




# 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



**Social value £2.4 billion**

- Improved physical and mental health
- Reduced crime
- Improved social and community development
- Improved life satisfaction
- Improved educational attainment
- Enhanced skills

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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.

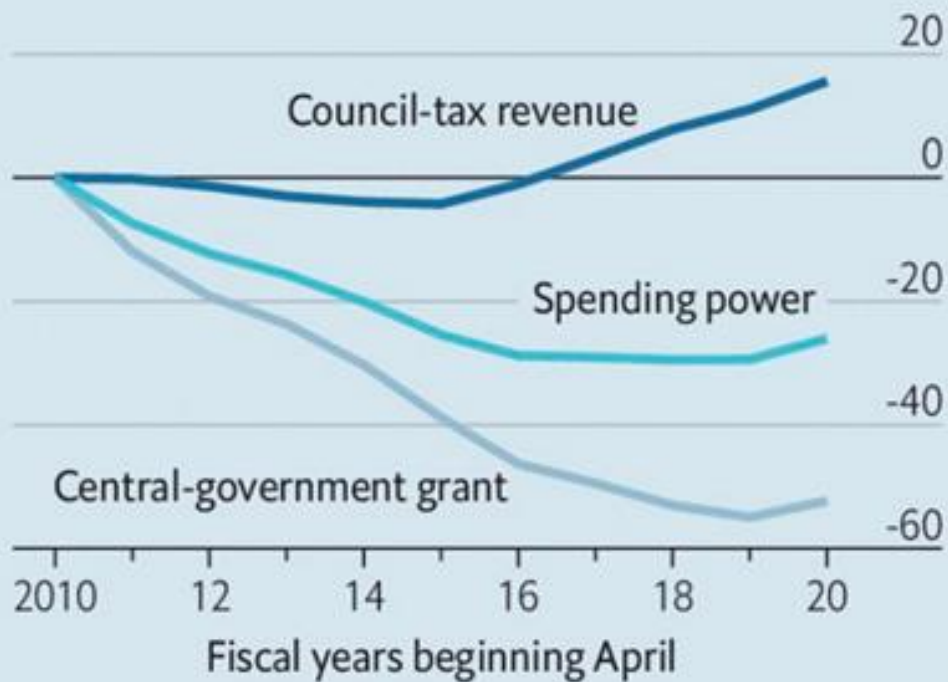
Leisure centres can be as much as 40% of council's direct carbon emissions.



## Spending descending

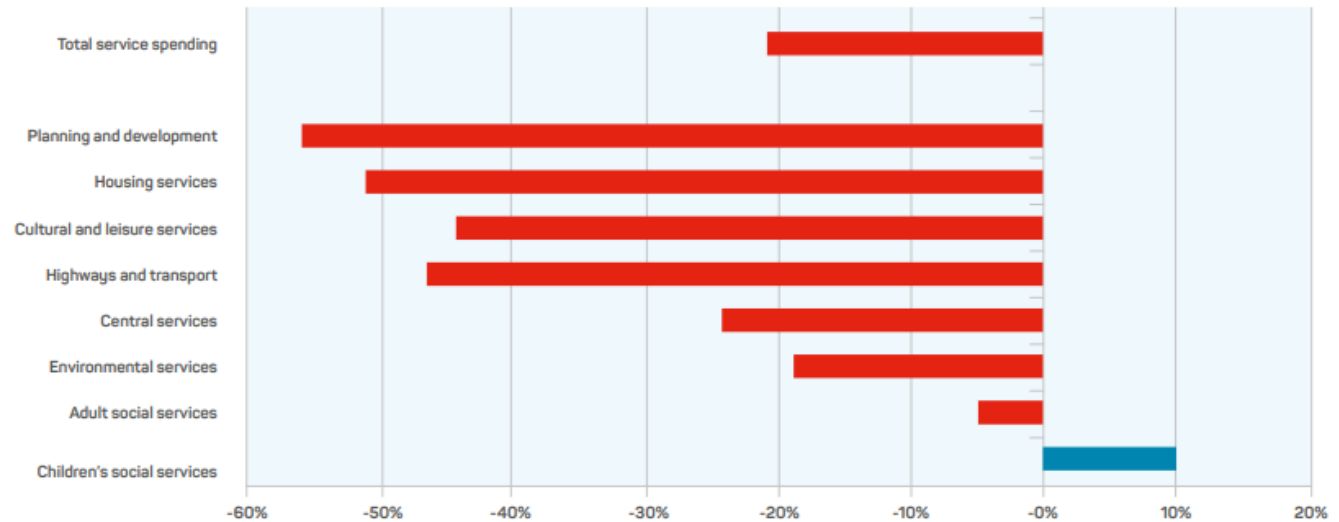
England, local-government finance

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



## 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.

