

9. Indoor sports facilities

Introduction

- 9.1 PPG17 states that it is essential to consider the role that indoor sports facilities play in meeting the needs of local residents. It states that the provision of swimming pools, indoor sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis should be considered as part of the local supply and demand assessment.
- 9.2 The methodology for the assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG 17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England parameters and using Sport England tools. As such, Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Active Places Power (APP) have been used to assess local demand, as well as feedback from local consultation, to ensure that the findings are based on local needs and expectations.
- 9.3 Facilities included within this category in Manchester are:
- swimming pools
 - sports halls
 - indoor bowls facilities
 - indoor tennis facilities
 - squash facilities
 - indoor cycling facilities.
- 9.4 There are many opportunities for the improvement of facilities across Manchester, particularly capitalising upon the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. In addition, other sources of funding (such as National Governing Bodies) may offer further avenues for improvement, although it is recognised that funding opportunities for the majority of sports are currently limited.
- 9.5 The provision of indoor sports facilities that meet local and national standards will be key to the delivery of local, regional and national objectives.

Context

- 9.6 As discussed in section 8, the Active People Surveys (2006 – 2007 and 2007 – 2008) illustrate the scale of the challenge that lies ahead in terms of increasing participation in Manchester. Participation is low in comparison to the majority of other cities (only Birmingham is lower) and satisfaction with facilities also falls below that in many other areas. Despite this, the amount of volunteering is higher in Manchester than in many other cities in England.
- 9.7 Some community groups are less likely to participate in traditional sports. The diverse nature of Manchester means that participation is therefore likely to be lower than other areas of the country. This however emphasises the importance of tailoring facilities to the needs of the local community. Sport England market segmentation discussed in Section 8 indicates that while the two most common groups, Jamie and Kev, enjoy participating in team sports and activity (and are therefore likely to use indoor halls), other sectors of the population enjoy less strenuous exercise, such as walking and

bowling. The market segmentation also emphasises the importance of ensuring that facilities are affordable.

Consultation

- 9.8 General findings from the research and consultation undertaken for this study relevant to indoor sports facilities are summarised below:

Consultation with key stakeholders

- 9.9 Consultation with key stakeholders/internal officers at Manchester City Council highlighted that the City Council is currently aspiring to deliver indoor sports facilities that exceed local need and expectations. As well as meeting the needs of residents, there is a desire to ensure that facilities are of a standard capable of hosting national competitions and raising the profile of Manchester on the national and international stage. The 2002 Commonwealth Games, held in Manchester, provided a key driver in the improvement of indoor sports facilities across the City and this has left a legacy of high quality facilities. These facilities are available for community use as well as elite level training and competition.
- 9.10 The Council works in close partnership with National Governing Bodies in order to deliver facilities. The resulting facilities are then used to deliver sport locally. However, it should be noted that although this results in a wide variety of sporting facilities that may not have otherwise been provided, it also to an extent means that investment and new facilities are driven by the national and not local agenda. As such the Council is working to try and ensure that the high quality 'strategic hubs' are supported by smaller area based venues.

Views on current provision

- 9.11 In terms of current indoor sports provision, stakeholders highlighted that:
- whilst there are large facilities across the city, there are shortfalls of local community hubs in some areas of the city
 - there is a lack of provision in the North East of the city. The development of a multi facility site, similar to the Wythenshawe Forum would be beneficial. This would replace existing ageing facilities
 - similarly, whilst the quality of the strategic hub facilities is considered to be excellent, the quality of local facilities is lower and varying across the city – for example, whilst the Manchester Aquatics Centre is a nationally acclaimed venue, the local neighbourhood swimming pools are of significantly lower standard
 - several neighbourhood swimming pools are reaching the end of their lifespan and are of poor quality
 - the range of different trusts operating facilities across the city are perceived to provide an inconsistent offer to Manchester residents
 - the quality of facilities at primary schools is predominantly poor, with limited specialist facilities and many schools reliant on dual-purpose school halls. Just 12 primary schools were considered to have good quality facilities
 - although there is a vast array of different indoor sports facilities across Manchester, access to these facilities is an issue for a variety of reasons:

- consultation with Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) groups has highlighted that the design of the majority of the facilities means that they are unsuitable for use by certain groups; there is perceived to be a particular barrier for Muslim women. The lack of consideration of this issue in the design of buildings means that on the whole, these facilities are inaccessible. Some modifications of leisure centres have taken place to remove these barriers, and women only swimming sessions take place at some centres.
 - previous research has suggested that the majority of groups are unwilling to travel to reach facilities and are more likely to visit centres in close proximity to their home. A lack of local facilities is therefore a key barrier to participation
 - the perceived cost of using facilities or sports development initiatives is also a barrier to participation. While prices are significantly lower than in the many other neighbouring authorities (and indeed some sports development initiatives are free of charge) local residents feel that price is a barrier. This is exacerbated when residents have to travel to reach the facility. This is reflective of the high levels of deprivation in some parts of the city and may also indicate that there is a lack of awareness of the opportunities available
 - access to facilities by public transport is also perceived to be problematic, with many facilities most easily accessed by car. The location of facilities in relation to areas inhabited by students has also been raised, with few centres perceived to adequately meet the needs of students.
- 9.12 There is a strategic drive to increase the use of secondary schools outside curriculum hours in order to maximise the use of resources and to ensure that the schools are sustainable long term. Schools are encouraged to set up coaching sessions and the development of satellite clubs at these sites is also supported.
- 9.13 Key stakeholders highlight the significant opportunities to improve the quality and quantity of secondary school sports facilities through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Facilities created through this scheme will be accessible to the local community outside of school hours and hence improve the overall facility stock across the city. As such, it must be ensured that these opportunities are maximised and that facilities are built to a specification that meets the needs of local residents and schools.

Household survey, Drop in sessions and workshops

- 9.14 The findings of the household survey reflect many of the key issues raised by key stakeholders, highlighting that:
- only a relatively small proportion of residents use indoor sports facilities on a regular basis:
 - 26% of residents use indoor sports facilities at least once a week
 - 14% of residents use indoor sports facilities on a monthly basis
 - 22% of residents rarely use indoor sports facilities
 - 37% of residents do not use indoor sports facilities.
- 9.15 A relatively large proportion of household survey respondents consider indoor sports provision to be inadequate, both in terms of quality of provision and quantity, with:

- 42% of residents deeming the quality of indoor sports facilities to be poor/very poor. 29% consider the quality to be average and just 29% consider the quality to be good/very good
- 49% of residents consider there to be 'not enough' indoor sports facilities. 25% consider current provision to be 'about right/more than enough' and 20% consider there to be 'nearly enough' provision.

9.16 In terms of specific types of indoor sports facilities:

- 41% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' sports halls
- 42% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' swimming pools
- 35% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' indoor bowls facilities
- 45% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' indoor tennis facilities
- 38% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' squash facilities
- 34% of household survey respondents consider there to be 'not enough' indoor cycling facilities.

9.17 Drop in sessions and workshops also highlighted that many residents perceive some of the indoor sports facilities to be 'elitist' and are unclear on the level of public access. In addition, issues were raised regarding the cost of using facilities, which is perceived to be prohibitive, as well as limited localised provision. These views were mirrored via comments made on the household survey. A selection of illustrative comments are shown below.

"Good facilities such as the Velodrome....but there are too few amenities"

"There is no indoor sports provision anywhere nearby, other than old fashioned swimming baths"

"The facilities don't exist in the local area and families can't afford to travel"

"The facilities are not easy to get if you don't have a car"

"There are no municipal sports facilities in my area (Didsbury)"

Children's survey

9.18 The on-line survey completed by children/young people highlighted that:

- playing sport is the second most popular activity children like to take part in after playing with friends

- 12% of children indicated that they go to an indoor sports facility more often than any other type of open space, sport or recreation facility
- children would like to see additional indoor sports provision, with:
 - 39% of children stating that they ‘don’t think there are enough indoor space for sport’
 - 30% of children stating that although ‘there are indoor spaces for sport, there could be more’
 - 22% of children stating that ‘there are a lot of indoor spaces for sport’.
- although most children consider the quality of indoor sports facilities to be good, some qualitative improvements are required, with:
 - 45% of children stating that they consider indoor sports facilities to be ‘clean, safe and nice to use’
 - 29% of children stating that they consider indoor sports facilities to be ‘sometimes unclean and could be made better’
 - 12% of children stating that they consider indoor sports facilities to be ‘horrible and always dirty’
- a new swimming pool was the most popular response when asked what one new facility children would most like to see in their area – specified by 41% of respondents
- of the children that visit an indoor sports facility more often than any other type open space, sport or recreation facility:
 - 54% usually travel there on foot, whilst 46% travel by car
 - they like the fact that indoor sports facilities provide ‘a good place to meet friends’
 - they dislike the fact that indoor sports facilities are ‘often used by lots of people’, ‘can cost too much’ and ‘can be untidy/litter’.

Current position and setting standards

- 9.19 A broad review of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken to guide future planning within Manchester. This review was based on the Active Places database, the FPM and relevant information included within the North West Facilities Strategy developed by Sport England in 2008.
- 9.20 This review considers the facilities owned by Manchester City Council and also takes into account facilities owned by other providers, including schools, universities and commercial providers.
- 9.21 Provision of swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls, indoor tennis, squash and indoor cycling facilities have been considered in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. For clarity, the provision of each type of facility is considered individually.

Quality

- 9.22 The PPG17 Companion Guide reinforces that design and management are factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high quality sport and recreation, stating that:

“Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other.”

- 9.23 Quality standards are therefore subdivided into two components, specifically:

- management and maintenance
- design specification.

- 9.24 The key objectives underpinning this are:

- to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality leisure experience for all users of facilities
- to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the targeted range of sports and standards of play as well as individual requirements for specialist sports and uses.

Management of indoor facilities

- 9.25 Quest is a tool for continuous improvement, designed primarily for the management of leisure facilities and leisure development. Quest defines industry standards and good practice and encourages their ongoing development and delivery within a customer focused management framework.

- 9.26 The Quest accreditation is therefore synonymous with high quality and good practice and achievement of this at facilities across Manchester should be targeted.

All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review. The detail of the internal systems, policies and practices underpinning implementation of these principles will correlate directly to the scale of facility, varying according to the position of the facility within the levels of the established hierarchy.

- 9.27 At present there are three facilities within the City which have achieved Quest accreditation; Manchester Aquatics Centre (77%), Wythenshawe Forum (78%) and Broadway Leisure Centre (72%).

- 9.28 As well as reflecting Quest practice, the management of indoor sports facilities should reflect the views and aspirations of the local community. Residents considered the following key issues to be of particular importance in the provision of a high quality indoor facility:

- good access
- good quality changing facilities and toilets
- welcoming staff
- clean/litter free

- good range of facilities
- well maintained equipment.

9.29 The recommended local quality standard for indoor sports facilities is summarised below.

9.30 The aspirations are derived directly from the findings of local consultations.

Quality standard – Indoor sports facilities

| Recommended standard – Indoor sports facilities | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents. These key issues should be incorporated into an overall quality vision. | |
| Essential | Desirable |
| Good access | Good range of facilities |
| Good quality changing rooms/toilets | Well maintained equipment |
| Welcoming staff | Ease and security of parking |
| Clean/litter free | Information boards |

9.31 Improvements to the quality of existing facilities and access were highlighted as being of greater importance than increases in the overall quantity of provision.

Design specifications

9.32 In line with PPG17 recommendations, in addition to establishing a quality vision for sports facilities based on local community needs, facilities should meet with appropriate technical specifications.

Quality standard (design and technical)

| | |
|------------|--|
| QS1 | All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities. |
|------------|--|

9.33 A full list of Sport England Design Guidance Notes can be found on the Sport England website and are available to download free. A summary of key criteria for the quality of sports facilities is provided in Appendix I.

9.34 The space requirement for most sports depends on the standard of play – generally the higher the standard, the larger the area required. Although the playing area is usually of the same dimensions, there is a need to build in provision for increased safety margins, increased clearance height, spectator seating, etc. Similarly, design specification varies according to the level of competition intended in the venue with respect to flooring type and lighting lux levels, for example.

9.35 Sport England Design Guidance Notes are based on eight standards of play. Consideration should be given to the desired specification of the facility in question at the outset.

Supply and demand analysis – developing standards

- 9.36 In order to evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities, supply is compared to an estimated demand. The foundations of all demand assessments are analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population within the local authority. Consideration is also given to the impact of facilities in surrounding local authorities.
- 9.37 The findings of supply and demand models should inform the development of provision standards. Quantity standards should only be applied through the planning process where new facilities are required, and where part of the need for new provision is generated by the impact of the new development. The application of provision standards will be critical however in the event of significant population growth. They can also be used to provide an indication as to the adequacy of existing provision.
- 9.38 Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a key tool for measuring the supply and demand for sports halls and swimming pools. The parameters used in national runs (conducted in 2008 and rerun in 2009) were based on over 65,000 records collected as part of the National Benchmarking Service as well as specific surveys carried out across the country with the purpose of updating the FPM. The parameters used are therefore directly representative of usage. This means that the use of the FPM for analysis of the provision of sports halls and swimming pools provides a robust understanding of supply and demand in an area and consequently of the adequacy of supply to meet demand.
- 9.39 The FPM considers the quantity and type of provision, as well as the appropriateness of the facility to meet the needs of residents in its catchment area. The current position of indoor sports provision is discussed by typology over the following pages.

Sport halls

Context

Regional Facilities Strategy

- 9.40 The Regional Sports Facility Strategy developed by Sport England North West Region in 2008 indicates that the Greater Manchester sub region contains 82,368m² of sports hall space (in halls of 4 courts or above) which equates to 60.03 facilities per 1,000, a figures which is higher than both the North West (59.27) and national averages. The Greater Manchester region contains the highest level of provision of sports halls of all North West areas. As such, the evidence base suggests that the key future priorities should centre around qualitative improvements and access issues.
- 9.41 Despite this, the strategy identifies Manchester as a priority location for new provision (if opportunities arise for new provision, particularly in line with BSF). In particular, the strategy recommends:
- one badminton centre (Performance and Development) per 50,000 adult population – while there are no specific facilities within the North West, Liverpool is identified as being a priority and Manchester is considered to already contain strong links for badminton. The importance of the provision of appropriate multi purpose halls is identified
 - the need for 'fit for purpose' basketball facilities across the North West with Manchester identified as an area of strength in terms of basketball provision, however new two court halls are required across the region
 - that the Manchester Velodrome netball courts be identified as a regional priority for improvement and that in the longer term, more facilities are required to meet

the needs of netball – with Greater Manchester identified as an area of particular strength for netball

- that Manchester offers limited opportunities for table tennis and is therefore seen to be a priority for the development of a new table tennis centre
- there are limited opportunities for volleyball, with no facilities considered to be fit for purpose. The development of purpose built volleyball venues is highlighted as a priority in all major cities, including Manchester.

9.42 As such the strategy recommends that consideration be given for a multi-purpose facility to meet the needs of badminton, basketball and volleyball. Also that a specialist boxing facility be considered at Cedar Mount High School to meet growing demand/participation.

Current Provision

9.43 Based on Sport England's National Facilities Audit dataset as at May 2009, the FPM indicates that within Manchester there are currently 42 facilities that contain sports halls. In total these contain 57 sports halls equating to 234 badminton courts across the City.

9.44 The average size of a sports hall in Manchester is four courts and there are 10 facilities which are larger than four badminton courts; plus there are three facilities with 10 or more courts (Sugden Sports Centre, Wright Robinson Sports College and Manchester Velodrome). Table 9.1 overleaf provides detailed information on each of these sites.

9.45 The provision of sports halls in Manchester is summarised in Table 9.1 overleaf.

Table 9.1 – Provision of sports halls in Manchester

| Name of facility | Main Hall Courts | Ancillary Hall Courts | Capacity (vpwpp) |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ABRAHAM MOSS LEISURE CENTRE | 5 | 2 | 1155 |
| AMAECHI BASKETBALL CENTRE | 6 | | 1140 |
| ARCADIA SPORTS CENTRE | 4 | | 760 |
| ARDWICK SPORTS HALL | 4 | | 710 |
| ARMITAGE CENTRE | 8 | | 1560 |
| BELLE VUE LEISURE CENTRE (MANCHESTER) | 8 | | 1560 |
| BROOKWAY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL | 4 | | 500 |
| BURNAGE HIGH SCHOOL | 3 | | 495 |
| CEDAR MOUNT HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | | 500 |
| CEDAR MOUNT HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | | 730 |
| CHORLTON HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | 3 | 936 |
| CHORLTON LEISURE CENTRE | 3 | | 570 |
| DIDSBURY SPORTS CENTRE | 5 | | 888 |
| LEVENSHULME HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | | 360 |
| LORETO COLLEGE | 4 | | 450 |
| LORETO HIGH SCHOOL, CHORLTON | 4 | | 500 |
| MANCHESTER ACADEMY | 4 | 4 | 1539 |
| MANCHESTER LEISURE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE | 4 | | 740 |
| MANCHESTER VELODROME | 10 | | 2025 |
| MELLAND SPORTS CENTRE | 6 | | 750 |
| MOSS SIDE LEISURE CENTRE | 5 | 4 | 1634 |
| MOSS SIDE MILLENNIUM POWERHOUSE | 4 | | 710 |
| NEWALL GREEN HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | 2 | 945 |
| NORTH MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS | 4 | | 760 |
| NORTH MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | 4 | 4 | 580 |

SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

| Name of facility | Main Hall Courts | Ancillary Hall Courts | Capacity (vpwpp) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| OUR LADY'S RC HIGH SCHOOL | 3 | | 450 |
| PARKLANDS HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | 2 | 750 |
| PARRS WOOD HIGH SCHOOL: A SPECIALIST ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE | 4 | 3 | 1499 |
| PLANT HILL HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | | 580 |
| PLATT LANE COMPLEX | 3 | | 570 |
| SPORTING EDGE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE | 4 | | 480 |
| ST MATTHEWS ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | | 500 |
| SUGDEN SPORTS CENTRE | 14 | 3 | 3166 |
| TEN ACRES SPORTS COMPLEX | 4 | | 740 |
| THE BARLOW ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | 4 | 3 | 925 |
| TRINITY SPORTS CENTRE | 4 | | 690 |
| WILLIAM HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL | 3 | | 443 |
| WITHINGTON GIRLS' SCHOOL | 4 | 2 | 1104 |
| WOODHOUSE PARK ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CENTRE | 4 | | 760 |
| WRIGHT ROBINSON SPORTS COLLEGE | 12 | | 930 |
| WYTHENSHAW FORUM | 4 | | 760 |
| YMCA (MANCHESTER)('Y' CLUB) | 4 | | 800 |

Source: Sport England National Facilities Audit dataset (May 2009). Dataset includes sports halls 3 badminton courts or more in size, plus any ancillary halls on the same site.

Quality of existing provision

- 9.46 As highlighted previously, the quality of facilities is particularly important to local residents. The age of facilities, along with the quality of the sites may influence how likely residents are to use facilities.
- 9.47 Of the 57 halls in Manchester, 22 were built after 1999. In the same period, 15 halls were refurbished whilst in terms of older facilities; 15 sports halls were built more than 25 years ago, of which only six have been refurbished. Consultation with local residents highlighted that there is a perception that facilities are ageing, and that they are less attractive than they once were. Although it is recognised that there are some very high quality facilities, the general (but incorrect) perception is that these are not available for use by the local community.

- 9.48 Of the Council / public facilities, the Armitage Centre, Chorlton Leisure Centre and Moss Side Leisure Centre are considered to be the least attractive to residents. The vast majority of ageing facilities are however education facilities.
- 9.49 The Regional Facilities Strategic Framework (2008) highlights the need to improve school sports facilities across the County and the need to ensure that the BSF process seeks to replace or refurbish sports halls and ancillary facilities in need of investment. The age of the existing sports halls in Manchester highlights the importance of this.

Quantity of provision

- 9.50 The key findings from the FPM data run are that:
- sports hall provision in Manchester currently equates to 4.9 courts per 10,000 population which is above both the regional average (4.3 courts) and national average (3.8 courts)
 - the total sports hall supply for Manchester (234 courts in total) equates to 186 courts scaled by hours (ie taking into consideration the hours available for use)
 - the current population in Manchester is likely to generate demand equivalent to circa 24,600 visits per week in the peak period (VPWPP) – this level of demand is equivalent to 152 badminton courts
 - existing sports hall provision within the City provides supply equivalent to circa 37,643 VPWPP
 - the level of overall total supply in Manchester (186 courts) is therefore greater than the level of demand (152 courts). This figure provides an indication only, and does not take into account important factors, such as the location of facilities and facilities in adjoining boroughs
 - when taking into account these issues, it can be seen that 92% of demand is currently being met by existing provision. This is equivalent to the regional average which is equates to 92.7% and higher than the national average which equates to 89.9%. Despite this, it is marginally lower than the Greater Manchester average which is equivalent 93.1%
 - the amount of unmet demand equates to 1,973 VPWPP or 12 badminton courts
 - analysis of the data suggests that the unmet demand in the City is due to the fact that there are residents who live outside the catchment of a sports hall. While almost all residents who have a car are within a driving catchment, almost all unmet demand is from residents without access to a car living outside the catchment for a sports hall. This to an extent is reflective of consultation findings, which highlighted that there are a lack of local facilities for residents who wish to reach a sports hall within walking distance of their home
 - personal share helps show which areas have a better/worse share of facilities compared to every other area, taking into account the size and availability of facilities as well as travel modes. Manchester has a personal share value of 120 (England average equals 100) as such the data suggests that residents in Manchester have a higher (better) personal share than England, Greater Manchester (111) and the regional average (111)

- sports halls are currently operating at approximately 72% used capacity, which is higher than the Greater Manchester average (67%), regional average (63%) and the national average of (66%) and below the ‘comfort¹’ level which is 80% for sports halls – suggesting that there is some spare capacity. However, there are a large number of sites (22) which are estimated to be operating at capacity whilst there are five other sites that appear to have less than 40% of their capacity being utilised
 - not all demand for sports halls from Manchester residents will be met by Manchester’s sports halls as some residents may be located closer to halls in neighbouring areas and vice versa. However, on balance, the FPM estimates that Manchester is a net importer – importing 18.7% of demand from outside the City.
- 9.51 The above findings suggest that on a quantitative basis, the current supply of sports halls is adequate in terms of meeting the needs of Manchester City residents.
- 9.52 However, there are a number of sites where facilities are ageing and quality may be an issue. In addition, access is likely to be an issue for some residents who do not have access to a car or live near to facilities that are operating at/above capacity. These factors may be the root cause of some issues arising during consultation – which showed dissatisfaction amongst some residents with current provision.
- 9.53 Consultation undertaken for this study indicated that a relatively large proportion of residents consider current sports hall provision to be inadequate, with:
- over one third of household survey respondents (41%) considering there to be ‘not enough’ sports halls in Manchester and only 29% considering provision to be ‘about right/more than enough’. 18% considered there to be ‘nearly enough’ provision and 12% had no opinion
 - a higher proportion of residents from the Wythenshawe (52%), Central (47%) and East (58%) areas deeming there to be ‘not enough’ sports hall provision.

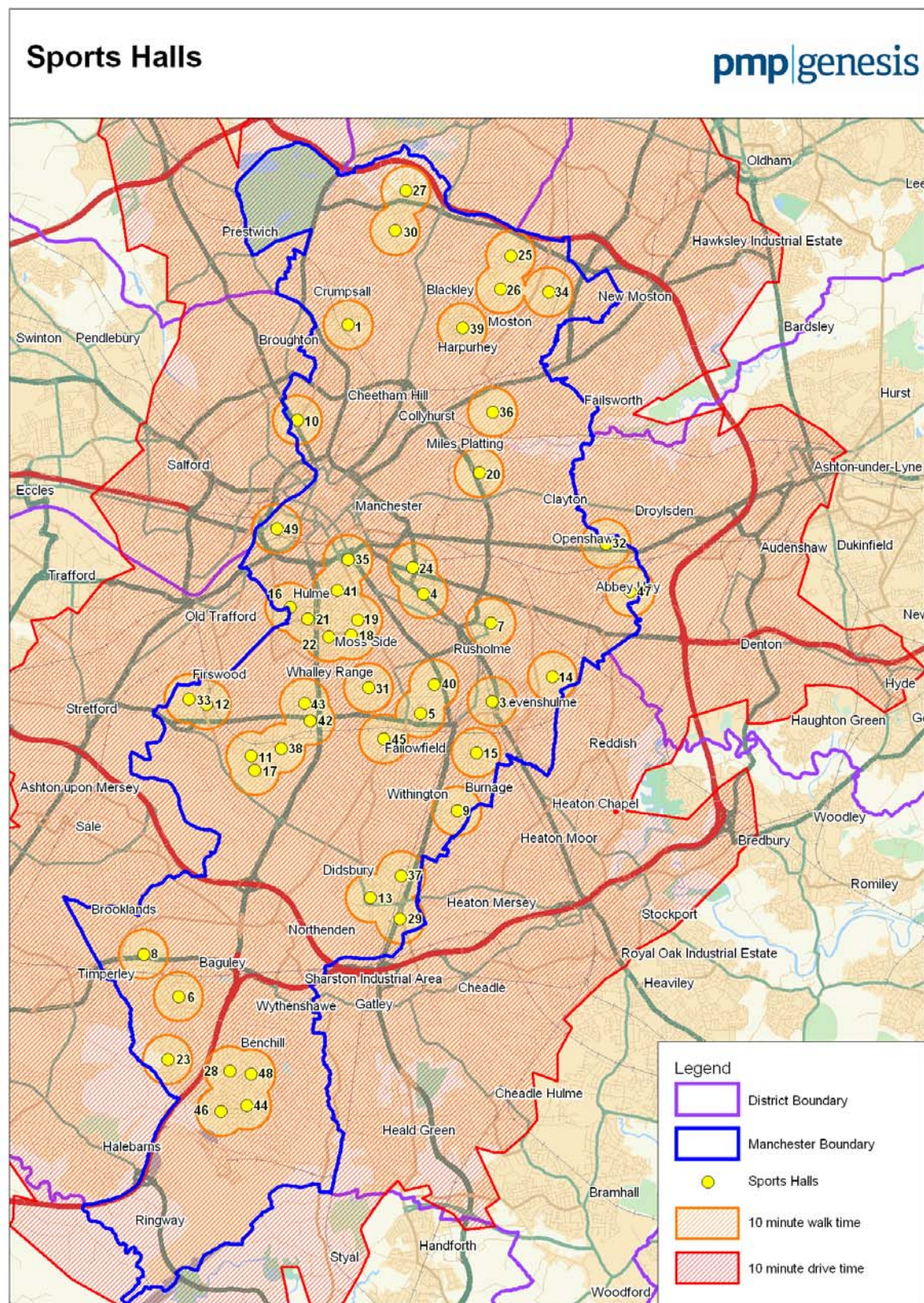
Access to facilities

- 9.54 Access to facilities is perhaps the most important determinant of the adequacy of provision of facilities.
- 9.55 The majority of the 57 sports halls in Manchester (57%) are owned by educational establishments including schools and higher/further education establishments. The local authority owns 19%.
- 9.56 The findings of the household survey and other consultations show that:
- of those residents that use indoor sports facilities more frequently than any other open space/sports facility, 47% travel on foot, 38% by public transport and just 14% by car, with 70% travelling for 15 minutes or under

¹ *Comfort Factor: as part of the modelling process, each facility is given a maximum number of visits it can accommodate based on its size. If the facilities were full to their theoretical capacity then there would simply not be the space to undertake the activity comfortably, plus there is a need to take account of a range of activities taking place which have different numbers of users. To take these factors into account the notion of a ‘comfort factor’ has been applied within the model – for sports halls it is 80% and for swimming pools it is 70% of the theoretical capacity where a facility is considered as being at a limit where a facility starts to become uncomfortably busy .*

- 39% of residents expect to travel to a sports hall on foot, 38% by car and 17% by public transport – average journey time is 13 minutes on foot and 14 minutes by car and the mode is 10 minutes by both methods.
- 9.57 Map 9.1 overleaf illustrates the distribution of existing sports halls together with access catchments, based on the survey findings (ie 10 minute walktime catchments and 10 minute drivetime catchments).
- 9.58 It can be seen that when considering access by car, all residents are within a 10 minute drivetime. However, as the survey results show, not all residents expect to travel to a sports hall by car, with over one-third expecting to travel on foot. The 10 minute walktime catchments show that although there is a relatively good distribution of sports halls, there are some residents living outside this distance threshold and provision is more sparse in the north / north east and south of the city. This reflects the issues raised in the FPM.
- 9.59 FPM data indicates that in terms of access to sports halls, 64% of demand is satisfied for those who travel by car compared to just 36% who travel on foot. Although it should be noted that the level of satisfied demand for those who travel on foot is higher than the Greater Manchester (23%), regional average (20%) and national average (16%).

Map 9.1 – Sports Hall Provision in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



| ID | Sports_Hall Key |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Abraham Moss Leisure Centre |
| 2 | Amaechi Basketball Centre |
| 3 | Arcadia Sports Centre |
| 4 | Ardwick Sports Hall |
| 5 | Armitage Centre |
| 6 | Baguley Hall School |
| 7 | Belle Vue Leisure Centre |
| 8 | Brookway High School |
| 9 | Burnage High School |
| 10 | Cheetwood Primary School Sports Hall |
| 11 | Chorlton High School |
| 12 | Chorlton Leisure Centre |
| 13 | Didsbury Sports Centre |
| 14 | Gorton Education Village |
| 15 | Levenshulme High School |
| 16 | Loreto College |
| 17 | Loreto High School |
| 18 | Manchester Academy |
| 19 | Manchester Leisure Sports Development Centre |
| 20 | Manchester Velodrome |
| 21 | Moss Side Leisure Centre |
| 22 | Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse |
| 23 | Newall Green High School |
| 24 | Nicholls Sixth Form College |
| 25 | North Manchester High School for Boys |
| 26 | North Manchester High School for Girls |
| 27 | Our Lady's RC High School |
| 28 | Parklands High School |
| 29 | Parrs Wood High School |
| 30 | Plant Hill High School |
| 31 | Platt Lane Complex |
| 32 | Sporting Edge Community Sports Centre |
| 33 | St Johns School Sports Hall |
| 34 | St Matthews Roman Catholic High School |
| 35 | Sugden Sports Centre |
| 36 | Ten Acres Sports Complex |
| 37 | The Barlow Roman Catholic High School |
| 38 | The Hough End Centre |
| 39 | The Manchester College |
| 40 | The Manchester Grammar School |
| 41 | Trinity Sports Centre |
| 42 | Whalley Range High School |
| 43 | William Hulme Grammar School |
| 44 | Willows Primary School |
| 45 | Withington Girls School |
| 46 | Woodhouse Park Active Lifestyle |
| 47 | Wright Robinson Sports College |
| 48 | Wythenshawe Forum |
| 49 | YMCA |

Summary – sports halls

- 9.60 Analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports halls indicates that overall there is sufficient quantity to meet demand and that 92% of demand is currently being met which is above national and equivalent to the regional average levels. Plus sports hall provision in Manchester per 10,000 population is also above regional and national average levels.
- 9.61 Facilities are reasonably well distributed across the City although there are some areas where residents are outside of the appropriate catchment.
- 9.62 Given the high levels of existing provision, the focus should be on:
- ensuring that facilities are easily accessible via public transport, on-foot or cycling etc – given the above average proportion of residents without access to a car and to help meet ‘unmet demand’ that was highlighted via the FPM for those who access facilities on foot
 - improving and maintaining the quality of sports halls – particularly giving consideration to the need to refurbish sports halls at sites where stock is ageing
 - developing future investment strategies for core public facilities to ensure that sports halls and changing facilities are adequately maintained and refurbished. Moss side Leisure Centre, Chorlton Leisure Centre and Didsbury Sports Centre are among the less attractive facilities to residents
 - maximising resources on school sites and access by the community, with programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and the extended schools programme offering significant opportunities and also where appropriate within local community centres to meet local demand – particularly for those who do not have access to a car. School facilities should become community hubs outside of school hours
 - where opportunities arise for providing new/refurbished provision arise, consideration should be given to the recommendations identified in the Regional Facilities Strategy, particularly in terms of providing a multi-purpose facility to meet the needs of badminton, netball and volleyball. The supply and demand model indicates that there are deficiencies of 12 courts across the city. Where new specialist provision is created, this should be linked with community use and should remain a focal point for community participation
 - ensuring that the programming of all sports facilities is complementary and that there is effective marketing and promotion to raise awareness of facilities and services available and achieve the maximum benefit for the local community
 - ensuring that the cost of accessing facilities is appropriate for different client groups and that opportunities and concessionary rates are promoted to the local community
 - the providers of indoor sports facilities striving to achieve the quality vision and where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality
- 9.63 The impact of new housing developments should be assessed using the Sport England Facility Calculator which provides estimates of the amount of demand for additional sports halls generated by new populations.

Swimming pools

Context

Regional Facilities Strategy

- 9.64 The Regional Sports Facility Strategy evidence base highlighted an in-balance of swimming provision across the region, suggesting that there is good access to pools for residents in the urban areas of Liverpool and Manchester and with poor access for residents in Cumbria, east and central Lancashire and south and central Cheshire; with residents in Manchester being considered to have good access to both 25m and 50m pools.
- 9.65 As demonstrated via the FPM findings above, analysis of total swimming provision across the region highlighted an above average amount of waterspace per 1,000 population in Greater Manchester compared to the regional and national average levels of provision.
- 9.66 The strategy highlighted that based on FPM findings; there is no one local authority area in the region where the level of unmet demand justifies new swimming provision. Instead priority should be given to improvements to quality and access – with Manchester being identified as an area that would particularly benefit from the replacement of existing facilities.
- 9.67 Consultation carried out for this study indicates that the views of local residents are mixed, in relation to the adequacy of existing swimming pool provision:
- whilst 42% of residents said that there are ‘not enough’ swimming pools in Manchester, 40% said that they consider the current provision to be ‘about right/more than enough’, whilst 14% said that there are ‘nearly enough’ pools
 - with a higher proportion of residents from Wythenshawe (49%), East (74%) and Central (52%) areas stating that they consider there to be ‘not enough’ swimming pool provision.
- 9.68 Perhaps reflecting access issues (particularly for those who do not have access to a car) rather than an overall lack of provision.
- 9.69 Sport England’s National Facilities Audit as at May 2009 indicates that there are currently 29 swimming pools within Manchester (situated on 19 sites), equating to a total of 7,770m² of water space (6,844m² with scaled hours). The main swimming pools in the City are outlined in Table 9.2 overleaf.
- 9.70 Table 9.2 shows that there is a wide range of swimming provision across the City:
- the largest pool site is the Manchester Aquatics Centre which comprises a 50m x 21m, a 50m x 12m, a 20m x 7m leisure pool and 25m x 16m diving pool. This site is built to a high specification and is able to host international level events
 - Miles Platting Pool is the second largest pool site comprising of two 25m x 12.5m pools and a 9m x 7m learner pool.
 - 17 of the 29 pool facilities are owned by the Council, whilst 6 are commercially owned.

9.71 Table 9.2 overleaf summarises the provision of swimming pools in Manchester.

Table 9.2 – Provision of swimming pools in Manchester

| Name of pool site | Total waterspace (sq m) | Capacity vpwpp |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| ABRAHAM MOSS LEISURE CENTRE | 408.5 | 2741 |
| BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (MANCHESTER QUAY STREET) | 360 | 2925 |
| BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (MANCHESTER) | 160 | 1300 |
| BROADWAY LEISURE CENTRE | 230 | 1779 |
| CHORLTON LEISURE CENTRE | 165.8 | 1250 |
| GALLEON LEISURE CLUB | 312.5 | 2539 |
| LEVENSHULME SWIMMING POOLS | 289.3 | 1696 |
| MANCHESTER AQUATIC CENTRE | 2196.3 | 17778 |
| MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | 230 | 1330 |
| MILES PLATTING POOLS & HEALTH SUITE | 688 | 4051 |
| MOSS SIDE LEISURE CENTRE | 463 | 3690 |
| NORTH CITY FAMILY & FITNESS CENTRE | 262.5 | 1904 |
| THE MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL | 276 | 927 |
| VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (MANCHESTER DIDSBUY) | 364 | 2958 |
| VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (MANCHESTER PRINTWORKS) | 160 | 1300 |
| WITHINGTON LEISURE CENTRE | 345 | 2668 |
| WRIGHT ROBINSON SPORTS COLLEGE | 312.5 | 659 |
| WYTHENSHAW FORUM | 385 | 2797 |
| YMCA (MANCHESTER)('Y' CLUB) | 162 | 1316 |

Source: Sport England National Facilities Audit dataset (May 2009). Dataset excludes swimming pools that are less than 20m in length or less than 160m² in total

Quality of existing provision

- 9.72 FPM data indicates that nine of the 29 pools were built after 1999 whilst 16 are more than 25 years old. Of the 16 older pools, 9 have been refurbished. In general, commercial facilities are of higher quality and have been built more recently. Levenshulme Swimming Pool, Abraham Moss Leisure Centre and Mosside Leisure Centre are all ageing facilities and as a consequence are less attractive to residents.
- 9.73 Internal consultation with officers highlighted that there are a number of pools sites which are nearing the end of their life (eg Miles Platting Pools) and also comments received on the household survey suggest that the quality of provision is an issue for customers at some of the older sites. In particular, residents highlighted that Chorlton Swimming Pool and Withington Swimming pool are of poor quality. It was suggested that while there are some very high quality facilities (such as the Manchester Aquatics Centres) community hub sites are low quality.
- 9.74 The Regional Facility strategy does not identify the need for additional swimming provision in Manchester, but instead highlights the importance of refurbishing existing facilities to ensure that they continue to meet community demand.

Quantity of provision

- 9.75 The key findings from the FPM data run are that:
- swimming pool provision in Manchester currently equates to 16.3m² per 1,000 population which is considerably higher than the Greater Manchester average (13.4m²), regional average of 13.4m² and the national average of 12.9m². However, it should be noted, that the Manchester Aquatics Centre has a regional draw
 - the current population in Manchester is likely to generate demand equivalent to circa 29,071 visits per week in the peak period (VPWPP) - this level of demand is equivalent to 3,578m² (5,111m² with the comfort factor included)
 - existing swimming pool provision within the City provides supply equivalent to circa 55,608 VPWPP – suggesting a large quantitative oversupply in provision; although this does not take into account the location of facilities, access to facilities and facilities in adjoining boroughs
 - 89.2% of demand is currently being met by existing provision, which is similar to the regional average (89.6%) and also the national average which equates to 90.8% (Greater Manchester average equates to 90.0%)
 - Manchester has an above average proportion of people (39%) who do not have access to a car – which may mean that there is a lower proportion of people who are ‘mobile’ and therefore have access to a greater choice of pools
 - the model estimates that 64.5% of demand is satisfied by those who travel to pools by car and 35.5% for those who travel on foot. The level of satisfied demand for those who travel on foot is high in Manchester by comparison to England average – 17.7%, regional average – 19.4% and Greater Manchester average – 22.3%; although it is clear that some residents who wish to travel by foot are still outside of the catchment for a facility

- 21% of demand is currently unmet in Manchester; this proportion is higher than that recorded for Greater Manchester, the North West region and England average
- unmet demand equates to 3,152 VPWPP or 388m² of waterspace (554m² of waterspace with the comfort factor included)
- nearly all of the unmet demand in the City is due to residents who do not have access to a car and live outside a walking catchment of a swimming pool
- swimming pools are currently operating at approximately 57.1% used capacity, which is higher than the Greater Manchester average (54.5%), regional average (54.0%) and equal to the national average of (57.5%) although it is well below the 'comfort' level which is 70% for swimming pools – suggesting that there is some space capacity. However, it should be noted that the model indicates that three pool sites in Manchester show 70% or more of capacity being used; specifically the Wright Robinson Sports College, North City Family and Fitness Centre and Manchester Aquatics Centre
- the level of personal share, or relative share for pools in Manchester is 95 compared to 100 for England, 103 for Greater Manchester and 105 for the North West region suggesting that Manchester residents have a relatively low relative share of pool facilities in comparison to other areas
- as with sports halls, the model takes into account the fact that not all demand for pools from Manchester residents will be met by Manchester's pools as some residents may be located closer to pools in neighbouring areas and vice versa. On balance, it is estimated that Manchester is a net importer – importing 20% of demand from outside the City.

9.76 The above findings suggest that on a quantitative basis, the current supply of swimming pools is adequate to meet the needs of Manchester City residents although there are some issues relating to accessibility which require further investigation.

Access to facilities

9.77 Findings of the household survey and other consultations show that:

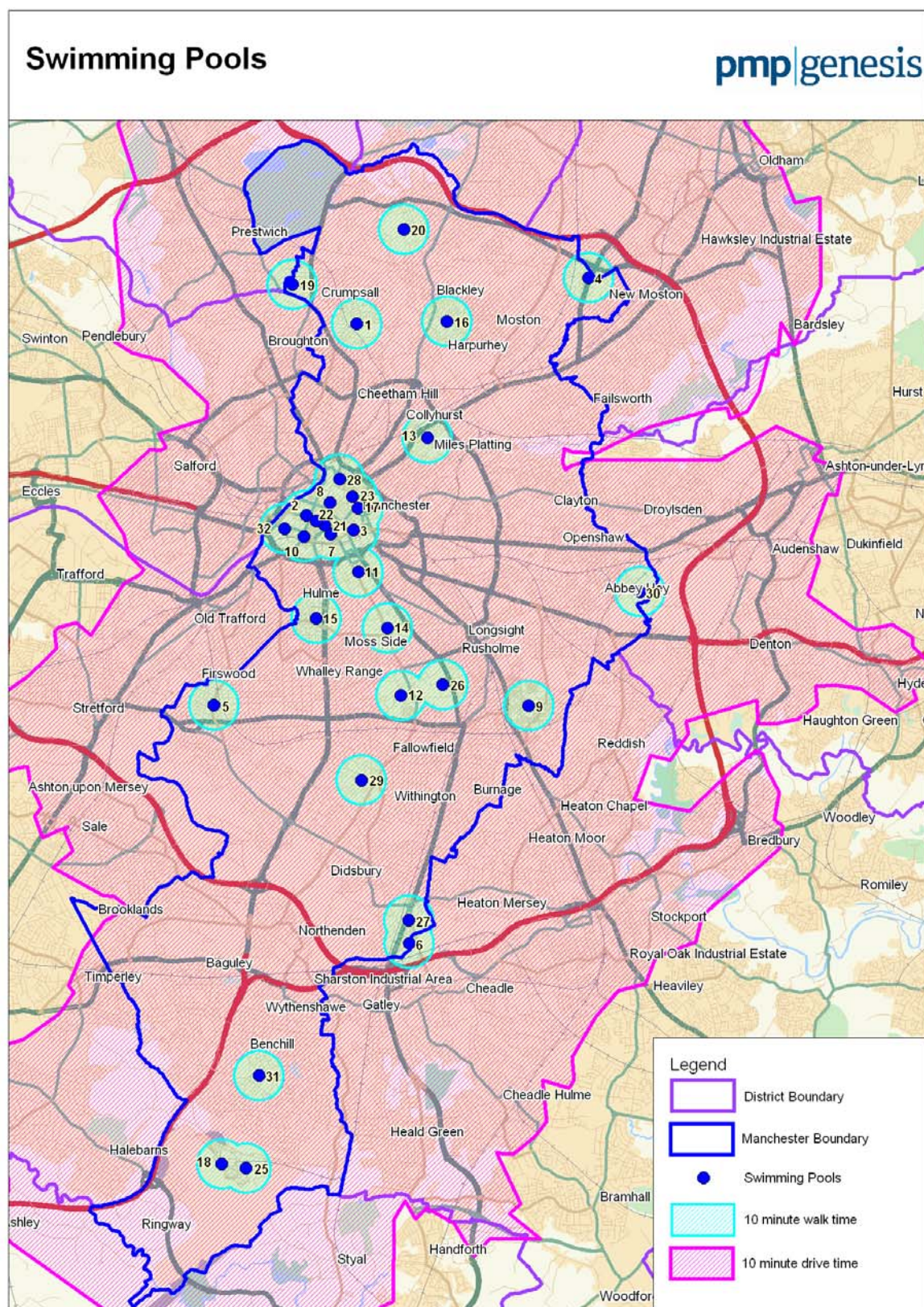
- 42% of residents expect to travel to a swimming pool on foot, 37% by car and 26% by public transport
- average journey time is 13 minutes on foot and 14 minutes by car
- the mode is 10 minutes by both methods.

9.78 Map 9.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of existing swimming pools together with access catchments, based on the survey findings (ie 10 minute walktime catchments and 10 minute drivetime catchments).

9.79 It can be seen that when considering access by car, all residents are within a 10 minute drivetime. However, as the survey results show, not all residents expect to travel to a swimming pool by car, with over 40% expecting to travel on foot. The 10 minute walktime catchments show that although there are a large number of pools across the city – particularly within the city centre, there are some gaps in provision, particularly in the East and South West areas of the City. The vast majority of swimming pool provision is located in and around the city centre.

- 9.80 FPM data indicates that in terms of access to swimming pools, 64.5% of demand is satisfied for those who travel by car compared to 35.5% who travel on foot – which is higher than the Greater Manchester average (22.3%), regional average (19.4%) and national average (17.7%).

Map 9.2 – Swimming Pool Provision in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



| ID | Swimming Pool Key |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Abraham Moss Leisure Centre |
| 2 | Bannatynes Health Club Quay Street |
| 3 | Bannatynes Health Club |
| 4 | Broadway Leisure Centre |
| 5 | Chorlton Leisure Centre |
| 6 | Galleon Leisure Club |
| 7 | GL 14 The Health Club |
| 8 | LA Fitness |
| 9 | Levenshulme Swimming Pools |
| 10 | Livingwell Express Club |
| 11 | Manchester Aquatic Centre |
| 12 | Manchester High School for Girls |
| 13 | Miles Platting Pools and Health Suite |
| 14 | Momentum Leisure Club |
| 15 | Moss Side Leisure Centre |
| 16 | North City Family and Fitness Centre |
| 17 | Otium Leisure Club |
| 18 | Pace Health Club |
| 19 | Park Swim School |
| 20 | Plant Hill High School |
| 21 | Reflections Leisure Club |
| 22 | Sienna for Body and Mind |
| 23 | Spindles Health and Leisure |
| 24 | Didsbury |
| 25 | Spindles Health and Leisure |
| 26 | Spirit Health Club |
| 27 | The Manchester Grammar School |
| 28 | Virgin Active Club Didsbury |
| 29 | Virgin Active Club Printworks |
| 30 | Withington Leisure Centre |
| 31 | Wright Robinson Sports College |
| 32 | Wythenshawe Forum |
| 33 | YMCA |

Summary – swimming pools

- 9.81 Analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of swimming pools indicates that overall there is sufficient quantity to meet demand and that 89% of demand is currently being met which is similar to the national and regional average levels. Additionally, swimming pool provision in Manchester per 1,000 population is significantly higher than the regional and national average levels.
- 9.82 Facilities are reasonably well distributed across the City although there is less provision in the East and South West areas of the City. The majority of facilities are located in and around the city centre.
- 9.83 As with sports halls, given the existing levels of provision, key priorities should be on:
- ensuring that facilities are easily accessible via public transport, on-foot or cycling etc – given the above average proportion of residents without access to a car and to help meet ‘unmet demand’ that was highlighted via the FPM for those who access facilities on foot

- developing future investment strategies for core facilities to ensure that swimming facilities and changing facilities are adequately maintained
 - looking to refurbish/replace existing swimming pools where stock is ageing/at end of lifespan – in particular Levenshulme Swimming Pool, Mossdale Leisure Centre, Abraham Moss Leisure Centre and Miles Platting pools are ageing facilities
 - ensuring that the programming of the pools is complementary and that there is effective marketing and promotion to raise awareness of facilities and services available to achieve the maximum benefit for the local community
 - ensuring that the cost of accessing facilities is appropriate for different client groups and that any discount / concessionary rates are promoted to the public
 - developing programmes and facility provision where appropriate to adequately cater for the needs of BME communities – this may involve adapting the design of swimming pools and / or providing separate sessions suitable for different sectors of the community
 - the providers of indoor sports facilities striving to achieve the quality vision and where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
- 9.84 The impact of new housing developments in the future, should be assessed using the Sport England Facility Calculator which provides estimates of any additional water space required in m² per 1,000 population generated by new populations.

Indoor bowls

- 9.85 There are currently no purpose built indoor bowls facilities provided within Manchester. However, there are a number of indoor bowls facilities located within the surrounding areas, including:
- Fit City Ordsall, Salford – 2 rinks
 - Swinton Leisure Centre, Swinton – 3 rinks
 - Oldham Sports Centre, Oldham – 4 rinks.

Supply and demand

- 9.86 Household survey results showed that almost half of all residents (45%) had no opinion on the quantity of indoor bowls facilities. However, around one-third of respondents felt that provision was inadequate; with 35% indicating that there is 'not enough' indoor bowls facilities. 12% consider current provision to 'about right/more than enough' and 8% deem there to be 'nearly enough' provision.
- 9.87 Active Places Power can be used to calculate levels of provision on a local authority basis for a range of facilities including indoor bowls centres. However, given that there are currently no indoor bowls facilities within Manchester, it is not surprising that the amount of indoor bowls provision in Manchester is equivalent to 0.00 rinks per 1,000 population, which is naturally lower than the national average of 0.04 rinks and slightly lower than the regional average of 0.01 rinks per 1,000 population.

- 9.88 Similarly with no dedicated indoor bowls provision, Active Places Power data highlights that the proportion of 'met demand' for indoor bowls facilities in Manchester (0%) is below the national average of (58%) and regional average (11%). However, this data does not take into account demand that may be being met by facilities in surrounding authorities.

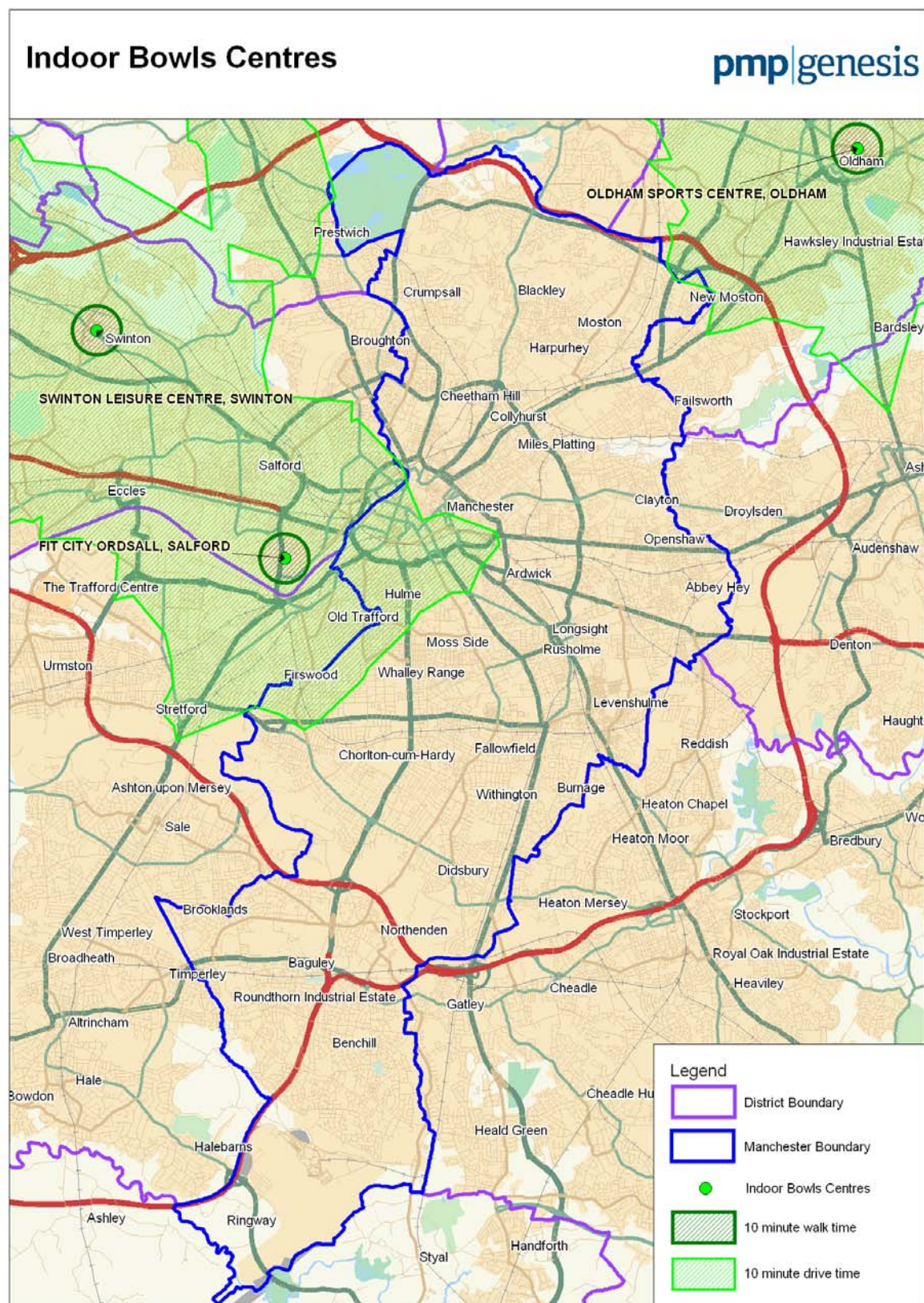
Accessibility

- 9.89 Local consultation undertaken reveals that 42% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor bowls facility whilst 30% expect to travel on foot and 22% by public transport. The mean expected travel time is 13 minutes on foot and 16 minutes by car whilst the modal response is 10 minutes by both methods.
- 9.90 Map 9.3 overleaf illustrates that when applying a 10 minute walk or drivetime access catchment to indoor bowls facilities, the majority of residents in Manchester are outside this distance threshold.
- 9.91 However, it should be noted, that given the specialist nature of this facility and the fact that the English Indoor Bowling Association recommends that residents be within a 20 minute drive time of an indoor bowls facility, on this basis, most residents could reach an indoor bowls facility within this drive time.
- 9.92 In addition, the Regional Sports Facility Strategy identifies Greater Manchester as an area of low participation and low activity for indoor bowls and as such, new facilities are not prioritised in the Manchester area.

Summary – indoor bowls

- 9.93 The key findings in relation to indoor bowls are that:
- there are currently no indoor bowls facility in Manchester however, there are purpose built indoor bowls facilities located at Salford, Swinton and Oldham
 - Active Places Power indicates that Manchester has a below average level of provision per 1,000 population of indoor bowls rinks compared to England
 - the Regional Sports Facility Strategy identifies Greater Manchester as an area of low participation and low activity for indoor bowls and as such, new facilities are not prioritised in the Manchester area
 - the majority of residents are within a 20 minute drive time of an indoor bowls facility which is in line with English Indoor Bowling Association recommendations.
- 9.94 In light of the above, focus should therefore be placed upon:
- promoting local indoor bowls facilities and the programme of activities available within surrounding areas
 - ensuring that the facilities provided are accessible by a range of transport methods and are affordable for Manchester residents.
- 9.95 Where any specific localised demand for indoor bowls is identified, this could be met through the provision of short mat and long mat bowls activities within the programming of sports halls or community hall facilities.

Map 9.3 – Indoor Bowls in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



Indoor tennis facilities

Context

- 9.96 There are currently two indoor tennis facilities within Manchester providing a total of 9 courts – located at the following facilities:
- 3 indoor courts at the Northern Lawn Tennis Club
 - 6 indoor courts at Sports City.
- 9.97 Given the specialist nature of indoor tennis centres, these facilities usually serve wider catchment areas than local community sports facilities and as such, it should be noted that there are also a number of other indoor tennis facilities provided within the surrounding areas, including:
- David Lloyd Centre, Trafford (8 indoor courts)
 - Lancashire Health and Racquets Centre, Middleton (9 indoor courts)
 - David Lloyd Centre, Cheadle (9 indoor courts)
 - Harper Green Community Leisure Centre, Bolton (2 indoor courts)
 - David Lloyd Centre, Bolton (7 indoor courts).

Quality of existing provision

- 9.98 The quality of the existing indoor tennis facilities is very good, with all facilities being constructed within the last 15 years and usually maintained to a high standard, given that most are provided on a private membership basis.

Supply and demand

- 9.99 Household survey results showed that 45% of respondents consider there to be ‘not enough’ indoor tennis facilities in Manchester, whilst just 12% consider current provision to be ‘about right/more than enough’ and 8% consider there to be ‘nearly enough’ facilities (35% had no opinion). As discussed in section 8, the household survey also exhibited a perception that there is a lack of outdoor tennis facilities. This may be influenced by a lack of awareness of existing provision, as well as potentially by the limited supply of pay and play public facilities.
- 9.100 It should also be noted that a higher proportion of residents from the North (51%) and Central (60%) areas consider there to be ‘not enough’ indoor tennis facilities currently.
- 9.101 Active Places Power indicates that the amount of indoor tennis provision in Manchester is equivalent to circa 0.02 courts per 1,000 population in which is equivalent to the regional average (0.02) and lower than the national average (0.03).

Regional Facilities Strategy

- 9.102 The Regional Sports Facility Strategy highlights that provision of indoor tennis facilities is higher than in other areas of the North West and as such, Manchester is not specifically identified as a priority area for new provision. However, it is noted that there is a need for more publicly accessible ‘pay and play’ facilities across the region.

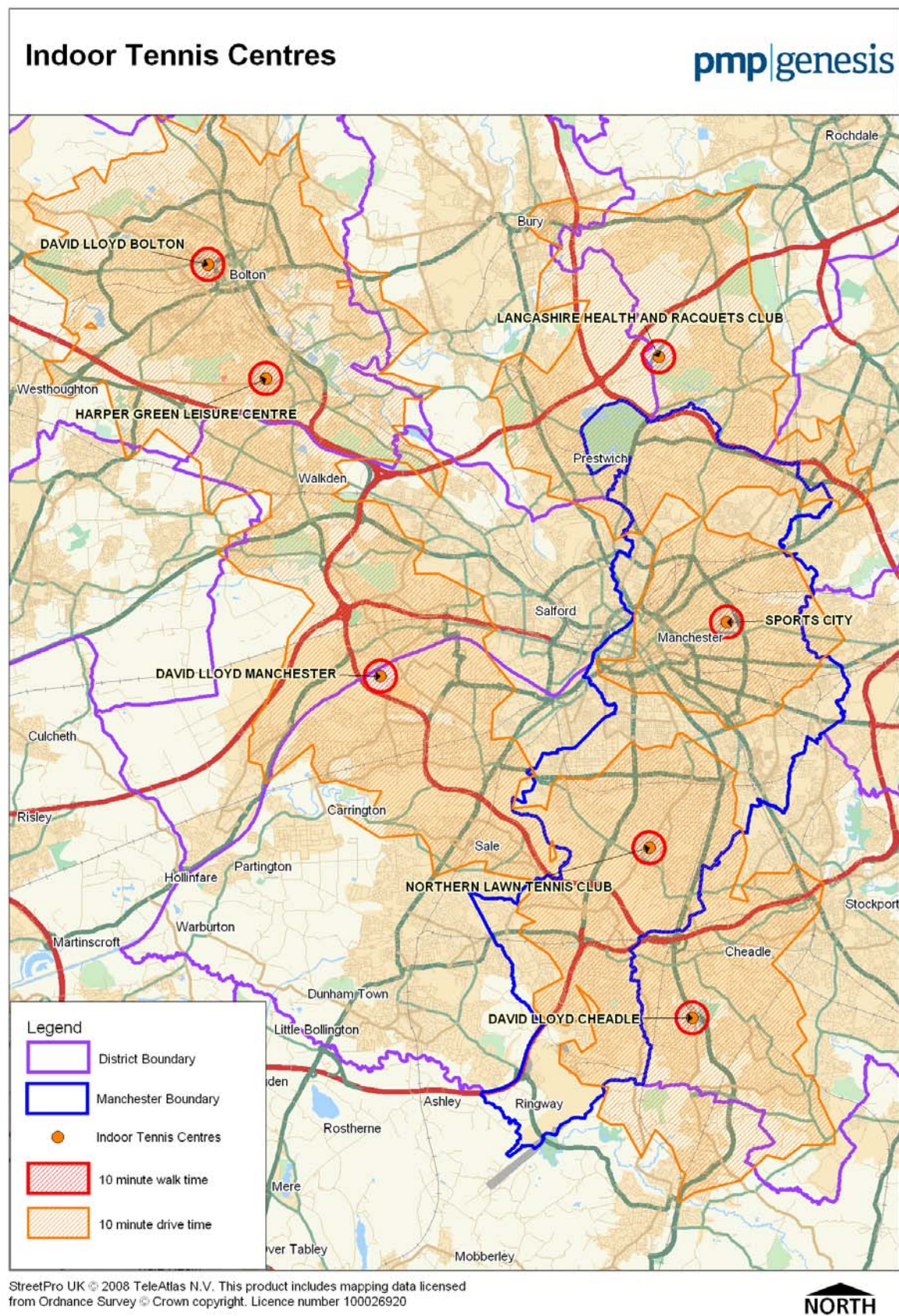
Accessibility

- 9.103 Although there are a range of high quality indoor tennis facilities, it should be noted that the majority operate on a registered membership basis, with the only opportunities for 'pay and play' use at Sports City and the Harper Green Community Leisure Centre in Bolton. This is likely to restrict access for those on a low income and as highlighted, perhaps explains why a relatively large proportion of residents consider there to be 'not enough' indoor tennis facilities.
- 9.104 Local consultation reveals that 41% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor tennis facility whilst 32% expect to walk and 20% expect to travel via public transport. An average travel time of 14 minutes is expected by car and 13 minutes on foot, with the most common response also being a 10 minute travel time by both methods.
- 9.105 Map 9.4 overleaf illustrates that applying a 10 minute drive time accessibility catchment, most residents in Manchester are within this distance threshold of an indoor tennis facility. However, only a small proportion are within a 10 minute walktime of an indoor tennis facility. However, given the specialist nature of this type of provision, it is unrealistic to expect very localised provision.

Summary – indoor tennis provision

- 9.106 The key findings in relation to indoor tennis facilities are that:
- there are two facilities within Manchester and a further 5 facilities within the surrounding areas
 - the majority of indoor tennis facilities are provided on a 'registered membership' basis only; although there are 'pay and play' opportunities at Sports City
 - Active Places Power indicates that indoor tennis provision per 1,000 population is equivalent to the regional average and slightly below the national average levels
 - the majority of residents are within a 10 minute drive time catchment.
- 9.107 Therefore, it is recommended that focus should be placed upon:
- ensuring that there is ongoing investment by facility owners into indoor tennis facilities so that facilities remain in good condition and continue to meet customer expectations
 - ensuring that local residents are aware of the facilities available and that the facilities provided are accessible via a range of transport methods and affordable (ideally with increased opportunities for 'pay and play').

Map 9.4 – Indoor tennis facilities in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



Squash

9.108 There are six sports centres in Manchester identified as having squash facilities. These provide a total of 21 courts and comprise:

- Abraham Moss Leisure Centre – 2 courts
- Arcadia Sports Centre – 2 courts
- Chorlton Leisure Centre – 3 courts
- Moss Side Leisure Centre – 2 courts
- National Squash Centre – 6 courts
- Northern Lawn Tennis Centre - 6 courts.

9.109 In addition there are a wide range of other squash facilities within close proximity to Manchester; in the surrounding authorities.

Supply and Demand

9.110 Active Places Power does not provide any data relating to squash provision.

9.111 Household survey results showed that 38% of respondents consider there to be 'not enough' squash facilities in Manchester, whilst just 16% consider current provision to be 'about right/more than enough' and 9% consider there to be 'nearly enough' facilities (37% had no opinion).

9.112 It should also be noted that a higher proportion of residents from the North (45%), East (46%) and Central (52%) areas consider there to be 'not enough' squash facilities currently.

Regional Facilities Strategy

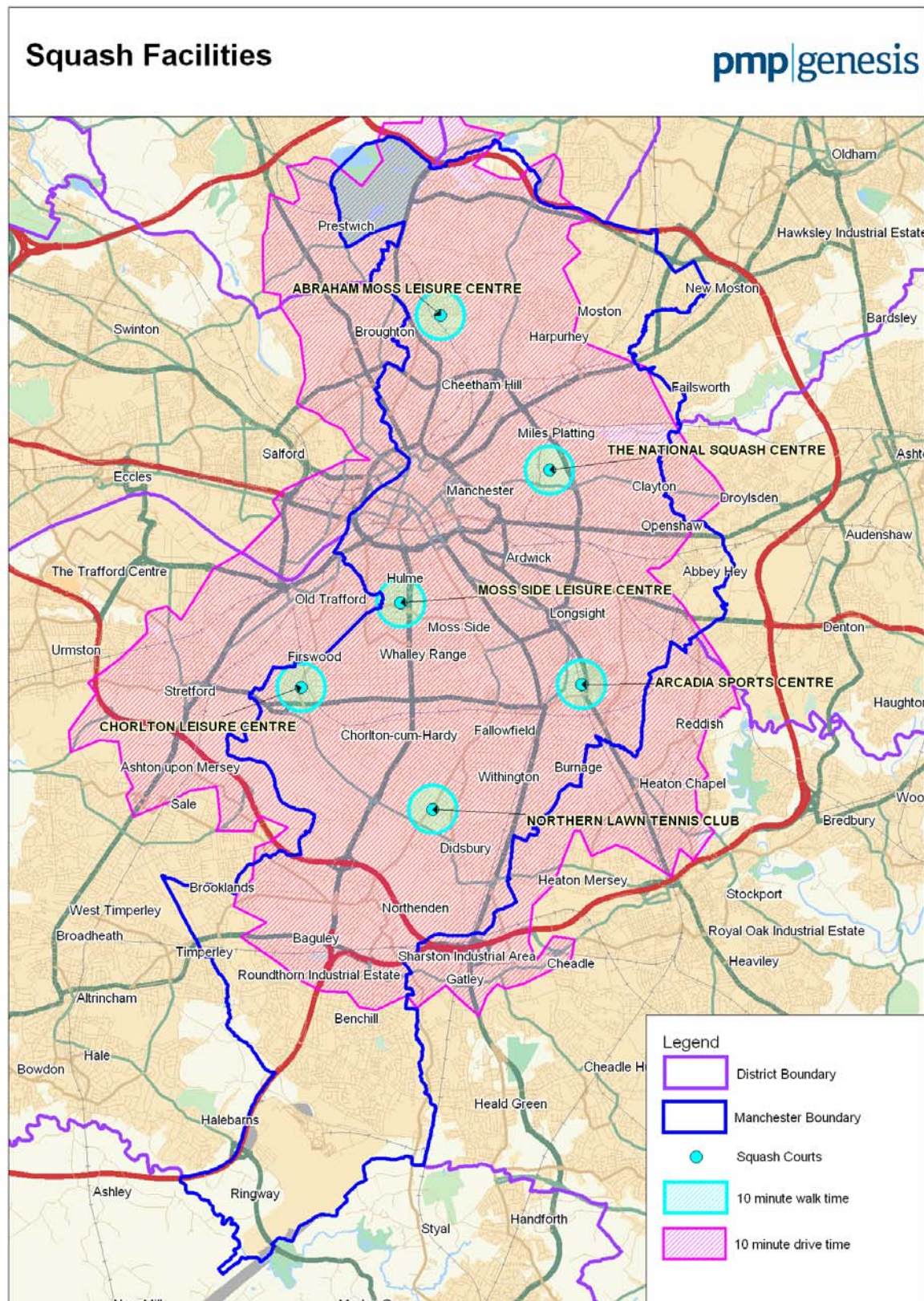
9.113 The Regional Sports Facilities Strategy indicates that squash facilities are more readily available in Greater Manchester than in other areas of the North West region. However, the strategy recommends the need for additional squash courts within local authority facilities across the region.

Accessibility

9.114 Local consultation undertaken reveals that 40% of respondents would expect to drive to a squash facility whilst 32% expect to walk and 21% expect to travel via public transport. An average travel time of 14 minutes is expected by car and 13 minutes on foot, with the most common response also being a 10 minute travel time by either method.

9.115 As Map 9.5 overleaf shows, whilst only certain areas are within a 10 minute walktime of a squash facility nearly all residents are within a 10 minute drivetime.

Map 9.5 – Squash facilities in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



Summary – squash provision

9.116 The key findings in relation to squash facilities are that:

- there are six squash facilities within Manchester – with a wide range of provision also provided within the surrounding areas
- squash facilities within Manchester are accessible on both a ‘pay and play’ and ‘registered membership’ basis
- the Regional Sports Facilities Strategy indicates that squash facilities are more readily available in Greater Manchester than in other areas of the North West region
- the majority of residents are within a 10 minute drive time catchment.

9.117 Therefore, it is recommended that focus should be placed upon:

- ensuring that there is ongoing investment by facility owners into squash provision so that facilities remain in good condition and continue to meet customer expectations
- ensuring that local residents are aware of the facilities available and that the facilities provided are accessible via a range of transport methods and affordable.

Indoor cycling

9.118 There is one indoor cycling facility in Manchester located at the Velodrome National Cycling Centre. Whilst the facility is the home of British Cycling and used on a regular basis for elite training and competition, it is also available to the local community for taster sessions and courses (with hire of equipment available).

9.119 Household survey results showed that 34% of respondents consider there to be ‘not enough’ indoor cycling facilities in Manchester, whilst 19% consider current provision to be ‘about right/more than enough’ and 9% consider there to be ‘nearly enough’ facilities (39% had no opinion).

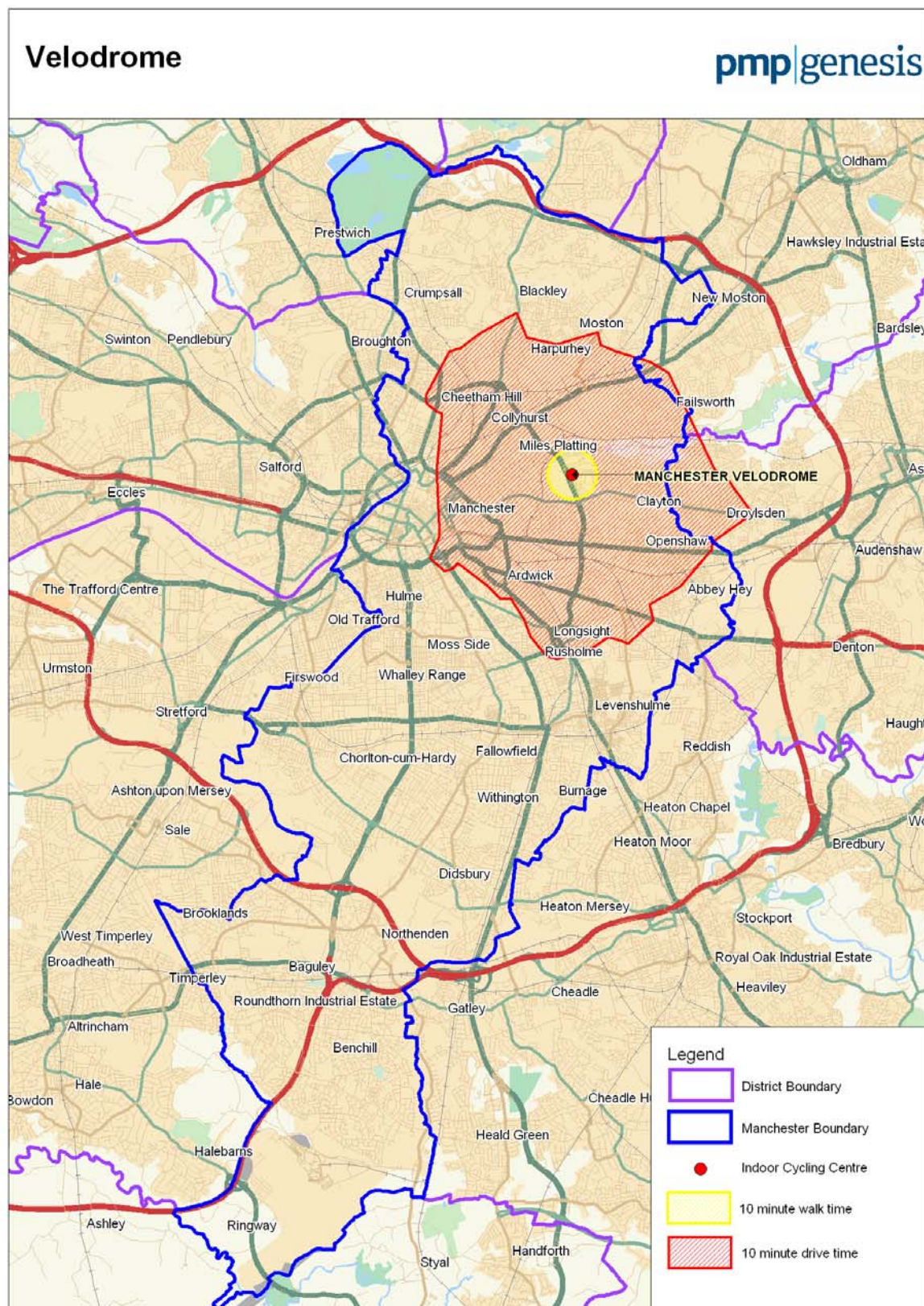
9.120 Additional comments by local residents referenced the value of having a specialist facility such as the velodrome within the City.

Accessibility

9.121 Local consultation undertaken reveals that 36% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor cycling facility whilst 29% expect to walk and 23% expect to travel via public transport.

9.122 As would be expected, only a small proportion of residents are within a 10 minute walktime of the Velodrome and as map 9.6 shows residents in the southern and northern areas of the City are outside a 10 minute drivetime of this facility. Despite this, in general, the catchment of a facility of specialist nature like this in general extends much further than a 10 minute drivetime.

Map 9.6 – Indoor cycling in Manchester/ walk and drive time catchments



Summary – indoor cycling provision

- 9.123 The Velodrome provides an important sports facility within the City for both local residents and competitive athletes.
- 9.124 Given the specialist nature of this facility it would not be appropriate to expect very localised provision or set local standards however, it is important that:
- there is ongoing investment so that the facility is maintained to a high standard
 - local residents are aware of the facility and sessions available for local residents
 - the public use sessions provided are accessible and affordable.

The future provision of indoor facilities in Manchester

- 9.125 Analysis of the current supply and demand of indoor sports facilities in Manchester concludes that in the main, there are sufficient facilities to meet current demand in quantitative terms.
- 9.126 However, there are issues in relation to quality of provision at some of the older facilities and access issues that need addressing to encourage use amongst key target groups.
- 9.127 Other key issues raised that should be addressed in order to increase participation and use at leisure centres include:
- ensure that investment strategies are in place for future repairs and maintenance requirements
 - the need to refurbish/replace ageing pool stock
 - give consideration to the need for an additional multi-sports hall facility to meet sports specific needs identified within the Regional Strategy
 - the need to raise awareness amongst the local community of the facilities that are available
 - ensure that the pricing structure is attractive to all sections of the community
 - ensure that facilities on school sites (namely sports halls) provide access to the community out of school hours and longer term, that schools become hubs of local community provision
 - ensure that the programming at facilities are complementary to one another
 - give consideration to methods for improving access by public transport to leisure facilities.