

Blairgowrie Recreation Centre

CASE STUDY

Scotland's first Passivhaus leisure centre, delivering community facilities and prioritising energy efficiency.



LOCATION: Blairgowrie

STATUS: Complete

 **PRIORITISING PLACE**

 **ENERGY TRANSITION**

Summary

Blairgowrie Recreation Centre is an example of how public infrastructure can use low-carbon design standards to provide community facilities while reducing energy demand. It is Scotland's first leisure facility built to Passivhaus standards. The centre was completed in 2025 and serves the people of eastern Perthshire and pupils at Blairgowrie High School. The recreation centre provides them with facilities such as a swimming pool, a sports hall, a health club, dance studio and external 3G sports pitch.

Background

The new recreation centre replaces Blairgowrie's original 1980s facility. Leisure centres are typically energy-intensive buildings which has an impact on both the environment and operational costs. Blairgowrie Recreation Centre's Passivhaus design could reduce energy consumption up to 80% compared to conventional leisure centres.

The Passivhaus building standard is a globally recognised certification that focuses on energy efficiency and occupant comfort. The Passivhaus approach prioritises high-quality design which will reduce the need for heating and cooling and thereby reduce energy consumption.

Investment

The £36m project was funded by Perth & Kinross Council, which will own the building. The project was impacted by construction inflation and the original project cost was exceeded. However, the Council committed to getting the Centre over the line and it opened to the public in August 2025.



Regulation

The Centre was designed to meet full Passivhaus certification, a globally recognised standard for ultra-low energy buildings. It was fully constructed from Cross Laminated Timber and Glulam which will reduce energy consumption. The centre is also compliant with Sports England, Sport Scotland and Accessible Sports Facilities guidance, ensuring the building is accessible and inclusive.

Delivery

The project was delivered through hub East Central Scotland, and the facility will be operated by Live Active Leisure on behalf of the Council. Hub East Central Scotland is a collaborative public-private partnership, delivering community infrastructure for public bodies across Falkirk, Stirling, Perth & Kinross, Dundee, Tayside and Angus.

The Centre serves both the local community and Blairgowrie High School, offering new facilities and setting a new standard for sustainable leisure buildings in Scotland.