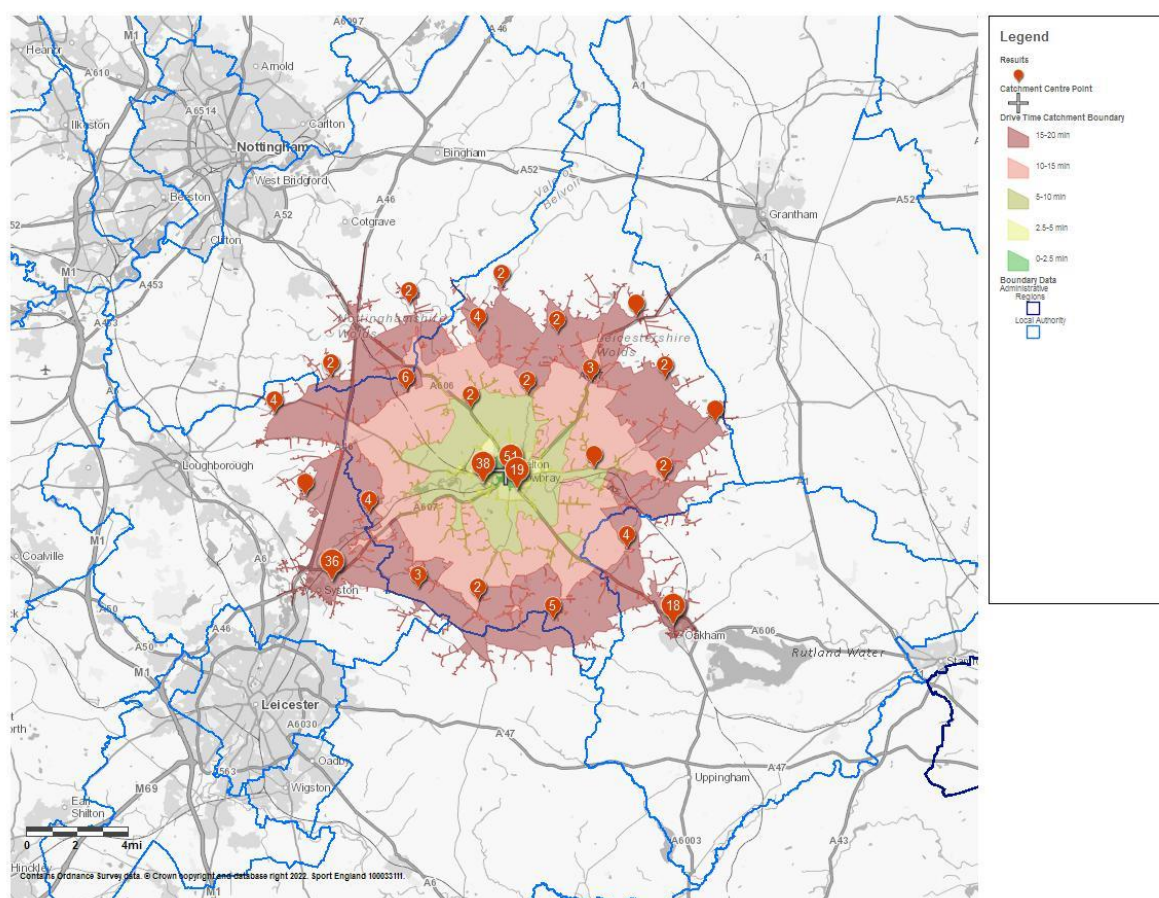
The table and map overleaf show the theoretical 30-minute catchment map for a NewGen facility at Melton.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Catchment profile of NewGen track

Drive time (mins)	Age (years)						Total
	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-59	60-79	80+	
0-2.5	1,318	669	1,604	1,957	1,622	530	7,700
2.5-5	3,539	1,959	3,291	5,359	4,743	1,095	19,986
5-10	977	509	909	1,888	1,871	388	6,542
10-15	980	527	802	1,830	1,761	375	6,275
15-20	5,409	3,113	4,834	8,574	7,663	1,793	31,386
Total	12,223	6,777	11,440	19,608	17,660	4,181	71,889

Figure 8.2: 30 minutes catchment for a NewGen facility



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply.

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8.2: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

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Run Together¹⁶

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward. In Melton, the Run Together group is New Melton Running Club. It meets on Mondays and Thursdays at Mucky Lane, LE13 1AF

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. 1,063 events now occur across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events. Melton Country Park (LE13 1HX) is the only location where a Park Run takes place in the Borough. As of 20 December 2022 it had hosted 351 Park Run events attracting an average recorded attendance of 143.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national NHS health initiative to encourage absolute beginners to get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan is that participants run three times per week with a day of rest in between and a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking gradually building up fitness and stamina. The idea is to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through Couch to 5k, the NHS promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative. These include improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. They also include mental health benefits via goal and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Running regularly has also been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have the knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further. Melton does not currently have a Couch to 5K group but this does not mean that people are not undertaking the activity independently via the App or recreationally in unaffiliated settings.

Clubs

Table 8.4: EA affiliated clubs

Club name	Category	Number of athletes 2021/22
Stilton Striders	Off Track Only	146
Race Hub	Track & Field & Off Track	35

¹⁶ <https://runtogether.co.uk/>

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Stilton Striders

Established in 1982, it has a thriving junior section of around 40 young athletes and a slightly larger number of senior runners (from late teens to older runners in their 70's). Members are people who run for fitness and as well as those that compete with the best in Leicestershire. Its juniors train regularly at venues around Melton (indoors and outdoors) under the guidance of qualified coaches.

It competes in the Leicestershire Road Running League (LRRL) which comprises around five winter races (January to March) and six summer races (June to September) hosted by running clubs around Leicestershire over distances ranging from five miles to half marathon. LRRL. Over winter months, it competes in the Derby Runner Cross Country League.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but are not currently doing so'. It identifies significant latent demand amounting to 1,128 people in Melton. This equates to 2.2% of the current population, which aligns with the national average. The two clubs do not report having waiting lists but are actively looking for new members, on social media and club websites.

Future demand

England Athletics believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify. Clubs expressed a clear desire to increase membership.

8.3: Summary

Athletics		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no indoor or outdoor athletics track in Melton.	EA identifies the need to explore the opportunity of a NewGen athletics facility for Melton
Quality		
Accessibility	Melton residents are within the EA drive time catchments for both indoor and outdoor facilities.	
Availability (Management and usage)		
Strategic summary	EA identifies Melton as a medium priority for a NewGen athletics facility. There should be further exploration of demand and to see whether the required funding could be sourced. In addition, the viability of including an alternative track facility should be assessed as part of any new leisure centre development.	

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SECTION 9: GYMNASTICS

The British Gymnastics Strategic Framework 2017-2021 identified three key priorities, to:

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

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

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

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

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

British Gymnastics Club Capital Funding Scheme is a social impact investment fund designed to create more dedicated spaces for gymnastics. This new £10 million fund will allow British Gymnastics clubs in England to apply for unsecured, affordable loans, typically between £25,000 and £250,000. It will be delivered by Amateur British Gymnastics Investments Limited. There are also initiatives for older people funded by Sport England, such as, Love to Move focused on dementia patients.

9.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

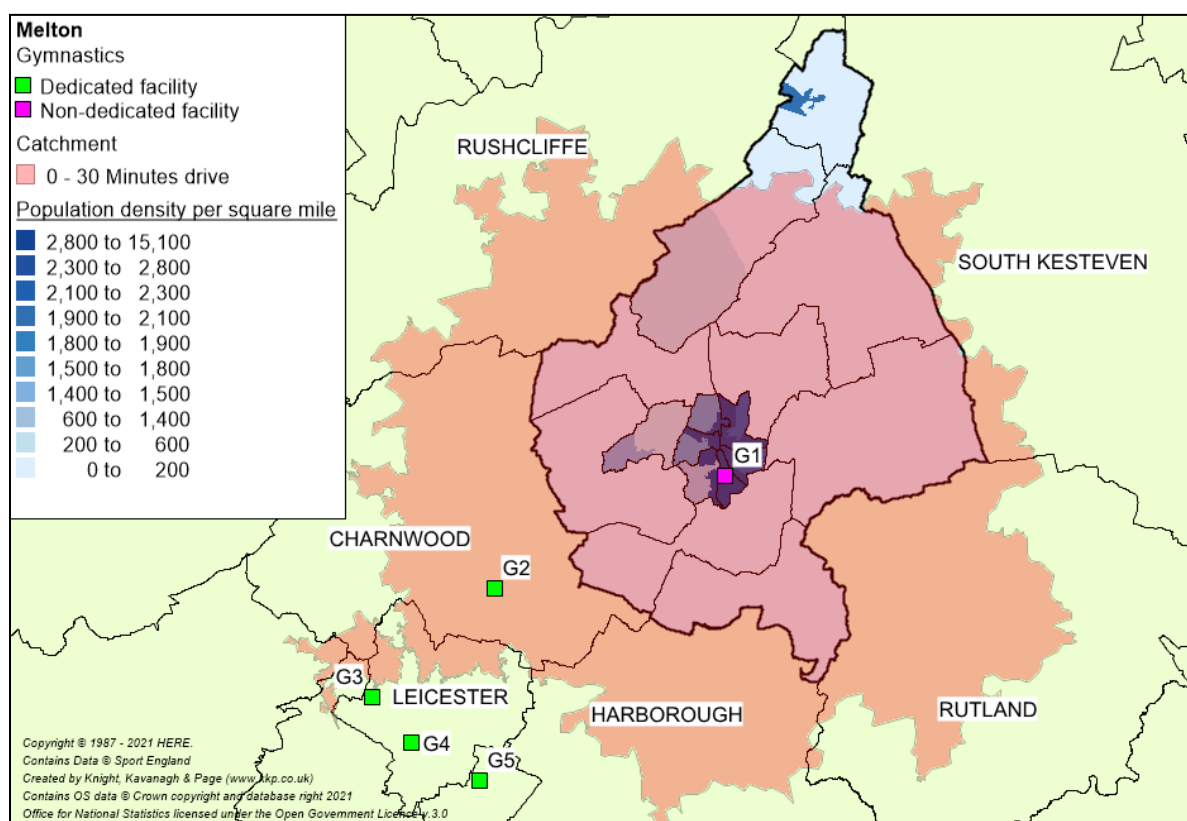
Melton's one club is Little Springers Gymnastics. It runs from a dedicated facility in Syston (Leicester) and a hall at Sandy Lane Methodist Church in Melton three days per week.

Table 9.1: Gymnastics clubs in Melton

ID	Site name	Dedicated facility	Local authority
G1	Little Springers Gymnastics	No	Melton
G2	Little Springers Gymnastics	Yes	Charnwood
G3	Hinckley Gymnastics Club	Yes	Leicester
G4	Gymnastics Zone Ltd	Yes	Leicester
G5	Oadby & Leicester Gymnastics Club	Yes	Oadby and Wigston

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Dedicated gymnastics sites within 30 minutes' drive of Melton



Accessibility and availability

Gymnastics facilities appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within with a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As shown, drive time catchment modelling estimates that over 95% of Melton's population (is within a 30-minute drive of the Little Springers Gymnastics club in Melton.

9.2: Demand

British Gymnastics reports that participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. Membership reached 390,500 in 2017 and increased at c.12% per year between 2013 -17.

British Gymnastics also reports substantial demand for more gymnastics opportunity; with clubs reported to having waiting lists - which restricts access to gymnastic activities due to lack of time within dedicated and non-dedicated facilities.

A key part of the strategy to increase participation is supporting clubs, leisure providers and other partners to have dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes. British Gymnastics 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.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Across its two sites, Little Springers has 600 British Gymnastics affiliated members. The Melton sessions operate as follows:

Age group	Day	Session times
0 (walking) to 3 years	Wednesday	9.30–10.30
3-4 years	Wednesday	10.45 – 11.45
4-5 years	Wednesday	16.15 – 17.15
5-7 years	Wednesday	17.15 - 18.15
	Friday	17.15 – 18.15
	Saturday	9.00 -10.00
	Saturday	10.00 – 11.00
8-10 years	Wednesday	18.15 – 19.15
	Friday	18.15 – 19.15
	Saturday	10.00 – 11.00
	Saturday	12.00.– 13.00
10+ years	Wednesday	19.15 – 20.15
	Friday	19.15 – 20.15
	Saturday	13.00 - 14.00

Consultation with British Gymnastics identified that the Club is not seeking to develop a dedicated facility in Melton, the focus is on sustaining and maintaining its existing provision.

Club consultation

Numerous attempts were made to contact the Club but no response was forthcoming.

9.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Gymnastics	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	One gymnastics club operates in the authority at a non-dedicated facility. (The Club also operates a dedicated facility in the neighbouring authority).	Ensure that it can meet demand for gymnastics activities for residents in Melton.
Quality	No quality issues were identified. (Club did not respond to consultation requests).	
Accessibility	One dedicated facility is available to residents of Melton within neighbouring authorities.	
Availability (Management & usage)	There is opportunity and demand to grow gymnastics participation in Melton. There is a need to develop the coaching and volunteer workforce in gymnastics.	
Strategic summary	Ensure that gymnastics opportunities are available to residents in Melton.	

SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

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

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

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

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

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

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the Borough of Melton. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

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

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

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

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

10.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

There are no indoor tennis courts in Melton. There are 11 within 30 minutes' drive time of Melton.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis courts within 30 minutes drive time of Melton

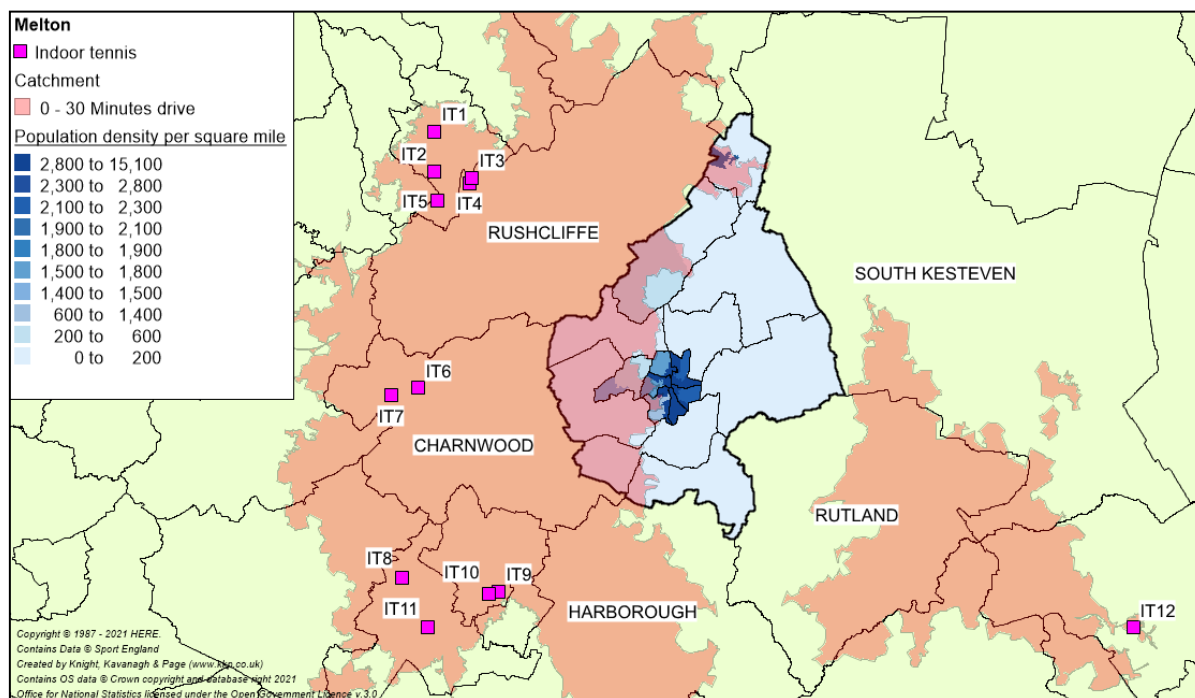


Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis courts within 30 minutes' drive time of Melton

Map ID	Site name	Courts		Access type	Authority
		Number	Type		
IT1	David Lloyd (Nottingham)	7	Traditional	Reg. membership	Nottingham
IT2	Nottingham Tennis Centre	8	Traditional	Reg. membership	Nottingham
IT2	Nottingham Tennis Centre	3	Airhall*	Reg. membership	Nottingham
IT3	West Bridgford Tennis Club	3	Traditional	Sports club / CA	Rushcliffe
IT4	David Lloyd (W. Bridgford)	8	Traditional	Reg. membership	Rushcliffe
IT5	Lee Westwood Sports Centre	4	Frame/fabric	Pay and play	Nottingham
IT6	Loughborough LTC	2	Airhall*	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
IT7	Loughborough University	8	Traditional	Pay and play	Charnwood
IT8	Leicester Forest East TC	2	Airhall	Sports club / CA	Blaby
IT9	Carisbrooke Tennis Club	2	Airhall*	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IT10	Sir Jonathan North College	4	Traditional	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IT11	David Lloyd (Narborough)	6	Frame/fabric	Reg. membership	Blaby
IT12	David Lloyd (Peterborough)	4	Airhall*	Reg. membership	Peterborough

(* seasonal)

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

KKP Map ID IT12 is outside the 30-minute drive time catchment but is on the map to demonstrate the relative lack of indoor tennis facilities to the Southeast of Melton.

Accessibility and availability

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that 27% of Melton’s population lives within 30-minutes’ drive of an indoor tennis facility. The courts are located in neighbouring local authorities and are accessible to Melton residents (within 30-minutes’ drive time). Residents in the east of the Authority are not within 30-minutes’ drive time of any tennis courts.

Residents wishing to play indoor tennis are required to travel to access courts. They also need be a member of the relevant club and purchase a membership for all facilities except Lee Westwood Sports Centre (IT5) which offers pay and play opportunity.

10.2: Demand

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

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Indoor tennis		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no current indoor tennis facility in Melton. 11 sites in neighbouring authorities are accessible for a proportion of Melton residents.	There is insufficient demand to viably consider developing indoor tennis provision in the area. Melton is not a priority area for LTA indoor provision.
Quality		
Accessibility	27% of Melton’s residents live within a 30-minute drive time of an indoor tennis facility in a neighbouring authority. There are no accessible facilities for residents in the east of the authority.	
Availability (Management & usage)		
Summary	Monitor the demand for indoor tennis facilities at outdoor court venues.	

SECTION 11: CYCLING & BMX

British Cycling is the national governing body for all forms of cycling. It oversees seven sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

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

British Cycling aids development of all seven formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. Cycling's popularity has increased since elite sporting success in the Olympics, Paralympics, and 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. BMX Freestyle 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 broad a diverse audience interested in lifestyle, non-traditional sports, and urban and street culture.

British Cycling notes that there are three cycling clubs in Melton.

Sporting Club: organises events and states it has five members. It organises national standard races (cyclo classic in which women and juniors also take part). These are held on or around the 24th of April every year. Although not a traditional club, to be able to host British Cycling affiliated events it has to act as an affiliated club and confirm that it is a club with operating members. This is the only reason Sporting Club affiliates to British Cycling.

Windmill Wheels: is a commercial club and has a race team. It is sponsored by a bike shop and it has only declared 11 members.

Melton Olympic Cycling Club: was formed in 1980. It has 100 18+ members of which 40% are active and 95% male. There are three ability groups: steady, middle, and fast. It established a youth section (Meteors) in 2019 although it has had some difficulty finding a facility post Covid and has subsequently lost the coach due to personal circumstances.

It organises social rides every Sunday morning. Members meet at a local park at 9.00am. They follow mapped routes and groups taking part do not have a coach but do have set group leaders. Rides take place towards the town centre and then into nearby counties.

In the summer months, it runs time trials though recent trends suggest that fewer people are taking part in this. This is combined with the fact that the organisers can no longer commit to doing as many events as previously.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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It hosts British Cycling ‘Let’s Ride’ programme which introduces beginners to cycling. The Club feels there is potential to deliver this off-road along with its-youth programme in the future.

Club committee meetings and AGMs take place at St Mary’s Place. The meeting rooms and café at this venue are sufficient for its needs. Social events are also held throughout the year and an awards evening and Christmas dinner are held at either the local tennis or golf club.

The Club feels that there is a perception that road riding has become more dangerous and that people prefer the idea of a closed road circuit which is deemed safer. Unfortunately, there is no relevant course in Melton and insufficient demand to warrant a new build in the area. The Club also mentioned that it was aware of some issues at Mallery Park in Leicester with events being cancelled. This is a key wider area site for closed road circuit riding.

11.2 Summary of key facts and issues

Cycling & BMX		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no cycling & BMX facility in Melton. Of the three cycling clubs in Melton, one is competitive, the others are recreational clubs	There is insufficient demand to viably operate a cycling facility.
Quality		
Accessibility		
Availability (Management and usage)		
Summary	Consultation did not identify a need for cycling provision in the Melton area. There is a need to increase/reinforce the local cycling volunteer coach workforce to reintroduce and increase reliable opportunities for juniors.	

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SECTION 12: SQUASH

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

Table 12.1: 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 England Squash vision, principles, and strategic pillars. 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, present and 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 our organisation'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.

England Squash estimates that there is 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 decade. For squash to thrive, the NGB believes that the ratio should be closer to one court per 10,000. In Melton, there are 51,100 people per court. This suggests that investment is required to increase the number of courts in the area as current provision does not meet local community needs. It is vital that new provision considers squash facilities as part of the facility mix. For a good quality programme to be delivered, there should be three squash courts. To meet the one per 10,000 benchmark, there is a need for five courts.

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This will ensure that a positive user experience and contribute to the variety of provision available to the current population and any expected growth.

12.1 Supply

Quantity and quality

There are no squash courts in Melton. There are 10 squash courts within 20 minutes' drive time of Melton. Half of these are glass backed and half traditional courts.

Figure 12.1: Squash courts within 20 minutes drivetime of Melton

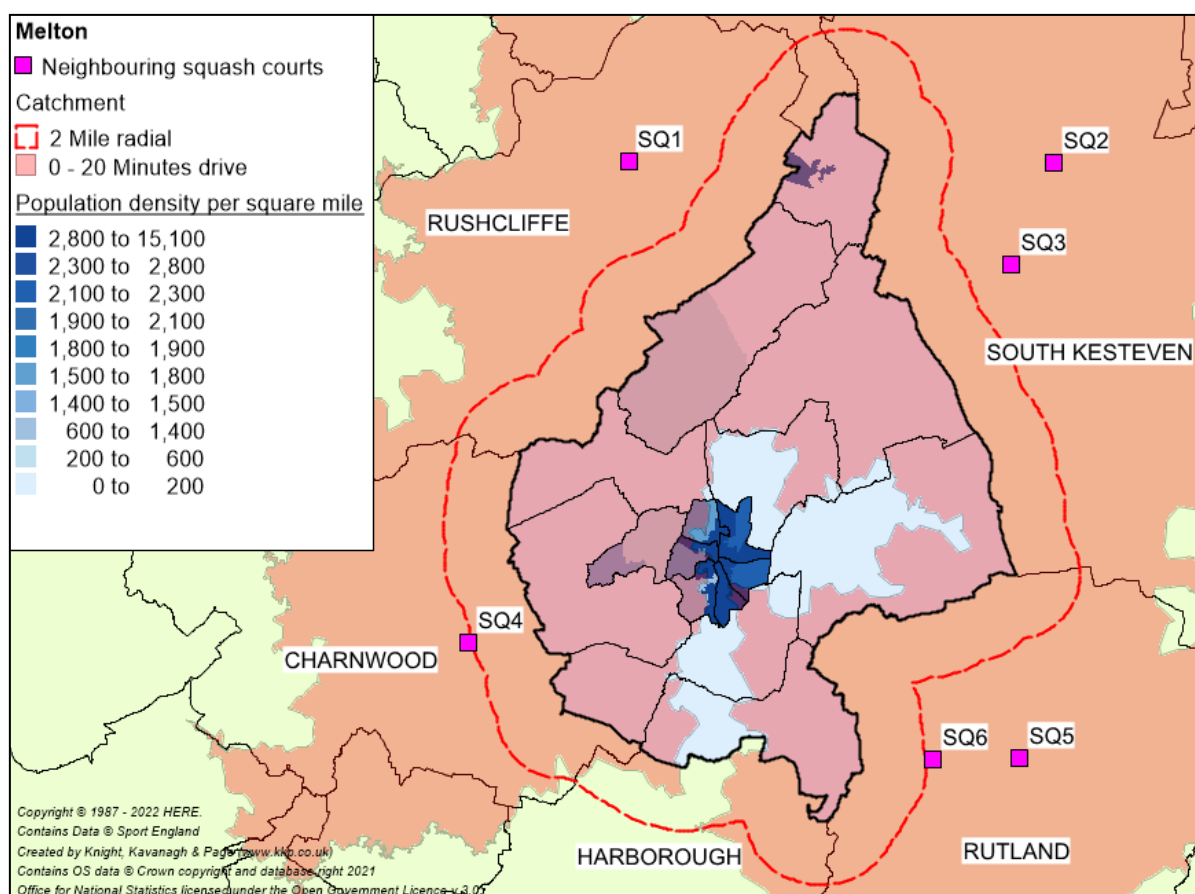


Table 12.1: Squash courts within 20 minutes drivetime of Melton

ID	Site name	Courts		Access type	Local authority
		No.	Type		
SQ1	Bingham Leisure Centre	1	Normal	Sports Club / CA	Rushcliffe
SQ2	Belton Woods Hotel	1	Glass-backed	Reg. membership	S. Kesteven
SQ3	Grantham Squash/Fitness Centre	2	Glass-backed	Reg. membership	S. Kesteven
SQ4	Ratcliffe College	1	Normal	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
SQ5	Barnsdale Hall & Country Club	2	Glass-backed	Reg. membership	Rutland
SQ6	Oakham School Sports Centre	3	Normal	Sports club / CA	Rutland

All require some form of membership to access, none are available on a pay and play basis.

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Drive time catchment modelling suggests that approximately 61% of Melton’s population is within a 20-minute drive of a facility with squash courts in a neighbouring local authority.

12.2 Summary of key facts and issues

Squash		
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are no squash courts in Melton. There are ten squash courts at six sites within 20 minutes’ drive time of Melton. Five are glass-backed, and the others are traditional.	Consider installing squash courts as part of any new leisure development.
Quality		
Accessibility	61% of Melton’s population lives within 30 minutes’ drive time of a squash court in a neighbouring authority.	
Availability (Management and usage)	A membership is required to access all of the provision located in neighbouring authorities, there is accessible no pay and play provision.	
Summary	There is a need to invest in squash court provision in the area to meet residents’ needs. There is a need to consider installing squash courts as part of any new leisure development.	

SECTION 13: INITIAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

- ◀ Commission a feasibility study into the replacement of MSV and Waterfield Leisure Centre.
- ◀ As part of the feasibility study explore the potential to install squash court provision.
- ◀ In line with MBC carbon reduction targets, ensure that existing facilities are made to be as energy efficient as possible, and that any new developments consider energy efficiency as high priority.
- ◀ Work with schools to maintain and where necessary improve the quality of sports facilities.
- ◀ Explore options to address the fact that there are limited opportunities for casual and daytime community use of sports halls.
- ◀ In the short/medium term, maintain the standard of the area's swimming pools via ongoing investment. There is a need, to invest in the plant and filters at Waterfield Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Ensure that Melton residents, especially harder to reach groups, and people living in rural areas and people with specific health needs can access sport and physical activity provision.
- ◀ Maintain a watching brief in respect of the scale of health and fitness provision within Melton. Should the upward participation trend continue, look to invest in expanding the level of provision available at public leisure centre to enable it to offer a large-scale facility that can compete commercially.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to invest in a NewGen athletics provision.
- ◀ Maintain and improve the condition of indoor bowls facilities.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs (with and via the leisure operator) to ensure that facilities and workforce development programmes meet the needs of all clubs and residents.
- ◀ Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance, and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities.