

# Philip Brownlie

Head of Public Affairs – Swim England

# Future of Swimming

500 publicly accessible pools lost since 2010.

52% of water space lost since 2010 has been lost since 2020.

1,200 currently operational publicly accessible pools over 40 years old.

Leisure centres can be as much as 40% of council's direct carbon emissions.







Swimming helped  
to prevent more than  
**78,500**  
cases of ill health in 2022



**450,000**  
people aged  
**over 75**  
go swimming each year  
in England



**4.5 million**  
children  
would like to  
swim more often



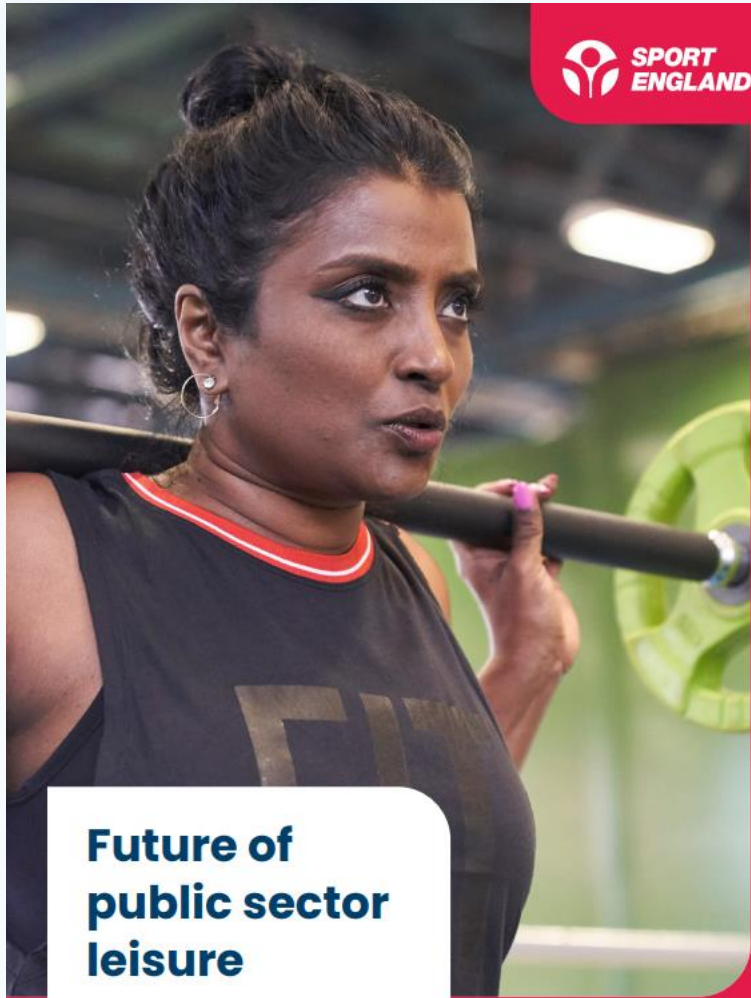
**75%**


**79%**

**66%**

**72%**

**£1.4b**





## Future of public sector leisure

December 2022

sportengland.org

# Maximising the value of swimming – a shared vision for public leisure

Swim England remains committed to the shared vision for public leisure set out in Sport England's *Future of Public Leisure*<sup>1</sup> report and also highlighted in the *Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services*<sup>2</sup> report.

With the right leadership, partnerships, coordination and investment, sport and leisure services can deliver significantly more social, economic and environmental benefits for the whole of society and support the long-term health and success of the nation. This will require a fundamental change of direction in how sport and leisure services are valued, alongside changes to finances, and a much greater recognition of the value and contribution of swimming pools to public health, social value and the wellbeing of communities.

The report identified the following foundations:



Full report

## Securing the future of public sport and leisure services

A report on behalf of APSE, the LGA and CLOA



[Home](#)

Press release

## Game changer for the nation

£900 million investment in major sporting events and grassroots sport.

From: [Department for Culture, Media and Sport](#) and [The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP](#)

Published 19 June 2025







## Ensure grassroots sports funding reaches community gyms and swimming pools

2 August 2025 | Swim England News

**Leaders from across local government and the fitness and leisure sector are urging the Government to ensure that the £400 million announced in the Spending Review for grassroots sports facilities is directed towards vital community assets such as leisure centres, swimming pools and local gyms.**

The coalition – made up of Swim England, the Local Government Association, Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association, Community Leisure UK, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers and ukactive – is calling for the funding to be invested in the facilities that people rely on every day to stay active and healthy.







# Facilities

Swim England provide support to local authorities free of charge when they need to develop aquatic provision strategies.

We provide guidance on how to construct a detail design brief for all types of pools.

Contact: [Facilities@swimming.org](mailto:Facilities@swimming.org)



# Business Solutions

Services include:

Aquatic latent demand reporting

Teacher observations

Water Wellbeing accreditation

Contact: [Business.solutions@swimming.org](mailto:Business.solutions@swimming.org)

