

Perth and Kinross LDP3 2027 - Evidence Report

TOPIC PAPER NO. 022: PLAY, RECREATION & SPORT

July 2024





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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This topic paper sets out the key information relating to **play, recreation and sport** which will be covered by the Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan 3, as required under the provisions of Section 16B of the Act¹. It will, alongside a range of other topic papers, contribute towards the preparation of the Council's Evidence Report, which is programmed to be submitted to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division in Autumn 2024 for the 'Gatecheck' process.
- 1.2 The purpose of an Evidence Report is to provide the local authority's interpretation of the evidence it has gathered and the likely implications of that evidence for the preparation of the LDP. The Report will provide a summary of what the evidence means for the plan, rather than contain all the detail of evidence collected.

Relevant Policies

- 1.3 This topic is covered by the following policies in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4): Policy 21 (Play, Recreation and Sport).

Legal and National Policy Requirements / Expectations

- 1.4 In line with the requirements of the Act (specifically Section 16D(1)), this paper will provide background information regarding the:

- Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment which is required to be prepared for the Evidence Report

- 1.5 Under NPF4 Policy 21, LDPs are expected to:

- identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and / or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

- 1.6 This topic paper also provides information relating to the policy subject of play, recreation and sport as contained in the 'Local Development Planning Guidance' (2023, p.73, 134-5). This includes information relating to the NPF4 Policy Advice & considerations referenced in the Evidence Report Guidance for the play, recreation and sport policy topic (NPF4 Policy 21).

- 1.7 Specifically, the Guidance (p. 112) sets out that:

"The spatial strategy should seek to identify and maximise the opportunities for play in the community, in the neighbourhood and in the natural environment.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

Apart from identifying specific sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation, the spatial strategy should address the wider concept of play and playability, in the form of informal play spaces, in the built and natural environment. It should recognise that accessible blue and green infrastructure may provide outdoor opportunities for formal and informal play and recreation.

Consideration should be given to key policy connections and other opportunities for play, recreation and sports such as within natural places, forestry and woodlands, appropriate water environments and in the public realm and civic spaces.

Formal and informal play provisions should be designed consistent with the six qualities of successful places. They should be of high quality, accessible and suitable for children and people of different ages and abilities, to meet current and likely future needs and demand in the community.

Sports pitch strategies may inform the needs and demand for outdoor sports provision, and where relevant suitable provision should be considered through the spatial strategy.

Plans should prioritise actions in disadvantaged communities, to ensure the sufficiency of provision of publicly accessible, high quality outdoor play opportunities for formal and informal play. This will help to tackle inequality in access to play and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children in those areas.”

1.8 This information will help to provide an overview of evidence relating to play, recreation and sport within the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) area, setting the context within which LDP3 should be prepared.

1.9 To inform this topic paper, a range of datasets and information sources have been reviewed, and where relevant, analysed. A breakdown of the datasets/information sources included are noted in Appendix 1.

2 Information Analysis on Play, Recreation and Sport

National / Local Policy Context

2.1 The Scottish Government has outlined the ambitions for sport and physical activity in the [Active Scotland Outcomes Framework](#) and these are:

- We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active
- We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age
- We improve active infrastructure – people and places
- We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport
- We improve opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in sport

These link to a number of the national outcomes that the Government is seeking to achieve, most relevant to sport is that ‘We are healthy and active’.

2.2 [SportScotland](#) is the national agency for sport, with the vision of an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. SportScotland has provided an Evidence Report guidance note to local authorities which notes that:

“The availability of a network of places, of the right quality and capacity to meet the needs of sport, is crucial to deliver these outcomes. Spatial policy should, therefore, consider the needs of sport and physical activity, and the evidence report should consider what the needs of the local community is in relation to this.”

The guidance note highlights that the Evidence Report should consider the following two key areas, both of which are considered in the Topic Paper below:

- ‘Understanding need’
- ‘Sport in your council area’

2.3 The Scottish Government published a [Play Strategy for Scotland \(2013\)](#) with the overall vision that “We want Scotland to be the best place to grow up. A nation which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people; in their homes, nurseries, schools and communities.” The Strategy includes a number of outcomes, with associated actions, to support play opportunities for children and young people including in their communities. A [progress review](#) of the Play Strategy was undertaken

in 2019, which includes a range of recommendations including actions for closer links to land use planning e.g. through Play Sufficiency Assessment process.

2.4 At the local level, the Topic Paper links to the following priorities from the Perth and Kinross Council [Corporate Plan \(2022-2027\)](#):

- Supporting and promoting physical and mental wellbeing

2.5 There is a particular need for the Spatial Strategy of the next LDP to take in to account the following key action contained in the Corporate Plan linked directly to the policy topic of play, recreation and sport:

- Improve health and wellbeing in Perth and Kinross by increasing overall participation in sport and physical activity and promoting the wellbeing benefits of time spent in our natural surroundings

Data sets and sources: how they are relevant and implications for Proposed Plan

2.6 The following section sets out the evidence which is needed so that the Proposed Plan can address the issues raised in the Act and NPF4.

Existing Facilities

SportScotland Facilities Report (2024)

2.7 To support the Evidence Report process, SportScotland have prepared a Facilities Report covering a wide range of facilities within the Perth and Kinross area. This includes the following facilities:

- Sports Halls

- Fitness Suites
- Squash Courts
- Swimming Pools
- Ice Rinks
- Athletics Tracks
- Golf Courses
- Bowling Greens
- Tennis Courts (outdoor)
- Pitches (all)

2.8 This up-to-date information provides an overview of the existing facilities available within the Perth and Kinross area. This will form part of the evidence used to consider where there are existing sites that can be identified in the Spatial Strategy as well as to help inform the assessment of community need and demand in relation to existing assets and opportunities for new/upgraded facilities.

2.9 The following sections provide a summary of some of the play, recreational and sporting facilities available in Perth and Kinross:

Play Areas

2.10 There are over 145 Council maintained play areas and there is a map to show the [location of existing play areas](#). [Play area improvements](#) are also programmed for Council maintained sites.

Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools

2.11 There are a number of [leisure centres and swimming pools](#) across Perth and Kinross, with leisure provision served by Live Active Leisure. Table 1 below includes the Live Active Leisure centres and swimming pools in Perth and Kinross:

Table 1: Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools in Perth and Kinross

Leisure Centre	Facilities
Perth City	
Perth Leisure Centre	25m swimming pool, leisure pool with flumes, fitness gym, health suite, beauty spa, power plates studio
Bell's Sports Centre	Large 17x court sports hall, 100+ station gym, 2x fitness studios, cycle studio, 3x squash & racketball courts
North Inch Community Campus	Large sports hall, fitness gym, outdoor pitches and dance studio
Glenearn Community Campus	Large sports hall, outdoor pitches and dance studio
Kinross-shire	
Live Active Loch Leven, Kinross	25m swimming pool, fitness gym and glass backed squash courts
Loch Leven Community Campus, Kinross	Large sports hall, fitness gym, dance studio, outdoor pitches and climbing wall
Strathearn	
Strathearn Community Campus	20m swimming pool, fitness gym, glass backed squash courts and dance studio

Highland Perthshire	
Breadalbane Community Campus	Swimming pool, pool-side sauna and jacuzzi, fitness gym, large sports hall, dance studio, outdoor pitches, climbing wall and squash courts
Live Active Atholl	Fitness gym and sports hall
Eastern Perthshire	
Blairgowrie Community Campus	Sports hall, dance studio and outdoor pitches
Live Active Blairgowrie	Swimming pool, fitness gym and large sports hall

Outdoor Sports Pitches & Athletics Tracks

- 2.12 The Council has a map showing the [location of existing outdoor sports pitches](#).
- 2.13 The Council’s [Policy on Provision for Outdoor Sports \(2017\)](#) sets out a policy aiming to ensure the effective and efficient management of Council facilities for outdoor pitch sports for present and future needs. The policy covers all sports using pitches provided by the Council, with football being the most popular. The policy – at that time – notes that for all sports, there are adequate pitches to meet current demand, although quality is variable and new or improved changing facilities are required in many locations. Section 2.34 also notes that feedback received consultation on the P&K Physical Activity & Sport Strategy highlights demand pressure in certain areas in terms of sport facilities. The policy also notes the role for

developer contributions to secure new facilities or contributions for facilities from major housing developments.

- 2.14 There are 9 athletics tracks available at educational facilities across Perth and Kinross, 4 in Perth, and one each in Blairgowrie, Aberfeldy, Kinross, Pitlochry, and Crieff.

Bowling Greens & Tennis Courts (outdoor)

- 2.15 There are a large number of bowling greens and outdoor tennis courts available across Perth and Kinross, with many settlements served by these facilities.

Parks, Countryside sites and Maintained Open Space

- 2.16 There are a large range of parks and countryside sites available in Perth and Kinross, with most settlements being served by at least one park, play area and/or other green space near them. There are [major parks](#) as well as a number of countryside sites. The Council maintains a large number of [open space areas](#). The major parks and countryside sites are listed below:

Major Parks

- MacRosty Park, Crieff
- North Inch, Perth
- South Inch, Perth
- Kirkgate Park, Kinross
- Larghan Park, Coupar Angus

- Victoria Park, Aberfeldy
- Davie Park, Rattray/Blairgowrie
- Perth Riverside Park
- Scone Park
- Auchterarder Western Road/Primrose Park
- Pitlochry Recreation Ground
- Alyth Diamond Jubilee Park

Countryside sites

- Birks of Aberfeldy
- Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park, Perth
- St Magdalene's Hill and Buckie Braes, Perth
- Den o' Alyth

Skate parks

2.17 The Council also has a map of the locations of the 10 existing [skate park facilities](#) across the area.

Golf Courses

2.18 There are over 30 golf course and practice range facilities in Perth and Kinross, some of which are internationally renowned including Gleneagles Golf Course. North Inch Golf Course is also regarded as one of the oldest courses in the world.

Community Sport Hubs

2.19 SportScotland has information for [community sport hub facilities](#) across Scotland. In the Perth and Kinross area, the following community sports hubs are included:

- Kinross-shire Community Sports Hub
- Auchterarder Community Sports and Recreation
- Crieff and Comrie Community Sports Hub
- Bridge of Earn Community Sports Hub
- SMASH (St Madoes Active Sports Hub)
- River Tay Community Sports Hub
- Perth High Community Sports Hub
- Perth College Community Sports Hub
- Sport for Change Network – Perth City
- Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Partnership
- Spittalfield and District Active Recreation
- Dunkeld and Birnam Sport Hub
- Aberfeldy Community Sport Hub
- Active Blair Atholl

Path infrastructure

2.20 The Council supports the use of a [wide range of paths and trails](#) for outdoor recreation including walking. The webpage has a resource of paths and trails for each locality, including [Core Paths](#).

Water based recreation

2.21 For water based recreational interests, the Council has a [Water Safety Policy](#) in place including for Council owned/maintained sites. Perth and Kinross is used for a number of water based recreational activities across many sites including for wild swimming, kayaking/canoeing, stand up paddleboarding, canyoning, fishing, and boating/sailing.

Informal play and recreation

2.22 As detailed in the 'understanding need' section, qualitative and spatial data has been gathered through community engagement exercises which has identified existing locations of informal play and recreation. These sites are being reviewed as part of the ongoing Open Space Audit and will form part of the evidence base to be used to inform the Spatial Strategy, which is particularly advocated for in the LDP Regs Guidance (p.112).

PKC Policy - Asset Management

Perth and Kinross Council Transformation Review of Leisure Assets (2024)

2.23 In January 2024, a [Committee Report](#) and associated [Appendix](#) (key issues per locality) was presented to Full Council to consider the

findings and recommendations of the Transformation Review of Leisure Assets. The Committee Report summarises Review findings and made 10 recommendations to maintain accessible, affordable and sustainable leisure provision for our communities over the next 5-10 years. The Appendix, in particular, includes a breakdown of leisure assets at the locality/settlement level. A [minute](#) of the Committee meeting outlines the Full Council's decisions in relation to the Transformation Review of Leisure Assets which sets out the approach for the next 5-10 years.

2.24 The programme for leisure assets across the next 5-10 years will be used as part of the evidence base for preparing the Spatial Strategy for the Proposed Plan, when considering access to, and provision of, leisure assets in communities across Perth and Kinross.

2.25 Further to the Committee decision in January 2024, a further [report](#) on the future of Bell's Sport Centre (and implications on the provision of services at Dewars) was approved by Council Committee in May 2024. There are plans for the consolidation of three existing facilities (Bell's Sport Centre, Dewars Ice Rink and the Perth Leisure Pool) in Perth. The provision of services across Perth and Kinross will continue to be monitored.

Perth and Kinross Green Asset Management Plan (2017-2022)

2.26 The [Perth and Kinross Community Green Asset Management Plan \(2017-2022\)](#) has been published which sets out the investment and services being provided by the Council in relation to community greenspaces. The Plan highlights the current greenspace assets, key

drivers and demands, as well as an asset investment strategy highlighting where there may be risks for investment/delivery.

PKC Policy – Enhancing Opportunities for Play, Recreation and Sport

Perth and Kinross Physical Activity & Sport Strategy (2023-2028)

- 2.27 The Council published the [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sport Strategy \(2023-2028\)](#) in 2023. The Strategy was informed by a consultancy report with associated appendices.
- 2.28 The Strategy’s over-arching vision for the future of physical activity and sport in Perth and Kinross is: “We will support everyone’s physical and mental wellbeing through physical activity and sport”. The Strategy recognises the important role that physical activity and sport have in creating places where people can live healthy, fulfilling, and productive lives, linked to the Council’s Corporate Plan objectives around living well, free from poverty and inequality.
- 2.29 The Strategy is intended to help partners and stakeholders with their own planning and delivery, services, and opportunities through a clearly defined set of strategic priorities, and a robust measurable action plan.
- 2.30 The Strategy includes a section ‘Our Story of Place’ which sets out the place-based context for physical activity and sport in Perth and Kinross. A summary of the context of physical activity and sport is set out below:
- “It is one of the most diverse parts of the country, with the ancient City of Perth and 6 large towns. The geography ranges from vast

Highland landscapes of mountains, glens, lochs and rivers; the glacial plains of the Carse of Gowrie, Strathearn and Strathmore and the Lowlands of Kinross-shire. The Tay connects all these localities along with the Earn, the Almond and other riverways. The natural landscape is itself a huge asset for physical activity and sport in many forms. Our sports facilities: swimming pools, gyms, indoor and outdoor courts, sports pitches, Community Campuses and schools are used for more structured forms of physical activity and sport, delivered by many partners. All of these combine to provide an outstanding setting for sport and physical activity of all kinds, for everyone.”

- 2.31 Stories of Place are also included for each of the Perth and Kinross localities. These are summarised in Appendices 2-6 and provide a place-based context for the provision of facilities and opportunities for physical activity and sport in these areas.
- 2.32 The Strategy also includes a baseline of data (p.23-25) to support the development of strategic priorities. Notable statistics include:
- 48% of children currently meeting recommended levels of physical activity
 - 60% of children between the ages of 8-11yrs currently meeting recommended levels of physical activity
 - 43% of children between the ages of 12-17yrs currently meeting recommended levels of physical activity

- Numbers of young people reaching the recommended level of physical activity are lower for those from the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross. Numbers are higher for males when compared to females, 52% compared to 42%.
- 42% of adults (female) and 51% (male) were meeting the recommended amount of physical activity (Scottish Health Survey 2020).
- A third of clubs who responded to the survey said that the facilities they use don't meet their needs.
- 84% of population within a 20-minute drive of a leisure centre
- 66% of population within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool
- 100% of population within a 20-minute drive of a sports pitch
- 100% of population within a 20-minute drive of a community hall

2.33 A SWOT analysis has also been completed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for physical activity and sport provision in Perth and Kinross. The consultant report includes an appendix with a detailed breakdown of the SWOT analysis undertaken at a settlement level. The SWOT analysis is summarised in Appendix 7. Various 'barriers to participation' are also included in the Strategy to inform the Action Plan, including:

- Facilities
- Confidence in participation
- Cost
- Disability/condition
- Capacity
- Transport
- Awareness

In order to support and help deliver on the Strategy's vision, the following priorities are identified:

- We will improve everyone in P&K's health through increased participation in physical activity.
- We will increase the levels of activity for children and young people, particularly those who currently don't meet the recommended levels of participation.
- We will reduce the inequalities which prevent people participating.
- We will make physical activity central to our Climate Change response.
- We will support our community-led physical activity and sport to grow and flourish and strengthen collaboration between all partners.

- We will make physical activity and sport part of Placemaking so our public spaces are activity-friendly, inclusive and fun.

The Action Plan is underpinned by 5 Strategic Enablers, building blocks to support the delivery of the Strategy’s priorities.

2.34 Feedback received during consultation on the Strategy highlighted demand pressure in some areas, including:

- Not enough pitch provision to meet demand in Perth for football (grass and 5-a side)
- Rugby pitch provision at North Inch insufficient to meet needs
- Communities in Auchterarder and Kinross highlighting investment and provision in play/sports facilities no longer met need as a result of significant house building in towns with no equivalent investment in play and sport

2.35 The Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sport Strategy will form a key part of the evidence used to develop the Proposed Plan’s Spatial Strategy. In particular the Spatial Strategy should take into account where there are opportunities to address the identified weaknesses/threats/gaps in current provision as well as to support opportunities and build on the strengths currently identified.

Play Framework for Perth and Kinross (2019-2022)

2.36 The [Play Framework for Perth and Kinross \(2019-2022\)](#) sets out the Council’s commitment to delivering high quality play opportunities

for children and young people. Actions of particular relevance include:

- further enhance accessible and inclusive, fun, exciting and challenging spaces for play which support children’s natural instinct to play
- develop and promote the use of community resources and spaces creatively to increase opportunities for play, e.g. streets and natural spaces
- promote and enable play in communities appropriate to children and young people’s ages, stages, preferences, and individual need

Understanding need

SportScotland Facilities Planning Modelling

2.37 As noted in the SportScotland Evidence Report Guidance Note, facilities planning modelling can be undertaken for various sports facilities. The Council will work with SportScotland to investigate the opportunity to undertake facilities planning modelling to form part of the evidence to inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan. The facilities planning modelling provides an objective assessment of the relationship between the likely demand for sports facilities in an area and their supply. This information – along with qualitative data already gathered, see further sections below – will form the evidence base to understand the need for sports facilities.

Play Sufficiency Assessment

2.38 As required by Section 16D(1) of the Act², the Council is required to prepare a Play Sufficiency Assessment to be prepared for the Evidence Report. Guided by the relevant [Regulations](#) and associated [Guidance](#), the Council has undertaken a PSA and is currently finalising the findings ahead of publishing the PSA Report. The PSA will be finalised and published in support of the Evidence Report submission, as required. The PSA has involved:

- Initial desk-based research and mapping
- site surveys of formal/adopted play spaces
- consultation and targeted engagement including with children and young people

2.39 Through the PSA, an assessment has been made of the quality, quantity and accessibility of formal/adopted play spaces in the PKC area. Statements on these criteria will be provided for the planning authority area, and individual settlement level, to identify areas of sufficient/insufficient provision of play opportunities for the Spatial Strategy. These outputs are being mapped and will be available in an interactive online map. As mentioned above, the quality, quantity

and accessibility of informal play areas are being assessed as part of the Open Space Audit and will be included in the mapping of publicly accessible open spaces.

2.40 As noted above, an assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities in PKC has been informed by engagement with a range of specific groups:

- A 'Playing Out in Perth and Kinross' online survey was targeted at children and young people, parents, carers and guardians. The survey sought feedback on formal and informal play spaces and was open from July to October last year (2023). There were over 300 individual responses to the survey.
- Alongside the 'Playing Out' survey, the team undertook a significant programme of community engagement throughout 2023 called the 'Big Place Conversation'. Full details of this engagement are noted below.

2.41 The full PSA Report will be published online in due course and will be available as part of the Evidence Report submission to support the preparation of the Proposed Plan and Spatial Strategy. In particular the PSA provides evidence on the sites for play and recreational

² The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

opportunities as well as an understanding – from users – of the needs and demands in communities.

Big Place Conversation – Early LDP Engagement

2.42 Throughout 2023, the Council carried out its [‘Big Place Conversation’](#) exercise to start the LDP3 process across Perth and Kinross communities. This was an extensive engagement exercise involving over 100 events throughout the Council Area. The events ranged from drop-in information sessions, meetings, and online surveys to workshops and online sessions using the Place Standard Tool to capture the views of local communities about different aspects of their places. There were also targeted sessions held with schools/youth groups, service user groups, and minority groups.

2.43 In summary the Big Place Conversation (BPC) included 460 children and young people participants, including:

- 267 participants aged under 12s
- 144 participants aged 12-16 years old
- 49 participants aged 17-25 years old

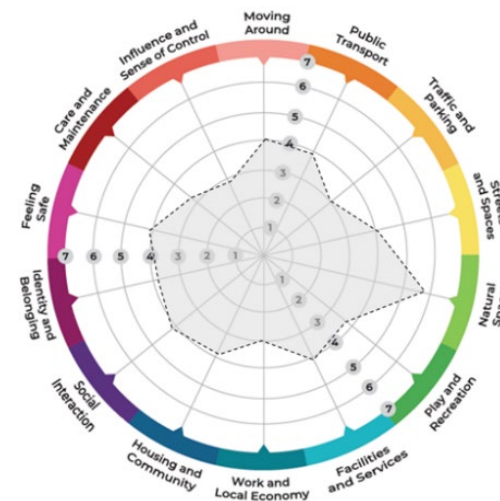
The BPC consisted of an online survey and 30 place standard events specifically for children and young people, including:

- 16 primary schools

- 5 secondary schools
- 9 youth groups

2.44 The Place Standard tool consists of 14 topics, including a section on ‘Play and Recreation’ which was a key focus during the children and young people events. Of key relevance for this topic, feedback was collected on the Place Standard question around play and recreation. The children and young people engagement included identifying locations important for play and recreation.

2.45 The diagram below presents the quantitative outputs of the engagement with this demographic, showing that access to good quality play and recreation opportunities ranked 5th out of the top priorities, indicating perceived room for improvement based on current provision.



2.46 The results of the Big Place Conversation have been collated and will be used to produce a separate report on the outcomes and findings across the different locality areas. A summary of the results of the exercise, and the place-based actions to be taken forward as part of the development of the Proposed Plan, will be provided as part of LDP3's Evidence Report under the required statement of steps taken by the Council in preparing the report to seek the views of various stakeholders, as prescribed by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

2.47 The Big Place Conversation feedback on the topic of play and recreation will be used to inform the development of the Spatial Strategy. In particular the feedback provides qualitative and spatial evidence on the sites for play and recreational opportunities as well as an understanding – from users – of the needs and demands in communities.

Perth and Kinross Open Space Strategy

2.48 An Open Space Strategy is currently being prepared in fulfilment of duties set out in The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. To inform the preparation of the strategy, an Open Space Audit has been undertaken by the planning department and the results are currently being reviewed by the Council's Community Greenspace team.

2.49 The Open Space Audit includes an assessment of the quantity, quality, and accessibility of publicly accessible open spaces in the

planning authority area. Statements will also be provided on a settlement level to identify areas of insufficient provision of good quality open spaces for the Spatial Strategy.

2.50 The Open Space Audit has included:

- Aggregation of spatial datasets
- Site visits and quality audits
- Desk-based analysis

Health Inequalities

2.51 The LDP Guidance notes that “plans should prioritise actions in disadvantaged communities to ensure the sufficiency of provision of publicly accessible, high quality outdoor play opportunities for formal and informal play. This will help to tackle inequality in access to play and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children in those areas.” [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data](#) provides data-zone level information across a range of indicators including:

- Income and employment
- Health
- Education/skills
- Housing
- Geographic accessibility
- Crime

Data-zones are ranked based on the multiple scores across the indicators. In the Perth and Kinross area there is significant disparity between most and least deprived areas. For example, there are areas identified within the most deprived 10% including in Perth and Blairgowrie/Ratray.

- 2.52 This information will provide an evidence base from which to consider areas of multiple deprivation and where inequalities may exist. The Spatial Strategy will take these areas into account to prioritise disadvantaged communities, to ensure sufficiency of publicly accessible, high quality outdoor play opportunities for formal and informal play.

Links to other policy topics

- 2.53 The LDP Guidance states that: “Consideration should be given to key policy connections and other opportunities for play, recreation and sports such as within natural places, forestry and woodlands, appropriate water environments and in the public realm and civic spaces.” The following key policy connections are noted.
- 2.54 The Council has an existing [Forest & Woodland Strategy](#) which was adopted in 2020. The Council also has a [Forest Plan \(2015-2035\)](#) which provides a framework for the sustainable management of Council maintained woodland assets over a 20 year period. The LDP has a policy on Forestry, Woodland and Trees (Policy 40) which recognises the value of these assets in supporting sport and

recreational opportunities. Further consideration of the review of the Forest & Woodland Strategy is included in Topic Paper 007 Forestry, Woodland and Trees.

- 2.55 The development of the spatial strategy for Blue and Green Infrastructure will be a significant component of the Proposed Plan and will consider opportunities for formal and informal play, recreation and sport within these areas. Considerations of Blue and Green Infrastructure is covered further in Topic Paper 021 (Blue and Green Infrastructure). Currently, the LDP has policies on Open Space Retention and Provision (Policy 14) and Green Infrastructure (Policy 42) which recognise the need to protect and promote opportunities for outdoor recreational activities including sport.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 2.56 We had early engagement with, and received information from, SportScotland to support the Evidence Gathering phase of the next Plan.
- 2.57 We would welcome views from stakeholders on the evidence to be used to support preparing the Proposed Plan in relation to play, recreation and sport.

Appendix 1: Summary Table: Links to Evidence Gathered and Analysed

Act or NPF	Requirement or Expectation	Dataset or source	Relevance of evidence and why it is required to inform the Proposed Plan (what it tells us and / or how we will use it?)	Gaps or uncertainties in data	Included?
Play Sufficiency Assessment Section 16D(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 & The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment)(Scotland) Regulations 2023	Planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an Evidence Report (Play Sufficiency Assessment).	Play Sufficiency Assessment Report to be published Q3 2024.	The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) report will provide an assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities across Perth and Kinross. The PSA provides an assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility of PKC formal play spaces. Informal sites for play and recreation have also been identified through various engagement activities including the 'Playing out in Perth and Kinross' survey and the 'Big Place Conversation'. This evidence will help to shape the Spatial Strategy of the Proposed Plan outlining where existing assets are (including formal/informal) as well as to inform community needs of play and recreational opportunities, which can feed into other key components of the Plan including green/blue infrastructure and the forest and woodland strategy.	N/A	Yes.
Open Space Strategy Regulation 9 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Consideration of any open space strategy published under Section 3G(3) of the Act	PKC Open Space Strategy	An Open Space Strategy is currently being prepared in fulfilment of duties set out in The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. To inform the preparation of the strategy, an Open Space Audit has been undertaken by the planning department and the results are currently being reviewed by the Council's Community Greenspace team.	N/A	TBC.
NPF4 Policy 21 – Play, Recreation and Sport	LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of	Perth & Kinross Council and Live Active Leisure: Data on existing assets	PKC Community Greenspace team and Live Active Leisure hold data for the following facilities/assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas • Leisure centres and swimming pools • Outdoor sports pitches and athletics tracks • Bowling greens & tennis courts 	N/A	Yes

Act or NPF	Requirement or Expectation	Dataset or source	Relevance of evidence and why it is required to inform the Proposed Plan (what it tells us and / or how we will use it?)	Gaps or uncertainties in data	Included?
	<p>the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, countryside sites and maintained open space • Skate parks • Golf courses • Paths infrastructure 		
<p>SportScotland Facilities Report (2024)</p> <p>SportScotland Community Sports Hub data</p>		<p>Alongside locally held data, SportScotland facilities report includes an extract for Perth and Kinross (dated 2024). The facilities report includes a detailed list of the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Halls • Fitness Suites • Squash Courts • Swimming Pools • Ice Rinks • Athletics Tracks • Golf Courses • Bowling Greens • Tennis Courts (outdoor) • Pitches (all) <p>SportScotland also collates Community Sports Hub data.</p> <p>This information provides spatial data that will be directly used to inform the Spatial Strategy of the Proposed Plan in terms of identifying existing facilities for play, recreation and sport, including community-based assets.</p>	N/A	Yes	
<p>Policy on Provision for Outdoor Sports (2017)</p> <p>PKC Transformation Review of Leisure Assets (2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Report • Appendix 		<p>Various PKC policies and strategies that will inform the consideration of existing assets, their ongoing maintenance, and future plans. These documents, and any subsequent updates, will inform the Spatial Strategy in terms of how existing facilities and assets are managed, and what the implications may be for future provision.</p>	N/A	Yes	

Act or NPF	Requirement or Expectation	Dataset or source	Relevance of evidence and why it is required to inform the Proposed Plan (what it tells us and / or how we will use it?)	Gaps or uncertainties in data	Included?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Meeting Minutes • Further report on future of Bells Sports Centre <p>PKC Community Green Asset Management Plan (2017-2022)</p> <p>Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (2023-2028)</p> <p>Play Framework for Perth and Kinross (2019-2022)</p> <p>PKC Play Strategy (hard-copy only)</p>			
		<p>SportScotland Facilities Planning Modelling</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Assessment (see above)</p> <p>Big Place Conversation Engagement Results</p>	<p>PKC and SportScotland data/modelling to help inform the needs and demands of future service provision in terms of play, recreation and sport. As well as SportScotland facilities planning modelling, the Big Place Conversation engagement results provide qualitative and spatial information at a locality/settlement level to support the development of the Proposed Plan and Spatial Strategy in terms of identifying/protecting existing assets as well as informing requirements around opportunities for new development.</p>	<p>There are a limited number of settlements where no feedback was gathered during the Big Place Conversation. This will be supplemented with other data sources e.g. PSA, as well as any Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan information, where applicable.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

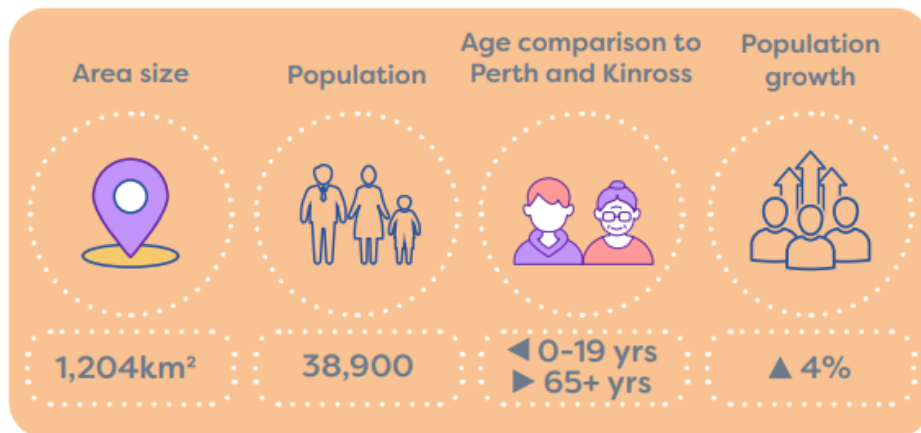
Act or NPF	Requirement or Expectation	Dataset or source	Relevance of evidence and why it is required to inform the Proposed Plan (what it tells us and / or how we will use it?)	Gaps or uncertainties in data	Included?
<p>NPF4 Policy 21 – Play, Recreation and Sport</p> <p>Local Development Planning Guidance – NPF4 Policy 21</p>	<p>Plans should prioritise actions in disadvantaged communities, to ensure the sufficiency of provision of publicly accessible, high quality outdoor play opportunities for formal and informal play. This will help to tackle inequality in access to play and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children in those areas.</p>	<p>SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)</p>	<p>The SIMD data provides data-zone level information across a range of indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income and employment • Health • Education/skills • Housing • Geographic accessibility • Crime <p>This information will provide an evidence base from which to consider areas of multiple deprivation and where inequalities may exist. The Spatial Strategy will take these areas into account to prioritise disadvantaged communities, to ensure sufficiency of publicly accessible, high quality outdoor play opportunities for formal and informal play.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Eastern Perthshire

Eastern Perthshire is primarily a rural area, covering around 1,204km². After Perth, Blairgowrie is the second largest urban place (8,612 people) The infrastructure for physical activity and sport includes more than 30 sports clubs, 2 community sports hubs, 45 community halls, 2 leisure facilities, 4 skate parks and 33 sports pitches.

It is a place where individuals, families and communities

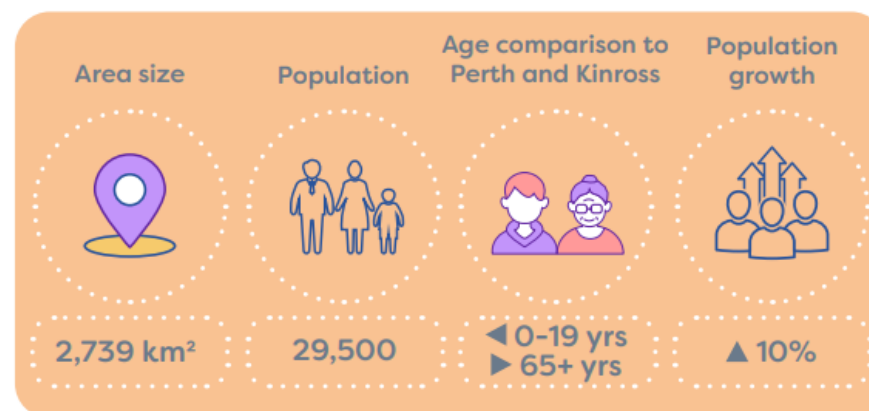
can access a broad range of physical activity and sporting opportunities. This may be through its extensive network of paths suitable for walking, running and cycling including the CATERAN trail or by joining one of the many local voluntary sports clubs and organisations.



³ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://perth.gov.uk/perth-and-kinross-physical-activity-and-sports-strategy-2023-2028)

Highland and Strathtay

Highland and Strathtay covers a significant area (2,739 km²). It is a mainly rural area with four towns: Pitlochry (3,881 people), Rannoch and Aberfeldy (4,743), Luncarty and Dunkeld (6,512), Stanley and Murthly (4,763). In terms of physical activity and sports infrastructure, the area has more than 20 sports clubs, 4 community sports hubs, 45 community halls, 2 leisure facilities, 2 skate parks and 20 sports pitches. With its many walking, mountain biking trails and rivers, Highland and Strathtay offers its residents and many visitors a stunning natural landscape to enjoy physical activity and sport. These natural assets are complemented by a strong club, facility and volunteer infrastructure.



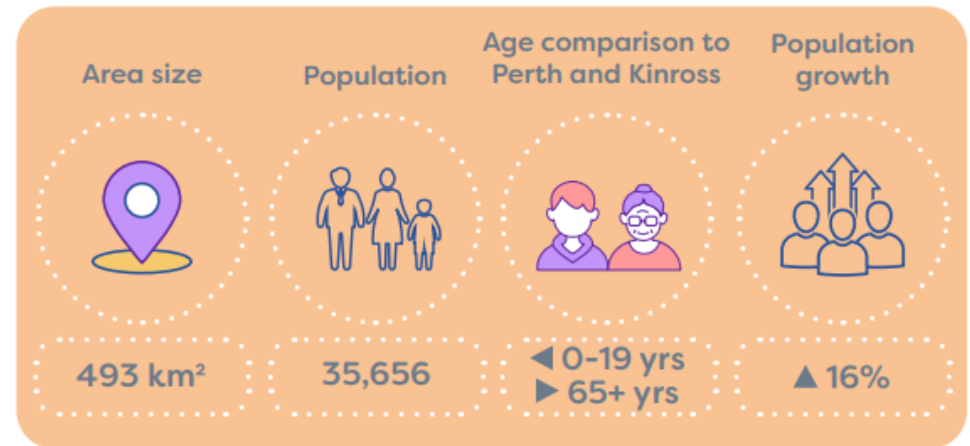
“Highland Perthshire enjoys an almost unrivalled natural setting. It has a bit of everything and the wonderful walks network around the town allows people to appreciate every aspect of this natural beauty.” **Resident**

“It is incredible to have such fantastic landscapes for recreational activity from the doorstep.” **Resident**

⁴ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk)

Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn

Kinross-shire and Almond and Earn spans from Loch Leven in the south to the river Almond in the north, The main towns and settlements are: Kinross (4,976 people), Milnathort and Crook of Devon (4,045), Abernethy and Bridge of Earn (5,222), Forgandenny (560), Methven (1,300), Kinnesswood (540), Glenfarg (700). The area has a growing population and is popular with families. It provides significant opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport and includes 50 sports clubs, 2 community sports hubs, 29 community halls, 2 leisure facilities, 1 skate park and 21 sports pitches. Loch Leven Nature reserve is a major natural asset with its walking and cycling routes, used and enjoyed by many. Communities in the locality have a strong awareness of the value of physical activity and sport in the locality, underpinned by a base of motivated volunteers and a particular focus on creating opportunities particularly for young people in the community.

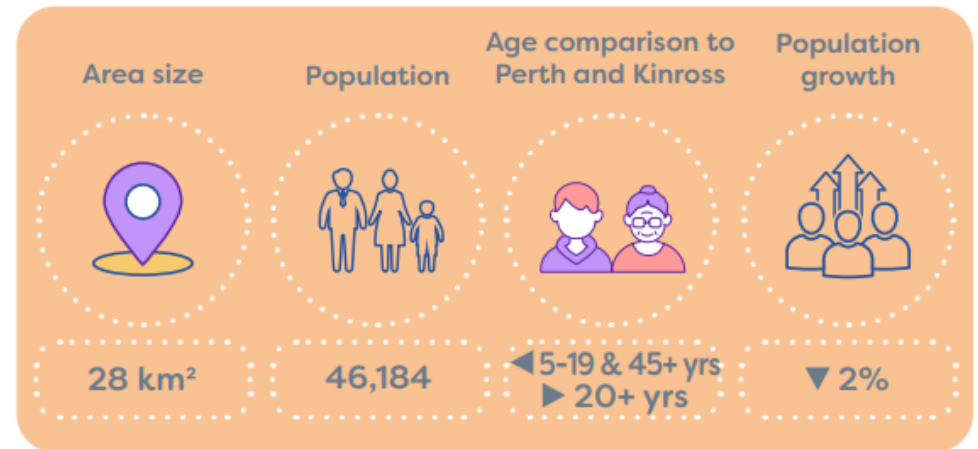


⁵ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk)

Perth City

The City of Perth is the administrative centre for Perth and Kinross Council and other key public authorities. Its physical activity and sports infrastructure is extremely strong for a city of its size (46,184 people): more than 70 sports clubs, 2 community sports hubs, 24 community halls, 27 sports pitches and 8 leisure facilities including the iconic Bells Sports Centre, Dewars Centre and Perth Leisure Pool. It has two major greenspaces in the heart of the city, North Inch and South Inch Parks, with a skate park on the South Inch. Kinnoull Hill is a few minutes' walk from the city centre.

Like much of Perth and Kinross, it also has a strong club infrastructure and hosts events and competitions that attract visitors from elsewhere in Scotland and beyond. Current facility provision will be further improved in the coming years with the completion of the new PH²O leisure centre on the current Perth Leisure Pool/Dewars Centre sites.



⁶ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk)

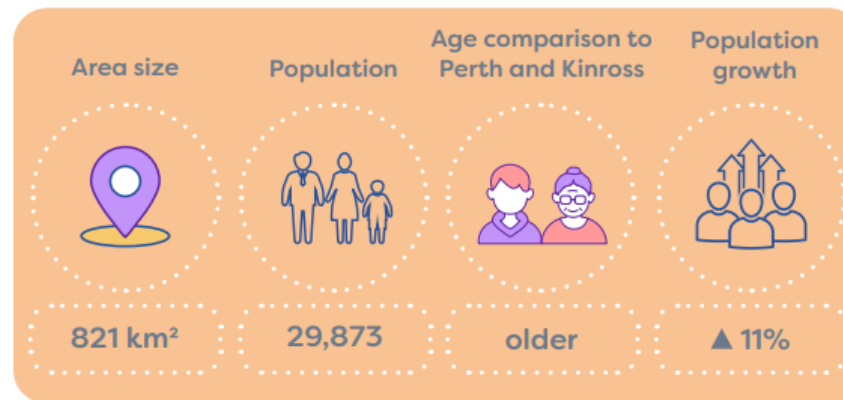
Strathearn and Strathallan

Strathearn and Strathallan are located to the south-west of Perth with a population of 29,873. Again these are rural with 14 settlements, the largest being Crieff (7,128) and Auchterarder (4,192) The area has 30 sports clubs, 28 community halls, 2 leisure facilities, 2 skate parks and 16 sports pitches.

Strong 3rd sector partnerships are an important part of the physical activity and sporting landscape in Strathearn and Strathallan. These include Auchterarder Community Sports & Recreation and Auchterarder & District Community Sports Hub which has taken on the responsibility for operating the sports facilities at the High School on behalf of the community outwith school hours. This reflects the high levels of community interest and engagement. Strathearn and Strathallan also enjoy stunning natural assets and greenspaces including Crieff Hill, the Knock, and areas around Comrie for walking, cycling and running.

“Lots of off-road routes to run and cycle with local paths improving all the time.”

Resident



⁷ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://perth.gov.uk/perth-kinross-physical-activity-and-sports-strategy-2023-2028)

Appendix 8: Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (2023-2028): SWOT⁸



Strengths

- Facility provision and spread across Perth and Kinross
- Outdoor parks and natural resources for sport and physical activity
- Partnership working across different agencies
- Range of sports, activities and programmes
- Number of clubs and volunteers
- Active schools and community sports hubs
- Significant sources of external funding focussed on inequalities
- Motivated stakeholders and communities
- Some concessionary access schemes e.g. compass membership
- Social Prescribing
- Community youth work organisations



Weaknesses

- Facilities ageing and in need of maintenance and upgrade
- Recruitment and retention of staff, volunteers, coaches etc.
- Limited access to campus facilities
- Fragmented and bureaucratic booking systems
- Stakeholders working in silos
- Rural provision and inequality
- Use of technology and data
- Lack of awareness of opportunities and provision
- Rural transport infrastructure
- Lack of facility capacity in some areas and at some times e.g. 3G pitches
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation evidence of impact of sport and physical activity on individuals, families and communities
- Social Prescribing structure is fragmented



Opportunities

- Opportunity to improve collaboration across partners
- New investment in facilities i.e. Blairgowrie, PH20
- Greater collaboration and co-ordination between stakeholders
- Improve targeting and prioritisation of resources where inequalities are greatest
- Greater involvement of communities in accessing facilities
- Community asset transfer
- better use of technology and data
- Need to focus on developing people based resources and capacity
- Better utilisation to be made of existing physical activity and sporting assets
- Invest in early intervention and prevention
- Extend Social Prescribing model to young people
- Opportunity to streamline management and booking arrangements for facilities



Threats

- Financial pressures in the public sector
- Cost of living crisis and affordability of sport and physical activity, transport, equipment, clothing etc.
- Lack of people - staff, volunteers and coaches in clubs and communities
- Competition for access to facilities
- Cost of facilities and activities become too high
- Inflationary costs impact on viability of facilities
- Ageing population
- targeted wellbeing programmes are conditional upon temporary funding sources
- Absence of shared vision for SPA
- Environmental sustainability

⁸ [Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023-2028 \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://perth.gov.uk/perth-and-kinross-physical-activity-and-sports-strategy-2023-2028)