

Future of facilities

It is vital there are appropriate facilities in the right locations to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of swimming and every child has the opportunity to learn an essential life skill.

We also need enough pools that are capable of supporting all our aquatic sports of swimming, diving, water polo and artistic swimming.

The 1960s onwards saw a huge increase in pools being built in England and the current national supply of water space is equivalent to 12 sqm of water space per 1,000 head of population.

The average life of a pool built from 1960 onwards, based on open and close data of facilities since that time, is 38 years.

Therefore, many of these pools are now coming to the end of their lifespan

or have closed and it is clear that the number of pools in England is in decline.

This, coupled with an increasing population, means that there is an urgent need to invest in new (or refurbish existing) facilities.

To ensure we have the pools we need for the future, investment into public leisure of £1 billion is needed.

Number of pools available at the end of each decade

