



Future of Swimming



- **The future of Swimming**
- Sustaining a UK pool network
- Aligning health and leisure
- Working with local authorities towards a shared vision



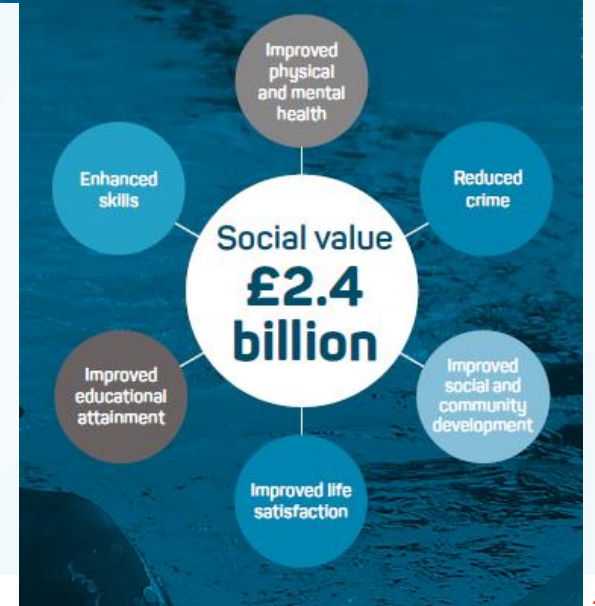
Swimming helped to prevent more than **78,500** cases of ill health in 2022



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



4.5 million children would like to swim more often



Future of Swimming

450 publicly accessible pools lost since 2010.

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

Currently 23% of local authorities have a shortage of available water space. 73% to have a shortage by 2030.

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



Spending descending

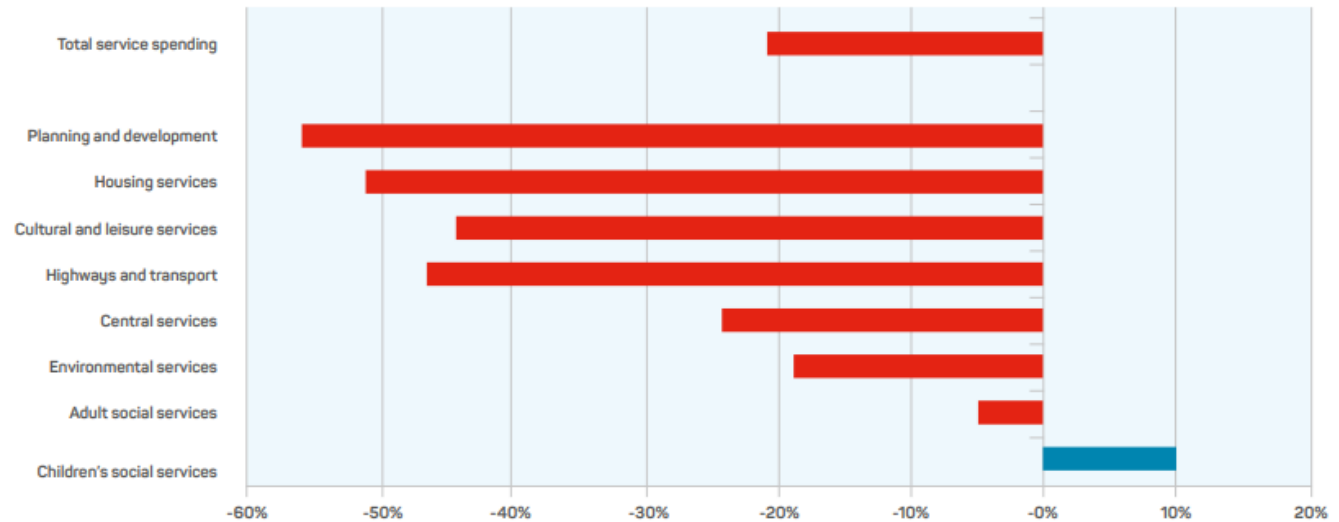
England, local-government finance

Real terms % change since 2010-11



Source: National Audit Office

IFS analysis – real-terms change in local government service spending by service area, 2009-10 to 2017-18



Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies (FSR0090)



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Sustaining a pool network

Have a Built Facilities Strategy

- Identifying shared outcomes for a place
- Developing insight which tells the story of a place and its people
- Identifying necessary interventions
- Developing partnerships

Swim England can support



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



Alignment of leisure,
physical health,
mental health and
social care



Provision that is
place-based



Provision that is
low carbon



Strong sector
leadership

Report Recommendations:



Long-term capital investment from the Government in the renewal of public leisure infrastructure to provide a network of modern, inclusive and environmentally sustainable facilities for local communities.

A shared vision for the future of leisure, which recognises the value and contribution of swimming and leisure services to public health, social value and the wellbeing of communities.



Greater access is needed to outdoor blue spaces such as rivers and lakes. We need clarity of rights over access as well as the designation of 200 more bathing waters by 2030.

Quicker action is needed to improve the health of our nation's waters.



Greater integration between the health and leisure sectors, particularly through the work of Integrated Care Systems.

This should include alignment of strategic priorities across local health, leisure and local authority partners, the co-location of services and increased social prescribing of aquatic activities.

