Sport England tools

Three of Sport England's tools- Active People, Active Places and the Sports Facility Calculator are accessible through its web site. These are useful for planning to meet demand. The fourth tool, Active Places Power, is not publicly accessible and therefore it is useful to work through either the ASA Facilities Department which has access to this or the local authority which may be considering either closing or disposing of the pool in order to research this information.

Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator

Sport England Sports Facility Calculator assists local planners in identifying the swimming and other sports facility requirements in 'new development' scenarios. To those who are either seeking to keep a pool open or looking to extend or refurbish existing facilities, it provides a useful overview of the swimming facilities required within an area. It works as an indicator but there will always be local demographic variations and, in view of this, Active Places Power *(see below)* should be used in tandem with it.

The Facility Calculator is publicly available on the web and easy to use. The Calculator estimates demand in an area for a particular facility. The user is required to provide 2 or 3 pieces of information and the Calculator takes care of the rest. In the case of pools, it is based on nominal usage rates at peak times and does not take into account 'latent demand'. It projects the number of swimming pool lanes required and a projected number of swimming pools is recommended based on a notional 25m x 8.5m four-lane facility.

Find out more at

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_facility_calculator.aspx

Active Places

Active Places is a second Sport England website that provides people with information on their nearest facilities, the addresses and dimensions of the facility. A public database, it offers the option to both search for the nearest swimming pool site or to search for a list of pools within a pre-determined area.

Active Places provides the opportunity to build a list of facilities that may be competitive with the user's own facility. It also offers the opportunity to search by type of facility such as a facility with a diving area or a learner's pool.

The ASA Facilities Department normally points out one or two factors that should be borne in mind to the pool descriptions in Active Places:

Learner/Teaching/Training – Although a learner and teaching pool can be the same thing, a training pool is usually not a learner/teaching pool unless it has a moveable floor. The

relevance of learner and teaching pools usually relate to their depth and the dimensions suitable to the swimmer being taught. Training pools require sufficient depth for swimming in training mode, which is usually deeper than the depth required for teaching the largest percentage of learners i.e. children.

Leisure – leisure pool means different things to different types of operators. Hotels and health clubs think in terms of small shallow free form pools of less than 100m²; whereas large operators see leisure pools in terms of very large free form pools in excess of 1,000m².

You do not have to register to use Active Places. A search tool with a map is provided and the user can search the map immediately. The information is generally initial information on a pool or centre:

Find out more at http://www.activeplaces.com/Index.asp?Authorise=true

Active Places Power

The final planning tool provided by Sport England is that of Active Places Power. Active Places Power is designed to support people in their investment decisions and in strategic decision making on sports facilities. Unlike, Active Places, you need to register to use this tool and it is generally only available to local authorities, sports governing bodies and statutory bodies. If you want to use this important tool and you are considering taking over running a pool from a local authority, it would be necessary for the local authority to register to use Active Places Power or to contact the ASA Facilities Department who will be able to help.

Active Places Power provides a range of different models to help with planning for pools. The tool provides the opportunity to create thematic maps, data and reports and these can all be tailored to the user's needs.

Find out more about Active Places Power at
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17

Essentially, Active Places Power will build a body of knowledge to support arguments for either a change of use or ownership in a pool or will inform to the contrary.

Thematics

The thematics offer a mapping tool which can set out swimming pool facilities by sub type in a geographic area designated by the user. The map is shown in 5 ranges down to ward level within a local authority search. Using thematics, a statistical distribution map option can create maps based on socio-economic and demographic factors. The output map is displayed in a similar manner to that of the distribution of facilities by type. A user can also search by output areas within a local authority or region to create a rural map or map of urban fringe areas. The tool was created out of a combination of sports data from *Active Places* and census data from National Statistics. Maps can be created based on social

indicators which gives the capacity to analyse and compare sports facilities within the demographic profile of the area.

Advanced Queries

Advanced enquiries can be made based on a search for sites that meet one or more criteria. Typically a search can be made by facility type and, in the case of swimming pools, can be searched by factors such as the number of lanes, width, height, depth and year built.

Quick Reports

Users can use a tab, '*Quick Reports',* to produce a summary or detailed report by pool or any other facility. The summary report shows the facility count and lists these facilities within each ward in a local authority area or within each local authority within a region. This helps to understand the pattern and type of swimming provision across the local authority area.

A further quick report can produce a summary based on ONS Classifications. The Office of National Statistics have taken all the local authorities in the country and compared them with each other using 42 different indicators. Each authority has been clustered into Square Euclidean Distance Authorities in which it is possible to identify the 3 authorities most similar to a given local authority

Strategic Planning Tool

The final planning tool allows users to make decisions made on key information. The *'Facilities per 1000 population'* gives an estimated unit per 1,000 population, i.e. unit ÷ population x 1,000. The option exists to compare how many people there are compared with how much facility space within a given area on a range of different types of pools. The user can compare the findings with the regional and county figures which will help to establish local standards of provision.

The '*Local Supply and Demand Balance'* compares the local supply of facilities against the demand for their use by the local population. *Active Places Power* takes the capacity of facilities based on the number of visits per week during the peak period in an administrative area and compares it with the total demand for use of facilities in the same area. This is then expressed as a percentage of supply. It is therefore possible to determine areas within a local authority where supply outstrips demand or vice versa.

Two other tools, '*Local Supply and Demand Balance*' and '*Personal Share of Facilitie*s' can create a profile of usage based on factors around 5 age groups for swimming for men and women. Each of these has a different participation rate and frequency of participation for each facility type which together creates a demand figure. The model has been able to create a demand figure in square metres of water for all 165,000 output areas in England.

'*Personal Share of Facilities'* is a further planning tool. This tool looks at the potential share per person in an output area to the capacity of facilities. It is therefore possible to determine which residents in a given area have good access to facilities in terms of available capacity.

'*Travel Time to Facility'* shows the distance or time from users' centroid of output areas to facilities. A map and spreadsheet can be generated which can be optionally based on type or sub type of pool and other factors such as whether the user will walk, travel by public transport or go by car. '*The Facility Count by Travel Time'* counts the swimming facilities that are available within a pre-determined travel time of an existing facility.

'*Single Facility Catchment'* shows the catchment area around a single pool or proposed new pool given a specific travel time and mode of transport. The function provides the opportunity to input travel mode, selected travel range in time and to select a population report format by age- gender, socio-economic age and ethnic-age. The '*Single Facility Catchment'* tool, which can help to put together a bid for funding, also allows the user to determine how many facilities there are compared to one that has been proposed and facilitates variable time bands and modes.

'*Population characteristics within Facility Catchment'* allows a user to analyse the population within the catchment area of multiple facilities by travel time. The output consists of a thematic map which shows each output area indicating how far away they are from a facility.