

Facilities Strategy 2022



scottishathletics 

BELIEVE, BELONG, ACHIEVE TOGETHER

Contents

Executive summary	03
1. Introduction	05
2. Objectives	06
3. Progress overview 2015 – 2021	07
4. Facility development priorities 2022 – 2026	09
4.1 National facilities	
4.1.1 National indoor training centre	
4.1.2 In to out throws facility	
4.2 Regional facilities	
4.3 Local facilities	
4.3.1 Synthetic athletics facilities	
4.3.2 Indoor training centres	
4.3.3 Alternative track surfaces	
4.3.4 Informal facilities – roads, trails, paths	
4.3.5 Local athletics facility priorities	
5. Track and field athletics facilities – important additional considerations	26
5.1 TrackMark	
5.2 Revenue costs	
5.3 Staff expertise	
5.4 Access to track and field facilities	
5.5 Synthetic pitch infield	
5.6 Throws cages	
5.7 Facilities for disabled athletes	
5.8 Floodlighting	
5.9 Sustainability	

6. Innovation	30
6.1 Running loops	
6.2 Compact athletics facilities	
6.3 200m Mini track concept	
6.4 Airdome innovation	
7. Events	32
7.1 Athletics track and field competition provision – Scottish national level	
7.2 Major events	
7.3 Off track competition	
7.3.1 Land access	
7.3.2 Event infrastructure	
7.3.3 Closed circuit road events	
8. Managing facility access for athletics clubs	34
8.1 Asset transfer and facility ownership	
8.2 Annual agreements with facility operators	
8.3 Facilities working groups or sub committees	
8.4 Additional resources and links for clubs	
9. Funding and impact	35
Appendix A	
Requirements for scottishathletics track and field championships	36
Appendix B	
Local athletics facility priorities	39
Appendix C	
Throws cage provision	46

Executive summary

Following the publication of **scottishathletics** first National Facilities Strategy in 2015, this new Facilities Strategy sets out the athletics facility priorities in Scotland for the next four years (2022-2026) at a national, regional and local level. This brings the Facilities Strategy into line with Building a Culture of Success (2018-2026), the national strategy for athletics in Scotland.

It is essential that the sport continually reviews the facility infrastructure for athletics and running across Scotland and that **scottishathletics**, as the National Governing Body, provide leadership in this area.

Since the publication of the first Facilities Strategy, significant progress has been made in delivering the priority projects identified, and it is important to acknowledge and thank all the national and local partners that have contributed to the delivery of these projects.

This new Facilities Strategy has utilised previously not available insight, and innovation within athletics and running facility design, to set out new facility priorities for the next 4 years. The strategy sets out flexible options for partners considering the development of new athletics and running facilities and identifies important additional considerations for developers.

Ultimately, this strategy aims to ensure that investment into the development of athletics and running facilities in Scotland over the next four years is directed in the most appropriate way, developing new places to participate and compete, protecting the facilities infrastructure already in place across Scotland, and providing training and competition environments in Scotland that support athletes to achieve their ambitions.



1. Introduction

It is well understood that sport can be an important driver for social good and can have a meaningful and measurable impact on improving people's lives.

Participation in athletics impacts positively on physical and mental health and has the power to transform people's well-being and create fitter, healthier and happier communities.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that this has never been more important. In Scotland, we are dealing with structural issues around growing inequalities, increasing levels of obesity and diabetes, mental health problems and other conditions. Developing fitter and healthier communities is one of the most important societal and economic challenges we face as a country.

In athletics in Scotland, we are lucky to have thriving and active clubs and jogging networks which are at the heart of our local communities. However, for clubs and community sport to continue to thrive, the availability of good quality, easily accessible, affordable and viable facilities is essential. Inclusion needs to be at the heart of planning for any new facility developments ensuring that anyone can access athletics and running, participate regularly and compete. That is why our facilities strategy is so important.

Local authorities have historically played a key role in funding the construction, operation and maintenance of athletics facilities in our local communities. However, local authority budgets have been falling over a number of years and the ability to fund new facilities and maintain existing facilities has become more challenging. **scottishathletics** is committed to working with our local clubs, councils, leisure trusts, social enterprises, **sportscotland** and with the Scottish Government to look at ways we can deliver funding for new facilities, but also enable local clubs and communities, where appropriate, to operate and maintain facilities in a viable way.

Since the publication of the strategy approximately 50% of the projects identified have been completed with major developments in the regional facilities for Central, East and Tayside & Fife and nine new local 400m synthetic athletics tracks built. From 2015, membership in the sport grew significantly with 19,000 club members and 14,000 individual members in **scottishathletics** prior to COVID-19.

In recognition of the significant progress made in delivering athletics facility projects since 2015, and to reflect major changes in the internal and external environments, **scottishathletics** has written this new facilities strategy for 2022-2026. This new strategy reaffirms projects that require to be progressed and offers further insight into athletics facility requirements in Scotland.

scottishathletics organisational strategy 'Building a Culture of Success (2018-2026)' commits to the continued implementation and review of a facilities strategy. Providing safe places across Scotland for people to participate in athletics and running is crucial to maintaining participation, supporting continued growth and delivering on the organisations strategic objectives.

2. Objectives

The facility strategy objectives for 2022-2026 reflect a more informed and innovative approach to the prioritisation of athletics facility developments in Scotland at a national, regional and local level.

These objectives recognise the importance of protecting the athletics facility infrastructure in Scotland, providing a flexible approach for meeting the needs of the sport and the requirements of local communities, and to ensure there is continued investment in maintaining and developing facilities for athletics and running.

Facility strategy objectives:

- Future-proof the athletics facility infrastructure in Scotland to support the growth of the sport and continue improving accessibility.
- Work with partners to provide an infrastructure of athletics and running facilities across Scotland that supports current and future requirements of the sport across all disciplines and event groups.
- Provide world-class training environments in Scotland which enable performance athletes to live, train and compete in Scotland.
- Provide an informed strategy to prioritise and support funding decisions nationally, regionally and locally.
- Encourage innovative solutions to be presented and developed to grow the athletics and running facility infrastructure in Scotland.
- Promote the use of sustainable energy systems and materials in the development of new athletics facilities.

3. Progress overview 2015-2022

Since the publication of the first **scottishathletics** Facilities Strategy in November 2015 the following significant athletics facility developments have taken place (or are near completion) in Scotland.

3.1 Regional facilities

Region	Facility	Comment
East	Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh	Major redevelopment of indoor and outdoor athletics arena. Opened in July 2022.
Central	Grangemouth Stadium	Facility upgraded and new throws cage installed.
Tayside and Fife	Caird Park, Dundee	New Regional Performance Centre built with new indoor athletics provision, upgrade of outdoor facilities alongside wider infrastructure on site. The new athletics facility is suitable for some regional/national level competitions but does not meet requirements for larger age group championships. A second phase would be required to provide additional covered seating.
West	Craigie Sports Facility, Ayr	New indoor and outdoor track and field athletics facility which replaces and enhances the existing facility at Dam Park.



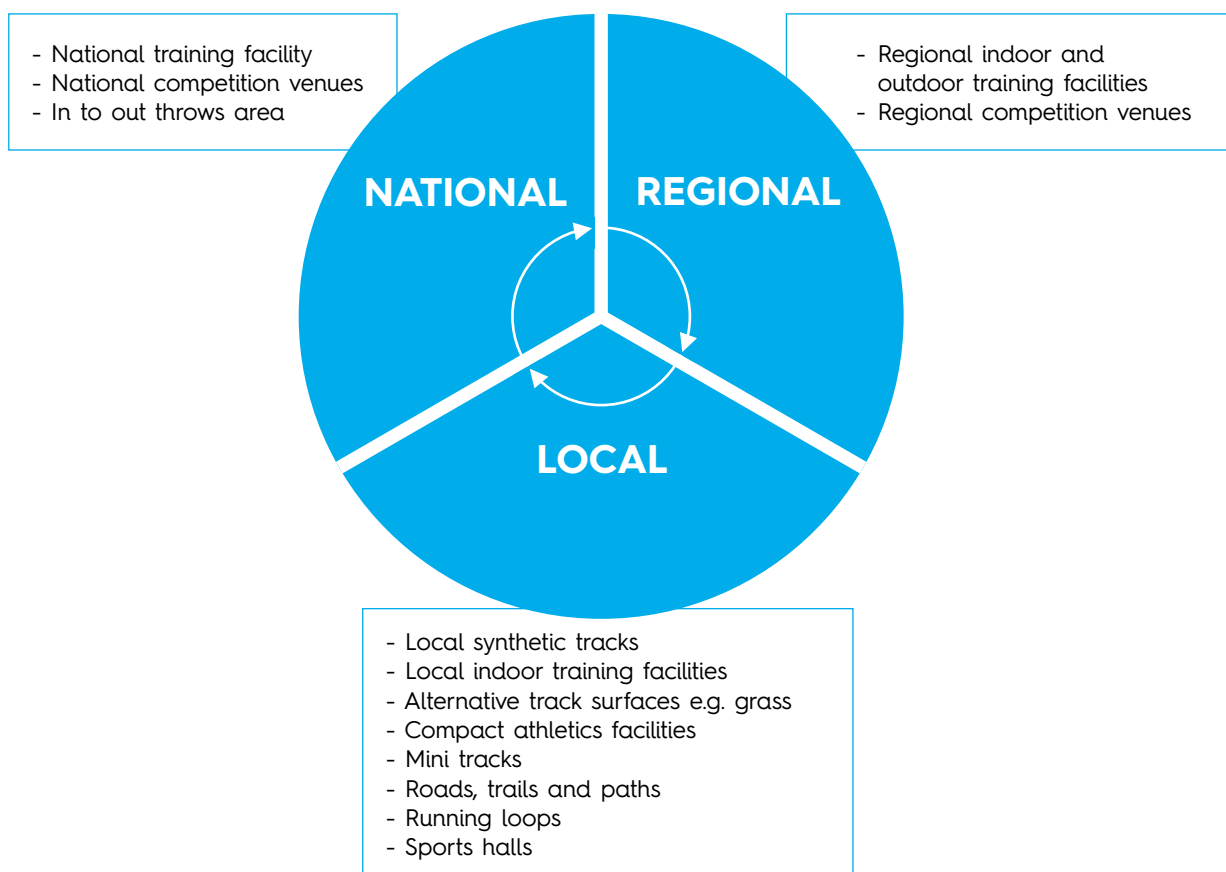
3.2 Local facilities

Region	Facility	Comment
North	Banff Academy, Aberdeenshire	New 400m training facility delivered.
North	Fraserburgh Running Track, South Links, Fraserburgh	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	ON-X Linwood, Renfrewshire	Kilbarchan AAC with funding partners Renfrewshire Council, sportscotland and other stakeholders have delivered a £1.5M new indoor athletics training facility - adjacent to the existing outdoor track and field facilities.
West	Barrhead High School, East Renfrewshire	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	Dalbeattie High School, Dumfries and Galloway	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	Hunstershill, Bishopbriggs, East Dunbartonshire	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	Barony Campus, Cumnock, East Ayrshire	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire	New 400m training facility delivered.
West	Posties Park, West Dunbartonshire	Major refurbishment of 400m training facility scheduled to be completed in 2022.

In addition to the major developments highlighted above – both at regional and local level – there has been ongoing refurbishment work at other athletics facilities in Scotland alongside the development of several compact athletics facilities.

4. Facility development priorities 2022-2026

Over the last five years significant progress has been made with athletics facility developments across Scotland. The following diagram shows the hierarchy and diversity of the facility athletics infrastructure in Scotland.



Having reviewed progress against the initial facility projects outlined in 2015 and sought further insight on the athletics facility estate in Scotland, **scottishathletics** has identified the following priorities at a national, regional, and local level.

4.1 National facilities

4.1.1 National indoor training centre

scottishathletics strategy, Building a Culture of Success 2018 – 2026, highlights clearly that there is a requirement to "increase integrated support to Scottish potential medal athletes and coaches based on Scottish programmes – world class athletes being developed in Scotland in world class facilities."

That of course has facility implications. Many of our world class performance programme and medal potential athletes choose to move away from Scotland to continue their development and realise their potential. We must offer a domestic alternative that has facilities, coaching, and integrated support services at its heart.

The Emirates Arena, currently Scotland's only 200m indoor training and competition track, is a world-class venue for indoor athletics and will host the World Athletics Indoor Championships in 2024. Whilst athletics in Scotland is fortunate to have such a high calibre indoor events venue, a dedicated year-round training facility for athletics is essential to create a performance environment in Scotland that can retain and develop the best athletes on home soil.

Presently, national level athletes train at a variety of different venues throughout Scotland or in many cases beyond, and while the facilities used provide the basic athletics requirements, there is limited access daily to ancillary facilities and support services.

The provision of a national indoor athletics training centre, including a circular 200 or 400 metre track, is essential to provide a training environment in Scotland that supports the development of world class athletes. This facility will allow for access year-round with provision in place daily for appropriate medical, sports science and conditioning services, and where coaching support is available seven days per week.

Whilst the need for a national training facility is clear, significant challenges remain in securing the funding required to build the facility and proving the long-term viability of such a facility. Working with **sportscotland** and Scottish Government, an updated feasibility study is required to explore options, identify potential locations and develop the business case for the facility.

scottishathletics believe there is an opportunity to develop a training arena for athletics that can not only fulfil our sporting requirements but lead the way in showcasing what a sustainable, twenty-first century indoor sports facility can be.

4.1.2 In to out throws facility

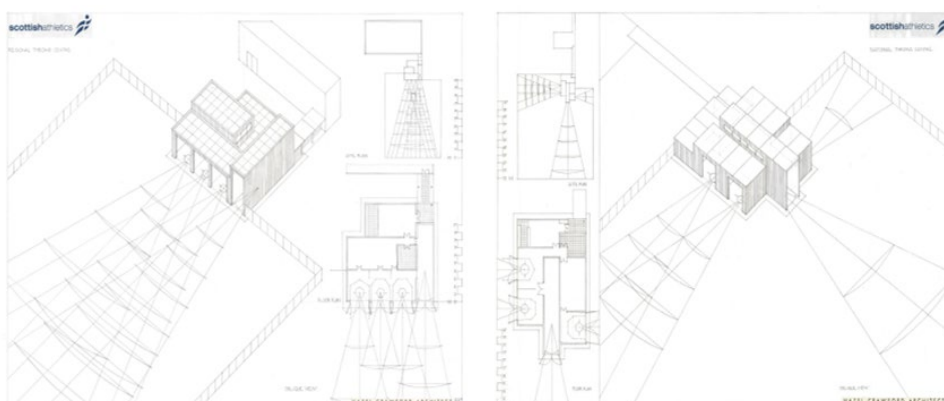
In addition to an indoor oval track facility there is also a requirement for a dedicated national in to out throws centre. **scottishathletics** preferred location would be within the central belt of Scotland and critically, a purpose-built throws centre would allow throws activity to take place all year round including during inclement weather and evenings. This should ideally be adjoined to a track and field athletics facility.

The location and access arrangements for any such facility will be crucial to developing a business case which can demonstrate the long-term viability of the facility.

scottishathletics have drawn up detailed specifications and costings for both proposed National facilities.

Table: Priority for development of national athletics facilities

Facility	Comments/Proposals
National training facility	<p>The three main options under consideration are:</p> <p>Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steel and fabric lightweight structure to include a 200m indoor athletics training track <p>Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steel and fabric lightweight structure to include a 200m indoor athletics training track with an adjacent 400m outdoor athletics track <p>Option 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor 400m track within an airdome type structure <p>With all three options there is a requirement for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancillary support services to be located nearby (on site) although could be part of an existing facility. - Dedicated indoor jumps and throws provision.
In to out throwing facility	Dedicated throwing facility for all throwing disciplines which is floodlit and accessible all year round.



4.2 Regional facilities

While it is important that regional venues can stage regional level competition, their main purpose is to facilitate training and development for the clubs in the region. In addition to being able to stage competitions, each of the regional centres should be able to support both indoor and outdoor training throughout the year.

In terms of indoor provision, to be a regional centre, a venue is required to have ideally at least an 85m, six-lane straight and facilities for jumps and throws. The indoor provision should also provide access to appropriate strength and conditioning facilities although these can be shared with other sports. Any regional outdoor and indoor provision must be co-located to ensure that use and potential are maximised.

Table: Existing Regional Athletics Facility Infrastructure in Scotland

Region	Facility/Location
Highland and Islands	None
Grampian	Aberdeen Sports Village
East	Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh
West	Scotstoun Stadium, Glasgow Ayrshire Athletics Arena, Kilmarnock ON-X Linwood, Renfrewshire Craigie Sports Facility, Ayr
Central	Grangemouth Stadium
Tayside & Fife	Regional Performance Centre, Dundee Pitreavie Athletics Centre, Dunfermline

The table below identifies proposals for developments to complete the network in each of the **sportscotland** regions. Generally, the objective is to have one regional centre in each region, but the population and geographical extent of the West Region requires extra provision as identified.

Table: Priority Location for Development of Regional Athletics Facilities

Region	Facility/Location	Comments/Proposals
Highland and Islands	Queens Park, Inverness	Queens Park Stadium remains a key priority for investment into an indoor athletics training facility. The nearest indoor athletics provision currently is in Aberdeen.
West	Scotstoun, Glasgow	Since 2015 a synthetic infield has been installed and access outdoors for both competition and training has been significantly reduced. Throwing is now accommodated on adjacent playing fields. There is a requirement for a dedicated Regional athletics training and competition venue in Glasgow, with a major reconfiguration and development of Scotstoun the preferred option.

In addition to these regional priorities, **scottishathletics** are working with Universities to explore opportunities to work in partnership to create performance environments that support the development of athletes living in Scotland. These partnerships will play an important role in ensuring the sport has a regional infrastructure that supports clubs, competition and performance athlete development.

4.3 Local facilities

At a local level our athletics facilities estate does not rely solely on 400 metre track and field facilities, and in fact a blend of different types of facilities is preferable to ensure the viability of each facility and to meet the needs of the sport. Grass pitches, safe paths and other well-lit areas should also be considered as facility options.

A significant amount of our local facility planning is underpinned by the '20-Minute Neighbourhood' concept. Essentially, travel to a local sport and leisure facility should not exceed 20 minutes, regardless of transport method. Whilst other factors e.g. geographical location also need considered, the 20-minute neighbourhood concept provides a good basis for identifying and assessing facility requirements.



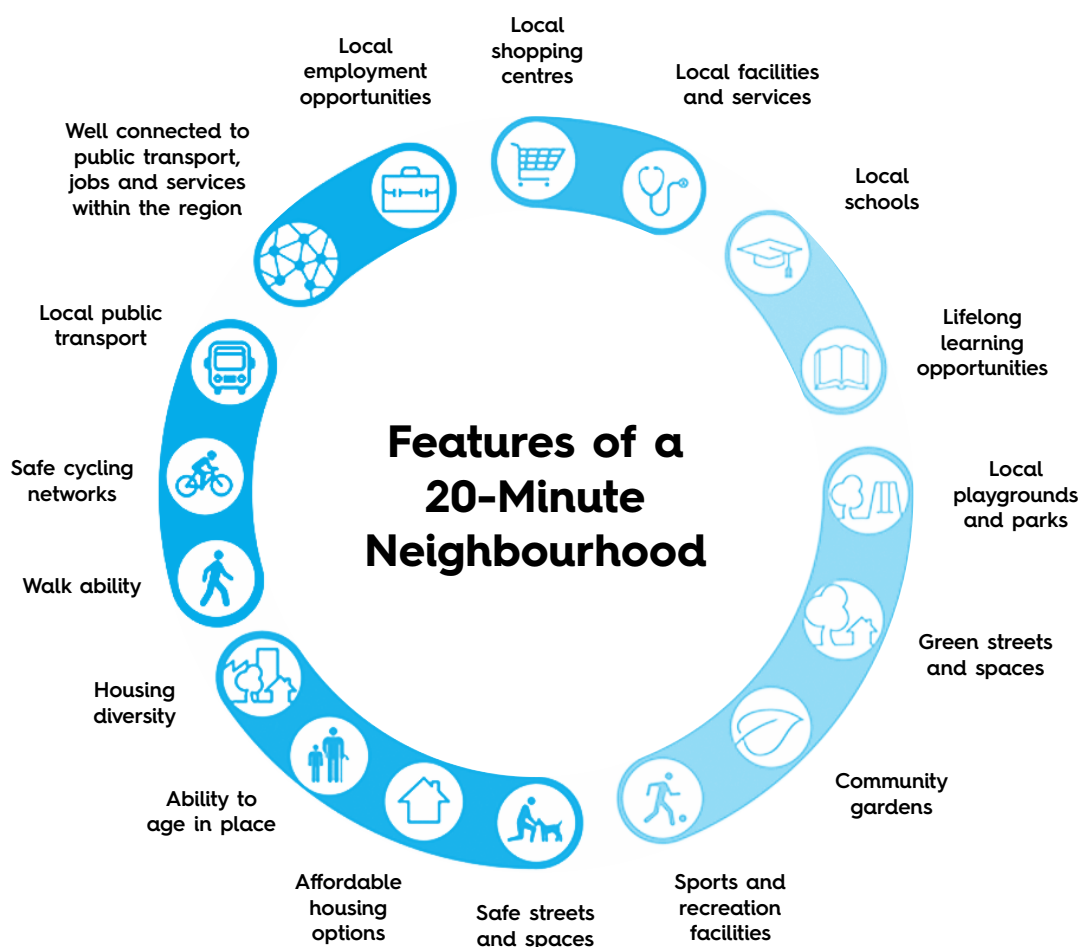
"The basic idea is that people in any part of a town or city should be able to find shops, green space, public services, leisure facilities – and ideally work – within 20 minutes' of a good affordable home."

Programme for Government 2020-2021, The Scottish Government

Through Integratis Consulting, we have measured the number of athletics facilities per 20,000 people within each of the thirty-two local authority areas. This measurement has been used to provide consistency in how we are assessing athletics facility provision across Scotland, considering lower population levels in island communities.

The 20-minute neighbourhood concept and athletics facilities per 20,000 people measurement have been used, alongside other factors, to help us identify eight local athletics facility priority areas (see section 5.3.5).

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland, 2021



4.3.1 Synthetic athletics facilities

The heart of the provision for the sport in Scotland is the network of synthetic tracks around the country. This has traditionally been delivered through 400m track and field athletics facilities, and in addition we propose that track and field athletics activity can also be delivered through compact athletics facilities and the mini track concept (see section six – Innovation).

In Scotland there is a well-distributed provision of synthetic tracks providing a solid foundation on which to develop our facilities infrastructure. Using powerful mapping and analytic data through Integratis Consulting, in addition to the extensive consultation conducted during the development of the 2015 Facilities Strategy, it has been possible to identify gaps in provision and prioritise local projects. As well as considering population data, we have also looked at accessibility and viability of existing facilities, location and reach of active clubs, and areas of potential for significant growth and development.

Based on the measurements outlined in section 4.3 and factors noted above, the strategy proposes only a small number of new 400m synthetic track and field facilities need to be provided in Scotland alongside the development of a number of compact athletics facilities, mini tracks and running loops.

In terms of identifying priorities, it is not sufficient simply to look at geographical models. It is important also to consider the levels of current club activity. The proposals for the priorities for the development of new synthetic tracks (400m track and field or compact/mini track) contained below in section 4.3.5 consider both geographical factors and levels of present club activity and have been informed by ongoing consultation with clubs and partners.

In Appendix B, athletics facility observations are provided for each of the thirty-two local authorities. Although **scottishathletics** are well connected to partners we would welcome further discussion with local authorities, trusts and other local and national partners regarding the planning and future development of the athletics facility estate. With the data provided by Integratis Consulting **scottishathletics** can provide insight, expertise, and an overview of the athletics community in each area to help determine the strategic need for and viability of any proposed facility development.



4.3.2 Indoor training centres

In 2015, **scottishathletics** outlined the concept of club-led localised low-cost indoor training areas/centres. The need for this provision has arisen from clubs that are of significant size (450+ members), out of reasonable travel time of an existing regional centre and where there is a lack of indoor provision for athletics. The main purpose of these facilities would be to facilitate training and development for clubs locally.

As outlined within the innovation section of the strategy (section six), **scottishathletics** are also keen to explore new technologies for indoor training centres where appropriate.

In 2020, Kilbarchan AAC (Renfrewshire) opened a £1.5m indoor athletics facility adjacent to the existing outdoor facility at the ON-X, Linwood. Through outstanding club leadership, a strong vision, exceptional partnership working, and an incredible fundraising effort the club have demonstrated what is possible through this approach.

scottishathletics welcome further discussions with any club or partner keen to explore options for local indoor provision.

4.3.3 Alternative track surfaces

In many parts of the country where there is no current provision of synthetic tracks, grass tracks still provide important facilities for the sport. Even where compact athletics facilities are already available or might be provided in future, the 400m grass track is and will still be an important provision for summer activity.

Clubs have reported significant problems with the on-going provision of grass tracks both in terms of their design and their maintenance. This strategy recommends that local authorities note the importance of this type of provision to both schools and local clubs and ensure provision is provided and maintained to a high quality.

Several cinder and blase tracks still also exist across Scotland and can play a role in meeting athletics facility requirements. Advancements in technologies means that the upgrading of these surfaces can be significantly less than building a new 400m track. **scottishathletics** would encourage local authorities with such provision to discuss future upgrading and use with the governing body and local clubs.

4.3.4 Informal facilities – roads, trails, paths







It is important to note of course, that the whole sport of athletics is not confined to track and field facilities and that road, trail, cross country, and mountain running are important disciplines in the sport with very high levels of participation in Scotland.

The core paths network highlights important routes for recreation and active travel through running across all local authorities in Scotland. **scottishathletics** supports the development of safe and accessible routes with multi-use which can complement formal facilities. The innovation section within this strategy outlines ideas of lit running loops and closed-circuit road loops – these could be cost effective solutions where a synthetic track or compact athletics facility are not required.

4.3.5 Local athletics facility priorities

scottishathletics have identified eight local authority areas as being high priority to increase athletics provision. Using our 'Regional Accessibility Insight' tool, we can identify how the population of a local area are able to access local athletics infrastructure. This tool also shows how the accessibility corresponds to the quantiles of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The colours on the maps correspond with the quantiles of the SIMD, please see the key below.

Key:

-  SIMD Q1 (most deprived)
-  SIMD Q2
-  SIMD Q3
-  SIMD Q4
-  SIMD Q5 (least deprived)
-  Athletics facility

Through Integratis Consulting, we have measured the number of athletics facilities per 20,000 people within each of the 32 local authority areas. This measurement has been used to provide consistency in how we are assessing athletics facility provision across Scotland, considering lower population levels in island communities.

This measurement also allows each local authority in Scotland to be ranked from 1 to 32, with 1 being the local authority with the most athletics venues per 20,000 people, and 32 being the local authority with the least athletics venues per 20,000 people. This can be seen in each of the maps below underneath the headings 'Local Authority Rank'.

In addition to the insight and assessment **scottishathletics** have conducted, individual feasibility studies will be required for each project considering for example, potential locations and demand.

What follows is a summary of each of the eight local priorities:

ABERDEENSHIRE

Existing provision in Ellon and Peterhead requires upgrading to remain fit for purpose. The development of a modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) should be considered in the Inverurie area to meet the needs of the athletics community.

Currently, 148,510 (59%) of the 252,540 people in Aberdeenshire cannot access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.



Local Authority Rank
12/32

SIMD population

1	3
2	7,700
3	26,802
4	63,972
5	50,033
Total	148,510

Local authority population
252.54K

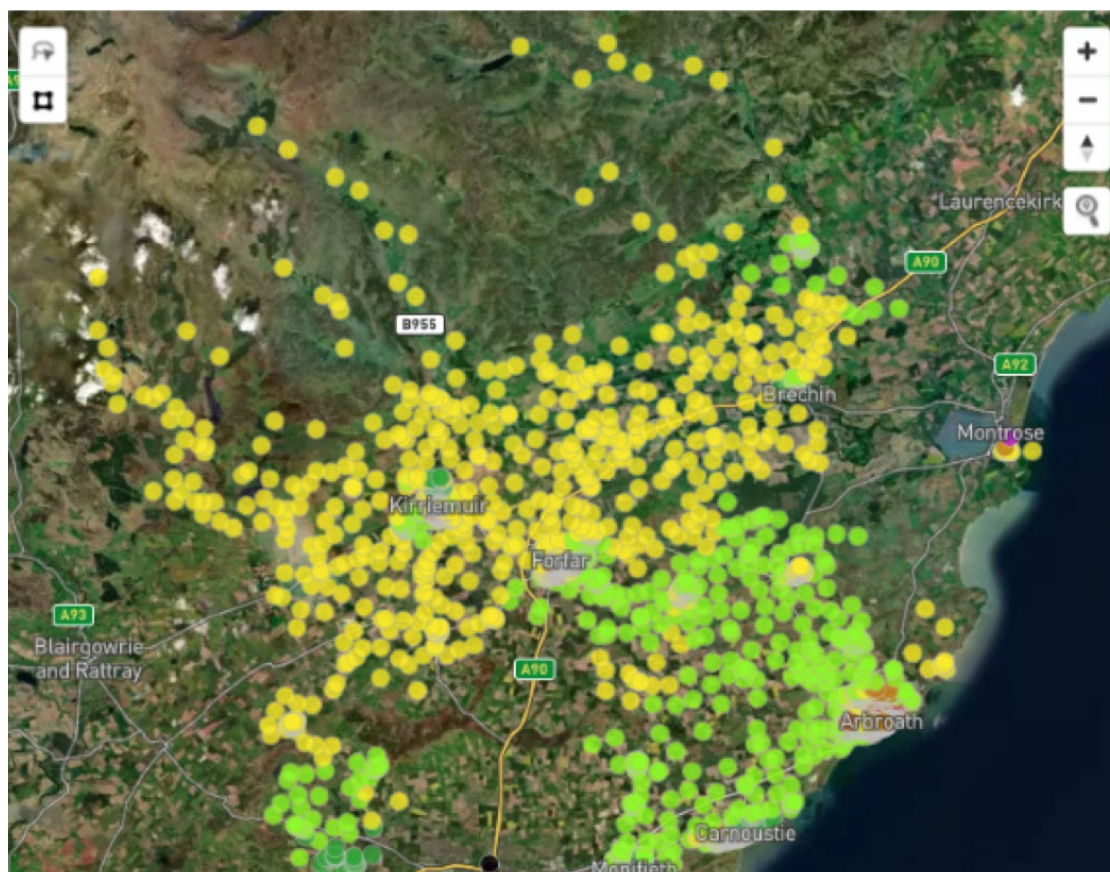
Travel mode/time
20 minutes driving

Accessibility
Not accessible

ANGUS COUNCIL

Further discussion, insight and assessment is required to determine the best mix of athletics facilities in Angus. Long-term plans for 400m track and field facilities in Arbroath need revived to consider viability of the facility. Alternatively, a series of modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track/compact facility/running loop) may serve the local authority better.

Currently, 85,549 (74%) of the 115,700 people that live in Angus Council cannot access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.



Local Authority Rank

27/32

SIMD population

1	7,091
2	16,057
3	26,499
4	25,341
5	10,561
Total	85,549

Local authority

population

115.70K

Travel mode/time

20 minutes driving

Accessibility

Not accessible

ARGYLL AND BUTE

There is no synthetic athletics track and field provision anywhere in Argyll and Bute. While the area has few major centres of population, the lack of track provision stands out in comparison, especially with the Western and Northern Isles. It is recommended that a needs assessment and consultation with partners is conducted to determine the best mix of athletics facility provision – where several modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track/compact facility/running loop) will provide better coverage and accessibility than the development of one 400m track and field facility.

Helensburgh AAC are progressing plans for a compact facility at Hermitage Academy.

92% of the population currently cannot access a track within a 20-minute drive, and nobody can access a track by public transport in that time.



Local Authority Rank
32/32

Travel mode/time
20 minutes driving

SIMD population	
1	7,722
2	13,835
3	32,577
4	20,595
5	6,423
Total	81,152

Local authority population
87.87K

Accessibility
Not accessible

CITY OF EDINBURGH

Upon the completion of Meadowbank, urgent consideration is required to the future of Saughton, or the development of a new 400m facility in the West of the city. There is also a requirement for the development of modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track/compact facility/running loop) to improve accessibility in the city.

The University of Edinburgh are considering provision for athletics at Peffermill. Any provision at the University would be a significant asset for supporting both performance athletics and local club and community athletics provision.

38% of the population currently cannot access a facility within a 20-minute drive. As can be seen below, many of these people are located in the west of the city.



Local Authority Rank
23/32

Travel mode/time
20 minutes driving

SIMD population

1	20,784
2	20,888
3	15,672
4	24,706
5	98,585
Total	180,635

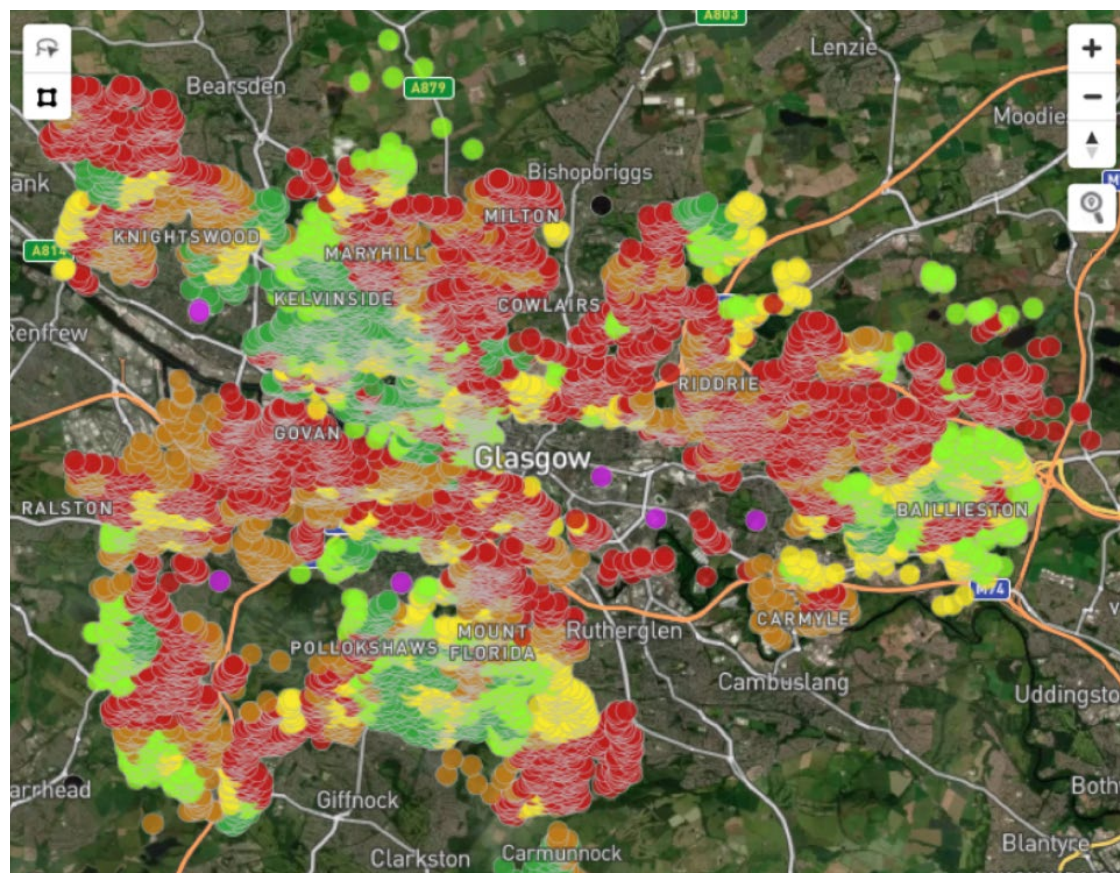
Local authority population
476.09K

Accessibility
Not accessible

CITY OF GLASGOW

Working with local partners we need to develop an athletics facilities strategy for Glasgow. Most of the population can access athletics facilities by a 20-minute drive. However, access challenges to facilities for both training and competition needs to be explored further.

Accessibility is an issue for those who do not have access to a car, and must rely on public transport, cycling and/or walking. 465,172 (80%) people out of a population of 583,190 cannot access an athletics facility within 20 minutes on public transport. Additionally, of those 465,172 people, 206,418 (44%) live in a SIMD Q1 area/postcode.



Local Authority Rank

20/32

SIMD population

1	206,418
2	77,506
3	61,561
4	58,490
5	61,197
Total	465,172

Local authority

population

583.19K

Travel mode/time

20 minutes public
transport

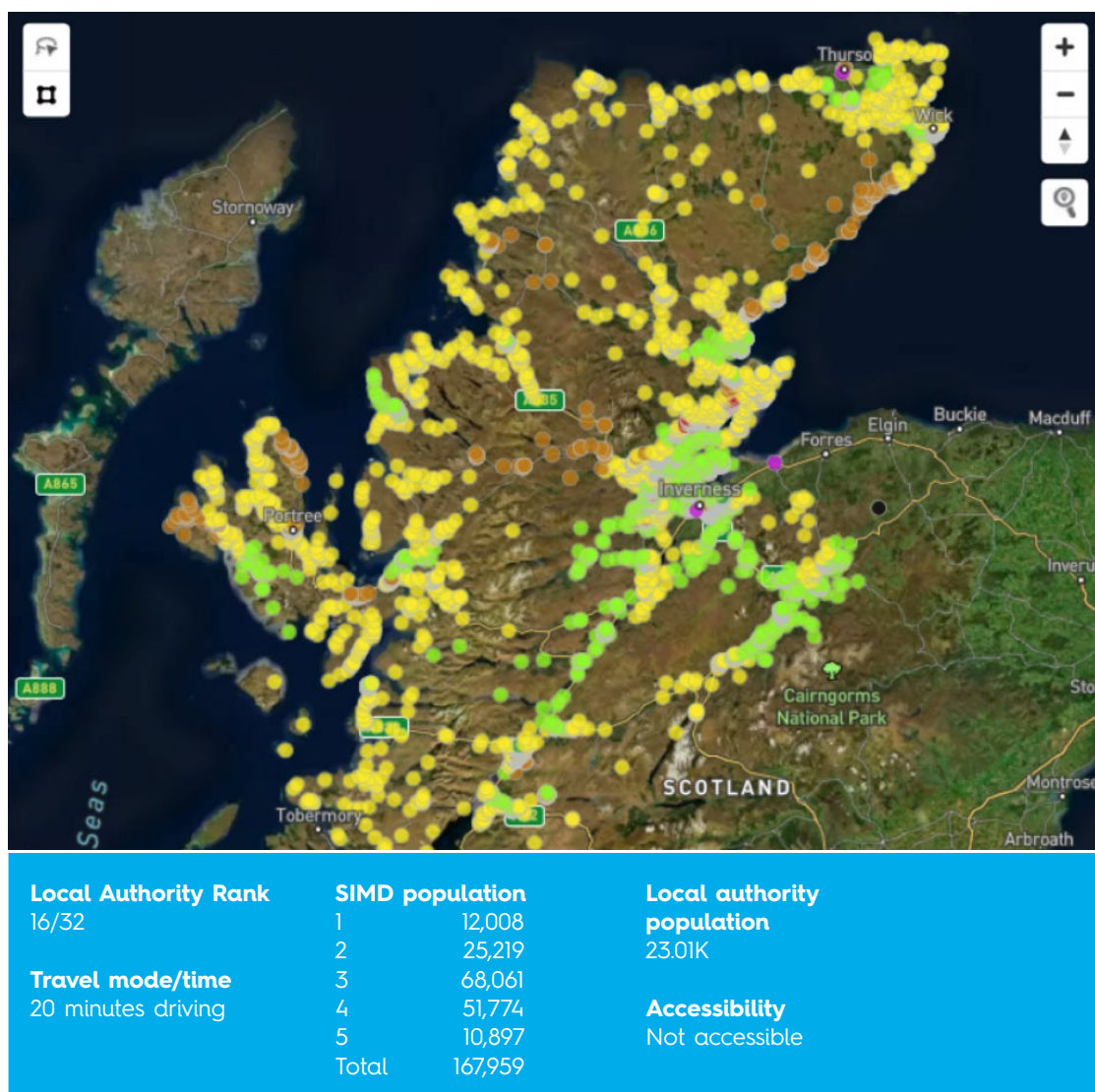
Accessibility

Not accessible

HIGHLAND

A regional indoor athletics facility in the west of Inverness (as outlined in the regional infrastructure section) remains a high priority. Additionally, consideration should be given to a modern, innovative facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in Fort William, Wick/Thurso and in East Inverness/Nairn.

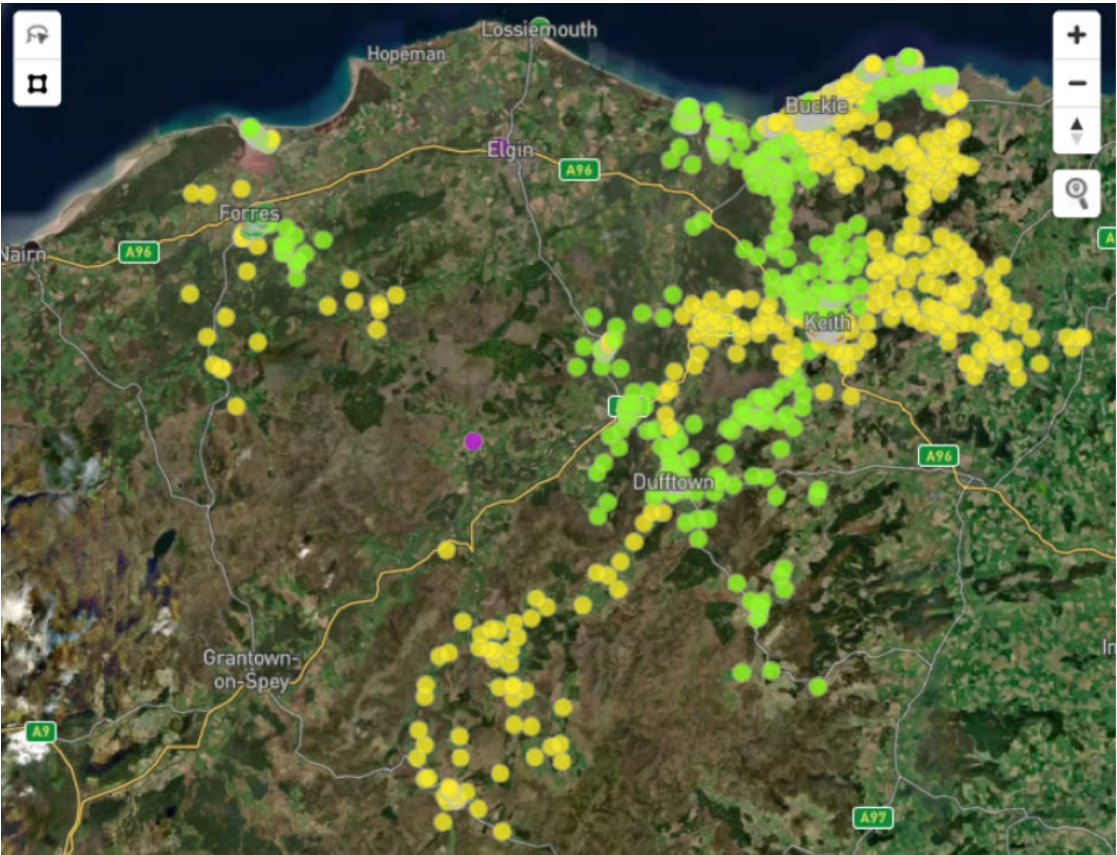
Currently, 167,959 (72%) people out of a population of 232,010 do not have access to an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.



MORAY

Moray has no synthetic track provision for a population of 93,000 and the nearest provision, in Inverness and Aberdeen, is too distant for effective development. 32,060 (34%) of the population of Moray do not have access to an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.

Developing facilities in Elgin is one possible option, however the current site isn't suitable due to flooding risk. Also, consideration should be given to a modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in the east of Moray (Buckie/Keith).



Local Authority Rank	SIMD population	Local authority population
11/32	1 -	93.07K
	2 3,973	
	3 13,862	
Travel mode/time	4 13,276	Accessibility
20 minutes driving	5 949	Not accessible
	Total 32,060	

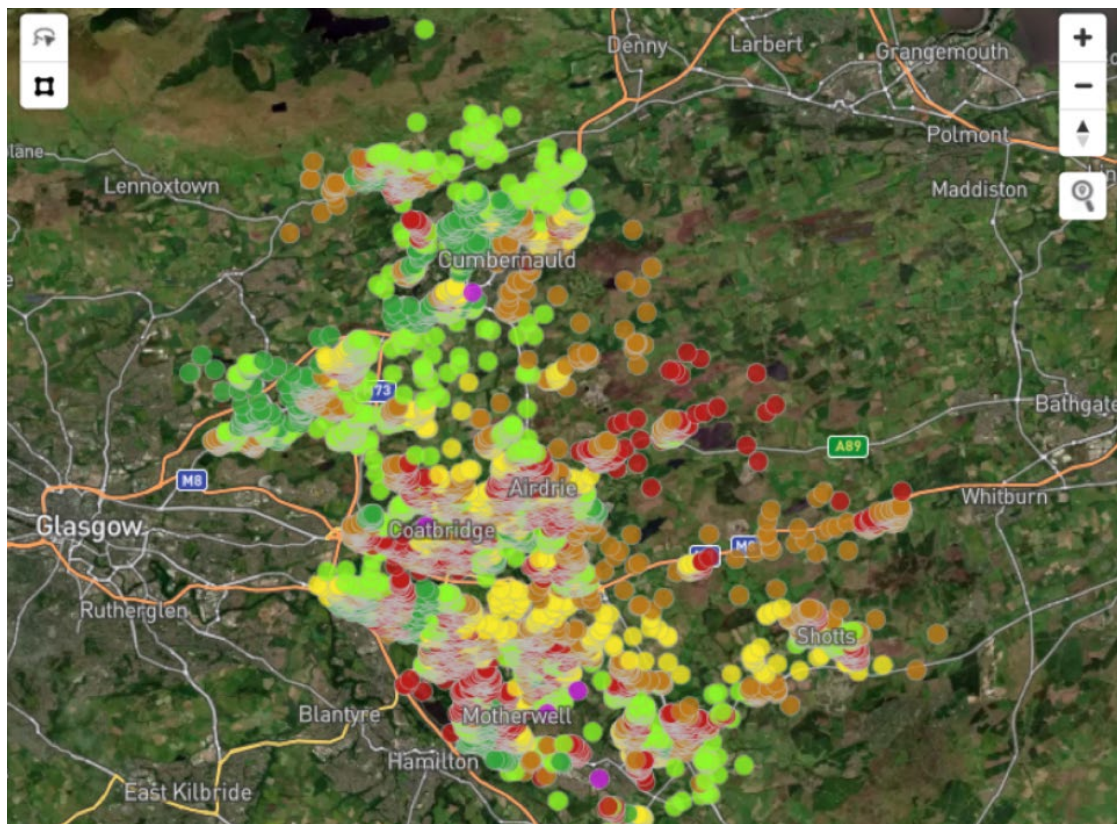
NORTH LANARKSHIRE

The new provision at Cumbernauld has been very positive for athletics in North Lanarkshire however the athletics facilities at both Wishaw and Coatbridge require major refurbishment. Alongside the indoor athletics arena at Ravenscraig there requires to be a strategic plan to develop, use and maintain athletics facilities across North Lanarkshire.

Accessibility is an issue for those who do not have access to a car, and must rely on public transport, cycling and/or walking. 283,329 (84%) people out of a population of 336,760 cannot access an athletics facility within 20 minutes on public transport. Additionally, of those 283,329 people, 93,695 (33%) live in a SIMD Q1 area/postcode.

We are aware of new athletics facility developments in North Lanarkshire, including a new 400m track at Airdrie, innovative mini track/compact facilities within the school estate and a running loop at Ravenscraig.

Continued discussion with athletics partners is required to ensure that these facilities and future developments are utilised.



Local Authority Rank

14/32

SIMD population

1	93,695
2	73,457
3	36,379
4	46,340
5	33,458
Total	283,329

Local authority

population
336.76K

Travel mode/time

20 minutes public
transport

Accessibility

Not accessible

5. Track and field athletics facilities – important additional considerations

scottishathletics through consultation with stakeholders nationally, regionally, and locally note that there are significant facility challenges that the sport of athletics is facing in Scotland.

5.1 TrackMark

Since the publication of **scottishathletics** Facilities Strategy in 2015, UK Athletics have developed and implemented TrackMark, the quality assurance scheme for athletics facilities in the UK.

TrackMark uses recognised published minimum standards as a basis for assessing compliance. These standards not only ensure a level playing field when athletes are competing, but also help to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all those who participate in track and field athletics.

Full details on TrackMark can be viewed at this [link](#).

Whilst the implementation of, and compliance to, TrackMark is essential for ensuring athletics facilities remain safe and fit for purpose, facility operators are experiencing financial challenges which make maintenance, repairs and replacement difficult.

TrackMark is designed to initially bring all track and field facilities up to minimum standards and then to act as an “early warning” system that will support venue operators to develop and implement proactive, planned maintenance and refurbishment regimes, thereby avoiding costly, unplanned repairs and maintenance.

The implementation of TrackMark across all Scottish facilities will protect investments in facilities by ensuring that they are maintained to a high standard throughout their life-cycle.

5.2 Revenue costs

Although athletics in Scotland has made significant progress with capital projects in the last five years there have been increasing concerns over revenue costs (maintaining & upgrading facilities and maintenance & replacement of equipment) with many facilities under increased financial pressure. As we move through and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic both capital and revenue costs will come under further scrutiny and will become increasingly hard to find. As noted in section 5.1 UK Athletics’ Trackmark scheme will assist facility providers in setting preventative maintenance and replacement budgets to maximise its life-cycle and prevent unforeseen costs.

scottishathletics will work with partners across all projects to ensure long-term viability is a key consideration in the planning, building and operations of new facilities. Planning for maintenance and replacement is key for operators to ensure that facilities remain fit-for-purpose and operational.

5.3 Staff expertise

scottishathletics appreciate that many facility providers and staff work alongside our members, staff, officials, coaches, and volunteers to deliver competition and training for the sport.

Facility operators have highlighted the lack of athletics-specific knowledge in the staff managing and operating facilities. **scottishathletics** have a role to support and we will work with UK Athletics to provide affordable and relevant training courses for staff responsible for the operation of athletics facilities.

Training opportunities for staff and further information on facility maintenance can be found at the following [link](#).

5.4 Access to track and field facilities

Generally, there are few accessibility issues identified in relation to most athletics venues. However, there are several facilities where accessibility beyond designated club nights, for example for coaches to work with performance athletes, is limited. **scottishathletics** will work with local authorities and clubs to address this issue in a cost-effective manner.

Through ongoing work with clubs, access costs to track and field facilities, in some cases, has also been raised as a limiting factor to allow access for athletes from all backgrounds. Again, **scottishathletics** will work with clubs to support and seek solutions whilst acknowledging the challenges faced by facility operators.

5.5 Synthetic pitch infield

One of the challenges in providing athletics facilities is the relatively high capital cost and space involved compared with limited revenue. With this in mind, several authorities have or are considering the conversion of infields into Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) synthetic surfaces for football or rugby to improve the income from venues.

scottishathletics recognise the income challenges of trusts and local authorities and will support the development of AGP infields provided that:

- There is a proven need for them.
- They are not in major competition venues.
- Provision is made for adjacent throws and jumps facilities for club training.
- **scottishathletics** and clubs are consulted in advance of any changes being implemented.
- Clear management agreements are in place that protect the priority of athletics users within programmed schedules.

Some providers of synthetic surfaces are now considering the viability of using throwing implements on their surfaces. This should be considered when proposing the conversion of any existing infields with providers reviewing hybrid surfaces that are available.



5.6 Throws cages

In 2018, UK Athletics published new Throws Safety Guidance specifically related to discus and hammer cages. The recommendations both for competition and training have significant implications for facility providers with, in many cases, either new or significant modifications to existing cages required. Once again this has cost implications. **scottishathletics** and **sportscotland** have been working with facilities to provide support and guidance as all facilities must meet this guidance by April 2023.

The current status of all throws cages in Scotland can be viewed in Appendix C.

5.7 Facilities for disabled athletes

All existing and future athletics facilities are required to meet building standards for accessibility and, where requested, to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. Facility operators must consider the movements of wheelchair and frame running athletes around their venues to access areas required to train and compete. Covered outdoor seating areas are also required for athletes using wheelchairs and frames.

Any new, or existing, athletics facility offering throws provision should install ground anchors or a series of eyelets surrounding the throwing circle for athletes using a throwing frame or wheelchair. This enables the frame or wheelchair to be secured and provides flexible options for individual athletes.

Other modifications in equipment, e.g. start lighting systems, should also be considered by facility operators to support disabled athletes.

5.8 Floodlighting

Alongside the brief assessment of each local authority in Appendix B, consideration is required in every local authority of floodlit areas for track and field. With limited indoor provision nationally, well-lit track and field, compact and mini track facilities are essential for enabling year-round use.

5.9 Sustainability

scottishathletics will work with partners across all projects to ensure sustainability is a key consideration in the planning, building and operations of new facilities. Facilities should be designed using sustainable energy systems and constructed using sustainable materials where possible, and **scottishathletics** will work with partners and suppliers in the sport to further understand how we can best deliver this within athletics facility projects.

6. Innovation

The development of a 400m track and field facility is not always the best solution or achievable. Considering finance, which will come under even greater scrutiny through and beyond COVID-19, and a range of other factors including numbers involved and type of activity, there may be alternative solutions to explore.

scottishathletics are keen to work with and support partners to consider a new generation of inspiring facilities options including:

6.1 Running loops

Recently several surfacing products for jogging/running, cycling and Daily Mile tracks or loops have been brought to market. There are a variety of surfaces, costs, and flexible models from various companies available and through Sport England & Labosport some early work has been undertaken to assess and understand these options. As an example, Conica have developed activity [tracks](#) although to date there are limited examples in Scotland.

Cycling and running/jogging can be accommodated on the same track/loop on closed circuit tarmac tracks if careful management is agreed. For year-round use lighting is an essential consideration.

6.2 Compact athletics facilities

UK Athletics has developed the concept of a compact athletics facility that can take several forms but essentially will provide a suitable strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws. The concept is based on creative thinking about ways that the essential features of full-sized facilities can be scaled down to suit individual sites where space is limited. It is about creating a 'kit of parts' that can be made to fit almost any site and any budget and enable the essential athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed. Design guidance available [here](#).

Compact athletics facilities can be relevant to a wide range of situations.

For example -

- Primary and secondary schools to complement existing sport and play provision
- Additions to existing sports and leisure facilities
- Where the space for a standard 400m track or mini track is not available
- Where cost-effective entry-level facilities are required
- As part of a commercial or housing development with space for sport and physical activity

Every new-build or redeveloped secondary school in Scotland should consider how this type of facility can be integrated into its design. We realise that this is a significant challenge but, if opportunities are taken when schools are being redeveloped, then the costs will be relatively minor in comparison to the overall costs of sports facilities in the school.

The concept of a compact athletics facility should not simply be restricted to school provision as there are several clubs where this type of provision would be a very effective investment in their development. However, any development should facilitate access by schools.

Since 2015 the following are some examples of compact athletics facilities that have been developed in Scotland:

- North Lanarkshire (Calderbank in Airdrie, Carbrain in Cumbernauld, Woodlands Primary School in Cumbernauld)
- Stirling (Balfron High School)
- Scottish Borders (Peebles High School, Jedburgh Grammar School, Kelso High School)

6.3 200m Mini track concept

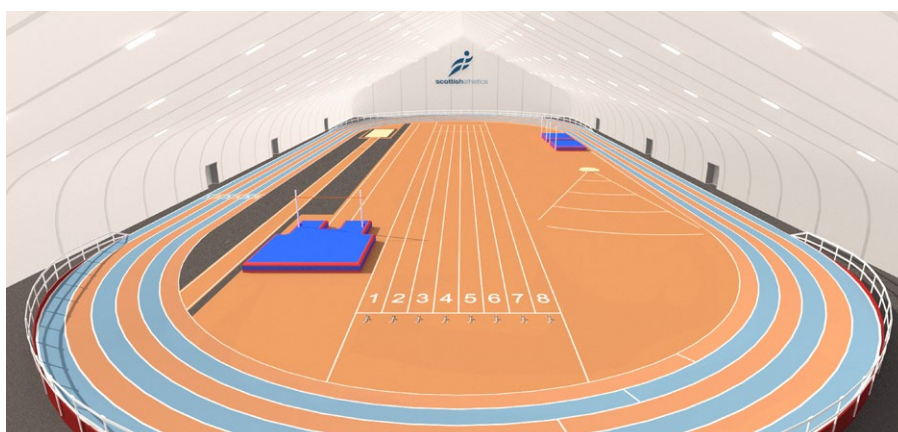
Taking the compact athletics facility idea to the next stage, UK Athletics have provided innovative information on a mini track concept. Taking examples and learning from Scandinavia a mini circular track (circa 200m) would be developed with other athletics and/or other sports and activities in the centre and surrounding. Like the compact athletics model this can be designed creatively to meet the needs of the local community. This could be built as a multi-sport and physical activity project and could be developed on a school site or local community park.

6.4 Airdome innovation

Airdomes provide an alternative covered structure for sport which is potentially lower in construction and operational costs. Whilst many of these structures are now utilised for sport in the UK there are currently no examples of the structure being used for athletics.

Where a need for indoor provision is required, consideration should be given to the feasibility of using an airdome for indoor athletics activity. Further consideration is required to be given to the sustainability and efficiency of these structures.

Photo below courtesy of Paragon Structures.



7. Events

7.1 Athletics track and field competition provision – Scottish national level

While occasional major international track and field events are attracted to Scotland the main purpose of the national event venues is the staging of competitions at a Scottish national level. In terms of indoor track and field events, the state of the art Emirates Arena meets all the requirements of the sport and gives the possibility of staging both national and international events. The Arena is a multi-sport venue and therefore has the need to utilise the indoor athletics arena for other sporting events. There is currently no other indoor provision in Scotland capable of hosting Scottish national level events.

In terms of outdoor track and field events, the picture is more complicated. There is appreciation across athletics in Scotland that it is valuable to take these competitions around the country and not to stage them always in the central belt.

For the purposes of this strategy therefore, we have identified the venues that **scottishathletics** would want to use for national track and field championships together with an identification of any investment needed to bring the facility up to the required standard. Details are contained in the table below. To assist facility providers who are developing or refurbishing athletics facilities we have outlined in Appendix A the key requirements for facility providers to host national level track and field events.

Table: scottishathletics national outdoor track and field event venues

Venue	Comments
Grangemouth Stadium	Meets all current requirements.
Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh	After completion of rebuilt facility in 2022, should meet all Scottish level event requirements. Long Throws accommodated on adjacent throwing areas out-with main arena.
Aberdeen Sports Village	Meets all current requirements.
Queens Park, Inverness	Meets all current requirements outdoor but without an indoor warm up area, few events can be staged here.
Ayrshire Athletics Arena,	Meets all current requirements – except for seating capacity for spectators and appropriate data connections.
Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow	Meets all current requirements although long throws require to take place on adjacent throwing area out-with main arena and access during the summer months due to rugby fixtures is a significant challenge.
Regional Performance Centre, Dundee	Meets all requirements for smaller Championship events. Further developments would be required to host larger age group championships.
Ayr	According to plans the proposed regional facility in Ayr will meet all current requirements when built. Timescales for completion to be confirmed.

7.2 Major events

Our priority as a governing body is to deliver our national event programme and to support local organisers to deliver quality licensed events. **scottishathletics** are supportive of working with local authorities, UK Athletics, and other partners to attract major international competition to Scotland. The current facility provision and infrastructure would be most appropriate for indoor, cross country, road, mountain, and ultra events.

7.3 Off track competition

7.3.1 Land access

There continues to be concern expressed about increasing charges for the event support required, and access to roads and land like the national forest estate from the relevant authorities. In addition, some landowners are seeking to restrict or more closely manage access to land. This is a major issue not just limited to the sport of athletics, and it is proposed that **scottishathletics** works in partnership with **sportscotland** and other Scottish governing bodies of sport to seek appropriate levels of dialogue with the agencies involved.

7.3.2 Event infrastructure

The infrastructure surrounding the delivery of off-track events is becoming increasingly challenging. To deliver effective national and district level events there is a requirement for significant parking (minimum 300 spaces or alternative local effective solutions such as park and ride); easy access/egress to the event venue and event infrastructure (changing, catering, toilets).

7.3.3 Closed circuit road events

To aid the delivery of our national event programme **scottishathletics** are actively seeking a closed-circuit road venue/s. This would require the event infrastructure as described above alongside a minimum of 5km tarmac sealed surface road loop.



8. Managing facility access for athletics clubs

The majority of track and field athletics facilities in Scotland are owned and managed by the Local Authority and/or a Leisure Trust. In many cases that works effectively and is the most appropriate operating model. As athletics clubs in Scotland continue to strengthen their infrastructure and grow their membership there is an opportunity for clubs to explore options to enhance their local facility provision.

8.1 Asset transfer and facility ownership

Athletics clubs in Scotland in certain circumstances may consider an asset transfer of an existing track and field athletics facility or develop a project that enhances existing provision (i.e. indoor athletics centre, club facilities with indoor activity space, gym space, changing provision).

To make this a possibility, clubs would require to ensure that the appropriate arrangements are in place. Further guidance and support is available from **scottishathletics** and partners for clubs looking to consider an asset transfer.

8.2 Annual agreements with facility operators

scottishathletics would encourage athletics clubs to explore the best arrangements in regard to paying facility hire costs (e.g. an annual facility agreement with set monthly charges). An effective user agreement can ensure that the club has preferred access, the facilities are maintained to the club's needs, and costs are reasonable. Without this protection, the club might risk losing access to facilities. Best practice would also include regular, minuted user group meetings with facility owners/operators.

8.3 Facilities working group or subcommittee

Clubs should consider whether delegating facility matters to working groups and subcommittees can lighten the load of the governing/management committee, allowing them to be more productive and to focus on governance and leadership. A facilities subcommittee, with a focused remit and knowledge of all the issues related to the club's facilities, can handle the routine operations, and consult the governing/management committee for major decision-making.

8.4 Additional resources and links for clubs

[sportscotland Facilities Section](#)

[UK Athletics Facilities Section](#)

[Scottish Football Association Guide to Community Asset Transfers](#)

9. Funding and impact

To deliver the national, regional, and local facility recommendations outlined in the **scottishathletics** Facilities Strategy significant investment is required. The identification of local priority projects provides a focus for 2022 - 2026 whilst acknowledging there are other local facility projects that also need developed.

scottishathletics recognises the challenges for investment for facilities in the current climate and believe that blended funding models will be required to deliver our objectives. **scottishathletics** will work with the Scottish Government and **sportscotland** to deliver our facilities strategy and to make the case for significant capital funding for investment in athletics facilities, and we will work with other national and local partners and funders to raise additional funds to deliver our priority projects.

The investment envisaged in this report is required to deliver the infrastructure our sport needs to continue to thrive at a grassroots and national level, but it will also deliver an important economic and social impact. 'A Sport for Change: The wider impact of Athletics in Scotland 2018/19' evidences the impact that participating in athletics and running has on physical health, mental health, and well-being, and acknowledges the significant contributions of volunteers to the sport and growing number of employment opportunities offered through athletics.

Delivering on the facility priorities outlined in this document is critical to enabling athletics clubs and running groups to meet the needs of their local communities and to continue their contribution to improving the health and well-being of the nation.



APPENDIX A

Requirements for scottishathletics track & field championships

Fully functional track & field facilities

- 400m 8 Lane Track - World Athletics accredited surface.
- All field facilities - World Athletics spec throwing cage.
- Double entry sand pits x 2 (differing directions).
- Multi directional pole vault.
- Double ended javelin.
- Electronic distance measuring (desirable).
- Fully automatic photo-finish equipment.
- Power and data in 6 positions around track – finish line / 1500m start, 200m start, 100m start. Facility for wind gauge at midpoint of home straight and back straight for electronic wind speed recording.
- Desirable – ability to run ALL events using the back straight as a finish line, so fully reversible.

500 Covered seats minimum

- Additional space to roam for a further 250-1000 spectators around the track.
- Spectator access and flow around the track in addition to the 1m safety zone is required.
- Covered outdoor space for wheelchair and frame running athletes to shelter in adverse conditions.

Athlete / spectators / coaches arrival area - admissions

- Reception type area to process admissions.
Important that this is the only recognised entrance to the facility to prevent non-payment of admission fees.
- Non-competing athletes directed from here to spectator areas.
- Competing athletes directed to declarations / registration and warm up areas.

Officials' rest areas – office space

- Classroom style seating for 60 officials to report, register and rest between events.
- Catering to provide suitable refreshment and lunch options for officials.
- Private room/changing area with running water and toilet provision for anti-doping (referees' room).
- First aid room.
- VIP room/area for circa 20 dignitaries (desirable).

Athlete declarations / registration area – office space / indoor track area

- Area suitable for 6 tables, 12 chairs to be set up for Athlete Registration and number collecting.

Seeding and results area – office space / indoor track area

- Area suitable for 4 tables and 8 chairs to be set up for Event Administration. Power and data points essential to link into VLAN to call room, photo-finish and announcer located within easy reach of both declarations and call room. Does not need to be a separate office, but suitably cordoned off / partitioned to prevent interruptions and quiet working environment.

Call room area – indoor track area

- Power and data points essential to link into VLAN to administration, photo-finish and announcer.
- Space for 3 tables, 6 chairs for admin and paperwork.
- Space for 6 rows of 8 chairs for track call room.
- Space for 3 semi circles of 16 chairs for field call room.
- Area must be cordoned off to ensure privacy and sterile environment for athletes – i.e. no coaches or parental intrusion prior to exit.
- Athlete access from warm up to call room entrance – call room exit to competition area and back to call room/kit collection is important.
- Clear, direct route from call room to the competition area is required.
- Walkways should be suitable for spiked footwear, and doorways wide enough for wheelchair access.

Photo-finish booth / control room

- Direct link to photo-finish camera – camera should be set up to have an unrestricted view of the finish line and be mounted in such a way that is not affected by building vibrations.
- Photo-finish booth requires clear unobstructed view of the whole competition area to carry out full duties.
- Suitable set up for 2 laptops and printer and space for 3-5 operators.
- VLAN link to administration, call room and announcer.

Announcers' booth / PA system

- Viewing area for two announcers to operate facility PA system.
- Able to view all of competition area to provide updates on race and field event progression – minimum 1 wireless roaming mic for infield announcing (2 desirable), one static mic for overall announcing.
- Link to VLAN for administration, call room and photo-finish.
- PA system must have ability to play music and have settings for all facility / outdoor only/indoor only.
- Additional microphone and set up for dual operation indoor and outdoor preferred.

Warm up area

- Stand-alone PA system (preferred).
- We implement a one way system for athletes depending on location of call room – run one way on track and walk back along side of track.
- Additional space for athletes to stretch and rest required.
- Sand pits to be covered.
- Hurdle spacings to be marked in both directions.
- Athlete flow from entrance to warm up to call room is important as well as athletes returning to the warm up area post event for cool down and preparation for further rounds, additional entry and exit points should be identified.

Ancillary Services

- Changing facilities for all athletes.
- Suitable changing facilities for wheelchair and frame running athletes.
- Enough toilet provision for 1500+ people.
- Easy access from car park to track for wheelchair and frame running athletes.
- Accessible podium for participants with physical disabilities including wheelchair and frame running athletes.



APPENDIX B

The following table provides observations on athletics facility provision across each of the thirty-two local authorities in Scotland.

Local athletics facility priorities

Local Authority Assessment	
Aberdeen	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>There is a need to increase the athletics facility infrastructure in Aberdeen. 53% of the population cannot access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive and 90% cannot access within 20 minutes by public transport.</p> <p>Further discussion, insight and assessment is required to determine the best mix of athletics facilities in the city in addition to the facilities at Aberdeen Sports Village.</p>
Aberdeenshire	<p>Existing provision in Ellon and Peterhead requires upgrading to remain fit for purpose.</p> <p>The development of a modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) should be considered in the Inverurie area to meet the needs of the athletics community.</p>
Angus	<p>Further discussion, insight and assessment is required to determine the best mix of athletics facilities in Angus. Long-term plans for 400m track and field facilities in Arbroath need revived to consider viability of the facility.</p> <p>Alternatively, a series of modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track/compact facility/running loop) may serve the local authority better.</p> <p>Currently, only 7,000 people can access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive - either to facilities in Montrose or Dundee.</p>

Argyll & Bute	<p>There is no synthetic athletics track and field provision any where in Argyll and Bute. While the area has few major centres of population, the lack of track provision stands out in comparison, especially with the Western and Northern Isles. It is recommended that a needs assessment and consultation with partners is conducted to determine the best mix of athletics facility provision – where several modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track compact facility/running loop) will provide better coverage and accessibility than the development of one 400m track and field facility.</p> <p>Helensburgh AAC are progressing plans for a compact facility at Hermitage Academy.</p> <p>92% of the population currently cannot access a track within a 20-minute drive, and nobody can access a track by public transport in that time.</p>
City of Edinburgh	<p>Upon the completion of Meadowbank, urgent consideration is required to the future of Saughton, or the development of a new 400m facility in the West of the city. There is also a requirement for the development of modern, innovative athletics facilities (mini track/compact facility/running loop) to improve accessibility in the city.</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh are considering provision for athletics at Peffermill. Any provision at the University would be a significant asset for supporting both performance athletics and local club and community athletics provision.</p> <p>38% of the population currently cannot access a facility within a 20-minute drive.</p>
Clackmannanshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the enhancement of existing facilities to increase provision for throws and accessibility including floodlight provision and track side storage.</p>
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p>

Dumfries & Galloway	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the development of another athletics facility (modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in the South-West of Dumfries & Galloway.</p> <p>43% of the population are currently not within a 20-minute drive of an athletics facility.</p>
Dundee	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the development of a modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) to widen access across the city.</p>
East Ayrshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Further work required with local partners to consider data connections and seating capacity at Ayrshire Athletics Arena.</p>
East Dunbartonshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark. There has been some early conversations around a track and field facility development in Milngavie.</p> <p>There is currently no throws provision in East Dunbartonshire. Explore, with partners, possibility of developing throws at Huntershill.</p>
East Lothian	<p>Existing track surface is nearing the end-of-life cycle and will require to be upgraded to ensure facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Upgrades to existing compact facilities to be considered.</p> <p>Long term plan required for indoor and outdoor athletics</p>

East Renfrewshire	<p>provision within the local authority.</p> <p>Plans are in place to deliver a fourth basic 400m training facility in East Renfrewshire at Mearns Castle High School/ Broom Park.</p> <p>Further co-ordination is required in the East Renfrewshire area between key partners to ensure any further investment meets the need of the local athletics community – including development of indoor provision and enhanced jumps & throws facilities.</p> <p>100% of population can access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive. 20% can access within a 20-minute walk.</p>
	<p>15% can access within a 20-minute public transport.</p>
Falkirk	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p>
	<p>100% of population can access an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive. 7% can access within a 20-minute walk.</p>
Fife	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p>
	<p>Fife has good provision of 400m tracks with facilities in Glenrothes, Dunfermline and the University of St Andrews. With a population of circa 50,000, the development of a track in the Kirkcaldy area is a local priority for athletics. Plans are evolving to refurbish the existing cinder track at Balwearie High School.</p>
Glasgow City	<p>Working with local partners to develop an athletics facilities strategy for Glasgow. Consideration required on access to existing venues and the right mix of facilities for the city and clubs it serves.</p>
Highland	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>166,000 of a population of 232,000 do not have access to an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.</p> <p>A regional indoor athletics facility in the west of Inverness (as outlined in the regional infrastructure section) remains a high priority. Additionally, consideration should be given to a modern, innovative facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in Wick/Thurso and in East Inverness/Nairn.</p>

Inverclyde	Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.
Midlothian	Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.
Moray	<p>Moray has no synthetic track provision for a population of 93,000 and the nearest provision, in Inverness and Aberdeen, is too distant for effective development. 32,060 (34%) of the population of Moray do not have access to an athletics facility within a 20-minute drive.</p> <p>Developing facilities in Elgin is one possible option, however the current site isn't suitable due to flooding risk. Also, consideration should be given to a modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in east of Moray (Buckie/Keith).</p>
North Ayrshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>34,000 do not have access to track within a 20-minute drive.</p> <p>Explore possible modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in Irvine this would widen local access to circa 43k population.</p>
North Lanarkshire	<p>The new provision at Cumbernauld has been very positive for athletics in North Lanarkshire however the athletics facilities at both Wishaw and Coatbridge require major refurbishment.</p> <p>Alongside the indoor athletics arena at Ravenscraig there requires to be a strategic plan to develop, use and maintain athletics facilities across North Lanarkshire.</p> <p>We are aware of new athletics facility development in North Lanarkshire, including a new 400m track at Airdrie, innovative mini track/compact facilities within the school estate and a running loop at Ravenscraig.</p> <p>Continued discussion with athletics partners is required to ensure that these facilities and future developments are utilised.</p>
Orkney	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Ensure in-field throws cage is developed for Orkney Island Games.</p>

Perth & Kinross	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>87k of the population of Perth and Kinross do not have access to a track within a 20 minute drive.</p> <p>Explore possible modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) development in Blairgowrie, (however there is no affiliated club in this area) or Crieff.</p> <p>Work with club to consider development of indoor facility at George Duncan.</p>
Renfrewshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p>
Scottish Borders	<p>Consider expansion of compact facility network, where opportunities arise, to extend provision. Hawick would be an area of need alongside potential new school developments in Peebles and Galashiels.</p> <p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Consider the feasibility of an indoor facility development with Tweedbank Sports Centre, Galashiels the preferred location.</p>
Shetland	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p>
South Ayrshire	<p>Support the development of Dam Park, Ayr and maintain existing provision.</p>
South Lanarkshire	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>South Lanarkshire has 400m training facilities at both East Kilbride and Carluke. With the population size of South Lanarkshire alongside the current athletics activity taking place in the authority, partners should collectively explore if further athletics provision is required. There is a specific requirement for throws provision at Carluke.</p> <p>Additionally, explore development of indoor provision across South Lanarkshire with John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride,</p>

Stirling	<p>as potential location. Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Additional jumps and throws provision is required in the Stirling area as the present tracks at Stirling University and Lornhill Academy do not fully meet the needs for these disciplines.</p> <p>Central AC is active throughout the area and enhanced athletics facilities in other training bases such as Callander should be explored.</p>
West Dunbartonshire	<p>Support the development of Posties Park and maintain existing provision.</p>
West Lothian	<p>Existing provision to be maintained ensuring facilities remain fit for purpose and meet requirements of TrackMark.</p> <p>Further consideration given to additional athletics facility provision with potential modern, innovative athletics facility (mini track/compact facility/running loop) in Linlithgow and/or Bathgate.</p> <p>Explore the development of an indoor facility in Livingston.</p>

APPENDIX C

Throws Cage Provision (as of August 2022)

The following table provides an overview of throws cages in Scotland and highlights those that require immediate investment to meet the requirements of UK Athletics.

[1] All new throws cages must be World Athletics certified AND

[2] and have a storm wind rating of \Rightarrow 25m/s (WA certified Equipment: [click here](#) (pages 8,9))

Venue	Location	Cage Status
Aberdeen Sports Village	Aberdeen	Hammer cage Compliant Discus cage Non-compliant
Ayrshire Athletics Arena	Kilmarnock	Compliant
Caird Park	Dundee	Compliant
Clickimin Centre	Shetland	Non-compliant
Coatbridge Sports Centre	Coatbridge	Non-compliant
Craigie	Ayr	Compliant
Craigswood Sports Centre	Livingston	Non-compliant
Crownpoint Sports Complex	Glasgow	Non-compliant
Dalkeith Schools Community Campus	Dalkeith	Non-compliant
David Keswick Athletics Centre	Dumfries	Non-compliant
Everholm Sports Complex	Annan	Non-compliant
George Duncan Athletics Arena	Perth	Non-compliant
Grangemouth Stadium	Grangemouth	Compliant
Greenfaulds High School	Cumbernauld	Compliant
Hutcheson's Grammar	Glasgow	No cage
John Cumming Stadium	Carluke	No cage
John Wright Sports Centre	East Kilbride	Non-compliant
Lewis Sports Centre	Stornoway	Non-compliant
Liniclate Sport Centre	North Uist	No cage
Linwood Sports Centre	Linwood	Non-compliant

Lorimer Park	Sanquhar	Non-compliant
Meadowbank Stadium	Edinburgh	Compliant
Meadowmill Sports Centre	Prestonpans	Non-compliant
Nethercraigs Sports Complex	Glasgow	No cage
Pickaquooy Centre	Orkney	Non-compliant
Pitreavie Athletics Centre	Dunfermline	Non-compliant
Posties Park	Dumbarton	Compliant
Queen's Park Stadium	Inverness	Hammer cage Compliant Discus cage Non-compliant
Ravenscraig Athletics Stadium	Greenock	No cage
Saughton Sports Complex	Edinburgh	No cage
Scotstoun Stadium	Glasgow	Compliant
St Matthew's Campus	Saltcoats	Compliant
Tweedbank Sports Complex	Galashiels	Non-compliant
University of St Andrew's	St Andrew's	No cage
University of Stirling	Stirling	No cage
Wishaw Sports Centre	Wishaw	Non-compliant



This document was designed and produced by Brand Oath.
Official design and branding partner of **scottishathletics**.

We believe in the power of sport as a force for good in society.
We believe in the power of branding to inspire people to positive change.

You operate in a competitive world.
Prepare to win with Brand Oath.



Rekortan®

**WE MAKE
SPORT.
FASTER.**

polytan

Official Sports Surface Partner of

scottishathletics





scottishathletics 

BELIEVE, BELONG, ACHIEVE TOGETHER

 **UNITED
KINGDOM
ATHLETICS**

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

 **Scottish Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot