

**CITY OF BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL
INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR
SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY**

NEEDS ASSESSMENT – DRAFT AUGUST 2026

**WORKING DRAFT – SUBJECT TO STAKEHOLDER AND
SPORT ENGLAND INPUT**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Tim Holdsworth	21.08.2026
Quality control	John Eady	28.08.2026
Client comments		
Final Client comments		
Final approval		

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2: Scope of the project	2
1.3: Background	3
1.4: Report structure	4
SECTION 2: BACKGROUND	5
2.1: National context	5
2.2: Local context	14
2.3: Demographic profile	21
SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT	33
3.1: Methodology	33
3.2: Site visits	34
3.3 Catchment areas	35
3.4: Analysis areas	36
SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS	37
4.1: Supply	37
4.2: Demand	62
4.3: Future demand and the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)	71
4.4: Summary of key facts and issues	72
SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS	75
5.1: Supply	75
5.2: Demand	88
5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)	94
5.4: Summary of key facts and issues	95
SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES	98
6.1: Supply	99
6.2: Demand	111
6.3: Dance studios	113
6.4: Summary of key facts and issues	115
SECTION 7: SQUASH	117
7.1 Supply	118
7.2: Demand	119
7.3: Summary of key facts and issues	121
SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING	123
8.1: Supply	124
8.2: Demand	125

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues	127
SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS	128
9.1: Supply	130
9.2: Demand	132
9.3: Summary of key facts and issues	133
SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS.....	134
10.1: Supply	134
10.2: Demand	136
10.3: Padel tennis	136
10.4: Summary of key facts and issues	137
SECTION 11: COMBAT SPORTS.....	139
11.1: Supply & Demand.....	141
11.2: Summary of key facts and issues – Combat sports	148
SECTION 12: CLIMBING	149
12.1: Supply & Demand.....	149
12.3: Summary of key facts and issues	151
SECTION 11: EMERGING STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS	152

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WORKING DRAFT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO STAKEHOLDER AND SPORT ENGLAND INPUT.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to develop an integrated sports assessment. This indoor sports and built facilities strategy (ISBFS) needs assessment will underpin production of a robust framework to guide the prioritisation, provision and development of built facilities across the public, private and voluntary sectors in the district. It is being developed alongside the Bradford Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS).

CBMDC is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan. This will guide development to at least 2043, setting out strategic and thematic policies for housing, employment, infrastructure and environmental protection. It identifies the delivery of over 30,000 new homes and more than 70 hectares of employment land, alongside site allocations for housing, employment and other uses, and areas designated for environmental protection. With regard to the ISBFS, the council's stated objectives are to:

- ◆ Provide an accurate practical assessment of supply, quality and quantity of built sports facilities across the district, in a framework that can be updated as required by CBMDC.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive evidence base which incorporates a needs assessment and a clear strategy and action plan for indoor sports provision, creating a strong platform for future planning and investment.
- ◆ Embedding engagement with the local sport partnership steering group, including local and regional partners, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) and community organisations, involved the study process.
- ◆ Undertake a robust review of local sports clubs, their activity, capacity and facility needs, identifying both current demand and future opportunities.
- ◆ Ensure that all assessment outputs are compliant with Sport England guidance and best practice to inform the Local Plan and decision making.
- ◆ Produce accessible reporting, supported by spatial analysis, to enable comparison, monitoring and ongoing strategic planning by the council.

The process involves gathering evidence about provision and overall need to develop a clear:

- ◆ Picture of the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities serving the area within Bradford district and adjacent authorities.
- ◆ Understanding of existing and future demand for facilities considering local population data, local and national participation rates, unmet, latent, dispersed and future demand, local activity priorities and sports specific priorities.
- ◆ Understanding of the resultant required level of provision in quantity, quality, accessibility and availability terms and develop key findings and facility implications that could be used by CBMDC with reference to a toolkit for provision.

The linked intelligence and needs assessment encompass:

- ◆ Documented assessment of current use and future need for sports/amenity facilities in Bradford; focusing on quantity and quality in relation to supply and demand - to 2043.
- ◆ Identification of all sites to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Identification of education facilities which could help address identified provision deficits.
- ◀ Detail to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ Detail with regard to the need to inform the assessment of planning applications – linked to a toolkit via which contributions can be best directed to enhance existing provision.

Development priorities cover:

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

Financial budgeting encompassing:

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

The audit was conducted between March-June 2026. Where access was not available KKP carried out non-technical quality assessments via desk research. Where possible the quality of this was supplemented utilising virtual 'walk arounds' of the health and fitness suites or videos and photos present on operators' websites or in discussion with operators.

1.2: Scope of the project

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

- ◀ Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m² which is equivalent to 4 lanes x 20m), health and fitness facilities (including dance studios), squash courts, indoor tennis courts, indoor bowls facilities, combat sports facilities, and climbing facilities.
- ◀ Analysed supply and demand to identify gaps and opportunities to improve provision.
- ◀ Sought to identify the extent to which delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the council and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities for improved service to drive up participation levels.

This evidence-based report thus 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. The specific objectives are, thus, to:

- ◀ Review relevant council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional, and national strategic context.
- ◀ Produce demographic analysis of the local population at present and in the future (to 2043).
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by the public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ◆ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities and to identify potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◆ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

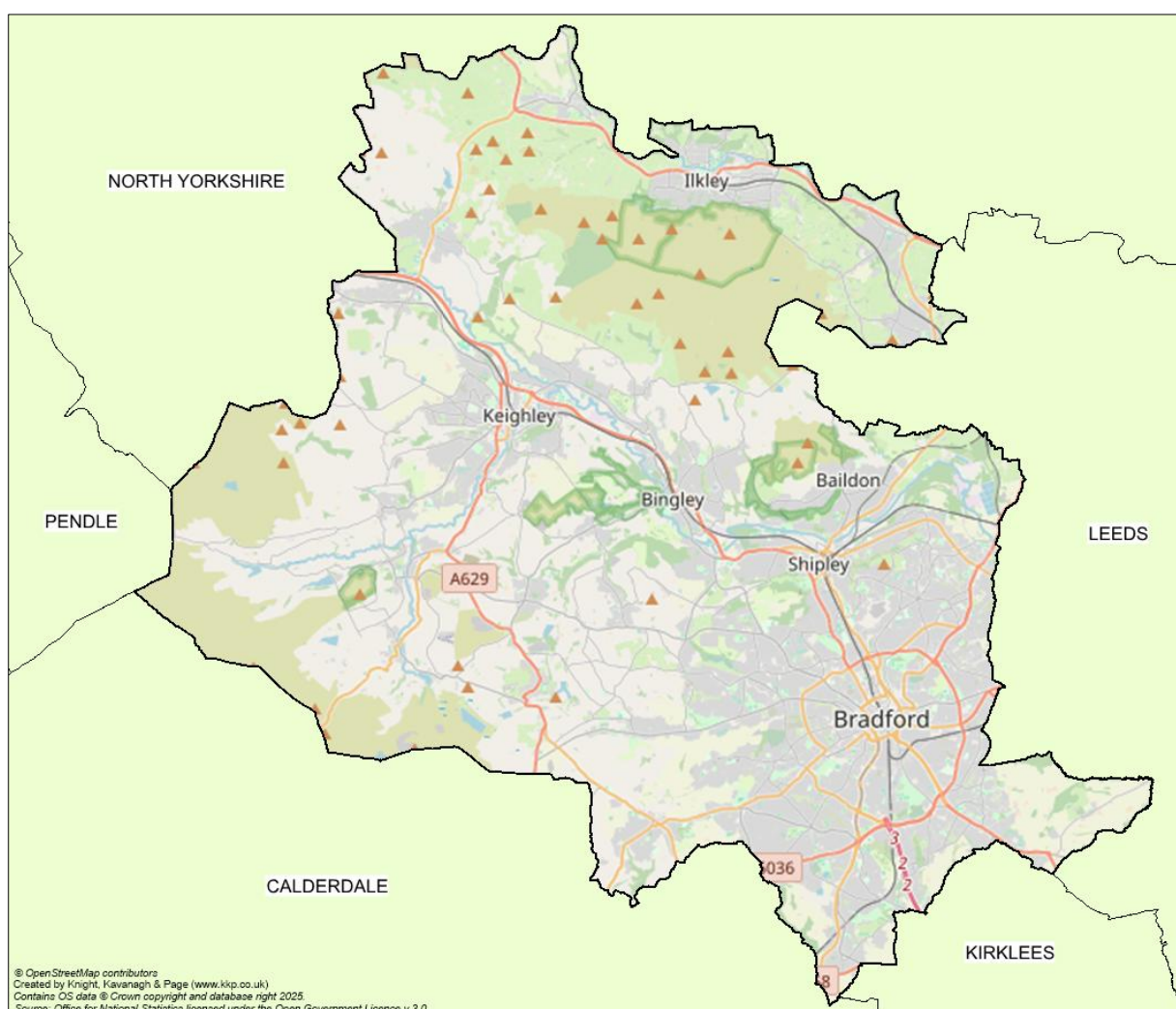
This process follows the Sport England Assessment Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) methodology for assessing indoor sports need. It accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.3: Background

Bradford is a metropolitan borough in West Yorkshire, located in the north of England. Covering c.366 square kilometres, it is geographically diverse, comprising a large core urban area in Bradford itself and other urban settlements alongside extensive rural and semi-rural areas, including parts of the South Pennines. The district has strong functional links with neighbouring authorities within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority area, reflecting established economic and transport connections across the region.

Key urban centres, towns and communities include, as noted, Bradford plus Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Ilkley and Silsden, alongside a range of smaller settlements and villages.

Figure 1.1: City of Bradford with main roads and neighbouring authorities



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The district benefits from strong regional and national transport connections; by road, with the M62 and M606 providing strategic links to the national motorway network, while the A650, A658 and A629 connect key settlements within it.

The M62 offers direct east west connectivity to Leeds, Manchester and the wider North, supporting both commuting and economic activity, while the M606 provides a direct route into Bradford from the motorway network.

Rail services are centred on Bradford Interchange and Bradford Forster Square stations, both located close to the city centre. These provide regular services to key destinations including Leeds, Manchester, London and Skipton, operated by Northern and London North Eastern Railway. Other stations include those servicing Keighley, Shipley, Ilkley and Bingley - they further support connectivity and access to employment, education and leisure opportunities across West Yorkshire and beyond.

1.4: Report structure

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

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

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

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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

It is important to note that a change of UK Government took place in July 2024. The majority of strategies and policies to which reference is made below were set in place prior to June 2024 and it is, thus, likely that over the period of time to which this strategy applies, some changes will be made.

2.1: National context

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

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

Sport England

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

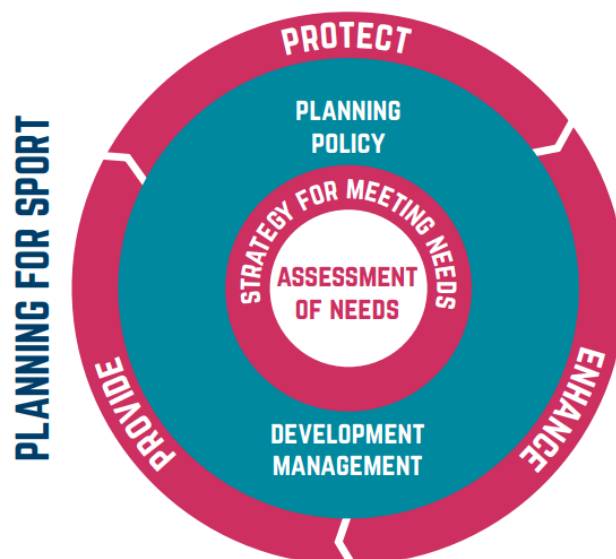


Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model

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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

Figure 2.2: Sport England's 12 planning principles



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2023

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:

- ✦ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ✦ Joining forces on five big issues.
- ✦ Creating the catalysts for change.

As well as advocating sport and physical activity via the building of evidence and partnership development, it 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 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: an unrelenting focus on positive experiences for them - 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 that 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.

Its specific impact will be captured via funded programmes, key interventions 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.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport England : Moving Communities Impact report (April 2023 - March 2025)

This is the largest data set available for England's public leisure sector, covering 1,419 facilities across 294 local authorities. It provides a national evidence base on participation, finance, customer experience and operational performance, helping councils and operators benchmark and improve services.

It presents a picture of a public leisure sector that has largely stabilised following the pandemic and energy crisis, while continuing to generate what it describes as substantial social value. The sector is becoming more efficient but remains highly marginal financially. Overall, demand is increasingly shifting towards fitness and flexible activity provision, while swimming participation has reverted towards pre-pandemic norms.

Participation has stabilised after several years of post-pandemic recovery, with 7.49 million known participants recorded across the sample, averaging 14,166 participants per site. Growth is now modest and indicates a mature recovery phase rather than rapid expansion. Facilities are successfully engaging women and older adults but are making only gradual progress in reducing socio-economic inequalities. In terms of participation trends

:

- ♦ Women continue to account for the majority of users (53%), outperforming national participation trends where men are generally more active.
- ♦ Growth is strongest among older adults, particularly those aged 55+, which is notable given the national tendency for activity levels to decline with age.
- ♦ Participation among children aged 1-15 fell by 2.7%, potentially reflecting swimming lessons returning to normal demand after unusually high post-pandemic uptake.
- ♦ Participation from the most deprived communities (IMD 1-2) increased slightly and continues a three-year positive trend¹.
- ♦ However, a substantial participation inequality gap remains, with 16% of users coming from the most deprived areas compared to 25% from the least deprived areas.

Throughput data shows that usage levels have also stabilised, with 169.4 million visits recorded across the sample and an average of 261,877 visits per site. Whilst overall growth was only 0.8%, outdoor activities (+14%) and fitness/gym activities (+13.3%) experienced the strongest rises. Swimming activity (-12.3%) and swimming lessons (-6.7%) showed noticeable declines. Newer facilities generated significantly higher throughput than older sites. Large wet-and-dry facilities which were less than 10 years old achieved 20% greater usage levels than comparable older facilities.

In financial terms, although performance has improved, the sector remains fragile. The median cost recovery rate increased from 98% to 100%, meaning half of facilities now break even or perform better, while the other half continue to operate at a deficit. Wage inflation and national insurance pressures nevertheless continue to threaten sustainability.

In terms of facility type, large wet-and-dry facilities achieved the strongest cost recovery, with commercial operators achieving the highest median cost recovery. Newer venues (those less than 10 years old) generated substantially higher returns, with large wet-and-dry centres achieving 26% more income than older equivalents.

¹ The Moving Communities Report figures reflect the number of "unique participants" (i.e. people who have visited at least once over the relevant analysis period) rather than the number of times different individuals visit leisure centres. So, while the number of people who live in a defined deprived area who visited a leisure centre shows an increase, this is not necessarily indicative of ongoing usage or regular participation. By way of reinforcement of this, Sport England's 23/24 Active Lives survey highlighted that inequalities in activity levels have increased between affluence groups (see below).

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Total annual social value of sport and physical activity in England 2025²

Sport and physical activity are widely recognised as making people happier, healthier, and fostering stronger communities. This is why creating more opportunities for those who need them most is central to Sport England's Uniting the Movement strategy.

The social and economic value of community sport and physical activity report provides an evidence base to better understand the value of taking part in sport and physical activity. Sport England, in partnership with social value experts State of Life, sports economists from the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, and the Institute of Sport at Manchester Metropolitan University, have developed an updated national model to quantify the social value of community sport and physical activity.

The November 2025 report breaks down the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity into two parts. Part one focuses on the primary benefits, such as physical and mental health improvements, while part two explores the broader value to society. In total it estimates that the total social value generated by community sport and physical activity in England was £122.9 billion in 2023/24.

It shows that £106.9 billion of this annual social value comes from the improved wellbeing that sport and physical activity generates for individuals through their participation and volunteering. This includes £14.1 billion in wellbeing value for children and young people, a figure that now incorporates the wellbeing value of participation amongst children aged 7-11.

The year two report also details how sport and physical activity adds a further £15.9 billion of annual social value through the cost savings that improved health outcomes in adults generate for the state and society – from the prevention of 1.3 million cases of depression and over 700,000 cases of type 2 diabetes, to savings of over £500 million due to reduced GP visits and over £800 million due to reduced mental health service usage, all a result of improved health from being active. It also estimates £5.8 billion in productivity cost savings due to reduced disease in the working-age population, further demonstrating the key role sport and physical activity plays in creating a healthier and more productive society.

The report estimates that there would be around £18.2 billion more annual social value generated if participation in sport and physical activity among adults with 1 or 2+ characteristics of inequality rose to the same levels as those with no characteristics, i.e. all three groups in the population were physically active at the rates highlighted. This would equate to roughly five million more 'active' adults in England and would mean that the benefits of sport and physical activity would be more evenly distributed across the adult population.

This underscores the profound impact of sport and physical activity on quality of life, as improved health and wellbeing positively influence relationships, social connections, and productivity.

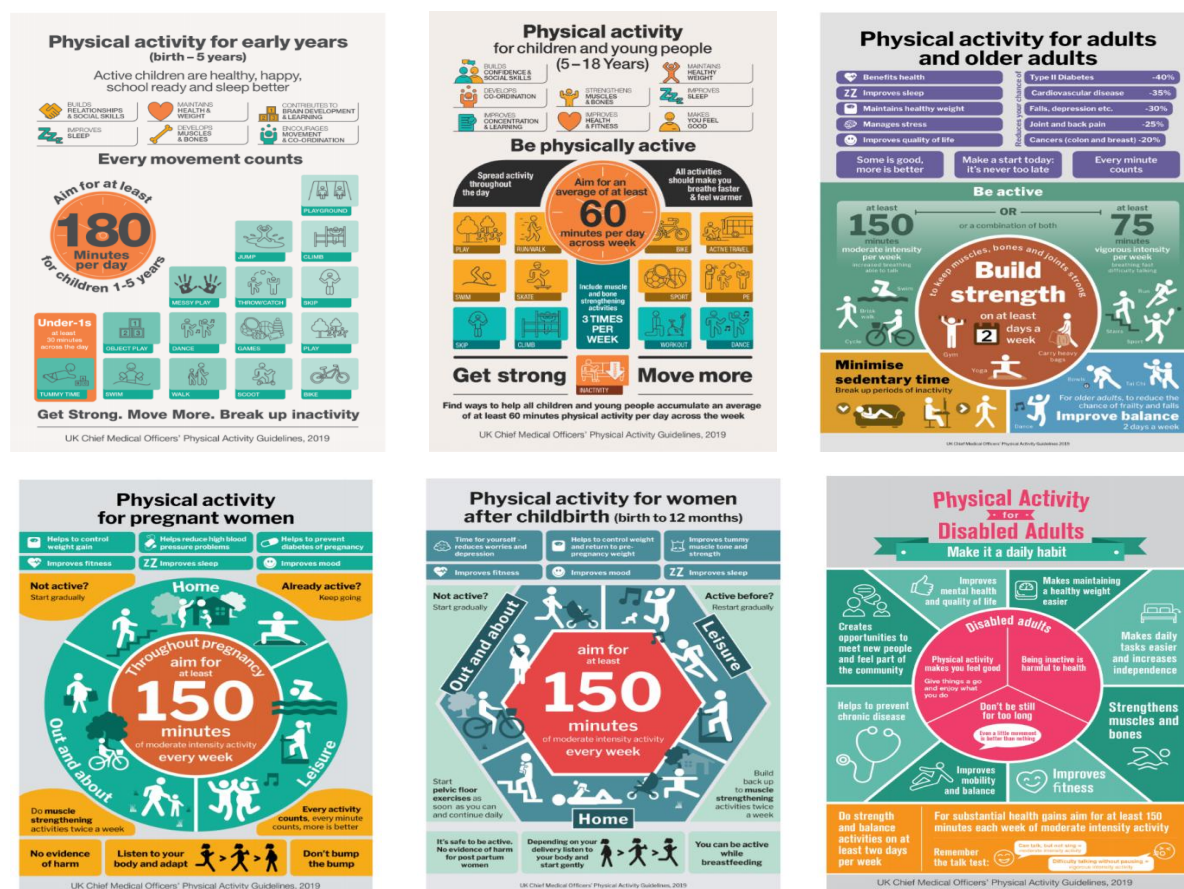
Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

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

²[Link to The social value of physical activity and sport summary report ; year two update](#)

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



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

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

- Under-5s: This is broken down into infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. They 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): they should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- Adults (19-64 years): For good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- Older adults (65+): should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2025 report

This notes that more than one in five people in the UK now live in poverty (including 4.3 million children. Of these, 40% are described as being in 'deep poverty', with an income considerably below the standard poverty line. Groups which face particularly high levels of poverty. They include (figures relate to 2023/24 unless otherwise stated):

- ✦ Larger families – 44% of children in families with three more children were in poverty.
- ✦ Families whose childcare responsibilities limit their ability to work – 43% of children in lone-parent families were in poverty.
- ✦ Many minority ethnic group-based households have higher rates of child, very deep and persistent poverty.
- ✦ 28% of disabled people (34% for those with a long-term, limiting mental health condition).
- ✦ 28% of informal carers (those with caring responsibilities). They have limited ability to work, and unpaid social-care givers experience an average pay penalty of nearly £5,000/annum.
- ✦ Families not in work – more than half of working-age adults (56%) in workless households are in poverty - compared with 15% in working households. Around two-thirds of working-age adults in poverty live in a household where someone is in work.
- ✦ Part-time workers and the self-employed - the poverty rate for part-time workers was nearly triple that of full-time workers (22% compared with 8%).
- ✦ 43% of people in rented accommodation and 35% of private renters (after housing costs).
- ✦ Poverty rates for people claiming different income-related benefits are much higher than the national average poverty rate.

Environmental sustainability: UK government carbon budget and growth delivery plan (2025)

This policy paper sets out its position in respect of implementing clean energy measures in line with the 2008 Climate Change Act. It sets out the following priorities:

- ✦ Strengthen UK energy security and reduce household bills. The plan emphasises increasing energy sovereignty through rapid expansion of renewables and nuclear power. This is intended to free households and businesses from reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, especially in light of gas costs still being significantly higher post-Ukraine conflict.
- ✦ Drive economic growth, innovation, and high-quality job creation: the clean energy transition is positioned as a major economic opportunity. Key ambitions include supporting the UK clean energy sectors (which are growing three times faster than the wider economy), leveraging over £50 billion of private clean-energy investment announced since 2024 and nearly doubling the clean-energy workforce to over 800,000 jobs by 2030.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Improve public health, quality of life, and reduce environmental harm. The document links clean energy with improved living standards through warmer homes, cleaner air, cheaper and cleaner transport, and increased access to nature. These societal benefits are presented as central to supporting communities while tackling climate and nature crises.
- ◀ Protect and enhance the natural environment. The plan reinforces alignment with the UK Climate Change Act and broader aims to safeguard land, ecosystems, and biodiversity while delivering decarbonisation.

[Sport England](#) reports that³ climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to counter this very real threat.

It notes that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development and the resultant environmental impact of, say, new swimming pool provision.

This applies to determining whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embedded or to build anew. 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. These include:

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

School sport and PE

Sport England research indicates that only 45% of children currently meet Government guidelines that children and young people achieve 30 minutes of physical activity during the school day, and just 56% meet the target of 30 minutes activity outside of school, with participation levels varying significantly across different demographic groups (girls, those with SEND and those from disadvantaged backgrounds exhibit lower levels of activity)

In May 2026, the UK government announced a £1billion three-year funding package for school sport with a focus on tackling inactivity. The funding comprises £580m to re-establish the PE and school partnership network , which will aim to build strong partnerships between schools, local clubs and National Governing Bodies.

³[Sport England Environmental Sustainability policy](#)

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A new Enrichment Framework for schools will aim to ensure that all young people have equal access to high-quality sport and extracurricular activity. Specifically, it will aim to give girls the same opportunity as boys to play sport at school, as well as equal access for those with special needs and disabilities.

The remainder of the funding package comprises £200m towards improving school sports facilities and a one-off £100 million PE Premium payment to support primary schools during the transition year.

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

This has been developed to facilitate a shared understanding of physical literacy for those working in the sport, education, physical activity, recreation, play, health and youth sectors. It offers a broad overview of physical literacy, why it matters and how it can be developed and supported. Developing a consensus on this has been a priority, as understanding what impacts people's relationship with movement and physical activity throughout life will enable those working in the sector to ensure their offer is as appealing as possible.

In essence, physical literacy represents the extent to which individuals have a positive relationship with movement and physical activity. The Youth Sport Trust published findings evidencing that a total of 4,000 hours of physical education (PE) have been lost from the curriculum of state-funded secondary schools. PE hours have fallen victim to more time spent online, poor school attendance and declining health and wellbeing levels in young people. Between 2012-2023, the amount of PE in England reportedly fell by more than 12%.

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

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

Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund

In 2023, a funding pot of £63 million was announced to ease the pressure on leisure centres managing the cost of operating, maintaining and heating swimming pools. This is available to all pools run by councils and charities. Those run on behalf of local authorities are eligible.

Two facilities in Bradford were successful in securing funding in Phase One of the Fund. The Leisure Centre Keighley was awarded £302,822 and Ilkley Swimming Pool received £171,644, totalling £474,466 to support ongoing operational costs and help maintain service provision.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2024

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 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:

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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

Upcoming planning changes

As of early 2026, the UK government is implementing significant revisions to the NPPF focused primarily on accelerating housebuilding to meet its target of 1.5 million new homes. The key proposed changes include:

- ◆ Mandatory targets and green belt: reintroduction of mandatory housing targets for local authorities, with a focus on identifying "grey belt" land for development.
- ◆ Station development: supporting higher-density, mixed-use development near well-connected train stations, with minimum density requirements of 40-50 dwellings per ha.
- ◆ Urban densification: stronger emphasis on densification in urban and suburban areas, including infill and vertical expansion.
- ◆ "Golden rules" for green belt: new requirements for developers to provide essential infrastructure (such as schools or GP surgeries) and a higher proportion of affordable housing when developing on greenbelt land.
- ◆ Small to medium enterprise (SME) developer support: introduction of a "medium development" category (10-49 units) with eased regulations to assist SME housebuilders.
- ◆ Biodiversity net gain (BNG): introduction of area-based exemptions for smaller sites (up to 0.2 hectares) and streamlining BNG delivery for brownfield sites.
- ◆ Local plan pressure: strengthened presumption in favour of sustainable development where local plans are out of date, making it harder to refuse development.

Summary of national context

In the context of the challenging economic environment, there is a need to reconnect communities, reduce inequality and create stronger societies. The aim is to create a catalyst for change using sport and physical activity as a key driver and enabling people in all age groups to get and/or stay active. Ensuring adequate supply of suitable facilities to support this is a key requirement of the planning system in line with national policy recommendations.

2.2: Local context

CBMDC emerging local plan

This adopts a place based, vision led approach, recognising the needs of communities and service providers in shaping how areas grow and change. Supporting residents to live well and lead healthy lives is a key priority, with sports facilities playing an important role in achieving this objective.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Its vision and framework for housing growth for the district is based on an estimated housing-led population increase of 80,870⁴ people over the period - resulting in a total population of 644,475 by 2043. Of the 33,696 dwellings required, 25,646 are currently attributed to identified sites and commitments, as detailed in Table 2.12.

For the purposes of the emerging Local Plan, Bradford is divided into four spatial planning areas. The Regional City of Bradford comprises the city centre and the wider urban area, including the city's surrounding neighbourhoods and principal urban communities. Airedale covers the settlements located along the Aire Valley, including Keighley, Bingley, Silsden, Baildon and Steeton with Eastburn. Pennine Towns and Villages encompasses the western settlements of the district, including Queensbury, Thornton, Haworth, Denholme and Wilsden, while Wharfedale covers the north-eastern part of the district, including Ilkley, Burley in Wharfedale, Menston and Addingham. These spatial planning areas provide the framework for distributing future housing and employment growth.

Planned housing growth is largely concentrated within The Regional City of Bradford. It accounts for approximately two-thirds of identified housing supply over the plan period. This includes significant regeneration-led housing growth within the Southern Gateway⁵, a key regeneration priority and one which is expected to make a substantial contribution to future housing delivery. The remaining growth is distributed across Airedale, Pennine Towns and Villages and Wharfedale, with Keighley representing the largest growth location outside The Regional City of Bradford.

Table 2.12: CBMDC housing growth per Spatial Planning Areas

Spatial planning area	Dwellings	% of total supply
The Regional City of Bradford	16,997	66.3%
Airedale	4,037	15.7%
Pennine Towns and Villages	2,607	10.2%
Wharfedale	2,004	7.8%
Total	25,646	100.0%

National planning policy requires that local plan policies are informed by robust, up to date and evidence-based assessments of need. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:

“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) 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, para 103).

⁴ Bradford 2024 population (ONS MYE) = 563,603. Increase in population from housing growth 33,696 dwellings x 2.4 occupancy = 80,870. Bradford 2043 population = 644,475

⁵ <https://www.southerngateway.co.uk/>

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It further emphasises the importance of protecting existing provision, stating that:

“Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use” (NPPF, para 104).

In this context, planning policies should promote healthy, inclusive and safe communities, including the provision of sport infrastructure and addressing inequalities in access to facilities.

The integrated sports assessment will, thus, provide a comprehensive and robust evidence base to inform the Local Plan, support wider health and wellbeing objectives, and guide future sport facility planning, open space strategies and green infrastructure across the district.

Bradford District Strategy (2025-2035)

This sets out a long term, partnership led vision for the district, focused on inclusive growth, improved health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities. It establishes a shared ambition for Bradford to be recognised as a leading place for culture, innovation and sustainability, where residents can live healthy and fulfilling lives and communities can thrive.

The strategy has four core priorities: supporting economic growth and regeneration, creating strong and safe communities, improving health and wellbeing, and ensuring that children and young people have the best start in life. These are underpinned by a commitment to tackling inequality and poverty, which are identified as key cross cutting challenges.

A strong emphasis is placed on partnership working across public, private and voluntary sectors, with a focus on delivering coordinated services and maximising the impact of investment across the district. It also highlights the importance of enabling sustainable development, improving skills and employment opportunities, and enhancing the quality of places and community assets.

Overall, the strategy provides the overarching framework to guide decision making and investment across the district to 2035, supporting the delivery of healthier, more inclusive and economically resilient communities.

Bradford District Children & Young People’s Strategy (2023-2025)

This sets out a partnership framework to improve outcomes for children, young people and families across the district. It is underpinned by a shared vision to create a “child friendly” Bradford, where all children and young people can reach their full potential. Its focus is on four core outcomes: improving educational attainment, supporting positive physical and mental health, ensuring children are safe in their homes and communities, and enabling young people to become active citizens with the skills required for adult life.

Delivery is to be supported by a range of priorities centred on early intervention, partnership working and improving access to services. This includes strengthening links between education, health and community organisations, addressing inequalities, supporting vulnerable groups, and improving access to safe spaces, leisure opportunities and physical activity.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The strategy has been developed collaboratively with partners, professionals, children, young people and families, drawing on data, research and local insight to ensure it reflects local needs and aspirations.

Moving forward, the current strategy is being succeeded by an updated document, developed as part of the Bradford District Strategy, which runs to 2035. This adopts a more integrated, long-term approach aligned with wider district priorities, with a stronger focus on improving mental health, educational outcomes, employment pathways and reducing the need for children to enter care.

Overall, the strategy provides a coordinated framework for improving life chances for children and young people, contributing to wider ambitions around health, wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Active Bradford Physical Activity Strategy – Every Move Counts

This sets out a whole system approach to increasing physical activity across Bradford. Its vision is to create an “active district” where it is easier for everyone to move more and be active as part of everyday life. Co-produced with partners, stakeholders and communities, its focus is on addressing low activity levels and reducing inequalities in participation, particularly among underrepresented groups. It recognises physical inactivity as a key public health challenge, with wide-ranging impacts on health, wellbeing and demand for services.

Delivery is structured around a series of priority themes spanning key settings, including schools, communities, workplaces, health and care, green spaces, the built environment and active travel. A strong emphasis is placed on partnership working, environmental change and behaviour shift to embed physical activity across policy and practice.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy (Bradford District & Craven Health & Care Partnership)

This provides a partnership framework for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities across the population. It focuses on prevention, early intervention and integrated service delivery, recognising that many of the drivers of poor health are linked to wider social, economic and environmental factors. It is based upon a multi-agency partnership comprising NHS organisations, the local authority and voluntary and community sector partners, with strategic oversight from by the Bradford and Airedale Wellbeing Board. It is informed by population data, professional insight and engagement with local communities to ensure it reflects local needs and priorities.

It promotes a joined-up approach to health and care, with services increasingly delivered at neighbourhood level to ensure support is accessible and responsive to local needs. It emphasises the importance of collaboration across organisations, data led decision making and engaging communities in shaping services. A central objective is to enable people to live healthier lives for longer, reduce demand on acute services and address entrenched inequalities via targeted interventions. This includes improving access to opportunities for physical activity, alongside wider measures relating to housing, employment, environment and community wellbeing.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Better Health & Wellbeing for Everyone: Our Five-Year Plan (West Yorkshire & Harrogate)

This five-year plan which commenced in 2020 was developed by the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership as a strategic framework to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities across the region. It sets out a shared ambition for partners to work more collaboratively to deliver joined up, person centred health and care services.

It focuses on improving population health, addressing health inequalities and transforming health and care services through greater integration across organisations. A key priority is to ensure that services are easier to access, better coordinated and more responsive to local needs, supported by stronger partnership working across the NHS, local authorities and voluntary sector.

Central to it is a shift to prevention and early intervention, recognising the influence of wider determinants of health such as housing, employment, education and environment. It promotes a whole system approach to improving health and wellbeing, working with communities to enable people to live healthier lives for longer.

The plan also establishes a set of long-term ambitions, including increasing healthy life expectancy and reducing the gap between the most and least deprived communities, alongside improving outcomes for key priority groups. Subsequently, it has been refreshed and progressed through the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy (2023), reflecting changes in the health and care system and reinforcing the focus on partnership work, prevention and reducing inequalities at a system wide level.

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council Plan (2025-2030)

This sets out the council's strategic priorities, delivery approach and performance framework, aligning its activity with the wider Bradford District Strategy. It outlines how the council will use its leadership, resources and services to support long term economic growth, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities.

It is structured around four core priority themes: growth and regeneration, healthy and happy residents, safe and strong communities, and ensuring Bradford is a great place to grow up. These priorities reflect a commitment to improving outcomes for residents, supporting inclusive economic development and enhancing quality of life across all communities.

It also includes a focus on organisational transformation through a “one council” approach, ensuring services are efficient, sustainable and responsive to local needs. This includes making best use of resources, improving customer experience and delivering services in a more integrated and innovative way.

It establishes how progress will be monitored and measured, providing a clear framework for accountability, performance management and continuous improvement over the five-year period.

Bradford District Director of Public Health Annual Report (2023)

This report highlights the key health challenges and inequalities affecting residents across the district, with a particular focus on children and young people. It draws on engagement, data and local insight to inform priorities for improving health outcomes and shaping future service delivery.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The key themes include:

- Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing: highlighting the ongoing impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly in relation to anxiety, emotional wellbeing and demand for mental health support services. The report emphasises the importance of early intervention and accessible support.
- Voice and influence of children and young people: a central theme is engagement, with a focus on ensuring that the views and experiences of young people shape service design and delivery, particularly in relation to health and wellbeing provision.
- Prevention and early intervention: reinforcing the need for a proactive, partnership-based approach to improving health outcomes, including strengthening community-based services and promoting healthier lifestyles from an early age.
- Health inequalities: identifying significant disparities across the district, particularly linked to socio economic deprivation, and the need for targeted interventions to improve access to services and outcomes.

Priority population groups include:

- Children and young people: identified as a key demographic due to Bradford's relatively young population, with specific challenges relating to mental health, wellbeing and access to services
- Young people experiencing disadvantage: including those affected by deprivation, with inequalities influencing health outcomes and access to opportunities.
- Communities experiencing health inequalities: particularly those living in more deprived areas of the district, where wider determinants such as income, housing and environment contribute to poorer health outcomes.

A key priority highlighted is the ambition to create a *child friendly Bradford*, ensuring that children and young people are supported to have a positive start in life, are able to influence decisions affecting them, and have access to services and environments that support their health and wellbeing.

Capital Strategy/Capital Investment Plan (2025-2030)

This maps out CBMDC's approach to planning, prioritising and delivering capital investment across its assets, infrastructure and services. It provides a framework for aligning capital expenditure with corporate priorities, ensuring that investment supports economic growth, regeneration, service delivery and improved outcomes for residents.

It identifies a multi-year programme of investment, including funding for regeneration schemes, infrastructure improvements and the maintenance and enhancement of key public assets. It also establishes how projects will be funded, balancing borrowing, external funding and capital receipts within the council's wider financial strategy. A key focus is ensuring that capital investment is sustainable and affordable, with clear consideration given to revenue implications, value for money and long-term financial planning. This includes ongoing review of the capital programme to respond to financial pressures and changing priorities.

Overall, it sets out a structured approach to managing and investing in Bradford's asset base, supporting the delivery of corporate objectives and long-term place based outcomes.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Bradford District Climate Action Plan (2025-2028)

This is based upon Bradford's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2038. It identifies key sectors contributing to emissions and describes a programme of actions across transport, buildings, energy and infrastructure. It notes that public buildings, including leisure facilities, are significant energy users and highlights the need to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and transition to low carbon heating. It supports measures such as energy efficiency upgrades; decarbonisation of heating systems and behaviour change across services to reduce demand and improve sustainability of the council's operational estate.

Yorkshire Sport Foundation

Yorkshire Sport (Yorkshire Sport Foundation) is the Active Partnership covering West and South Yorkshire, working to increase participation in sport and physical activity and reduce inequalities. It promotes a vision of a more active region, where everyone can move more as part of everyday life.

Its approach is place-based and whole system, recognising that activity levels are influenced by wider factors such as health, communities, environment and transport. It notes the ambition to work with local authorities, health partners and the voluntary sector to create the conditions that enable people to be active.

Key priorities include active communities, active travel, health and care, schools, workplaces and the design of environments that support activity, with a strong focus on reducing inequalities in participation.

Yorkshire Sport also plays a role influencing investment and supporting place based programmes in Bradford, helping to drive long term increases in activity levels.

Public leisure facility operator

CBMDC manages nine leisure facilities in house – these are:

- ◀ Bowling Pool & Gym.
- ◀ Eccleshill Pool.
- ◀ Ilkley Pool & Lido.
- ◀ Manningham Sports Centre.
- ◀ Marley Activities & Coaching Centre.⁶
- ◀ Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Shipley Pool & Gym.
- ◀ Thornton Recreation Centre.
- ◀ Wyke Community Sports Village.

Summary of local policy

Bradford's strategic framework is led by the emerging Local Plan and Bradford District Strategy 2025-2035, which promote inclusive growth, healthier communities and reduced inequalities. National and local planning policy emphasise the need for robust evidence to inform sport and recreation provision, protect existing facilities and ensure new development contributes to meeting future needs.

⁶ Both Marley Activities & Coaching Centre, and Wyke Community Sports Village only feature outdoor facilities and are covered within the PPOSS.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Health and wellbeing are central themes across local policy. The majority of strategies and plans cited identify the need to address significant health inequalities, improve healthy life expectancy and support prevention through increased physical activity and community-based provision.

Physical activity is a clear strategic priority. Active Bradford's Every Move Counts strategy and the work of Yorkshire Sport promote a whole-system approach to reducing inactivity, creating active environments and increasing participation, particularly among underrepresented groups.

Children and young people are also a key focus, with local strategies supporting the ambition to create a child friendly Bradford through improved physical and mental wellbeing, access to positive activities and stronger community support.

Wider policy priorities include investment in community infrastructure, sustainable asset management and reducing carbon emissions across the public estate, including leisure facilities.

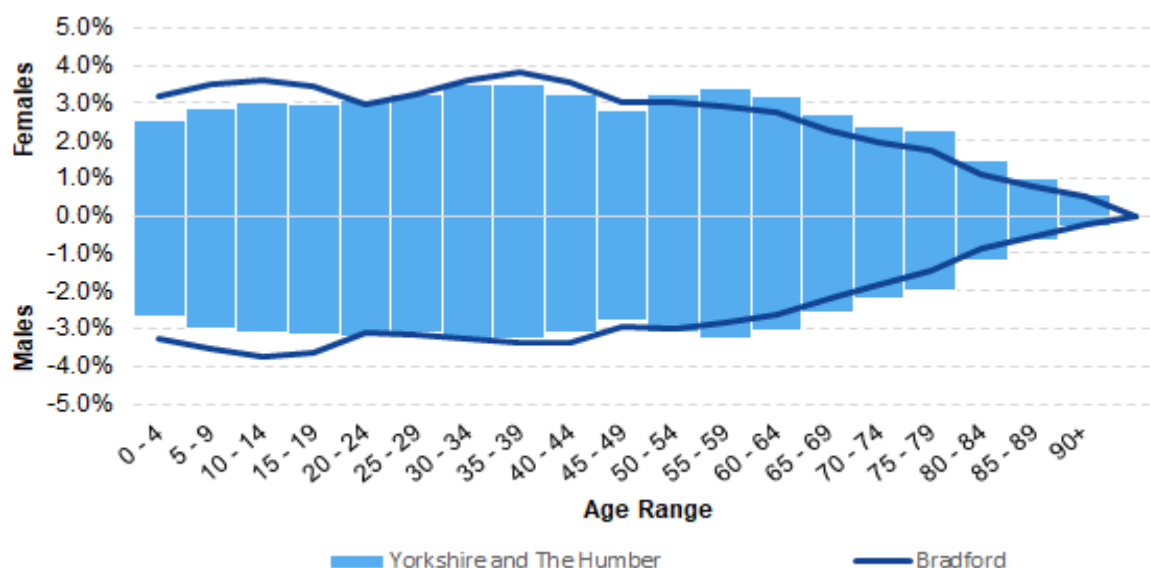
Collectively, these strategies support the provision of accessible, high-quality and sustainable sports facilities that contribute to improved health outcomes, increased physical activity and stronger communities throughout the district.

2.3: Demographic profile

Population (Data source: 2024 Mid-Year Estimate - MYE, ONS)

The population of Bradford is 563,605 (males = 276,545 and females = 287,060).

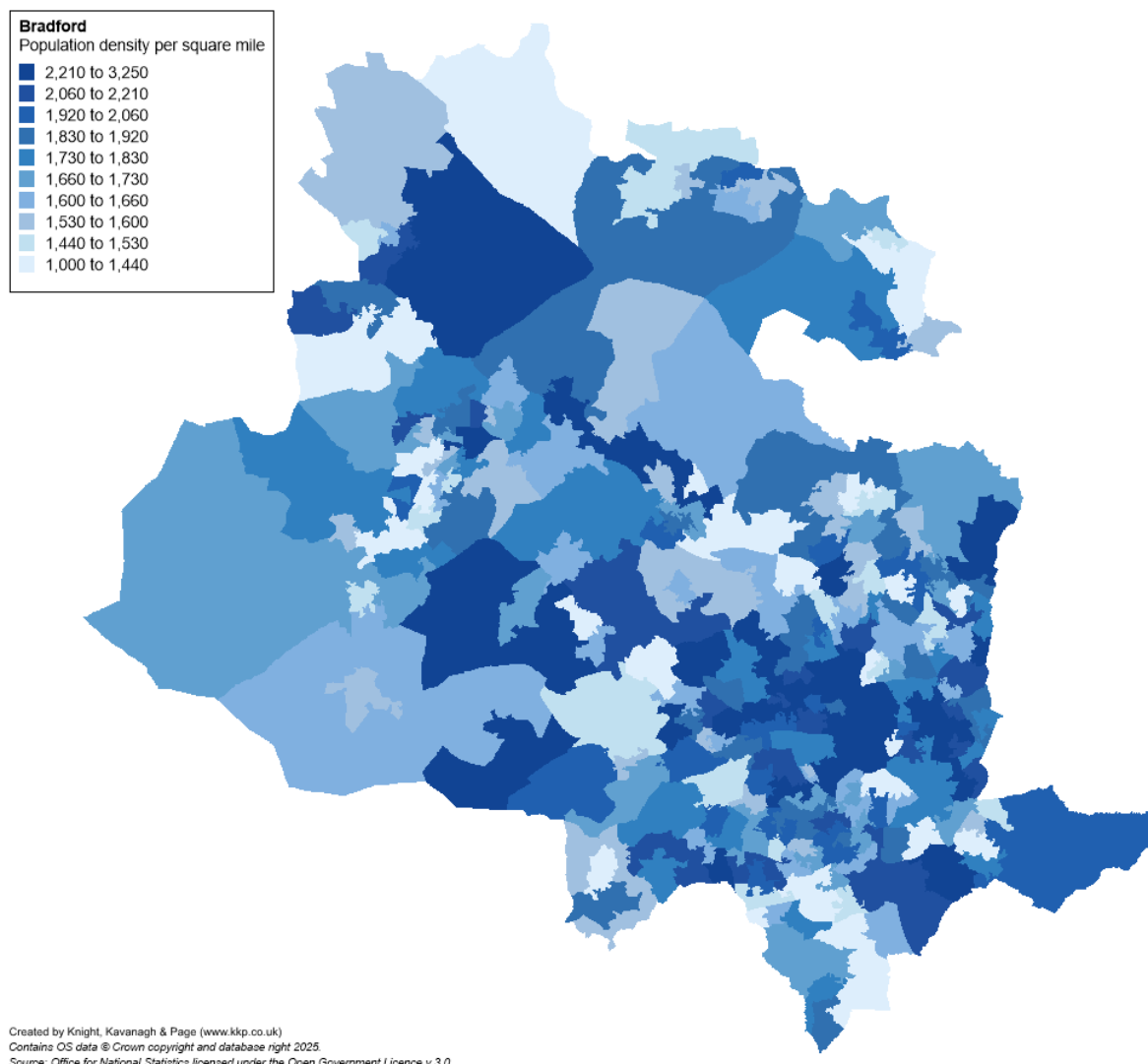
Figure 2.0: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Bradford and Yorkshire & The Humber.



There is a higher proportion of 0-19 year olds (Bradford: 27.9%, Yorkshire & the Humber: 23.3%) but fewer in the age groups from 55-69 (Bradford: 15.6%, Yorkshire & the Humber: 18.2%). The population density map overleaf is based on lower super output areas (LSOAs). Map shading allows concentrations of population to be easily identified; major urban areas (e.g., flats, terraced houses and estates tend to be illustrated via the darkest shading while rural areas, housing adjoining parks and non-residential land uses are the lightest.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Population density 2024 MYE: Bradford (LSOAs)



Ethnicity (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

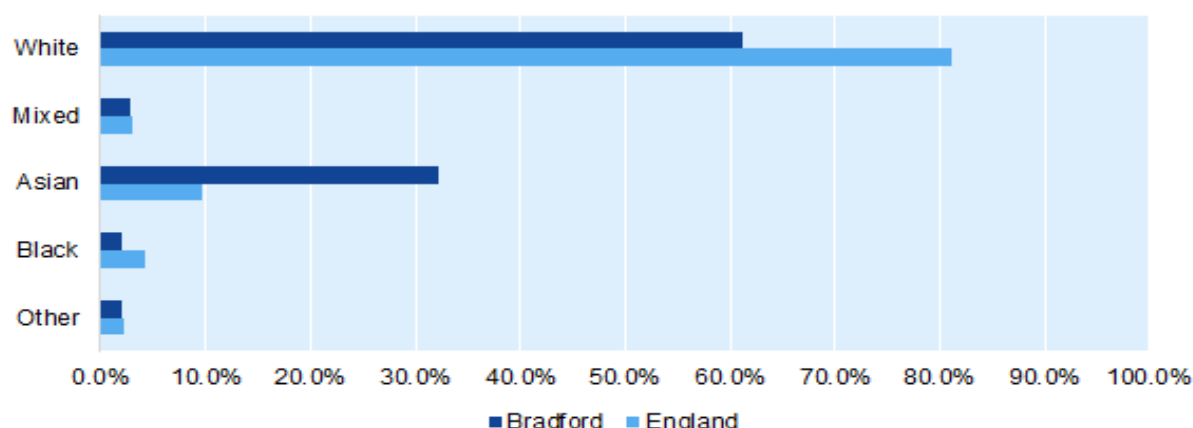
In broad terms, Bradford's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. According to the 2021 Census, 61.1% of the local population classified its ethnicity as white; this is considerably lower than the comparative England rate of 81%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian. At 32.1% this is more than three times higher than the national equivalent (9.6%).

Table 2.1: Ethnic composition – Bradford and England.

Ethnicity	Bradford #	Bradford %	England #	England %
White	334,004	61.1%	45,783,401	81.0%
Mixed	15,006	2.7%	1,669,378	3.0%
Asian	175,664	32.1%	5,426,392	9.6%
Black	10,978	2.0%	2,381,724	4.2%
Other	10,760	2.0%	1,229,153	2.2%
TOTAL	546,412	100.0%	56,490,048	100.0%

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.2: Ethnicity in Bradford and England (2021)



Car and van ownership (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

In total 151,957 households (72.4.%) in Bradford have at least one car or van. This is a lower and proportion than Yorkshire (76.7%) and England & Wales (76.8%). 42% of Bradford households have access to one car or van.

Table 2.2: Comparative car and van ownership: Bradford, Yorkshire & The Humber

Car/van ownership	Bradford #	Bradford %	Yorkshire & Humber #	Yorkshire & Humber %	England #	England %
No cars or vans	57,910	27.6%	608,067	23.3%	5,821,064	23.3%
1 car or van	88,910	42.4%	1,095,444	42.1%	10,352,209	41.3%
2 cars or vans	48,227	23.0%	684,971	26.3%	6,570,690	26.2%
3+ more cars or vans	14,820	7.1%	216,554	8.3%	2,313,611	9.2%
Total	209,867	100.0%	2,605,036	100.0%	25,057,574	100.0%

Crime (Data source: Crime in England and Wales year ending September 2025, ONS)

Crime data is only available for police force areas. Bradford is in the West Yorkshire Police Force Area, which comprises five local authorities (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield). Bradfords population accounts for 23.1% of this area. During the 12 months to September 2025 the number of recorded crimes per '000 persons was 111.8 (2024 MYE). This is higher than the equivalent rate for England and Wales (85.3). Recorded crime in West Yorkshire has fallen significantly - by 5.6% since September 2024 (2023 MYE). The number for England and Wales fell by 5.2% over the same period.

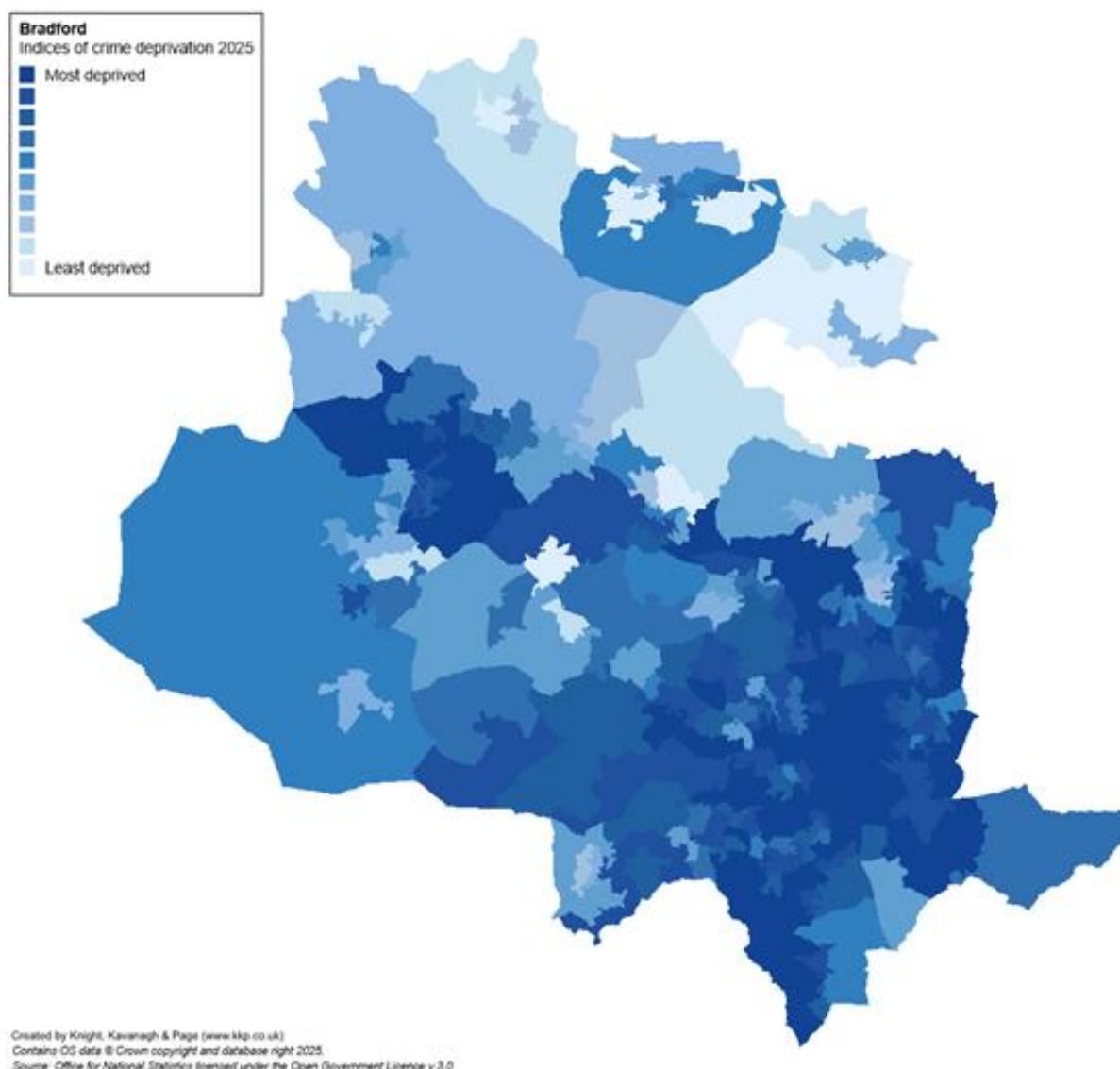
Table 2.3: Comparative crime rates: West Yorkshire and England & Wales.

Authority/area	Recorded crime (Oct '24 – Sep '25)	Population 2024 MYE	Recorded crime per '000 population
West Yorkshire	272,147	2,435,236	111.8
England & Wales	5,271,040	61,806,682	85.3

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 Bradford, 64.8% of the population are in the top three cohorts most at risk compared to 30.0% nationally.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.3: Map of crime deprivation.



Income and benefits dependency (Data source: Nomis 2024)

The median figure for full-time earnings (2025) in Bradford is £34,876; the comparative rate for Yorkshire and The Humber is £37,003 (+6.1%) and for Great Britain it is £39,863 (+14.3%). 24,350 people in Bradford claimed out of work benefits⁷ in March 2026. This is a decrease of -7.8% when compared to March 2025 (26,410).

Deprivation (Data source: 2025 indices of deprivation, MHCLG)

Relative to other parts of the country Bradford experiences high levels of deprivation; around two fifths of the district's population (39.3%) is accounted for by areas in the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 13.6% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The pattern is exacerbated in respect of health deprivation. In Bradford three fifths of the population (61.1%) resides within areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 8.0% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Figure 2.4: Map of multiple deprivation.

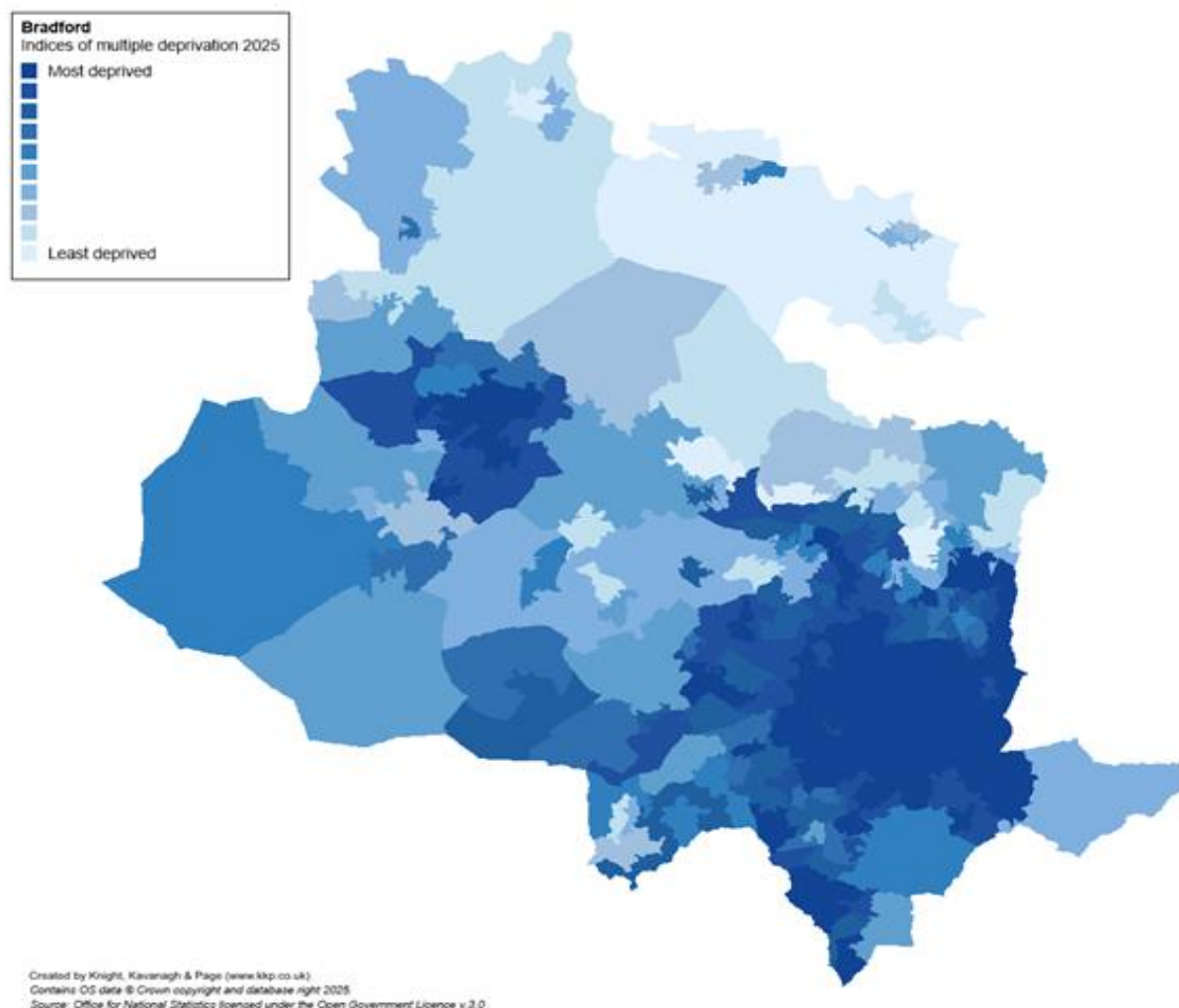


Table 2.4: IMD cohorts – multiple deprivation in Bradford

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	217,073	39.3%	39.3%
20.0	77,181	14.0%	53.2%
30.0	53,762	9.7%	62.9%
40.0	27,518	5.0%	67.9%
50.0	35,656	6.4%	74.4%
60.0	31,390	5.7%	80.0%
70.0	35,032	6.3%	86.4%
80.0	21,878	4.0%	90.3%
90.0	24,998	4.5%	94.8%
Least deprived - 100.0	28,556	5.2%	100.0%

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.5: Map of health deprivation.

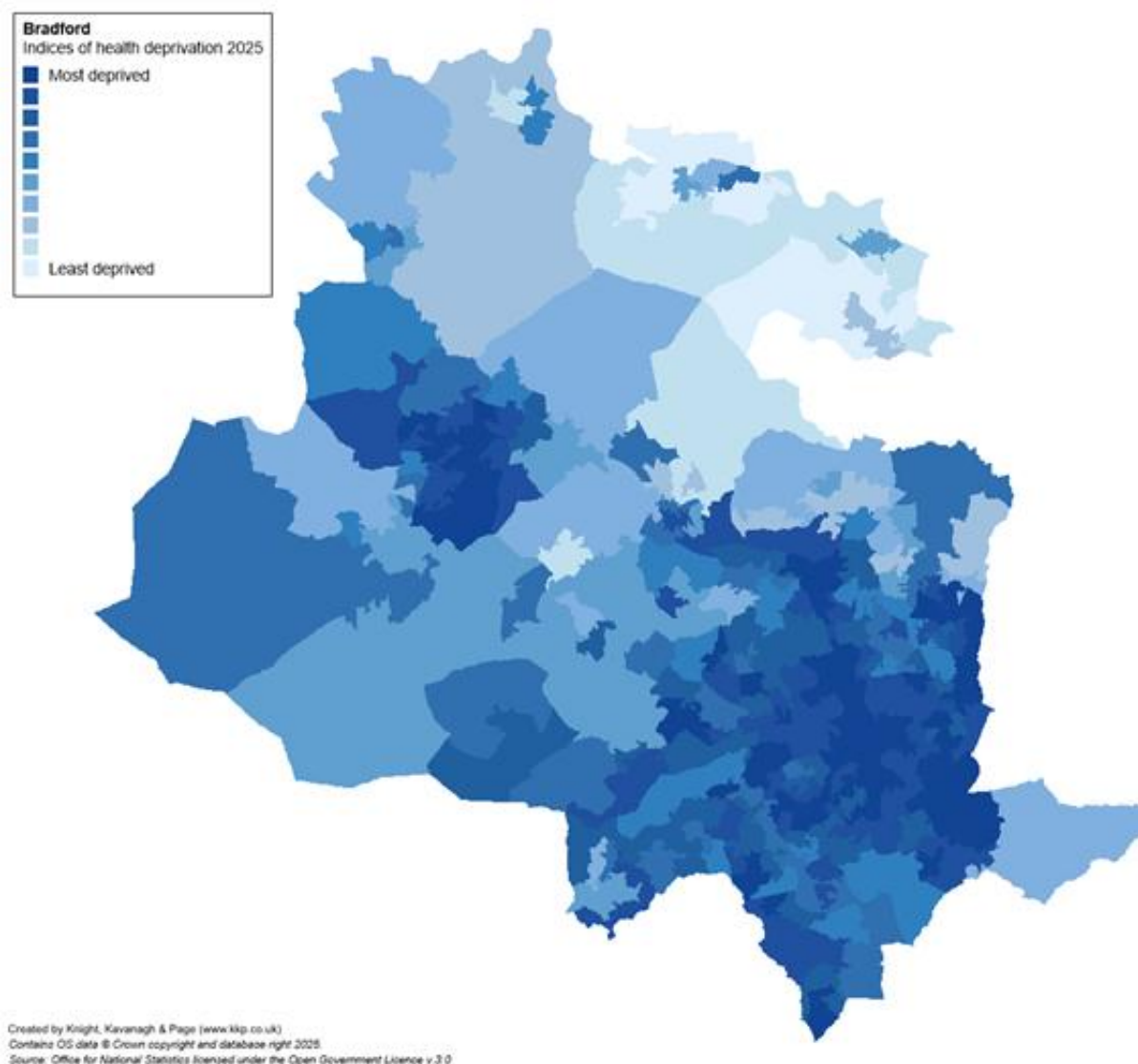
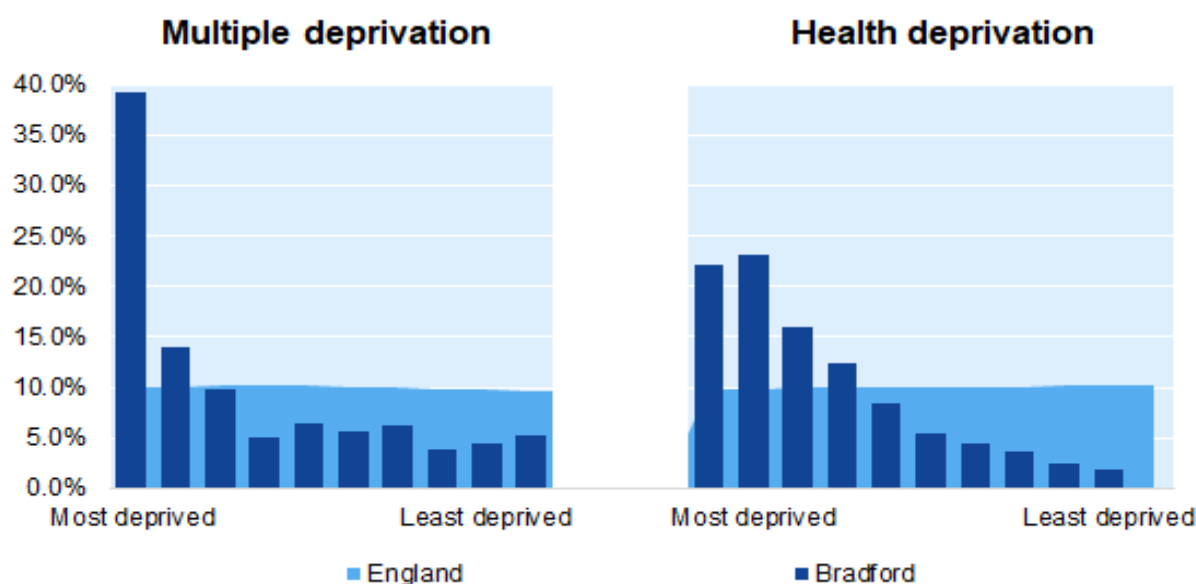


Table 2.5: IMD cohorts – health deprivation in Bradford.

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	121,899	22.0%	22.0%
20.0	127,875	23.1%	45.2%
30.0	88,046	15.9%	61.1%
40.0	68,852	12.4%	73.5%
50.0	47,096	8.5%	82.0%
60.0	30,112	5.4%	87.5%
70.0	24,910	4.5%	92.0%
80.0	19,891	3.6%	95.6%
90.0	13,484	2.4%	98.0%
Least deprived - 100.0	10,879	2.0%	100.0%

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.6: Index of multiple and health deprivation.



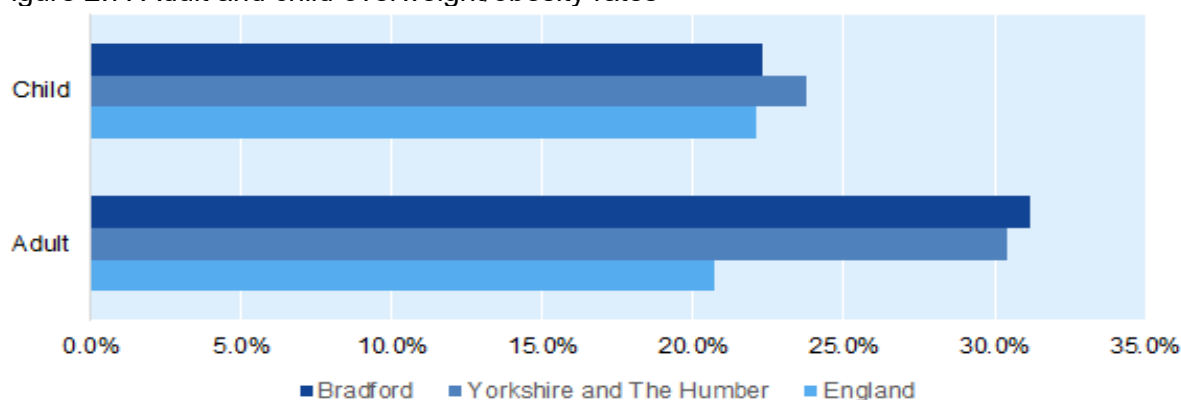
Health data (Data source: ONS)

In line with the higher levels of health deprivation being experienced, life expectancy in Bradford is lower than the national figure; the male rate is currently 76.8 compared to 79.1 for England, and the female equivalent is 81.4 compared to 83.1 nationally.⁸

Weight and obesity (Data Sources: NCMP⁹ and NOO¹⁰)

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge. Adult and child overweight and obesity rates in Bradford are higher than national levels. Adult levels are above, but child rates are lower - than the regional average.

Figure 2.7: Adult and child overweight/obesity rates



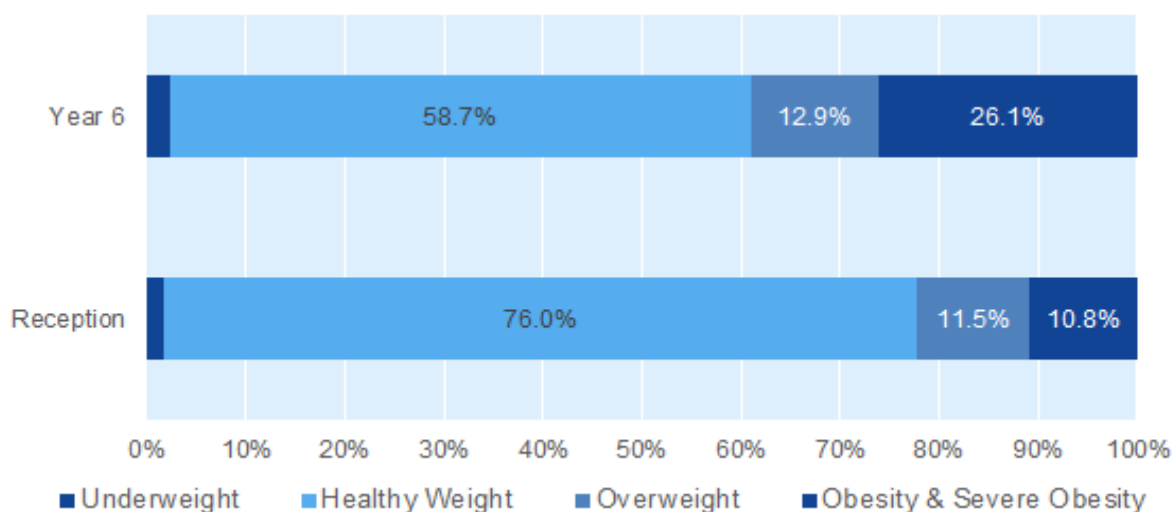
⁸ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020.

⁹ National Child Measurement Program

¹⁰ National Obesity Observatory

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.8: Child weight – reception and year 6 (2023/24)



As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4-11. One in 10 children (10.8%) in Bradford are obese in their reception year at school and 11.5% are overweight. By year 6 these figures rise to one in five (19.6%) being obese and 13.4% being overweight. In total by Year 6, two fifths (39.0%) are either overweight or obese (2023/4 figures)

Active Lives Survey (Data Source: Sport England November 2024/5)

This measures the number/proportion of 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified in Table 2.6, a higher percentage of the Bradford population is inactive compared to England and a lower percentage is considered to be active. Sport England's definitions are as follows:

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

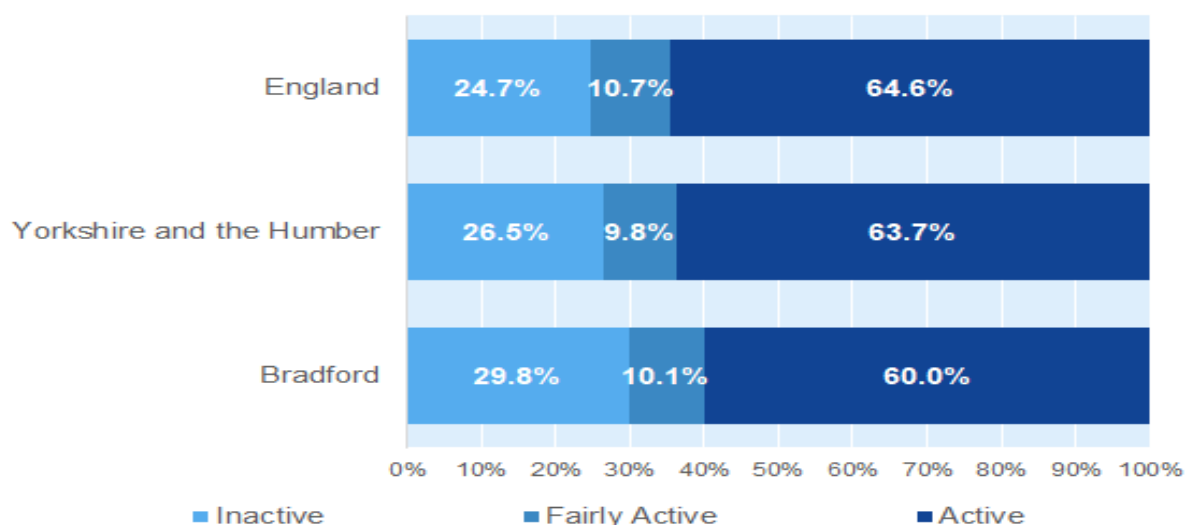
Table 2.6: Active Lives Survey results: November 2024/25

	Inactive #	Inactive %	Fairly active #	Fairly active %	Active #	Active %
England	11,822,300	24.7%	5,140,500	10.7%	30,889,100	64.6%
Yorkshire & The Humber	1,226,300	26.5%	452,000	9.8%	2,950,600	63.7%
Bradford	130,600	29.8%	44,300	10.1%	262,800	60.0%

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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.9: Levels of activity (Active Lives 2024/5)



Popular sports (Data Source: Sport England Active Lives Survey November 2024/5)

This enables identification of the top five sports within Bradford. Fitness and athletics are among the most popular and are known to cut across age groups and gender. Just over one fifth (21.0%) of adults take part in fitness, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is athletics which 15.6% of adults participate in on a relatively regular basis.

Table 2.7: Most popular sports in Bradford.

Sport	Bradford #.	Bradford %	Y&H #	Y&H %	England #	England %
Fitness	87,100	21.0%	987,100	22.1%	11,374,600	24.9%
Athletics	64,500	15.6%	540,900	12.1%	6,252,000	13.7%
Cycling	49,000	11.8%	623,500	13.9%	7,472,900	16.4%
Football	13,900	3.4%	150,100	3.4%	1,451,700	3.2%
Swimming	12,200	2.9%	169,700	3.8%	2,001,600	4.4%

Social value of sport and physical activity (Data Source: Sport England October 2024)

This shows both the direct benefit and value to individuals of improved wellbeing and the wider value to society, including the state. It is determined using Active Lives data and values derived from participation frequency¹¹. In Bradford the total social value is £803,131,000 (£710,160,000 primary and £92,971,000 secondary).

Table 2.8: Social value of sport and physical activity (November 2023/24): Active Lives data

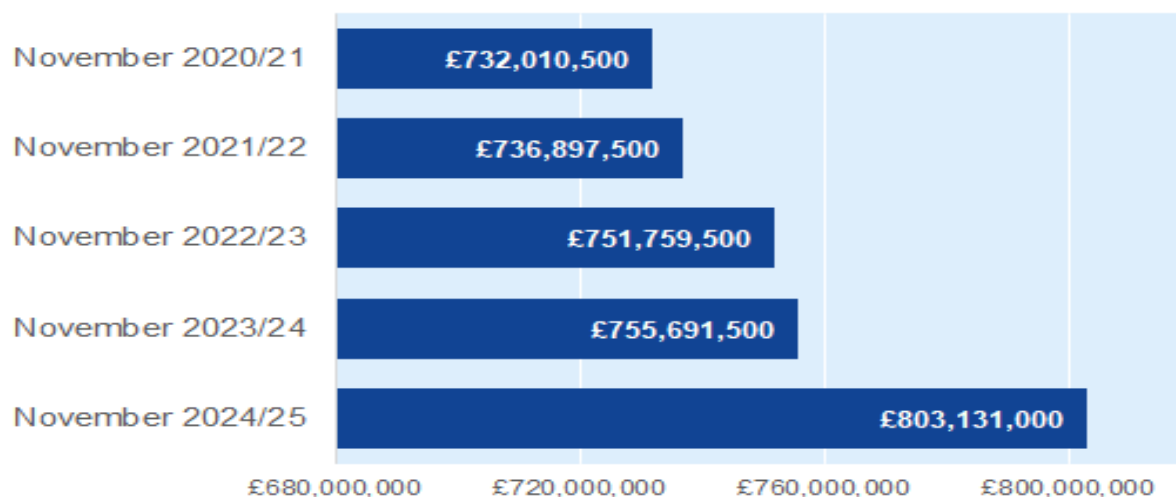
	Primary value	Secondary value	Total
Bradford	£710,160,000	£92,971,000	£803,131,000
Yorkshire & The Humber	£7,918,900,000	£1,033,399,000	£8,952,299,000
England	£83,391,350,000	£10,912,381,500	£94,303,731,500

¹¹ Primary values (active £2,500, fairly active £1,200, inactive £0) and secondary values (active £315, fairly active £230, inactive £0).

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Using the current values the total value in Bradford has risen by 9.7% between November 2019/20 and November 2023/24.

Figure 2.10: Bradford - social value of sport and physical activity 2020/21 - 2024/25.



Mosaic (Data source: 2025 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2025 is a similar consumer segmentation product. It classifies all 28.6 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data is then used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour 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 Bradford compared to the country as a whole. These five represent almost three fifths (58.9%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of 39.1%.

Table 2.9: Mosaic – main population segments in Bradford

Mosaic group description	Bradford #	Bradford %	National %
1 – Urban Cohesion	112,765	20.2%	6.6%
2 – Family Basics	66,861	12.0%	8.9%
3 – Aspiring Homemakers	62,750	11.2%	10.6%
4 – Transient Renters	48,596	8.7%	5.3%
5 - Senior Security	37,555	6.7%	7.6%

Table 2.10: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Bradford

Urban Cohesion	Settled extended families and older people who live in diverse city suburbs. Most have bought their own homes and have been settled in these neighbourhoods for many years, enjoying the sense of community they feel there.
Family Basics	Families with children who have limited budgets and can struggle to make ends meet. Their homes are low cost and are often found in areas with fewer employment options.
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.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.11: Mosaic groups (2025) - Bradford compared to national figures

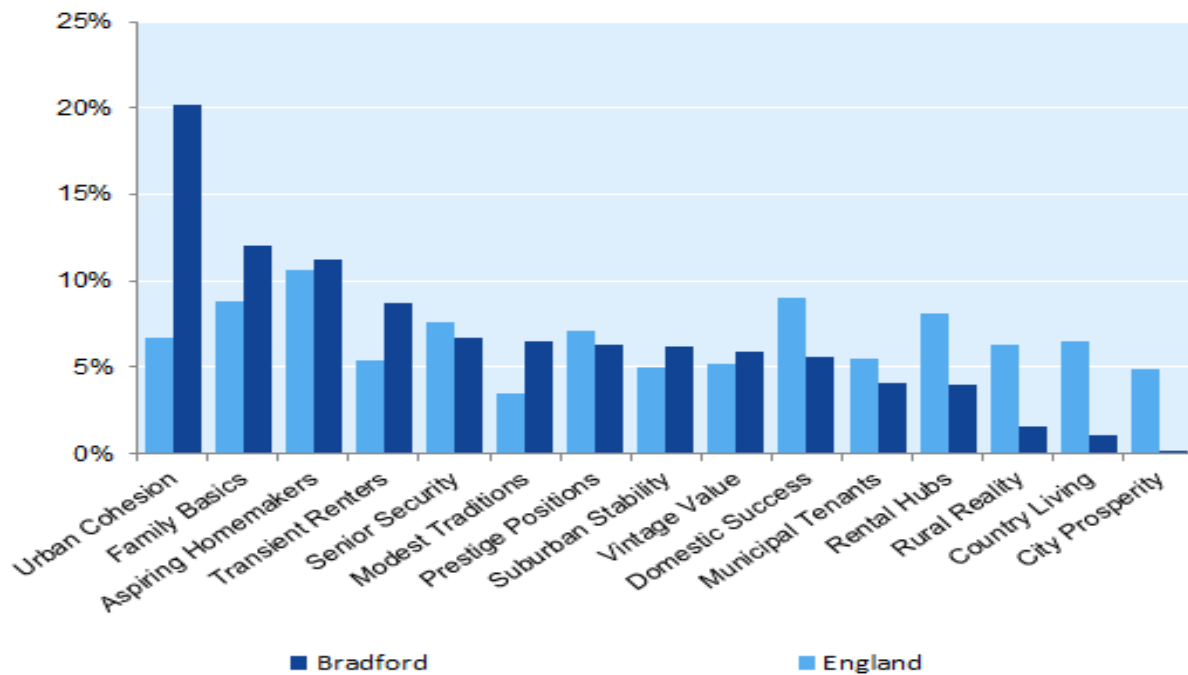
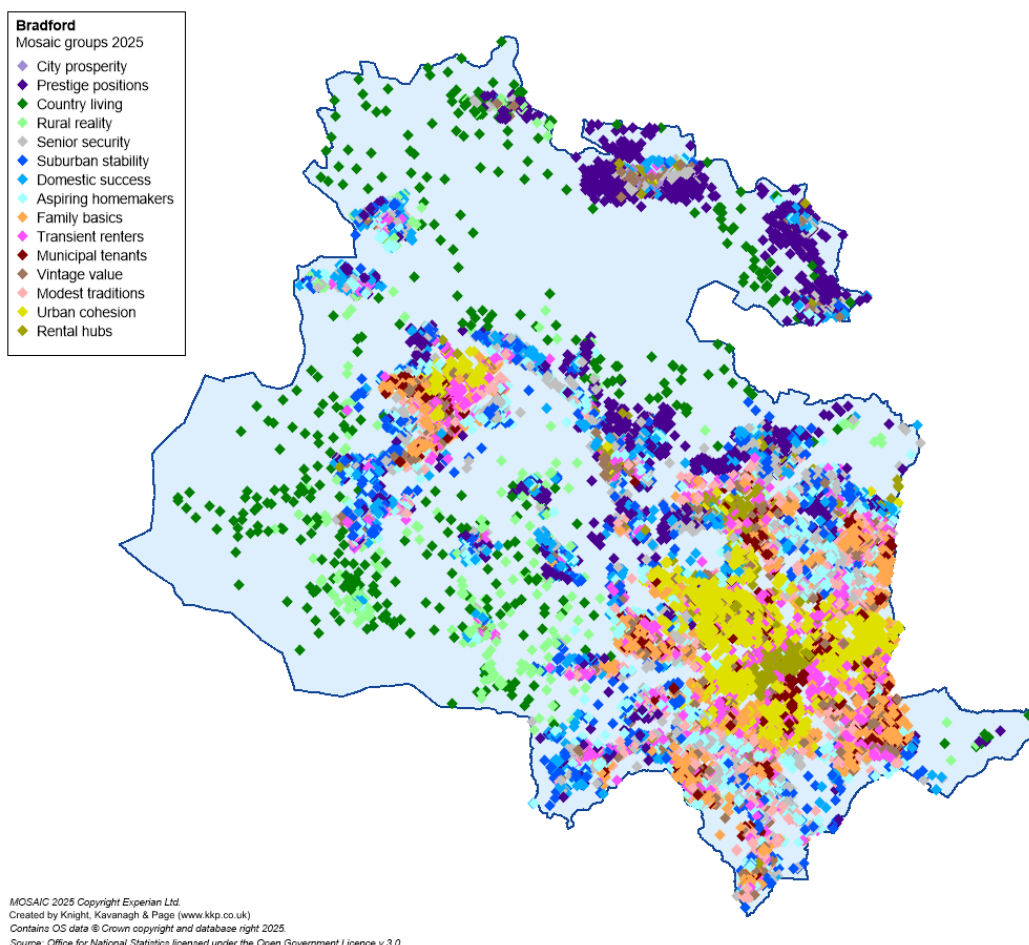


Figure 2.12: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Bradford



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Population growth (ONS)

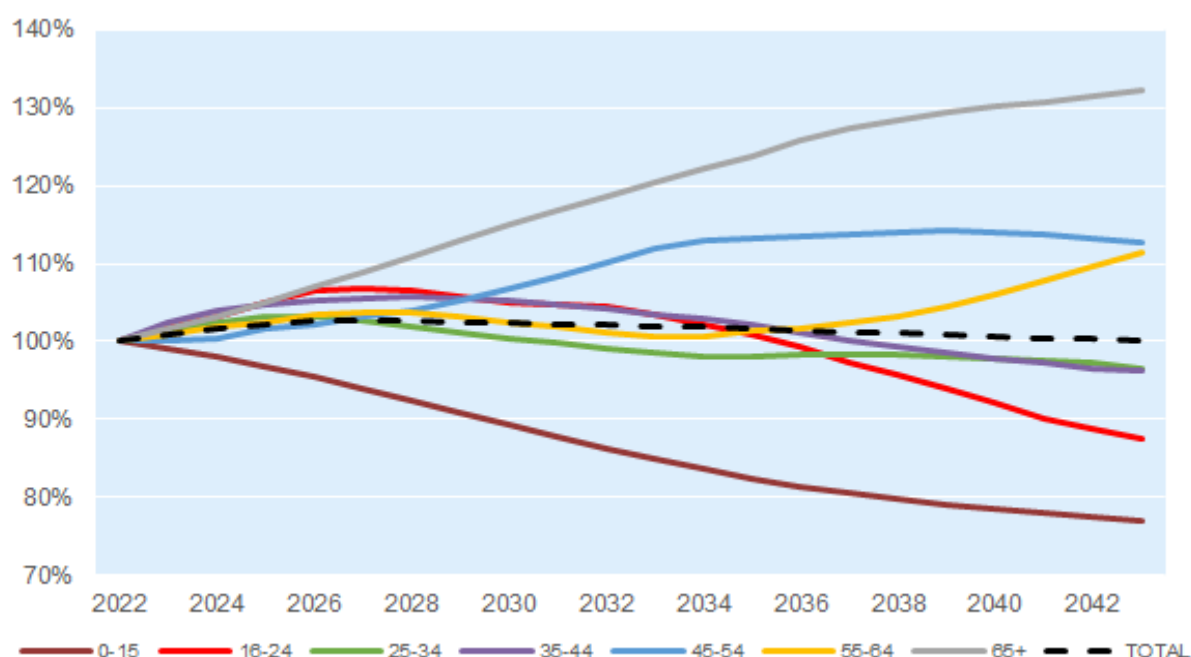
The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 0.1% in Bradford's population (+506) over the 21 years from 2022 to 2043. Over this extended timeframe there will be rises and falls at different points for the majority of age groups. Key points are outlined below:

- ✦ The number of 0-15 year olds, falls by -17,191 (-13.8%) over the first half of the projection (to 2032).
- ✦ There is a predicted slight increase in the number of 16-24 year olds, +4.4% in the first period (+2,831) followed by a decline of -16.3% (-10,948) in the second period.
- ✦ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+. This represents an increase of +11.4% (+11,473) in the first period continuing to rise to +32.1% (+27,326) in the second period. While this age group represented 15.4% of Bradford's population in 2022 it is projected to be 20.3% of the total by 2043.

Table 2.11: Bradford – ONS projected population (2022 to 2043)

Age (years)	2022 #	2032 #	2043 #	2022 %	2032 %	2043 %	2032 Change	2043 Change
0-15	124,608	107,417	95,793	22.5%	19.0%	17.3%	86.2%	76.9%
16-24	64,475	67,306	56,358	11.7%	11.9%	10.2%	104.4%	87.4%
25-34	73,443	72,783	70,798	13.3%	12.9%	12.8%	99.1%	96.4%
35-44	76,038	79,255	73,152	13.7%	14.0%	13.2%	104.2%	96.2%
45-54	67,600	74,468	76,162	12.2%	13.2%	13.8%	110.2%	112.7%
55-64	61,883	62,532	68,964	11.2%	11.1%	12.5%	101.0%	111.4%
65+	84,997	100,849	112,323	15.4%	17.9%	20.3%	118.7%	132.1%
Total	553,044	564,610	553,550	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	102.1%	100.1%

Figure 2.13: Projected population change (2022 – 2043) ONS 2022 projections



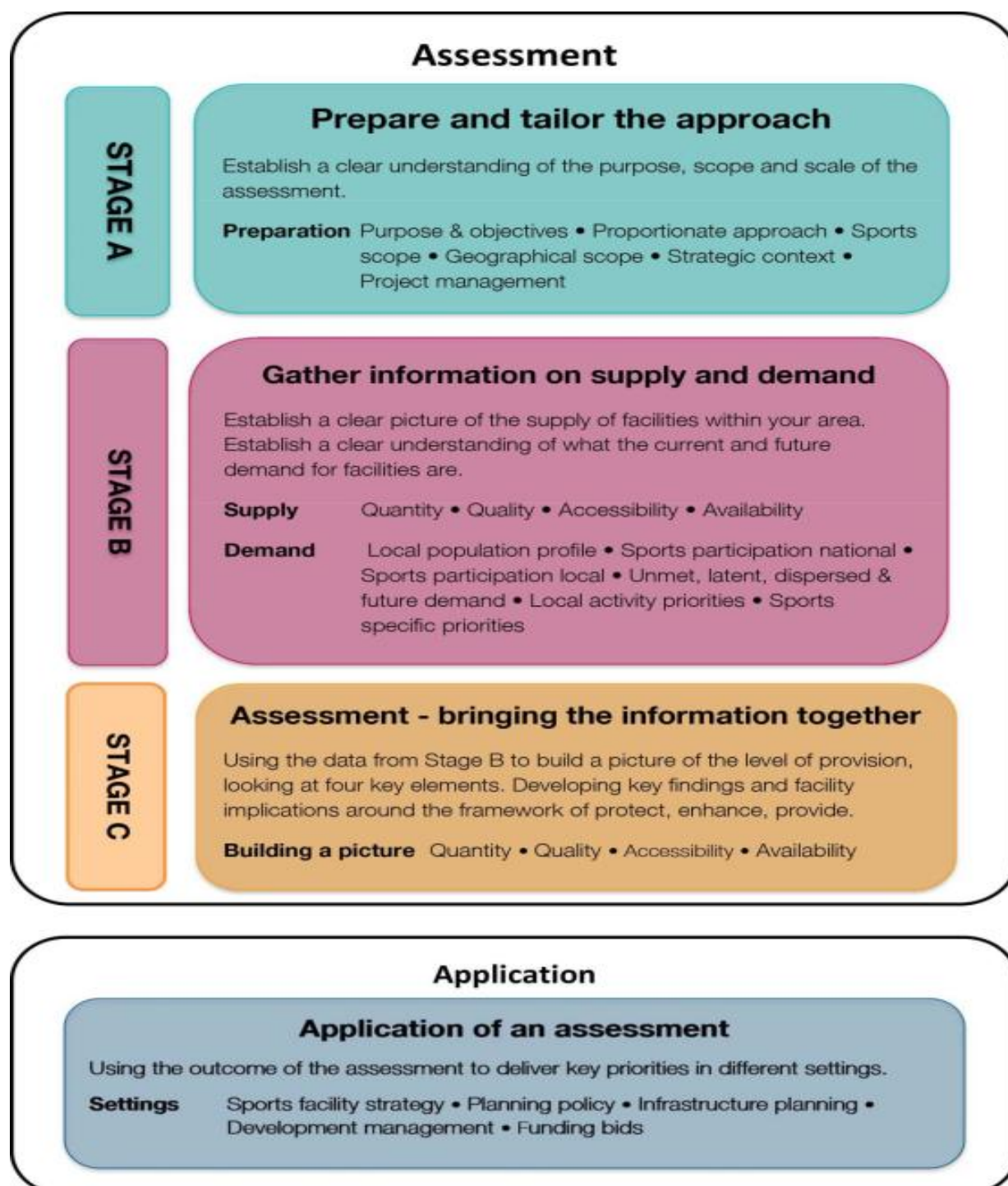
CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

As noted above, assessment of provision is based on the ANOG methodology. This is the recommended approach to undertaking robust assessments of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (excluding playing pitch provision which is assessed separately within the 2024 Playing Pitch Strategy and uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance).

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

ANOG is available 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 104).

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

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

The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It 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 delivered. Via the audit and informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' and describes (e.g.):

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

The assessment forms utilised capture quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the following categories. These ratings are applied throughout facility types listed in the following sections (covering sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness gyms (and studios), squash, gymnastics and trampolining, indoor bowls, indoor tennis, combat sports, and climbing).

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG Sections 4-14

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is new (less than 5 years old) or recently invested in, up to date, clean, well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. They are well-lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age/poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces show signs of wear and tear. It is usable, but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

3.3 Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for facility types listed in Sections 4-12 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

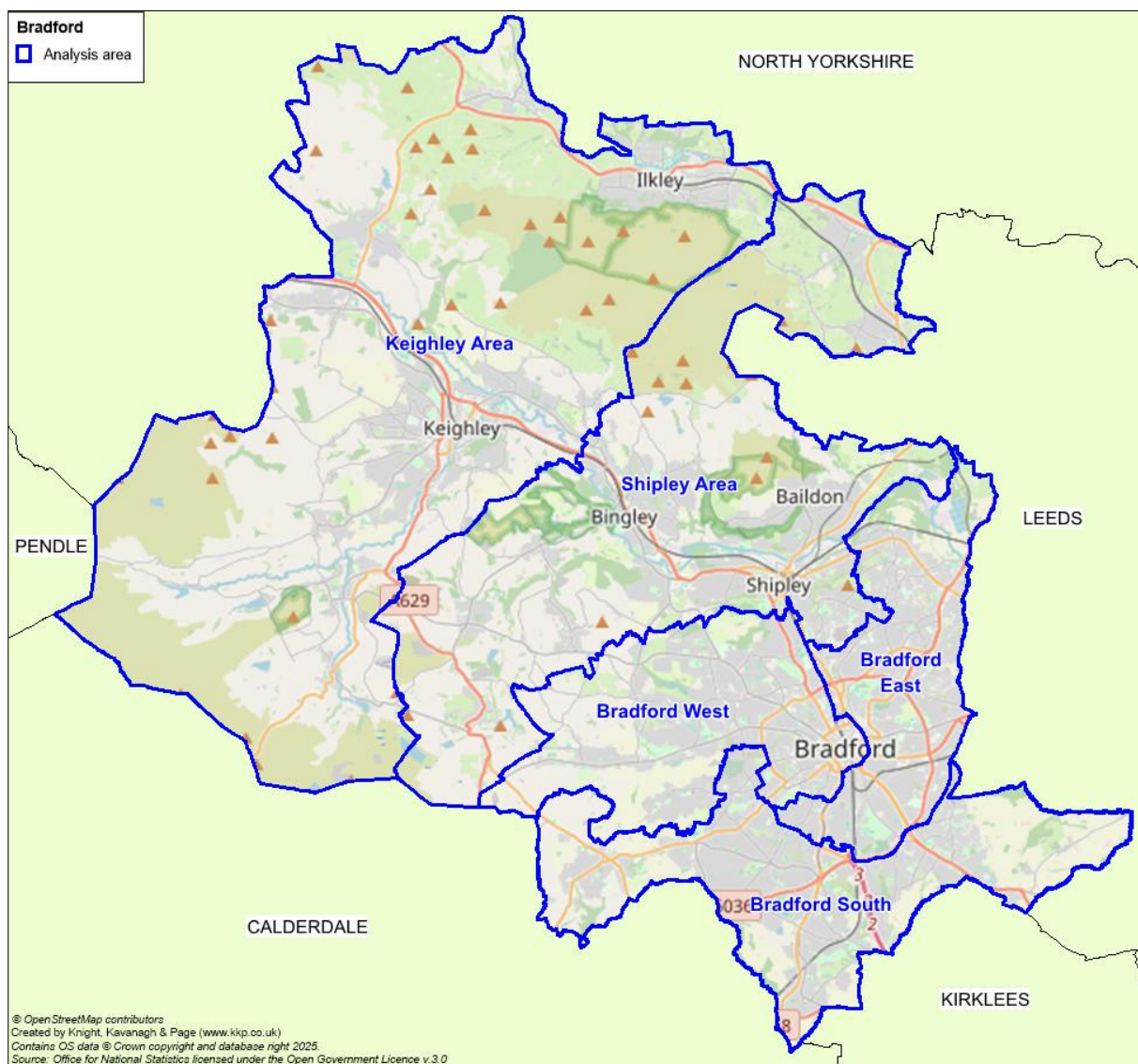
Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Sport halls	20-minute walk/ 20-minute drive
Swimming pools	20-minute walk/ 20-minute drive
Health and fitness	20-minute walk/ 20-minute drive
Squash courts	20-minute drive
Gymnastics facilities	30-minute drive
Indoor bowls facilities	30-minute drive
Indoor tennis facilities	30-minute drive
Combat Sports facilities	30-minute drive
Climbing facilities	30-minute drive

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

3.4: Analysis areas

As part of the study, analysis areas are utilised to identify the locations of facilities within Bradford and to better understand their geographical distribution. The district is divided into five analysis areas: Keighley Area, Shipley Area, Bradford West, Bradford East, and Bradford South aligned with the PPOSS (and outlined in Figure 3.2 below). However, in this report, these are primarily used to illustrate the distribution of facilities. For indoor facilities, it is not feasible to analyse demand by analysis area. As previously mentioned, ANOG is better suited for assessing the facility types included in this needs assessment.

Figure 3.2: Bradford analysis areas



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

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

Sports halls are generally most valuable when they are at least 3 courts in size with sufficient height for sports such as badminton. However, 4-court halls offer greater flexibility, accommodating major indoor team sports like 5-a-side football, basketball, and netball. They also have the length for indoor cricket nets and athletics, providing more sports development opportunities than 3-court halls. Dimensions can vary, and only those meeting Sport England's Design Guidance (for 4-court halls) of 34.5m x 20m can fully support the range of indoor sports, particularly for competition and league use.

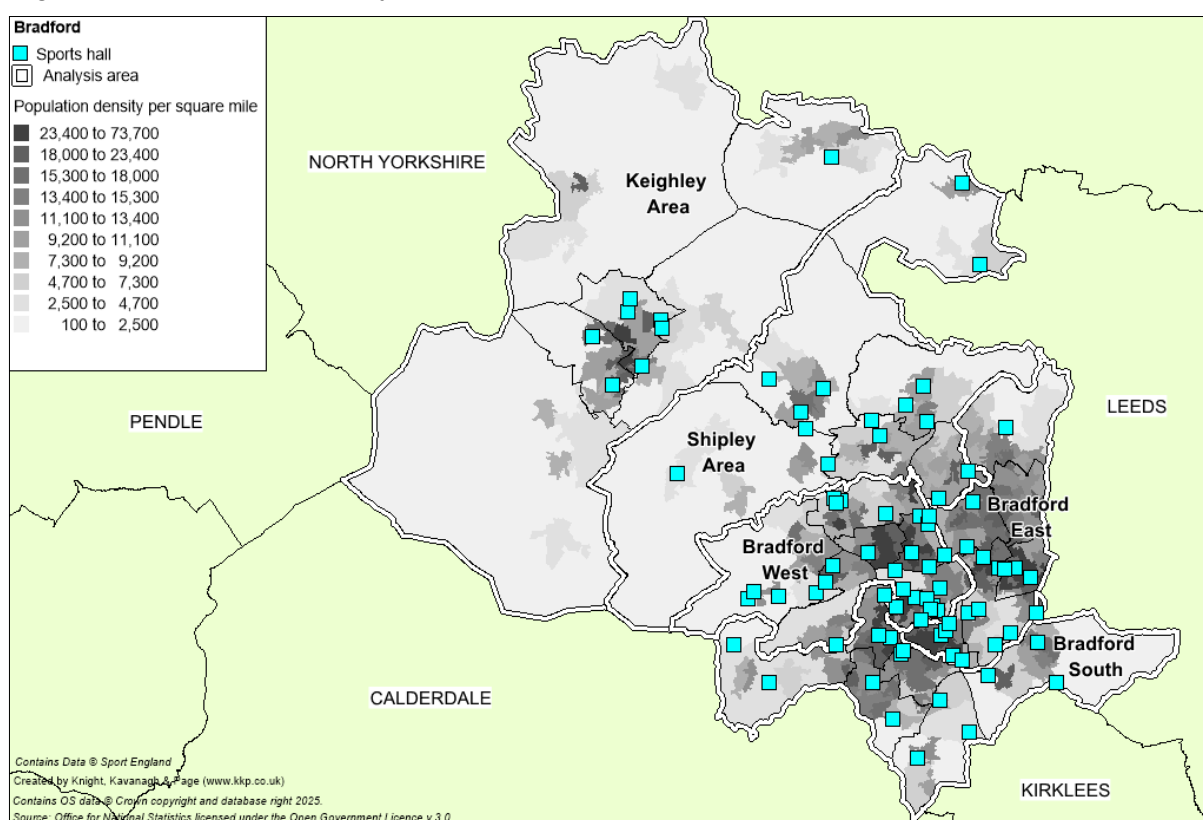
Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day-to-day needs. They can also accommodate more than one pitch/court, increasing flexibility for training, competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such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

4.1: Supply

Quantity

The 115 sports halls of all sizes in Bradford accommodate a total of 277 badminton courts.

Figure 4.1: All sports / activity halls in Bradford



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Some venues have more than one activity or sports hall on site. Figure 4.1 above shows that, in general, there is a good distribution of sports/activity hall provision across Bradford.

The greatest concentration of sports halls is located within the urban areas of Bradford East, Bradford West and Bradford South, reflecting the location of the district's largest population centres. Provision in the Shipley and Keighley analysis areas is more dispersed, although both are served by a number of sports hall sites. More rural and sparsely populated parts of the district are served by fewer facilities, with sports halls generally concentrated around the main settlements.

There are 53 sports halls with three or more marked badminton courts in Bradford, comprising a total of 226 courts. 22 sports halls in the area comply with current Sport England size guidance. The remainder are suitable for sports that do not require a run-off at the sides of the hall.

Bradford has eight 3-court sports halls. The most common hall size in the district is a 4-court sports hall, with 35 such facilities. As noted above, halls larger than 4-courts offer increased opportunity for sports such as netball and basketball, as they can accommodate high-level competition. There are ten halls larger than 4-courts in size, including four 8-court halls. These are the largest sports halls in Bradford and are located at Park Avenue Bradford Dome, Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus) and Manningham Sports Centre.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.1: All sports/activity halls in Bradford (0 court halls identified in Active Places but not sufficiently large to accommodate 1 badminton court)

ID	Site name	Courts	ID	Site name	Courts	ID	Site name	Courts
20	Bradford Academy	4	152	The Sutton Community Hall	0	8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	4
20	Bradford Academy	0	156	Tong Leadership Academy	4	36	Carlton Keighley	5
26	Bradford Forster Academy	4	156	Tong Leadership Academy	1	36	Carlton Keighley	0
31	Bronte Girls Academy	3	160	Trinity Academy	4	77	Holy Family Catholic School	1
34	Byron Primary School	1	160	Trinity Academy	1	77	Holy Family Catholic School	1
35	Carlton Bolling College	5	168	The David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC)	4	77	Holy Family Catholic School	4
35	Carlton Bolling College	1	169	Woodside Academy	1	79	Ilkley Grammar School	1
35	Carlton Bolling College	0	7	Beap Community Centre	4	79	Ilkley Grammar School	4
35	Carlton Bolling College	0	9	Beckfoot Upper Heaton	1	91	Keighley Table Tennis & Recreation Centre	1
48	Dixons City Academy	3	9	Beckfoot Upper Heaton	4	101	Merlin Top Primary Academy	1
51	Dixons Marchbank Primary	2	10	Belle Vue Girls' School	4	101	Merlin Top Primary Academy	1
52	Dixons Sixth Form Academy	4	10	Belle Vue Girls' School	0	131	Sangat Community Centre	0
61	Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	4	25	Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	8	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	5
83	Immanuel College C of E Academy	3	27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	0	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	0
95	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	3	27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	4	5	Baildon Methodist Church	0
95	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	0	28	Bradford Grammar School	5	12	Bingley Grammar School	4
103	Myra Shay Playing Fields	1	42	Co-op Academy Princeville	1	12	Bingley Grammar School	1
104	Newby Primary School	1	45	Culture Fusion (YMCA Bradford)	1	22	Bradford Christian School	1
114	Parkside Sports Centre	4	46	Dixons Allerton Academy	4	49	Dixons Cottingley Academy	4
119	Hanson Academy	4	53	Dixons Trinity Academy	4	57	Eldwick Primary School	2
119	Hanson Academy	5	56	Eden Boys Leadership Academy Bradford	4	71	Beckfoot School	0
159	Transforming Lives for Good	4	67	Grange Interlink Community Centre	4	71	Beckfoot School	4
175	Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	3	86	Jaamiatul Imaam Muhammad Zakaria School	1	71	Beckfoot School	2
177	Park Avenue Bradford Dome	8	93	Khidmat Community Centre	2	74	Hermits Table Tennis Club	0
3	Appleton Academy	3	98	Lower Grange Community Centre	1	74	Hermits Table Tennis Club	0
3	Appleton Academy	2	99	Manningham Sports Centre	8	74	Hermits Table Tennis Club	0
18	Brackenhill Primary School	1	112	Oasis Academy Lister Park	4	94	Kirklands Community Centre	1
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	4	113	Pakistan Community Centre	0	115	Parkside School	4
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	1	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College ¹²	4	122	Queens Hall	1
41	Co-op Academy Grange	1	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College	2	130	Sandal Primary School	1
41	Co-op Academy Grange	4	139	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College ¹³	1	130	Sandal Primary School	2
41	Co-op Academy Grange	1	140	St James Church Hall (Thornton)	0	133	Shipley College	1
43	Co-op Academy Southfield	2	153	Thornton Primary School	1	137	St Aidens Church Hall	0
50	Dixons Kings Academy	4	154	Thornton Recreation Centre	5	155	Titus Salt School	4
69	Great Horton Community Hub & Library	0	154	Thornton Recreation Centre	0	161	Trinity All Saints Church of England Primary	1
105	Newhall Park Primary School	1	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	4	161	Trinity All Saints Church of England Primary	2
124	Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club	3	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	1	178	Adil Rashid Cricket Centre	3
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	8	174	Zara Sports Centre	4			
143	TFD Youth Centre	4	176	Dixons McMillan Academy	4	Total		281

There are 62 halls with two courts or fewer. These comprise 20 halls with no badminton courts, and the remaining 42 which contain 51 courts. While these smaller (0–2 court) halls are often suitable for activities such as mat sports, exercise classes, and similar uses, their limited size restricts the range and scale of activities that can be accommodated. For the needs assessment, only sites with sports halls containing three or more marked badminton courts were subject to a quality assessment, as these can support a broader range of sports and may be available for community use, depending on the access policy.

¹² Site 138 is the Ardor Campus.

¹³ Site 139 is the Ingis Campus.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts (Sports halls that comply with Sport England size guidance are marked with an asterisk)

ID	Site name	Courts	ID	Site name	Courts	ID	Site name	Courts
20	Bradford Academy	4	177	Park Avenue Bradford Dome	8	25	Bradford College (Trinity Green)*	8
26	Bradford Forster Academy	4	3	Appleton Academy	3	27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	4
31	Bronte Girls Academy	3	32	Buttershaw B & E College*	4	28	Bradford Grammar School*	5
35	Carlton Bolling College*	5	41	Co-op Academy Grange*	4	46	Dixons Allerton Academy	4
48	Dixons City Academy	3	50	Dixons Kings Academy*	4	53	Dixons Trinity Academy	4
52	Dixons Sixth Form Academy	4	124	Queensbury Celtic Junior	3	56	Eden Boys Leadership Academy	4
61	Feversham Girls' Secondary*	4	132	Sedbergh S & L Centre*	8	67	Grange Interlink Community	4
83	Immanuel College CoE Academy	3	143	TFD Youth Centre	4	99	Manningham Sports Centre*	8
95	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	3	156	Tong Leadership Academy	4	112	Oasis Academy Lister Park	4
114	Parkside Sports Centre*	4	160	Trinity Academy	4	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic*	4
119	Hanson Academy*	4	168	The David Wharf Sports Hall*	4	154	Thornton Recreation Centre*	5
119	Hanson Academy*	5	7	Beap Community Centre	4	165	University of Bradford SC*	4
159	Transforming Lives for Good	4	9	Beckfoot Upper Heaton*	4	174	Zara Sports Centre*	4
175	Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	3	10	Belle Vue Girls' School*	4	176	Dixons McMillan Academy	4
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	4	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	5	115	Parkside School	4
36	Carlton Keighley*	5	12	Bingley Grammar School*	4	155	Titus Salt School*	4
77	Holy Family Catholic School	4	49	Dixons Cottingley Academy	4	178	Adil Rashid Cricket Centre ¹⁴	3
79	Ilkley Grammar School	4	71	Beckfoot School	4			223

¹⁴ Adil Rashid Cricket Centre is also a specialist indoor cricket facility. It features four cricket lanes. In terms of size it is the equivalent of an 3-court sports hall. As it accommodates only indoor cricket it is fully analysed within this section.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility quality

Non-technical assessments of 3+ court sports halls were conducted to ascertain quality. Of the 53 in Bradford, 40 were assessed. Access could not be obtained to the following despite numerous attempts to contact site operators. Unassessed sites (50 courts) were:

- ◀ Bradford Academy
- ◀ Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy
- ◀ Parkside Sports Centre
- ◀ Co-op Academy Grange
- ◀ Tong Leadership Academy
- ◀ Bradford Grammar School
- ◀ Grange Interlink Community Centre
- ◀ Bronte Girls Academy
- ◀ Laisterdyke Leadership Academy
- ◀ Transforming Lives for Good
- ◀ Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club
- ◀ Beckfoot Upper Heaton
- ◀ Eden Boys Leadership Academy Bradford

In total of those assessed, six are good quality (27 courts), 16 above average (74 courts), 15 below average (63 courts) and three are poor in quality (12 courts). Of the 176 courts in Bradford that were subject to assessment, 101 (57.4%) are of good or above average quality. The balance (42.6%) are below average or poor.

Figure 4.2: Quality of 3+ sports halls on population density

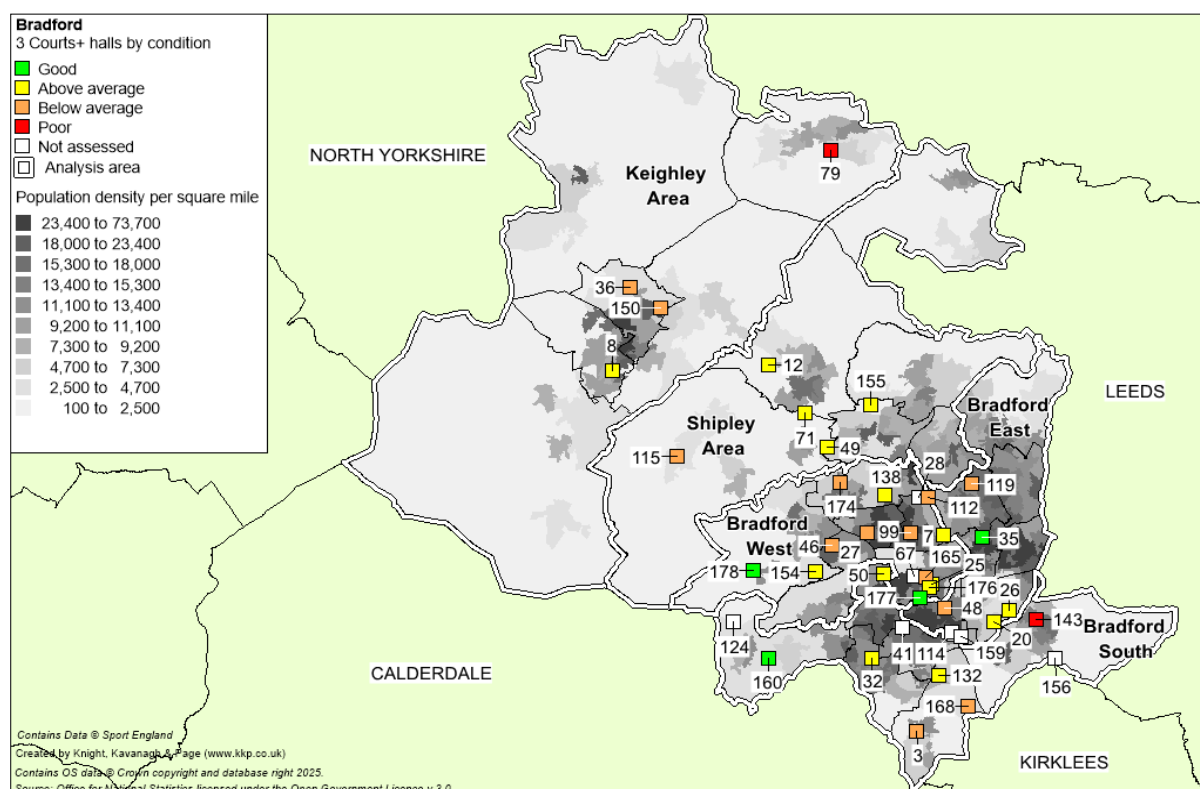


Table 4.4: sports hall provision by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of halls	Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	Not assessed
Bradford East	15	4	2	3	0	6
Bradford South	10	1	3	2	1	3
Bradford West	18	1	6	7	0	4
Keighley Area	5	0	1	2	2	0
Shipley Area	5	0	4	1	0	0

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Breaking down facility quality by analysis area highlights variations in the standard of sports hall provision across Bradford. The highest proportion of higher-quality provision is found in the Shipley Area, where four of the five sports halls are rated above average and none poor. Bradford West also performs relatively well, with seven facilities rated good or above average, although this is offset by seven halls assessed as below average.

Bradford East has the largest number of facilities rated good or above average (six). However, six of the 15 facilities were not assessed, limiting full understanding of provision quality. Similarly, Bradford South contains a balance of good, above average and below average facilities, although it too has a significant proportion of unassessed provision.

The Keighley Area stands out as having the poorest quality provision, with two of its five sports halls rated below average and two rated poor. While one is rated above average, none achieve a good rating. In contrast, the Shipley Area has no facilities rated poor and the highest concentration of above average provision.

Overall, unassessed facilities are concentrated in Bradford East, Bradford South and Bradford West. This limits capacity to fully evaluate sports hall quality in parts of the district.

Table 4.5 overleaf shows the quality of all 3+ court halls in Bradford

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.5: Listing of 3+ court sports halls with quality assessment – Bradford

ID	Site name	Courts	Condition	ID	Site name	Courts	Condition
20	Bradford Academy	4	Not assessed	9	Beckfoot Upper Heaton	4	Not assessed
26	Bradford Forster Academy	4	Above average	10	Belle Vue Girls' School	4	Below average
31	Bronte Girls Academy	3	Not assessed	25	Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	8	Above average
35	Carlton Bolling College	5	Good	27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	4	Below average
48	Dixons City Academy	3	Below average	28	Bradford Grammar School	5	Not assessed
52	Dixons Sixth Form Academy	4	Good	46	Dixons Allerton Academy	4	Below average
61	Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	4	Not assessed	53	Dixons Trinity Academy	4	Above average
83	Immanuel College CoE Academy	3	Good	56	Eden Boys Leadership Academy Bradford	4	Not assessed
95	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	3	Not assessed	67	Grange Interlink Community Centre	4	Not assessed
114	Parkside Sports Centre	4	Not assessed	99	Manningham Sports Centre	8	Below average
119	Hanson Academy	4	Below average	112	Oasis Academy Lister Park	4	Below average
119	Hanson Academy	5	Above average	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor)	4	Above average
159	Transforming Lives for Good	4	Not assessed	154	Thornton Recreation Centre	5	Above average
175	Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	3	Below average	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	4	Below average
177	Park Avenue Bradford Dome	8	Good	174	Zara Sports Centre	4	Below average
3	Appleton Academy	3	Below average	176	Dixons McMillan Academy	4	Above average
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	4	Above average	8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	4	Above average
41	Co-op Academy Grange	4	Not assessed	36	Carlton Keighley	5	Below average
50	Dixons Kings Academy	4	Above average	77	Holy Family Catholic School	4	Poor
124	Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club	3	Not assessed	79	Ilkley Grammar School	4	Poor
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	8	Above average	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	5	Below average
143	TFD Youth Centre	4	Poor	12	Bingley Grammar School	4	Above average
156	Tong Leadership Academy	4	Not assessed	49	Dixons Cottingley Academy	4	Above average
160	Trinity Academy	4	Good	71	Beckfoot School	4	Above average
168	The David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC)	4	Below average	115	Parkside School	4	Below average
7	Beap Community Centre	4	Above average	155	Titus Salt School	4	Above average
178	Adil Rashid Cricket Centre	3	Good				

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.6: Reported quality issues at below average and poor-quality sports halls

Site name	Assessment rating	Audit findings
Dixons City Academy	Below average	Although the sports hall floor was replaced in 2010, it is now showing signs of deterioration associated with age and regular use. The sports hall building is tired and dated, indicating a need for refurbishment to enhance quality, appearance and user experience.
Hanson Academy (4-court)	Below average	Opened in 2010 the hall is rated below average due to a combination of maintenance and flooring issues. The venue was unused for a period while management arrangements were resolved, resulting in maintenance work being required, including roof leak repairs. The existing sports hall floor is worn and slippery. Replacement is required to improve user experience and ensure that the facility is fit for purpose.
Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	Below average	The sports hall is generally functional and benefits from recent investment in lighting, safety and equipment. However, as a converted building, elements of the facility are showing signs of age. Consultation identified a need for floor refurbishment, improved heating and additional window coverings to enhance the playing environment. Whilst these issues do not currently restrict use, further investment is required to maintain quality and support the facility's long-term sustainability.
Appleton Academy	Below average	Although constructed in 2011, the sports hall is housed within a lightweight marquee-style structure. Whilst the flooring remains functional, the building provides a poor user experience and does not meet modern expectations. Investment is required to improve the quality and overall appearance of the facility.
TFD Youth Centre	Poor	Constructed in 1960 and last refurbished in 2004, the sports hall is showing signs of age and presents a generally tired appearance. Whilst the granwood floor remains usable, it is operating beyond end of lifespan. Investment is required to refresh the facility and improve overall quality of for users.
The David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC)	Below average	The cricket club-based sports hall was constructed in 1991 and retains its original granwood playing surface. Whilst the floor is well maintained and remains fully functional, it is becoming dated by modern standards and would benefit from refurbishment. Lighting is scheduled to be upgraded to LED by the end of 2026.
Belle Vue Girls' School	Below average	Constructed in 1972 and last fully refurbished in 2000, the sports hall has received various minor maintenance upgrades in recent years. However, the floor is showing signs of wear and tear, and the facility presents a generally tired appearance. Investment is required to modernise the hall and improve the quality of the user experience.
Bradford Girls Grammar School	Below average	Constructed in 1988, the sports hall is now approaching 40 years old, and several key elements are nearing the end of their operational life. The original granwood flooring requires replacement, while the roof is expected to require renewal within the next five years. Consequently, significant investment will be required to maintain facility quality and ensure its long-term sustainability. Options for replacing the flooring are currently being explored by the school.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site name	Assessment rating	Audit findings
Dixons Allerton Academy	Below average	Constructed in 2013, the sports hall is generally functional. However, the resin playing surface is beginning to show signs of wear and is likely to require replacement within the next few years to maintain the quality of the facility and user experience.
Manningham Sports Centre	Below average	Constructed in 2000, the sports hall is beginning to show signs of age. The concrete block floor detracts from the quality of the playing environment and requires resurfacing, while the building's construction is relatively energy inefficient and costly to heat. Consultation also identified concerns regarding water ingress during periods of poor weather.
Oasis Academy Lister Park	Below average	Constructed in 2007, the sports hall remains functional but is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Whilst the facility continues to meet operational requirements, several elements including the flooring are becoming dated and would benefit from refurbishment.
University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	Below average	The sports hall remains functional and heavily utilised, but the flooring and internal finishes are showing signs of wear since the last major refurbishment in 2009. Planned replacement of the floor and repainting of the hall will help address these issues. Previous roof-related problems have been resolved through recent repair works, leaving the facility generally fit for purpose despite its age.
Zara Sports Centre	Below average	Opened in 2007, the sports hall has not benefited from significant refurbishment and is showing signs of deterioration associated with age and regular use. The flooring is nearing the end of its operational life and is likely to require replacement in the near future, while damaged goal posts detract from the overall quality of the facility.
Carlton Keighley	Below average	The sports hall remains in operational condition and benefits from regular maintenance and planned lifecycle investment through the schools PFI contract. However, flooring is approaching the end of its current lifecycle and is due for replacement, the facility is otherwise well maintained.
Holy Family Catholic School	Poor	Constructed in 2005, the sports hall has received no significant refurbishment since opening and is showing signs of age-related deterioration. While remaining functional, investment is required to improve facility quality and the overall user experience.
Ilkley Grammar School	Poor	During consultation, it was not possible to determine when the sports hall was originally constructed. However, it is beyond its operational lifespan. Whilst it is still used by both school and community, it is due to be replaced as part of the school's ongoing rebuilding programme (completion expected by 2029).
The Leisure Centre Keighley	Below average	Constructed in 1989 and last refurbished in 2008, the sports hall remains functional but is showing signs of wear associated with age and regular use. The, the flooring would benefit from refurbishment in the medium term to maintain facility quality.
Parkside School	Below average	Constructed in 2000, the sports hall has received no significant refurbishment since opening and is showing signs of age-related deterioration. Investment is required to improve facility quality and the overall user experience.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CBMDC operates four sports halls in Bradford. Of these, Manningham Sports Centre and The Leisure Centre Keighley are assessed as below average quality, while Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre and Thornton Recreation Centre are rated above average.

Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is the newest facility operated by CBMDC, having opened in 2019. Its 8-court sports hall benefits from a modern design and high-quality facilities. Whilst the flooring shows some signs of marking associated with high levels of use, the line markings remain in good condition and no significant quality issues were identified during the assessment. The centre also includes seating for up to 200 spectators, establishing it as an important competition venue for the district.

Thornton Recreation Centre operates as a dual-use facility, with weekday daytime access reserved for Beckfoot Thornton School. The sports hall features an acrylic floor which was last resurfaced in 2010. The hall itself remains in above average condition, with only cyclical redecoration identified through the recent condition survey. Whilst some ancillary areas, including changing facilities and building services, are identified as requiring future investment, no significant quality issues were reported in relation to the sports hall.

Of the remaining 3-court or larger sports halls assessed as being of good or above average quality, 17 (81%) are located at education sites. In most cases, these facilities are relatively modern, well maintained and continue to provide an adequate standard of provision. Consultation identified few significant quality issues, with effective maintenance helping to sustain facility quality even where major refurbishment has not recently taken place. Key observations from selected sites are summarised below.

Bradford Forster Academy features a 4-court sports hall constructed in 2015 and assessed as being in above average condition. The facility benefits from modern LED lighting, adequate changing provision and no significant quality issues were identified during consultation.

Carlton Bolling College features a good quality 4-court sports hall which benefited from replacement flooring in early 2026. No significant quality issues were identified during consultation.

Dixons Academies Trust operates six sports halls in Bradford. Four are assessed as above average quality; **Dixons Kings Academy**, **Dixons McMillan Academy**, **Dixons Cottingley Academy** and **Dixons Trinity Academy**. These facilities are all relatively modern, having been constructed between 2012-2021 and they benefit from a combination of resin and sprung wooden flooring. The Trust also operates the good quality sports hall at **Dixons Sixth Form Academy**, which opened in 2020. Collectively, these facilities provide a high standard of provision with no significant quality issues identified during consultation.

Immanuel College C of E Academy features a good quality three-court sports hall. The flooring was replaced in 2020 and remains in good condition. The only issue identified during consultation relates to wildlife accessing the building through the roof, with the school currently reviewing options to address this.

Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College features an above average quality 4-court sports hall which opened in 2008. Whilst the flooring has not undergone major refurbishment since opening, the facility has retained its quality through effective maintenance and benefits from modern LED lighting.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus) features an above average quality 8-court sports hall. Constructed in 2008 and refurbished in 2016, it is one of the district's key sports hall facilities. Damage to part of the flooring caused by a roof leak was rectified in 2025, and no other significant quality issues were reported.

St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor) features an above average quality 4-court sports hall which opened in 2007. The facility is well maintained, although the line markings would benefit from renewal. A roof leak affecting an adjoining classroom has also been reported but is not currently impacting sports hall use.

Trinity Academy features a good quality 4-court sports hall which formed part of the school's comprehensive redevelopment programme. The replacement facility was completed in late 2025.

Titus Salt School features an above average quality 4-court sports hall which opened in 2008. Whilst it has not undergone significant refurbishment since opening, ongoing maintenance and lifecycle investment delivered through the school's PFI contract have helped retain overall facility quality.

Park Avenue Bradford Dome, Adil Rashid Cricket Centre and **Beap Community Centre** are the remaining sports halls assessed as being of good or above average quality. As noted earlier, Park Avenue Bradford Dome and Adil Rashid Cricket Centre provide specialist indoor cricket provision, featuring ten and four cricket lanes respectively. Opened in 2023 and 2024, they are among the newest indoor sports facilities in the district and are assessed as being of good quality. Beap Community Centre features an above average quality 4-court sports hall. Originally constructed in 2002 and refurbished in 2022, it has been maintained to a good standard. Whilst the TigerTurf flooring is showing minor signs of wear associated with regular use, no other significant quality issues were identified.

Generally, changing room quality is commensurate with sports hall quality. Several sites report that demand for changing provision from community use groups has diminished since the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, some school sites no longer provide changing facilities for non-educational users.

In most cases, sports hall quality is largely influenced by levels of investment in flooring, décor, lighting and, in some instances, roof maintenance and repair.

Table 4.7 overleaf outlines the date of build and most recent refurbishment of all three-court and larger sports halls in Bradford. Data has been sourced from a combination of Active Places and consultation findings. Where sites did not respond to consultation requests, Active Places data has been utilised; however, this information may not always reflect the most recent refurbishment work undertaken.

A prominent factor contributing to below average and poor-quality ratings is the lack of recent investment. Of the 51 sports halls for which age data is available, ten (19.6%) have not benefited from significant refurbishment for more than 20 years. These include Grange Interlink Community Centre, Bradford Girls Grammar School, Laisterdyke Leadership Academy, Belle Vue Girls' School, TFD Youth Centre and Holy Family Catholic School.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Refurbishment data is unavailable for a number of sites, although it is reasonable to assume that some level of reactive maintenance and minor improvement works has been undertaken since they originally opened. Where records are available, Grange Interlink Community Centre has gone the longest without a major refurbishment, having been constructed in 1980 with no subsequent significant investment recorded.

Some of the oldest sports halls in Bradford include Grange Interlink Community Centre, Bradford Girls Grammar School and Belle Vue Girls' School. The sports hall at Ilkley Grammar School is also thought to be one of the oldest facilities in the district; however, neither its original construction date nor refurbishment history could be verified through consultation. It is understood to be beyond its operational lifespan and is programmed for replacement as part of the school's ongoing redevelopment programme. Conversely, the newest facilities are Adil Rashid Cricket Centre and Park Avenue Bradford Dome, which (as noted above) opened in 2024 and 2023 respectively. Recent investment has also taken place at a number of sites, including Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Beap Community Centre, Trinity Academy, Carlton Bolling College and the University of Bradford Sports Centre.

Overall, 18 of the 51 sports halls (35.3%) have either been constructed or significantly refurbished within the last ten years. This includes recently developed facilities such as Adil Rashid Cricket Centre, Park Avenue Bradford Dome, Dixons Trinity Academy, Dixons Sixth Form Academy, Brontë Girls Academy and Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, alongside recently refurbished sites including Trinity Academy, Carlton Bolling College and the University of Bradford Sports Centre. The figure rises to 42 of 51 halls (82.4%) when considering sports halls built or refurbished since 2006, indicating that a substantial proportion of Bradford's sports hall stock has benefited from investment over the last two decades.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.7: Age and refurbishment dates of sports halls

Site name	Ownership	Management	Year opened/ built	Year refurbished	Age since opened/ refurbished
Bradford Academy	Academy	In house	2007	-	19
Bradford Forster Academy	Academy	In house	2015	-	11
Bronte Girls Academy	Academy	In house	2019	-	7
Carlton Bolling College	Academy	In house	1978	2026	0
Dixons City Academy	Academy	Edu-Lettings	1990	2010	16
Dixons Sixth Form Academy	Academy	In house	2020	-	6
Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	Voluntary aided school	In house	2004	-	22
Immanuel College C of E Academy	Voluntary aided school	In house	2000	2020	6
Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	Academy	In house	1997	-	29
Parkside Sports Centre	Registered charity	Bradford Trident	1980	2014	12
Hanson Academy	Academy	In house	2010	-	16
Hanson Academy	Academy	In house	2011	-	25
Transforming Lives for Good	Registered charity	Transforming Lives for Good	2008	-	18
Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	Community organisation	Guru Nanak Gurdwara	1970	2023	3
Park Avenue Bradford Dome	NGB	Yorkshire CC Foundation	2023	-	3
Appleton Academy	Academy	In house	2011	-	15
Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	Community School	Communihire	2008	-	19
Co-op Academy Grange	Academy	In house	2011	-	15
Dixons Kings Academy	Academy	Edu-Lettings	2012	-	14
Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club	Sports club	In house	2011	-	15
Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	CBMDC	In house	2019	-	7
TFD Youth Centre	Local authority	CBMDC	1960	2004	22
Tong Leadership Academy	Academy	In house	2008	-	18
Trinity Academy	Academy	Edu-Lettings	1970	2025	1
The David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC)	Sports Club	Woodlands CC	1991	2010	16
Beap Community Centre	Community organisation	In house	2002	2022	4
Beckfoot Upper Heaton	Academy	In house	2016	-	10
Belle Vue Girls' School	Academy	In house	1972	2000	26

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site name	Ownership	Management	Year opened/ built	Year refurbished	Age since opened/ refurbished
Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	Further education	In house	2008	2016	10
Bradford Girls Grammar School	Independent school	In house	1988	-	38
Bradford Grammar School	Independent school	Communihire	1989	2013	13
Dixons Allerton Academy	Academy	Edu-Lettings	2013	-	13
Dixons Trinity Academy	Academy	In house	2021	-	5
Eden Boys Leadership Academy Bradford	Academy	In house	2005	-	21
Grange Interlink Community Centre	Community organisation	In house	1980	-	46
Manningham Sports Centre	CBMDC	In house	2000	2005	21
Oasis Academy Lister Park	Academy	In house	2007	-	19
St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor)	Voluntary aided school	SchoolHire	2007	-	19
Thornton Recreation Centre	Foundation School	In house (CBMDC)	1973	2010	16
University of Bradford Sports Centre	Higher education	In house	2007	2026	0
Zara Sports Centre	Academy	In house	2007	-	19
Dixons McMillan Academy	Academy	Edu-Lettings	2014	-	12
Beckfoot Oakbank School	Academy	Edu-Lettings	2017	-	9
Carlton Keighley	Academy	In house	2011	-	15
Holy Family Catholic School	Voluntary aided school	In house	2005	-	21
Ilkley Grammar School	Academy	In house	-	-	-
The Leisure Centre Keighley	CBMDC	In house	1989	2008	18
Bingley Grammar School	Voluntary aided school	In house	1992	2010	16
Dixons Cottingley Academy	Academy	In house	2017		9
Beckfoot School	Academy	In house	2011		15
Parkside School	Community school	In house	2000		20
Titus Salt School	Community school	In house	2008	2013	13
Adil Rashid Cricket Centre	Community organisation	In house	2024	-	2

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Accessibility

The audit found the following 12 sites to be private use only and not available for community use:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◀ Bronte Girls Academy | ◀ Appleton Academy |
| ◀ Dixons Sixth Form Academy | ◀ Beckfoot Upper Heaton |
| ◀ Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy | ◀ Belle Vue Girls' School |
| ◀ Immanuel College C of E Academy | ◀ Dixons Trinity Academy |
| ◀ Laisterdyke Leadership Academy | ◀ Eden Boys Leadership Academy |
| ◀ Hanson Academy (4-court) | ◀ Bradford |
| | ◀ Holy Family Catholic School |

All 12 private use sports halls are located at education settings.

Consultation identified a range of factors influencing the lack of community access. At Dixons Sixth Form Academy, the sports hall is not made available for hire as it is the site's sole sports facility, making meeting the staffing and operational costs associated with community use difficult to justify. Similarly, Dixons Trinity Academy does not accommodate community lettings; however, this is largely due to its proximity to both Dixons McMillan Academy and Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus), with community demand directed towards the sports hall at Dixons McMillan Academy.

Hanson Academy features two: a 5-court hall and a 4-court hall. The 5-court hall is located within the main school building and is available for community use. The 4-court hall, previously managed by the now-liquidated Pulse Fitness, has recently transferred to school management. Community use is not currently permitted due to the condition of the facility, most notably the need to replace the existing flooring. However, the academy intends to make the hall available for community hire once the required improvement works have been completed.

In consultation with Immanuel College C of E Academy and Belle Vue Girls School it was highlighted that it is school policy to not let internal facilities and this is unlikely to change. The 4-court hall at Appleton Academy was previously available for community use. However, the school has since restricted community access to the hall and outdoor sports facilities, primarily in response to noise complaints from nearby residents. Consultation indicated that it is unlikely the sports hall will be reopened for community hire.

Holy Family Catholic School advised that its facilities are not currently available for community use due to ongoing issues related to the condition of the school buildings following the identification of RAAC¹⁵. It has since been included within the Government's School Rebuilding Programme. Consultation confirmed that community use of the facilities will not be considered until the required building improvement works have been completed.

When the privately used sports halls are removed from analysis, there are 41 sites in Bradford containing 282 courts available for community use.

¹⁵ RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) is a lightweight precast concrete material commonly used in schools and other public buildings between the 1950s and 1990s. Due to concerns regarding its long-term structural performance and risk of failure as it ages, buildings containing RAAC are subject to ongoing inspection, remediation or replacement programmes.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

When assessing sports hall provision by analysis area, Table 4.8 indicates that all five analysis areas have access to at least one community available sports hall. Community use provision is particularly strong in Bradford South, Bradford West and Keighley, where the majority of halls are available. Bradford East also has a relatively good level of community provision, although six of its 15 halls are private use facilities. Shipley has the most limited community accessible stock, with just one of its three sports halls available for community use.

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

Table 4.9 sets out the accessibility of community accessible sports halls with three or more courts across Bradford.

Table 4.8: Community use halls by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of halls	Community use	Private use
Bradford East	15	9	6
Bradford South	10	9	1
Bradford West	18	14	4
Keighley Area	4	4	-
Shipley Area	3	1	2

Table 4.9: Accessibility to sports halls with 3+ courts (excluding private use sites)

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	217,073	39.3%	198,319	35.9%	18,754	3.4%
10.1 - 20	77,181	14.0%	68,697	12.4%	8,484	1.5%
20.1 - 30	53,762	9.7%	47,518	8.6%	6,244	1.1%
30.1 - 40	27,518	5.0%	18,648	3.4%	8,870	1.6%
40.1 - 50	35,656	6.4%	29,362	5.3%	6,294	1.1%
50.1 - 60	31,390	5.7%	17,361	3.1%	14,029	2.5%
60.1 - 70	35,032	6.3%	17,379	3.1%	17,653	3.2%
70.1 - 80	21,878	4.0%	8,163	1.5%	13,715	2.5%
80.1 - 90	24,998	4.5%	4,510	0.8%	20,488	3.7%
90.1 - 100	28,556	5.2%	12,196	2.2%	16,360	3.0%
Total	553,044	100.0%	422,153	76.3%	130,891	23.7%

76.3% of Bradford's population lives within one mile of a community accessible sports hall with three or more courts. Drive-time catchment modelling indicates that 100% of the population is within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible sports hall.

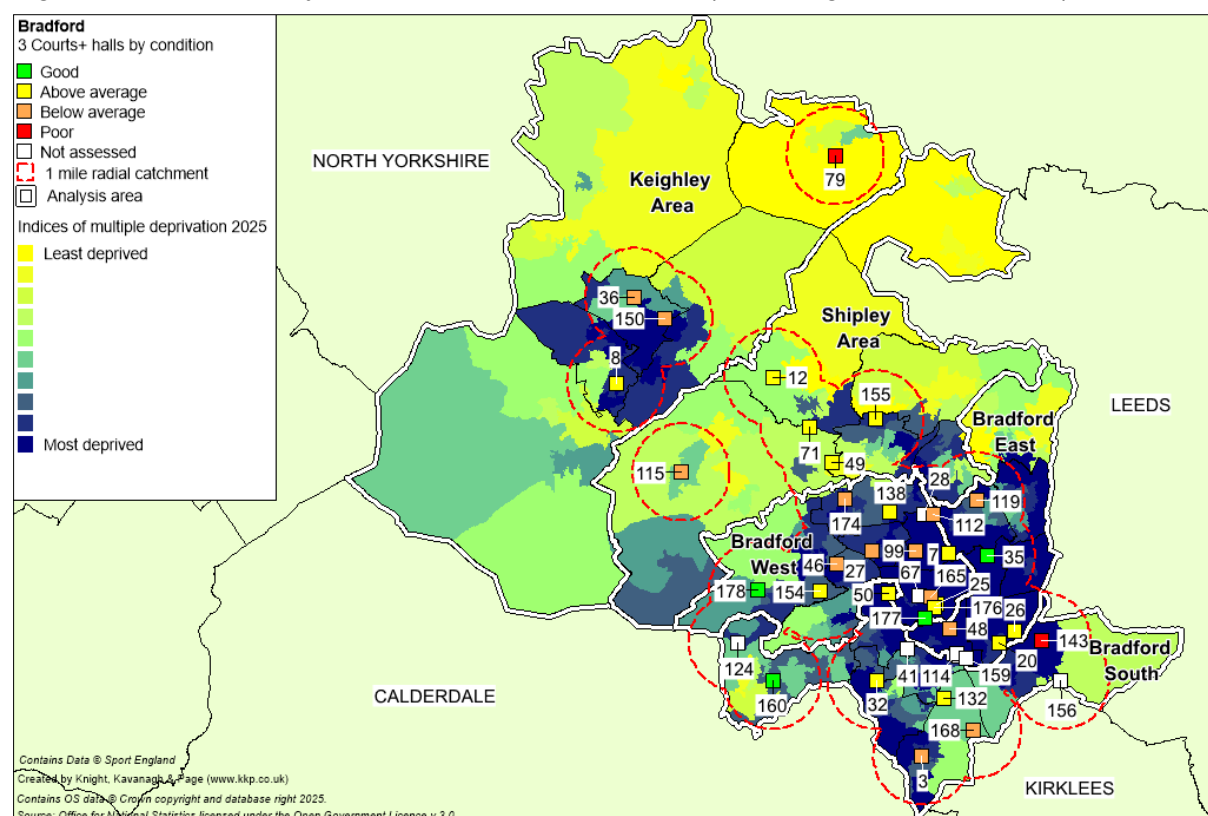
Consideration should be given to the 24.1% of Bradford's residents who live more than a one mile walk from sports hall provision, as they may face difficulties accessing a car or public transport, however, this is in part due to the predominantly rural nature of the authority.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Residents from more deprived localities are statistically less likely to participate in sport than those living in more affluent areas. Typical factors in this include cost and access.

When factoring in drivetime catchments, the percentage of residents who live within a 20-minute drive of a 3+ court sports hall with community use rises to 100%. This places greater emphasis on car ownership for accessing sport and leisure provision.

Figure 4.3: Accessibility of all sports halls in Bradford (excluding private use sites)



Ownership and facility management

Management and ownership of sports halls in Bradford varies. CBMDC owns and operates Manningham Sports Centre (8-court hall), the Leisure Centre Keighley (4-court hall) and Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre (8-court hall). In addition, it operates the dual-use 5-court hall at Thornton Recreation Centre, which is owned by Beckfoot Thornton School, and the TFD Centre sports hall, which is managed through the council's youth service. This is available for both structured youth support sessions and wider community use.

The majority of community accessible school and college sports halls in Bradford (20 of 29) are owned and managed in house, with the remaining seven run by third-party lettings providers such as Communihire, Edu-Lettings and SchoolHire. Third-party operators typically manage facilities on a more commercial basis, which can help mitigate common barriers to community use at education sites, such as staffing constraints and the temporary loss of facilities for exams. These arrangements can also support longer opening hours and a more consistent community programme. However, they may place greater emphasis on the commercial viability of bookings, which can result in higher hire charges and less flexibility for certain user groups.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Availability

Discounting the 12 sports halls which do not currently offer community use, 41 remain. Thornton Recreation Centre is the sole sports hall in Bradford that operates as a dual use facility, enabling school access during daytimes and community use in the evenings, occasionally allowing for community use during weekday daytimes during school holidays and when school timetabling allows.

Of all sites offering community use, Parkside School provides the fewest access hours (20 per week), all of which fall within Sport England's defined peak period. Peak period hours are 09:00-10:00 and 17:00-22:00 on weekdays, and 08:00-16:00 at weekends. The maximum number of peak period hours available each week is 46; however, no sports hall in Bradford is open for the full 46. The highest level of peak period availability is 44/44.5 hours per week, achieved by five sites.

At the opposite end of the scale, Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is available for 109.5 hours per week as it offers peak and off-peak usage as a pay and play public leisure facility.

Table 4.10: Total number of community use hours for 3+ court sports halls in Bradford

Comm. use hours	Peak period hours	ID	Site	Courts	Main sports/activities
0	0	31	Bronte Girls Academy	3	N/A
0	0	52	Dixons Sixth Form Academy	4	N/A
0	0	61	Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	4	N/A
0	0	83	Immanuel College CofE Academy	3	N/A
0	0	95	Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	3	N/A
0	0	119	Hanson Academy	4	N/A
0	0	3	Appleton Academy	3	N/A
0	0	9	Beckfoot Upper Heaton	4	N/A
0	0	10	Belle Vue Girls' School	4	N/A
0	0	53	Dixons Trinity Academy	4	N/A
0	0	56	Eden Boys Leadership Academy	4	N/A
0	0	77	Holy Family Catholic School	4	N/A
-	-	124	Queensbury Celtic Junior FC ¹⁶	3	Football
20	20	115	Parkside School	4	Badminton, basketball, football
22.5	22.5	27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	4	Trampolining
28	26	35	Carlton Bolling College	5	Badminton, cricket, RL
28	28	12	Bingley Grammar School	4	No bookings
29	29	71	Beckfoot School	4	Cheerleading, cricket, dance
30	27	28	Bradford Grammar School	5	Unknown
33.5	33.5	32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	4	Badminton, multisport sessions, martial arts, cricket
34	31	156	Tong Leadership Academy	4	Unknown
34	32	174	Zara Sports Centre	4	Badminton, basketball, football, cricket
35	35	26	Bradford Forster Academy	4	Badminton, basketball, netball

¹⁶ Club was unresponsive to consultation request. Desk research indicates sports hall primarily used for club training.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Comm. use hours	Peak period hours	ID	Site	Courts	Main sports/activities
36	26	143	TFD Youth Centre	4	Badminton, basketball, football, multi-sport sessions.
36	34	36	Carlton Keighley	5	Badminton, cricket, football, martial arts, volleyball,
37	37	79	Ilkley Grammar School	4	Badminton, basketball, cricket
37	37	155	Titus Salt School	4	Badminton, basketball, gymnastics, martial arts
38	38	112	Oasis Academy Lister Park	4	Netball
38.5	38.5	48	Dixons City Academy	3	Football, netball, basketball, Cricket
38.5	38.5	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor)	4	Multi-sport sessions
39	37	154	Thornton Recreation Centre	5	Badminton, fencing, football
41	41	119	Hanson Academy	5	Futsal, table tennis, netball, basketball, badminton.
41.5	39	41	Co-op Academy Grange	4	Unknown
42	36	46	Dixons Allerton Academy	4	Football, faith-based sessions, pickleball, softball, cricket
42	36	176	Dixons McMillan Academy	4	Football, rugby league, badminton, archery, cricket
43	41	175	Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	3	Badminton, netball
46	39	20	Bradford Academy	4	Unknown
47	41	50	Dixons Kings Academy	4	Badminton, volleyball, faith-based sessions, dance/drama, softball, cricket.
47	41	8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	4	Badminton, basketball, football
47	41	49	Dixons Cottingley Academy	4	Football, basketball, rugby league, softball, cricket
47.5	38.5	25	Bradford College (Trinity Green)	8	Basketball, netball, futsal
49	41	160	Trinity Academy	4	N/A
50	10	159	Transforming Lives for Good	4	Netball
76	41	7	Beap Community Centre	4	Badminton, jobcentre/nursery multi-sport, community women's health group, football, volleyball.
81	44	99	Manningham Sports Centre	8	Badminton, basketball, football, martial arts, table tennis.
84	37	177	Park Avenue Bradford Dome	8	Cricket
86	38	xx	Adil Rashid Cricket Centre	3	Cricket
87	40	67	Grange Interlink Comm. Centre	4	Unknown
91	44	114	Parkside Sports Centre	4	Unknown
91	44	168	David Wharf Sports Hall	4	Cricket, football
95.25	42.75	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	5	Badminton, exercise classes, football, multi-sport sessions
95.5	44	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	4	Badminton, basketball, netball, volleyball
97	44.5	132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	8	Badminton, gymnastics, netball, martial arts, wheelchair rugby

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Desk-based research indicates that the sports halls at the following eight sites are available for community use. However, as the sites did not respond to consultation requests, current levels and composition of use could not be fully determined:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◀ Bingley Grammar School | ◀ Bradford Academy |
| ◀ Bradford Grammar School | ◀ Transforming Lives for Good |
| ◀ Tong Leadership Academy | ◀ Grange Interlink Community Centre |
| ◀ Co-op Academy Grange | ◀ Parkside Sports Centre |

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) is a Bradford-based national charity focused on supporting vulnerable children and young people through education, wellbeing and community-based programmes. It operates from Hope Park, which includes its 4-court sports hall facility. Although unresponsive to consultation requests it was identified that its sports hall is available to community users via club consultation.

Bradford Trident is a community development organisation delivering sports, health and wellbeing programmes across Bradford. The organisation manages Parkside Sports Centre, including its 4-court sports hall.

Overall, the audit indicates that a wide variety of sports and activities are available across Bradford's sports halls, including badminton, basketball, cheerleading, cricket, dance, football, futsal, gymnastics, martial arts, netball, pickleball, softball, table tennis, trampolining, volleyball and wheelchair rugby, alongside a range of multi-sport and community-based activity programmes. Education site availability is generally concentrated on peak periods (evenings and weekends).

At school sites, staffing and the costings attributed to it is the biggest limitation to extending community use hours further, particularly at weekends. Although the majority of school sites that are available for the community do offer some weekend availability.

Outside of school holidays, school sports halls rarely have the capability to provide weekday daytime access to user groups. In total, ten sites do provide daytime access:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Transforming Lives for Good | ◀ Parkside Sports Centre |
| ◀ Beap Community Centre | ◀ David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC) |
| ◀ Manningham Sports Centre | ◀ The Leisure Centre Keighley |
| ◀ Park Avenue Bradford Dome | ◀ University of Bradford Sports Centre |
| ◀ Grange Interlink Community Centre | ◀ Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre |

Sports halls capable of providing activities during weekday daytimes can cater for specific markets such as unemployed, shift workers, an increasing working from home population and for demographics such as over 65's. This is of increasing importance and essential for Bradford given the number of residents aged over 65 – with this number expected to increase considerably by 2043.

Used capacity: audit findings

The non-technical site audits identify the used capacity of each sports hall. Used capacity in the peak period is the percentage of available community use hours used. For example, the 44 hours available at Manningham Sports Centre are used 90% of the time, whereas Dixons Kings Academy provides 41 hours of peak time availability but is only used for approximately 40% of the time during this period. Table 4.11 provides the used capacity for each sports hall with 3+ courts in Bradford.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.11: Used capacity of sports halls

Site	KKP audit used capacity
Bronte Girls Academy	Private use only
Dixons Sixth Form Academy	Private use only
Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	Private use only
Immanuel College C of E Academy	Private use only
Laisterdyke Leadership Academy	Private use only
Hanson Academy (4-court hall)	Private use only
Appleton Academy	Private use only
Beckfoot Upper Heaton	Private use only
Belle Vue Girls' School	Private use only
Dixons Trinity Academy	Private use only
Eden Boys Leadership Academy Bradford	Private use only
Holy Family Catholic School	Private use only
Bingley Grammar School	0%
Trinity Academy	0%
Oasis Academy Lister Park	40%
St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor)	40%
Dixons Kings Academy	40%
Parkside School	50%
Beckfoot Oakbank School	50%
Beckfoot School	60%
Ilkley Grammar School	60%
Dixons McMillan Academy	60%
Thornton Recreation Centre	60%
The David Wharf Sports Hall (Woodlands CC)	60%
Bradford Girls Grammar School	70%
Carlton Bolling College	70%
Titus Salt School	70%
Dixons Allerton Academy	70%
Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	70%
Dixons Cottingley Academy	70%
Dixons City Academy	75%
Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	80%
Bradford Forster Academy	80%
TFD Youth Centre	80%
Carlton Keighley	80%
Beap Community Centre	80%
Park Avenue Bradford Dome	80%
Adil Rashid Cricket Centre	80%
Zara Sports Centre	90%
Hanson Academy (5-court hall)	90%
Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	90%
Manningham Sports Centre	90%
University of Bradford Sports Centre	90%
The Leisure Centre Keighley	90%
Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	95%

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site	KKP audit used capacity
Bradford Grammar School	Unknown
Tong Leadership Academy	Unknown
Co-op Academy Grange	Unknown
Bradford Academy	Unknown
Transforming Lives for Good	Unknown
Grange Interlink Community Centre	Unknown
Parkside Sports Centre	Unknown
Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club	Unknown

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

As identified above, limited information was available to ascertain capacity for eight sites:

- ✦ Bradford Grammar School
- ✦ Tong Leadership Academy
- ✦ Co-op Academy Grange
- ✦ Bradford Academy
- ✦ Transforming Lives for Good
- ✦ Parkside Sports Centre
- ✦ Queensbury Celtic Junior Football Club

Desk research and club consultation indicate that community use is taking place at these sites; however, usage levels cannot be determined. For example, consultation confirmed that Transforming Lives for Good and Bradford Grammar School are used for affiliated netball training. While Grange Interlink Community Centre and Parkside Sports Centre are used by affiliated badminton clubs.

Of the sites where used capacity is known, two do not offer community use. These are Bingley Grammar School and Trinity Academy, both of which record 0% used capacity. Trinity Academy came under the management of Edu-Lettings in July 2026, and it is anticipated that community use will increase as the facility becomes more widely marketed and awareness of its availability grows. Bingley Grammar School reported that frequent closures associated with examinations and other school activities result in inconsistent availability, limiting demand from community users. However, desk research indicates that the school does not actively promote its facilities via its website, with the only public advertising identified being an outdated Facebook listing

Three sites are operating at 40% used capacity, indicating a significant level of spare capacity to accommodate additional bookings. These are Oasis Academy Lister Park, St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor) and Dixons Kings Academy. Whilst consultation did not identify any major barriers to community use at these sites, sports hall closures during examination periods at Oasis Academy Lister Park and St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College can limit the attractiveness of community access and disrupt regular bookings. Outside of these periods, there may be opportunities to increase utilisation through enhanced promotion and engagement with local clubs and organisations.

A further 12 sites are operating between 50-70% used capacity, suggesting they have a reasonable level of spare capacity available during peak periods. These include Parkside School, Beckfoot School, Ilkley Grammar School, Titus Salt School and Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford). Activity programmes across these facilities are varied, with badminton, basketball, football, cricket, netball, gymnastics and martial arts among the most common activities taking place.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford), operating at 70% used capacity, plays a distinct role within the Bradford sports hall stock by providing an accessible venue for the local Sikh community, whilst remaining available for wider community use. This facility supports a range of inclusive activities, including women-only badminton and walking netball sessions, helping to address cultural and faith-related barriers to participation and broadening opportunities for underrepresented groups to engage in sport and physical activity.

Sports halls operating between 60-80% used capacity are generally considered to have a moderate level of spare capacity, although availability tends to be increasingly limited to less desirable times (e.g., Friday evenings). Several sites within this category report a diverse range of community activity, including Dixons City Academy (75%), Carlton Bolling College (70%), Dixons Allerton Academy (70%) and Dixons Cottingley Academy (70%).

Thornton Recreation Centre is also operating at 60% used capacity. It is a dual-use site and community use is largely restricted to weekday evenings and weekends due to school use during the day. The original sample week coincided with the examination period, resulting in an alternative week being used for the capacity assessment. Activity programming indicates that demand is strongest on weekday evenings, whilst demand at weekends is comparatively low, suggesting that much of its spare capacity is concentrated during weekend periods.

14 sports halls are operating at or above Sport England's 'comfortably full' threshold of 80% used capacity. These are Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College, Bradford Forster Academy, TFD Youth Centre, Carlton Keighley, Beap Community Centre, Park Avenue Bradford Dome, Adil Rashid Cricket Centre, and Manningham Sports Centre. In addition, Zara Sports Centre, Hanson Academy's 5-court hall, Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus), the University of Bradford Sports Centre, the Leisure Centre, Keighley and Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre are all operating at 90% used capacity. These have limited scope to accommodate additional demand, although some may still offer pockets of availability during off-peak periods.

Park Avenue Bradford Dome has high utilisation rates year-round; however, it is busiest during the winter months, when a significant number of affiliated teams access the facility for nets-based training. In addition, a large proportion of usage is generated through casual pay and play bookings. Adil Rashid Cricket Centre reports a similar pattern of demand, with a mix of affiliated club use and casual participation.

Several of the busiest sites are the larger public leisure facilities. For example, Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre, Manningham Sports Centre and the Leisure Centre, Keighley provide extensive peak period availability and support a broad range of activities, including badminton, football, netball, gymnastics, martial arts, and fitness activity. Whilst operating at high levels of used capacity, programme analysis indicates that some spare capacity remains available, primarily during selected daytime periods and at certain weekend times.

The council's main public leisure centres also play an important role in supporting inclusive participation. Programmes at Manningham Sports Centre, Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre, the Leisure Centre, Keighley and Thornton Recreation Centre include activities targeted at specific user groups, including 40+ sport sessions, women's activities, inclusive badminton and a range of informal participation opportunities. These help to broaden facility appeal beyond traditional club-based sport, supporting opportunities for older adults, women and less active residents to engage in regular physical activity.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The sports hall at the University of Bradford Sports Centre is one of the busiest in the district, operating at 90% used capacity. Consultation indicated that a substantial proportion of sports hall usage is generated by student sports clubs during term time, particularly volleyball, with community use largely comprising recreational badminton bookings. Despite this, the facility remains an important community venue, offering memberships and pay and play access to the wider public. The university's operating model seeks to balance student demand with community access, with income generated from community users helping to support wider student sport provision.

Overall, of the 36 sites where used capacity data is available and community use takes place, 21 (58%) are operating at 70% used capacity or above, whilst 14 (39%) are operating at or above Sport England's 80% 'comfortably full' threshold. This indicates a generally strong level of take-up across the Bradford sports hall stock, particularly at public leisure and community-focused venues. However, a number of education-based facilities continue to operate with spare capacity and may be able to accommodate additional demand through increased promotion, more consistent availability and stronger links with local community groups and sports clubs.

As noted above, both Oasis Academy Lister Park and St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor) report that community use of their sports halls is adversely affected by extended closures during examination periods. These can total up to 12 weeks per year, primarily in the lead up to summer examinations and following the Christmas holiday period. As a result, clubs often choose to use alternative facilities which can provide more regular and reliable access.

Similar restrictions on community use during examination periods were reported at Bingley Grammar School, Keighley Carlton, Thornton Recreation Centre, Titus Salt School and Carlton Bolling College. At Thornton Recreation Centre, examination period closures actually affected availability during the original sample week, necessitating the use of an alternative week's booking data for capacity analysis.

There is a need to explore solutions which minimise disruption to community users, helping to ensure continuity for clubs during peak playing seasons whilst maximising income generation and the long-term sustainability of school sports facilities. One potential solution is the use of lightweight foldaway desks and storage trolleys, which can reduce the time and resource required to convert sports halls for examination use. However, implementation may require capital investment from schools or external funding partners and involve a degree of community user collaboration.

Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside the authority. There are 20 sports halls within two miles (indicative of how far people may travel) of Bradford's boundary. They offer 79 courts and are primarily to the east in neighbouring Leeds.

Further details of the 20 sites with 3+ courts located within a 20-minute drive time of Bradford can be seen overleaf in figure 4.4 and Table 4.13.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.4: Bradford sports hall provision inc. neighbouring authorities

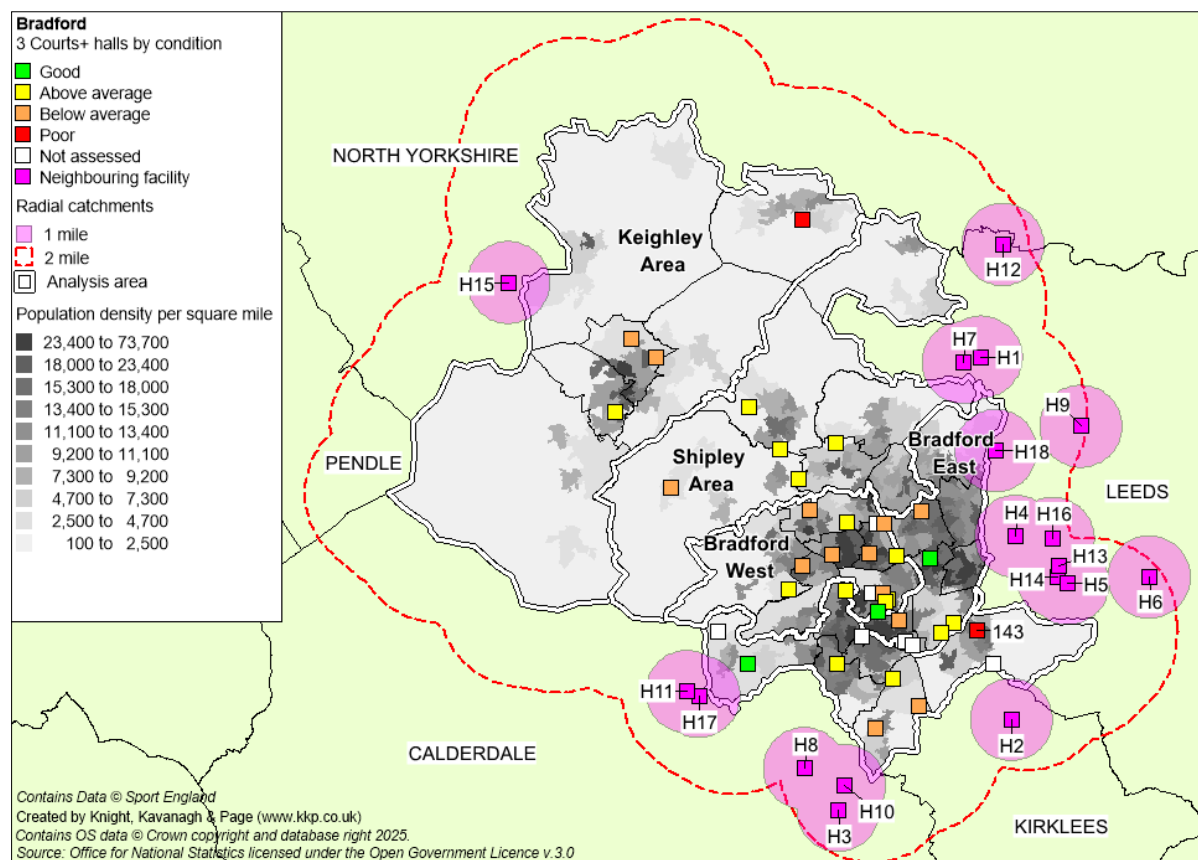


Table 4.13: Community accessible sports halls - neighbouring authorities (20-minute drive time)

ID	Site name	Cts	Access type	Authority
H1	Aireborough Leisure Centre	4	Pay & play	Leeds
H2	BBG Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Kirklees
H3	Brighouse High School Sports Centre	4	Sports club / CA	Calderdale
H4	Co-Op Academy Priesthorpe	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H5	Crawshaw Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H6	Dixons Unity Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H7	Guiselley School	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H8	Hipperholme Grammar School	4	Sports club / CA	Calderdale
H9	Leeds Trinity University (Trinity Fitness)	3	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H9	Leeds Trinity University (Trinity Fitness)	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H10	Lightcliffe Academy	4	Pay & play	Calderdale
H11	North Halifax Grammar School	4	Sports club / CA	Calderdale
H12	Prince Henrys Grammar School	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H13	Pudsey Grangefield School	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H14	Pudsey Leisure Centre	4	Pay & play	Leeds
H15	South Craven School	4	Sports club / CA	N. Yorkshire
H15	South Craven School	3	Sports club / CA	N. Yorkshire
H16	Throstle Nest (FC Farsley)	5	Sports club / CA	Leeds
H17	Trinity Academy Halifax	4	Sports club / CA	Calderdale
H18	Woodhouse Grove School	4		Leeds

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Future developments

As noted earlier Ilkley Grammar School's existing 4-court sports hall is at the end of its lifespan and in poor condition, although it remains in use by both the school and community users. The school is currently undergoing a rebuilding programme, as part of which the sports hall will be fully replaced. Works are expected to be completed by 2029.

4.2: Demand

NGB and club consultation

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

Badminton

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

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

Consultation with BE outlined the need for increased badminton facilities for clubs. It reports that several clubs within the authority lose access to facilities for prolonged periods of the year due to exams taking place in school sports halls.

Given the close proximity to Leeds, where there is a strong supply of facilities capable of accommodating regional and national level competition, the focus for Bradford is on developing a facility stock suitable to accommodate club and social badminton opportunity.

England Badminton confirmed that it has four affiliated clubs in Bradford. Consultation with clubs, site visits and desk research led to the identification of a further five unaffiliated clubs. All nine were invited to participate in the consultation; however, response rates were poor despite several follow-up emails and telephone calls from KKP staff. Responses were received from Bradford Performance Centre, Khalsa Badminton Club and Bradford Badminton Club. A précis of the findings from the responding clubs is provided below.

Bradford Performance Academy is a junior-focused badminton club with c.20 members. It reports significant challenges accessing suitable and affordable facilities and currently operates from the indoor tennis hall at Heaton Tennis Club, which provides year-round availability but is considered to be sub-optimal for badminton due to the hard playing surface, cold conditions and lack of a sprung floor.

The club reports that access to school sports halls has become increasingly difficult, with examination periods regularly disrupting community bookings and reducing continuity of provision. Rising hire costs and competition from other activities for sports hall space further limit the availability of suitable venues.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

These constraints have reduced the club from operating multiple weekly sessions to just one, limiting its options to separate players by age and ability and hindering player development. Despite this, demand remains strong, with waiting lists reported at certain times, and the club continues to support a diverse participant base, including players with additional needs.

The club emphasised the importance of strengthening school-club links to support participation and talent development, improving year-round access to sports hall facilities, and exploring opportunities for dedicated badminton provision to better meet existing demand in Bradford.

Khalsa Badminton Club is a recreational badminton group based at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara sports hall in central Bradford. It is part of a wider social and community network and operates on a pay-to-play basis. It has a participation base of c.40-50 people, with sessions attracting c.15-20 players twice per week.

Consultation highlighted the importance of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara as an accessible and inclusive venue, serving participants from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The group reports that low participation costs help reduce barriers to participation and support engagement from people who may not otherwise take part in sport. The venue also hosts dedicated women-only badminton sessions, helping to increase opportunities for female participation.

Consultation also highlighted the challenges associated with relying on school sports halls, including high hire costs and closures during examination periods. By contrast, the Guru Nanak Gurdwara sports hall offers consistent year-round access and plays an important role in supporting community sport and physical activity in Bradford.

Bradford Badminton Club is a non-affiliated club with c.40 members and reports that participation has increased year-on-year. The club operates from Zara Sports Centre, holding sessions twice per week, and competes in local unaffiliated leagues. Membership is predominantly adult, with a mix of male and female players (c.70% male and 30% female).

The club reports that Zara Sports Centre generally meets its needs; however, it reports that all available court capacity is currently utilised, limiting opportunities for further growth. The club would like access to additional court space and higher-quality badminton facilities but has been unable to identify suitable alternatives, having explored opportunities at Manningham Sports Centre and local schools.

It has ambitions to expand participation and would like to introduce junior coaching provision using a qualified coach to support future development.

Table 4.14 overleaf summarises club consultation findings along with desk-based research for those that did not respond to consultation requests. The source of this information is mixed, with BE supplying membership data where known.

Several sites are used by more than one club, evidencing their significance as strategic facilities for recreational and league badminton. For example, three clubs use Carlton Keighley.

In addition to club demand, recreational pay and play badminton is popular across the community accessible sports hall stock in Bradford. This is especially prevalent at public leisure sites. Overall, some form of badminton activity routinely takes places in 50% of the authority's community accessible 3+ court sports halls.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.14: Badminton club summary

Club name	BE affiliated?	No. of members	Venue(s) used
Bradford Badminton Club	No	40	Zara Sports Centre
Bradford Performance Academy	Yes	20	Heaton Squash & Tennis Club (indoor tennis hall)
Eccleshill Badminton Club	No	-	Hanson Academy
Khalsa Badminton Club	No	40-50	Guru Nanak Gurdwara
Keighley Kobras Badminton Club	Yes	30	Carlton Keighley, Holy Family Catholic School (historical, stopped in 2025).
Keighley Phoenix Badminton Club	Yes	50	Carlton Keighley
South Craven Shuttle Academy	Yes	20	Heaton Squash & Tennis Club (indoor tennis hall)
Wilsden Badminton Club	No	-	Bradford Grammar School
Wibsey Badminton Club	No	-	Parkside Sports Centre

Bradford Badminton League is the principal competitive badminton league operating within the district. It comprises at least 16 member clubs and provides level doubles, women's and mixed league competition. It is an independent, unaffiliated competition structure serving Bradford and the surrounding area. Several clubs field multiple teams, demonstrating a well-established competitive badminton network.

Netball

The England Netball (EN) ten-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game along with a new organisation brand identity was launched in 2021. This shares a purpose-led ambition for the game; to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and to take it to new heights for the decade ahead. The strategy outlines its intention to:

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

At the heart of its purpose, EN commits to remaining dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority and to work to address the gender participation gap in the sport which has widened since the Covid -19 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 England 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 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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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.

EN encourages local authorities to adopt policies for indoor sports facilities strategies that:

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

According to EN, participation in England is experiencing record growth. It had over 122,000 official members in the 2024-25 season and just fewer than 350,000 adults are reported to be playing regularly. It also reports that its 'Back to Netball' initiative is engaging over 100,000 women. Overall, it is estimated that, as of the 2024-2025 season, c.820,000 adults and children were playing netball on a weekly basis.

It is played both indoors and outdoors. For outdoor provision refer to the 2026 Bradford PPOSS.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Consultation with EN highlighted that the majority of affiliated netball in Bradford takes place indoors. It considers Bradford to be generally well served by indoor netball facilities, with the existing network of school, college, leisure centre and community venues largely meeting current demand.

Consultation suggests that facility provision is not currently a major constraint to participation growth, with clubs more commonly reporting challenges relating to volunteer capacity, coaching provision and workforce development.

School sports halls play a particularly important role in accommodating netball activity across the district, although exam periods can disrupt provision and force clubs to relocate outdoors. Consultation also identified concerns around the quality of some playing surfaces, particularly slippery sports hall floors, and highlighted the need for ongoing investment in community venues to maintain accessibility and participation opportunities.

EN highlighted the importance of Bradford's community-based provision, which helps engage a diverse range of participants and supports inclusive participation. Overall, it views the current facility network as broadly meeting need, whilst recognising opportunities to improve facility quality, year-round accessibility and the resilience of the local netball workforce.

Club demand

EN identified five affiliated clubs in Bradford. All five were invited to take part in the consultation; however, uptake was low despite cooperation from EN, which distributed the initial invitation on behalf of KKP plus the issue of several chase emails and calls from KKP staff. A précis of consultation with Birkenshaw Bells Netball Club and Shipley Swifts Netball Club, together with desk research and intelligence provided by EN relating to the three clubs which did not respond to consultation requests, is provided below:

Birkenshaw Bells Netball Club is a large club serving Bradford, with c.110 junior members across four age groups and a growing number of junior teams, particularly at Under 12 and Under 14 level. It also runs a senior section, although this is currently capped at three teams due to capacity constraints.

It uses a range of venues, primarily Tong Leadership Academy and Transforming Lives for Good, for training and development activity. Consultation identified ongoing challenges at Tong Leadership Academy, including facility reliability issues, roof leaks, last-minute cancellations and communication difficulties, which have disrupted training and affected club operations. Transforming Lives for Good is regarded as a more reliable venue, although its hire costs are higher and it is less centrally located for some members.

To manage demand, the club delivers a weekly development session, attracting more than 50 participants and providing a pathway into team selection. Consultation suggests that facility constraints, rather than participation demand, are the principal factor limiting further growth.

Birkenshaw Bells competes in the West Yorkshire League, playing fixtures at venues across the region. It highlighted broader challenges relating to the availability of suitable competition venues and highlighted the need for improved netball facilities locally, including provision of a dedicated competition venue capable of accommodating league and tournament play.

Shipley Swifts Netball Club has c.140 members across six junior and four senior teams. The club reports sustained growth in recent years, particularly within its U12 age group, and currently operates without waiting lists across its teams.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It delivers all its training sessions at Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus), utilising sports hall space across three evenings per week. It reports having a positive relationship with the college and benefits from favourable hire costs. However, the venue is operating at capacity, meaning any future expansion of training provision would require the club to secure access to an additional sports hall elsewhere, potentially increasing operating costs.

All senior and junior teams compete in the West Yorkshire County Netball League. League fixtures are primarily played at Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus) and Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, both of which can accommodate two netball courts side-by-side. Junior fixtures also take place at Bradford Grammar School.

Looking ahead, the club identifies a need for additional sports halls capable of accommodating multiple netball courts, together with competition-standard venues that provide adequate spectator seating to support league and tournament play.

Undercliffe Netball Club was identified by EN as a relatively new, school-based club operating from Carlton Bolling School. It forms part of the affiliated netball offer within Bradford and contributes to opportunities for participation and player development within the district. No specific facility issues were identified by EN.

Yorkshire Roses Netball Club forms part of Bradford's affiliated netball club network, providing opportunities for competitive participation within the district. Desk research indicates that it runs at least two senior teams both of which compete in the West Yorkshire County Netball League structure. No further information relating to membership, training venue or facility requirements was identified through consultation with EN or publicly available sources.

Club Ekta Netball Club was highlighted by EN as an unaffiliated community netball group based at Guru Nanak Gurdwara. It reportedly engages c.30-40 participants across junior and adult age groups and plays an important role supporting participation amongst diverse communities. EN advised that the club is seeking support, funding and mentorship to aid its development and potential future affiliation. Consultation also highlighted the inclusive nature of the venue and the importance of ongoing facility improvements to support community sport provision.

In addition to affiliated club activity, EN participation programmes also operate within Bradford; walking netball sessions take place at Parkside Sports Centre and Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre, along with Back to Netball¹⁷ activity promoted through West Yorkshire County Netball. These initiatives provide opportunity for recreational participation, support people returning to the sport and broaden access to netball beyond the traditional club pathway.

West Yorkshire County Netball League is the principal competitive netball league structure serving Bradford and the wider West Yorkshire area. It comprises a premier division, superleague and six additional divisions (divisions 1-6), providing opportunities for clubs and teams across a broad range of playing standards.

The league includes in excess of 70 teams competing across eight divisions, with promotion and relegation operating throughout the league structure. A number of clubs field multiple teams, reflecting the depth of competitive netball participation across the county.

¹⁷ <https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/back-to-netball/>

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The league operates a central venue model, with senior fixtures played on Saturdays at designated venues across West Yorkshire. Bradford hosts league fixtures at Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus) and Transforming Lives for Good, underlining the strategic importance of these facilities accommodating competitive netball activity within both the district and the wider county league structure.

EN confirmed that there are currently no commercial leagues operating in Bradford.

Basketball (BBE)

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

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

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

BBE reports four affiliated clubs based in Bradford: Bingley Titans, Bradford Macroons, Insight Magic and the University of Bradford. KKP consulted with Bradford Macroons; however, despite numerous attempts, no response was received from the other three clubs. A precis of the consultation with Bradford Macroons, alongside desk research undertaken for the remaining three clubs, is provided below:

Bradford Macroons Basketball Club is a community-focused club which uses basketball and a wider multi-sport offer to provide opportunities for young people in Bradford. It currently engages c.40 participants through weekly sessions held on Mondays and Fridays. Training takes place at Parkside Sports Centre, with home matches played at Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus). In addition to hosting recreational junior sessions, the club fields two adult teams competing in separate divisions within the Leeds Basketball League.

It reports a positive and longstanding relationship with Parkside Sports Centre, where it has been based for a number of years. Facility improvements undertaken five years ago included upgraded basketball rims, additional storage provision and an extension to the building. However, the site remains limited to a single basketball court. While the club considers the facility adequate for its current needs, it reports that the availability of good-quality basketball facilities across Bradford is limited.

Its ambitions include expanding participation and progressing towards national-level competition. However, it identifies funding as a key challenge, citing increasing facility hire

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

costs and the need to charge participants where previously some opportunities could be offered free of charge. The club currently pays c.£7,000 per annum in facility hire costs.

Bingley Titans Basketball Club is an affiliated community basketball club serving Bingley, Bradford, Keighley and Skipton. It competes in the Leeds Basketball League and currently lists Dixons Cottingley Academy as its home venue. Desk research indicates that it only runs adult teams.

Insight Magic Basketball Club is an affiliated community basketball club based in Bradford. It competes in the Leeds Basketball League and lists Tong Leadership Academy as its home venue.

University of Bradford Basketball Club is a student-led club which trains and plays at the university's sports hall. It competes against other universities through the higher education sport system and offers both men's and women's basketball opportunity.

Leeds Basketball League is the principal local basketball competition serving West Yorkshire and surrounding areas. It provides a structured community competition across multiple divisions, with clubs from Bradford and neighbouring authorities competing in regular home and away fixtures throughout the season. The league plays an important role providing local competitive opportunities for clubs operating outside the Basketball England National League pathway.

Three of Bradford's four affiliated clubs, Bradford Macroons, Bingley Titans and Insight Magic, compete within the Leeds Basketball League structure. There is no dedicated Bradford basketball league, meaning that local clubs rely on the Leeds Basketball League to access regular competitive opportunities. This suggests that competitive basketball activity in Bradford is primarily focused on local and regional league competition, supported by access to sports halls capable of accommodating training and match play.

Overall, when considered against its population base, basketball appears underdeveloped in Bradford compared with other local authorities of a similar size.

Indoor cricket

Yorkshire Cricket Foundation (YCF) is the NGB for cricket in Bradford. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children in the county. Indoor cricket primarily takes place in two forms: winter training and indoor competitions.

Indoor training primarily takes place throughout the winter months in the build up to the cricket season. Clubs seek indoor facilities to prepare for the start of the season, making use of dedicated indoor cricket facilities or sports halls with sufficient space. Clubs will also hire these spaces at short notice during the summer when weather conditions do not allow the use of outdoor training facilities.

Generally, where clubs use 4-court sports halls for winter nets, there tends to be insufficient space for pace bowlers to complete a full length run up. In addition, floor quality at education sites is often problematic due to a lack of bounce relative to dedicated indoor cricket facilities. As a result, many clubs travel further afield to access good quality facilities. Park Avenue Indoor Dome is operated by YCF and reports extensive usage by both local clubs and recreational users.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As part of the PPOSS consultation all affiliated clubs were surveyed. Included in the consultation were questions around what indoor provision clubs access. Table 4.15 below summarises the findings from clubs that responded.

Table 4.15: Summary of indoor sports hall provision accessed by Bradford based clubs

Club	Access indoor provision?	Name of site(s) used
Ingrow CC	Yes	South Craven School (North Yorkshire)
Harden CC	Yes	Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome
Queensbury CC	Yes	Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome
Denholme CC	Yes	Adil Rashid Cricket Centre
Thackley CC	Yes	Hanson Academy
Hepworth & Idle CC	Yes	Hanson Academy, Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome
Great Horton Park Chapel CC	Yes	Thornton Recreation Centre, Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome
West Bowling CC	Yes	Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome
Adam CC	Yes	Carlton Keighley, Adil Rashid Cricket Centre

Park Avenue Bradford Dome is the most frequently accessed facility, being used by five clubs, whilst Hanson Academy, Thornton Recreation Centre, Carlton Keighley and Adil Rashid Cricket Centre also accommodate club activity. Consultation further identifies that some Bradford clubs travel outside the district to access indoor training provision, with Ingrow CC using South Craven School in neighbouring North Yorkshire. Overall, findings demonstrate strong demand for indoor cricket facilities across the district and highlight the important role played by both Park Avenue Bradford Indoor Dome and Adil Rashid Cricket Centre in meeting winter training requirements.

Consultation with YCF highlights the extensive use of indoor facilities across Bradford to support cricket participation and development programmes. Activities delivered include tape ball cricket (a modified format played with a tennis ball wrapped in tape to improve pace and bounce), cardio cricket, junior softball cricket, and indoor softball and hardball leagues. These sessions cater for both junior and adult participants and collectively engage in excess of 500 people. Whilst participation is predominantly male, a number of programmes operate on a mixed-gender basis.

YCF indoor cricket activity indoor cricket activity is delivered across a wide range of venues, including Park Avenue Bradford Dome, Grange Interlink Community Centre, New College Bradford, the University of Bradford, Dixons Academies sites, Khidmat Community Centre, Manningham Sports Centre, Karmand Centre and Parkside Sports Centre. This demonstrates the importance of having a varied network of indoor facilities in enabling year-round cricket participation, particularly during the winter months.

It reports ambitions to further expand provision and is currently exploring a partnership with Dixons Academies Trust. This would support delivery of national programme activity and other cricket development initiatives, whilst potentially improving access to school sports hall facilities. Initial progress has already been made, with one school hall being made available to support a female-only cricket session delivered in partnership with a local mosque.

However, securing suitable indoor venues remains a significant challenge. YCF reports that availability is often limited, particularly during peak periods, whilst hire costs can be prohibitive.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In addition, the suitability of available venues can vary considerably in terms of size, layout and supporting facilities. Although demand exists to expand activity and increase participation, growth is frequently constrained by a lack of affordable and appropriate indoor space.

Pickleball

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is typically played as singles or doubles on a smaller court than tennis, using solid paddles and a lightweight perforated ball. The sport is increasingly popular with a wide range of ages due to its accessibility, relatively low physical impact and social nature. The audit identified that a recreational pickleball group routinely books court time at Dixon Allerton Academy.

Martial arts

The audit identified martial arts activity taking place in the sports halls at Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College, Carlton Keighley, Titus Salt School, Manningham Sports Centre, and Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre. Martial arts demand is analysed further in section XX.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics activity is identified as taking place in the sports halls at Titus Salt School, and Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre. This demand is analysed further in section XX.

Futsal

Recreational futsal activity takes place within Bradford, with provision identified at Bradford College and Hanson Academy. Desk research also identified Bradford Futsal Academy and evidence of a historic Bradford Futsal Club. However, there appears to be limited publicly available information with regard to the scale of participation, formal competition structures or player development pathways. This suggests that futsal currently represents a relatively niche activity within the district compared to more established indoor sports.

Wheelchair rugby

Wheelchair rugby league has a presence in Bradford through the Bradford Bulls Wheelchair Rugby League club. It competes within the national wheelchair rugby league pathway and was admitted to the Betfred Wheelchair Super League for the 2026 season. Home fixtures are played at Sedbergh Sports Centre, with the club forming part of the growing wheelchair rugby league network across the North of England.

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

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

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

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Current ONS population projections indicate an increase of just 506 people between 2022-2043. Applying the SFC, this level of growth does not generate a requirement for additional sports hall provision. However, these projections do not fully reflect the scale of planned local housing growth. It is, thus, appropriate to consider the potential impact of future housing delivery on demand for sports halls. As noted earlier, up to 33,695 new dwellings are planned across the district to 2043.

Table 4.16: Bradford housing impact – SFC projections

Housing growth increase (No. houses through to 2043)	Average number of people per owner occupying household (England)	Population increase due to proposed housing	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)
33,695	2.4	80,870	20.83 courts / 5.21 sports halls	£13,770,419

(Build costs as of Q3 2025)

Based on 33,695 dwellings planned within Bradford to 2043 and applying an average household occupancy rate of 2.4 persons, this is estimated to generate a population increase of c.80,870. On this basis, the SFC identifies a requirement for c.20.83 additional sports hall courts by 2043, equivalent to 5.21 4-court sports halls, at an estimated capital cost of c.£13.8 million (Q3 2025 build costs).

Whilst the SFC provides a useful indication of the scale of additional demand that could be generated by housing-led growth, it does not take account of the location, capacity, accessibility or attractiveness of existing provision. As such, the findings should be viewed as a broad estimate of future facility requirements rather than a definitive need for new sports halls.

The extent to which existing facilities can accommodate this additional demand, and the most appropriate locations for future investment, are considered further in the strategy. This level of future demand will help set a calculation to underpin the securing of developer contributions. It is important that the IBFS is used effectively to secure funds for infrastructure improvements in areas of housing growth to cater for the additional people living in a specific area.

4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Bradford has 115 sports halls of all sizes, of which 53 contain three or more badminton courts, providing a total of 226 courts. Provision is generally well distributed across urban areas of the district, with all analysis areas containing community accessible provision. The stock includes four 8-court halls and several 5-court venues capable of accommodating higher-level training and competition activity.	Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is the sole venue offering spectator provision, indicative of a general lack of competition compliant sports halls. Bradford features Park Avenue Bradford Dome, a specialist indoor cricket facility.
Quality	Of the 40 assessed sports halls, 22 are rated good or above average, 18 are rated below average or poor. Quality issues are primarily associated with	Prioritise investment in below average and poor-quality facilities, particularly those supporting

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	ageing flooring, dated interiors and a lack of recent refurbishment investment	significant community use.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible sports hall and 76.3% live within a one-mile walk. Accessibility is strongest within the urban areas of Bradford, with people living in the more rural communities of Shipley and Keighley generally reliant on car travel.	Maintain geographically distributed provision and seek to improve opportunities for community use at sites currently operating as private-use facilities where feasible.
Availability (management and usage)	Twelve sports halls are not currently available for community use, all on education sites. Community use is concentrated at 40 facilities, with schools providing a significant proportion of available capacity. Exam periods continue to limit the continuity of availability at several key venues.	Work with education providers and lettings operators to maximise community access and minimise disruption caused by examinations and school events.

Strategic summary/issues

- Bradford benefits from an extensive and generally well-distributed sports hall network comprising 53 halls with three or more courts. Provision is particularly concentrated within the main urban areas and all residents live within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible sports hall. There are good levels of flexibility, with the stock featuring a combination of eight, five and four court sports hall provision.
- The stock supports a wide range of activities including badminton, basketball, cricket, futsal, martial arts, netball, volleyball, wheelchair rugby league and recreational community programmes. However, consultation suggests that Bradford's indoor club infrastructure is relatively underdeveloped compared to authorities of a similar size, particularly in badminton and basketball. In badminton, a significant proportion of demand appears to be recreational rather than club-based. By contrast, demand for indoor cricket provision is strong, with specialist facilities reporting high levels of club and community use.
- Education sites underpin sports hall provision in Bradford. Whilst many offer good-quality facilities and community access, a substantial proportion of supply remains dependent on school management arrangements, resulting in periodic access restrictions associated with examinations, staffing and school operational priorities.
- Overall quality is mixed. Whilst many facilities have benefited from investment during the last two decades, a number of venues are rated below average or poor and require refurbishment or replacement. Key priorities include Ilkley Grammar School, Holy Family Catholic School, TFD Youth Centre, Manningham Sports Centre, The Leisure Centre Keighley and several community-accessible school facilities where flooring and building condition issues are evident.
- A significant proportion of sports halls are operating at high levels of occupancy. Of those facilities where usage data is available, 14 are operating at high levels of use and have limited spare capacity. As such, maintaining community access, availability and quality at these venues will be important in meeting current and future demand.
- Twelve sports halls are currently unavailable for community use. Opportunities should be explored to increase access to existing facilities, although it is acknowledged that operational, financial and school policy considerations may limit this in some cases.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Several clubs reported difficulties accessing additional court time, particularly badminton and netball clubs. Consultation also identified strong concern about loss of access to school facilities during exam periods; which disrupts participation and club development.
- ◀ Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is the sole venue offering spectator seating, which combined with its 8-court capacity reinforces its role as a key venue for the authority.
- ◀ Planned housing growth could generate significant additional demand for sports halls. Whilst there is scope to improve the quality and utilisation of existing facilities, the scale of planned growth is unlikely to meet future needs. The SFC identifies a requirement for the equivalent of c.21 additional badminton courts by 2043, indicating that some new provision may be required alongside investment in the existing stock.
- ◀ In partnership with Sport England, commission FPM analysis to add a layer of scrutiny of the impact of housing-led population growth on supply/demand for sports hall provision.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.1: Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger pools available for community use (no restrictions to accessing the pool as a result of membership criteria). As such, those less than 160m² (e.g., 20m x 8m - 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 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.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Quantity

The audit identifies 23 swimming pools at 17 sites. This includes all pools irrespective of size and access. Six of these sites (at Ilkley, Keighley, Shipley, Eccleshill, Bowling, and Sedbergh) are operated by CBMDC.

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Bradford

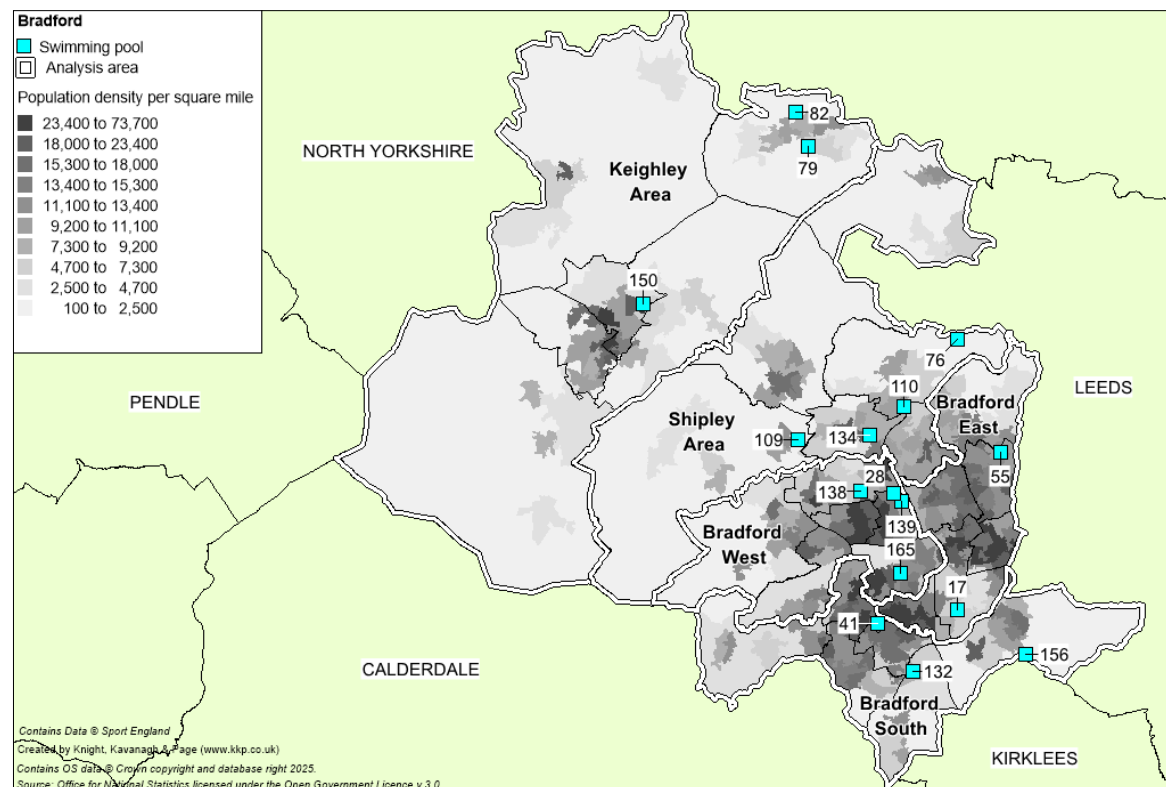


Table 5.1: Swimming pools in Bradford

ID	Site	Sub-type	Lanes	Length
17	Bowling Pool and Gym	Main/general	4	25
28	Bradford Grammar School	Main/general	0	25
41	Co-Op Academy Grange	Learner/ teaching/ training	0	14
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	Main/general	6	33.3
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	Learner/ teaching/ training	0	12.8
76	Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	Main/general	0	20
79	Ilkley Grammar School	Main/general	0	15
82	Ilkley Swimming Pool	Main/general	0	25
82	Ilkley Swimming Pool	Lido	0	45
109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	Main/general	0	25
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Main/general	0	25
132	Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre	Main/general	6	25
132	Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre	Learner/ teaching/ training	0	13
134	Shipley Pool and Gym	Main/General	6	25
134	Shipley Pool and Gym	Learner/ teaching/ training	0	10
134	Shipley Pool and Gym	Diving	0	12.5

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Sub-type	Lanes	Length
138	St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor Campus)	Main/general	3	17.5
139	St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus)	Main/general	4	20
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Leisure pool	0	25
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Learner/ teaching/ training	0	15
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Leisure pool	0	3
156	Tong Leadership Academy	Main/general	4	25
165	University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	Main/general	5	25

Bradford has a total water space supply of 4,432m² across its swimming pool stock. The six public leisure centres account for 53.6% of this provision, equivalent to 2,377m² of water space. Shipley Pool & Gym provides the greatest overall water space, with 531m² across its main, diving and teaching pools. Eccleshill Swimming Pool contains the largest individual public leisure pool, with its 33m x 6 lane main pool comprising a water area of 426m².

Bradford does not have a competition-standard swimming pool capable of hosting substantial events. Whilst Shipley Pool and Gym and Eccleshill Swimming Pool both provide spectator seating and support competitive swimming activity (Shipley also contains the sole diving pool in the district), neither facility offers the scale or specification typically associated with regional or national competition venues.

Ilkley Swimming Pool features both a main pool and an outdoor lido. The lido typically operates between April and October, providing community access including public lane swimming. While it does not offer year-round programming, it is recognised as an important swimming facility within the district.

Stand-alone smaller/learner teaching pools smaller than 20m in length or 160m² total area are discounted from this analysis. However, they remain important, particularly where they support swimming lessons or, as is the case at the public leisure sites, provide the foundation for flexible programming and income generation.

Consultation with Bradford Girls' Grammar School identified that its main pool is currently closed due to plant failure and overall poor condition. The pool was built in 1967 and requires significant upgrade works. Given the high cost of required refurbishment works, the school advises that it is unlikely these will be undertaken and is expected to remain permanently closed.

The lido at Ilkley Swimming Pool and Bradford Girls Grammar School are removed from the analysis due to their smaller size, leaving 13 pools in the audit.

Quality

Of the 13 pools assessed, one is good quality, five are above average, five are below average, and two were unassessed. KKP's non-technical visual assessments encompass review of changing provision as this also plays a significant role in influencing and attracting users. In general in Bradford, changing facilities are of a comparable standard to pool quality. Figure 5.2 and Table 5.2 overleaf identify the quality of swimming provision. Table 5.3 outlines the quality ratings of pools by analysis area.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Bradford Grammar School and Tong Leadership Academy are the two unassessed pools. Both sites were unresponsive to consultation requests despite numerous attempts.

Figure 5.2: Swimming pools larger than 20m length/160m² area with quality ratings

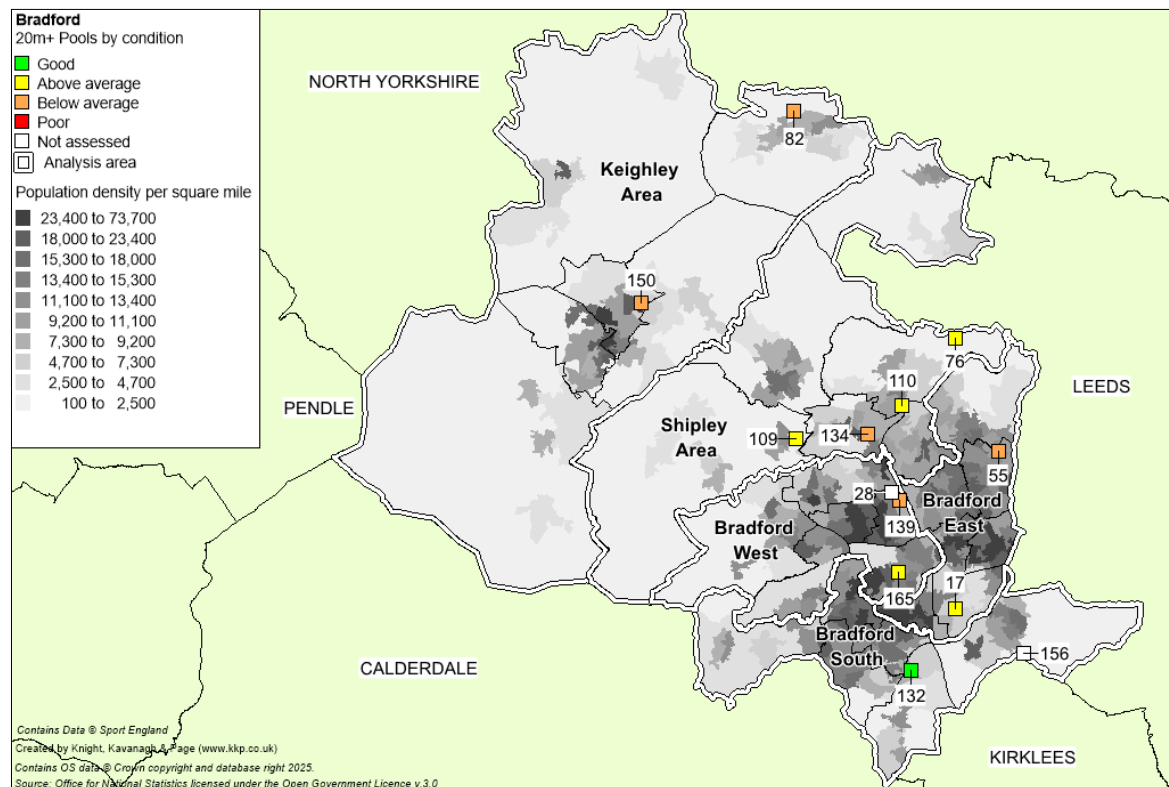


Table 5.2: Quality of 160m²+ swimming pools in Bradford

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Pool condition	Changing condition
17	Bowling Pool and Gym	Main/general	4 x 25m	Above average	Above average
28	Bradford Grammar School	Main/general	0 x 25m	Not assessed	Not assessed
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	Main/general	6 x 33.3m	Below average	Below average
76	Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	Main/general	0 x 20m	Above average	Above average
82	Ilkley Swimming Pool	Main/general	0 x 20m	Below average	Below average
109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	Main/general	0 x 25m	Above average	Above average
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Main/general	0 x 25m	Above average	Above average
132	Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	Good	Good
134	Shipley Pool and Gym	Main/general	6 x 25m	Below average	Below average
139	St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus)	Main/general	4 x 20m	Below average	Below Average
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Leisure pool	0 x 25m	Below average	Below average
156	Tong Leadership Academy	Main/general	4 x 25m	Not assessed	Not assessed

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/ length	Pool condition	Changing condition
165	University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	Main/general	5 x 25m	Above average	Below average

Table 5.3: Quality of swimming pools (160m2+) by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of pools	Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	Unassessed
Bradford East	2	-	1	1	-	-
Bradford South	2	1	-	-	-	1
Bradford West	3	-	2	1	-	1
Keighley Area	2	-	-	2	-	-
Shipley Area	4	-	3	1	-	-

Above average provision is concentrated in the Shipley Area, where three of the four assessed pools achieve this rating, and in Bradford West, where two pools are rated above average. Bradford South contains the only pool rated as good quality. Conversely, provision in Keighley is comparatively weaker, with both assessed pools rated below average. Bradford East includes one above average and one below average pool. No pools in the district are assessed as poor quality, although one in each of Bradford South and Bradford West was not assessed.

Bowling Pool and Gym is assessed as above average quality, reflecting its recent (2020) refurbishment (it opened in 1975). Works undertaken in 2020 included retiling which contributed to the current condition of both the pool and changing facilities.

The pool includes a range of accessibility features, including a pool pod and level access ramp, and operates at a higher temperature (c.32°C) to support users with additional needs, including SEND. Minor plant-related issues have been identified, including balancing tank works and a non-operational pool cover requiring replacement. It is expected that the balancing tank works will be completed within the next year. However, no significant operational issues are reported.

Eccleshill Swimming Pool is rated below average, primarily reflecting its age (opened 1968) and the time elapsed since its last refurbishment in 2005 (21 years). While the 2005 works included improvements such as a new reception area, elements of the facility now appear dated.

The site includes a 33.3m main pool, a 3.6m diving area, a small learner pool and a spectator gallery with seating for c.150. A leisure slide is also in operation with no reported issues. The below average rating relates primarily to ageing infrastructure rather than functional failure. The changing village is assessed as marginally below average quality, primarily due to cosmetic issues, with general décor and tiling requiring improvement. Maintenance related plant upgrades are expected to take place within the next year including replacement of filter vessels. In addition, a deep chemical clean and epoxy grout of the two swimming pools is planned.

Ilkley Swimming Pool is assessed as below average quality. This reflects its age (opened 1973, refurbished in 2019) and ongoing maintenance requirements. The changing facilities are also in need of an upgrade.

Works have included refurbishment of the pool tank base. However, plant systems were last upgraded in 2012 and are due for renewal, additional tiling refurbishment is also required. The

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

below average rating reflects its age and planned maintenance needs. Over the next year plans are in place to replace the main inlet pipe and replace filter vessels.

ShIPLEY Pool and Gym is also rated below average, reflecting its age (opened in 1974) and last refurbishment in 2005 (21 years ago). It is identified as being in need of general improvement works. Specific issues include corrosion on guard rails associated with the diving pool. Despite its condition, the pool remains functional.

Some recent upgrades have been carried out in the changing rooms, including improvements to the showers. Over the next year plans are in place to carry out maintenance works including replacement of filter vessels and a deep clean and epoxy grout of the pools.

The Leisure Centre Keighley is rated below average however this position should be considered alongside its very recent refurbishment in 2025 (originally opened in 1989). Recent work undertaken includes refurbishment of the flume and grouting around the pool. In addition, some sections of the changing facilities were upgraded. Some heating-related repair work was being undertaken at the time of the site visit.

Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is one of the newest facilities in the stock, having opened in 2019. It is assessed as good quality with no refurbishment required to date. Its high-quality rating reflects its modern design, recent construction and present condition, with no issues reported.

University of Bradford (Unique Fitness) is rated above average and is operationally sound, with the pool last fully refurbished in 2009 and benefiting from a more recent plant system upgrade which has improved efficiency and reliability. Ongoing maintenance, such as regular tile repairs are undertaken by the university. Its changing facilities, last modernised in 2009, are dated and due for a full refit in summer 2026.

Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club pool is assessed as above average. Originally opened in 1998, it was refurbished in 2024 (two years ago); this underpins its current condition. Both the pool and changing facilities are rated above average, reflecting the recent investment and overall quality of the facility.

Both Nuffield Health sites are assessed as above average quality, despite the absence of recent major refurbishment. Nuffield Health (Cottingley) opened in 1998 and was last refurbished in 2006 (20 years ago), while Nuffield Health (ShIPLEY) opened in 2002 and has had no recorded refurbishment (24 years). In both instances, the pools are routinely maintained and minor refurbishment tasks are carried out as required. Pool and changing facilities at both sites are reported by the operator to be in good condition and operating without issue.

Table 5.4 Age of swimming pools (160m²+) and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
Bowling Pool and Gym	1975	2020	6
Bradford Grammar School	2002	-	24
Eccleshill Swimming Pool	1968	2005	21
Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	1998	2024	2
Ilkley Swimming Pool	1973	2019	7
Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	1998	2006	20
Nuffield Health (ShIPLEY)	2002		24
Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre	2019		7

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
Shipley Pool and Gym	1974	2005	21
St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus)	1965	2005	21
The Leisure Centre Keighley	1989	2025	1
Tong Leadership Academy	2008		18
University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	1973	2009	17

Condition surveys

In 2024 CBMDC undertook building condition surveys¹⁸ at Bowling Pool and Gym, Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Ilkley Swimming Pool, Shipley Pool and Gym, and The Leisure Centre Keighley. High level findings are detailed below:

Bowling Pool and Gym

Bowling Pool & Gym is assessed as being in satisfactory overall condition. Constructed in the early 1970s and refurbished internally in the early 2000s, the facility is reported to be operationally sound, with both mechanical and electrical installations considered satisfactory. The principal issues identified within the pool hall relate to the ageing building fabric and the pool environment, notably corrosion to the exposed steel frame caused by the chlorinated atmosphere. The survey recommends treatment and repainting of the steelwork, alongside ongoing cyclical redecoration and replacement of sections of hot and cold water distribution pipework which has reached the end of its expected lifespan.

The changing accommodation remains functional and generally serviceable; no significant defects were identified. The survey recommends cyclical redecoration of these spaces and ancillary areas as part of ongoing asset management. More generally, it would benefit from a programme of internal redecoration and replacement of ageing floor finishes to maintain presentation and customer experience. Overall, the need is for planned maintenance and lifecycle replacement works rather than major refurbishment of the pool or changing facilities.

Eccleshill Swimming Pool

Eccleshill Swimming Pool is assessed as being in satisfactory overall condition. The pool hall is generally well maintained, with the roof having been renewed in 2021 and building services reported to be in satisfactory condition. However, a range of age-related issues were identified, including cracking to pool hall fin and wall tiles, corrosion to steelwork within the pool environment, and deterioration to drainage channels and ancillary finishes.

The changing accommodation remains functional but is showing signs of ageing and wear. Key issues include extensive staining and deterioration to quarry floor tiles, damaged wall tiles, water-damaged ceiling finishes, leaking showers, ageing sanitaryware and worn changing cubicles. The survey identifies a need for ongoing investment in changing and wet-side areas to address condition issues and maintain the quality of the customer experience.

¹⁸ The condition surveys assess the technical condition of buildings and infrastructure, whereas KKP's non-technical assessments evaluate the quality of the customer experience and suitability of facilities for sport and physical activity. Consequently, the two assessments serve different purposes and should not be directly compared.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Ilkley Pool

Ilkley Pool (indoor pool) is assessed as being in satisfactory overall condition. The indoor pool building is generally functional, although a number of age-related issues were identified. The survey highlights deterioration to some external render, localised cracking, drainage maintenance requirements and minor defects within the pool hall, including loose poolside fittings, corrosion to door ironmongery and signs of water ingress requiring investigation. Mechanical services are reported to be in fair to satisfactory condition, although the hot and cold water distribution pipework is at the end of its expected lifespan. The survey also points out the need for a full refurbishment of the original electrical installation, much of which dates from the building's original construction in 1976.

The changing accommodation remains functional but is beginning to show signs of wear and deterioration. The survey noted the ageing changing cubicles within the male, female and school changing areas recommending replacement over the medium term. Additional issues include damaged floor and wall finishes, missing sealants, water ponding within locker areas, deteriorating hygienic cladding, worn benches and ageing sanitary fittings. While the changing facilities remain serviceable, the survey indicates a need for ongoing investment and modernisation to maintain quality and improve the user experience.

The Leisure Centre Keighley

The Leisure Centre Keighley is in poor condition (Condition Rating C). The survey identifies the swimming pool area as functional but ageing, with many elements approaching the end of their expected lifespan. Key issues include corrosion to steelwork within the pool hall, deterioration of poolside tiling and grouting, water-damaged poolside doors, and defects to the curtain walling system. The survey also highlights that the pool air handling unit is beyond its expected lifespan and requires replacement and that much of the building's original electrical installation is considered life-expired and in need of full refurbishment. The sauna, steam room and water slide were all identified as being in poor condition, with the water slide reportedly out of use at the time of the survey.

Changing accommodation would benefit from significant investment and modernisation. The wet changing areas are showing clear signs of wear and deterioration, including stained and defective floor and wall finishes, damaged and water-damaged doors, ageing cubicles with rusting supports, deteriorating shower areas, damaged baby-change facilities and extensive issues with tiling, grout and sealants. The survey also identified water ingress beneath floor finishes in parts of the dry changing accommodation, alongside ageing benches, blocked ventilation grilles and deteriorating ancillary provision. Overall, it concludes that the changing areas are functional but dated, with refurbishment recommended to improve condition, appearance and the customer experience.

Shipley Pool and Gym

Shipley Pool & Gym is assessed as being in satisfactory overall condition. The survey found that the three pool halls and associated building services are generally functional, with mechanical and electrical systems reported to be in satisfactory condition. However, a number of age-related issues were identified across the wet-side areas, including ageing poolside finishes, deteriorating wall cladding, stained and life-expired suspended ceilings, damaged sealants around pool surrounds, corrosion to some stainless-steel fixtures and localised cracking within elements of the structure and basement areas. The survey also highlighted roof leaks, water ingress and several areas requiring further structural

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

investigation and monitoring. Overall, the pools remain operational but would benefit from ongoing investment to address ageing finishes and emerging maintenance issues.

The changing and ancillary wet-side accommodation is functional but dated and in need of modernisation. The survey identifies ageing changing rooms, toilets and associated facilities, with extensive areas of crazed wall tiling, stained quarry floor tiles, ageing sanitaryware, deteriorating accessible facilities and worn finishes approaching the end of their expected lifespan.

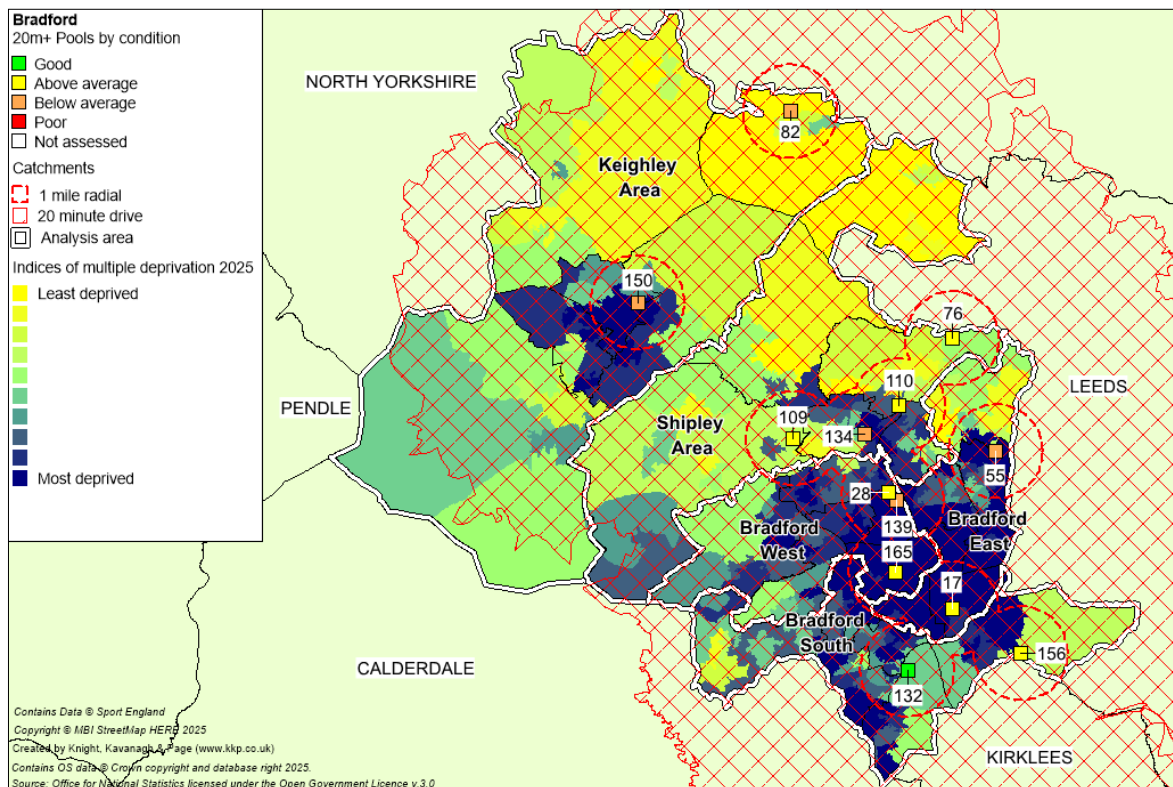
Several changing and toilet areas were recommended for refurbishment, with the survey particularly highlighting the need to replace older tiled finishes with more modern and easily maintained hygienic wall and floor systems. While remaining serviceable, the changing accommodation would benefit from investment to improve accessibility, appearance and the overall customer experience.

Accessibility

Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by physical factors (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.

45.4% of Bradford's population lives within one mile of a 20m/160m²+ swimming pool with some level of community use. Nearly the entire district population (99.4%) lives within a 20-minute drive of a 20m (160m²+) swimming pool facility.

Figure 5.3: Accessibility of swimming pools in Bradford



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 5.5: Accessibility of swimming pools in Bradford

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	217,073	39.3%	128,409	23.2%	88,664	16.0%
10.1 - 20	77,181	14.0%	37,552	6.8%	39,629	7.2%
20.1 - 30	53,762	9.7%	20,530	3.7%	33,232	6.0%
30.1 - 40	27,518	5.0%	6,163	1.1%	21,355	3.9%
40.1 - 50	35,656	6.4%	18,563	3.4%	17,093	3.1%
50.1 - 60	31,390	5.7%	4,456	0.8%	26,934	4.9%
60.1 - 70	35,032	6.3%	13,891	2.5%	21,141	3.8%
70.1 - 80	21,878	4.0%	5,385	1.0%	16,493	3.0%
80.1 - 90	24,998	4.5%	10,167	1.8%	14,831	2.7%
90.1 - 100	28,556	5.2%	6,132	1.1%	22,424	4.1%
Total	553,044	100.0%	251,248	45.4%	301,796	54.6%

Of the 348,016 people in its areas of high deprivation, 186,491 (53.6%) live within one mile of a pool.

Availability of swimming pools

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

As noted, all six CBMDC-managed public pool sites are available on a pay-and-play basis. In addition, the University of Bradford (Unique Fitness) offers pay-and-play access, providing daily public swimming sessions for community users throughout the year. All pay and play pools also have membership options which are (for regular users) more cost-effective than pay and play. As evidenced in Figure 5.5 (overleaf), 41.0% of the population live within one mile of a pay and play facility.

Women-only and women-specific swimming opportunities are available at all six CBMDC pool sites, with additional sessions available at the University of Bradford Sports Centre. Such provision is particularly important, helping to facilitate participation amongst women from faith groups and communities where cultural preferences may limit engagement in mixed-gender swimming environments.

Bradford Grammar School, St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus), and Tong Leadership Academy are available to clubs, community groups, and learn to swim schools/providers.

Nuffield Health (Cottingley & Shipley) and Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club are commercial health and fitness operators which provide pool access via registered membership only. While acknowledging that commercially managed facilities can cater for specific market segments, they are not always available to all sections of the community and may not necessarily be affordable to all households.

Table 5.6: Access policy of swimming pools

Site name	Access policy
Bowling Pool and Gym	Pay & play

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site name	Access policy
Bradford Grammar School	Sports club / community association
Eccleshill Swimming Pool	Pay & play
Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	Registered membership
Ilkley Swimming Pool	Pay & play
Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	Registered membership
Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Registered membership
Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre	Pay & play
Shipley Pool and Gym	Pay & play
St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus)	Sports club / community association
The Leisure Centre Keighley	Pay & play
Tong Leadership Academy	Sports club / community association
University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	Pay & play

Figure 5.4: One mile radial catchment-based accessibility of pay and play provision

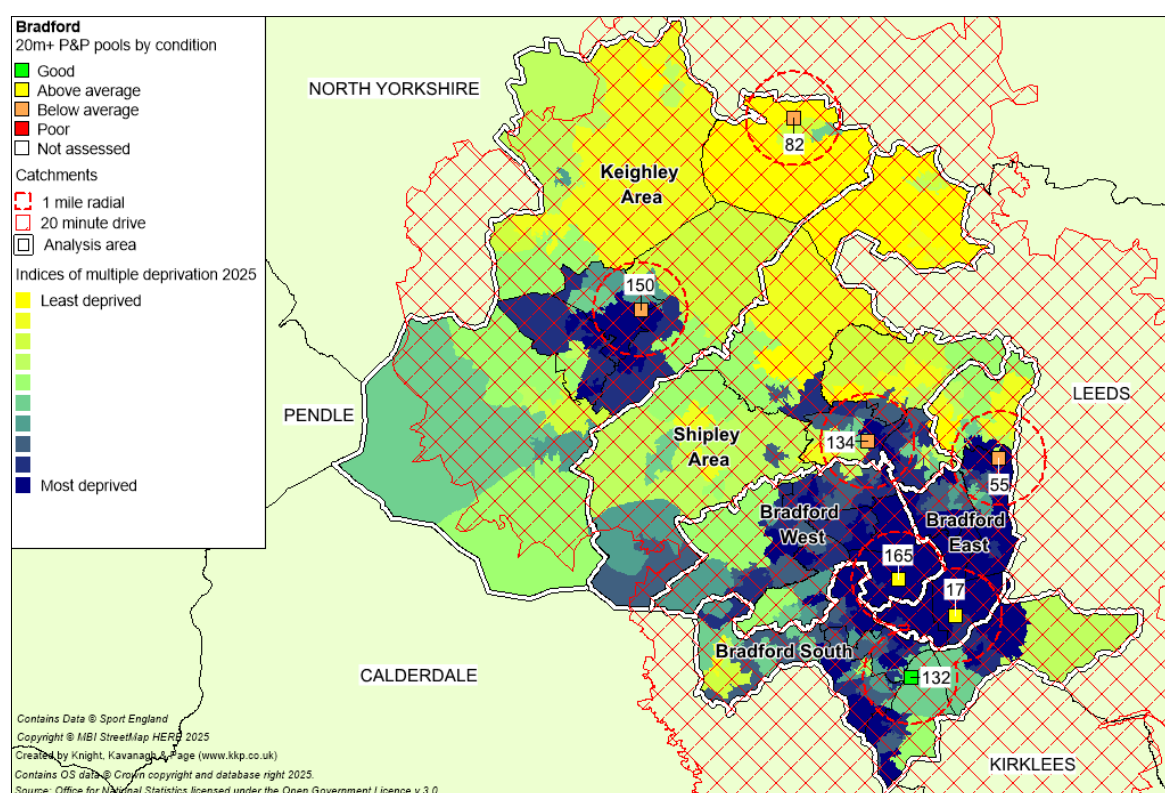


Table 5.7: Accessibility of pay and play swimming provision

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	217,073	39.3%	100,403	18.2%	116,670	21.1%
10.1 - 20	77,181	14.0%	22,312	4.0%	54,869	9.9%
20.1 - 30	53,762	9.7%	11,875	2.1%	41,887	7.6%
30.1 - 40	27,518	5.0%	6,163	1.1%	21,355	3.9%
40.1 - 50	35,656	6.4%	17,469	3.2%	18,187	3.3%

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
50.1 - 60	31,390	5.7%	2,860	0.5%	28,530	5.2%
60.1 - 70	35,032	6.3%	5,160	0.9%	29,872	5.4%
70.1 - 80	21,878	4.0%	4,078	0.7%	17,800	3.2%
80.1 - 90	24,998	4.5%	1,642	0.3%	23,356	4.2%
90.1 - 100	28,556	5.2%	4,820	0.9%	23,736	4.3%
Total	553,044	100.0%	176,782	32.0%	376,262	68.0%

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside an authority. Eight pools (160m²+) are located within two miles of the city boundary; five in Calderdale and one in Kirklees. Five of these offer pay and play access, two require membership and one can be accessed via sports club or community association.

Figure 5.5: Swimming pools located within 2 miles of the Bradford boundary

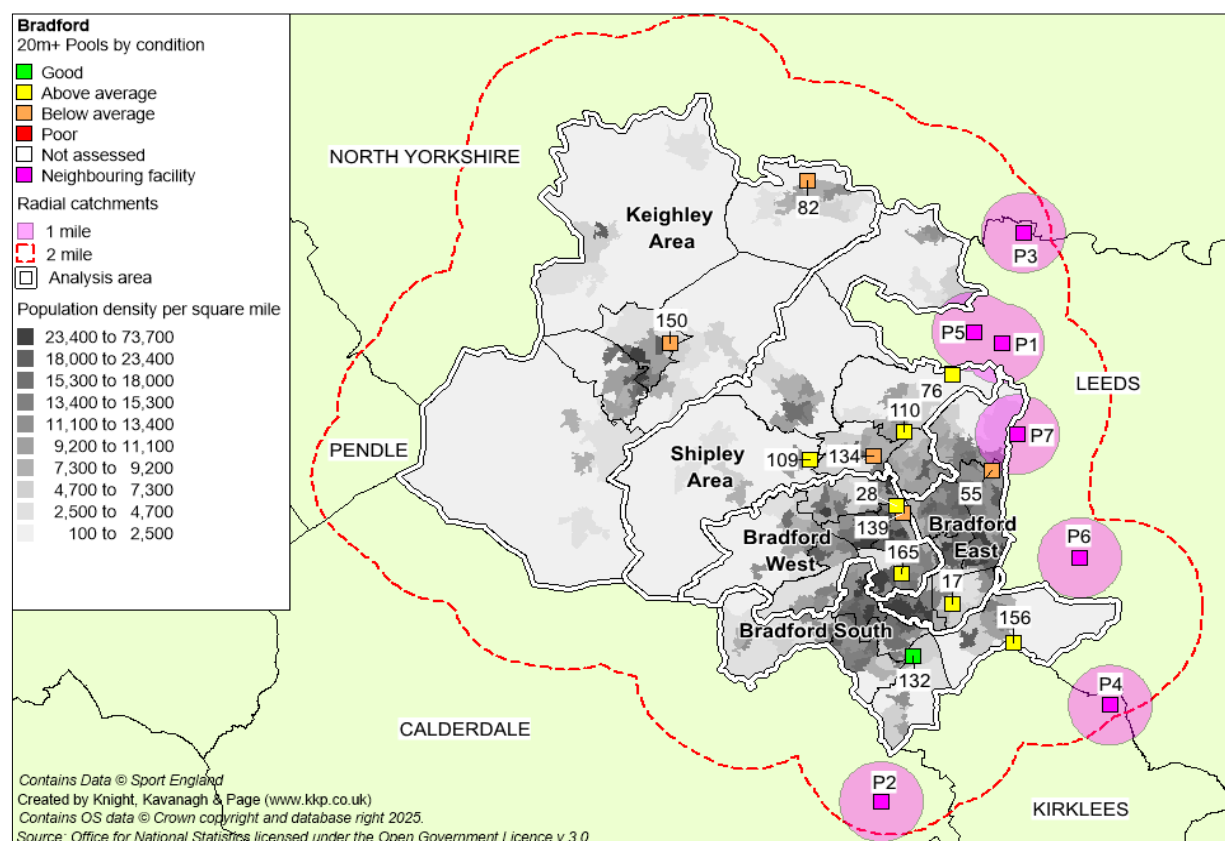


Table 5.8: Community available pools within 2-miles of Bradford boundary.

ID	Site	Lanes/length	Access	Authority
P1	Aireborough Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	Pay & play	Leeds
P2	Brighouse Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	5 x 25m	Pay & play	Calderdale
P2	Brighouse Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	4 x 20m	Pay & play	Calderdale
P3	Chippindale Swimming Pool	0 x 25m	Pay & play	Leeds

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Lanes/length	Access	Authority
P4	Everlast Gyms (Birstall Leeds)	0 x 20m	Reg. membership	Kirklees
P5	Nuffield Health (Guiselley)	0 x 20m	Reg. membership	Leeds
P6	Pudsey Leisure Centre	4 x 25m	Pay & play	Leeds
P7	Woodhouse Grove School	6 x 25m	Sports club / CA	Leeds

Future enhancements / new developments

Squire Lane Leisure Centre was previously proposed as a new health and wellbeing facility incorporating a six-lane 25m swimming pool, learner pool, fitness facilities and studio space. Although the scheme secured planning approval, Bradford Council's Executive resolved in July 2026 not to proceed with the development stating concerns with regard to facility affordability, value for money and the additional capital funding required.

Ilkley Grammar School's existing 15m pool is at the end of its lifespan and in poor condition, although it remains in use by both the school and community users. The school is currently undergoing a rebuilding programme, as part of which the pool will be fully replaced and extended to 20m. Work is expected to be completed by 2029.

Bingley Pool, previously operated by Bradford Council (CBMDC), closed in 2020 and has remained out of operation since. Significant investment would be required to address the known condition issues at the facility. A community group, Friends of Bingley Pool (FOBP), is actively exploring options to reopen the facility, including delivery via a community interest model.

FOBP has released a pool refurbishment proposal (in June 2026) which sets out the case for restoring Bingley Pool. This argues that the principal barrier to reopening is the availability of capital funding rather than a lack of need, demand or operational viability. It highlights previous support from CBMDC for both a community asset transfer (CAT) proposal and a Levelling Up Fund bid, which would have delivered a replacement pool in Bingley, as evidence that the strategic case for swimming provision in the town remains strong.

The proposal presents evidence of ongoing local demand, including a petition supported by c.10,000 people, consultation with local stakeholders and an indication of the role that a pool could play in supporting physical activity, health and wellbeing, schools, swimming clubs and community use. It also contends that Bingley should continue to function as a key service centre within the district and that the loss of swimming provision has reduced local access to aquatic activity. The document highlights findings from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), noting that additional water space would help address existing shortages in Bradford and could relieve pressure on other public pools within the district.

FOBP proposes either a council-led refurbishment or a community-led model, potentially delivered through a long-term CAT. Based on previous condition work, the group estimates that refurbishment could be delivered for between £3.7-5.7 million, significantly less than the cost of a new-build facility. The proposal suggests that capital funding could be secured via a combination of council investment, grants, charitable funding and community fundraising, drawing on examples of successful community-operated pools elsewhere in the UK. FOBP's preferred outcome is to secure the building's future, undertake detailed surveys and feasibility work, and ultimately reopen Bingley Pool as an affordable community swimming facility by 2030.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.2: Demand

Consultation was undertaken with Swim England. It recommends that all pools need to remain community accessible, including those at educational sites, making water space available for everyone. If required, its business engagement team is available to assist agencies to maximise operations at sites struggling to offer community access.

Club & community groups consultation

There are four affiliated swimming clubs, and one diving club in Bradford. All were invited to take part in consultation, with responses received from Bingley Swimming Club, City of Bradford Swimming Club, and Ilkley Swimming Club. In addition, KKP consulted with Friends of Bingley Swimming Pool and Ilkley Lido and Pool Community Group. A precis of the consultation along with desk research summaries for Bradford Swimming Club, Bradford Dolphins, and Shipley Swimming Club follows below:

Bingley Swimming Club currently has c.90 members and primarily caters for junior competitive swimming, with most members residing in the Bingley area. Prior to its closure, the club was based exclusively at Bingley Pool. The loss of this facility has had a significant impact on membership, which has declined from c.210 members in 2020.

It currently operates from two alternative sites, delivering two weekly sessions at St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis campus) and two at The Leisure Centre Keighley. To make the school pool suitable, the club has invested in starting blocks and lane ropes. While the school is supportive and offers discounted block bookings, the leisure pool at Keighley does not meet training requirements; its insufficient depth restricts the ability to undertake tumble turns.

The club reports significant waiting lists across most age groups and is unable to secure additional pool time. Combined with increased travel distances to alternative facilities, this is impacting member retention and has resulted in the club effectively acting as a feeder to City of Bradford Swimming Club.

While Shipley Pool and Gym is considered suitable for hosting galas, high hire costs and limited availability act as barriers, resulting in the club regularly utilising facilities outside the district, including in Leeds.

Bradford Swimming Club caters for both beginner and competitive swimmers, from juniors through to masters. Swim England indicates that it currently has c.151 members. Desk research indicates that it utilises three pools for its weekly training programme: Eccleshill Pool (one session per week), Shipley Swimming Pool (one session per week) and Bradford Grammar School (two sessions per week). The Grammar School pool is also used for club galas. In addition, the club hosts a weekly strength and conditioning session at Nuffield Health (Cottingley).

Bradford Dolphins primarily caters for junior competitive swimmers. Swim England indicates that the club currently has c.90 members. It delivers a structured training programme focused on athlete development and progression within competitive swimming. During site visits CBMDC confirmed that the club routinely uses Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre for two training sessions per week.

Ilkley Swimming Club currently has c.80 members and caters for junior and senior competitive swimmers. It is based exclusively at Ilkley Swimming Pool, utilising the site for four

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

sessions across an average week. In addition, during summer months it uses the onsite lido. It reports that the site's shared changing provision presents operational challenges, particularly during the summer when the outdoor lido is open and the club is required to use the same single-sex changing rooms.

The club highlighted the fact that Swim England safeguarding guidance, flags that junior members cannot share changing facilities with the general public, requiring it to utilise alternative school changing areas and provide DBS-checked volunteers of each gender to supervise access through the main changing spaces. This adds to its volunteer resource demands. It suggested that a village-style changing layout would address these issues. In addition, periods of high demand at the outdoor lido, particularly during hot weather, have led to occasional session cancellations due to insufficient lifeguard capacity.

In addition to swimming, the club also has a water polo section with c.27 active members aged 11–18. It has experienced significant growth in the last year, highlighting strong local demand. However, provision is constrained by limited access to suitable facilities. Water polo requires consistent deep-water provision (c.2m+), which is not available within Bradford¹⁹, restricting training quality and contributing to outward player movement to facilities in Leeds. Capacity is also an issue, with a single weekly all-age session now at operational limit within the existing 25m pool at Ilkley Swimming Pool, with shared space creating a challenging training environment. The club is reliant on temporary equipment, increasing set-up demands. To support continued growth, it identifies a need for increased access to deep-water pool space, improved infrastructure (e.g. integrated goals), and development of additional programming, including a masters (18+) session to support player retention and strengthen the future coaching workforce.

Bradford Esprit Diving Club is primarily based at the diving pool at Shipley Pool and Gym, with additional sessions delivered at Eccleshill Pool. It has c.40 members and predominantly caters for juniors. Membership levels fluctuate but it reports having scope to increase coaching capacity where required.

The club benefits from a strong pathway from CBMDC Bradford Aquatics programme, with its coaches directly involved in delivering learn-to-dive sessions at both Shipley and Eccleshill pools, supporting progression into it.

Shipley Pool and Gym generally meets club training needs; however, for higher-performance athletes there is a lack of access to 7.5m and 10m platforms (Shipley provides up to 5m). The club recognises that addressing this would require significant capital investment, including increased pool depth. As a result, advanced athletes currently travel to facilities such as Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. The club also identifies that more flexible springboard provision at Shipley would improve training efficiency and increase capacity.

It reports having a positive working relationship with CBMDC and considers training hire costs to be reasonable. However, it highlights challenges associated with competition delivery, as it is required to hire the full pool complex, including the 25m swimming pool, despite this not being utilised for diving events.

City of Bradford Swimming Club has c.85 members, predominantly junior swimmers, and provides a competitive swimming programme. Training and competition activity is

¹⁹ The diving pool at Shipley Pool and Gym has sufficient depth for water polo, however, it is not considered suitable for regular training or competition use. This is due to its configuration, which is not designed to accommodate a full rectangular field of play.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

accommodated at Shipley Pool & Gym, Eccleshill Swimming Pool and Bradford Grammar School.

The club reports that pool provision within Bradford is not well suited to performance swimming. In its view, Bradford Grammar School is the only facility able to adequately accommodate race start training (diving from blocks) due to suitable diving depth. While Eccleshill Swimming Pool has potential to support this activity, the club advised that permission was not granted by CBMDC to install the starting block fittings required around the pool surround.

It highlighted its reliance on the John Charles Centre for Sport in neighbouring Leeds to access 50m pool provision and to host seasonal galas. In its view Bradford lacks a venue capable of fully accommodating competitive swimming events and it cites the absence of facilities with appropriate diving depth, spectator seating and electronic timing systems.

Similar to Bradford Esprit Diving Club, its coaches are employed through CBMDC's Bradford Aquatics programme. The club further noted concerns regarding the cost of pool hire and coaching provision, which it considers to be high relative to the quality of swimming facilities available within the district.

Ilkley Pool and Lido Community Group highlighted several opportunities and challenges relating to the future operation and development of Ilkley Pool and Lido. Key concerns centred on the fragmented management of the site, with the group advocating a more integrated approach to the management of the pool, lido and surrounding land which would, in its view, improve operational efficiency and the visitor experience.

The group also outlined a range of proposed physical improvements, including redevelopment of the currently unused pavilion building to provide enhanced changing accommodation, storage and café facilities, alongside wider site enhancements intended to increase activity and community use. Proposals are supported by feasibility work and CAD drawings prepared by the group with input from local architects.

It emphasised the need to modernise changing facilities serving both the indoor pool and lido, citing feedback from swimming clubs, schools and users with regard to safeguarding, accessibility and customer expectations. Concerns were also raised about ongoing maintenance and operational practices, including the management of lido infrastructure and site upkeep. Representatives highlighted the importance of improved programming, extended opening hours options, stronger financial monitoring and learning from good practice at comparable lido facilities elsewhere in the country.

Looking ahead, the group expressed support for the development of a broader community sports hub centred on the site, incorporating activities such as swimming, cycling, running and tennis to increase participation and strengthen links between local clubs. The group reiterated its willingness to work collaboratively with CBMDC and other stakeholders to help shape future improvements and agreed to share supporting plans and feasibility documents to inform the study.

Overall, consultation identified a strong local appetite for investment in the facility, with priorities focused on upgrading ancillary accommodation, improving operational management and securing the long-term sustainability of the pool and lido.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Swimming lessons

Children's swimming lessons are delivered at the six public leisure pools. CBMDC's learn to swim programme is delivered under the Bradford Aquatics brand. In addition to teaching children and adults to swim, it is aligned to Swim England's long term athlete development framework. It identifies and develops talent through lessons, schools and clubs, with progression into competitive pathways supported in partnership with, for example, City of Bradford Swimming Club and Bradford Esprit Diving Club.

For April 2025- May 2026 enrolment figures per site are follow in Table 5.9.

Table 5.9: Bradford Aquatics learn to swim programme attendance figures (as of March 2026)

Site	March 2026 members	Avg. waiting list	Avg. occupancy
Bowling Pool and Gym	248	129	70.2%
Eccleshill Swimming Pool	469	191	79.3%
Ilkley Pool	515	126	79.7%
Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	661	316	82.3%
ShIPLEY Pool and Gym	957	284	81.0%
The Leisure Centre Keighley	455	179	72.8%

Bradford Aquatics' main learn to swim programme operates across all six CBMDC pool sites and represents a substantial component of programmed pool use. In March 2026, the programme recorded 3,348 distinct members in classes, with Shipley Pool and Gym, Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, Ilkley Pool and The Leisure Centre Keighley accommodating the largest numbers of participants. Average occupancy across the programme is relatively high, at around 80%, indicating strong utilisation of available class capacity.

Despite this, waiting lists remain significant. Although the total number on the list reduced from 1,675 in April 2025 to 865 in March 2026, all six sites continue to record unmet demand. This suggests that, while the programme is well used and operating effectively, there remains pressure to create additional learn to swim capacity, particularly at Sedbergh Sports Centre, Shipley Pool and Gym and Eccleshill Pool.

Bradford Aquatics also delivers an extensive learn to swim programme for schools. Data provided for the 2025-2026 academic year highlights that 125 school/education groups were programmed for learn to swim sessions across the six CBMDC pools.

Bradford Aquatics: programme delivery and strategic perspectives

Consultation with Bradford Aquatics identified opportunities to further optimise the delivery of swimming programmes across the district. The service reported that existing arrangements for workforce deployment and pool programming can limit its ability to respond flexibly to demand, particularly in relation to scheduling lessons, reducing waiting lists and providing targeted provision for specific user groups. It was suggested that greater flexibility in programme management and staff allocation could support increased participation, more efficient use of available water space and improved financial sustainability.

Bradford Aquatics also highlighted opportunities to strengthen provision for underrepresented groups through more responsive programming. This includes expanding culturally sensitive and women-only provision where demand exists, alongside enhancing progression opportunities within the learn to swim programme and wider aquatic pathways. The service considers that

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

further optimisation of timetabling and staffing resources could support both community outcomes and commercial performance.

In relation to Bingley Pool, Bradford Aquatics acknowledged that the closure has created a recognised gap in swimming provision within the local area. However, consultation indicated that the former facility was utilised primarily for school swimming and swimming lessons, with comparatively lower demand for general public swimming. It was reported that nearby facilities at Shipley Pool and Gym and The Leisure Centre Keighley partially mitigate the loss of provision, although a local accessibility gap remains for some residents in the Bingley area.

Swimming lessons at non CBMDC management pools

Both Nuffield Health sites offer structured swimming lessons for children and adults delivered in line with the Swim England Learn to Swim Framework and are available for non-members.

The University of Bradford (Unique Fitness) also delivers an in-house learn-to-swim programme. As of May 2026, it accommodates c.450 group lesson participants and c.15 one-to-one lessons per week. Both elements are operating close to capacity, with participation primarily from community users rather than students.

Bradford Grammar School and St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis Campus) both host swimming lessons delivered by third-party providers including Ducklings and Dolphins and Swim Focus.

Health referral programme

BEEP (Bradford Encouraging Exercise in People) is Bradford's exercise referral programme, providing tailored physical activity opportunities for inactive individuals and those with long-term health conditions. The programme utilises a range of leisure facilities, including swimming pools, to assist participants to improve their health and wellbeing.

Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

In 2024, CBMDC commissioned a bespoke Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) assessment of swimming pool provision to assess the implications of a range of facility rationalisation and investment scenarios. The study did not model future population growth or housing development. Instead, all scenarios were assessed against the same 2025 population and demand profile, with the analysis focused on current need and the impacts of alternative facility configurations. The six scenarios tested were as follows:

- ◀ Run one: Existing provision retained, including Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym, Bowling Pool and Gym and Eccleshill Swimming Pool.
- ◀ Run two: Eccleshill Swimming Pool closed, with Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym and Bowling Pool and Gym retained.
- ◀ Run three: Eccleshill Swimming Pool and Bowling Pool and Gym closed, with Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym retained and a new swimming pool developed at Squire Lane.
- ◀ Run four: Eccleshill Swimming Pool and Bowling Pool and Gym closed, with Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym retained and new swimming pools developed at both Squire Lane and Bingley.
- ◀ Run five: Eccleshill Swimming Pool closed, Bowling Pool and Gym and Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym retained, with a new swimming pool developed at Bingley only.
- ◀ Run six: Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Bowling Pool and Gym and Shipley Swimming Pool and Gym closed, with a new swimming pool developed at Bingley.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Its key findings are:

- ◀ Across the six scenarios, the number of swimming pool sites ranges from 11 to 13, with available supply varying between 2,526m² and 3,471m² of water during the weekly peak period. The scenario including both Squire Lane and Bingley (Run 4) provides the greatest amount of available water space.
- ◀ Bradford's population of 547,333 generates demand for 36,883 visits during the weekly peak period, equivalent to 6,065m² of water. Demand exceeds available supply in all scenarios tested.
- ◀ Available supply equates to between 60% and 82% of Bradford's estimated demand, highlighting a significant quantitative shortfall in swimming pool provision across the district. The highest level of provision is achieved in Run 4.
- ◀ Around 35% of Bradford's swimming demand is generated from residents living within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. Squire Lane is located adjacent to the largest concentration of high deprivation and high demand within the district.
- ◀ The greatest concentrations of demand are located around Bradford city centre, particularly south west of the University of Bradford, between Bowling Pool and Gym and Eccleshill Swimming Pool, and around the proposed Squire Lane facility. Within a one-mile catchment, Squire Lane generates the highest level of demand at 375m² of water.
- ◀ Accessibility varies between scenarios. Between 21% and 29% of residents live within a 20-minute walk of a swimming pool, with Run 4 providing the highest level of accessibility.
- ◀ Between 83% and 89% of total demand is satisfied across the scenarios. Run 4 performs best, meeting 89% of demand, while Run 6 performs least well, meeting 83% of demand. These figures are below national and regional averages.
- ◀ Bradford is reliant on neighbouring authorities to meet swimming demand. Between 25% and 40% of satisfied demand is exported outside the district, primarily to Leeds. Exported demand is lowest in Run 1 (25%) and highest in Run 6 (40%).
- ◀ Unmet demand remains significant in all scenarios and ranges from 654m² of water in Run 4 to 1,049m² in Run 6. Most unmet demand is generated by residents living beyond reasonable access to a pool, although unmet demand arising from a lack of facility capacity remains substantial.
- ◀ The highest concentrations of unmet demand are consistently located around Undercliffe, Great Horton and Keighley. The largest volume of reachable unmet demand is focused around Little Horton, south west of Bradford city centre, where sufficient demand exists to support additional swimming provision.
- ◀ Swimming pools in Bradford operate at very high levels of utilisation. Overall used capacity is estimated at between 89-91% of available provision across all scenarios, significantly above Sport England's comfort factor threshold.
- ◀ With the exception of Ilkley Swimming Pool, all public swimming pools are estimated to operate at 100% capacity during peak periods in every scenario in which they remain open. Educational swimming pools are also modelled as operating at full capacity.
- ◀ Imported demand accounts for between 8-10% of used capacity at Bradford pools. However, Bradford exports substantially more demand than it imports, making it a net exporter of swimming participation in all scenarios tested.
- ◀ The FPM identifies Squire Lane as the most strategically beneficial new facility due to its location within Bradford's largest concentration of demand and deprivation, its modern facility mix and its ability to improve both accessibility and capacity. The addition of Bingley provides further capacity but delivers comparatively limited strategic benefit due to lower levels of nearby demand.
- ◀ The scenario incorporating both Squire Lane and Bingley (Run 4) delivers the strongest overall outcomes, providing the highest satisfied demand, lowest unmet demand, highest accessibility and best local share. However, the assessment notes that most of these

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

benefits are generated by Squire Lane, with the difference between Squire Lane alone (Run 3) and both new facilities (Run 4) being relatively modest.

The FPM identifies a clear shortfall in swimming pool provision in Bradford. Demand exceeds supply in all the scenarios tested. Whilst Run 4 delivers the strongest overall outcomes, unmet demand remains significant and the majority of public and education-based swimming pools will continue to operate at full capacity during peak periods. The assessment indicates an ongoing need for additional swimming water space to address existing deficits, improve accessibility and reduce dependence on provision in neighbouring authorities. In this context, development of the proposed facility at Squire Lane is identified as the proposal most capable of meeting Bradford's current unmet need and improving the overall balance between supply and demand. However, the FPM also consistently concludes that Bradford has an overall deficit in swimming pool provision which will not be resolved by Squire Lane alone.

5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

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

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

Current ONS population projections indicate an increase of just 506 people between 2022-2043. Applying the SFC, this level of growth does not generate a requirement for additional swimming pool provision. However, these projections do not reflect the scale of planned housing growth within Bradford. It is therefore appropriate to consider the potential impact of future housing delivery on demand for swimming pools. As set out in Section 2.2, up to 33,695 dwellings are planned across the district to 2043.

Table 5.10: Bradford housing impact – SFC projections

LSA housing growth increase (No. houses through to 2043)	Average number of people per owner occupying household (England)	Population increase due to proposed housing	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)
33,695	2.4	80,870	17.26 lanes / 4.37 pools	£17,424,838

(Build costs as of Q3 2025)

Based on 33,695 dwellings planned within Bradford to 2043 and applying an average household occupancy rate of 2.4 persons, this is estimated to generate a population increase of c.80,870. On this basis, the SFC identifies a requirement for c.17.26 additional swimming lanes by 2043, equivalent to 4.37 pools, at an estimated capital cost of c.£17.4 million (Q3 2025 build costs).

Whilst the SFC provides a useful indication of the scale of demand that could be generated by housing-led growth, it does not take account of the location, capacity, accessibility or

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

attractiveness of existing provision. Findings should thus be viewed as a broad estimate of future facility requirements rather than a definitive need for new swimming pools.

The findings are, however, noteworthy when considered alongside the 2024 Sport England FPM, which identified a current shortfall in swimming pool provision across Bradford, with demand exceeding supply under all scenarios tested and the majority of public swimming pools operating at or near capacity during peak periods. The FPM identified Bradford as a net exporter of swimming demand, with between 25-40% of satisfied demand accommodated outside the district, primarily exported to Leeds, reflecting existing deficiencies in accessible and available provision.

The extent to which existing facilities can accommodate this growth, and the most appropriate locations for future investment, are considered further in the ensuing strategy. SFC outputs provide a useful evidence base to support the calculation of developer contributions associated with housing growth. It is important that the IBFS is used effectively to secure investment in swimming pool infrastructure, particularly in areas experiencing significant residential development, to help mitigate the impact of additional demand generated by population growth.

5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Table 5.11 – a summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 23 pools across 17 sites. Once smaller pools, Ilkley Lido and Bradford Girls' Grammar School are excluded, 13 pools remain within the assessment. Bradford has a total supply of 4,432m ² of water space, of which the six CBMDC-managed facilities account for 53.6% (2,377m ²). The FPM (2024) identifies a significant deficit in provision, with demand exceeding supply in all scenarios tested.	Housing growth will generate additional demand for swimming provision; this is explored further via strategy demand scenarios. Both the SFC and FPM indicate that future population growth will increase pressure on an already constrained swimming pool stock, highlighting need to plan for additional water space and invest in swimming infrastructure over the long term. Ilkley Grammar School's pool is due to be fully refurbished and will increase in size to 20m in length. This will improve capacity in the north of the district. Bradford does not currently have a competition-standard swimming pool capable of hosting higher-level swimming competitions
Quality	One pool is rated good quality, five are above average and five are below average, whilst two were unassessed. Most below-average facilities are older public leisure sites including Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Shipley Pool & Gym, Ilkley Swimming Pool and The Leisure Centre Keighley. Condition surveys indicate that pools are generally operationally sound but require ongoing investment in plant, pool halls and changing accommodation.	Continue investment in planned maintenance programmes across CBMDC facilities. Particular focus should be given to modernisation of ageing changing accommodation and replacement of life-expired plant and building elements. In the longer-term full refurbishment/ replacement of Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Ilkley Swimming Pool, and Shipley Pool & Gym will be required.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Accessibility	45.4% of residents live within one mile of a community accessible swimming pool and 99.4% live within a 20-minute drive. Accessibility for more deprived communities is comparatively good, with 53.6% of residents living in the 20% most deprived areas located within one mile of a pool. However, the FPM identifies significant unmet demand around Undercliffe, Great Horton and Little Horton.	Improve accessibility to swimming provision in areas of high demand and deprivation.
Availability (Management and usage)	The six public leisure centre pools and University of Bradford (Unique Fitness) offer pay and play access. Educational pools provide important capacity for clubs and swimming lessons. Learn-to-swim programmes operate across public, education and private sector sites, with several programmes operating close to capacity. Swimming clubs report challenges securing additional water space and cite limited availability as a barrier to growth.	Continue to maximise community use of educational pools wherever possible. Regularly review pool programming to ensure an appropriate balance between casual swimming, learn-to-swim, clubs, schools and specialist aquatic activities.

Strategic summary

- Each facility is important to the community served and should be protected in accordance with Paragraph 104 of the NPPF.
- There is a need to maintain the quality of swimming pools in the area via good maintenance programmes.
- Undertake regular reviews of pool operation, programming and workforce deployment to ensure resources are utilised as efficiently as possible and available water space is maximised. This should include ongoing assessment of timetabling and programme provision to help reduce waiting lists where feasible, whilst ensuring that learn to swim, casual swimming, club swimming and culturally sensitive activities are provided at times which best meet local community need.
- Additional swimming water space is likely to be required, particularly when considering the existing deficit identified by the FPM alongside significant planned housing growth across the district. The future role of Bingley Pool should therefore be considered as part of the wider swimming pool network, alongside other opportunities to increase capacity. However, the greatest identified shortfall in provision is within the Bradford urban area and addressing this should be a strategic priority.
- Undertake a refreshed FPM assessment which further analyses projected housing growth population increase.
- Bradford is a net exporter of swimming demand, with between 25-40% of satisfied demand being met outside the district, primarily in Leeds. Improving the ability of the district to retain demand should be a key objective of future swimming pool investment
- In the longer term, substantial refurbishment, major modernisation or replacement of Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Ilkley Swimming Pool and Shipley Pool & Gym is likely to be necessary, reflecting the age of these facilities and the scale of investment likely to be needed to maintain their long-term viability over the strategy period.
- As part of any major refurbishment, replacement or development of new-build swimming pool development, consideration should be given to the provision of competition-standard

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

facilities, including starting blocks, electronic timing equipment, spectator provision where appropriate and sufficient pool depth to support a wider range of aquatic disciplines.

- ◀ Recognise the importance of Ilkley Pool and Lido as Bradford's only outdoor swimming facility. Opportunities to enhance changing provision, improve the customer experience and support the long-term sustainability of the site should be explored via ongoing collaboration with the Ilkley Pool and Lido Community Group and other key stakeholders.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

According to the most recent ALS data²⁰, around 9.8 million adults regularly engage in some form of fitness type activity (i.e., using gym equipment, a weights session, fitness class, or interval session). The popularity of fitness is reflective of it taking place across wide range of facilities including larger gyms (run by local authorities or for them by commercial leisure operators and/or trusts plus other smaller activity spaces such as village and community halls.

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

The 2024 State of the Fitness Industry Report UK found the number of members in the UK rose to **11.5 million** in 2024, an increase from previous years (e.g., 9.9 million in 2022). Leisure DB reported 10.7 million, confirming the consistent upward trend. The penetration rate (percentage of UK population with a gym membership) reached **16.9%** in 2024 surpassing pre-Pandemic levels (15.6% in 2019). Leisure DB reported a slightly lower but still strong 15.9%.

Notable trends:

- ◀ Low-cost operators have successfully capitalised on consumers looking for more affordable options. Mid and premium market operators are also improving their value propositions, often by adding services like spa facilities and social spaces.
- ◀ Increasing engagement across all age groups, but particularly among younger adults (16-34). This suggests a generational shift where gym membership is seen as a "must-have."
- ◀ While improving strength and fitness remains the primary reason for joining (83%), mental health support is a growing motivation, cited by 76% of members. Improving confidence and physical appearance also rank highly.
- ◀ Despite growth, the industry faces cost pressures (inflation and rising operating costs). Gyms are exploring innovative strategies to increase site revenues; offering custom training, nutrition coaching and more group classes, rather than relying on new openings.

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

Larger gyms with a mix of flexible spaces (such as cardio, free weights and boxing equipment, (80 stations +²¹) remain central to the financial viability of public sector leisure centres. When combined with studios and offering a good mix (and sufficient number) of classes, they are usually the most surplus-generating spaces in a typical leisure centre. The past decade has seen growth in the prevalence of operators offering 'functional fitness' equipment and activities.. It is manifested both in terms of small private facilities, and the incorporation of functional fitness spaces within publicly operated health and fitness facilities.

²⁰ [Active Lives adult survey Nov 23-24 report](#)

²¹ A health and fitness 'station' is defined as a piece of static fitness equipment – KKP normally audits facilities of 20 stations or more.

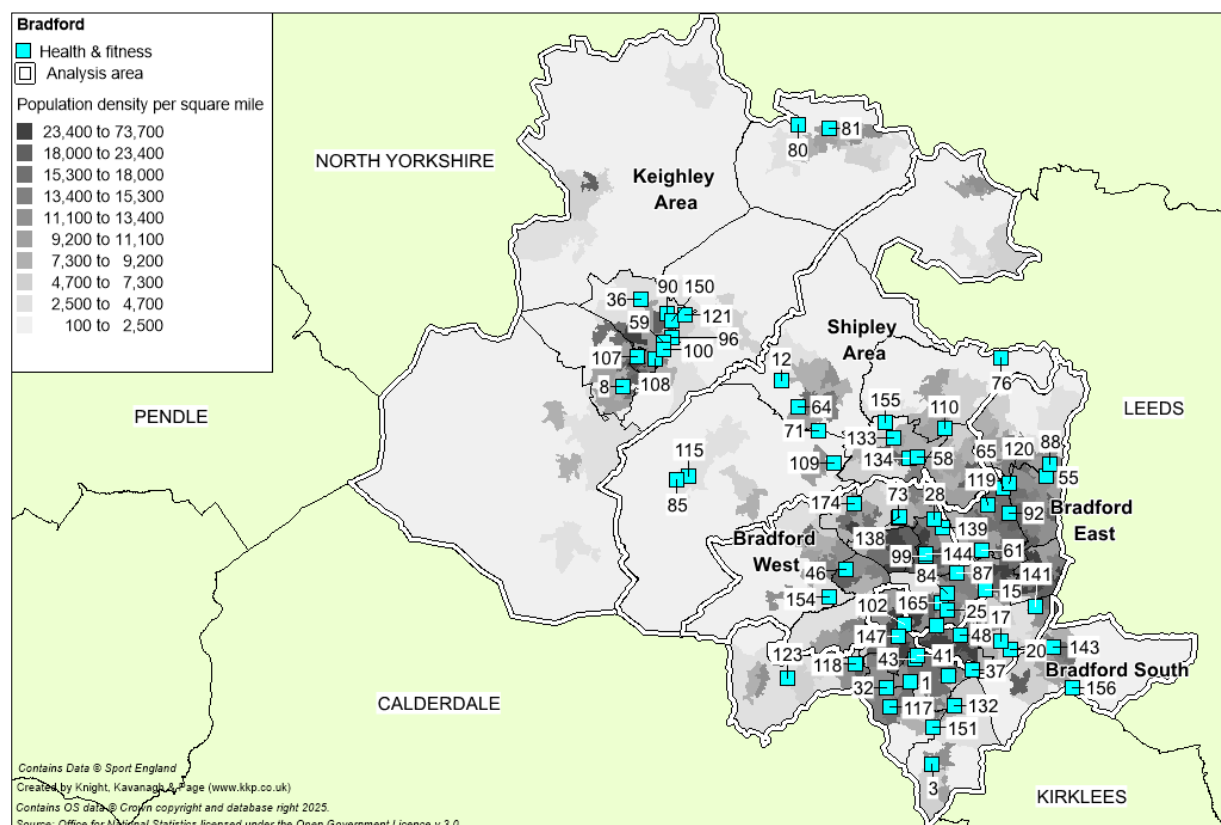
CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

6.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 66 health and fitness facilities in Bradford, with a total of 3,992 stations. Generally, they are located in more densely populated areas in and around Bradford city centre and Keighley. Spatially, there is a good spread across the district, with all main population centres served. A full list of facilities is presented in Table 6.1 overleaf.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Bradford



Facilities with fewer than 20 stations are typically not considered sufficiently large to function as community health and fitness gyms, although they can serve small sections of the local community. When these smaller facilities are excluded from the supply calculation, 53 facilities remain, providing a total of 3,796 stations.

Four commercial gyms are of particularly significant scale: JD Gyms (Bradford), PureGym (Bradford Idle), PureGym (Keighley) and The Gym Group (Bradford Great Horton). Each of these offers 200 or more fitness stations. Three of the four are located within the Bradford urban area, serving the Bradford West, Bradford South and Bradford East analysis areas respectively, while PureGym (Keighley) serves Keighley.

Bradford also has several gyms which offer CrossFit and Hyrox style workouts and can accommodate large user volumes. Desk research indicates there are approximately five specialist functional fitness facilities and 10-15 gyms offering functional fitness training, (HYROX, strength and conditioning), or functional training zones as part of the broader fitness offer across the authority.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTREGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Bradford

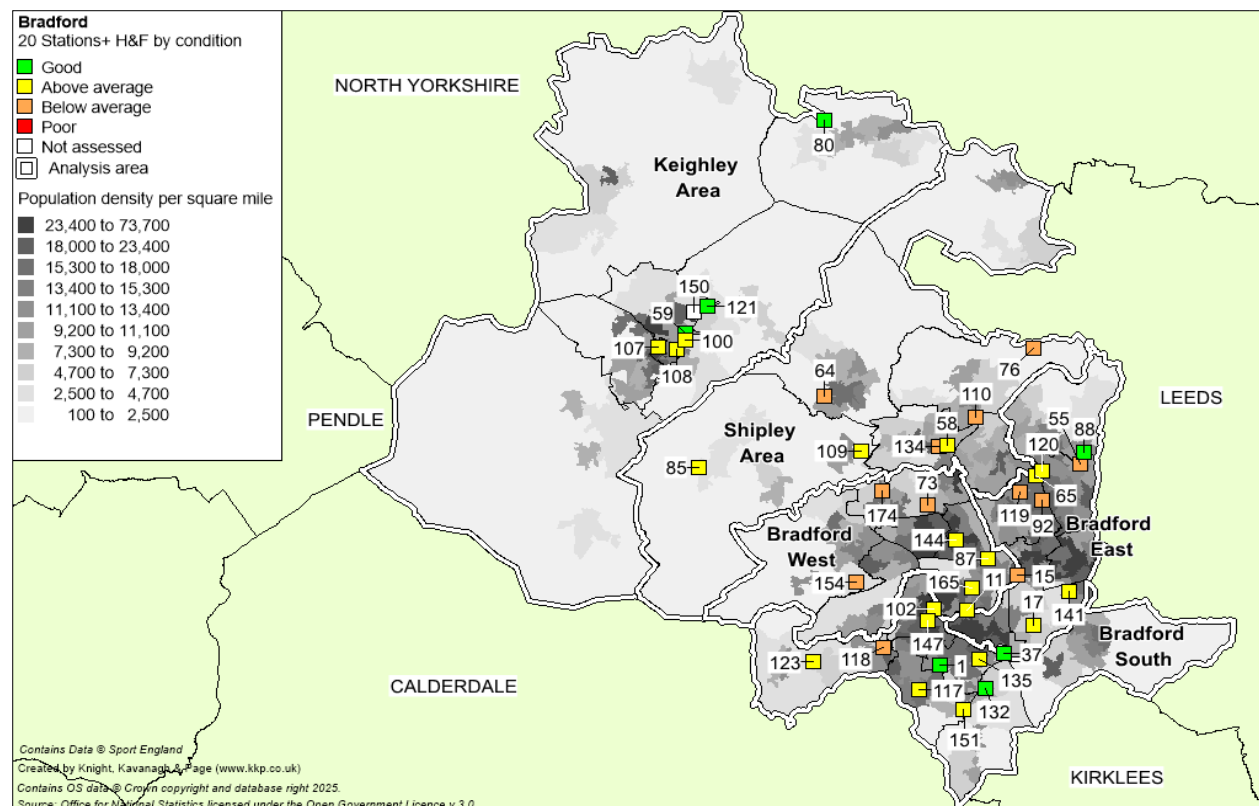
ID	Site	Stations	ID	Site	Stations
1	6fit Gym	180	85	Iron Time Gym	40
3	Appleton Academy	15	87	JD Gyms (Bradford)	250
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	30	88	Jetts Greengates	125
11	Better Gym (Bradford)	100	90	Keighley Cougars (Cougar Park)	25
12	Bingley Grammar School	23	92	Kents Gym	115
15	Bodyflex Gymnasium	58	96	Leeds City College (Keighley Site)	30
17	Bowling Pool & Gym	30	99	Manningham Sports Centre	16
20	Bradford Academy	22	100	Masterflex Gym	40
25	Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	19	102	Muscle Bound Gym	100
28	Bradford Grammar School	41	107	Northwest Mecca Keighley Gym	125
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	21	108	NRGym Keighley	150
36	Carlton Keighley	11	109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	94
37	Cedar Court Health Club (Leeds / Bradford)	23	110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	120
41	Co-op Academy Grange	15	115	Parkside School	41
43	Co-op Academy Southfield	12	117	Planet Fitness (Bradford)	79
46	Dixons Allerton Academy	9	118	Power Up Gym	50
48	Dixons City Academy	20	119	Hanson Academy	62
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	21	120	Puregym (Bradford Idle)	220
58	Energy Mill Shipley	30	121	Puregym (Keighley)	220
59	Everlast Gyms (Keighley)	55	123	Queensbury Barbell	70
61	Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	18	132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	80
64	Flacks Fit 24	41	133	Shipley College	30
65	Flacks Fitness	100	134	Shipley Pool & Gym	25
71	Hazelbeck School	20	135	Snap Fitness (Bradford)	75
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	23	138	St Bede's & St Joseph's Catholic College (Ardor)	15
76	Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club	80	139	St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College (Ignis)	15
80	Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	24	141	Strength Pro Gym	40
81	Ilkley RFC	10	143	TFD Youth Centre	13
84	IG Arkwright House	17	144	The Curve	48

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Stations	ID	Site	Stations
147	The Gym Group (Bradford Great Horton)	200	155	Titus Salt School	11
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	60	156	Tong Leadership Academy	30
151	The Pride Gym	120	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre (Unique Fitness)	100
154	Thornton Recreation Centre	65	174	Zara Sports Centre	25
Total					3,992

Quality

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in Bradford



All health and fitness facilities with 20 or more stations were subject to a non-technical quality assessment.

Of the 53 facilities, seven are rated as good quality, 20 above average and 23 as below average. A further three facilities were not assessed.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

ID	Site	Stns	Condition	ID	Site	Stns	Condition
1	6fit Gym	180	Good	100	Masterflex Gym	40	Above average
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	30	Below average	102	Muscle Bound Gym	100	Above average
11	Better Gym (Bradford)	100	Above average	107	Northwest Mecca Keighley Gym	125	Above average
12	Bingley Grammar School	23	Below average	108	Nrgym Keighley	150	Above average
15	Bodyflex Gymnasium	58	Below average	109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	94	Above average
17	Bowling Pool & Gym	30	Above average	110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	120	Below average
20	Bradford Academy	22	Below average	115	Parkside School	41	Below average
28	Bradford Grammar School	41	Below average	117	Planet Fitness (Bradford)	79	Above average
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	21	Below average	118	Power Up Gym	50	Below average
37	Cedar Court Health Club (Leeds / Bradford)	23	Good	119	Hanson Academy	62	Below average
48	Dixons City Academy	20	Below average	120	Puregym (Bradford Idle)	220	Above average
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	21	Below average	121	Puregym (Keighley)	220	Good
58	Energy Mill Shipley	30	Above average	123	Queensbury Barbell	70	Above average
59	Everlast Gyms (Keighley)	55	Good	132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	80	Good
64	Flacks Fit 24	41	Below average	133	Shipley College	30	Not assessed
65	Flacks Fitness	100	Above average	134	Shipley Pool And Gym	25	Below average
71	Hazelbeck School	20	Below average	135	Snap Fitness (Bradford)	75	Above average
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	23	Below average	141	Strength Pro Gym	40	Above average
76	Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club	80	Below average	144	The Curve	48	Above average
80	Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	24	Good	147	The Gym Group (Bradford Great Horton)	200	Above average
85	Iron Time Gym	40	Above average	150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	60	Below average
87	JD Gyms (Bradford)	250	Above average	151	The Pride Gym	120	Above average
88	Jetts Greengates	125	Good	154	Thornton Recreation Centre	65	Below average
90	Keighley Cougars (Cougar Park)	25	Not assessed	156	Tong Leadership Academy	30	Below average
92	Kents Gym	115	Below average	165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	100	Above average
96	Leeds City College (Keighley Site)	30	Not assessed	174	Zara Sports Centre	25	Below average

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Seven health and fitness are managed by CBMDC, although only one of these; Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, is assessed as being of good quality. A summary of local authority managed health and fitness provision across these seven sites is provided below.

Fitness provision at Bowling Pool and Gym, although relatively modest, is rated as above average quality. The gym is complemented by a popular sauna and a separate cardio room, broadening the overall fitness offer. While the quality of equipment is generally considered acceptable, there is an aspiration to diversify the range of kit and activities available, including the introduction of more contemporary formats such as hyrox-style training. The gym is located within a separate building and, unlike the main pool building, no significant condition issues were identified through the latest condition survey.

Fitness provision at Eccleshill Pool is rated as below average quality. The gym was added as part of the facility expansion in 2012 and is relatively small, with dated equipment and a constrained internal layout. While there may be options to enhance the fitness offer via reconfiguration or expansion, it would require significant investment to improve the quality, functionality and overall appeal of the facility. This is consistent with the wider site condition survey, which identifies a range of building fabric and refurbishment requirements across the centre, although no significant defects were identified specifically within the gym area.

The health and fitness provision at Manningham Sports Centre is limited. The gym contains relatively modern equipment but is constrained by its small size, poor layout and lack of natural light, which detract from the overall user experience. A sauna has been installed within a former changing room and, while somewhat makeshift in appearance, remains popular with users. Overall, the fitness provision is functional but would benefit from refurbishment and reconfiguration to improve its quality, attractiveness and functionality. This is reflected in the condition survey, which identifies only minor refurbishment requirements within the fitness suite itself, suggesting that the principal limitations relate to the size and layout of the space rather than the condition of the building fabric. Whilst the facility falls below the 20-station threshold used for the main health and fitness supply assessment, a summary has been included due to its role within the CBMDC managed stock.

As noted above, Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is the only CBMDC-managed site rated good quality. It provides the strongest health and fitness offer in the council-operated portfolio. The gym comprises approximately 80 stations, with a balanced mix of cardiovascular, resistance, free weights and functional training equipment. Staff indicated that there may be capacity to further expand the gym and develop the functional fitness offer in the future.

Fitness provision at Shipley Pool and Gym is rated below average, primarily due to the age and quality of its equipment. The gym is relatively small and contains a mixed stock of equipment, resulting in a somewhat inconsistent user experience. While the facility remains functional and supports the wider leisure offer at the site, investment in replacement fitness equipment would help improve its quality and attractiveness. The recent condition survey identifies only relatively minor requirements within the gym itself, including replacement of stained and missing ceiling tiles, cyclical redecoration and a minor fire-door repair, indicating that key limitations relate to the offer itself rather than significant building fabric defects.

Fitness provision at The Leisure Centre Keighley is rated below average quality, reflecting the age of the facility despite recent investment. It is spread across two floors, including a dedicated women-only gym space. The main gym incorporates some modern functional training equipment but is relatively modest in size. While the facility continues to provide an important local fitness offer, further investment in modern equipment and the refurbishment of activity spaces would help improve its quality, attractiveness and user experience.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Thornton Recreation Centre's health and fitness suite is split across two rooms, which limits operational flexibility and can make the gym feel fragmented. While it remains functional and supports the local community, there is no indication of recent major investment, and the overall quality reflects the gym's age.

In terms of non-CBMDC managed provision, the health and fitness facilities at Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club have benefited from significant recent investment. Following the development of a new fitness centre in 2016, the club further expanded its gym offer in 2023/24 converting a squash court into additional fitness and studio space, helping to create a modern and comprehensive facility.

Health and fitness provision at the University of Bradford has benefited from some recent investment. Its gym underwent a major upgrade of its cardiovascular equipment in 2019, with resistance equipment replaced subsequently as part of the University's ongoing equipment refresh programme.

Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators have no contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target people/communities who face barriers to participation. It is acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

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

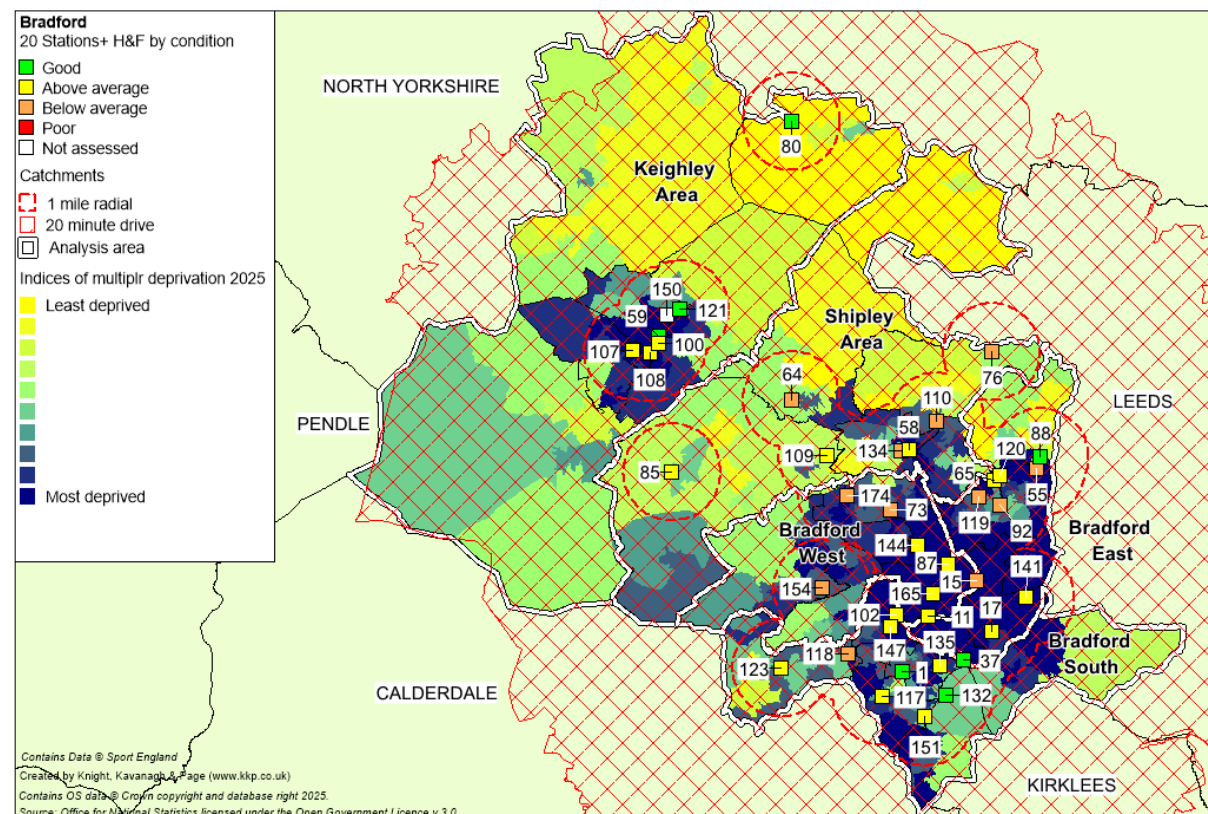
Table 6.3: Health and fitness 20+ stations with 1-mile radial catchment

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	217,073	39.3%	204,646	37.0%	12,427	2.2%
10.1 - 20	77,181	14.0%	69,974	12.7%	7,207	1.3%
20.1 - 30	53,762	9.7%	48,465	8.8%	5,297	1.0%
30.1 - 40	27,518	5.0%	17,176	3.1%	10,342	1.9%
40.1 - 50	35,656	6.4%	29,307	5.3%	6,349	1.1%
50.1 - 60	31,390	5.7%	13,781	2.5%	17,609	3.2%
60.1 - 70	35,032	6.3%	21,023	3.8%	14,009	2.5%
70.1 - 80	21,878	4.0%	7,060	1.3%	14,818	2.7%
80.1 - 90	24,998	4.5%	11,973	2.2%	13,025	2.4%
90.1 - 100	28,556	5.2%	12,265	2.2%	16,291	2.9%
Total	553,044	100.0%	435,670	78.8%	117,374	21.2%

Just over three quarters of Bradford's population (78.8%) live within 20 minutes' walk of a health and fitness facility. Of those living in areas of higher deprivation, 92.8% live within one mile of a health and fitness facility, which suggests that provision in Bradford is well located to encourage access for those living in areas of higher deprivation. Virtually the whole population (99.9%) lives within a 20-minute drive of a health and fitness facility.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.3 accessibility of Bradford health and fitness facilities



Neighbouring facilities

Health and fitness facility users do not solely use facilities within their own authority. Consequently, facilities located within approximately two miles of the Bradford boundary have also been considered. A total of 28 facilities are located within this catchment. Most operate on a registered membership basis, with only one pay-and-play facility and three accessed via sports club or community association membership. Provision is concentrated in neighbouring Leeds (13 facilities) and Calderdale (9 facilities), with smaller numbers in Kirklees and North Yorkshire.

The border catchment includes a number of large commercial gyms, including PureGym, JD Gyms, Everlast Gyms and Nuffield Health. Ten facilities provide 100 or more fitness stations, indicating a strong and competitive health and fitness market. These larger facilities are likely to draw from a wider catchment and may attract Bradford residents, particularly those living close to the district boundary

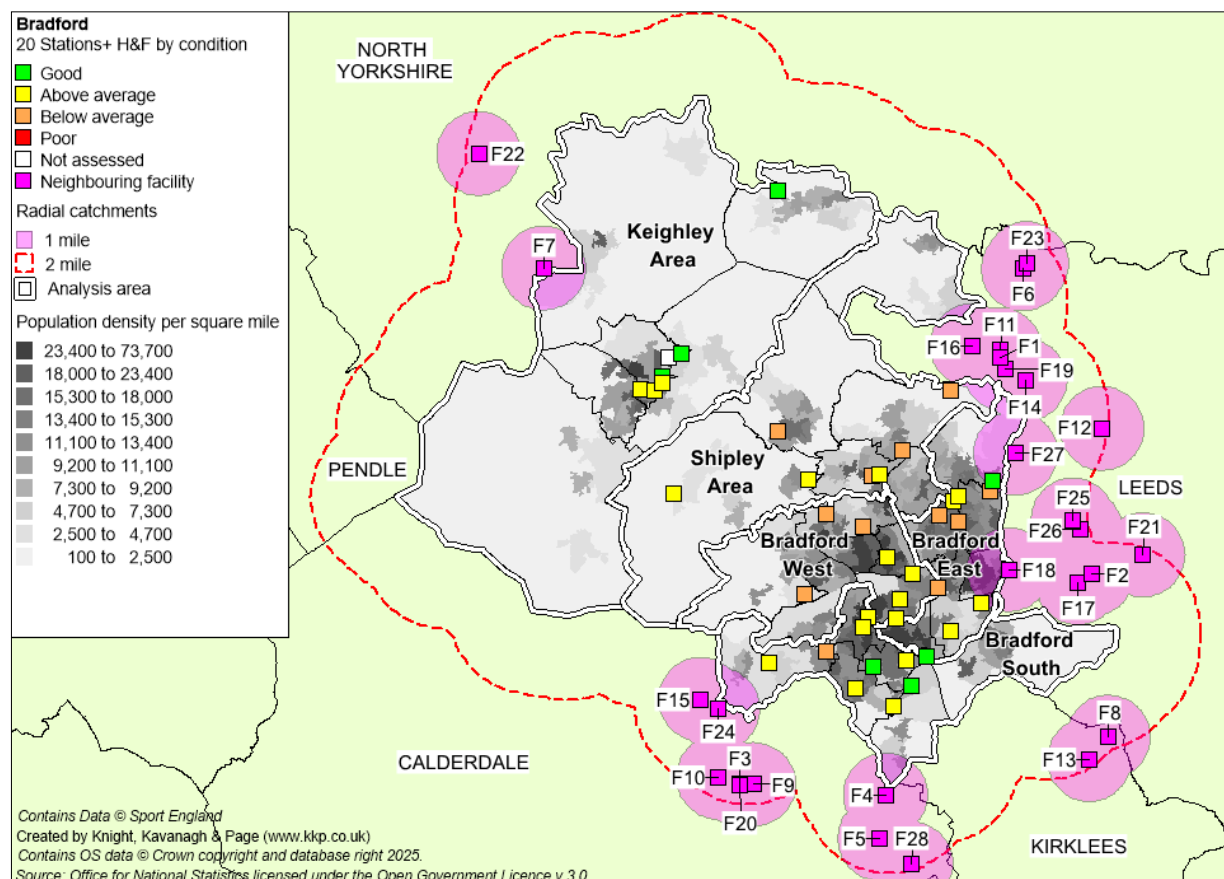
Table 6.4: Community available health/fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of the authority

ID	Site	Stations	Access	Authority
F1	Aireborough Leisure Centre	54	Reg. membership	Leeds
F2	Altered Image Gym	70	Reg. membership	Leeds
F3	Bodystation Fitness	200	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F4	Bridges Fitness Centre	58	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F5	Brighouse Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	65	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F6	Club Energy (Otley)	50	Reg. membership	Leeds
F7	DB's Gym	30	Reg. membership	North Yorkshire

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Stations	Access	Authority
F8	Everlast Gyms (Birstall Leeds)	150	Reg. membership	Kirklees
F9	Everlast Gyms (Halifax)	100	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F10	JD Gyms (Halifax)	250	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F11	Karisma Health Studio	44	Reg. membership	Leeds
F12	Leeds Trinity University (Trinity Fitness)	42	Reg. membership	Leeds
F13	MP Fit (Birstall)	85	Reg. membership	Kirklees
F14	New Era Fitness	130	Reg. membership	Leeds
F15	North Halifax Grammar School	20	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F16	Nuffield Health (Guiselley)	67	Reg. membership	Leeds
F17	Pudsey Leisure Centre	79	Reg. membership	Leeds
F18	Puregym (Bradford Thornbury)	220	Reg. membership	Leeds
F19	Puregym (Guiselley)	220	Reg. membership	Leeds
F20	Puregym (Halifax)	220	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F21	Puregym (Leeds Bramley)	200	Reg. membership	Leeds
F22	Rise Fitness Club (Skipton)	36	Reg. membership	North Yorkshire
F23	Snap Fitness (Otley)	48	Reg. membership	Leeds
F24	The Unit Halifax	95	Reg. membership	Calderdale
F25	The Workhouse Fitness Club	80	Reg. membership	Leeds
F26	Ultraflex Gym (West Leeds)	100	Reg. membership	Leeds
F27	Woodhouse Grove School	40	Sports club / CA	Leeds
F28	You Fit Health Club (Leeds Brighouse)	20	Reg. membership	Calderdale

Figure 6.4: Health and fitness facilities in neighbouring authorities; two mile border catchment



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Availability and programming

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

Of the 52 health and fitness facilities with 20 or more stations, 39 offer some form of community access. Of these, ten offer pay and play access, typically through casual admission, or day passes, while 28 are accessible via registered membership. A further one facility (Zara Sports Centre) is available through a sports club/community association arrangement. Many of the pay and play facilities also offer monthly membership options, which often represents the most cost-effective choice for regular users.

The remaining 13 facilities are unavailable for community use and are classified as private facilities; the majority of these are located on school, or college sites. Whilst they contribute to overall provision for their respective institutions, they do not form part of the community-accessible health and fitness stock within the district.

Of note amongst CBMDC operated facilities is the provision of three women-only gym sessions per week at Bowling Pool and Gym, during which use of the fitness suite is dedicated exclusively to female users. These are reported to be well attended and to be helping to meet the needs of the site's diverse local catchment, including those who prefer or require access to single-sex fitness provision. This complements the dedicated women-only gym space provided at The Leisure Centre Keighley.

Table 6.5: Access policy of fitness gyms (20+ stations)

ID	Site	Stations	Access
1	6fit Gym	180	Reg. membership
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	30	Private use
11	Better Gym (Bradford)	100	Pay and play
12	Bingley Grammar School	23	Private use
15	Bodyflex Gymnasium	58	Reg. membership
17	Bowling Pool & Gym	30	Pay and play
20	Bradford Academy	22	Private use
28	Bradford Grammar School	41	Private use
32	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	21	Private use
37	Cedar Court Health Club (Leeds / Bradford)	23	Reg. membership
48	Dixons City Academy	20	Private use
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	21	Pay and play
58	Energy Mill Shipley	30	Reg. membership
59	Everlast Gyms (Keighley)	55	Reg. membership
64	Flacks Fit 24	41	Reg. membership
65	Flacks Fitness	100	Reg. membership
71	Hazelbeck School	20	Private use
73	Heaton Tennis and Squash Club	23	Reg. membership
76	Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	80	Reg. membership
80	Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	24	Reg. membership
85	Iron Time Gym	40	Reg. membership
87	JD Gyms (Bradford)	250	Reg. membership

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Stations	Access
88	Jetts Greengates	125	Reg. membership
90	Keighley Cougars (Cougar Park)	25	Private use
92	Kents Gym	115	Reg. membership
96	Leeds City College (Keighley Site)	30	Private use
100	Masterflex Gym	40	Reg. membership
102	Muscle Bound Gym	100	Reg. membership
107	Northwest Mecca Keighley Gym	125	Reg. membership
108	Nrgym Keighley	150	Reg. membership
109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	94	Reg. membership
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	120	Reg. membership
115	Parkside School	41	Private use
117	Planet Fitness (Bradford)	79	Reg. membership
118	Power Up Gym	50	Reg. membership
119	Hanson Academy	62	Private use
120	Puregym (Bradford Idle)	220	Pay and play
121	Puregym (Keighley)	220	Pay and play
123	Queensbury Barbell	70	Reg. membership
132	Sedbergh Sports And Leisure Centre	80	Pay and play
133	Shipley College	30	Private use
134	Shipley Pool And Gym	25	Pay and play
135	Snap Fitness (Bradford)	75	Reg. membership
141	Strength Pro Gym	40	Reg. membership
144	The Curve	48	Reg. membership
147	The Gym Group (Bradford Great Horton)	200	Reg. membership
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	60	Pay and play
151	The Pride Gym	120	Reg. membership
154	Thornton Recreation Centre	65	Pay and play
156	Tong Leadership Academy	30	Private use
165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	100	Pay and play
174	Zara Sports Centre	25	Sports club / CA

When facilities classified as private use are excluded, the health and fitness supply reduces from 52 facilities (3,796 stations) to 39 community-accessible facilities providing 3,401 stations.

Consultation with the University of Bradford confirmed that its health and fitness facilities are accessible to students, staff and the wider community via both membership and pay and play options. Usage is largely driven by the student population during term time, although the facility also attracts a significant community membership base.

The university reported having approximately 1,200 student members, 200-300 staff members and a similar number of public members. Self-evidently, student usage reduces during the summer period. It noted that competition from nearby commercial gyms has impacted membership levels, but that users continue to be attracted by the broader range of sporting facilities available on site.

The cost of health and fitness facility use varies considerably. Table 6.6 details the cost of community accessible health and fitness facilities across Bradford:

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.6: Pricing structure of health and fitness suites with community use and 20+ stations

Site name	Pay & play	12-month	Annual
6fit Gym	-	£34.99	£300.00
Better Gym (Bradford)	£12.00	£33.65	£239.40
Bodyflex Gymnasium	-	£26.99	£239.40
Bowling Pool And Gym	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
Cedar Court Health Club (Leeds / Bradford)	-	£22.00	£240.00
Eccleshill Swimming Pool	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
Energy Mill Shipley	-	£37.99	-
Everlast Gyms (Keighley)	-	£20.00	-
Flacks Fit 24	-	£34.95	-
Flacks Fitness	-	£19.95	£239.40
Heaton Tennis and Squash Club	-	£28.99	-
Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	-	£70.00	£700
Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	-	£38.99	£424.99
Iron Time Gym	-	£25.00	-
JD Gyms (Bradford)	-	£28.99	-
Jetts Greengates	-	£44.95	£539.40
Kents Gym	-	£21.99	£240.00
Masterflex Gym	-	£35.00	£300.00
Muscle Bound Gym	-	£32.00	£370.00
Northwest Mecca Keighley Gym	£10.00	£35.00	£350.00
Nrgym Keighley	-	£24.99	
Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	-	£53.00	£636.00
Nuffield Health (Shipley)	-	£53.00	£636.00
Planet Fitness (Bradford)	-	£35.51	
Power Up Gym	-	£24.99	£299.88
Puregym (Bradford Idle)	£8.99	£24.99	
Puregym (Keighley)	£8.99	£24.99	
Queensbury Barbell	-	£33.65	
Sedbergh Sports And Leisure Centre	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
Shipley Pool And Gym	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
Snap Fitness (Bradford)	-	£23.50	-
Strength Pro Gym	-	£27.99	£335.88
The Curve	-	£33.65	
The Gym Group (Bradford Great Horton)	-	£22.99	
The Leisure Centre Keighley	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
The Pride Gym	-	£34.99	£329.99
Thornton Recreation Centre	£7.85	£33.65	£336.50
University of Bradford Sports Centre ²²	-	£28.00	
Zara Sports Centre	-	£25.00	£240.00

*Pricing as advertised in July 2026

²² The health and fitness suite at University of Bradford is available on a pay and play basis, however, the cost of entry could not be confirmed.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The market in Bradford is highly competitive, encompassing a broad range of low-cost, mid-market and premium operators. Monthly membership prices range from around £25 per month at the budget end of the market to approximately £53 per month at the two premium Nuffield Health clubs and around £70 per month at Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club. The budget gym sector is particularly well represented, providing affordable access to fitness facilities in most of the district's main population centres, including Bradford and Keighley. These operators typically compete on affordability, extended opening hours and flexible membership options.

ClubActive is Bradford Council's health and fitness membership scheme, providing access to council-owned gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes at all its leisure centres. ClubActive membership prices sit within the middle of the local market (approximately £25-£40 per month). The council's pricing is broadly comparable with other full-service fitness facilities, with memberships including access to gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes. In addition, it provides some of the least expensive pay-and-play fitness opportunities in the district; a casual gym session is priced at £7.85. This makes its facilities available to users who do not wish to commit to a monthly membership.

ClubActive also offers a discounted membership package for residents living in areas of deprivation or in receipt of means-tested benefits. Its leisure card provides a reduced-cost pathway into council leisure facilities, helping to make participation more affordable. Benefits include discounted gym and swimming access plus reduced rates for sports centre activities and court hire.

The monthly membership cost of this is £26.90 compared with the standard £33.65; a discount of 20%. Pay-and-play gym access is available for £5.15 compared with the standard £7.85 (around a one third reduction). These mechanisms have the potential to play a key role in reducing financial barriers to participation. However, there is an argument to be made related to whether it is sufficient to attract people in poverty, who make up there is a significant proportion of the districts population.

It should also be noted that Bradford leisure card holders can access discounted rates at Calderdale Council leisure facilities via a reciprocal arrangement, further broadening the range of health and fitness opportunity available to Bradford residents, particularly those living close to the district boundary.

CBMDC digital leisure offer and customer experience

CBMDC's digital leisure offer appears increasingly dated when compared with those of major commercial operators and other public leisure providers. Information is spread across multiple webpages and is largely organised around facilities and services rather than customer needs, making it more difficult for users to compare sites, understand the range of opportunity available, or identify the most appropriate activities and membership options.

The website is also relatively text-heavy and does not always fully showcase the quality of facilities, the breadth of the ClubActive offer, concessionary pricing arrangements or distinctive aspects of provision such as women-only fitness options. As a result, the CBMDC's online presence may not fully reflect the quality and range of facilities/programmes available across the wider leisure portfolio.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Future developments

Consultation indicates that there will be a new women's only gym at the Beap Community Partnership in Manningham, which will result in an increase in 20 stations.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club reports that, due to the underutilisation of its squash courts, it is exploring the potential conversion of one more court into an exercise studio. Timescales for conversion have yet to be confirmed.

6.2: Demand

Based on data provided by CBMDC, there is quite a variance in terms of levels of demand²³ across its 16 health and fitness sites.

Table 6.7: membership analysis of CBMDC managed public leisure sites (20+ stations)

Site name	Stations	Members	Members per station
Bowling Pool & Gym	30	1,357	45.2
Eccleshill Swimming Pool	21	935	44.5
Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	80	5,150	64.4
Shipley Pool & Gym	25	1,492	59.7
The Leisure Centre Keighley	60	1,889	31.5
Thornton Recreation Centre	65	1,199	18.4

Higher-quality provision at Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre accounts for a significant proportion of memberships, with 5,150 members and 64.4 members per fitness station. Shipley Pool and Gym also records a high ratio, with 1,492 members and 59.7 members per station, while Bowling Pool and Gym and Eccleshill Swimming Pool both exceed the indicative benchmark of 35 members per station. By comparison, Thornton Recreation Centre records 1,199 members and 18.4 members per station. The Leisure Centre Keighley sits just below the benchmark, with 1,889 members and 31.5 members per station.

These figures provide an indication of the relationship between membership and fitness station capacity at each member's registered home site. However, ClubActive membership provides access across the council-run portfolio, meaning members may use facilities other than the site at which their membership is recorded. Whilst figures should not be interpreted as a direct measure of gym utilisation, they do provide an indication of the relative popularity of individual facilities and the level of demand that may be experienced during peak periods.

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 demand²⁴.

²³ The calculation of number of members per station is based upon its membership data²³ and the number of current stations at each site. Albeit that free weights and spaces are becoming more prominent and significant, typically, a health and fitness suite with 100 stations will have a sales target of 3,500 members (35 members per station). Data is pulled from April 2026.

²⁴ The 2043 population figure is based on a housing-led growth scenario rather than ONS population projections, which indicate a much lower level of population growth. The housing-led figure relates to the total projected population and includes residents aged under 16, whereas the current population figure is

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.8: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Bradford

	Curent (2022) ONS	Future (2043)
Adult population (16+ years)	428,608	644,475
UK penetration rate	16%	18%
Number of potential members	68,577	116,005
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	120,010	203,010
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	2000	3,383
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	3,000	5,074

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

Based on UK penetration rates, there is a current need for 3,000 fitness stations in Bradford. This is projected to increase to 5,074 stations by 2043, taking account of a comfort factor to reflect peak-time demand. Comparison with the current supply of 3,401 community-accessible fitness stations indicates that existing provision is sufficient to meet current demand. However, assuming no increase in supply, the projected growth in demand associated with population growth would result in a shortfall of c.1,673 stations by 2043.

It must be noted that this is only one form of measuring demand and is based on data supplied through Active Places. There may be unrecorded facilities accommodating certain areas or key groups. In addition, as mentioned earlier, this measurement does not acknowledge the growing popularity of the growing popularity of the functional fitness market.

The calculation above does, however, provide a broad overview of the current demand and supply of the fitness market in the district. With significant housing growth planned across the authority, additional provision should be considered, which could be delivered through both public and commercial operators.

Bradford Encouraging Exercise in People (BEEP) Programme

This is CBMDC's exercise referral scheme, delivered as part of the wider Living Well programme. It aims to support inactive adults, particularly those living with long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or a BMI above 25, to become more physically active via a structured 52-week support programme. Referrals are typically made through GPs and other healthcare professionals, with participants receiving an assessment, personalised activity plan and ongoing support from specialist exercise referral officers.

The programme represents an important example of the integration of leisure services and public health objectives. By providing a pathway from healthcare into physical activity, BEEP supports the prevention and management of a range of health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, musculoskeletal conditions and poor mental health. This aligns closely with CBMDC's wider health and wellbeing priorities and the role of leisure centres as community health hubs rather than solely recreational facilities.

based on the adult population (16+ years). In the absence of age-specific forecasts for the housing-led scenario, adult participation rates have been applied to the total projected population. As such, the future demand estimate is likely to represent a precautionary or upper-range assessment of future need. Nevertheless, it provides a useful indication of the potential implications of planned housing growth on future health and fitness provision.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The recently published Living Well Annual Report indicates that during 2025, BEEP supported 1,096 residents through the exercise referral programme. It notes that:

- Of the 1,096 referrals, 731 completed the programme.
- 77% of participants increased their physical activity levels following engagement with the scheme.

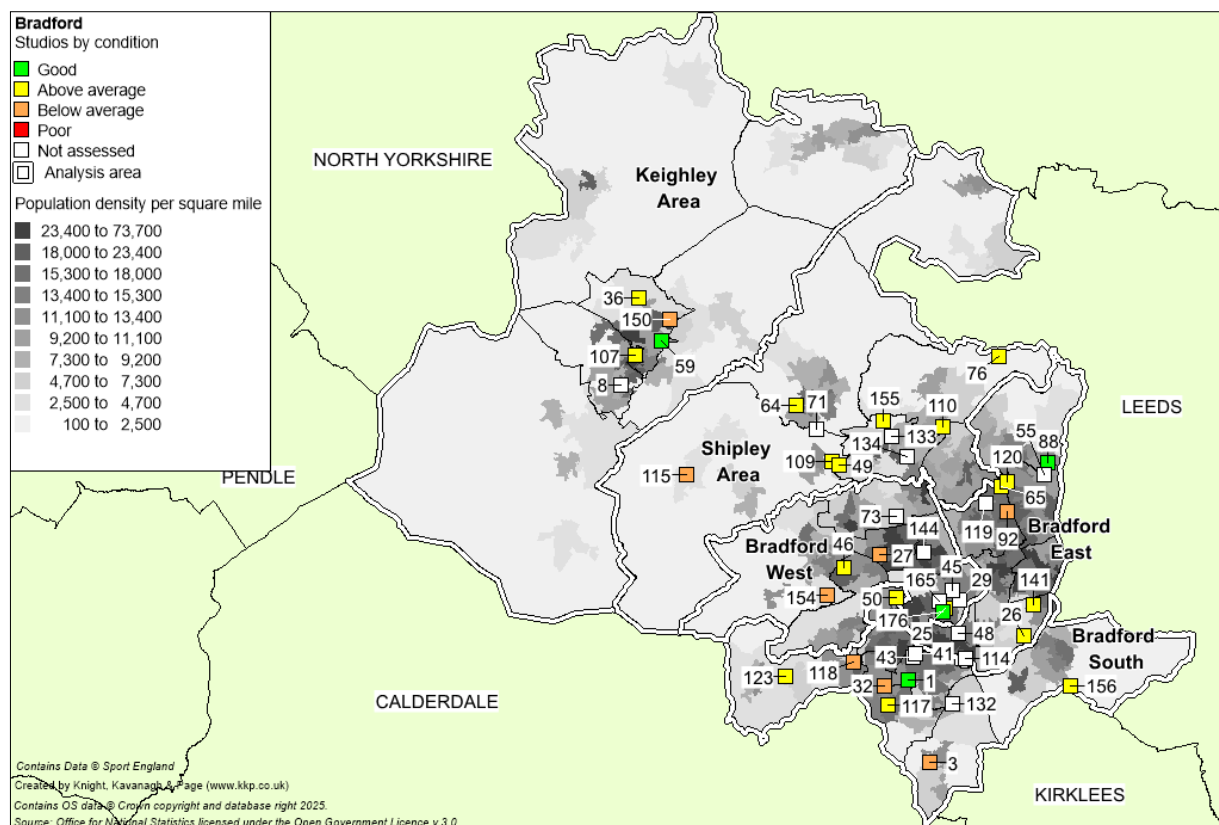
The fact that BEEP is reaching over 1,000 residents per year, making it one of Bradford's most significant physical activity interventions for inactive adults and those with long-term health conditions. Given the authority's high levels of deprivation, obesity and health inequalities, the programme provides an important pathway from healthcare settings into leisure centre and community-based physical activity.

6.3: Dance studios

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

There are 60 studios in Bradford which offer some form of community use. Nearly 50 were assessed, with four rated good and 24 rated above average. In terms of access, 15 studios can be accessed on a pay and play basis while the remainder require a registered membership or to be a member of a sports club/community association.

Figure 6.5: Studio provision and quality in Bradford



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.9: Table of studios in Bradford

ID	Site	Access	Condition
1	6fit Gym	Reg. membership use	Good
3	Appleton Academy	Sports club / CA	Below average
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	Pay & play	Not assessed
8	Beckfoot Oakbank School	Pay & play	Not assessed
25	Bradford College (Trinity Green Campus)	Pay & play	Above average
26	Bradford Forster Academy	Sports club / CA	Above average
27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	Sports club / CA	Below average
32	Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College	Pay & play	Below average
36	Carlton Keighley	Sports club / CA	Above average
41	Co-op Academy Grange	Pay & play	Not assessed
41	Co-op Academy Grange	Pay & play	Not assessed
45	Culture Fusion (YMCA Bradford)	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
46	Dixons Allerton Academy	Pay & play	Above average
49	Dixons Cottingley Academy	Sports club / CA	Above average
50	Dixons Kings Academy	Pay & play	Above average
55	Eccleshill Swimming Pool	Reg. membership use	Below average
59	Everlast Gyms (Keighley)	Reg. membership use	Good
64	Flacks Fit 24	Reg. membership use	Above average
65	Flacks Fitness	Reg. membership use	Above average
65	Flacks Fitness	Reg. membership use	Above average
71	Hazelbeck School	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
71	Hazelbeck School	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
71	Hazelbeck School	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	Reg. membership use	Not assessed
76	Hollins Hall Hotel and Country Club	Reg. membership use	Above average
88	Jetts Greengates	Reg. membership use	Good
92	Kents Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
92	Kents Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
92	Kents Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
107	Northwest Mecca Keighley Gym	Reg. membership use	Above average
109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	Reg. membership use	Above average
109	Nuffield Health (Cottingley)	Reg membership use	Above average
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Reg. membership use	Above average
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Reg. membership use	Above average
110	Nuffield Health (Shipley)	Reg. membership use	Above average
114	Parkside Centre	Sports club / CA	Not assessed
115	Parkside School	Sports club / CA	Below average
117	Planet Fitness (Bradford)	Reg. membership use	Above average
117	Planet Fitness (Bradford)	Reg. membership use	Above average
118	Power Up Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
118	Power Up Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
119	Hanson Academy	Pay & play	Not assessed
119	Hanson Academy	Pay & play	Not assessed
120	Puregym (Bradford Idle)	Reg. membership use	Above average

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Access	Condition
123	Queensbury Barbell	Pay & play	Above average
123	Queensbury Barbell	Pay & play	Above average
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	Reg. membership use	Good
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	Reg. membership use	Good
134	Shipley Pool and Gym	Reg. membership use	Below average
141	Strength Pro Gym	Reg. membership use	Above average
144	The Curve	Reg. membership use	Not assessed
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Sports club / CA	Below average
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Sports club / CA	Below average
154	Thornton Recreation Centre	Pay & play	Below average
154	Thornton Recreation Centre	Pay & play	Below average
155	Titus Salt School	Sports club / CA	Above average
156	Tong Leadership Academy	Sports club / CA	Above average
165	University of Bradford (Unique Fitness)	Pay & play	Not assessed
165	University of Bradford (Unique Fitness)	Reg. membership use	Not assessed
176	Dixons Mcmillan Academy	Pay & play	Good

(NB: Sports club/CA = sports club/community association use)

6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 66 health and fitness facilities in Bradford providing 3,992 stations. When those with fewer than 20 stations are excluded, 53 remain (3,796 stations). Of these, 39 facilities (3,401 stations) are available for community use. Provision is well distributed across the district's main population centres and includes a strong commercial market, including a number of large budget operators.	Generic and housing-led population growth are expected to generate increased demand for health and fitness. There may be potential to accommodate some future demand via increased utilisation of existing facilities; however, additional provision should be considered in areas where growth is concentrated and where opportunities arise through new development.
Quality	Of the 50 facilities with 20+ stations, assessed, seven are rated good quality, 20 above average and 23 below average. Within CBMDC's portfolio only Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre is rated good. The remainder require varying degrees of improvement and modernisation.	There is a need to increase and then maintain investment in the council's health and fitness stock – the potential performance of several of its facilities is constrained by ageing equipment, limited space, outdated layouts and a need for refurbishment.
Accessibility	Accessibility to health and fitness facilities is generally good. Just under 80% of residents live within a 20-minute walk of a facility and effectively all live within a 20-minute drive. There 28 facilities located within two miles of the district boundary.	Future provision should continue to focus on maintaining access for areas experiencing population growth and driving/supporting participation amongst deprived communities.
Availability (Management and usage)	Bradford benefits from a highly competitive health and fitness market, with a broad range of low-cost, mid-market and premium operators.	ClubActive and Bradford Leisure Card provide important but arguably still to be more fully developed and exploited affordable access routes into fitness participation.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility type	Health & fitness	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	Of the 39 gyms which offer community access, Ten offer pay and play access, 28 operate on a registered membership basis and one is available through a sports club/community association arrangement.	Commercial gyms provide some budget membership options but typically do not offer concessionary rates or programmes enabling people living in poverty or facing other participation barriers to engage.

Strategic summary

- Applying UK penetration rates indicates that current supply is sufficient to meet estimated demand. However, significant planned housing growth is likely to increase future demand and may generate a requirement for additional provision, particularly in growth areas.
- Quality varies considerably across the stock. Whilst several commercial facilities and Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre offer high-quality provision, most of the council-owned/managed facilities would benefit from immediate and continuing investment in equipment, layout, modernisation – to improve the customer experience.
- This issue is linked to the fact that there are a very high number of members per station at council H&F venues and the impact this has on the overall customer experience. Consideration should, thus, be given to expansion and improvement of fitness suites along with development of additional functional fitness space at the majority of the council's facilities -subject to feasibility assessment.
- The BEEP programme is a significant strength within the district's health and fitness offer. It provides an effective pathway from healthcare into physical activity and demonstrates the important contribution leisure facilities make towards improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities.
- ClubActive, the Bradford Leisure Card and women-only fitness opportunities is helping to improve accessibility and affordability for residents who may otherwise face barriers to participation. It should continue to be supported and promoted alongside further interrogation of whether the level of discounting and the methods via which it is advocated and promoted are actually sufficient to enable reach into the very substantial proportion of Bradford's population which is living in poverty.
- CBMDC should review and enhance its digital leisure offer to improve the customer journey, better showcase facilities and programme opportunities, simplify access to information, and strengthen engagement with existing and potential users.
- Future development of health and fitness provision should continue to reflect changing market trends, including demand for larger fitness suites, expanded free-weight provision, functional fitness spaces, Hyrox-style training and health-focused activity programmes.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 7: SQUASH

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

Table 7.1: England Squash strategic aims:

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

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

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

ES has set a benchmark of one court per 10,000 people in each local authority in order for squash to thrive. It estimates that there is currently one court per 12,617 people in England. In its view, this already reflects the significant number of court closures and/or non-replacements associated with the redevelopment of older facilities over the past two decades. However, the continuation of this trend since these statements were issued may mean that the position is now even worse.

Bradford's current population is 563,605 (ONS 2024) and it has 19 courts. Applying the Sport England benchmark would suggest a quantitative shortfall in provision. However, many existing courts experience low levels of demand, indicating that the benchmark may overstate current local requirements.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 Supply

The 19 squash courts in Bradford are located across six sites. Of these, five are glass backed, and 14 are of traditional construction. Squash provision is concentrated in the Bradford West analysis area, which accommodates three of the district's six venues. The Shipley analysis area contains one facility, with the remaining two located in the Keighley analysis area. No squash facilities are located in Bradford South or Bradford East.

Figure 7.1: Location of squash courts in Bradford & within 30 minutes' drive time

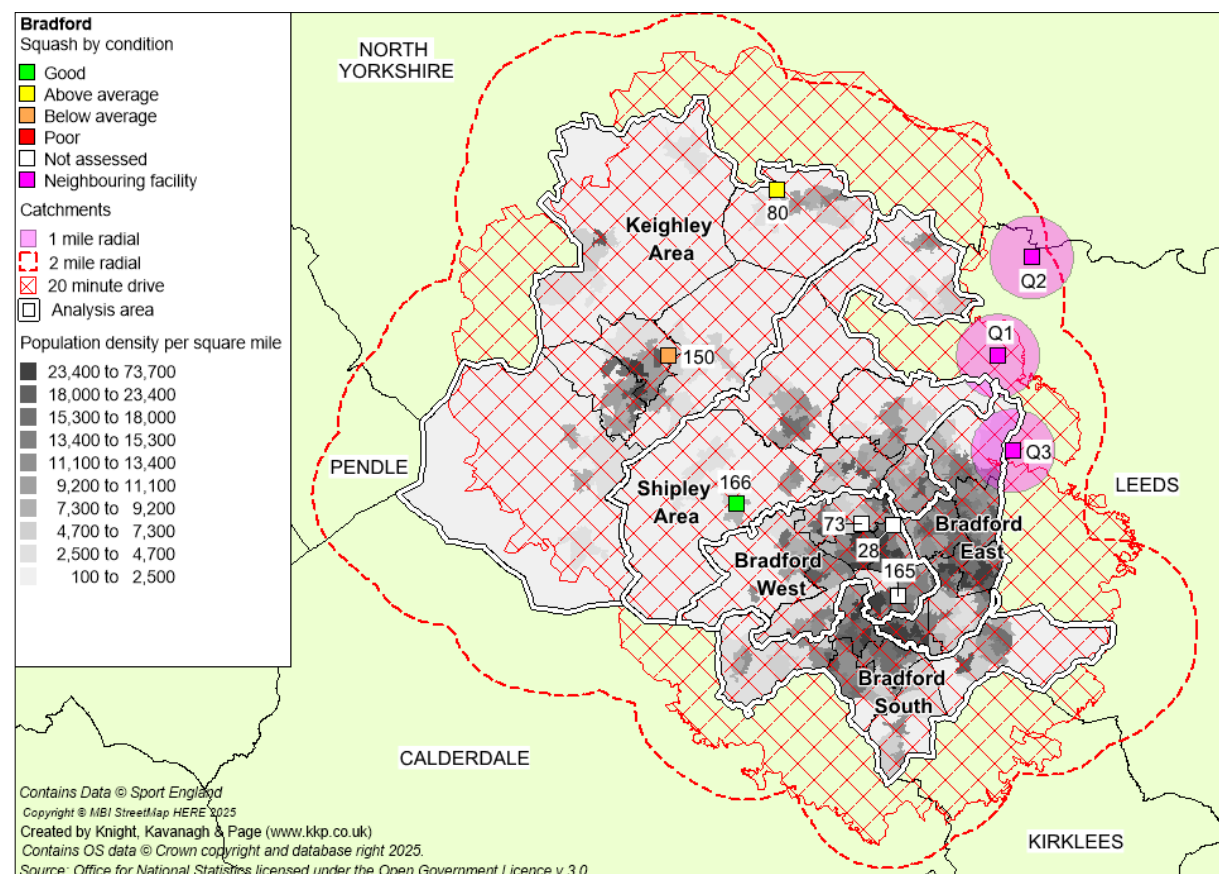


Table 7.2: Squash courts in Bradford

ID	Site	Access	Condition	Normal	Glass backed
28	Bradford Grammar School	Sports club/CA	Not assessed	2	-
73	Heaton Tennis and Squash Club	Reg. membership	Not assessed	3	2
165	University of Bradford Sports Centre	Pay & play	Above average	2	-
80	Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Reg. membership	Above average	2	2
150	The Leisure Centre Keighley	Pay & play	Below average	4	-
166	Wilsden Squash Club	Reg. membership	Not assessed	1	1

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 7.3: Squash facilities in neighbouring authorities

ID	Site	Access	Normal	Glass backed	Authority
Q1	Aireborough Leisure Centre	Pay & play	2	2	Leeds
Q3	Woodhouse Grove School	Sports club / CA	1	1	Leeds
Q3	Otley Squash Club	Sports club / CA	2	-	Leeds

Quality

Of the 19 squash courts in Bradford, six are assessed as above average quality and four as below average. The remaining nine, at Bradford Grammar School, Heaton Tennis and Squash Club and Wilsden Squash Club, were not assessed due to a lack of response from site operators despite numerous attempts to engage.

Consultation would suggest that the above average courts at University of Bradford Sports Centre and Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club all benefit from routine maintenance, including re-sanding of floors and repainting walls as required. However, given the reportedly low levels of use at certain venues, as outlined below, most receive maintenance-based upgrades rather than full refurbishment. The courts at the University of Bradford Sports Centre were last fully refurbished in 2018.

The four below average courts at The Leisure Centre Keighley are functional but show signs of deterioration. A 2024 condition survey identified water ingress, flaking wall decorations and issues with roof glazing above the squash court area. Redecoration and further investigation of the condition of the roof were recommended.

Desk research indicates that the two courts at Wilsden Squash Club benefitted from a programme of refurbishment works in 2020, including replacement court flooring, installation of LED lighting and heating systems, refurbishment of court walls and the creation of a glass-backed viewing gallery for one of the two.

Accessibility and availability

Nearly all (99.6%) of Bradford's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a facility with squash courts. Table 7.2 (above) lists the three squash facilities located within a 20-minute drive of the Bradford boundary. Of these, one is accessible on a pay and play basis, and the other two can be accessed via membership to a community club.

In terms of site accessibility, two sites; Bradford University Sports Centre and The Leisure Centre Keighley offer pay and play access, while Heaton Tennis and Squash Club, Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and Wilsden Squash Club are accessed via registered membership. Bradford Grammar School requires membership to a sports club or community association.

Future developments/changes to provision

Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club reports that, due to the underutilisation of its squash courts, it is exploring the potential conversion of one court into an exercise studio. Timescales for conversion have yet to be confirmed.

7.2: Demand

England Squash (ES) identifies Bradford as an area of interest for future squash development, reflecting previous investment in the Yorkshire Squash & Racketball Association (YSRA) and

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

its work with clubs and leisure operators to increase participation. Whilst the district has a relatively limited geographic spread of facilities given the size of its population, ES's priority is to maximise use of the existing court stock through targeted participation programmes and community engagement initiatives.

ES considers it important to retain existing courts, improve the quality of facilities where required and support local partners to deliver participation initiatives aimed at engaging new and returning players. Its view is that there is latent demand for squash in the area and that maintaining the existing infrastructure is essential to maintaining existing participation and supporting future growth.

ES also identified programmes such as Squash from the Mosque²⁵ as having potential to support participation growth in Bradford. This was developed in neighbouring Calderdale through a partnership between Calder Community Squash and local mosques, creating culturally appropriate opportunities for Muslim communities, including dedicated sessions for men, women and girls. ES now promotes the initiative nationally as a means of engaging under-represented groups and reducing barriers to participation, with Yorkshire identified as a priority area for delivery. However, there is, as yet, no evidence that Squash from the Mosque is being delivered from facilities within Bradford.

The three ES affiliated clubs in Bradford: Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Heaton Tennis & Squash Club and Wilsden Squash Club, all operate from dedicated club venues. As noted above, only Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club responded to consultation requests. A précis of the consultation findings, together with intelligence provided by ES in relation to the other two clubs and YSRA, is set out below. The summary also draws upon demand-related insights provided via consultation with CBMDC which manages the courts at The Leisure Centre Keighley and the University of Bradford in relation to provision at its sports centre.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club reports having a total membership of c.2,500, although only c.60-80 individuals routinely use the squash courts. It notes that squash participation has plateaued in recent years and considers its courts to be underutilised, indicating that member demand could potentially be accommodated on two courts. In addition to recreational play and internal leagues, the club fields teams in the Yorkshire Squash League, organised by YSRA, supporting regular competitive participation.

Heaton Tennis & Squash Club is one of the district's principal squash clubs. ES records that it has 69 affiliated members. It competes in the Yorkshire Squash League and has a long history of participation in league competition.

Wilsden Squash Club has c.130 affiliated members. It competes in both the Yorkshire Squash League and local Metro league competitions, providing opportunities for both competitive and recreational players.

YSRA is the county association responsible for promoting and developing squash and racketball in Yorkshire. It affiliates to ES and is governed by an elected committee, supported by volunteers and development officers. It works with clubs, venues, coaches and players to increase participation and support development of the sport among people in all age groups and of all levels of ability.

YSRA oversees a wide range of activities including the Yorkshire Squash League, local leagues, county championships, junior development programmes, coaching initiatives and county representative teams. It supports competitive opportunities from junior age groups

²⁵ <https://active.calderdale.gov.uk/post/squash-mosque>

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

through to masters' players and facilitates Yorkshire's participation in inter-county competitions organised by ES.

The Yorkshire Squash League is the premier county-wide squash competition in Yorkshire, providing regular inter-club competition across a number of divisions and clubs. YSRA describes it as one of the strongest county leagues in England. YSRA also organises county closed championships, junior events and representative teams, providing development pathways from grassroots participation through to regional and national competition.

Consultation with the **University of Bradford** indicates that squash demand is relatively low and largely community based, with the facility accommodating around 10 hours of squash use per week. The University reports that demand reduced following the collapse of its student squash club, with no significant organised student participation currently taking place.

At Keighley Leisure Centre, CBMDC reported that, of the four courts, three remain in use for squash, with the fourth primarily utilised for table tennis. Demand is described as moderate, with most bookings occurring during weekday evening peak periods. Over the course of a typical week in June 2026, the three squash courts accommodated 14.7 hours of booked squash activity. Use is predominantly recreational in nature, with demand generated via pay and play bookings rather than organised club activity.

7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Squash	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 19 squash courts at six sites in Bradford. Bradford West analysis area accommodates three venues; Shipley contains one facility and Keighley two. There is no squash facility in the Bradford South or Bradford East analysis areas	To consider whether greater engagement can be stimulated via key interventions such as Squash From the Mosque Calderdale. ES identifies Bradford as an area of interest for future development and considers retention of existing court stock to be important in supporting participation growth. No new facilities are currently planned. Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club is considering converting one of its remaining courts into an exercise studio.
Quality	Of the 19 courts, six are above average and four below. The remaining nine courts were not assessed – although their quality is generally thought to be above average or good.	The below average quality courts at The Leisure Centre Keighley require monitoring and improvement, particularly in relation to water ingress and other identified refurbishment requirements.
Accessibility	There are good levels of accessibility to provision. The whole population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a squash court.	-
Availability (Management and usage)	Two sites offer pay and play access, three are accessed via registered membership, while one requires membership of a sports club or community association.	There is a need to retain access to both club-based and pay and play provision. Club venues support organised squash and league participation, while public/pay and play courts provide recreational access for non-club players.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Strategic summary

- ◀ Bradford has a relatively small squash stock, comprising 19 courts across six sites. Although overall drive-time accessibility is strong, provision is unevenly distributed, with no courts located in Bradford South or Bradford East.
- ◀ Organised squash demand is focused around the three England Squash affiliated clubs: Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Heaton Tennis and Squash Club and Wilsden Squash Club. These provide opportunity for recreational and competitive play, including participation in the Yorkshire Squash League and local league structures.
- ◀ Pay and play squash provision is available at University of Bradford Sports Centre and The Leisure Centre Keighley. Consultation indicates that demand at these venues is moderate and largely recreational, with activity at Keighley concentrated during weekday evening peak periods and University of Bradford usage reduced following the collapse of its student squash club.
- ◀ The key facility priority is to protect the existing squash infrastructure, particularly where it provides accessible pay and play opportunities, while supporting England Squash, YSRA, clubs and local operators to increase participation and engage new or returning players.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING

The British Gymnastics 2023 strategy – Leap Without Limits: A New Vision for a New Era sets out a shared vision for gymnastics across all four home nations. This focuses on five ‘leaps’:

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

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

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

The new strategy outlines six key impacts:

- ◀ More people enjoying gymnastics and its benefits—across all abilities, ages, backgrounds—as gymnasts, coaches, club owners, officials, or fans.
- ◀ Everyone feels safe, supported, and confident to speak up, regardless of their role in gymnastics.
- ◀ More inspirational moments that are seen, shared and enjoyed by more people.
- ◀ A positive NGB membership experience that meets your needs, is simple throughout, and makes you feel proud and valued as a British Gymnastics member.
- ◀ Members/participants feel connected to British Gymnastics and trust it to be positive custodians of this incredible sport.
- ◀ A united sport, where everyone is working together to ensure that collectively we deliver an uplifting gymnastics experience for all.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8.1: Supply

Six gymnastics and trampolining clubs are operating from six sites in Bradford. In addition, CBMDC operates an in-house gymnastics programme from the sports hall at Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre. Overall, three dedicated facilities and a further four non-dedicated sites host gymnastics activity on a regular basis.

Figure 8.1: Gymnastics provision; Bradford and neighbouring authorities (30-minute drive time)

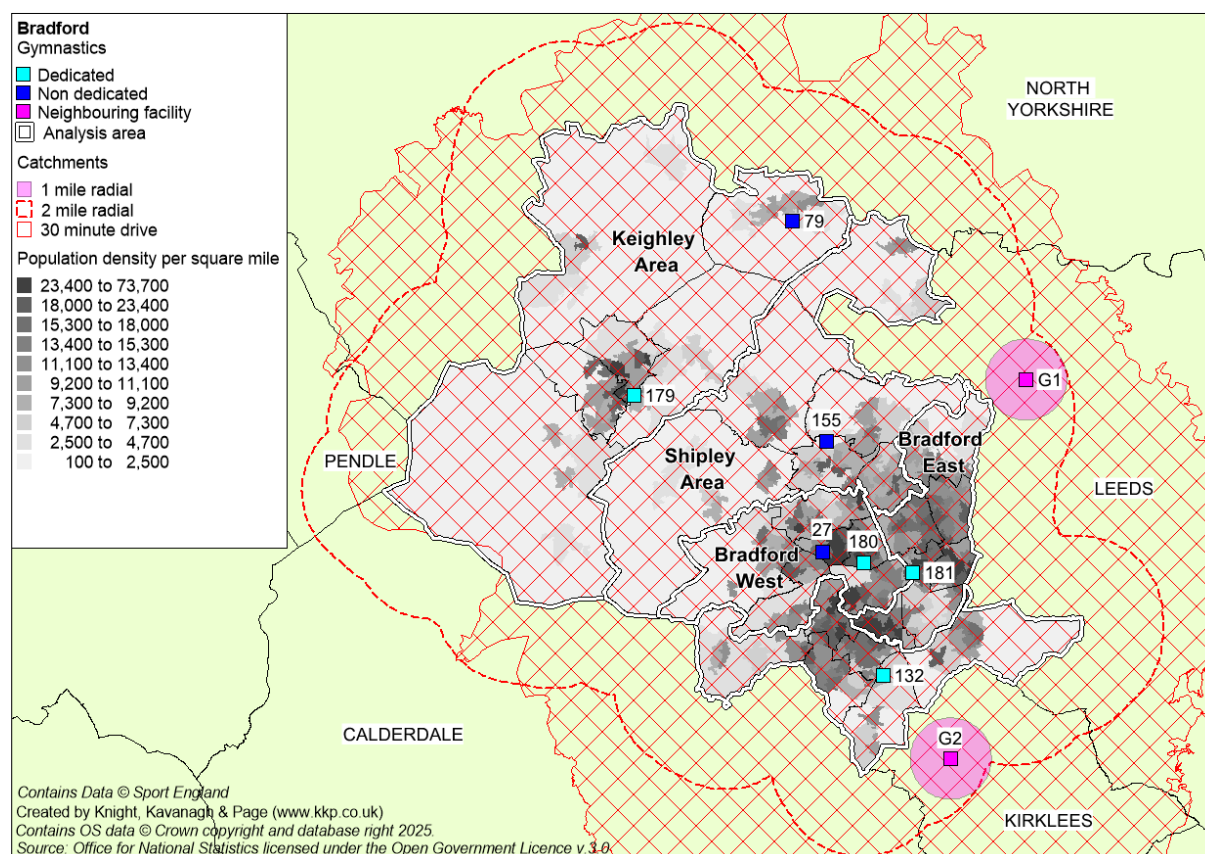


Table 8.1: Dedicated gymnastics facilities in Bradford

ID	Site name
179	Aire Valley Gym Club
180	Bradford Gym Club
181	TK Gymfit

Table 8.2: Non-dedicated gymnastics facilities in Bradford

ID	Site name	Club user
27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	Bradford Olympian Trampoline Club
79	Ilkley Grammar School	Ilkley Gym Club
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	In house CBMDC programme
155	Titus Salt School	Saltaire Gym Club

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Accessibility and availability

Gymnastics facilities appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minute drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As shown in Figure 8.1 above, the whole Bradford population lives within 30 minutes of a gymnastics facility with generally good coverage according to areas of higher population density. All analysis areas are served by either dedicated or non-dedicated provision.

In addition to the seven in Bradford, two gymnastics clubs in neighbouring Leeds and Kirklees are located within a 30-minute drive and thus considered to be accessible to some Bradford residents, particularly those in the east and southeast of the district. Both Aireborough Gymnastics Club (ID: G1) and TSV Gymnastics (ID: G2) operate out of dedicated facilities.

8.2: Demand

British Gymnastics reports that participation in gymnastics is strong. National membership levels now align with those pre-Pandemic and have increased rapidly since 2022. Waiting lists are becoming increasingly common, underlining the need for access dedicated facilities allowing clubs to deliver more hours of teaching.

In Bradford, gymnastics provision reflects broader national trends, with clubs and community groups increasingly seeking access to high quality, dedicated facilities. However, some areas across the authority continue to face limited access to appropriate venues, often relying on shared school halls or leisure centres with restricted availability. This lack of dedicated space has led to issues with capacity, waiting lists, and difficulties in growing participation, especially underserved communities.

Conversations between British Gymnastics and clubs highlight the need for more secure and long-term access to suitable facilities. Some clubs require the development of dedicated gymnastics spaces that can support more regular programming. Through regional partnerships and initiatives such as Club Capital, British Gymnastics is looking to help clubs in Bradford move towards having access to sustainable and purpose-built facilities.

Club consultation

All six clubs were invited to take part in consultation as part of the audit process. Two responded. Below is the summary of this consultation:

Saltaire Gym Club is a long-established specialist sports acrobatics club which runs a competitive programme that produces gymnasts who regularly perform at regional and national level. It is currently operating at maximum capacity (with c.150 participants across its recreational and competitive sessions). Demand exceeds available capacity and the club maintains a significant waiting list. Prospective members can have to wait for up to 12 months for a place. Due to capacity constraints, it undertakes little to no promotion of its activities.

It operates from the sports hall at Titus Salt School, which is a multi-use facility and is, thus, unable to accommodate permanent gymnastics equipment. As a result, the club relies on temporary equipment, including mats and a blow-up track, which must be set up and dismantled before and after each session. Consultation highlighted that these limitations affect training quality and place the club at a disadvantage compared to clubs operating from

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

dedicated facilities. Additional pressures relate to the time, staffing and costs associated with setting up and clearing the venue for each session.

The club's primary aspiration is to secure access to a dedicated facility. It highlighted that high level discussions have taken place with CBMDC with regard to the potential development of a new multi-sport venue, which could accommodate gymnastics alongside other indoor activities such as dance and martial arts. Consultation indicated that the club considers there is sufficient unmet demand across Bradford to support a dedicated gymnastics centre and facilitate significant future growth in participation.

Aire Valley Gymnastics Club operates from a converted mill space in Keighley and is run as a commercial entity. It currently has c.350 members. Demand is strong, with the club maintaining a waiting list and deliberately limiting marketing activity to avoid generating demand which cannot be accommodated within existing capacity. It faces similar challenges those of Saltaire Gym Club, with demand exceeding the capacity of available facilities. More generally, the club identified the lack of dedicated gymnastics provision within Bradford as a significant issue, noting that previous specialist facilities have closed and that suitable premises with the necessary height, dimensions and affordability are difficult to secure. These constraints limit opportunity to expand provision and meet existing demand.

Bradford Gymnastics Club, TK Gymfit, Bradford Olympian Trampoline Club, and Ilkley Gym Club did not respond to consultation requests, despite numerous attempts. Below is a desk-based summary, with membership numbers provided by BG:

Bradford Gymnastics Club (c.117 members) is based at a dedicated gymnastics facility on Arthington Street, close to Bradford city centre. Established more than 50 years ago, it has occupied its current premises since 1987. It delivers women's artistic gymnastics and tumbling programmes, providing opportunities for participants aged four and above, from beginner and recreational sessions through to advanced and competition-level gymnastics. The club also works with local schools and has a history of producing gymnasts who have competed at county and national level.

TK Gymfit (c.106 members) is based at a dedicated gymnastics facility on Barkerend Road in Bradford. It delivers a broad recreational gymnastics programme, including boys' and girls' gymnastics, pre-school gymnastics, parent and toddler sessions, rhythmic gymnastics, holiday camps and adult gymnastics. Established in 2018, it recently relocated to a larger facility, enabling it to expand its programme offer and provide enhanced training space/equipment.

Bradford Olympian Trampoline Club (76 members) is based at Bradford Girls' Grammar School and specialises in trampolining. Established in 1985, it provides recreational and competitive trampolining opportunities for participants aged five upwards. It has a strong competition pathway, with athletes regularly participating in regional and national events, and has developed links with local schools and organisations supporting disabled participants.

Ilkley Gym Club (132 members), based at Ilkley Grammar School, provides gymnastics opportunities for boys and girls aged 5-18 years. It offers both recreational and competitive pathways, supporting participants of a range of abilities. Its programme is focused on developing fitness, coordination and confidence while providing opportunities for young people to progress within the sport.

Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre's structured junior gymnastics programme comprises seven weekly sessions across four age groups. During an average week in June 2026, a total of 160 children were enrolled in the programme, including preschool Gym Tots sessions, classes for children aged 3-5 years and 5-7 years, and gymnastics sessions for those aged 8

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

years and above. Participation levels are consistently high, with most sessions operating at, or close to, capacity, indicating strong demand for junior gymnastics provision at the centre.

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	There are six gymnastics and trampolining clubs operating from six sites in Bradford. In addition, CBMDC operates an in-house gymnastics programme from the sports hall at Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre. Overall, provision comprises three dedicated gymnastics facilities and four non-dedicated sites which host gymnastics activity on a regular basis.	Demand for gymnastics is strong, with several clubs operating at or close to capacity. There may be potential to explore whether and how additional specialist or semi-specialist provision, particularly could be delivered as part of a wider multi-sport indoor facility model. Further feasibility work is required to assess the scale of demand, facility requirements, capital costs, operational model and potential users.
Quality	No quality issues were reported.	-
Accessibility	All residents live within 30 minutes' drive time of a gymnastics facility. In addition to provision within Bradford, dedicated gymnastics facilities in neighbouring Leeds and Kirklees are accessible to some residents, particularly those in the east and southeast of the district.	The main challenge is facility size and clubs' inability to grow. Support should be provided where possible to facilitate facility improvements, working with British Gymnastics.
Availability (Management & usage)	Consultation indicates that demand exceeds available capacity at both Saltaire Gym Club and Aire Valley Gymnastics Club, with both reporting waiting lists. Capacity at the other clubs is unknown.	-

Strategic summary

- CBMDC, in conjunction with clubs and BG, should collaborate to try to ensure that clubs have access to suitable facilities. This should include ensuring that facilities remain affordable and accessible for those seeking to expand.
- Consideration should be given to expanding CBMDC delivered gymnastics sessions to other leisure centres, for example The Leisure Centre Keighley.
- Saltaire Gym Club and Aire Valley Gymnastics Club identified an aspiration for improved access to specialist gymnastics accommodation. However, the current evidence should not be interpreted as demonstrating a confirmed need for a standalone council-owned/led gymnastics facility. Rather, there may be merit in further exploring whether gymnastics could form part of a wider multi-sport indoor facility offer, potentially alongside combat sports, dance and other compatible activities.
- Further feasibility assessment is required before any facility proposal is progressed. This should consider the scale of gymnastics demand, wider indoor sport demand, site options, management model, deliverability, capital and revenue implications, and the role of clubs, CBMDC, British Gymnastics and other potential partners.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS

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

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

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

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

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

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. 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 England²⁶ 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 or public transport, with the remainder by foot.
- ❖ As a guide, calculate demand on the basis of one rink per 14,000-17,000 total population.
- ❖ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

EIBA stated priorities are:

- ❖ Recruitment of participants.
- ❖ Retention of participants.
- ❖ Clubs are recommended to:
- ❖ Develop and implement a robust sports development plan.
- ❖ Actively review the Sport England 'Buddle' website.

²⁶ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Actively promote the club in the local community amongst those who are able bodied and disabled. Wheelchair users and visually impaired people are particularly keen on the sport of bowls.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

EIBA Vision 2025-2027

This plan focuses 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:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ◀ Recruit and retain | ◀ Commercial activities |
| ◀ Facilities – build, improve, retain | ◀ Competitions |
| ◀ Inclusion | ◀ Performance |
| ◀ Communications | ◀ Governance. |

The EIBA “Recruit and Retain Strategy” is to concentrate on the family aspect of our Sport. This means that we are keen for all of our Clubs to avail themselves of opportunities for “increasing participation” and “improving the experience” of all able-bodied or disabled participants in Bowls across all ages and gender. Running alongside this is the Sport England funded development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

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

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

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

- ◀ **Safeguarding:** ensuring the sport is safe for everyone to play by working across all five National Governing Bodies (NGBs) [BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling Federation] to have policies and processes in place. Training is 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.
- ◀ **Women can:** the BDA are driving a campaign alongside BE and the EIBA to encourage more women to play bowls, coach bowls and volunteer in bowls.
- ◀ **Equality & diversity:** the BDA, BE and the EIBA are all striving to ensure the sport of bowls is as diverse as it can be.

BDA Vision and Strategy 2022-2027

This Strategy focuses on the new era of collaboration across the bowls network. Its vision is to place bowls at the heart of every community as an accessible sport for all. Its outlined strategic priorities are as follows:

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

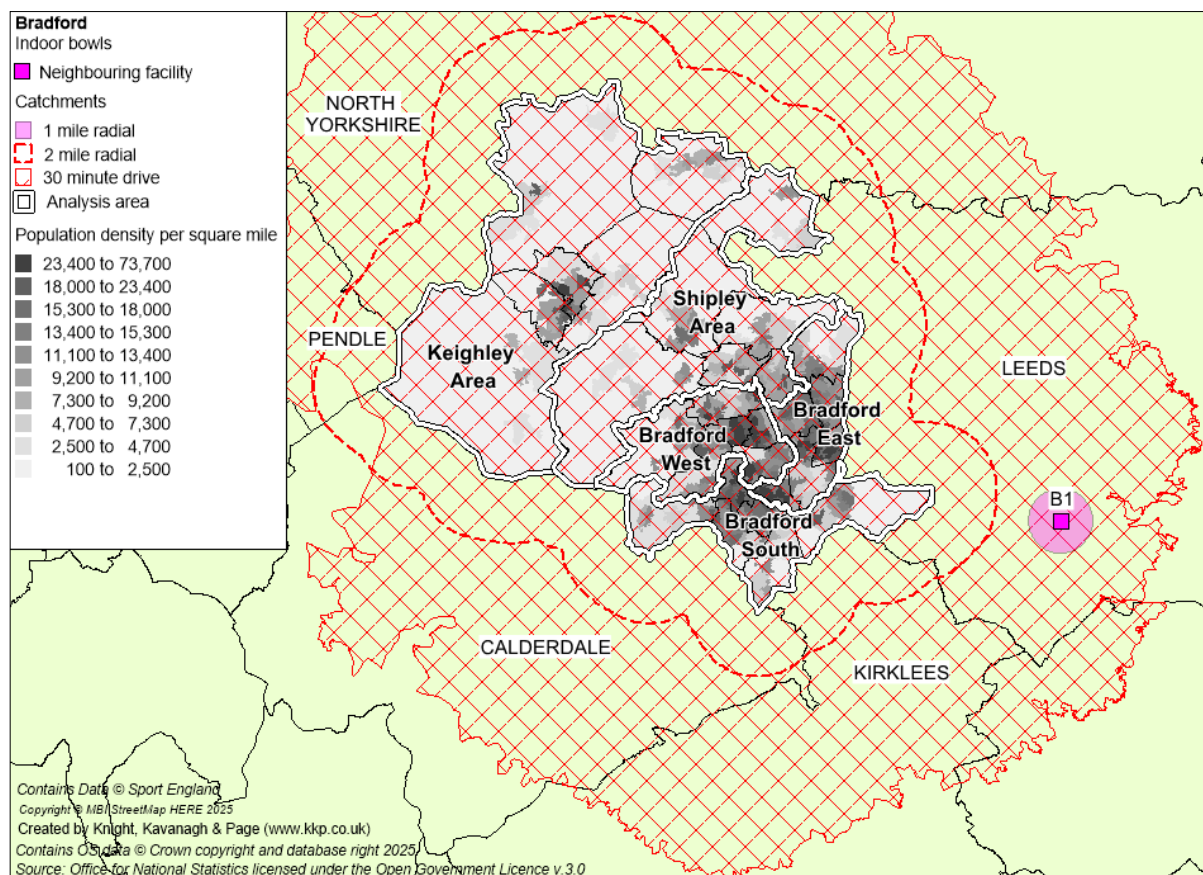
- Build partnerships and communities:** To ensure our role in the bowls family preserves the important connection with our partners and key stakeholders through the continuation of shared goals and objectives, aligning to our organisation's vision of transforming bowls into an accessible sport for all.
- Educate and empower:** To increase the impact we have on tackling inequalities through a more connected and educated volunteer workforce who fully support our efforts at a local level and who represent a younger, more diverse group of people, ensuring the sport has sustainability into the future.
- Diversify and innovate:** To continue to take the lead on driving inclusion with the view to improving the culture of our sport through more inclusive and innovative practices on the ground, linking into the whole sport inclusion strategy.
- Sustain and grow:** To ensure we have tried and tested sustainability plans in place to recruit and retain volunteers and grow participation at our clubs, working closely with our wider network to broaden our reach and influence.

9.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

There is currently no permanent indoor bowls facility in Bradford. The nearest venue is the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. It should be noted that Leeds Road Sports Complex in Kirklees provides an artificial crown green bowling facility covered by an air hall. However, as the air hall is a temporary seasonal structure rather than a permanent building, the facility is not classified as a permanent indoor bowls venue. Consistent with this classification, EIBA does not recognise the Leeds Road Sports Complex as a permanent indoor bowls facility.

Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive of Bradford



CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive of Bradford

ID	Site	Rinks	Access	District
B1	John Charles Centre for Sport	8	Pay & play	Leeds

Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole Bradford's population lives within a 30-minute drive of the John Charles Centre for Sport facility in Leeds.

Availability

Pay and play access at the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds is available. Pricing starts at £4.00 for a -hour session with casual sessions generally available weekday afternoons. Leeds and District Indoor Bowls Club is based at the venue.

9.2: Demand

To gauge demand for an indoor bowling facility in Bradford, consultation was undertaken with EIBA. It is currently reviewing market analysis guidance to decide if new provision is required, as additional criteria/parameters are now appropriate and should be considered. These additional criteria are as follows;

- Travel time: it is considering extending the travel time threshold beyond 30 minutes. The appropriate catchment may vary regionally, reflecting differences in the current distribution and availability of indoor bowling facilities.
- Mode of travel: The inclusion of public transport as a mode of travel should be considered, particularly in rural areas where access by private car may be more limited and travel patterns differ from urban locations.
- Members per rink ratio: While the members-per-rink ratio remains a relevant measure of capacity, it should be supplemented by an assessment of spare rink capacity during playing sessions. This is particularly important given that many older participants are less willing to travel during the hours of darkness, which can influence peak demand and facility usage patterns.

This review is currently being undertaken alongside a full review of the Sport England design guidance.

It is recommended that CBMDC liaise with EIBA following completion of the review to establish whether sufficient demand exists to justify the provision of an indoor bowls facility within the area. It should be noted that the recently completed Calderdale Indoor Built Facilities Strategy also identifies need for indoor bowls provision. Should the EIBA review demonstrate sufficient demand, a collaborative approach between CBMDC and Calderdale Council should be explored to consider the feasibility of developing a facility serving both authority areas.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

9.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no indoor bowls facility in Bradford authority. The one facility within a 30 minute drive is in Leeds.	EIBA is currently undertaking a review of how it calculates future facility demand. CBMDC should liaise with EIBA once the review is complete.
Quality	-	
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30-minute drive of the indoor bowls facility in Leeds.	-
Availability (Management and usage)	The facility in Leeds offers pay and play access, along with club membership options.	-

Strategic summary

- There is no indoor bowls facility in Bradford, however, there is one facility within a 30-minute drive, which is located in Leeds.
- EIBA is currently undertaking a review of its methodology for assessing future facility demand. Once this is complete, it is recommended that demand for an indoor bowls facility within the area is reassessed. Similar work undertaken in Calderdale identified a need for indoor bowls provision within that authority. Therefore, should the updated EIBA assessment indicate sufficient demand, CBMDC should consider undertaking a joint feasibility study with Calderdale Council to explore the development of a facility serving residents of both Bradford and Calderdale.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) governs tennis in the UK, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. Its work includes a focus on the following areas:

Making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access– for instance, through [LTA Youth](#), its innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through [Open Court](#), its disability tennis programme which has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through [SERVES](#), its programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis [competitions](#) that it delivers for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year.

Transforming tennis in the UK by working with everyone in the sport– for instance, through its [Inclusion Strategy](#) for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through its [safeguarding](#), ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in [parks tennis facilities](#) for local communities across the country; and through the development of [padel](#) as an exciting new form of tennis that’s easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences.

Tennis Opened Up

The LTAs strategic vision is ‘Tennis Opened Up’. This is based on an approach that anyone can play; whatever their motivation or ability, from all communities and backgrounds. At any age and for a whole lifetime, tennis provides physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. The LTA wants tennis and the benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

The LTA’s stated mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone. Volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues all play an essential role in the future of the sport; without them, tennis cannot exist. It is committed to supporting them and working with a whole range of other organisations and individuals connected to tennis, so that together it can grow tennis and open it up to many more people.

10.1: Supply

Indoor tennis is based on specialist facilities which appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minute drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility. There are two indoor tennis facilities in Bradford (a total of eight courts). Heaton Tennis & Squash Club is located in the Bradford West analysis area, while Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club is located in the Keighley analysis area.

Table 10.1: Indoor tennis provision in Bradford

ID	Site	Courts	Access	Condition
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	3	Reg. membership	Not assessed
40	Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	5	Reg. membership	Good

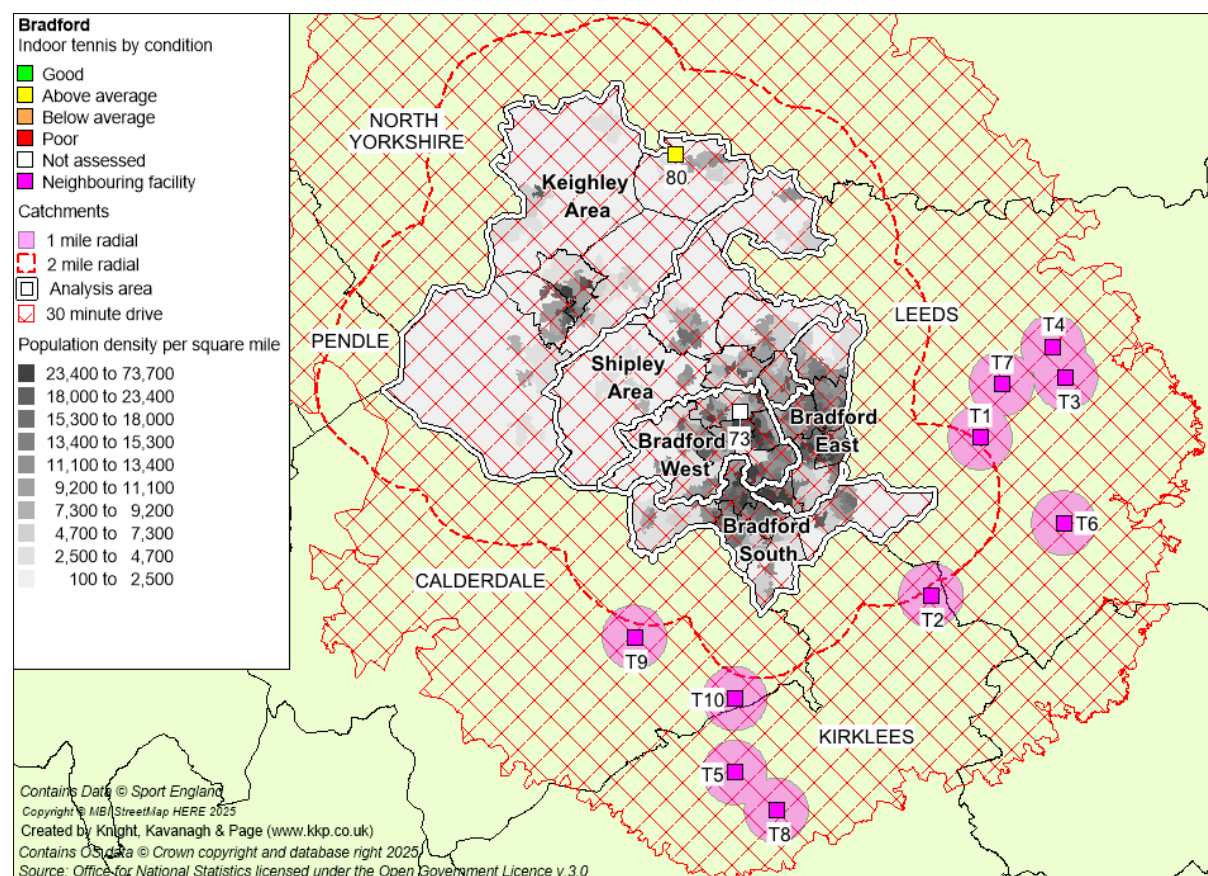
There are ten indoor tennis facilities located in neighbouring local authorities.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 10.2: Indoor tennis facilities in neighbouring authorities

ID	Site	Courts	Access	LA
T1	Armley Tennis Club	1	Reg. membership	Leeds
T2	Batley Sports and Tennis Centre	4	Pay & play	Kirklees
T3	Chapel Allerton Tennis Squash & Gym Club	3	Reg. membership	Leeds
T4	David Lloyd (Leeds)	11	Reg. membership	Leeds
T5	Huddersfield Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	4	Reg. membership	Kirklees
T6	John Charles Centre for Sport	6	Pay & play	Leeds
T7	Leeds Beckett University (Carnegie Sports Centre)	4	Sports club / CA	Leeds
T8	Longley Community Sports Club	1	Sports club / CA	Kirklees
T9	Queens Sports Club	2	Reg. membership	Calderdale
T10	Rastrick Tennis Club	1	Sports club / CA	Calderdale

Figure 10.1 Indoor tennis facilities; Bradford and neighbouring authorities (30-minute drive time)



Quality

Heaton Tennis & Squash Club was approached for consultation; however, no response was received despite numerous attempts to engage. It was also not possible to assess the courts virtually. By contrast, Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club participated in consultation and reported that it considers its courts to be of good quality. Originally constructed in 1999, all five were fully re-skimmed and repainted in 2024, with associated improvements made to the court surrounds.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Accessibility and availability

Both indoor tennis facilities located within Bradford are accessible to all residents within a 30-minute drive-time catchment. They operate primarily as membership-based clubs rather than traditional pay and play venues, although opportunities for non-members to access courts are available. At Heaton Tennis & Squash Club, adult playing membership is available at a cost of £26.50 per month (£280 per annum). The club also permits guest and non-member bookings, providing opportunities for casual participation without the need for full membership.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club also operates on a membership basis. Adult rackets membership costs £41.18 per month (£438.66 per annum) and provides access to the club's indoor tennis facilities, excluding court booking fees. Full membership options are also available, providing access to both racket sport and fitness facilities.

There are 37 indoor tennis courts at ten sites within 30-minutes' drive of the Bradford boundary. The five venues in Leeds account for 25. The three sites in Kirklees account for a further nine courts. The remaining two venues comprising three courts) are located in Calderdale.

10.2: Demand

The LTA 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 demand. It has identified 72 priority target areas for development of new indoor courts in the UK of which Bradford is one. However, no current potential new sites have been identified. Demand for indoor courts at outdoor venues will be captured via the Bradford PPOSS.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club reports a membership base of c.2,500, having grown from around 2,000 members since the pandemic. While this growth has been driven primarily by its fitness offer, the club highlights extremely high utilisation of its indoor tennis provision between September and March, reflecting strong demand during the winter months.

It was not possible to capture demand for the courts at Heaton Tennis and Squash Club.

10.3: Padel tennis

Padel is reportedly one of the fastest growing sports in Great Britain. Significant investment has been made in the sport since the LTA became the NGB in 2019. It is played on an enclosed court that is one third the size of a tennis court, in a doubles format - by groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although serves are under-arm and walls are part of the game - the ball being allowed to bounce off them.

The updated LTA Padel Strategy 2024 – 2029. ([LTA Padel Strategy](#)) has a focus on growing the infrastructure, increasing and diversifying the coaching workforce and building on the performance pathway as well as increasing visibility and driving participation. As of March 2025, there were over 1,000 courts in GB (60% indoor). The LTA reports the following:

- ❖ It estimates that 145,000 people have played padel in British venues in the past year with around half this number playing regularly/monthly.
- ❖ At present, most players are adults; juniors account for less than one in ten of the total.
- ❖ Most venues reported strong growth, with high interest in taster sessions, and players enjoying the fun/sociability offered by the sport.
- ❖ Currently demand is reportedly outstripping supply, with many venues keen to add courts, or cover existing outdoor tennis courts although costs and the complexity of local planning rules, can be problematic.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In terms of future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (tennis clubs, parks, indoor tennis centres). In addition, padel court development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and rugby/football sites can be beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model.

The LTA is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. It reports that this is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient.

Padel court supply and demand

To assist local authorities to strategically plan for padel provision across the authority, the LTA has estimated the number of courts that can be sustained based on population density and its assumptions about padel demand. Figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. The suggested number is neither a cap nor a target, simply an indication that the LTA has confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. In areas where the sport is more established there is likely to be higher demand. The current LTA estimate of the number of courts for which there is demand in Bradford is 42.

KKP's audit indicates that there are presently 12 padel courts across four sites; one temporary outdoor court at Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and a total of 11 indoor courts at Strike Padel Bradford, Salus Padel and Voltage Padel (Baildon).

Based on LTA estimates and reported demand by Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club there is opportunity to develop additional padel courts in the district. While it is not uncommon for tennis clubs to develop padel provision within club grounds, the Bradford PPOSS identifies a number of proposals which have either been granted planning permission or are currently progressing through the planning process. These include plans at Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club to develop four (including two covered) padel courts, alongside a range of commercial developments. Should all currently approved schemes come forward, provision in Bradford would increase significantly.

10.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are two indoor tennis facilities in Bradford providing eight indoor courts. A further 37 indoor tennis courts are available across ten sites within a 30-minute drive time catchment of the Bradford boundary. Bradford is also home to 12 padel courts across four sites, comprising one temporary outdoor court and 11 indoor courts.	Bradford is identified by the LTA as a priority target area for indoor tennis investment, although no potential new indoor tennis sites have, as yet, been identified. LTA's padel mapping suggests demand for up to 42 community-accessible padel courts in the district. Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club is exploring options to develop four padel courts (two outdoor/two covered).
Quality	Facilities at Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash club are rated good quality, whilst those at Heaton Tennis & Squash Club were not assessed.	Ensure existing indoor tennis provision is maintained to a good standard and seek further engagement with Heaton Tennis & Squash Club to better understand facility quality and future needs.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Accessibility	The whole Bradford population lives within a 30-minute drive of the two indoor tennis facilities.	-
Availability (Management & usage)	Both indoor tennis venues operate primarily as membership-based clubs. While opportunities for casual access are available through guest and ad hoc bookings, these are more limited than a traditional pay and play model and may present a greater barrier to access for non-members.	Given the lack of alternative pay and play provision, CBMDC should work with the LTA to establish whether pay and play tennis sessions can be established at both facilities.

Strategic summary

- ✦ There is geographically accessible provision given the presence of two indoor tennis facilities in Bradford.
- ✦ Both of these require membership to access the full programme of tennis activities.
- ✦ While opportunities for casual access are available, CBMDC should work with the LTA and local clubs to explore whether additional pay and play options can be provided.
- ✦ Bradford is identified by the LTA as a priority area for investment in indoor tennis provision, although no potential indoor tennis development site(s) have been identified. CBMDC should liaise with the LTA to explore options.
- ✦ Monitor demand levels for padel. Consider opportunities to develop padel courts at public leisure sites and other community managed sites should additional courts be required.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 11: COMBAT SPORTS

This section focuses on the supply and demand position for combat sports in Bradford. Supporting data sets for provision of combat sports clubs and facilities are limited and as such KKP undertook a desk top research exercise to identify combat sports activity present at facilities in the authority. It was identified that significant activity for nine²⁷ core disciplines, although up to 15 disciplines were found with many of these being adaptations of the core nine. Below is summary outlining various forms and definitions of each martial arts discipline²⁸:

Boxing

Boxing originated in England and is one of the world's most widely practised combat sports. It involves two opponents competing using punches delivered with gloved fists, alongside defensive techniques such as blocking, footwork and head movement. Training typically includes technical drills, sparring and fitness conditioning to develop strength, speed, endurance and co-ordination.

Boxing promotes physical fitness, discipline, confidence and resilience, and is practised both competitively and recreationally. It has been an Olympic sport since 1904 and remains one of the most prominent combat sports worldwide. Boxing in England is governed by England Boxing, which oversees affiliated clubs, competitions and the development of the sport at national and regional level.

Karate

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

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

Aikido

Aikido originated in Japan and is a martial art that focuses on using an opponent's movement and momentum against them through throws, joint locks and control techniques rather than strikes. Training emphasises balance, co-ordination, movement and technique, with practitioners learning how to redirect attacks and apply defensive responses in a controlled manner.

Aikido promotes physical fitness, discipline, self-control and respect, while placing particular emphasis on personal development and non-aggressive conflict resolution. It is generally practised as a non-competitive martial art focused on skill development and self-defence. Aikido in England is governed by several national organisations, including the British Aikido Board (BAB), which oversees standards and development across the sport.

Taekwondo

²⁷ Other disciplines are present in the authority, these are listed where relevant in Table 9.2.

²⁸ Descriptions were sourced via desktop research utilising world federations websites.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

Taekwondo in England is governed by both British Taekwondo and GB Taekwondo.

Ju-Jitsu

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

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

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

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

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

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

Muay Thai

Muay Thai originated in Thailand and is often referred to as the "Art of Eight Limbs" due to its use of punches, kicks, elbows and knees. It is a striking-based combat sport that also incorporates clinching techniques, requiring participants to develop strength, speed, endurance, co-ordination and tactical awareness. Training typically includes pad work, bag work, sparring and fitness conditioning. Muay Thai promotes physical fitness, discipline, resilience and self-confidence, and is practised for both competition and recreational fitness. It is one of the world's most popular striking martial arts and has gained significant international recognition through

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

professional competition and participation pathways. Muay Thai in England is governed by the British Muaythai Council (BMC), which oversees the development and regulation of the sport.

Krav Maga

Krav Maga is a self-defence and combat system developed for the Israeli military in the 1940s. It combines techniques from boxing, wrestling, judo and other martial arts, with a focus on practical, real-world scenarios and rapid threat neutralisation.

Training emphasises instinctive movements, situational awareness and defence against a range of attacks, including strikes, grabs and weapons threats. Unlike many traditional martial arts, Krav Maga is not primarily a competitive sport and does not typically involve formal competitions. Participants develop striking, grappling and self-defence skills while improving fitness, confidence and personal safety awareness. In England, the discipline is delivered through a range of national and independent organisations rather than a single recognised national governing body.

Kickboxing

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

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

11.1: Supply & Demand

KKP's audit identified 37 dedicated combat sports venues in Bradford. A further 27 non-dedicated venues are identified as accommodating combat sports activity. Tables 13.1 and 13.2 below outline activity across the Authority. Combat sports facilities are not included within Active Places database as a facility type, and thus this report focuses on facilities within the Bradford authority only.

Table 11.1: Dedicated combat sports facilities in Bradford

ID	Site name	Club	Activities
165	Bradford University Sports Centre	N/A	Boxing
183	Aztec Boxing Club	Aztec Boxing Club	Boxing
184	Bangladeshi Youth Organisation (BYO)	BYO Karate	Karate
185	Beanland Taekwondo	Beanland Taekwondo	Taekwondo
186	Black Spider Academy	Black Spider Academy	Boxing, hybrid martial arts, self-defence
187	Bradford Wing Chun Kung Fu School	Bradford Wing Chun Kung Fu School	Wing Chun Kung Fu ²⁹

²⁹ Wing Chun Kung Fu is a traditional Chinese martial art that focuses on close-range striking, defensive techniques and efficient body movement. It emphasises speed, co-ordination, balance and practical self-defence, and is practised for both personal development and combat skills.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Club	Activities
190	Colosseum Performance	Colosseum Performance	MMA, Kickboxing
191	Core Combat Sports	Core Combat Sports	Muay Thai, MMA
193	Cylde Street (Mill Space)	Physical Impact Kickboxing	Kickboxing
195	Dream Art Bradford	Dream Art Bradford	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
198	Fusion Martial Arts Centre	Fusion Marshal Arts	Kickboxing, MMA, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
199	Game Fight Bradford	Game Fight Bradford	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai
201	Huggy's Boxing Gym	Huggy's Boxing Gym	Boxing
203	JBF MMA	JBF MMA	MMA
204	JT Martial Arts	JT Martial Arts	Karate, hybrid martial arts, self-defence
205	Karmand Community Centre	Karmand Amateur Boxing Club	Boxing
206	Keighley Business Centre	Keighley Amateur Boxing Club (ABC)	Boxing
206	Keighley Business Centre	Switch Hitters Boxing Gym	Boxing
207	Keighley MMA	Keighley MMA	MMA
208	Khadijah Combat Academy	Khadijah Combat Academy	Kickboxing
210	Kokoro Academy	Kokoro Academy	Taekwondo, kickboxing, Budo Taijutsu ³⁰
212	Leeds Road Boxing Club	Leeds Road Boxing Club	Boxing
213	Lights Out Boxing Club	Lights Out Boxing Club	Boxing
214	Mata Leão BJJ	Mata Leão BJJ	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, No-Gi ³¹
215	Noble Freestyle	Noble Freestyle	Freestyle martial arts
216	Onward BJJ	Onward BJJ	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu / MMA
217	Physical Impact Kickboxing	Physical Impact Kickboxing	Kickboxing
218	Platinum Boxing	Platinum Boxing	Boxing
219	Pound for Pound Boxing Academy	Pound for Pound Boxing Academy	Boxing
220	Premier Martial Arts Bradford	Premier Martial Arts Bradford	Taekwondo, Kickboxing, Krav Maga
221	Sensei Sheikh Karate & Kickboxing Academy	Sensei Sheikh Karate & Kickboxing Academy	Shito-Ryu Karate, Kickboxing
226	Strike Taekwondo	Strike Taekwondo	Taekwondo
227	Tasif Khan Community Boxing Academy (TKCBA)	Tasif Khan Community Boxing Academy (TKCBA)	Boxing
228	Team Fulinkazan / SBG Bradford	Team Fulinkazan / SBG Bradford	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, kickboxing, Kudo ³² , MMA
229	The Martial Arts Centre	The Martial Arts Centre	MMA, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai, boxing, kickboxing
231	Unity Boxing Academy	Unity Boxing Academy	Boxing

³⁰ Budo Taijutsu is a Japanese martial art that combines techniques from several traditional martial arts, including striking, throwing, joint locks and defensive movement. It emphasises co-ordination, balance, situational awareness and practical self-defence, while promoting discipline and personal development.

³¹ No-Gi is a style of grappling, most commonly associated with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ), in which participants train and compete without the traditional gi (martial arts uniform). Instead, practitioners wear shorts and rash guards, placing greater emphasis on speed, wrestling-based techniques and body control rather than gripping clothing.

³² Kudo is a modern Japanese mixed martial art that combines elements of karate, judo, kickboxing and grappling. It allows a wide range of striking and throwing techniques, with competitors wearing protective headgear to enable full-contact competition.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

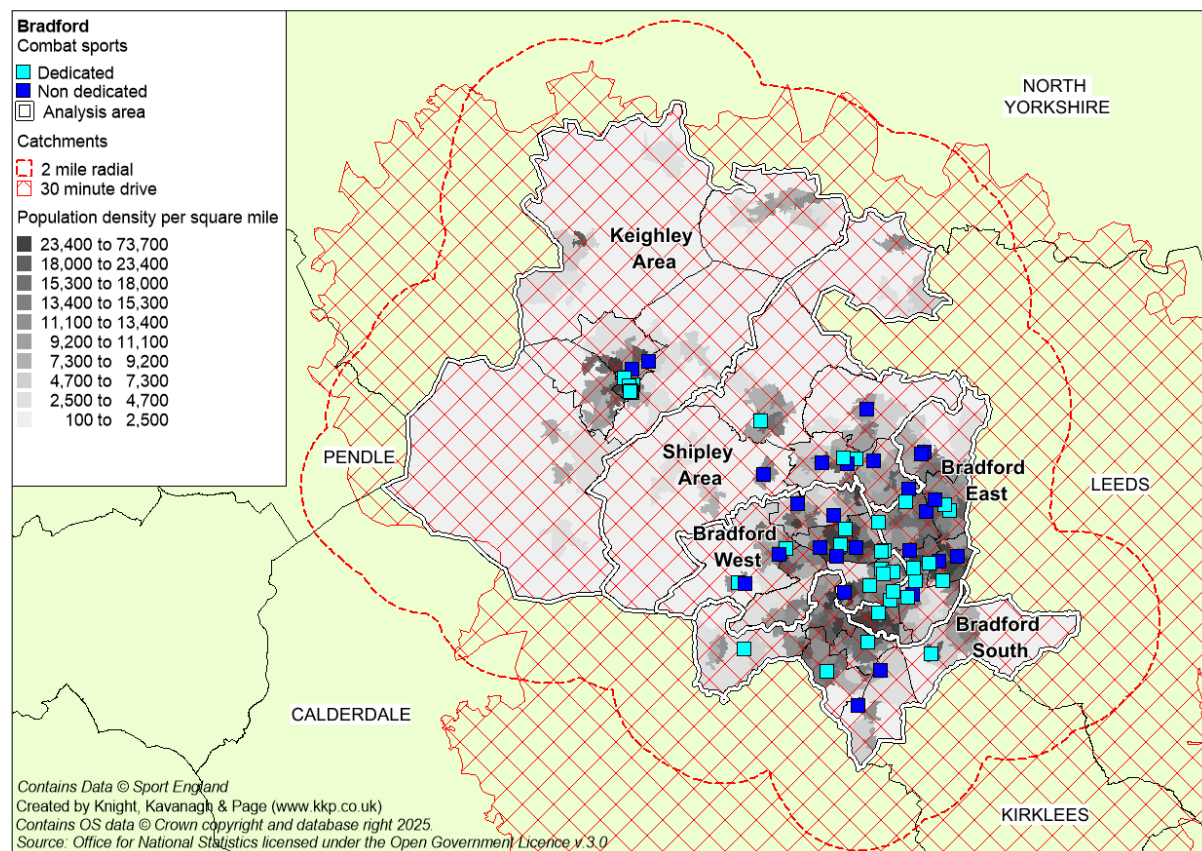
ID	Site name	Club	Activities
232	Warrior Martial Arts Academy	Bradford Dragons Shukokai Karate	Shukokai Karate, Shito-Ryu Karate
232	Warrior Martial Arts Academy	Warrior Martial Arts Academy	Hybrid martial arts / karate
234	WMA Keighley	WMA	Hybrid martial arts

Table 11.2: Non-dedicated combat sports facilities in Bradford

ID	Site name	Club	Activities
5	Baildon Methodist Church	Seishin-Ryu Karate Club	Karate
27	Bradford Girls Grammar School	ABS Martial Arts	Renshinkai Karate
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	Bradford Dragons Shukokai Karate	Shukokai Karate
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	GKR Karate Bradford Academy	Karate
73	Heaton Tennis & Squash Club	JKS Bradford	Shotokan Karate
92	Kents Gym	Bradford Tomiki Aikido Club	Aikido
93	Khidmat Centre	Physical Impact Kickboxing	Kickboxing
99	Manningham Sports Centre	Bradford Martial Arts Academy	Taekwondo, hybrid martial arts
99	Manningham Sports Centre	United Martial Arts Academy	Taekwondo, hybrid martial arts
131	Sangat Centre	Physical Impact Kickboxing	Kickboxing
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	Bradford Shotokan Academy	Shotokan Karate
132	Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre	Bradford Tomiki Aikido Club	Aikido
174	Zara Sports Centre	Predator Kickboxing	Kickboxing
175	Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Bradford)	Bradford Gurdwara Karate	Karate
188	Cafe West	Bradford Jiu Jitsu Club	Ju Jitsu, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
189	Civic Centre	Jason Murray Martial Arts	Karate Jutsu, Karate, Ju-Jitsu, Kung Fu, Kickboxing
192	Cottingley Community Centre	Yorkshire Karate Academy	Shukokai Karate
194	Delph Hill Centre	Sanctus Boxing Club	Boxing
196	Eccleshill Mechanics Institute (Eccleshill Community Association Ltd)	TSX Martial Arts	Taekwondo
196	Eccleshill Mechanics Institute	Turner Taekwondo	Taekwondo
197	Footsteps Theatre School	King's Karate Club	Karate
200	Girlington Community Centre	Onna Ju-Jitsu	Ju-Jitsu
202	Idle & Thackley Conservative Club	Thackley Shotokan Tigers	Shotokan Karate
209	Kirkgate Community Centre	Bradford Jiu Jitsu Club	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Ju-Jitsu
211	Lapage Primary & Nursery School	Azar Farooq Kickboxing	Kickboxing
222	St Augustine's Church	Bradford Martial Arts Academy	Taekwondo, hybrid martial arts
223	St Cuthbert Church	HF Martial Arts	Taekwondo
224	St James Church	HF Martial Arts	Taekwondo
225	St Peter's Church Hall	Beanland Taekwondo	Taekwondo
230	Thornbury Centre	Bradford Martial Arts Academy	Taekwondo, other martial arts
233	Windhill Community Centre	Bradford Jiu Jitsu Club	Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Ju-Jitsu

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Combat sports provision in Bradford



Combat sports provision in Bradford is extensive and diverse, with over 60 clubs and activity offers identified. Activities range from boxing, karate and kickboxing through to taekwondo, MMA, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Ju-Jitsu, aikido, Muay Thai, Wing Chun Kung Fu, Krav Maga and a range of hybrid martial arts disciplines. Provision is delivered through a mix of dedicated martial arts facilities, boxing gyms, community venues, schools and sports centres.

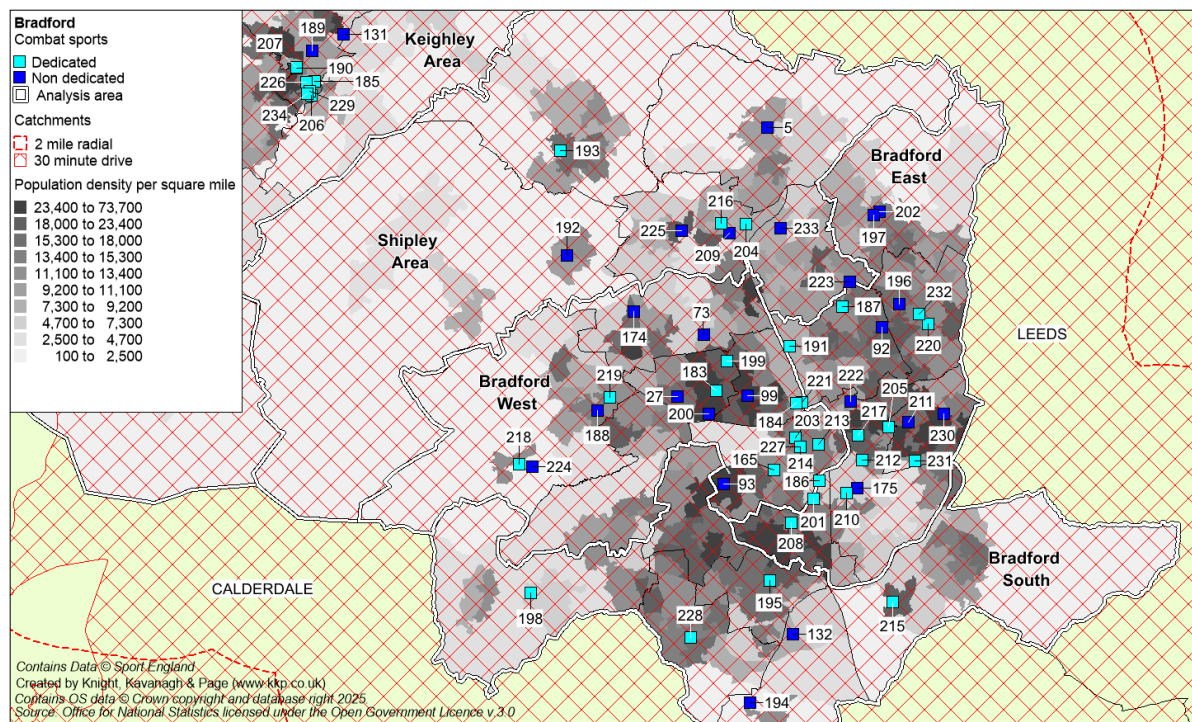
Provision is distributed across all five analysis areas, although the greatest concentration is evident in Bradford East and Bradford West, which accommodate a wide range of disciplines and a high number of dedicated venues. Bradford East has particularly strong representation from boxing, kickboxing, taekwondo and MMA, while Bradford West supports a similarly diverse offer including karate, boxing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, MMA, wrestling and kickboxing.

A notable characteristic of the sector is the prevalence of dedicated combat sports facilities, particularly for boxing, MMA, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and kickboxing. Many of these venues are located within converted industrial units, warehouses and former mill buildings, which provide the large open floorplates required for combat sports training.

In contrast, a significant proportion of karate, taekwondo and Ju-Jitsu provision continues to operate from community halls, schools and leisure centres, demonstrating the flexibility of these activities to utilise a wide range of indoor spaces. Overall, the audit indicates a well-established and geographically dispersed combat sports network across the district.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.2: Combat sports provision in Bradford (zoomed in)



The Keighley Area also has a broad combat sports offer, with dedicated boxing, MMA, taekwondo and mixed-discipline martial arts facilities. Bradford South has a smaller number of sites but includes several specialist facilities focused on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, MMA and boxing. The Shipley Area has the lowest overall provision but still accommodates a varied range of activities including karate, kickboxing, taekwondo, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Ju-Jitsu.

Accessibility and availability

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole Bradford population lives within a 30-minute drive of a combat sports facility. All facilities are accessible via pay and play or membership arrangements via the resident club/operator at each venue. All clubs/operators were approached for consultation, however, only eight responded despite numerous requests. A précis of the consultations follows below:

The University of Bradford accommodates a dedicated boxing facility within its sports centre. The facility was originally established in 2012 through Sport England funding and was subsequently incorporated into the university's sports provision following changes to boxing activity previously associated with Bradford College. It remains available for boxing-related activity and provides specialist training space within the wider sports complex.

Consultation infers that the facility is currently under-utilised, having declined following the departure of a key boxing coach and the impact of a university recruitment freeze, which has limited opportunities to develop participation and programming. As a result, current use is primarily focused on fitness-based sessions rather than structured boxing activity. The facility therefore appears to have spare capacity and could accommodate increased boxing activity should coaching resources and demand be strengthened in the future.

Turner Taekwondo is a community-based taekwondo club operating from Eccleshill Mechanics Institute, where it delivers sessions on four days per week. Established approximately two years

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ago, it currently has c.70 members and remains in a growth phase, with aspirations to expand participation and develop a permanent training base in the longer term.

It identified a number of challenges relating to facility provision across the district. These include the limited availability of affordable venues, difficulties securing access to school facilities, and concerns regarding the long-term security of tenure within community venues. It reported that moving to larger premises would significantly increase operating costs and potentially reduce affordability for participants. It also highlighted the lack of a suitably sized venue capable of hosting martial arts competitions following the closure of Richard Dunn Sports Centre. Despite these challenges, the club expressed a desire to continue growing its membership base and, subject to facility availability and affordability, potentially expand its activities to additional locations in Bradford.

Physical Impact Kickboxing is a well-established community interest company (CIC) founded in 2010. It delivers kickboxing from a network of venues across the district. It owns and operates its headquarters facility, a dedicated martial arts facility that is fully equipped for kickboxing training, while additional satellite sessions are delivered from a mix of dedicated and non-dedicated venues across Bradford, Keighley and Shipley. It currently has c.500 members ranging from children to adults and offers a diverse programme that includes women-only sessions.

It reports strong demand, with the majority of classes operating at capacity and some sessions maintaining waiting lists. Its primary challenge relates to balancing affordability with financial sustainability, as increasing operating costs and wider cost-of-living pressures make it more difficult to maintain accessible pricing for the local community. Looking ahead, the club has aspirations to invest in new equipment and introduce digital technologies, such as video analysis systems, to enhance the quality of coaching and the overall participant experience.

Dream Art Bradford is a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club that has operated from a dedicated facility within a converted mill building since 2022. The club delivers sessions for both adults and children, with the adult programme operating as a limited company and junior provision delivered through a CIC. It has experienced steady growth since its establishment and now reports c.300 members across its various sessions.

It identifies financial pressures as the principal challenge, particularly in relation to the VAT threshold, rising operating costs and increasing business rates. These factors are placing pressure on the affordability of participation, with additional costs increasingly needing to be passed on to members. Despite these challenges, the club continues to grow and demonstrates strong demand for specialist Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu provision in the district.

Thackley Shotokan Tigers is a karate club currently based at the Idle & Thackley Conservative Club, having recently relocated from Thackley Methodist Church. It delivers four sessions per week and utilises hall space which meets its operational requirements, including access to adequate storage for equipment. It has a relatively small membership base of c.26 participants, with an even split between junior and senior members. It reports that its current venue is well suited to its needs and identified no significant facility-related issues. It also has sufficient spare capacity to accommodate additional members, suggesting that future growth can be supported within the existing facility footprint.

Core Combat Sports is a dedicated combat sports provider delivering mixed martial arts (MMA) and Muay Thai from a specialist facility in a converted industrial unit in Bradford East. Operating as a business, it has c.125 members ranging from children to adults and reports strong demand for its activities. Current membership is constrained by the capacity of the existing venue, and the club is not presently accepting new members.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It reports that its dedicated facility meets its current operational needs but limits opportunities for future growth. It highlighted the complexity and timescales associated with securing planning consent and change of use for industrial premises, suggesting that the process can act as a barrier to the development of specialist sports facilities. It also identified VAT as a significant challenge, noting that MMA and Muay Thai provision is generally not VAT exempt, increasing operating costs and creating financial pressures across much of the combat sports sector.

Bradford Jiu Jitsu Club has been operating in Bradford for approximately 18 years and currently delivers Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Ju-Jitsu sessions primarily from Café West, with additional activity taking place at Windhill Community Centre. It is currently established as a limited company, although it is exploring the option to transition to become a community interest company (CIC). It has c.65 members and delivers training across two days per week.

It has aspirations to secure a long-term lease on a facility and establish its own dedicated training venue. It is currently exploring potential options and believes that having control of a dedicated space would enable it to expand its programme and increase membership significantly, with a longer-term ambition of growing to around 150 members.

Fusion Martial Arts Centre is a specialist combat sports provider delivering kickboxing, MMA and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu from a dedicated facility in the Queensbury area. Operating as a limited company, it caters for both junior and adult participants and currently has c.80 members. In addition to its core membership programme, it also delivers popular white-collar boxing sessions which attract around 40 participants per week. It has been based at its current facility, occupying dedicated space within a converted mill building, for approximately 18 months.

Prior to relocating to Queensbury, the club operated from premises closer to Bradford city centre and reported a loss of some members following the move due to increased travel requirements and associated costs. While the current facility provides a suitable dedicated training environment, the club considers its size to be a constraint on future growth and is actively exploring alternative accommodation options that would enable expansion. Key challenges identified include rising business rates and wider cost-of-living pressures, both of which are increasing operating costs and affecting the affordability of participation.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

11.2: Summary of key facts and issues – Combat sports

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 37 dedicated combat sports venues in Bradford, alongside a further 27 non-dedicated venues accommodating activity. Provision is extensive and diverse, encompassing boxing, karate, kickboxing, taekwondo, MMA, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Ju-Jitsu, aikido and other martial arts disciplines.	Several clubs reported constraints relating to venue capacity and that they are interested in securing access to larger or dedicated facilities to support future growth. There is potential to explore additional specialist or semi-specialist combat sports provision, particularly where this can be delivered as part of a wider multi-combat sport or generic multi-sport indoor facility model. Further feasibility work would be required to assess demand, facility requirements, capital costs, operational arrangements and the range of sports and user groups that could be accommodated.
Quality	The quality of provision is generally reported to be good, particularly within dedicated combat sports facilities.	Several clubs expressed aspirations to invest in and enhance their facilities, including additional equipment, technology and training space to improve participant experience and accommodate growth.
Accessibility	All residents of Bradford live within a 30-minute drive of a combat sports facility.	
Availability	Combat sports opportunity is generally available via formal membership arrangements, with many providers also offering introductory, pay and play or trial sessions. The sector is characterised by a mixture of commercial operators, CICs and voluntary clubs.	Several clubs reported cost pressures associated with rising rents, business rates, VAT liabilities and wider cost-of-living impacts. Maintaining affordability whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of clubs and facilities is likely to remain an ongoing challenge.

Strategic summary

- ◀ Combat sports have a strong presence across Bradford, with a diverse range of disciplines and good levels of accessibility for residents.
- ◀ Supply is characterised by a significant number of dedicated facilities in converted industrial units, warehouses and former mill buildings, many of which have developed independently in response to local demand.
- ◀ Consultation indicates strong demand for combat sports participation, with several clubs reporting growth in membership, capacity constraints and aspirations to expand facilities.
- ◀ Maintaining affordability whilst managing rising operating costs, business rates and VAT liabilities represents a key challenge for operators.
- ◀ There may be potential to explore specialist or semi-specialist combat sports provision as part of any future multi-sport indoor facility development, subject to further feasibility work to determine demand, viability and operational requirements.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 12: CLIMBING

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the national representative body that champions the interests of climbers, hill walkers, mountaineers and ski mountaineers in England and Wales. It is the Sport England recognised NGB for competition climbing. It is presently preparing its 2025-2030 strategy. Its Strategic Plan (2020-2024) sets a vision 'to create a better future for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers' based on five key themes:

- Access, conservation & environmental sustainability.
- Membership engagement, services & support.
- Education, inspiration & skills.
- Organisational development & sector leadership.
- GB Climbing - competitions, talented athletes & the GB Teams.

Sport climbing (speed, bouldering and lead) officially debuted at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. All three disciplines can be hosted at indoor venues and are popular formats of climbing. Bouldering is identified as a high growth area, especially for children entering the sport. The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) has several requirements for climbing walls used in Olympic standard competitions, they include:

- Boulder:** maximum height of 4m and safety mats below, climbers solve (complete) problems on 4/5 boulders in the lowest number of attempts over a set period of time.
- Lead:** climbers secured by a rope on an overhanging route climb to the highest point possible on a 15m high wall in six minutes. (Climbers can preview the route for six minutes prior and are kept in isolation before performing their attempt).
- Speed:** secured from above, climbers run up standardised parallel routes on a 15m wall. The fastest climber wins.

12.1: Supply & Demand

Due to health and safety requirements and the extensive training required to be a qualified climbing instructor and to operate a climbing wall, there is a need for a large population catchment to make a commercial facility sustainable, so facilities do tend to be located in more urban areas.

KKP's audit identified two climbing facilities in the district:

Table 12.1: Supply of climbing facilities

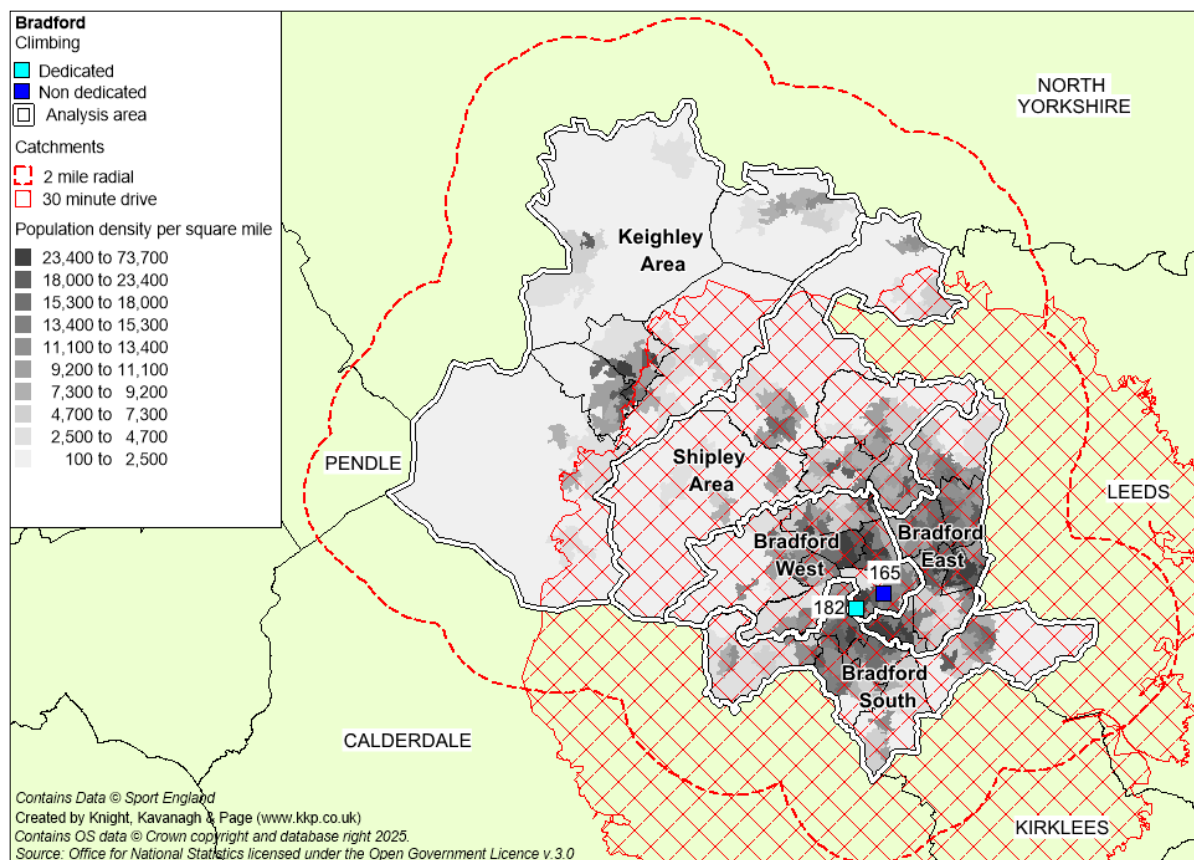
ID	Site	Facility type	Access policy
165	University of Bradford	Climbing wall	Pay & play
182	The Climbing Hub	Bouldering, climbing wall	Pay & play

Accessibility and availability

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that 86.1% of Bradford's population resides within a 30-minute drive of a climbing wall facility.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 12.1: Climbing facilities in Bradford



Site summaries

The University of Bradford operates a climbing wall at its main sports centre. Consultation identified that this has benefitted from recent investment, including the installation of auto-belay equipment. However, usage remains relatively limited outside of periodic introductory climbing courses, and the university has considered alternative uses for the space should participation levels not increase.

The Climbing Hub is the district's main specialist climbing facility and provides a wide range of opportunities for beginners through to experienced climbers. It includes bouldering, roped climbing, auto-belays, coaching and training facilities, operating on a membership and pay-and-play basis. As the only dedicated commercial climbing centre in Bradford, it plays an important role meeting local demand and reducing reliance on facilities in neighbouring authorities. However, despite attempts to engage with the operator, it was not possible to identify participation levels, facility utilisation or unmet demand at the site, limiting understanding of how effectively current demand is being accommodated.

Both facilities are available on a pay and play basis.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

12.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Climbing / bouldering	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are two climbing facilities in Bradford.	Demand for the climbing wall at Bradford University Sports Centre is low and the university is considering alternate uses for the space if demand does not increase.
Quality	The audit did not identify any issues with regard to the quality of existing provision.	-
Accessibility	86.1% of Bradford residents live within 30 minutes' drive time of an indoor climbing facility.	-
Availability (Management and usage)	Both facilities are available on a pay and play basis.	-

- ◀ The Climbing Hub is an important specialist facility within the district, providing climbing opportunities for people of a range of abilities and helping to reduce reliance on facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ The University of Bradford should explore opportunities to increase awareness and participation at its climbing wall, building on recent investment in the facility.
- ◀ Future engagement with The Climbing Hub should seek to better understand participation levels, facility utilisation and any evidence of unmet demand to inform future provision planning.

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 11: EMERGING STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The strategy which follows will take account of the findings of this needs assessment, Bradfords' demographic make-up and the council's vision. There is a general requirement to invest in sports facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose and offer a participation environment of the requisite quality. This encompasses offering welcoming, clean, attractive, modernised, flexible spaces that are operationally easy to manage, cost effective and enable a wide programme offer. This should lead to increased participation and a more active authority. Strategy recommendations are likely to be predicated upon some or all of the following:

In terms of public leisure provision, CBMDC should:

- ✦ Prioritise investment in council-managed sports facilities to improve quality, accessibility, customer experience and operational efficiency, with particular focus on facilities identified as below average or where condition surveys highlight significant future maintenance requirements.
- ✦ In the medium term, substantial refurbishment, major modernisation and/or replacement of Eccleshill Swimming Pool, Ilkley Swimming Pool and Shipley Pool & Gym is likely to be necessary, reflecting their age and the scale of investment likely to be needed to maintain their long-term viability.
- ✦ In addition, there is a need for a planned and substantial programme of lifecycle investment across sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities to address ageing infrastructure, maintain service quality and reduce future maintenance liabilities.
- ✦ Continue to review sports hall programming to ensure provision reflects changing participation trends, club requirements and the needs of underrepresented groups.
- ✦ Consider whether a future FPM assessment of sports halls would provide additional insight into the impact of population growth and changing participation patterns on facility demand across the district.
- ✦ Undertake regular reviews of pool operation, programming and workforce deployment to ensure that resources are utilised as efficiently as possible and available water space is maximised. This should include ongoing assessment of timetabling and programme provision to help reduce waiting lists where feasible, whilst ensuring that learn to swim, casual swimming, club swimming and culturally sensitive activities are provided at times which best meet local community need.
- ✦ Note that additional swimming water space is likely to be required, particularly when considering the existing deficit identified by the FPM alongside significant planned housing growth. The future role of Bingley Pool should therefore be considered as part of the wider swimming pool network, alongside other opportunities to increase capacity. However, the greatest identified shortfall in provision is in the Bradford urban area; addressing this should be a strategic priority.
- ✦ Undertake a refreshed pools FPM assessment which further analyses projected housing growth population increase.
- ✦ Recognise the importance of Ilkley Pool and Lido as Bradford's only outdoor swimming facility. Opportunities to enhance changing provision, improve the customer experience and support the long-term sustainability of the site should be explored via ongoing collaboration with the Ilkley Pool and Lido Community Group and other key stakeholders.
- ✦ Consideration should be given to potentially expansion of the fitness suite and development of additional functional fitness space at Sedbergh Sports & Leisure Centre, subject to feasibility.
- ✦ ClubActive, the Bradford Leisure Card and women-only fitness opportunities help improve accessibility and affordability for residents who may otherwise face barriers to participation should continue to be supported and promoted. While Active Bradford is a solid core

CITY OF BRADFORD INTEGRATED SPORTS ASSESSMENT: INDOOR SPORTS & BUILT FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

scheme, further analysis/ consideration should be given to the extent to which it is enabling people living in poverty in Bradford to avail themselves of sports-facility based opportunity.

- ◀ Review and enhance its digital leisure offer to improve the customer journey, better showcase facilities and programme opportunities, simplify access to information, and strengthen engagement with existing and potential users.
- ◀ Continue to support women-only activities and culturally appropriate programming where evidence demonstrates demand, helping to address barriers to participation and improve inclusion.
- ◀ Ensure that future facility developments and refurbishments contribute to the council's carbon reduction ambitions through improved energy efficiency, asset modernisation and sustainable design principles.
- ◀ Give consideration to expanding CBMDC delivered gymnastics sessions to other leisure centres, for example The Leisure Centre Keighley.
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of a new multi-sport facility which could accommodate gymnastics and combat sports. One option could be exploring a shared development with Calderdale which could also incorporate swimming, fitness and indoor bowls.

To support wider sport and leisure provision, the CBMDC (and partners such as Bradford Active and NGBs) should:

- ◀ Further develop and promote the BEEP programme and wider health referral pathways as an important mechanism for increasing physical activity, improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities.
- ◀ In conjunction with BG, collaborate to ensure that gymnastics clubs have access to suitable facilities. This should include ensuring that facilities remain affordable and accessible for those seeking to expand.
- ◀ Given that Bradford is identified by the LTA as a priority area for investment in indoor tennis provision, should liaise with the LTA to explore options in a systematic way.
- ◀ Collaborate with schools to ensure that sports hall quality remains at/rises to an appropriate standard and that they continue to be made available for community use.
- ◀ Collaborate with schools to look at operational processes whereby, wherever possible, they remain open for the maximum possible period of time for community use throughout the year. In addition to seeking to apply innovative solutions to help tackle this issue, clubs need to be supported and offered alternatives during the periods in which examinations take up sports hall space.
- ◀ Ensure that investment decisions continue to focus on addressing health inequalities, supporting inactive residents and increasing participation within communities experiencing the greatest deprivation
- ◀ Encourage cross-sport collaboration between clubs such as the potential for facility sharing.
- ◀ Support clubs seeking to access alternative facilities to enable them to continue to grow participation. Those to which this applies include badminton, basketball, volleyball, netball and swimming.
- ◀ Continue to monitor emerging participation trends, including functional fitness, strength training, Hyrox-style activity, climbing and other growing indoor activities, to ensure future facility provision remains aligned with demand.
- ◀ Work with NGBs to grow the club offer across the district – in sports such as badminton and basketball.