

Open Space and Biodiversity Policy / Strategy- 2013 - 2023



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Section 1 **Foreword**

- 1.1 Parks and open spaces are being judged increasingly by the contribution they make to the community they serve and how they benefit local people; their health and wellbeing, the local economy, community safety and whether they impact in a positive way to a general sense of satisfaction with where people live.
- 1.2 There is considerable evidence to support the notion that parks and open spaces, when designed and managed correctly, have the ability to impact positively on all of our lives, in ways that may not be immediately apparent. As custodians of the public realm it is incumbent upon local government to set the right example and ensure, where possible that this valuable commodity is available and accessible to all sections of the community so that all might benefit from its use. This policy also acknowledges the wider benefits that open space provides; wildlife habitat, protection of rare and important species, influence over climate change and maintaining fragile ecosystems. These factors are well documented through national and international research and therefore must, by virtue of this fact be considered alongside and integral to the development of guiding principles and strategy for future action.
- 1.3 To assist the assessment and evaluation of open space provision across the borough, land has been classified according to typology described in former Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) and its companion guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities. Further explanation of these typologies is provided in a later section of this (7.11). The Planning Policy Context and Capital Funding Sources is considered in a later section and more detail in **Appendix 1.**
- 1.4 The open space and biodiversity policy will examine provision in terms of its quantity, quality, accessibility and management, identifying opportunities to increase supply, improve standards and satisfy demand. The Open Space and Biodiversity Policy aims to underline the importance of this land asset in meeting social and environmental needs, providing a very cost effective way of delivering a variety of benefits across all sections of the community and serving as a 'quality of life' indicator.



Section 2 **Introduction**

- 2.1 Ipswich has some glorious parks and a network of high quality open spaces covering over 518 hectares - a scale normally associated with much larger towns and cities. This is a key ingredient in what makes the town attractive to residents and visitors alike and supports our claim to being the greenest town in Suffolk.
- 2.2 Ipswich is rich in biodiversity also, containing one internationally designated site (a Ramsar site and Special Protection Area for birds), three nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest for wildlife), 21 County Wildlife Sites and 9 Local Nature Reserves.
- 2.3 This policy establishes guiding principles for the provision and management of green space within Ipswich Borough, and recommends a strategy for its protection and enhancement so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.
- 2.4 The document links to and supports other Council-wide policies and strategies discussed in later sections. It complements relevant corporate objectives and provides a clear framework for addressing many modern-day social concerns, including tackling obesity, re-building communities, addressing anti-social behaviour, protecting the environment and improving mental and physical wellbeing.
- 2.5 The Policy is presented as a combined achievement, involving the efforts and input of many individuals both internal and external to the Council. Consultation with relevant stakeholders, Park Friends Groups, experts, professionals and the wider community has helped shape this document. The continued involvement of the community and stakeholder groups is equally important if the aims and objectives of the policy, identified within the 'Strategy for delivery' are to be realised.

Vision Statement

'To safeguard, protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment and improve everyone's quality of life by working in partnership with others to ensure that our parks and open spaces are well designed, well managed, safe and freely accessible, encouraging use and benefiting the whole community'

Outcomes

- 2.6 The document sets out to achieve the following:
 - Ensure the provision and management of public open space meets customer needs, now and over the next 10 years.
 - Ensure the natural environment, trees and wildlife is afforded appropriate protection.
 - Ensure the Council operates within the law and where possible adheres to best practice.

- To raise awareness of the benefits and value of good quality, accessible, biodiversity rich public open space.
- Identify priorities for future investment and thus ensure best use of available resources.
- Provide appropriate guidance through the planning process to ensure new public open space is appropriately located, of a high quality and meets local needs.
- Plan for and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Improve the quality of the public realm, natural environment and local heritage.
- Build social cohesion and encourage healthy lifestyles through a well planned and managed 'green space' infrastructure.
- Create a delivery plan for green infrastructure provision,
- Ensure any cross boundary provision is properly coordinated and managed and
- Ensure heritage parks and heritage features within our parks are afforded appropriate protection.

The project approach

2.7 In recent years there has been a great deal of national and international research undertaken into the benefits afforded by good quality green space. Much of this research was reviewed and made use of in the development of this policy, including the Green Infrastructure Study of the Haven Gateway Partnership around the Essex and Suffolk peninsula and the results of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study completed for the Council in 2009 by the consultants PMP that examined the provision of open space in Ipswich. Specifically, the policy has drawn information from and is informed by:

- Reference to legal obligations and statutory duties, including but not limited to planning law / guidance.
- The consideration of best practice, professional guidelines and approved standards demonstrated for example through the accreditation of relevant quality assurance schemes.
- The review and evaluation of existing open space provision within Ipswich, e.g. data and maps held on files, comments and feedback received through public consultation and assessment by specialist practitioners.
- The cost to the Council of maintaining open space in Ipswich and the availability of funds at the national, regional and local level.
- Drawing comparisons with similar providers of open space, i.e. 'benchmarking' the service currently offered.
- A look at and information gleaned from other relevant policies and strategies developed by the Council and its partners.

- 2.8 In the review of available information, the policy seeks to identify shortcomings that might exist in current provision, management and maintenance and recommends through a 'strategy for delivery' an action plan that will address weaknesses and raise standards by setting clear priorities.



Section 3 Legal responsibilities

- 3.1 The Council has a duty of care under the Occupiers Liabilities Act 1957 to ensure that any open space it provides is fit for purpose. The protection of the public and others entering land owned by the Council, which includes its own employees, is also a requirement enforceable by law under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and EIA Directive (85/337/EEC). Other legislation exists to protect the environment, which the Council has a duty to adhere to. The most relevant are:

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

- 3.2 Many of Britain's wild plants and animals are legally protected. The main law dealing with this is the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which was passed in 1981. This Act that also provides protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which covers England and Wales but not Scotland. Wild birds and certain other wild animals (including some invertebrates) are legally protected.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act)

- 3.3 Sustaining biodiversity and ecosystems is essential to human survival, as well as key to enhancing people's quality of life through enhancing the environment. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is known as the 'biodiversity duty'.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)

- 3.4 The section of the Act entitled 'Nature Conservation' strengthens and updates the Wildlife and Countryside Act legislation for protected species and SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). It also places a duty on government departments to take biodiversity into consideration in all their functions

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

- 3.5 This legislation relates to international sites (Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)) as well as European Protected species.

The Environment Protection Act 1990

- 3.7 This places a requirement upon local government to keep public places free of litter, including dog excrement by enforcement, if necessary. The Council's Parks Patrol Service along with other officers in the Council are now trained and equipped to issue on the spot Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) on anyone found littering, flytipping or allowing their dog to foul open spaces and failing to remove it.

The Equality Act 2010

- 3.8 The Equality Act 2010 has replaced the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, providing greater fairness, consistency and protection against many forms of discrimination.

The Act applies to services and public functions, premises, employment, education and associations, including political parties. The Act covers the following protected 9 characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

The Equality Duty is a duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions. It consists of a general duty and specific duties. The General Duty has three aims where all public bodies are required to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- Foster good relations between different groups

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

- 3.9 Safeguarding life from both a human perspective and environmental standpoint is fundamental to any self-aware developed society. The assessment of risks that might threaten life is also therefore a fundamental requirement. In the workplace, every day in the UK at least one person is killed and over 6000 injured. Work related accidents and ill health are costly, not only in terms of human suffering but also financially; to the individual concerned, the employing organisation and society as a whole. The Parks & Open Spaces department in collaboration with colleagues in others sections of the Council has worked hard to embed a culture among its workforce that respects the importance of carrying out risk assessments and complying with health and safety legislation. The systems and procedures now in place will help the Council make the right decision and avoid costly mistakes. These systems are regularly reviewed and updated in order to ensure they meet high standards worthy of national accreditation e.g. EN18001 (Health & Safety); EN 14001(Environmental) and EN9001 (Management). Please see **Appendix 2** for internationally recognised quality management systems.

Planning Law

- 3.10 Planning law is influential on open space provision and its management. The formal planning process and its impact are outlined in the next section. However, it should be noted that legislation such as that governing Tree Preservation Orders and the designation of conservation areas is covered in more detail within the https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/14956/tposguide.pdf . The Council's Tree Management Policy <http://www.ipswich.gov.uk/treemanagementpolicy> provides a guide to how the Council deals with trees through its function as a landowner, highway agent and local planning authority.

Compliance with legislation is covered in more detail in **Appendix 3.**



Section 4 **Planning Process**

Current Planning Policy

- 4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27th March 2012. It replaces much of the previous guidance provided in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), including Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. However, the majority of companion guides and good practice guides associated with the former PPGs and PPSs are still under review and remain in force, and this includes the PPG17 Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities.
- 4.2 In paragraph 73 of the NPPF the Government recognises the value that high quality open space can give to the health and wellbeing of communities. The NPPF sets out an approach to protecting existing open spaces and addressing deficits. Paragraph 109 of NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'contribute to and enhance' the local environment, by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, and helping to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. It further states that local planning authorities should allocate land for development with the least environmental or amenity value (where consistent with other objectives of the NPPF).
- 4.3 The Council adopted its Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document (the 'Core Strategy') in December 2011, before the NPPF came into force. The Core Strategy sets out the development strategy for the Borough up to 2027, and contains borough-wide policies to manage development. It is the key document for the determination of any application made to the Council under the Planning Acts. Whilst the entire document should be referred to in conjunction with other planning information adopted as policy by the Council, the key policies for open space are summarised below and set out in full in **Appendix 1**.
- **Policy CS16: Green Infrastructure Sport and Recreation – this is a strategic policy which seeks to protect, enhance and extend the network of green corridors, open spaces, and sport and recreation facilities in the Borough, including through the provision of a new country park;**
 - **Policy DM28: Protection of Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities – this is a development management policy which protects existing facilities from loss unless certain conditions are met; and**
 - **Policy DM29: Provision of New Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities – this is a development management policy to guide the provision and enhancement of facilities in connection with new development (linked to Core Strategy Appendix 6 which sets out standards of provision).**
- 4.4 The Council currently has two adopted supplementary planning guidance notes (SPGs) relating to open space provision:
- Public Open Space (1998) and
 - The Provision and Maintenance of Children's Play Space (1999).

- 4.5 The Public Open Space SPG explains how new developments should provide for new open space – what type, whether on- or off-site, design, and what maintenance payments will be required. The Children's Play SPG illustrates the Council's specifications for the provision and maintenance of children's play areas. The documents were prepared to support the implementation of policies contained in the 1997 Ipswich Local Plan. Gradually the 1997 Local Plan policies are being replaced through the preparation of a new Local Plan. The Core Strategy is the first part of the new Local Plan to have been adopted by the Council. A combined Site Allocations and IP-One Area Action Plan development plan document is under preparation (due for adoption in 2014) and will include updates to the open spaces, sport and recreation facilities identified on the 1997 proposals map (now known as a policies map).
- 4.6 A review of the Core Strategy is commencing during 2012/13. It may present an opportunity to make modifications to the policies, if appropriate, to reflect the content of this Open Space and Biodiversity Policy.

Open Space Adoption Process

- 4.7 Before any building development is approved the developer must first demonstrate how the scheme, irrespective of whether residential or commercial satisfies Council policy. The developer will often submit an outline planning application or seek officer comments before making a full application to the Council's Planning and Development Committee.
- 4.8 If the Council is satisfied that the development meets the required standard and can be justified, planning approval will be granted. In terms of open space, the development would be judged on the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision. The first priority of any residential development must be to provide the right amount of good quality, accessibly open space for those people moving into the area. If this is neither possible nor desirable, perhaps because there is ample open space already available, instead the Council would seek an offsite financial contribution from the developer to help improve existing provision. Presently, any financial contribution made would be ring-fenced to the immediate area, even though this might not be the Council's main priority.
- 4.9 Under current planning law the Council is entitled to seek a 'commuted sum' from the developer to help pay for on going maintenance of the open space provided. The commuted sum is arrived at by assessing annual maintenance costs over a given period of time, usually 10 to 15 years, although in some cases it can be longer, Cambridge City Council for instance have used a 20 year period for the purpose of calculating commuted sums. The current adopted policy in Ipswich Borough stipulates a period of 10 years for public open space and 15 years for equipped play areas.
- 4.10 The adoption of open space is normally made possible via legal agreements (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). These are legally binding contracts between the local authority and developer. Planning conditions can also be attached to a planning permission to ensure specific requirements are met within the development, e.g. retaining important landscape features. A legal agreement will normally also contain 'trigger' points, e.g. the point at which land is offered up for adoption and commuted sums are released and paid to the Council, and this usually coincides with the number of houses built and sold.
- 4.11 It goes without saying that it is extremely important to ensure that the open space provided is designed and laid out to the required standard as specified and in accordance with the approved plans, notwithstanding the fact that it might be necessary to agree minor alterations during the life of the development. The current procedure, approved jointly by

officers in Planning, Parks & Open Spaces, Property Services and the Legal Section is designed to ensure that the land adoption process is followed and operates as smooth as possible. The procedure involves staff within Parks & Open Spaces, on instruction from Planning inspecting the site and assessing whether the open space and any features provided have been laid out in accordance with the original plans. If everything meets the right standard, the Council's Legal Section is instructed to commence formal land adoption proceedings and once complete the open space is added to maintenance schedules and managed on a routine basis by Parks & Open Spaces. Details of the adoption process can be seen in the flow-chart in **Appendix 4.**

- 4.12 On occasions the open space adoption process does not run smoothly and can be delayed for months, sometimes years. Some developers are better than others at making sure the necessary landscaping and installation of equipped play areas etc. is carried out to the required standard and maintained in good order until adoption takes place. In the worst case scenario, the Council can spend a great deal of time and effort checking and re-visiting the site, reporting defects for rectification by the developer and answering queries from the general public as to why the public open space is not available for use or falls short of acceptable standards.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 4.13 Funding through legal agreements secured by planning permissions will be likely to be limited from April 2014 when the Council is expected to adopt its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges. These charges will be imposed on future developments based on the net increase in floorspace, with different rates potentially applying to different types of development and geographic areas. The money generated through this will fund infrastructure such as open spaces, although as opposed to the present situation the majority of any individual contributions paid will not be tied to the area in which the development is sited, whilst a greater number of developments will be liable to this charge. The trigger for CIL payment will be when the development commences.

Trees, wildlife and biodiversity

- 4.14 During the planning application process wildlife and biodiversity issues need to be considered from the outset (at pre-application stage). Several approaches are used by the Council to ensure that this is the case. One is through making information available to prospective applicants on the Council's web site. Another approach is to include biodiversity requirements (including freshwater) in the checklist the Council uses to validate planning applications. The Council also has a multi-disciplinary Major Projects Group which considers applications and pre-application enquiries. The involvement of relevant Council officers and ecologists can greatly enhance the quality of a development, speed up the application process and avoid unnecessary harm to wildlife. Examples from Natural England of how to deal with protected species in the planning process can be found in **APPENDIX 5** and decision tree in **APPENDIX 6.**
- 4.15 The Council will be an active participant of the new 'Wild Anglia' Local Nature Partnership (LNP). Wild Anglia will ensure the counties' natural environment is taken into account in decision making at all levels and will act as an advocate for nature. The LNP will work alongside New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, the National Trust, the Environment Agency and the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce as part of a Business and Diversity Group to ensure the counties' economic agenda is connected with their environmental goals.
- 4.16 The Council meets its biodiversity duty by having due regard to biodiversity when carrying out its functions, as written in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities

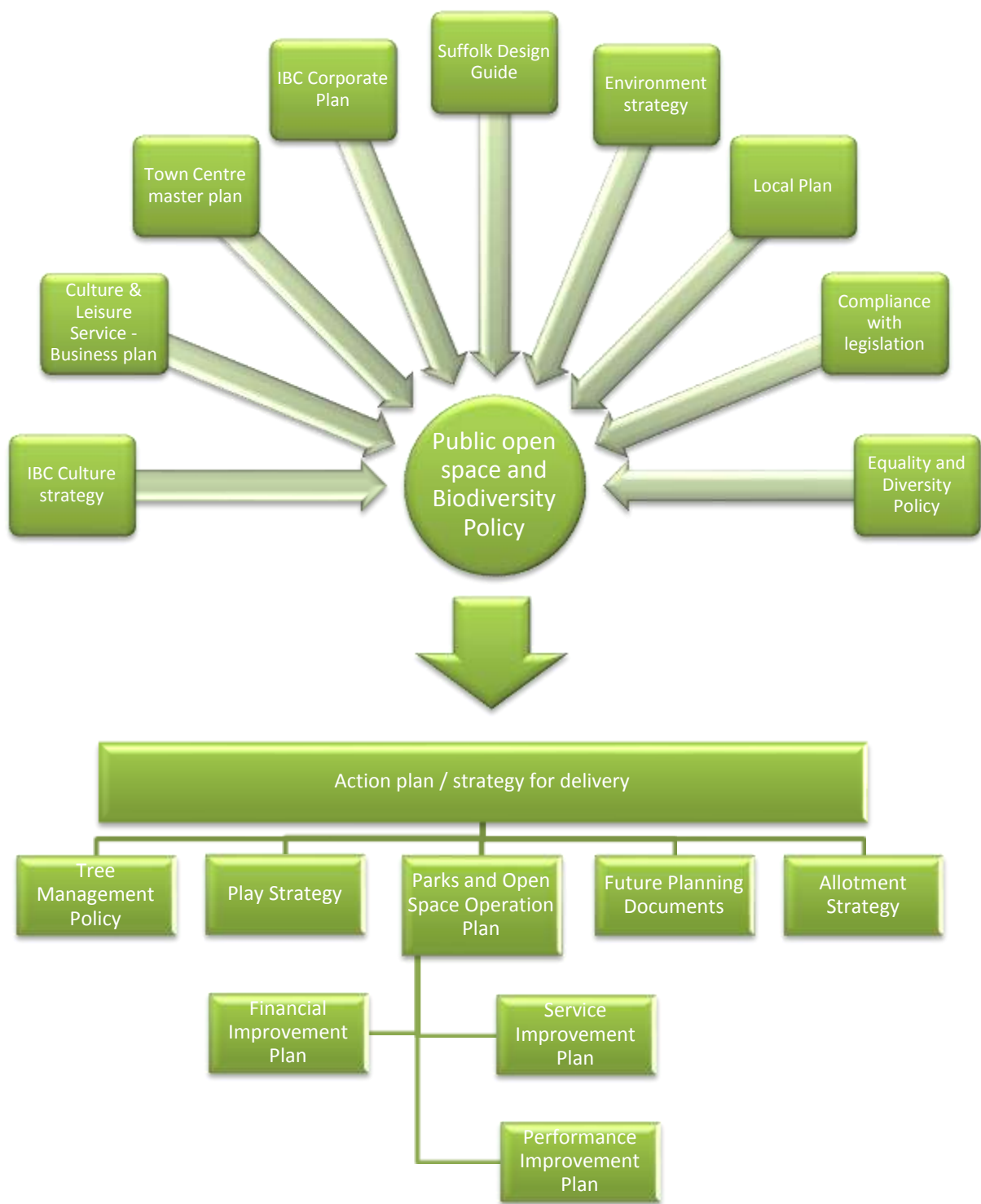
(NERC) Act 2006. This naturally extends to the planning process and the Council safeguards and enhances priority habitats and species, as listed under the UK and Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plans (see Appendix 8 for up to date BAPs).

- 4.17 When considering wildlife, the timing for both surveys and site based work is critical. If there is no prior knowledge of the species and habitats present on an application site, consideration needs to be given to establishing what survey information is required and when it can be achieved. This information allows the planning authority to request the right actions at the right time of year from the applicant. Advice on the appropriate timings for surveys and site work for various species and habitats can be found in the table in **APPENDIX 7**.
- 4.18 **APPENDIX 8** contains links to detailed information on protected and locally significant species.
- 4.19 Existing trees are an important factor on construction sites, whether on or near the working areas, and trees are a material consideration in the UK planning system (see **Appendix 9**). BS 5837:2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*' shall be used from the outset in decision-making with regard to existing and proposed trees. Root systems, stems and canopies, with allowance for future movement and growth, need to be taken into account in all projects, including those that do not require planning permission.
- 4.20 The space required for any proposed new trees to become established is an important consideration and proposed mature size should be indicated on landscape plans.
- 4.21 Where tree retention or planting is proposed in conjunction with nearby construction, the objective should be to achieve a harmonious relationship between trees and structures that can be sustained in the long term. The good practice recommended in this British Standard is intended to assist in achieving this objective.
- 4.22 The standard follows a logical sequence of events that has tree care at the heart of the process. The full sequence of events might not be applicable in all instances; for example, a planning application for a conservatory might not require the level of detail that needs to accompany a planning application for the development of a site with one or more dwellings.
- 4.23 Consideration should also be given to the Council's Tree Management Policy 2010 and canopy cover goals. The Council's current aspiration is for developments of greater than one unit to have tree planting as an integral part, with a minimum target of 15% tree cover, at maturity per site. Where this is not appropriate the council will encourage commuted sums for the planting, establishment and subsequent lifelong management of the tree off site.

Natural England and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (Cabe) say urban areas could be transformed into healthier, wealthier and much more pleasant places if green infrastructure received even a fraction of the investment allotted to "grey" areas.



Section 5 Policy context



Ipswich Local Plan

- 5.1 The planning process is discussed in section 4 with relevant planning policies set out in **APPENDIX 2**. The Ipswich Local Plan currently consists of the adopted Core Strategy 2011, plus some saved policies from the 1997 Local Plan. Future planning documents include the Core Strategy Review commencing during 2012/13, the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (incorporating the IP-One Area Action Plan), and supplementary planning documents.

Corporate Plan - Building A Better Ipswich

- 5.2 This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy is written in line with the Council's corporate plan and underlying principles, which are A Fairer Ipswich and Value for Money, and the themes - A Stronger Ipswich Economy, A Safer and Healthier Ipswich, Keeping Ipswich Moving, Quality Housing for all, A Greener Ipswich and A More Enjoyable Ipswich.

Equality and Diversity Policy

- 5.3 Ipswich Borough council is committed to taking effective action to eliminate discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and diversity in all that it does as an employer, a service provider and as a community leader. We believe that all people are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and we are determined to ensure that both our employees and everyone entitled to use our services receives fair and equitable treatment.
- 5.4 We are committed to working with our partners and communities to promote good relations and to combat prejudice, discrimination and harassment. We will therefore champion equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights under all nine of the following equality strands: Race, Sex, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity.

Environment Strategy

- 5.5 The Council acknowledges its duty to take action to combat global environmental problems recognising that they will ultimately have an effect at a local level. Locally, it has a duty to ensure that the geographical area it controls is a healthy, prosperous and pleasant place for all. The Rio Earth Summit set the challenge for local authorities to establish how economic growth would be managed whilst ensuring that the local and global community would share in the benefits - in short, managing growth whilst protecting the world around us (sustainability). The Council has a responsibility to protect our community from immediate harm which is likely to affect health or quality of life in the near and short term; and to take into account factors for which the impacts are much more long term.
- 5.6 Economic welfare and social wellbeing are closely linked to the quality of the environment. So it is important to consider present needs in terms of cleanliness, access to open space as well as safeguarding the future. This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy supports and helps delivery of the Environmental Strategy to:
1. Reduce carbon emissions
 2. Promote and ensure sustainable development

3. Manage resources
4. Reduce & manage waste
5. Value, safeguard & enhance open spaces
6. Prevent pollution, safeguarding people, flora & fauna from harm.
7. Ensure cleanliness and an attractive town
8. Protect & enhance biodiversity
9. Promote positive environmental action

- 5.7 Ipswich's role in Creating the Greenest County - To complement the strategic approach Ipswich is a partner in the county-wide initiative 'Creating the Greenest County', which develops commitment to action on climate change, community & business engagement, landscape & biodiversity, and local food, drink and tourism.
- 5.8 The process of reducing CO2 emissions is termed 'Mitigation'. The process of making preparations for the consequences of climate change is termed 'Adaptation'. Parks and Open Spaces and the effective management of the Borough's tree canopy cover is an essential tool in both the mitigation of and Adaptation to climate change.
- 5.9 This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy supports and helps deliver the Environmental Policy

Community Strategy 2008-2010

- 5.10 Major change is taking place in Ipswich. Our town has developed into the fastest growing urban centre in the East of England. We are a regional centre with a population of 133,400 (2011 Census) which is set to exceed 150,000 by 2021. One-Ipswich is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) made up of key organisations from the public, voluntary, community and business sectors to work together towards delivering shared outcomes for the residents and communities within Ipswich.
- 5.11 Quality of Life themes:
 1. People and place
 2. Community cohesion and involvement
 3. Community safety
 4. Culture and leisure
 5. Economic wellbeing
 6. Education and life long learning

Sustainable Development: 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

7. Environment

8. Health and social wellbeing

9. Housing

10. Transport and access

- 5.12 This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy supports and helps deliver the Community Strategy and provides quality of life indicators in support of the identified themes.

Ipswich Cultural strategy 2011-2014

- 5.13 It is now widely recognised that cultural activities, interests and places generate vitality and increase the health, wellbeing and quality of life for both individuals and communities. It can also play a significant role in supporting other local priorities such as reducing crime and improving access to education, employment and training. Ipswich Borough Council's first cultural strategy sets out ambitious actions to create a vibrant Ipswich and address the need for investment in Ipswich's cultural heritage. Many of the aims of that strategy have been achieved and Ipswich's cultural offer transformed.
- 5.14 This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy supports the aims of this important culture strategy and will help, where possible, the themes with key actions to provide a focus for investment and decision-making over the next 3 years:
1. Responding to the national pressure on public spend;
 2. Developing the Cultural Economy;
 3. Improving and sustaining what we have;
 4. Increasing participation in cultural activity;
 5. 2012 Olympic Legacy;
 6. Ambitions for the future.

DRAFT Culture & Leisure Services – business plan (2013-14)

- 5.15 Ipswich Borough Council's cultural strategy 2011-2014, sets out ambitious actions to create a vibrant Ipswich in support of the Corporate Strategy 'Building a Better Ipswich', and has influenced the service area business planning process for 2013-14. The draft strategy has six themes with key actions to provide a focus for investment and decision-making over the next 3 years:
1. Responding to the national pressure on public spend;
 2. Developing the Cultural Economy;
 3. Improving and sustaining what we have;

- 4. Increasing participation in cultural activity;
- 5. 2012 Olympic Legacy;
- 6. Ambitions for the future.

- 5.16 This Open space and Biodiversity Policy provides a framework in which to deliver Parks and Parks Spaces commitment to the business plan including but not limited to:

Town Centre Master Plan

- 5.17 The Town Centre Master Plan provides a view of what Ipswich Borough Council and stakeholders agree is the way forward to achieve an enhanced town centre in Ipswich. The 15-year plan has an end date of 2027. It complements the adopted Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document and other relevant policy documents. Sustainability is key to the development of the town centre in the future, providing a healthy and vibrant environment for businesses and retailers as well as an attractive place for people to enjoy.

Tree Management Policy

- 5.18 This policy provides a guide to how the Council deals with trees through its function as a landowner, highway agent and local authority
- 5.19 The Tree Management Policy informs the Council's strategy for delivering a range of key actions that will ensure that the Council's tree assets are managed in a safe and sustainable manner. The policy provides the Council with a framework to manage its operations and protect, care for and plant more trees within the borough's environment and balance the needs of trees with the needs of humans and the built environment. More importantly the policies set out expectations for the borough, which can be adopted by other agencies and the private sector as well as providing the bedrock for the development of other key planning policies such as the Local Plan.
- 5.20 This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy provides an assessment of the quantity, and accessibility of current tree canopy cover and proposes a strategic borough wide 'canopy cover goal' and supports the aims of the Tree Management Policy.

Play Strategy (under review)

- 5.21 The Play Strategy is under review but is supported by this policy. It intends to bring play into focus advertising the benefits and importance of play provision and providing a structure to support the expansion and management of play, broadening the Council's ability to welcome ever more young people into the realm of play. This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy provides an assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of current play provision and makes recommendations and proposes actions for future improvement of the service.

Allotment Strategy (under review)

- 5.22 The Allotment Strategy is under review but supported by this policy. It intends to bring allotments into focus advertising the benefits for all, resulting in increased letting and improved standards. This Open Space and Biodiversity Policy provides an assessment of

the quantity, quality and accessibility of current allotment sites and makes recommendations and proposes actions for future improvement of the service.

National strategic context

5.23 The National strategic context of this policy is covered in **Appendix 10**



Section 6 **The true value of Open Space**

- 6.1 The provision and good management of open space is not just about cutting grass, clearing leaves and controlling weeds. Parks and open spaces underpin many of the town's positive assets – an attractive environment and exciting and vibrant events programme, a network of alternative 'green' non-vehicular access around the town, accessible local heritage and culture, wide ranging opportunities for organised sport and good links to the surrounding countryside.
- 6.2 This policy document examines the benefits derived from good quality open space under three main headings: **Social value, Environmental value and Economic value.**



Social Value - Communities

- 6.3 Parks and open spaces offer an escape from the stresses of modern urban living and for many people they play an integral part in daily life; providing somewhere to walk and enjoy fresh air or experience the natural environment, nature and wildlife, or picnic with friends or new neighbours.
- 6.4 Good quality public open space is especially important during times of economic hardship, as they provide a range of free activities and opportunities that can be enjoyed by all, especially those on limited income and the less well-off in society.
- 6.5 National data suggests that nearly 70% of people use their parks frequently, and many go every day.ⁱ Over 50% of us visit a park or open space at least once a week, to improve physical and mental health, to meet friends, or just to relax and have a good time.ⁱⁱ
- 6.6 Parks and open spaces are the most frequently used service of all the public services tracked with 91% of those surveyed saying that parks and public spaces improve their quality of life.ⁱⁱⁱ Moreover, if people are satisfied with their local parks, they tend to be satisfied with their council.

Public Health and Wellbeing

- 6.7 The health agenda promotes healthy lifestyle behaviour and choices. Less active lifestyles have led to an increase in preventable diseases which are placing increasing pressures on the National Health Service (NHS)^{iv}. Parks and open spaces can contribute in a variety of ways to the health agenda, providing opportunities for exercise and relieving stress, promoting mental well-being and reducing pressures on the NHS.
- 6.8 Trees are known to remove air borne pollutants from the environment and it is claimed that asthma rates in children fall significantly (as much as 25%) with an increase in tree population.
- 6.9 Those living in deprived communities who tend to have poorer health and suffer from the kind of illnesses that can be alleviated by regular exercise may unfortunately also be those

who are less likely to have access to good quality public open space. Any action plan for the future should recognise this and attempt to address any inequalities in open space provision.

- 6.10 Allotments and community gardens provide opportunities for physical exercise, a sense of purpose and social interaction with all their inherent benefits and for a healthy and very cost effective diet. Providing sufficient allotment gardens to meet current and future demand is an obvious way to encourage more physical activity. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this pastime is popular among the elderly and ethnic minority groups.
- 6.11 A brisk walk every day in your local park can reduce the risk of heart attacks by 50%, strokes by 50%, diabetes by 50%, fracture of the femur by 30%, colon cancer by 30%, breast cancer by 30% and Alzheimer's by 25%.^v Green exercise has important implications for public and environmental health. People using outdoor green environments are more likely to continue with their programme than those based within a gym or leisure centre.^{vi} Obesity in adults has tripled over the last twenty years and is still rising. The rising rate amongst children is just as alarming; the number of obese six-year-olds doubled in the last ten years, and the number of obese fifteen-year-olds more than trebled. A major cause of obesity, and other health problems, is inactivity. Obesity reduces life expectancy by an average of three years, or eight to ten years in the case of severe obesity.
- 6.12 Green exercise has been reported to make significant improvements in peoples' self-esteem, a significant reduction in the subscale mood factors of anger, confusion, depression and tension.^{vii} Initiatives such as GP referral schemes, which involve doctors treating patients through regular exercise programmes based within parks, should be explored.
- 6.13 As we all get older, many people increasingly rely on local public services to help continue to live active and fulfilled lives. Parks are age proof and bring opportunities for physical activity, volunteering and social interaction all of which provide a sense of achievement and purpose. Some older people are lonely and find themselves isolated within their own homes. Safe high quality parks and open spaces provide opportunities for social interaction with the local community. They can evoke memories, provide a place for people to reunite or meet new friends, allowing older people to create or sustain bonds and reinstate vitality.
- 6.14 Physical activity does not end with later life, it can also extend years of independent living, reduce disability and overall has the significant potential to impact upon the quality of life of all older people. It enables the continued enjoyment of activities of daily living and helps to maintain an individual's social network. Contact with the outdoors and nature increases positive stimulation and improves concentration. For those with dementia, it can improve their sense of coherence and reduce aggression and agitation.

91% of people believe that public parks and open spaces improve quality of life.v

79% agree with ' Parks and open spaces help me stay fit and healthy' .vi

Those living in attractive green environments were 3.3 times as likely to take frequent physical exercise as those in the lowest greenery category.x

Improving the quality of spaces will encourage more active use and exercise.xi

Stress

- 6.15 As technology, traffic, artificial light and noise increasingly dominate our towns and cities, a park or green space can be an oasis of tranquillity and calm that has a genuine effect on stress.
- 6.16 Exposure to an outdoor green environment reduces stress faster than anything else. Simply viewing nature can produce significant recovery or restoration from stress within three to five minutes.^{viii} For people experiencing anxiety or stress, certain types of nature scenes quickly foster more positive feelings and promote beneficial changes in physiological systems for instance, blood pressure.^{ix}
- 6.17 One in four people each year will visit a doctor because of a mental health problem. Being more active and having more contact with the outdoors reduces stress and can prevent and reduce depression and anxiety.^x The natural environment has restorative effects on health.^{xi}

Horticultural therapy

- 6.18 Contact with plants and participation in horticultural activities can bring a wide range of benefits. It can enhance self-esteem, self-confidence, social and communication skills whilst also improving stamina, coordination and balance. Projects such as those delivered by ActivLives at Chantry Park Nursery that help people with a range of physical and mental issues back into main stream employment should be developed further in the future.
- 6.19 Children with ADHD can concentrate on schoolwork and similar tasks better than usual after taking part in activities in green settings, such as walking through or playing in a park.^{xii}

Families and Children

- 6.20 It's suggested that in modern society, leisure is the single most important force developing cohesive and healthy relationships between family members.^{xiii} Freely available, local open space providing recreational opportunities for all ages makes a vital contribution to this relationship building. Parks and open spaces provide opportunities through interaction at the playground or at events for neighbouring families to meet. They provide an escape from spending too much time indoors, especially where the family's accommodation is less than generously proportioned, and an opportunity for the children to get out from under their parents feet.
- 6.21 Parks and open spaces are a wonderful resource with which to support curriculum activities. Where a school can't provide its own playing facilities there are opportunities for the school to work in partnership with the Council to provide these in parks.
- 6.22 Parks and open spaces also provide children the freedom so often denied in congested traffic-strewn streets. They counter the negative effects of urban growth on the public environment and encourage children to become better stewards of the environment.
- 6.23 Availability of these spaces to children and their access to the benefits they bring depends on delivering a safe, quality environment.
- 6.24 86% of parents (with young children aged 11 and under) say that on a nice day their children would prefer to go to the park than watch TV.^{xiv} Despite this, children are spending less and less time outdoors, in fact the likelihood of children visiting any parks and open space at all has halved in a generation, and much of this now happens only under adult supervision.
- 6.25 National research statistics show that 56% of those under 16 visit parks and green spaces at least once a week and 37% visit most or every day during the summer months. Even for the 16 to 19 age group 44% report at least weekly summer visits and 28% daily or most days^{xv}.

Between the age 30-39, 35% visit parks for outings with their children/family, and 39% report that they go to the park to visit the playground.^{xvi}

- 6.26 Children's self-discipline can be improved by 20% by simply having views of trees and vegetation outside their homes.^{xvii}
- 6.27 The Green Flag Award segmentation report shows that adults are strongly influenced on whether and which green space they use by childhood experience.^{xviii}

Education

- 6.28 Schools have long used parks and open spaces to access the natural environment as a means of education. Increased anxieties about safety and security on the part of some parents have restricted the free movement of children around their neighbourhoods and only added to the lure of games consoles, so school visits to parks and open spaces are more important than ever. Parks provide the opportunity for play, exploration and the development of an awareness and understanding of risk in a dynamic, interactive, accessible and free outdoor classroom.
- 6.29 Parks and open spaces provide informal learning to the wider community through interpretation material, brochures, signs, guided walks and casual observations.
- 6.30 Many children have become isolated from exploring nature and understanding their environment. Increased time spent playing video games and watching television all contribute to this isolation. The result is that many children are not educated about their environment and do not grasp the responsibility they have to become stewards of their environment as they grow to adulthood.^{xix}

Equalities

- 6.31 Everyone should have access to good green spaces irrespective of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion. Currently there is little research investigating income and race inequalities in relation to urban green space provision and use.
- 6.32 Parks and Open Spaces provide a sense of place and belonging and help reinforce social cohesion and a more inclusive society. They are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a demographic forum for citizens and society. When properly designed and cared for, they bring communities together, they provide meeting places and softer social ties of a kind that have been disappearing in many urban areas. These places shape the cultural identity of an area, are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities. They offer no barriers or restriction on grounds of age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, race, disability, education or wealth.

Crime and Disorder

- 6.33 Children and young people are often prevented from using parks and open spaces because of their parents' fears about crime, whilst women also face particular concerns. Physical changes to, and the better management of, public open space can help to allay these fears. Such changes can help everyone to make the most of public spaces.
- 6.34 High quality, well maintained parks and open spaces can make a significant contribution to the establishment and retention of stable and law abiding communities. Parks and open spaces have an important part to play in community safety, with careful planning they can take the pressure off residential areas by providing safer, and less disruptive alternative places for children and young people to play and congregate.

Culture and Heritage

- 6.35 Many of our parks and open spaces have an element of historic association such as the name, a monument or commemorative features, with most telling the stories of the local community. They can play a major part in retelling our heritage and inject life into the built environment. The Council's historic parks like Christchurch Park can have a positive and profound affect on a person's sense of place; which in turn can have many positive benefits including increased sense of identity and pride.
- 6.36 Parks and open space are often as old as the community itself and provide a wonderful living record of the community's development. In many cases the park will have been created from an older area of green space such as common land or part of the estate of an historic building. A park's name may have historic attachment, recording an historic event or the name of the benefactor who bequeathed the land.
- 6.37 New open space tends to come about through a significant change within the community, perhaps the closure of a large business site and the development for new housing; in this way the new park immediately records a significant change for the local community and represents a marker in time.
- 6.38 The real heritage value of these places perhaps lies in their ability to accommodate the activities that people have engaged in over the years, either as individuals, as families, as groups or clubs, or as whole communities. It is these activities and the memorable events associated with them that mark the development of the community and the individual families that exist within the community. There are often historic relationships between parks and local organisations such as factories, schools and sports clubs. Parks are often also elements of continuity; staying substantially the same when all around the built urban scene can change rapidly. Adults carry with them the fond memories of childhood days spent in the local park. Even if they are no longer regular visitors, its presence serves to remind, and the experiences linger.
- 6.39 In Ipswich, parks and open spaces play host to a wide range of community events such as the mela, music day, Ip-Art, Christchurch fireworks display, friends tea party, lark in the park and international cyclo-cross that enrich people's lives by enabling them to experience first-hand a variety of different cultures, arts and genre. This provides a platform for skills, interests and lives to be shared; broadening knowledge and awareness and often reinforcing or reintroducing civil society. Our photographic competitions and art in the park has the ability to engage, excite and inspire; bringing people together.

Sport and Play

- 6.40 Apart from the use of formal sports facilities that are provided in parks, they also provide ample opportunities for informal sports use. On any sunny day or evening, especially during weekends and holiday periods, there will be numerous individuals and small groups of adults and children participating in some form of casual sporting activity. A typical summer afternoon or evening scene, in any urban park or recreation ground, in any typical town will include several small games of football, a few joggers, kites flying, games of rounders, frisbee or similar, and dozens of people walking for exercise. The development of sporting excellence needs an accessible and affordable starting point, and for most people that starting point is found in the local park. Parks represent the grass roots of sports development. Without their existence, far fewer people would have a sporting interest, let alone go on to develop high levels of skills and regular participation at a more serious sporting level.

- 6.41 Whether this constitutes a brisk walk, playing Sunday League football, taking part in a game of bowls or jogging, parks and open spaces have much to offer those wishing to participate in sport, irrespective of skill level.
- 6.42 With these activities come a whole host of occurrences; interaction, excitement, education, relaxation, freedom and escapism, all contributing significantly to social and health benefits.
- 6.43 Sport and play allows children to connect with the natural environment, developing their imagination and physical skills, encouraging risk taking, increasing levels of physical activity, activating higher cognitive processes and healthy brain development, teaching them valuable lifelong lessons and the subtleties of social etiquettes.



Environmental Value

Ecology, Nature and Biodiversity

- 6.44 Our Parks and open spaces are valuable natural habitats for all forms of wildlife. The ecological value varies significantly according to its type and the way it is managed. Ecosystems develop according to the unique set of local circumstances that describe the natural environment. Some of the most valuable habitats can be found within our parks and open spaces; woodlands, urban forests, ponds, river and riverbanks, allotments and cemeteries, providing a rich variety of habitats for mammals, birds, insect, aquatic and plant life. Maintaining this diversity of open space is essential to meeting biodiversity conservation objectives, as each space will offer a different habitat for individual species.
- 6.45 Ipswich has 21 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and 8 Local Nature Reserves (LNR), most of which are either all of, or part of, Parks and Open Spaces. In addition the Council owns and manages 3 LNRs outside the Borough boundary. These designations recognise the wildlife value of the sites and the Councils commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity. The Council will seek to put forward new sites for County Wildlife Site status and declare

Play patterns established in childhood are linked to adult health and health behaviour. In particular playing creatively as a child predicts a healthier diet and more active play is associated with generally better health xx

It has been estimated that some 7% of urban park users in England go there for sporting activities - which represents about 7.5 million visitors a year xxi

From over 50,000 responses to the GreenSTAT national green space visitor survey, 18% visit to keep fit (450 million annual visits) and 11% to play sports or games (275 million annual visits) and 22% to visit the play area (550 million annual visits). (GreenSpace. (2010).GreenSTAT visitor survey system)

The Taking Part survey shows that those participating in cultural activities were 20% more likely to know many people' in their neighbourhood. Department for Culture, Media and Sport. (2010)xxii.

new Local Nature Reserves on its land wherever suitable.

- 6.46 The Council is a partner in the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership, which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity across the county. The Partnership brings together a wide range of more than 20 organisations to form an influential consortium, sharing skills and resources across the sectors to work more effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity in Suffolk.

Members of the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership work together to:

- Provide a reliable database of ecological data on species and habitats which can be used to inform conservation decisions (Suffolk Biological Records Office).
- Implement practical, county-wide, Biodiversity Action Plans with targets that contribute to national goals.
- Co-ordinate effective, practical projects in Suffolk that deliver tangible gains for biodiversity.
- Raise awareness of the range of biodiversity in Suffolk and threats to species and habitats.
- Influence local government decisions to ensure biodiversity is protected and enhanced through planning, economic and social strategies.

In addition, five Habitat Working Groups focus on particular habitats and relevant species: Woodland, Coastal, Heathland, Farming and Wetlands. The role of these groups is to:

- Provide an information network for key organisations. Maintain a link with national lead partners.
- Produce new action plans and revise existing ones.
- Initiate projects that will deliver priority targets.
- Review progress in particular action plans.
- Report to the Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group.

Air Quality

- 6.47 Trees and plant life have an important role in improving the air quality in our urban environment and reducing pollutants. A tree's ability to offset carbon emissions is determined by size, canopy cover, health, and age, but large trees can help lower carbon emissions in the atmosphere by 2-3%. An 80-foot beech tree has been shown to remove daily carbon dioxide amounts equivalent to that produced by two single-family dwellings. In the right circumstances, when trees are strategically planted to provide either shade or to act as wind breaks, they can generate 10-50% savings in cooling expenses and 4-22% savings of heating costs. This reduces the amount of carbon-based fuels used; therefore reducing the emissions that reduce air quality.^{xx}
- 6.48 The canopies of trees act as a physical filter for pollution. The fine particles known as PM10s are trapped on the surface of the leaves. When carried into the lungs, PM10s make chronic diseases such as asthma and bronchitis worse. Trees have been shown to remove substantial quantities of PM10s very effective at trapping toxic particles such as lead.^{xxi} Gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are known to cause respiratory problems and can also increase sensitivity to allergens. It has been estimated that woodland can reduce concentrations of SO₂ and NO₂ in the air by 4-5%.^{xxii}

Air Cooling

- 6.49 Moisture from woodlands and trees is emitted into the air, cooling it and helping to make towns and cities more comfortable places in which to live and work. Daytime temperatures have been found to be about 2-3 °C lower in a large urban park than the surrounding streets.^{xxiii} A study revealed that the temperature was 7°C cooler where vegetation cover was 50% compared to where the vegetation cover was only 15%, thereby leveraging the synergy.^{xxiv} The cooling effect of green spaces can be felt up to 100m from the site.^{xxv}

Water and Flood Management

- 6.50 In order for any urban conurbation to function properly, it must have an effective drainage system. Most of the surface treatments used within our hard landscape areas are made of impermeable materials, which require surface water to be removed via the man-made drainage systems, many of which are old and under pressure. During periods of heavy rainfall the risk of flash flooding is high, putting lives, homes and businesses at risk and causing potential disruption to transportation and commerce.
- 6.51 The soil and vegetation of our parks and open spaces is very permeable and capable of soaking up even substantial rainfall. By soaking up water and recharging natural groundwater supplies, it reduces the volume and rate of run-off and greatly contributes to a more sustainable urban drainage situation. The rate of run-off for surfaces with trees and grass is estimated to be 10-20%, compared to 60-70% for hard landscaped urban areas.^{xxvi} Where urban development has included natural flood plains, there is less pressure on piped drainage systems during periods of heavy rain fall and flooding.

Landscape

- 6.52 The visual appeal and perception of our town can be greatly influenced by our parks and open spaces. The natural landscape can contribute as much to the quality of the urban environment as good architecture.
- 6.53 The human psyche has retained a strong preference towards the natural landscape of trees, grass and water; the vision we still find most appealing.^{xxvii} Parks and open spaces reconnect us to nature, with all of its intrigue and complexity of line, colour, shape, form, texture, movement and smell. When people are choosing where to live or locate businesses, this can make the difference; parks and open spaces are increasingly seen as important components of urban regeneration and neighbourhood renewal schemes. Businesses value image highly and wish to be associated not only with successful locations but ones that attract repeat spend. Healthy environments are more likely to support healthy workforces, improving productivity and reducing absenteeism.
- 6.54 Pleasant and attractively landscaped routes play an important part in travel choices and are far more likely to attract people to make a meaningful and sustainable step change in travel than hard infrastructure alone.

Waste

- 6.55 The role that parks and open spaces can play in waste management is growing. Using recycled products to create ground mulches with locally produced woodchip and compost, can make the urban environment more self-sustaining.^{xxviii} Products such as woodchip and logs can also be used to run biomass boilers reducing the need for conventional fuel.

Local Food

- 6.56 There is an upsurge and interest in 'growing your own food', as well as an awareness of other issues such as health and well-being and climate change, which has led to a revival in allotment growing. Locally grown food can also create social enterprise, have a positive

impact on the local environment and encourage local residents to take an active part in their community or spark linked activities like cooking classes.

- 6.57 The benefits of allotment growing are amplified in deprived urban areas where gardens and private outdoor space is less abundant and there is a bigger need for healthy eating and improved well-being.
- 6.58 Local food production can also contribute towards biodiversity with beekeeping or the conservation of less common varieties of fruit and vegetables. Certain varieties favour certain localities and form part of local tradition, the predominance of Suffolk traditional orchard varieties for instance.

Climate Change

- 6.59 Today, carbon dioxide emissions stand at 430 parts per million (ppm) compared to pre-industrial revolution levels of 280ppm^{xxx}. Some scientists believe that this increased concentration has already affected global climates and regardless of action taken now to reduce emissions, warming will continue to take place. Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and therefore parks and open spaces have a potentially vital role to play in the mitigation and adaption against global warming. Just one hectare of green space can absorb one tonne of CO₂ – equivalent to 100 family cars.
- 6.60 Networks of green space can provide alternative transport routes avoiding the need to travel by car and reducing the level of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere.
- 6.61 Parks and open spaces moderate urban temperatures, through evapotranspiration and the provision of shade. Air under a tree's canopy can be as much as 5-10°C cooler than in full sun.^{xxx1}
- 6.62 Many indigenous and naturalised species, plant or animal, are very susceptible to changing conditions, a mature beech tree for example can die in a single season if exposed to severe drought. The full impact of climate change on the natural ecosystem is largely unknown. What is clear however, it is simply unacceptable to do nothing when it is possible to take simple steps to support the natural environment and possibly help reverse the affects of climate change.

By signing up to international climate reduction targets, central government has issued a challenge. The targets set for CO₂ reduction are extremely challenging – by 2020, a reduction of 1.2m tonnes of CO₂ per annum is looked for in the UK, and by 2050 a reduction target of 80% of 2009 levels. Planting more trees probably represents one of the most effective tools available in combating rising temperatures and 'heat sinks' in our towns and cities.

Transport

- 6.63 Parks and open spaces already play a significant role in supporting more sustainable patterns of transport. Of the annual visits nationally, almost 10% are in order to take a short cut to another destination, this rises to 15% when visitors who either walk or cycle to the park are examined in isolation. Over 70% of all journeys to parks and open spaces are made either on foot (68%) or by bicycle (4%).
- 6.64 This contribution to sustainable transport relies on the continued maintenance of the pathway systems, and ensuring that parks and open spaces are attractive high quality spaces that people feel safe using.

- 6.65 20% of all journeys are less than 1 mile^{xxxii} and the percentage of journeys made on foot is declining while the percentage made by bicycles remains static² at 2%^{xxxii}. Also, the percentage of primary school children that are driven to school (43%) is increasing^{xxxiii}
- 6.66 From a survey 86.5% agreed with the statement: —Improving off road footpaths and cycle-ways between open spaces is important.^{xxxiv}
- 6.67 This contribution to sustainable transport relies on the continued maintenance of the pathway systems, and ensuring that parks and open spaces are attractive high quality spaces that people feel safe using. Contribution made could be greatly increased with continued investment in paths, entrances and branded signage, and improved management of the urban green infrastructure with improved connectivity between different spaces to create more seamless and integrated green space corridors. This would also create benefits for nature conservation.

Economic Value

- 6.68 Stimulating inward investment and creating a vibrant place for people to visit and shop is clearly important for the success of any town's local economy. The visitor experience is improved by good quality parks, squares, gardens, tree-lined streets and recreational open space.
- 6.69 The asset value of parks is also starting to be realised. A recent study calculated the value of a major public park as £108 million: the value of its paths, planting, equipment and buildings. However, for accounting purposes most councils value public parks at just £1 each!^{xxxv}

Business Attraction and Retention

- 6.70 Quality of life is a major consideration when businesses are deciding where to locate, and parks and open spaces and the recreational opportunities they provide can be as important to this decision as low crime rates. Owners of small companies rank recreation, parks and open spaces as the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business^{xxxvi} and corporate CEOs say quality of life for employees is also the third most important factor in locating a business, behind only access to domestic markets and availability of skilled labour.^{xxxvii}

Increase in Property Value

- 6.71 Attractive well-managed parks and open space directly add value to adjacent properties. This can be as much as 20% for a detached property, since house-buyers are often willing to pay a premium to be near attractive, well managed green space. Conversely, living near derelict or neglected land can decrease the value of the average home by 15%.

Redevelopment and Renewal

10% increase in green cover (canopy cover) can potentially eliminate the effects of climate change on increasing surface temperatures (CABE Space. (no date). The benefits of urban trees)

If an extra four per cent of the United Kingdom's land were planted with new woodland over the next 40 years, it could be locking up ten per cent of the nation's predicted greenhouse gas emissions by the 2050s. (Forestry commission, scientists call for more trees planting).

- 6.72 The contribution and added value of parks and open spaces to regeneration is now generally recognised. As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good well managed parks and open spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool. Businesses are attracted to locations that offer well designed, well managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services. In town centres a pleasant and well maintained environment increases the number of people visiting retail areas, otherwise known as 'footfall'.

Health

- 6.73 Evidence for the preventative health value of high quality open space is growing. In addition to the ability of urban green space to reduce pollution, and the build-up of the particulates that can aggravate respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis, parks and open spaces contribute significantly to stress reduction, the alleviation of depression and dementia. Obesity and cardiovascular diseases are rising sharply. Through easy and affordable access to recreational opportunities, and the growing use of GP referral schemes, parks can play a valuable role in reducing otherwise expensive treatments, saving the health service millions.

Recreation

- 6.74 While parks and open spaces provide much indirect benefit, they also provide huge tangible value through such activities as team sports, bicycling, skateboarding, walking, picnicking, bench sitting, and visiting a flower garden. Public open space is free of any charge but its value can still be calculated by drawing direct comparisons with similar provision in the private marketplace. Although no income is generated, this value can be expressed in terms of a saving to the local community.

Environment

- 6.75 Expensive engineering solutions can often be avoided by turning to more environmentally-friendly alternatives, e.g. using sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) instead of the more traditional piped system.
- 6.76 During the normal process of water up-take and transpiration, trees perform a valuable and very natural recycling and water purification benefit. The potential financial value of this process has been calculated at an estimated £15,000 based on the volume of water purification throughout the average life of a tree.

Tourism

- 6.77 Parks and open spaces can have a positive impact on tourism revenue. Whilst green space may not always be the primary attraction, it is often the most visible; and any significant decline in quality or availability may have a detrimental affect on visitor numbers.
- 6.78 Figures released by East of England Tourism indicates that the average spend per person for those visiting Ipswich during Ip-Art is £23.29 and this rises to £44.28 for an overnight stay.

Events

- 6.79 Parks and open spaces provide a valuable platform for public events serving community interests and very often raising their appeal on perhaps a local, regional or even national level. The smaller events often assist community organisations to raise valuable money to support their charitable work. They also generate localised involvement, with the potential to stimulate interest in community improvement and cohesion, as well as promoting volunteering opportunities. The larger events can generate significant revenue sums, also releasing huge secondary spend that supports the local economy.

Industry/Employment Value

- 6.80 There are 99 people directly employed in the public parks and open space section; many others are employed in associated industries such as manufacturers of park-based equipment and products. In addition, parks and open spaces create hundreds of volunteering placements many of which actively promote work related skills.



A MONUMENT
TO THE
FAMILY
OF
THE
LATE
MR. JAMES
W. BROWN
AND
MRS. J. W. BROWN
DAUGHTER OF THE LATE
MR. J. W. BROWN
AND
MRS. J. W. BROWN
BORN
MAY 10, 1840
DIED
MAY 10, 1840

Section 7 **Current Provision**

Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy (HaGGIS)

- 7.1 The Haven Gateway Partnership <http://www.haven-gateway.org/> (which includes the Borough Council) published a Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2008 to ensure that housing and jobs growth in the Haven Gateway was matched with greenspace provision. In particular the strategy looked at the provision of accessible natural greenspace across the Haven Gateway area and made recommendations for future provision to achieve its identified standards.
- 7.2 The Strategy concluded that Ipswich is well provided for with parks within the urban area, and with greenspaces providing semi-natural habitat on its periphery at Orwell Country Park and Purdis and Rushmere Heaths. However, other edges of the built up area are less well served, with the northern and eastern edges showing deficiencies of accessible natural greenspace.
- 7.3 It made several recommendations for provision in Ipswich, primarily of new country parks, green corridors and extensions to existing accessible natural green spaces. Some of the proposals have been carried through into the Council's adopted Core Strategy, for example the 'green rim' corridor around the periphery of the town, and a new country park on the north eastern edge of the Borough (see policy CS16 of the plan).
- 7.4 Although largely outside the Borough boundary, there is a significant resource of lowland acid grassland and heathland (and other semi-natural habitats) on the eastern fringe of Ipswich, in a series of disconnected sites. Key sites include Bixley Heath (SSSI), Purdis heath (SSSI), Rushmere Heath (CWS), Foxhall Heath (CWS), Long Strops, Martlesham Heath (SSSI), Sinks Valley (SSSI) and Martlesham Common (CWS). Some of these areas/sites could contribute to the 'green rim' concept in the Local Plan.
- 7.5 The HaGGIS vision and adopted principles include to:
- Ensure that everyone living and working in the Haven Gateway has access to a high quality natural environment;
 - Champion the role that green infrastructure assets play in delivering a high quality of life; and
 - Promote an integrated approach to green infrastructure provision and management that provides recreational opportunities for people whilst maintaining and enhancing the exceptional natural and historic environment within the Haven Gateway.

Local Provision within Ipswich

– Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP 2009)

- 7.6 The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study undertaken in 2009 has been used to inform the Council's adopted Core Strategy (part of the Local Plan). Please see **Appendix 10**.

- 7.7 Land types that do not form part of the assessment include, farm land, private gardens, grass verges and incidental landscaped areas in and around housing developments that could be described as structural elements. However, the assessment does include privately owned outdoor sports facilities, including playing fields on school sites as these facilities are commonly available to the public on a hire basis.
- 7.8 Written in 2009 before adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the original study used PPG17 and its Companion Guide as a reference point. The Guide suggests ways of undertaking such a study and emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment as opposed to following national trends and standards. Four guiding principles were used to undertake the local needs assessment, these are as follows:
- (i) local needs are likely to vary considerably from place to another, even within a single authority area, according to the different socio-demographic and cultural characteristics of local communities and number and types of visitors;
 - (ii) the delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities depends not only on good planning, but also on creative urban and landscape design and effective management. In so far as local authority owned spaces and facilities are concerned, this can be achieved only by multi—disciplinary working across different departments and, in some cases with neighbouring councils, regional and national agencies;
 - (iii) in many areas, delivering the objectives in the former PPG17 will depend on much more on improving and enhancing the accessibility and quality of existing provision than on new provision. At the same time, where open additional spaces or sport and recreational facilities are required, they should enhance the network;
 - (iv) the value of open spaces or sports and recreational facilities, irrespective of who owns them, depends primarily on two things: the extent to which they identify local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment.

Typologies used to describe open space

- 7.9 The overall definition of open space within the former PPG17 (and the Companion Guide) is:

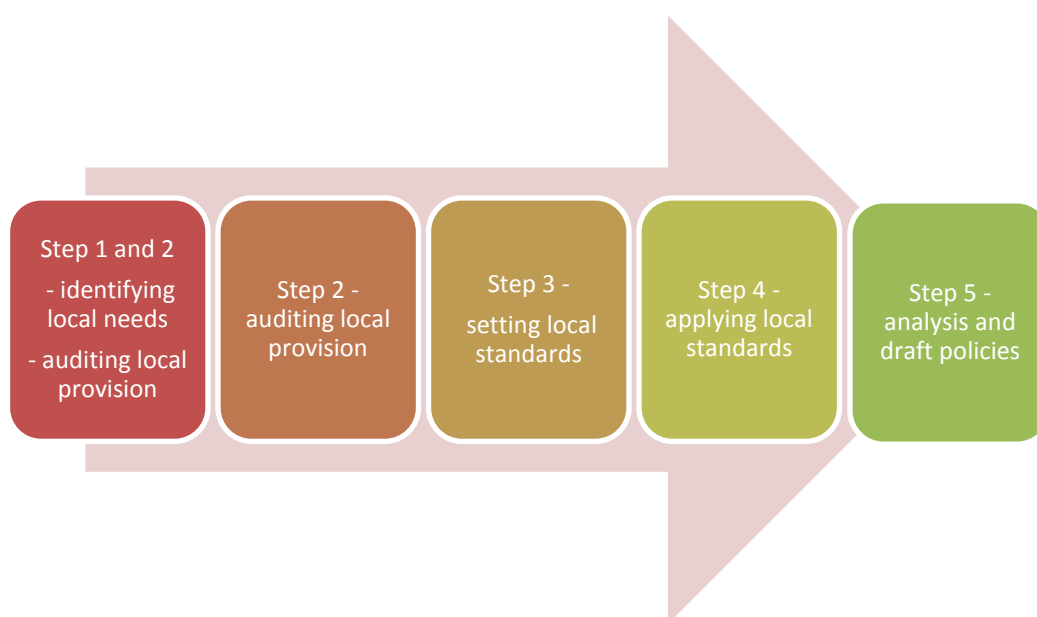
“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”

- 7.10 There are ten open space typologies. These categories include nine types of greenspace and one category of urban open space, i.e. ‘civic spaces’. This study adapts the standard classification to include the assessment of the following typologies:

Open space typology definitions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife conservation • biodiversity • environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Green Space	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal activities close to home or work • enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play areas.
Provision for Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people, typically teenagers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and 'hangouts'.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports.
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growing vegetables and other root crops. <p>N.B. does not include private gardens.</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet contemplation • burial of the dead • wildlife conservation • promotion of biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking, cycling or horse riding • leisure purposes or travel • opportunities for wildlife migration.
Civic Spaces	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed for pedestrians • primary purpose of providing a setting for public events.

The five step method for assessing Open Space in Ipswich



7.11 The PPG17 companion guide sets out a five step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed in this study.

- **Step one – Identifying local needs**

7.12 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out. These included:

- 5,000 household questionnaires distributed across Ipswich to capture the views of users and non-users of open space, sport and recreation facilities;
- surveys to all identified sports clubs;
- internet survey targeting children and young people across all schools in the Borough;
- two ‘drop in’ neighborhood sessions at the Corn Hill;
- press releases, a specific email address and text messaging service to allow the general public to comment on open space, sport and recreation facility provision;
- one-to-one consultations with Council officers; and
- consultation with external agencies.

- **Step two - Auditing local provision**

7.13 This consisted of a thorough audit of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities within the Borough by desktop research and site assessment.

- A total of 451 across the Borough were identified through the audit. These sites were assessed on quantity, quality, accessibility and value based on public perception.
- Each open space was digitally plotted using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and site characteristics recorded on a database.

- The database enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail.

- **Steps three and four - Setting and applying provision standards**

7.14 From the analysis of the data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value it was possible to:

- determine a set of provision standards for each type of open space;
- apply such standards for each type of open space; and
- identify gaps in provision across the different types of open space and thereby identify the areas of priority for improvement, re-designation or new provision.

7.15 The analysis was undertaken by type of open space on a geographical areas basis (Analysis Area). This corresponds to the Area Committee boundaries, see Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2 below. The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level.

- **Step five – Drafting Policies recommendations and strategic priorities**

7.16 The application of standards identifies strategic priorities, which form the basis of the key messages and recommendations outlined in the document.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Table 2.1 Analysis area breakdown by ward

Area 1 Central	Area 2 North East	Area 3 South East	Area 4 South West	Area 5 North West
Westgate	Rushmere	Holywells	Gipping	Whitton
St Margaret's	Bixley	Gainsborough	Sprites	White House
Alexandra	St John's	Priory Heath	Stoke Park	Castle Hill
			Bridge	

Figure 2.2 Analysis area map



Key: Central North East South East South West North West

Consultation and assessment of need

- 7.17 A series of consultations were undertaken amongst both users and non-users across the Borough to establish the views on open space, sport and recreation provision. Consultations were carried out with many organisations and individuals using the various methods described above.
- 7.18 The information gained from these consultations has been used to inform the assessment and to help understand:
- the needs and requirements of local residents;
 - the attitudes towards and expectations for open space;
 - good and bad points about the existing provision;
 - existing open space, sport and recreation provision at a strategic level; and
 - the key issues/problems facing different Council departments and agencies.
- 7.19 The information collected through the consultation forms the basis of the recommended local standards.
- 7.20 There follows a summary of how the consultations have been used to inform the assessment and where the information and statistics can be found relevant to quality, quantity and accessibility
- **Household survey**
- 7.21 The household survey is one of the most important features of the consultation, allowing randomly selected households to comment on quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities, as well as providing the opportunity to comment on site-specific issues. It allows non-users to be consulted, as well as users.
- 7.22 5,000 surveys were sent to households spread across the five analysis areas of the Borough of Ipswich. 431 completed surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to extrapolate the views of the broader population within the Borough. A copy of the household survey can be found in **Appendix 10.**
- 7.23 Specific questions in the household questionnaire feed into the standard setting process. For example, respondents were asked whether they consider there to be enough of each type of open space. They were also asked to explain their answer. This provides a sound, opinion-based rationale for the quantity standards. It can be further analysed to assess, for example, whether a perceived lack of open space is really a need for better quality facilities or a need for additional facilities. Analysis of the household survey results can be found in **Appendix 10.**
- **Sports club survey**
- 7.24 In terms of developing this policy, indoor sports facilities are not considered.
- 7.25 The sports club survey forms part of the information collected to inform standards and recommendations for outdoor sports facilities.
- 7.26 Additional surveys were sent to football, rugby, cricket and hockey clubs as part of the playing pitch strategy, which was undertaken in parallel with this open space, sport and

recreation study. A summary of the sports club survey responses can be found in **Appendix 10.**

- **Children and young people's internet survey**

7.27 In July 2007 an information pack was sent to all schools in the Ipswich Borough inviting their pupils to complete an on-line questionnaire regarding open space and sports facilities in the Borough. The survey was based upon a standard questionnaire amended to reflect local circumstances. Due to the impact of the summer holiday period on the response rate, the survey was redistributed again in September 2007 to ensure a satisfactory response level. This survey can be viewed in **Appendix 10.**

- **Internal consultation**

7.28 The internal consultation provides an overview of Council plans, the roles of officers and expectations from their perspectives. The most significant points relevant to this policy are:

- overall provision of open space sites in Ipswich is considered to be very good, especially in relation to parks. However, issues with accessibility and locational deficiency were believed to exist, particularly in the north east of the borough.
- the Greenways Project is a scheme that maintains a number of strategically important open space sites both within and outside the borough. Council staff considered the marriage between publicly accessible sites and the protection of wildlife diversity to be important.
- there may be further opportunities to work with schools and other organisations in the planning, delivery and management of open space.

- **External consultation**

7.29 A number of stakeholders external to the Council were consulted. They represent, among others, neighbouring local authorities, wildlife and environmental groups, local volunteer groups, regional governing bodies of sport and representatives of ethnic minority groups. A full abstract of consultation responses is included in **Appendix 10.**

7.30 The most significant points arising from the consultation that are relevant to this policy are:

- The quantity of open space provision in Ipswich is deemed to be very good. However, a number of sites are deemed to lack character, such as on Bramford Lane Recreation Ground. The quality of these open spaces may need attention. This may be due to an overly strong focus on the larger parks, such as Christchurch, to the detriment of smaller parks/amenity spaces.
- Concerns relating to the extent of new developments in Ipswich, in particular a fear that open space will not be provided in line with the level of development – expressed through formal open space land such as parks, or the linking of open spaces through green corridors or cycle routes.
- Recent investment made in open spaces and play areas across the Borough have been welcomed. However, there are issues such as anti-social behavior, and these need to be addressed.
- The Suffolk FA stated that more football pitches are always valuable however the balance in Ipswich is 'not too far away'. However, Suffolk Sport believed that there is probably a shortage of grass pitches in the Borough. The quality of football pitches is perceived to be mixed with some good facilities and some poorly

maintained facilities. Thus there is a need to bring the lower quality sites up to the standard of the higher quality sites.

Drop-in sessions

The drop-in sessions provided another opportunity for the public to comment on open space within their local area. The sessions were advertised in the local press and were held at Corn Hill in Ipswich. Comments received related primarily to the major parks/sites in the borough as well as to specific local issues, such as individual experiences with play areas. A summary of the points raised is set out below.

- An overriding issue for local people was the lack of facilities for young people and teenagers. Children's facilities were considered to be of good quality, with recent investment noted and welcomed. However, provision of specific facilities for older children, such as skate Parks or shelters, was deemed to be poor. This issue was believed to be linked to problems with vandalism and litter at sites such as Gippeswyk and Chantry Parks.
- The major parks were deemed to be of very good quality by the majority of the consultees. Christchurch Park was commended as the premier park in the Borough alongside Holywells. Recent investment in the former had been welcomed, although issues with vandalism and accessibility of the park remain – as well as a lack of car parking and cycle routes. Chantry Park was criticised more than others for its poor cleanliness and prevalence of anti-social behavior.
- The appropriate maintenance of the number of smaller parks and amenity spaces were raised as an issue. For example, Murray Road recreation ground was seen as being poorly maintained and overgrown. The recent loss of tennis courts at this site was criticised.
- There were mixed responses relating to allotments. Those who did respond felt there was an undersupply of plots but most people were unaware of any outstanding issues relating to provision of allotments across Ipswich.
- There were few responses relating to sports facilities but most comments linked the lack of teenage facilities to the provision of outdoor sports. Suggestions included keeping goal posts erected during the summer, or providing sporting activities (football in the community) as a means of providing facilities for young people.

7.31 Through the consultation process, in particular the surveys carried out, a number of barriers to use were identified which reflected reasons why members of the public in Ipswich do not use certain open space, sport and recreational facilities within the Borough. A summary of the key themes that arose relating to barriers to use of parks and open spaces and potential solutions is provided below.

Barrier to Use	Potential Solution
Cost of tennis courts and allotments overpriced preventing some elements of the community from using the facilities	Review pricing structures compared with neighboring local authorities
Lack of information – public do not know what facilities are available, how to access the facilities and what special events are occurring, particularly linked to sports facilities and allotments	Increased branding and service marketing and advertising of facilities and events e.g. free monthly newsletter

Maintenance – poor maintenance and cleanliness of facilities, particularly linked to tennis courts and children's play areas	Review of asset maintenance budgets for increased / reprioritised investment and application of quality standards established in this policy
Anti-social behavior – youths loitering in facilities, vandalism and poorly controlled dogs prevent people from using facilities, specially children's play areas and parks	Increased park ranger patrols in major sites and application of quality standards established in this policy
Time – lack of time to utilise facilities on offer, especially linked to allotments and sports facilities	Increased and improved advertising of facilities on offer and application of quantity and accessibility standards established in this policy to encourage local use

Setting and Applying Standards

- 7.32 **The quantity standards** applied in the PMP Study took account of national standards, where these exist, the level of open space currently provided in hectares per 1,000 population benchmarked against the provision of open space in similar sized authorities. In the final analysis, the perception of current provision among residents as to whether there is enough / not enough open space provision was also taken into account. These standards are set out in **Appendix 10 (O)**.
- 7.33 **The quality standards** in the PMP Study and incorporated into the Core Strategy were based on site assessment using a rating score between 1 and five (one, being very poor five being very good), across five aspects:
- Cleanliness & Maintenance
 - Security and safety
 - Vegetation
 - Biodiversity; and
 - Landscape infrastructure
- 7.34 In setting quality standards account was taken of the consultation with the community and peoples' perception of their local open space plus the results of the quality audit for each open space. Where national and local standards exist, e.g. The Green Flag Park Award scheme and Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan, these were also taken account of in the final assessment. The PMP Study quality standards as incorporated in the adopted Core Strategy remain in force.
- 7.35 **The accessibility standards** in the PMP Study were based on the maximum distance that a typical user can reasonably be expected to travel to reach each type of provision using different modes of transport. This is expressed as the 'Distance Threshold', and is a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). Thresholds were assessed through the household survey asking how far people would expect to travel to each type of open space, supplemented by other consultations and the distances people currently travel. These thresholds are then mapped to identify areas of the borough that are deficient in provision. See Table below (simple table that lists distance and equivalent walking times to reach each open space). The PMP Study accessibility standards as incorporated in the adopted Core Strategy remain in force.

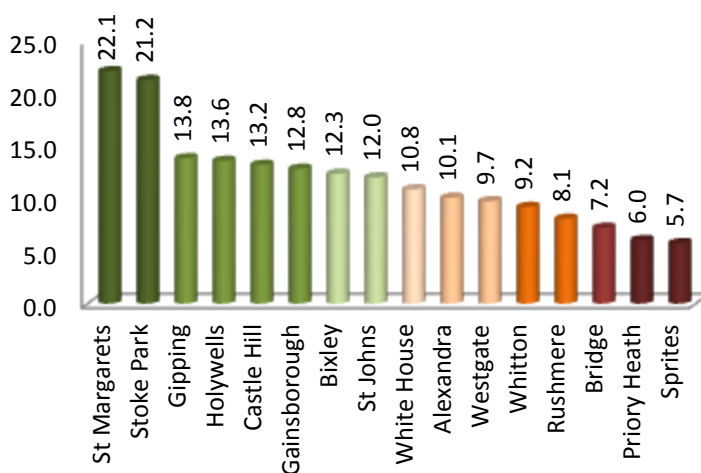
(Accessibility standard)

Open Space Typology	Walk time - mins	Distance threshold - metres
Parks and Gardens PGS	15	720
Amenity Greens AGS	10	480
Natural & Semi-Natural NSN	15	720
Outdoor Sports Facilities OSF	15	720
Allotments ALL	15	720
Cemeteries & Churchyards CC	~	~
Children's Play Spaces CPS	10	480
Young People's Spaces YPS	15	720

- 7.36 **Tree canopy cover standards** - Although not included as a typology under PPG17, another aspect of open space provision is that of tree canopy cover. This describes the extent to which an area is populated by trees, irrespective of ownership or management responsibility. It is an assessment made from a bird's eye view and can be plotted using a Geographical Information System (GIS).
- 7.37 The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe at around 13% compared to around 37 % for the EU as a whole.
- 7.38 The 'Trees in Towns II report' (Britt and Johnston, 2008) surveyed 147 English towns and cities and found that on average the tree canopy cover was 8.5%. Ipswich's tree canopy cover is currently 12%. Please see [Appendix 10](#) with Trees in Towns II data with the addition of Ipswich).

Current position of canopy cover

- 7.39 Using the latest advancements in digital tree mapping software, the Council undertook a pilot programme to identify the first level indication of canopy across the Borough. This canopy cover assessment, derived from aerial photography, has aimed to identify and measure the canopy widths of trees over 3m tall present on both private and public land. Consideration has also been given to amount of tree canopy that could theoretically be established.



- 7.40 Currently Ipswich does not have a time related tree canopy cover goals. Establishing a tree canopy goal is crucial as it will allow Ipswich to identify areas that need more tree cover so that trees can be planted in a more strategic cost effective way that maximises the benefits and values conferred by trees.

- 7.41 Objective 8 of the core policy states :*To protect and enhance high quality, accessible strategic and local open spaces rich in biodiversity and geodiversity for people to visit and use, and protect the historic buildings and character of Ipswich.* The target set was to increase the tree canopy cover in the Borough to 15%.
- 7.42 A realistic standard to aim for in Ipswich is 22% by 2050. This standard is based on the maximum canopy cover achieved in existing areas of Ipswich and the potential for further tree planting. This compares with other UK towns and cities, e.g. Bristol who are increasing their cover from 13% to 30% and London from 21.87% to 31.87% over the same period. (5% before 2025 and a further 5% by 2050).
- 7.43 Plans in **Appendix 11** illustrate the pilot programme findings for the borough and individual wards along with tree canopy cover and built areas comparison.

Headline Assessment

The application of proposed quantity standards has resulted in the following headline outcomes.

Central	Parks and Gardens
	10.35 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (due mainly to the contribution of Christchurch Park)
	Amenity Green Space
	2.23 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (balanced by the above over supply)
	Natural and Semi-Natural
	20.66 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard
	Outdoor Sports
	15.88 Hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 20.32 Hectares by 2021)
	Allotments
	5.61 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard
	Children's facilities
	0.37 hectare under provision compared to the recommended standard
	Young People's facilities
	0.04 hectare over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 0.03 hectares under by 2021)
	Tree canopy cover
	8.12% under provision compared to the recommended standard

North East

Parks and Gardens

25.35 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 28.84 hectares under by 2021)

The majority of residents in the North East area have to travel more than 15 minute (walk time) to reach the nearest Parks and Gardens

Several key strategically located Amenity Green Spaces could fulfil the function of Parks and Gardens

Amenity Green Spaces

3.5 Hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 4.85 hectares under by 2021)

In the west, east and south of the analysis area there are residents that have to travel more 10 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest Amenity Green space

Natural and Semi-Natural Areas

29.39 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 34.09 hectares under by 2021)

Large corridor in the centre of the analysis area running north-south with no provision. Surplus allotment land (see below) could be used to compensate for shortfall

Outdoor Sports

21.57 hectares over provision compared to recommended standard,(dropping to 17.03 hectares over by 2012)

Allotments

4.82 hectares over provision compared to recommended standard (rising to 3.64 hectares by 2021)

Children's facilities

0.59 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.76 hectares by 2021). This is lowest provision in Ipswich

Many residents have to travel more than 10 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest play area

Young People's facilities

0.49 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.56 hectares by 2021)

Tree canopy cover

11.3% under provision compared with the recommended standard

Predominance of single family i.e. Rosaceae family in Rushmere ward

South East

Parks and Gardens

2.4 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (raising to 5.6 hectares under by 2021), due mainly to the contribution of Holywells and Landseer Parks

Amenity Green Spaces

0.91 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 0.32 hectares under by 2021)

Natural and Semi-Natural

59.41 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 55.13 hectares over by 2021), due mainly to the contribution of Orwell Country Park

Outdoor Sports

5.27 Hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 9.4 Hectares under by 2021)

Allotments

1.78 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standards

Children's facilities

0.84 hectare over provision compared to the recommended standard
Quantity and quality good but significant residential growth taking place

Young People's facilities

0.08 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.14 hectares under by 2021)

Tree canopy cover

7.6% under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 11.3% by 2050)

South West

Parks and Gardens

38.32 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 33.79 hectares over by 2021), due mainly to the contribution of Chantry, Bourne, Gippeswyk and Stonelodge Parks

Amenity Green Spaces

9.13 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 10.87 hectares under by 2021)

Natural and Semi-Natural

3.59 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (going down to 2.51 hectares over by 2021)

In the east of the analysis area there are residents that have to travel more than 20 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space

Outdoor Sports

1.64 Hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 7.52 hectares under by 2021)

Allotments

3.36 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 1.84 hectares over by 2021)

Children's facilities

0.24 hectares over provision standard (dropping to 0.02 Hectares over by 2021).

Young People's facilities

0.31 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.39 hectares under by 2021)

Tree canopy cover

6.08% under provision compared to the recommended standard

North West

Parks and Gardens

21.91 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 25.51 hectares under by 2021)

Significant numbers in the analysis area have to travel more than 15 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest Parks & Gardens

Some potential to convert the current over provision in Amenity Green Space to Parks & Gardens

Amenity Green Spaces

11.67 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 10.29 hectares over by 2021)

Natural and Semi-Natural

24.1 hectares under provision compared to recommended standard

In the north of the analysis area some residents have to travel more than 20 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space

Outdoor Sports

7.36 Hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 12.04 hectares by 2021)

Allotments

6.01 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 4.8 hectares over by 2021)

Children's facilities

0.22 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.4 hectares under by 2021)

Some residents in the north-east of the analysis area have to travel more than 10 minutes (walk time) to reach the nearest Children's facilities

Young People's facilities

0.28 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.35 hectares under)

In the NE & NW of the analysis area some residents have to travel more than 15 minutes to reach the nearest Young People's facilities

Tree canopy cover

11% under provision compared to the recommended standard

Over representation of the family Rosaceae in Whitton and Castle Hill wards

SUMMARY-2012

Parks and Gardens

Overall, there is 1.02 hectare under provision compared to the recommended quantity standard - some areas of the borough do not meet the recommended accessibility standard

Amenity Green Spaces

Overall, there is 2.29 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 9.3 hectares under by 2021)

Natural and Semi-Natural

Overall, there is 11.16 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 35.7 hectares under by 2021)

Outdoor Sports

Overall, there is 8.58 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 32.24 hectares by 2021)

Allotments

Overall, there is 10.35 hectares over provision compared to the recommended standard (dropping to 4.22 hectares over by 2021)

Churchyards and Cemeteries

Considered excellent quality (maintained to a good standard)

Children's facilities

Overall, there is 0.11 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 0.98 hectares under by 2021)

Young People's facilities

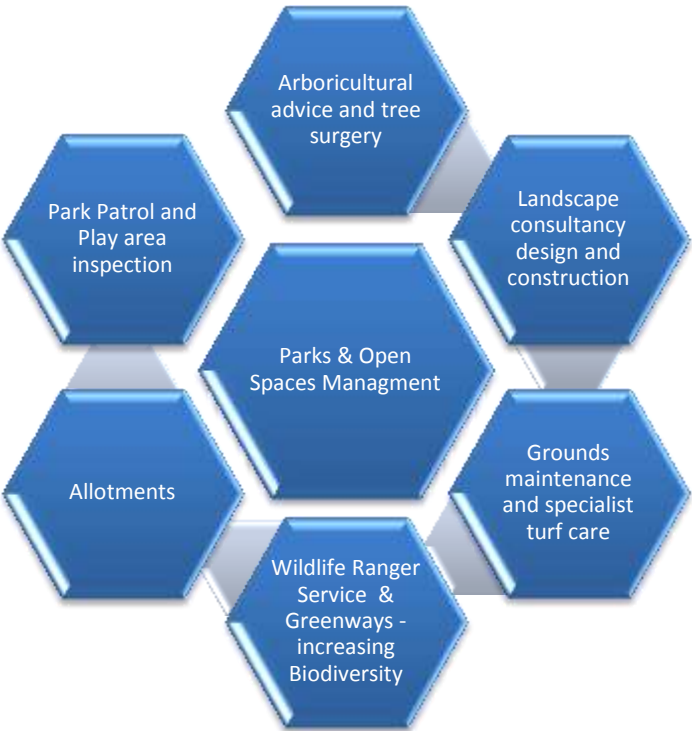
Overall, there is 1.12 hectares under provision compared to the recommended standard (rising to 1.47 hectares under by 2021)

Tree canopy cover

Overall, there is 10% under provision compared to the recommended standard



Section 8 **Current Management arrangements**



The Service Offered
The multi-disciplinary team of professionals that are the Council's Parks & Open Spaces Section is able to offer a range of services (see opposite), which sets it apart from other local authorities in Suffolk. The range of services offered and delivered is equal to and perhaps surpass those in many local authorities nationally. It is precisely the range of skills and experience possessed by the Parks & Open Spaces Team that make it possible to deliver the high quality / low cost service provided.

Parks & Open Spaces Management – range of services offered

- 8.1 The service is incredibly diverse as illustrated in the diagram above. The ability to provide the Council with a 'one stop shop' for all parks and open space related functions, offers considerable benefits, these includes; being able to respond quickly to instructions and requests, especially important when dealing with emergency situations; the capacity to prioritise at short notice in order to meet changing circumstances, without necessarily incurring additional expense, and having a range of in-house skills and knowledge available at all times in order to be able to defend and safeguard the Council's interests.
- 8.2 The desire to continuously raise performance and efficiency is firmly embedded within the culture of the service area. National and inter-national accreditation to ISO 9001, (Management process), ISO 14001 (Environmental process) and ISO 18001 (Health & Safety process) bears witness to this fact.
- 8.3 The drive to reach ever higher standards is matched only by the desire to remain as cost effective as possible. The very future survival of the service area might depend upon the ability to remain competitive with other organisations providing a similar service, particularly those operating in the open marketplace. Local government is not obliged by law to provide parks and open spaces and therefore it is not unreasonable to suggest that as budgets are squeezed, the pressure to find even greater efficiencies, particularly among discretionary services will increase further.
- 8.4 There is an opportunity to build on the success already achieved by Parks and Open Spaces in securing external funds and market this expertise to external clients in order to raise additional income and offset diminishing budgets. A thorough understanding of internal costs and the marketplace will enable the service to compete on equal terms with other providers.
- 8.5 The Parks and Open Spaces Service undertakes the strategic and day to day operational management of over 518 hectares of parks and open spaces including English Heritage listed historic parks to green flag standards **Appendix 12**. This includes policy and strategy development, formulation and implementation of site based management and maintenance plans.
- 8.6 The Service has successfully secured significant external funding from a variety of sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Lawn Tennis Association, Liveability Funding, etc. to help develop improvement schemes, ranging from small refurbishment projects to multi million pound restoration schemes, e.g. Alexandra Park; River Gipping Corridor and Christchurch and Holywells Parks. The Local Development Plan contains policies for the protection of open space from development. However, this protection alone will not ensure their continued well-being or retain and enhance the contribution they make to the overall landscape of the town. Apart from pressure from development there are other changes to consider. Parks and open spaces change continually as a result of vegetation growth and ageing and in response to human activity.
- 8.7 Ipswich has taken great pride in the standard of day-today maintenance of its parks and public open spaces and a number of improvements have been made in recent years. However, until recently they have not been managed in accordance with any long-term management plans to help retain their original character or design concepts. This has made them vulnerable to design fashions. The Council has embarked upon a programme of preparing these long-term plans for parks and open spaces such as according to the following principles:

- Maximisation of the contribution of the parks and open spaces to the character and appearance of the town;
- Conservation of features of historic interest;
- Conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of wildlife interest
- Facilitation of public access.
- Sustainability

- 8.8 The Council has been working in partnership with Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme since 1997, a long term relationship which started with financial support to produce historic landscape surveys and restoration plans for Chantry, Christchurch and Holywells parks, which were completed in 2000. This has since culminated in further project planning funding for Holywells Park in 2006 and the £4.3 Million restoration of Christchurch Park completed in 2007. However, the condition of some of the other older parks in the town, such as Chantry, and Holywells is still at a critical stage. These parks have lost much of their earlier vitality and the original designs have been eroded or masked by decisions regarding repairs and, improvements and later additions made without the benefit of information on design intentions and historical development now available. More recently Holywells Park has been awarded a 'Round one' pass under the Parks for People Programme and a Development Grant of £182,000. It is hoped that restoration schemes for these important historic parks will be supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered within the life of this strategy and policy.
- 8.9 Although having had some success in securing various grant awards, there is general recognition among staff and others that more could be done to raise the profile of the service and promote the towns parks and open spaces. The potential for improvement in this area has been raised by independent experts, i.e. the Green Flag Park Award Judges. In response, a marketing plan will be developed through this policy and implemented as part of the strategy for delivery.
- 8.10 The process of reaching out to and engaging with local communities and relevant user groups is widely accepted as one of the cornerstones of effective and sustainable management of urban greenspace. The Service encourages community ownership, is able to provide expertise and offer appropriate support to individuals and groups that show an interest in either improving or managing their local open space.
- 8.11 Developing a community focus requires a new skills balance that traditionally has not been available within the Parks and Open Space Service. Supporting local groups is also time and resource consuming, but where time and resources are dedicated to this area, the outcome can be very rewarding to both the Council and the individuals concerned. The Council can point to some very successful examples, including the Greenways Project, Maidenhall Community Garden Project, Suffolk New College and ActivLives Education and Social Enterprise Programme at Chantry Park Nursery, Gensis Orwell Mencap Green Bike Project, River Action Group, Community Payback Scheme, Ipswich in Bloom, local businesses and Park Friends Groups.
- 8.12 Working with other organisations such as Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Partnership, Suffolk Coast and Heaths (AONB) Unit, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and our neighbouring local authorities on shared goals to deliver strategic objectives that impact on local people is also important. Projects recently undertaken / on-going include the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy, River Stour and Orwell Estuaries Management Plan, Belstead Brook Park, Alderman Canal and River Gipping access and

management improvements. Very often these projects have involved working with volunteers and members of the local community.

- 8.13 Volunteers can supply significant additional labour and sometimes skills that supplement those available from the Parks and Open Space Service. In some cases this labour can be factored into match funding for external grant applications. For example, in the financial year 2011/12 the total volunteer time recorded in the Council's the Parks and Open Spaces was 254 working weeks approx. Based on the formula produced by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the value of this input amounts to £63,000 approx.
- 8.14 The Council recognises its responsibilities and commitment both to its volunteer programme and to its individual volunteers. A Volunteer Policy will help to ensure fairness and consistency and will increase opportunities for volunteering by people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Application of such a Policy will ensure that decisions are not made on an ad hoc basis, and that all volunteers are treated fairly, applying consistent standards and practices. It will enable volunteers to know where they stand, to know how they can expect to be treated, and where they can turn if they feel that things are going wrong. The policy will also help ensure that paid staff, senior management and Councillors fully understand why volunteers are involved, and what role they have within Parks and Open Spaces and what they can do if they feel things are going wrong.
- 8.15 With additional resource, there is even greater potential to build on the current volunteering programme to increase and widen the pool of volunteers and range of work undertaken. The Council has been successful in securing temporary resources in the form of a Community Engagement & Volunteering Officer to help deliver the Holywells Park HLF Restoration Project. The post will terminate on completion of the project.
- 8.16 Providing the right skills training and development for permanent staff is also extremely important, not least because the Council has a duty of care to ensure that volunteers receive adequate supervision, but also to support workforce succession planning. The latter can be achieved by offering opportunities for young people to enter the profession via apprenticeships. The Parks and Open Spaces Service re-introduced an apprenticeship scheme in 2009 and currently has four apprentices (three apprentice gardeners and one apprentice wildlife ranger) working and studying towards an NVQ Level 2 qualification.
- 8.17 A well trained and competent workforce is essential to the success of any organisation and in this regard the Parks and Open Spaces Service is no different. Continuous staff development remains a priority for the service and natural progression through the career structure is encouraged.

Arboricultural management, advice and tree surgery

- 8.18 The Arboricultural section not only provides advice on tree matters across the Council and to members of the public but is also able to action and undertake essential tree surgery work via its in-house dedicated tree team. Using highly sophisticated computer software the section is also able to monitor the health and condition of the Council's tree stock, this data is used to plan appropriate action to render safe any diseased and potentially dangerous tree. Risk to the public and property from trees is assessed using a technique called Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA), a system universally recognised and approved by specialists in the field of arboriculture. The approach allows the Council to make an informed balanced decision on whether a tree poses an unacceptable threat and therefore should be removed based on a set of criteria which is defensible in a court of law. The Council's Tree Management Policy produced in 2010 provides a clear guide to how the Council deals with trees through its function as a landowner, service provider and local authority. It provides a

framework to effectively balance the needs of trees and the community and the built environment and efficiently manage operations; protecting and caring for trees.

- 8.19 There is growing evidence that urban trees are under greater stress than ever before and the extent and sustainability of the condition of our urban tree population is declining. The biggest trees are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Particular problems highlighted include root damage caused by utility companies, highway concerns, public safety, changes in ownership and tolerance, potential subsidence claims, inappropriate management, diseases, species diversity and monocultures, drought, atmospheric and soil pollutants, and climate change. Concern is also emphasised about 'shorttermism' in urban landscaping, which leads to "*the indiscriminate use of cheap, short-lived species*" (affecting sustainability, sense of place and character) and the perceived lack of adequate protection for mature trees on development sites.
- 8.20 Reliance on too few species increases the risk of disastrous loss to disease or pests. Use of too many species may be visually detrimental and increase management costs. Species diversity in the Council's managed tree population is generally good¹. However, The family *Rosaceae* consisting of trees such as hawthorn, cherry, plum and apples are over represented in Whitton (39.6%), Sprites (37%), Castlehill (58.5%) and Rushmere (38.4%).
- 8.21 The distribution of age class (young- to mature and veteran trees) of Council trees across the borough suggests an over dependency on mature trees with fewer potential replacements than preferable (early mature and young). Given the immense value of veteran trees greater focus needs to be given to ensuring such trees are increased and pro-actively managed for future generations.

Landscape consultancy design and construction

- 8.22 The Parks and open spaces team offers internal and external clients a comprehensive range of hard and soft landscape services from feasibility studies, site surveys and scheme design using computer aided design (CAD), through to procurement of materials and plants and practical implementation and aftercare. The scale of projects ranges from small local environmental improvements to large scale park restoration schemes or town wide landscape assessments.
- 8.23 Staff possess the expertise, skills and experience to design play areas and procure and install play equipment to the required European and British standards, i.e. EN1176 / EN1177.

Grounds maintenance and specialist turf care

- 8.24 Our team of 60 staff provides a comprehensive range of services to internal and external clients at around 1,500 locations in and around Ipswich including, the Council's Bereavement and Housing sections, Suffolk County Council, Housing Associations and local sports clubs.
- 8.25 The service offered includes consultancy advice, general landscape maintenance, weed control, burial internments and specialist turf care.
- 8.26 The service provides and maintains outdoor sports facilities, which make a significant contribution to meeting the demand for sport within Ipswich. The facilities maintained include, bowling greens, tennis courts, football pitches and associated changing rooms and

The council has adopted 'tree health as a Quality of Life indicator' for Ipswich.

pavilions. In recent years, it has been possible to carry out improvements to facilities through inward investment and also through securing external funding grants, e.g. £150,000 approx. from the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish the tennis courts at Christchurch Park. Other initiatives have involved local sports clubs working in partnership with the Council to undertake maintenance of their local facilities, e.g. Holywells Bowls Club. Further investment in the Council's sports pavilions and changing facilities on local parks and recreation grounds is needed if adult playing pitch provision is to continue at these locations. Current provision falls below the minimum standards recommended by the relevant sporting bodies. However, far better changing rooms are provided at outdoor sports facilities such as Gainsborough and Whitton Sports and Community Centres. There is little or no requirement to provide changing rooms for games and matches played at a junior level, which means that existing provision is more than adequate.

- 8.27 Ground maintenance quality control is assured through use of a computerised system, which enables the Council to produce work schedules and monitoring reports.
- 8.28 If for any reason standards fall below the expected norm, our ground maintenance team will react quickly in order to attend to any problem. National research suggests that people are less likely to litter in an area that is clean and tidy and more likely to do so in an area that is dirty and run down.

Wildlife Rangers Service & Greenways - increasing biodiversity

- 8.29 Our team provide advice and implement solutions to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity. They carry out advisory and consultancy works, audits, implement and develop management plans, and create and improve wildlife habitats. They work with the community and provide a wildlife education services.
- 8.30 The Council currently works with a wide range of partners to manage wildlife sites and other green spaces within the town and beyond the Borough boundary.
- 8.31 The Council is a partner in the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership. Our team provides the vehicle for delivering the actions that make direct contributions towards helping halt biodiversity loss and to make biodiversity gains wherever possible. This is largely through implementation of relevant Suffolk wide BAP plans, recording ecological data on species and habitats and undertaking practical projects which enhance biodiversity. In addition a strong emphasis is placed on raising awareness of biodiversity. This is done via a diverse range of media and activities, such as the Local Wildlife News publication and a programme of public events focused on wildlife.
- 8.32 Parks and Open Spaces lead by example, reducing waste and managing wildlife habitats in a sensitive manner. Every opportunity is taken to raise awareness of energy and water conservation practices and encourage more composting, recycling of green waste and care for the environment.
- 8.33 The Wildlife Team measure and highlight habitat types, size and precise location recording notable and protected species. This data is used to map habitats, ensuring that the most scarce and valuable types, such as lowland heathland, wet meadow and wet woodland are identified and afforded the right protection. Using data collected, the Council aims to maintain 'green corridors' as part of a wider, wildlife friendly network of open space.
- 8.34 The 'Greenways Team' established in 1994 and hosted by Ipswich Borough Council work in conjunction with the Council's Wildlife Rangers helping to protect the environment providing a seamless service to the public. Part funded by Ipswich BC, Suffolk Coastal DC, Babergh DC and Suffolk County Council, the Greenways Team is in a position to undertake work and

deliver projects that cross borough and district boundaries. The team is answerable to a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) that is formed from the partner organisations and meets quarterly to monitor progress.

- 8.35 The Orwell Country Park (OCP) was established by IBC in 1995, bringing together several sites in the Council's ownership on the south-eastern fringe of the town. The main areas (Bridge Wood, Pipers Vale, Braziers Wood and Ravens wood) are made even more important for wildlife due to the adjacent Orwell Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) , Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. The OCP is located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the country park is a very popular destination for visitors. The Stour and Orwell Estuaries Management Group (of which IBC is a fully signed up partner) pulls together land owners and interested partners to ensure that the critically important biodiversity resource is managed in a sustainable way. The Orwell Country Park contributes significantly to the town's 'green rim' concept as set out in the Local Plan. If any future opportunities arise to add to the area of the Country Park and or enhance the visitor experience by providing improved facilities, these should be considered.
- 8.36 The Country Park currently has no visitor facilities normally associated with a site of this size and scale, e.g. visitor centre, with public toilets, café and educational facilities.
- 8.37 Belstead Brook Park (BBP) is an extensive area of 100 hectares approx. of informal country park on the South-western fringe of Ipswich. The Park includes a wide range of different landscapes and habitats and supports protected species including dormouse, otter, water vole, bats and a very large population of common toads. The BBP contributes significantly to the town's 'green rim' concept as set out in the Local Development Framework. Community and volunteer action is key to the management of the BBP, which at present lacks any facilities for volunteers and storage of materials. The land within the Park is in many different ownerships but is managed as one unit. This is seen as a potential good model for other large scale open spaces (such as in north Ipswich) in the future.
- 8.38 The River Corridor through the town (Rivers Gipping and Orwell) is a vitally important access link for people as well as being one of the most continuous wildlife corridors. The Local Plan Key Diagram clearly identifies the River Corridor (Policy CS16) and the plan refers to "...completion of the River path..." in its vision.

Allotments

- 8.39 The Allotments Acts place a statutory duty on local authorities to provide sufficient land to meet local demand for allotments. Beyond this, the most important feature of the legislation is protection provided for statutory sites owned by local authorities. Statutory allotments are on land that the Council owns, and which was either purchased for allotment use or has since been appropriated for that use. Under Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 the Council must seek permission from the Secretary of State before selling or changing the use of a statutory site. The Council has to satisfy the Secretary of State on many different criteria before any decision is made. Temporary allotments are on land owned by the Council and are generally pieces of land where the planned permanent use is not allotments. The protection against change of use is provided by the normal planning procedures.
- 8.40 The Council provides over 50 hectares of allotment land at 18 fields (11 statutory and 7 temporary sites) around the borough in partnership with Ipswich Allotment Holders

In a survey 97% of respondents agreed with 'parks and open spaces can make this a nice place in which to live'

Association (IAHA). In 2012 there are 2,250 allotment plots available of which 2,174 are let.

- 8.41 The distribution of allotment sites across the borough is good and most residents have access to provision. However, several areas of the borough have been identified where accessibility is poor, notably in the central, South-east and South-west areas.
- 8.42 Most sites have a security fence, lockable gates, roadways, adequate water supply and communal shed. In recent years some sites have been equipped with a composting toilet.
- 8.43 In 2005 the Council made a commitment to introducing management plans for individual allotment sites. This initiative and its success will be evaluated as part of a review of the Council's Allotment Strategy.
- 8.44 The Maidenhall Allotment site hosts the Community Garden Project, a programme developed to help disadvantaged members of the community enjoy the benefits of allotment gardening and produce locally grown food.

Park patrol and play area inspection

- 8.45 A high profile presence is provided throughout park opening hours through an experienced, trained, dedicated team of full and part time mobile and static park patrol staff. Staff work in partnership with other internal services and external agencies to provide continued staff presence within the parks, protect park assets, enforce byelaws and ensure public safety and enjoyment of parks and open spaces and numerous outdoor events.
- 8.46 Park Patrol carry out routine inspection of the Council's parks and open spaces helping to deter anti-social behaviour maintaining a safe environment. Evidence suggests that perceptions about the lack of safety in a local park can be enough to discourage use, especially among young children, the elderly, females and ethnic minorities.
- 8.47 Issues to be addressed through this policy and strategy include dealing more effectively with anti-social behaviour; improving communication channels between the service and other agencies, e.g. Police; the adoption of consistent processes and procedures for enforcement, e.g. enforcement of parks byelaws; a more coordinated approach to event management that enhances the Council's reputation.
- 8.48 A small team of play area inspectors ensure that approx. 100 play areas are regularly inspected and maintained to relevant European / British Standards. Monitoring and control is assured through the use of specialist play area management software. Current provision has been made in accordance with the National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard, which sets out standards of play provision using four categories, Local Area for Play (LAP), Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) and Destination Equipped Area for Play (DEAP). Anecdotal evidence over a 15 year period suggests that LAPs have resulted in some small, isolated and under used facilities, especially where nearby better equipped play areas provide an alternative destination. Under-used facilities do not represent good value for money, but still have to be maintained and inspected to ensure that they meet the required safety standards. A rationalisation of existing LAPs would seem appropriate, whilst maintaining appropriate levels of play provision

68% of respondents said that: —the care and protection of nature and wildlife that lives in the park and open spaces was either good, or very good.

in order to reduce unnecessary maintenance costs and provide a more cost effective service.

- 8.49 New play areas provided as part of housing developments are maintained over 15 year period with funding derived from commuted sum payments. At the end of this period the full cost of maintaining each play area falls to the Council. The full impact of this will be spread over a number of years depending upon when the commuted sum started and when it is due to finish. This issue will need to be addressed in the future budget planning for the service.



Section 9 **Conclusion**

Setting Standards

- 9.1 No national standards are available for the provision of open space for amenity and informal recreational purposes. Government advice contained in former PPG17 urged local planning authorities to set their own standards based on local circumstances.
- 9.2 Open space provision across the Borough was assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility through the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study published in 2009. As a result local standards have been determined by taking into account existing provision and the results of consultation with the community. National standards, where these exist, and comparisons with other local authorities were also taken into account. The Council's current standards for provision that were set out in Appendix 6 to the adopted Core Strategy should be reviewed and updated as part of the review of the councils Core Strategy.
- 9.3 The Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Public Open Space (1998) and on the Provision and Maintenance of Children's Play Space (1999) should be reviewed, updated and consolidated into a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This document would provide a useful guide to developers helping to clarify the Council's open space requirements as identified in its Core Strategy.
- 9.4 Ideally, the appropriate level of open space provision (according to the standards set) should always be provided within the new development. However, where it is not feasible to provide the appropriate open space on site, a financial contribution should be sought from the developer in lieu of the open space requirement.
- 9.5 Apart from non-residential development, future open space assessment should be based on the population increase as a result of any new development and this might be calculated from the number of units, i.e. bedrooms and relevant quantity standards for each open space typology. For non-residential development, the method of calculation based on site area would still be relevant.
- 9.6 Funding through legal agreements secured by planning permissions will be likely to be limited from April 2014 when the Council is expected to adopt its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges. These charges will be imposed on future developments based on the net increase in floorspace, with different rates potentially applying to different types of development and geographic areas. The money generated through this will fund infrastructure such as open spaces, although as opposed to the present situation, the majority of any individual contributions paid would not be tied to the area in which the development is sited. A greater number of developments will be liable to this charge. The trigger for CIL payment will be when the development commences.

Achieving the best use of land

- 9.7 Overall the assessment of provision revealed the following in relation to each area:
- 9.8 The Study highlighted many positive aspects of provision in the Borough. Parks and gardens are the most frequently used type of open space. 74% of respondents to the Study

survey stated that there are enough parks and gardens in the Borough and the respondents also considered the quality of open spaces to be generally good.

- 9.9 In terms of quantity, there are 21 parks and gardens in the Borough covering about 132ha; 37 amenity green spaces covering about 49ha; and 27 natural and semi natural sites covering about 168ha. Outdoor sports facilities number 78 including golf courses, whilst children's play facilities number 74.
- 9.10 The distribution of facilities and their proximity to people who wish to use them is also important. The study therefore considered provision in each of the town's five Area Committee areas to assess where there were surpluses and deficits.
- 9.11 Open space provision is generally lowest in the north of the Borough. However, some deficits affect the entire Borough. For example a significant shortfall in provision for young people across the Borough, through such facilities as skate parks, multi use games areas and youth shelters. The picture across the Area Committee areas is as follows.
- 9.12 **North West Area** – this area has very low provision of parks and gardens with just White House Park, leaving a 22 hectare shortfall. However the area has the highest provision of amenity green space with many large areas which provide similar functionality to a park. The study suggests that one of the larger spaces could be converted to a park. This area is also significantly short of natural and semi natural green space and the study recommends that the area be prioritised for the provision of such space.
- 9.13 **Central Area** – this area has the second highest level of provision of parks and gardens in the Borough, largely thanks to Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park. The excellent parks provision helps to compensate for a shortfall in amenity open space and a significant deficit in natural and semi-natural; green space. The study recommended taking opportunities in the parks to create more natural areas. The area also has a shortfall of allotments, but the good level of provision across the Borough is such that action is not needed to address the deficit.
- 9.14 **North East Area** – this area has good provision of outdoor sports facilities and allotments, but the lowest provision of formal parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural green space in the Borough. The area is also undersupplied in amenity green space compared with the Ipswich standards. The Study recommended using the opportunity of redevelopment at St Clement's Hospital to address the amenity space deficit; introducing natural habitat areas to existing spaces; and managing some amenity spaces to the standard of a more formal park to try to address the deficits.
- 9.15 **South East Area** – this area has excellent provision of natural and semi natural green space e.g. Orwell Country Park, but a small shortfall in parks and gardens (e.g. Holywells Park) and in amenity green space. Taking all types together however, all parts of the area have access to good public open space. The study recommended additional park and garden provision at Ravenswood should further development take place in future.
- 9.16 **South West Area** – this area has excellent provision of parks and gardens (e.g. Chantry Park) and good natural and semi-natural green space (although some of this e.g. Belstead Brook and Bobbits Lane spans the Borough boundary). The area has a significant deficit of amenity green space – the lowest provision of this type of space in the Borough. However, when all types of open space are considered together, the area is not lacking overall in public open space with amenity value.

- 9.17 Some aspects of open space provision within Ipswich will have moved on since the Study was published in 2009, but where appropriate its recommendations have been taking into account in developing this Open Space and Biodiversity Policy.

Improving the Quality of Life

- 9.18 Ipswich has some glorious parks and quality open spaces covering some 518ha approx.- a scale normally associated with much larger towns and cities. This is a key ingredient in what makes the town attractive to residents and visitors alike and supports our aim to be the greenest town in Suffolk.
- 9.19 The open space assessment highlighted many positive aspects of provision in the Borough. Parks and gardens are the most frequently used type of open space in Ipswich and a high percentage of respondents to the PMP Study stated that the quality of open spaces was generally good.
- 9.20 The benefits and value of good quality well maintained public space to local communities and society as a whole are widely acknowledged. People respond to their environment and there is a direct correlation between people's perceptions and behaviour and the quality of their surroundings. In areas where public space is dirty, vandalised and visibly neglected, decent people move elsewhere or become less visible, vulnerable people retreat to the sanctuary of self-imposed curfews while those with mischievous or criminal intent thrive and dominate. Where there is investment in public space and ambition to provide communities with clean, beautiful, high quality inspiring environments, the converse is true.
- 9.21 The Council will continue to develop partnerships to deal with anti-social behaviour, the main aim being to increase the presence of people in parks, both staff and legitimate users, which will be the most effective deterrent to anti-social uses.
- 9.22 Tackling other conflicts of use such as those around staging events in parks, cycling in parks, vehicle movements, car parking and dog walking should be addressed through improved partnership working and a review of current byelaws.
- 9.23 Parks and open spaces impact on all areas of life within Ipswich and therefore it is important that the benefits they provide are successfully conveyed to the community. The Council will continue to raise the profile of Parks and Open Spaces to engender greater understanding of the importance of open spaces and the implications of not investing in their future. This has a specific relevance to the issue of climate change, where the important role already played by Parks and Open Spaces and their future potential impact are not widely acknowledged.
- 9.24 Operational adaptations made either to accommodate climate change or mitigate the effects of climate change should be fully publicised to increase general awareness.
- 9.25 The parks and open spaces in Ipswich make an important contribution to the town's social fabric and provide many tangible and intangible benefits from providing peace and solitude, or a meeting place in beautiful surroundings, to promoting play, sporting events and entertainments. There are an important resource for providing opportunities for the public to engage in low cost healthy activities, such as walking.

Maximising Resources

- 9.26 Parks and Open Spaces is not a statutory service, but under-investment impacts in a negative way upon the town as a whole. Conversely, because of the nature of the service,

relatively small levels of investment in relation to other budgets in the authority can have a major impact upon the quality of life across the town.

- 9.27 Past and present staff structures have evolved in response to external factors, Compulsory Competitive Tendering, Best Value and financial pressure. A new vision for the service adopted in 2010 was instrumental in an improvement programme that included a management re-structure based on creating three area hubs around the Council's three flagship parks, Christchurch, Holywells and Chantry. This initiative is designed to bring the service closer to the public and increase the number of site based staff. In addition it will provide more holistic site management (this is a requirement of many external funders, who require a named individual to have overall responsibility for the all round day to day management of sites, particularly the larger and more high profile parks).
- 9.28 Staff roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, which helps improve communication, frontline customer service, identifying and meeting training needs, volunteer activity coordination, marketing and development and sourcing external funding. Where surplus capacity exists, services will be marketed to maximise additional income.
- 9.29 It is important to raise the profile and image of the service in order to attract income, whether this is from external funders, e.g. Heritage Lottery, Sport England, or fee paying customers. The Council will promote, and where possible, actively support local, regional, national and international initiatives that seek to improve standards and raise the profile of Parks and Green Spaces. The service will aim to ensure that the Council's parks and open spaces present a positive image of Ipswich.
- 9.30 The Parks and Open Spaces Service will adopt a training policy that outlines the opportunities for training within service and provides a coherent structure to delivering training needs. This is a requirement of many external funding bodies. The service will investigate appropriate means of extending training opportunities in horticulture and related disciplines to adult learners, school leavers, college placements and volunteers and develop sustainable programmes for the delivery of this training.
- 9.31 In order to maximise the educational potential of parks and green spaces the Council will work towards increasing their use for formal and informal educational activities by schools, colleges, higher educational establishments, adult learners and those with special educational needs in order to promote the diverse benefits of parks to the town and local communities.
- 9.32 Despite notable successes in recent years such as Christchurch & Holywells parks, generating financial resources is an increasing challenge with external funding and grants scarce. Currently, the majority of development work in parks is financed through Section 106 contributions from new developments and to a lesser extent, through the capital programme. These sources will remain to a greater or lesser extent, for the foreseeable future, but can be used to greater benefit if enhanced by additional funding from other sources. External funding, including grant funding, is increasingly difficult for Council's to secure and requires a considerable input of staff time to apply for, monitor expenditure and make claims. Grant applications need to be properly executed to avoid staff time wasted on failed applications. This requires identification of appropriate funding, proper forward planning and full evidence to support the application.
- 9.33 Community based organisations are often better placed to receive grant funding from external bodies, therefore the Council will continue to develop appropriate partnerships with organisations in the voluntary sector and provide support for community groups applying for funding for parks and green spaces. The Council will also seek other sources of funding

including private sector investment, sponsorship, franchising and other opportunities for external financing of parks based activities in partnership with the Parks and Open Spaces Service.

- 9.34 In terms of using non financial resources in particular volunteers, the Council will develop a more structured approach to volunteer activities, incorporating these into management plans where appropriate. This has already proved to have the dual benefit of increasing public interest and support for parks through the friends groups and extending the benefits of external funding through the use of volunteer activity as 'in kind' match funding. The Holywells Park restoration project team includes a community engagement and volunteering officer with a specific remit for stimulating and maintaining greater volunteer involvement and this is a role that could usefully be retained in the longer term in order to extend similar benefits to other parks and open spaces in future.
- 9.35 Other types of non financial resources include Memorials and 'in kind' contributions and in recent years there has been increased take up including donated trees, benches and other memorial features within the parks. These contributions are very welcome, particularly in an increasingly tight economic climate, however care needs to be taken to ensure that donated features are appropriate in type and location. The use of a coordinated range of materials for parks and green spaces, and the preparation of management plans for parks will help to limit any potential negative visual impact of memorialised features.
- 9.36 Agreements should be also drawn up with the donating party to prevent the inappropriate use of floral tributes on memorial features within parks and green spaces and to define any time limitation on the maintenance and replacement of benches, trees etc. and the effects of future developments on the memorialised features.

Developing a Sustainable Approach

- 9.37 The Parks and Open Spaces Service is planned and executed through an annual Operational Plan under the umbrella of the Culture and Community Services Business Plan, both of which dovetail with the aims and objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan 'Building a Better Ipswich'. The Operational Plan consists of the Service Improvement Plan (SIP), Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) and Financial Improvement Plan (FIP).
- 9.38 Sustainable procedures are continually developed and refined within the framework of quality, environmental and health and safety management systems the service is accredited with. This ensures the service is at the forefront of innovation in adapting to organisational change, environmental protection, e.g. climate change and health and safety.
- 9.39 To ensure development work undertaken by the service is sustainable in both business and environmental terms, all new development proposals will be subject to a sustainability appraisal review. The process will determine if the proposals:
- are necessary
 - are in line with strategic objectives
 - are resourced adequately
 - contribute to sustainability
 - can be delivered within an appropriate timescale.
- 9.40 This process is detailed in **Appendix 13** This process will apply equally to new land adoption, new built structures, new methods of operation and new initiatives. Only after this process has been undertaken will projects be formally initiated through the development and signing off of a project scoping, see **Appendix 14**

- 9.33 Sustainable construction of all new-build facilities should take on board the need to reduce the impact of construction and operation on the environment in terms of materials used, energy and water consumed and long term resource use.
- 9.34 The effective long term development of the larger parks and green spaces should be managed through the preparation of site based management plans to ensure best use of resources in the long term. These plans should also incorporate a shift towards a more environmentally sustainable mode of operation, improving environmental quality, sustaining and increasing biodiversity and protecting existing populations and habitats. These plans should be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, e.g. Park Friends Groups, and subject to regular review to ensure they remain relevant. **Appendix 15** provides a basic framework for management plans.
- 9.35 The environmental impact of day to day operations is of prime concern. All changes in operational methods should incorporate a shift towards more sustainable practice, including reducing resource use (e.g. heating, lighting, water, non renewable materials and vehicle fuel) and increased emphasis on local sourcing, re-use and recycling.
- 9.36 Operational adaptations made either to accommodate climate change or to mitigate the effects of climate change should be fully publicised to increase general awareness. Opportunities for encouraging the public to garden sustainably should be developed (e.g. demonstration beds, themed displays, practical involvement).
- 9.37 Close monitoring of the use of resources will be undertaken to ensure parks and open spaces operations are following sustainability principles.
- 9.38 Ipswich has an impressive array of wildlife habitats and species for a relatively small urban area. In order to maintain this diversity and increase it, the Council will manage its land in a way that considers wildlife alongside all other factors.
- 9.39 The Council has commissioned a Borough wide wildlife audit of land either under its ownership or control or privately owned land with a level of significance warranting its inclusion. Examples of such land include brownfield sites and potential development sites. The information gathered from this exercise will inform the planning process and provide invaluable data on wildlife habitat and future strategic open space management. As they become available, the latest wildlife and habitat audit findings will be maintained on the Parks and Open spaces web page.

Working in Partnership

- 9.40 The parks and open spaces service is committed to working in partnership. Partnerships are the key to fully successful initiatives with broad appeal. Partnership working can attract higher levels of external funding, and greater publicity, and deliver better value for money and greater longevity than 'go-it-alone' projects. Partnership working also engenders a sense of local 'ownership' in projects and encourages more responsible attitudes and usage. The Council has had notable success with long term partnerships through initiatives such as historic park restoration projects with the HLF, the Greenways Project and more recently Genesis Orwell Mencap, ActivLives and Suffolk New College. We will seek to extend the range and scope of partnership working to gain maximum benefit from this method of engagement and gain the widest possible profile for Ipswich's parks and green spaces. The restoration of Christchurch part is testament to the success and popularity of investing in parks as much loved community and heritage assets and the Council is committed to supporting a Round 2 HLF application for Holywells Park under the Parks for People

Programme and a future application for Chantry Park to see through the original objective of working with the HLF to restore each of these parks initiated 15 years ago.

- 9.41 Friends Groups are key to the success of maintaining and developing parks and open spaces. The existing nine Friends Groups are all very different and have differing requirements and needs for support from the Council. Several of the groups are more focused on carrying out practical work in parks. Others are more pro-active in fund raising and developing management plans for their local park. Extending the number of Friends Groups will be difficult without reviewing how this can be supported within the service.
- 9.42 The existing Friends Forum presents opportunities for sharing experiences, co-ordinating and encouraging participation, greater partnership working, developing new initiatives to widen the appeal of the Friends and encourage new groups to form. Ideally, all new Friends Groups should be properly constituted and, normally this is a requirement of funding bodies to access grants. For guidance on 'How to Set Up and Maintain a Community Group for Parks and Green Space' please see : <http://www.green-space.org.uk/resources/communityresources/>
- 9.43 The service will continue to provide officer support to Ipswich in Bloom and the 'In Bloom' competition, encouraging partnership working, focusing on the benefits of local environmental improvements and engendering a sense of civic pride.
- 9.44 Local elected Councillors will continue to be advised of all major development work taking place in parks through regular updates via Area Committees. Local consultation will be carried out for major improvements and where the work is considered likely to have significant public interest. The form of consultation will vary according to the type of work, timescale and budget available but is likely to be one or more of the following:
- On site display of plans with opportunities to submit comments
 - Meetings with local interest groups (sporting clubs, schools, youth groups, community organisations etc.)
 - Public meetings
 - On site caravan consultation
 - Local leafleting on specific issues.
- 9.45 Depending on the type of development work proposed, aspects of the consultation may be targeted to specific sectors of the community (specific sports participants, youth, children etc.), but there will be a general presumption that local residents will be kept informed and consulted upon developments that directly affect them.
- 9.46 To ensure customer needs continue to be met, the Service will undertake regular surveys of the community. In order to improve communication and access to information, the Parks and Open Spaces Service will make more effective use of the Council's web site to provide an appropriate range of information about the service, the facilities provided and the activities and events taking place in parks and green spaces. Information needs to be kept up to date and a co-ordinating role has been addressed as part of the staff structure review. Information on the web site will also require periodic review to ensure that it is:
- Appropriate
 - Useful
 - Effective

- 9.47 All information produced by the service for the public should be made available on the website to reduce printing costs. The Council will also work with local archives to place historic information about Ipswich's Parks in the public domain.
- 9.48 Leaflets and literature have been produced by the Parks and Open Spaces service intermittently over the years. All literature and publicity information should conform to the Council's Corporate Image Toolkit.

Final Thoughts

- 9.49 Imagine an urban society deprived of the beauty and tranquillity of the park landscape, excluded from the majesty of the trees and the colours of the flowers, robbed of access to free recreation and play opportunities, bereft of wild and diverse greenspace. We are left with an urban environment that is almost as unappealing, unwelcoming, unhealthy and inhospitable as the one that parks and gardens originally sought to address.
- 9.50 If we believe that towns and cities are an inevitable part of civilisation's future, then we must ensure that the fundamental components of the urban infrastructure, which includes public parks and greenspace, are conserved, expanded and improved. Without this commitment, our urban legacy to future generations will be second-rate; we will leave our children unsustainable cities lacking in charm, beauty and character, and depleted of community, nature, wildlife and a sense of place.



Section 10 **Recommendations & Key Messages**

10.1 **Setting standards**

- Adopt Vision Statement in 2.5 above
- The Council will review the Quantity, Quality and accessibility Standards (as set out in **Appendix 10**) for open space which includes aspiring to managing parks to the Green Flag Park Award standard. And also tree canopy cover goals set out in the Core Strategy.
- Information supplied by developers or their agents in respect of land adoption should be to an agreed format. Plans shall be in GIS format and tree surveys in a format compatible with Arbortrack. Wildlife and areas for biodiversity should be provided as a GIS phase 1 habitat survey.
- Develop a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space and Equipped Children's Play provision - all commuted sums for maintenance should be calculated over a 15 year period not 10 years.

10.2 **Achieving the best use of land**

- Opportunities should be sought to address any deficiencies in the quantity, quality and accessibility across all open space typologies highlighted in this policy by providing new open spaces where possible and looking at the management and use of existing open spaces.
- Current deficits and future demand for outdoor sports provision would be better met by providing 'Area Hubs for Sport', e.g. Gainsborough and / or Whitton Sports and Community Centres.
- Future tree planting initiatives will address the need to diversify tree species composition and thus provide greater resistance to pests and diseases.
- Clearly identify Green Corridors on a GIS map to show how these spaces inter-relate and link existing open spaces and the countryside around Ipswich.
- The Council should recognise and promote the conservation and biodiversity value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop their ecological management.

10.3 **Improving the Quality of Life**

- Develop partnerships to deal with anti-social behaviour, the main aim being to increase the presence of people in parks, both staff and legitimate users, as the most effective deterrent to anti-social behaviour.
- Review current byelaws to address conflicts of use, e.g. cycling, dog related issues.
- The Council should raise the profile of Parks and Open Spaces to engender greater understanding of their importance and role in tackling climate change.

10.4 Maximising resources

- The Council will promote and actively support local, regional, national and international initiatives that seek to improve standards and raise the profile of Parks and Open Spaces presenting a positive image of Ipswich.
- The Parks and Open Spaces service will develop and adopt a training policy that outlines the opportunities for training and career development.
- The use of parks and open spaces for educational purposes by schools, colleges, higher educational establishments, adult learners and those with special needs will be maximised.
- The Council will continue to develop partnerships with organisations in the voluntary sector and provide support for community groups applying for funding.
- Additional income will be sought by pro-actively marketing the service (using any spare capacity) to external clients, e.g. local educational establishments, housing associations and utilities.
- Develop a volunteer policy to provide a more structured approach to volunteering activities.
- Develop improved procedures relating to donations and memorials.

10.5 Developing a sustainable approach

- Any new development work undertaken by the service will be subject to a sustainability appraisal review to ensure that business and environmental objectives are met.
- All new-build facilities should take account of the need to reduce the impact of construction on the environment.
- The Council's key parks should have a 10 year management and maintenance plan developed in collaboration with stakeholders, e.g. Friends Groups.
- The Council will manage its land in a way that considers wildlife alongside all other factors.

10.6 Working in partnership

- Extend the range and scope of partnership working to gain maximum benefit from this method of engagement and gain the widest possible profile for Ipswich's parks and open spaces.

- Support the Round 2 application for Holywells Park under the HLF Parks for People Programme and a future application for Chantry Park.
- Review capacity for community engagement and consider options for extending the Community Engagement and Volunteering role across the service.
- Continue to provide officer support for Ipswich In Bloom, focusing on the benefits of local environmental improvements.
- Local consultation will be carried out for major improvements and where the work is likely to have significant public interest, e.g. via Area Committees.
- Parks and Open Spaces will make more effective use of the Council's web site to provide an appropriate range of information about the service.



Section 11 **Action plan**

- 11.1 The Action Plan will set out how the aims and objectives of the Open Space and Biodiversity Policy will be achieved, set clear targets, defines responsibility, and indicate any financial implications to enable targets to be achieved.
- 11.2 The timescale will be over 10 years and includes those targets which are to be achieved in three phases leading up to the end of the 10 year plan. These are:



The Head of Community and Cultural Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, will develop and determine a strategy and action plan following consultation to support the Open Space & Biodiversity Policy.

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Appendix 1 – Planning Policy context and capital funding sources

The Planning System

1. The current planning system is set out by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and the Localism Act 2011. The 2004 Act set out the requirement for a Local Development Framework to be prepared for each area of England and Wales, consisting of a number of written statements and plans.
2. The Localism Act 2011 renamed the Local Development Framework the Local Plan. For Ipswich Borough, the Local Plan consists of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) - the Core Strategy and Policies DPD ('Core Strategy') adopted in 2011, and the Site Allocations and Policies DPD incorporating the IP-One Area Action Plan (still under preparation) - and some remaining 'saved' policies from the 1997 Local Plan. Some saved policies from 1997 remain in force, but will in time be replaced by the Site Allocations and Policies DPD. There are also Supplementary Planning Documents, which can be prepared to add detail to policies contained in DPDs to aid their implementation.
3. The Regional Strategy for Ipswich is set out in the East of England Plan 2008. Whilst this plan will be phased out in due course, it is currently (2012) part of the development plan for Ipswich, together with the Local Plan. It identifies among other things, that Ipswich is a key centre for development and a priority area for regeneration. The key requirements of the Regional Strategy are reflected within the Ipswich Core Strategy.
4. The development plan is relevant because section 38 (b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that, in the consideration of planning applications, '...the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.'

Core Strategy Policies

5. The Core Strategy December 2011 sets out the development strategy for the Borough up to 2027. It is the key document for the determination of any application made to the Council under the Planning Acts.
6. Whilst the entire document should be referred to in conjunction with other planning information adopted as policy by the Council, the key policies for open space are set out below.

Policy CS16: Green Infrastructure Sport and Recreation

The Council will protect, enhance and extend the network of green corridors, open spaces, sport and recreation facilities for the benefit of biodiversity, people and the management of flood risk. It will do this by:

- a. requiring all developments to contribute to the provision of open space according to the Borough's standards, identified strategic needs and existing deficits in an area;

- b. requiring major new developments to include on-site public open spaces and wildlife habitat. On-site provision must create a network or corridor with existing green infrastructure where such a network exists beyond the site boundaries;
- c. supporting proposals or activities that protect, enhance or extend open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;
- d. working with partners to prepare and implement management plans for green spaces, including visitor management plans for key parts of European sites within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB to be completed by 2015, and a plan for Orwell Country Park that will result in a reduced impact upon birds in the Orwell Estuary;
- e. supporting the Greenways Project in working with communities and volunteers to manage green corridors in Ipswich;
- f. working with partners to improve green infrastructure provision and link radial green corridors with a publicly accessible green rim around Ipswich;
- g. working with partners to ensure the provision of a new country park in the urban fringe of north eastern Ipswich (e.g. within any Northern fringe development - see policy CS10);
- h. promoting improved access to existing facilities where appropriate; and
- i. reviewing the town's estate of sports facilities to consider how they can best meet the needs of a growing population.

The IP-One Area Action Plan and Site Allocations and Policies development plan document will identify existing, new and proposed open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and green corridors.

Policy DM28: Protection of Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities

Development involving the loss of open space, sports or recreation facilities will only be permitted if:

- a. the site or facility is surplus in terms of all the functions an open space can perform, and is low value and poor quality, as shown by the Ipswich Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study 2009; or
- b. alternative and improved provision would be made in a location well related to the users of the existing facility.

Policy DM29: Provision of new Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities

All residential developments, and non-residential developments of 1,000 sq.m floorspace or more, will be required to provide and/or contribute to public open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, to meet the needs of their occupiers.

In all major developments (10 dwellings or 1,000 sq.m non-residential development or more), at least 10% of the site area, or 15% in high density developments, should consist of incidental green space (usable by the public in relation to residential schemes).

Further provision or contribution will be sought according to the size of the proposed development and the quantity and quality of existing open spaces and sports and recreation facilities within the catchment area of the site, as identified by the Ipswich Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009 and subsequent monitoring. Provision will be made in accordance with the standards set out in Appendix 6.

One-for-one replacement dwellings will be exempt from the requirements of the policy, because they are likely to have a minimal impact on demand for facilities. In addition, only certain types of public open space will be required for elderly persons' accommodation and nursing homes.

The requirement will apply to all schemes, unless it can be demonstrated that this would lead to the scheme being unviable and/or site-specific matters so justify. In such cases, a reduced level of provision will be negotiated with the applicant.

7. A review of the Core Strategy will be started in 2012/13, which may result in modifications to the policies.

National Planning Policy Framework

8. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published on 27th March 2012 provides the background policy for planning decisions in England. The NPPF is the basis on which all planning decisions are made, in conjunction with the Core Strategy and other development plan documents adopted by the Council.
9. The NPPF replaces previous guidance provided in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). Whilst the majority of PPGs and PPSs have been superseded by the NPPF there are a few exceptions such as the Waste Management PPS10. The majority of good practice guidance documents and companion guides associated with all of the former PPGs and PPSs remain in force. This includes the PPG17 Companion Guide.
10. The NPPF advises that the purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development. Whilst it relates to all development, one of the aims is to conserve and enhance the natural environment.
11. In paragraph 73 of the NPPF the Government recognises the value that high quality open space can give to the health and wellbeing of communities. It sets out an approach to protecting existing open spaces and addressing deficits.
12. The NPPF also introduces a new designation of open space called 'Local Green Space' which can be identified by local communities and allocated through neighbourhood and local plans. It would have the same status as green belt. The NPPF identifies the circumstances in which this new designation should and should not be used (paragraph 77), for example it should not be used for extensive tracts of land.
13. In relation to biodiversity, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to (paragraphs 109-117):
 - recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services;

- minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible;
- establish coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;
- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation; and
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.

Funding Streams associated with External Funding of Capital Projects

New Homes Bonus

14. The New Homes Bonus is a Government incentive to local planning authorities to enable the creation of new homes. The Government undertakes to match fund council tax raised as a result of residential development for 6 years. Additional funds are available for affordable homes. All homes built, converted or brought back into use are eligible. Payment is triggered by the home being registered as eligible for council tax and funds raised can be spent on any project, they are not ring fenced. Nationally £200 million was set aside for 2011/2012 then £250 million for next 3 years. Ipswich Borough Council received £520000 in the first year.

Business Rate Retention

15. Under this new scheme, local authorities will be able to keep a proportion of the business rate growth in their area resulting from new and expanding businesses – at present all the income goes to central government. In addition, there will be a ‘tariff’ and ‘top up’ system to even out some imbalances nationally. For every 1% increase in money collected, the fund will go up by 1%. The income will not be ring fenced.
16. Another potential funding mechanism related to business rates income is Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This has been made possible through the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 2012. It enables Councils to borrow money against predicted future business rate growth in order to fund infrastructure projects or other capital projects to support growth. It has been successfully used in USA.

Sustainable Transport Fund

17. £560million has been set aside by the Government from 2010 for 4 years. The third and final instalment of funding of £266m was announced in June 2012. The fund allows local authorities to apply for funds for local sustainable travel measures. They are more likely to be successful if they can show value for money, deliverability and affordability and can only be successful with one bid.

Regional Growth Fund

18. The Regional Growth Fund is a £2.4bn fund for England operating from 2011 to 2015. It supports projects needed to support growth, particularly in areas that are dependent on public sector jobs. It is administered by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Bids can be made by private bodies and public private partnerships. Bids likely to be awarded funds will be those that trigger private sector investment, which leads to private growth and jobs.
19. Total Bids has far exceeded monies available. It does not appear that further funding will be made available. In Ipswich, agreement in principle has been reached for Regional Growth Fund assistance for the tidal flood barrier project.

Planning Agreements (Section 106 Planning Obligations)

20. Planning agreements are made under S.106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. They are an agreement between the Local Authority and the developer for the developer to provide funding for specific local infrastructure projects. Individual agreements specify timings of payment and amount. The funding is intended to mitigate the impact of new development. However, limited funds will be available post 2014 as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is expected to be in place as of April 2014.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

21. Funding through legal agreements secured by planning permissions will likely be limited from April 2014 when the Council is expected to adopt its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges. These charges will be imposed on future developments based on the net increase in floorspace, with different rates potentially applying to different types of development and geographic areas. The money generated through this will fund infrastructure such as open spaces, although as opposed to the present situation the majority of any individual contributions paid will not be tied to the area in which the development is sited whilst a greater number of developments will be liable to this charge. The trigger for CIL payment will be when the development commences.
22. There will be no CIL charge for charities, affordable housing or exceptional circumstances where charge makes the development unviable.
23. An independent examination is needed to set the CIL schedule of charging rates.

Landfill Communities Fund

24. This is a tax introduced in 1996 to reduce the amount of land fill waste. The Fund supports community, built heritage and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites or landfill operator depots. Landfill operators can pass on up to 6.8% of their tax liability to approved environmental operators who can then claim a tax credit. Other

potential LCF funders are BiffAward and SITA. 10% of the value of the grant is required as match funding from a third party. This fund cannot be used to meet planning conditions, but can be used to unlock other funding streams ie Heritage Lottery Fund.

Green Investment Bank

25. This is intended to support low-carbon and renewable energy infrastructure that represents an important source of jobs, investment and enterprise as well as assisting the UK to meet its national carbon reduction targets. £3 billion is available nationally. The aim is to lever private sector capital to fund eligible projects. The Bank will not be permitted to raise equity, borrow money, issue bonds or sell consumers savings products until at least 2015. The Bank was launched by the Government in November 2012. Likely projects include offshore wind, new nuclear plant, industrial energy efficiency, industrial renewable heat plant, commercial and industrial waste plant and waste-to-energy plant.

The Big Society Bank (Big Society Capital)

26. This has been created to act as an additional source of social finance to encourage growth within the wider social finance market. The Government is using capital from funds lying within dormant bank accounts plus an additional £200m supplied by high street banks. The bank was launched in July 2011 with a fund of around £100m plus to be loaned out to third sector organisations from the voluntary and community sector. They pay back the funds from income generated. The Co-operative bank will act as the wholesale bank, diverting funds to the Big Lottery Fund for distribution to borrowers. Suffolk County Council is applying for funding for use across Suffolk.

ERDF Competitiveness Fund

27. The European Regional Development Fund was started in 1975 to reduce economic disparities between European regions. The current allocation for England runs to 2013. Funding can be applied for by local authorities, private organisations and voluntary bodies and its purpose is to support economic growth. Funding is ring fenced and requires match funding (usually 50%). The Government announced in April 2012 that the European Commission has published proposals for the 2014-20 funding round. In early 2013 the Government will consult on how the funds will be deployed. It would then need to be agreed by the European Commission.

Heritage Lottery Fund

28. The Heritage Lottery Fund supports heritage projects which deliver a benefit to the public. There are a number of programmes under the Fund, including the 'Parks for People' programme. This offers the opportunity of funding of between £100,000 and £5m for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in England. The Fund is jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund. There is a bidding process for funding and decisions on bids are made twice a year, in June and December.

Appendix 2: Internationally recognised quality management standards

1. The Parks and Open Spaces department have a fully integrated management system consisting of certification in quality, environment management and health and safety. These are known, respectively as ISO9001:2008, ISO14001:2004 and BS OHSAS 18001:2007.

ISO 9001:2008

2. ISO9001 is the internationally recognised standard for the quality management of businesses

Benefits

- Motivate employees by defining their key roles responsibilities.
 - Cost savings can be made through improved efficiency and productivity as product or service deficiencies can be highlighted.
 - Improvements can be developed resulting in less waste, inappropriate or reject work and fewer complaints.
 - This in turn will lead to customer satisfaction.
 - Many companies will only deal with businesses that have the quality accreditation
3. Obtaining ISO9001 shows a commitment to quality, customers and improved efficiency.

ISO 14001: 2004

4. ISO 14001 is the internationally recognised standard for environment management

Benefits

- Reduced cost of waste management
- Savings in consumption of energy and materials
- Improved image among regulators, customers and the public
- Ensure compliance

BS OHSAS 18001: 2007

5. BS OHSAS 18001 is the internationally recognised standard for the occupational health and safety management systems.

Benefits

- Identify, control and reduce the health and safety risks
- Increase opportunities to tender for new business, which can result in preferred supplier status
- Reduce the potential for accidents
- Reduce sick days as a result of work related injuries and ill health
- Ensure compliance

Benefits of an Integrated Management system comprising 9001,14001 and 18001

Overall benefits

- Reduce operating costs and increases profitability
 - Greater focus on company objectives
 - Reduced business risk
 - Reduced documentation
 - Easier to manage
6. An integrated management system (IMS) can only enhance all the components of the Park and Open Spaces business enabling optimum achievement for its business objectives.

Appendix 3: compliance with legislation

Legislation	Compliance Activity
<p>Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>This Act, as amended, provides national protection for SSSIs and protected species, in addition to a range of other measures. The 1981 Act has been amended significantly through the CROW ACT 2000 and the NERC Act 2006 and therefore the original document does not represent the Act as it currently stands.</p> <p>Landowners, occupiers and third parties are all subject to the legislative requirements of this Act (as amended) with regards to protection of SSSIs and protected species.</p>	<p>Regard for the act during any arboriculture work, grounds maintenance operations or landscaping. Essentially anywhere where IBC operations may have the potential for contact, disturbance or destruction of protected wild flora & fauna.</p> <p>Protected flora & fauna are those listed under various schedules of the act, in summary:</p> <p>Schedule 1-4 = birds</p> <p>Schedule 5-7 = other animals</p> <p>Schedule 8 = plants</p> <p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a birds nest which is in use, which is normally taken to mean under construction, or with eggs, chicks or birds using it regularly - even if they are not actually in it at the time.</p> <p>Not introducing non-native plants listed under schedule 9 of the act into the wild, or causing them to grow.</p>
<p>The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).</p> <p>Powers to Natural England to designate Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs), and to local authorities to designate Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). LNR's are declared and managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education, or for simply enjoying and having contact with nature.</p>	<p>Appropriate management (as agreed with Natural England) to designated LNR and SSSI sites, to preserve the characteristic landscape beauty, to provide access and facilities for open-air enjoyment, and to protect wildlife and geological features.</p> <p>Consultation on planning applications to consider the effects of the proposed development.</p>
<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC), 2006</p>	<p>Regard for biodiversity and its conservation in all operations and functions, above and beyond existing statutory protection levels for sites, habitats and species.</p>

<p>Section 40 places a duty on public authorities to conserve biodiversity - for the first time. This section states that Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, and Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. This change is significant as it places a duty on all Local Authorities to conserve wider biodiversity in addition to the statutory protection given to certain sites and species. Also Section 55 changes the situation regarding the Local Authority role and SSSI protection.</p>	<p>Consultation on planning applications to consider potential effects.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p> <p>This act strengthens the protection given to SSSIs. It revises the procedures for the notification of SSSIs and for the consenting of operations, which may damage the special interest of a SSSI. Local authorities have a new duty to take steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs.</p> <p>The act also strengthens the existing provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the enforcement of wildlife legislation, including a new offence of "recklessly" destroying or damaging the habitats of certain protected species.</p>	<p>Considering biodiversity whilst undertaking management of IBC owned and managed land. Paying special regard to disturbance of protected species, e.g. birds and bats.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations 1994</p> <p>In the UK the Habitats Directive has been transposed into national laws by means of the Habitats Regulations. Notably Regulation 3 (4) requires</p>	<p>Protection for European Protected Species (EPS) including Great Crested Newt, all species of Bat, Otter and Dormouse. During all operations IBC must not deliberately kill, capture, or disturb a European Protected Species, or to damage or</p>

<p>every competent authority in the exercise of any of its functions to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>In particular the Habitats Regulations provide measures for the protection of European Sites and European Protected Species.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations also requires Local Planning Authorities to include policies encouraging the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna (Regulation 37 (1)).</p>	<p>destroy the breeding site or resting place of such an animal – all are offences.</p> <p>Consultation on planning applications with potential EPS habitats or presence of species.</p>
<p>The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) (1979)</p> <p>The European Community Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) sets out general rules for the conservation of all naturally occurring wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.</p> <p>It requires member states to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for protection of certain species</p>	<p>Correct protection and management of the River Orwell SPA, including parts of Orwell Country Park. Partnership working with the Stour & Orwell Estuary Management Group to ensure protection. Terrestrial SPA = automatic SSSI and IBC must consult Natural England before carrying out any potentially damaging operations, those laid out for the SPA by Natural England themselves. Caveat is a reasonable excuse; an emergency or permission has been received from another statutory body, which has consulted Natural England first.</p> <p>The provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p>
<p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)</p> <p>Sites of international importance to birds containing 1% of a species' biogeographic population.</p> <p>Ramsar sites are among the most highly protected sites in UK. All Ramsars are also SSSIs. In practice, protection for Ramsar sites is as for Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>Consultation on planning applications with potential to affect the River Orwell Ramsar site.</p>

<p>Hedgerows Regulations 1997</p> <p>These regulations aim to protect important hedgerows in the countryside. They make it illegal to remove most countryside hedges without first notifying the local planning authority and provide protection for 'important hedgerows'.</p> <p>Hedgerows in the countryside, and their conservation, is a quite different subject from the management and regulation of hedges around houses, and, more specifically, between neighbours. For this reason, the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 specifically exclude any hedgerow which is within, or borders, a domestic garden.</p>	<p>Consultation – to consider the effects of hedgerows removal in landscape projects and planning applications.</p>
<p>Protection of Badgers Act 1992</p> <p>Under the 1992 Act it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger; • possess a dead badger or any part of a badger; • cruelly ill-treat a badger; • use badger tongs in the course of killing, taking or attempting to kill a badger; • dig for a badger; • sell or offer for sale or control any live badger; • mark, tag or ring a badger; and • interfere with a badger sett by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damaging a sett or any part thereof; • destroying a sett; • obstructing access to a sett; 	<p>Ensuring any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by badgers is not affected by any tree or landscaping work.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • causing a dog to enter a sett; and • disturbing a badger while occupying a sett. <p>The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as: “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.</p> <p>EIA Directive (85/337/EEC)</p> <p>UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) published in June 2011</p>	
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</p> <p>Town and Country Planning Act (General Development Order) 1988 (Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1813)</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (trees) Regulations 1999</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order Regulations 1969)(As Amended)</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Trees and Conservation Area Regulations 1975)(As Amended)</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) (SI 1995 No 418);</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (GDPO) (SI 1995 No 419);</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (the Use Classes Order) (SI 1987 No 764);</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991 No 2794);</p> <p>Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (SI 1992 No 1492).</p> <p>Planning and Compulsory Purchase</p>	<p>Also see Tree Management policy 2010</p>

Act 2004

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 ((SI 1997/1160)

High Hedge Regulations under Part 8 (High Hedges) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

EU Habitats Directive 1992

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Forestry Act 1967

Forestry Act 1967 (Part II) as amended by the trees Act 1970 and the Forestry Acts 1979 and 1986

Forestry (Felling of trees) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979 No 791) as amended by the Forestry (Felling of trees) (Amendment) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 632)

Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979 No 792) as amended by the Forestry Act (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) (Amendments) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No 1572) and by the Forestry Act (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) (Amendment) Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No 970)

Forestry (Modifications of Felling Restriction) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No 1958)

Proposal for the draft Regulatory reform (Forestry) order 2006

Commons Act 1899

Environmental Impact Assessment

(Forestry)(England and Wales)
Regulation 1999 [1999/2228]

Plant Health Act 1967 (c.8)

The Plant Health (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 1993 (SI 1993 No 1283, as amended by SI 1994 No 3094, SI 1995 No 1989, SI 1996 No 751, SI 1998 No 2206, SI 1998 No 3109, SI 2001 No 299, SI 2002 No 295)

The Plant Health (Forestry)
Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2517)

The Watermark Disease Local Authorities Order 1974 (SI 1974 No 768, as amended by SI 1984 No 688, SI 1986 No 1342 and SI 1992 No 44)

The Dutch elm disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984 (SI 1984 No 687, as amended by SI 1988 No 604)

European Community Council Directive 2000/29/EC, which consolidates and repeals Council Directive 77/93/EEC and its various amendments

Environment Act 1994

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM)

Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1992, and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulation 1992

The Human Rights Act

NERC Act 2006 (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006)

Applicable Health and Safety Legislation

Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005

Provision and Use Of Work Equipment Regulations (Applicable to wood working machinery.) 1992

Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Legionnaires Disease ACOP 2000

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

Workplace(Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Regulations 2005

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989

Noise at Work Regulations 2005

Rider Operated Lift Trucks (ACOP 1999)

Confined Spaces Regulations 1997

Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regulations 1996

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regs 1996

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

Provision and Use Of Work Equipment Regulations (Applicable to wood working machinery.) 1992

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

Confined Spaces Regulations 1997

Noise at Work Regulations 2005

Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regulations 1996

Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health

and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Noise at Work Regulations 2005

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

Confined Spaces Regulations 1997

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regulations 1996

Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996

Confined Spaces Regulations 1997

Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989

Control of Asbestos Regulation 2012

Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

Health and Safety (Display Screen) Regulations 1992

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regulations 1996

Health and Safety (Safety Sign and Signals) Regulations 1996

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

Manual Handling Regulations 1992

Noise at Work Regulations 2005

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

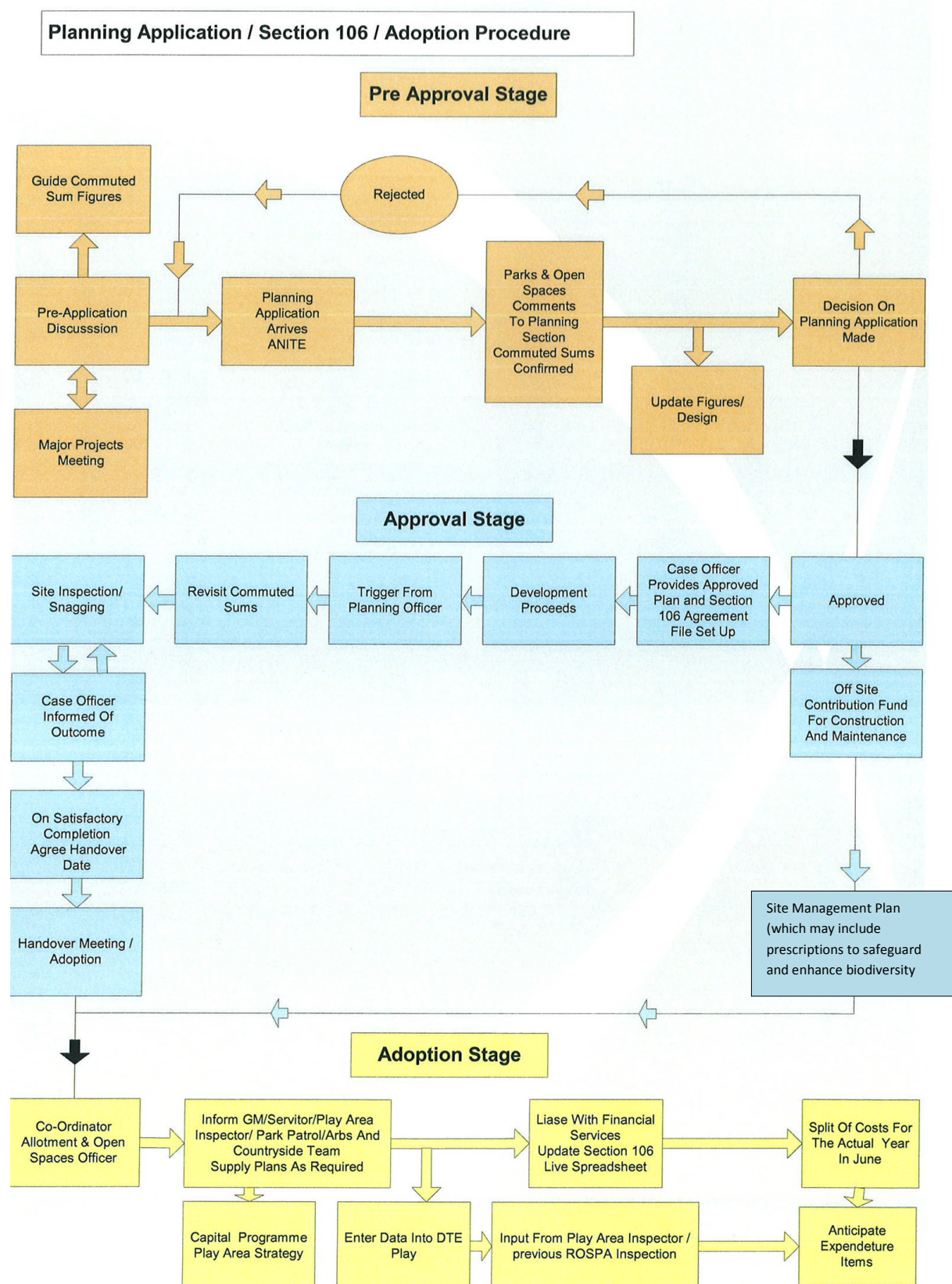
Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

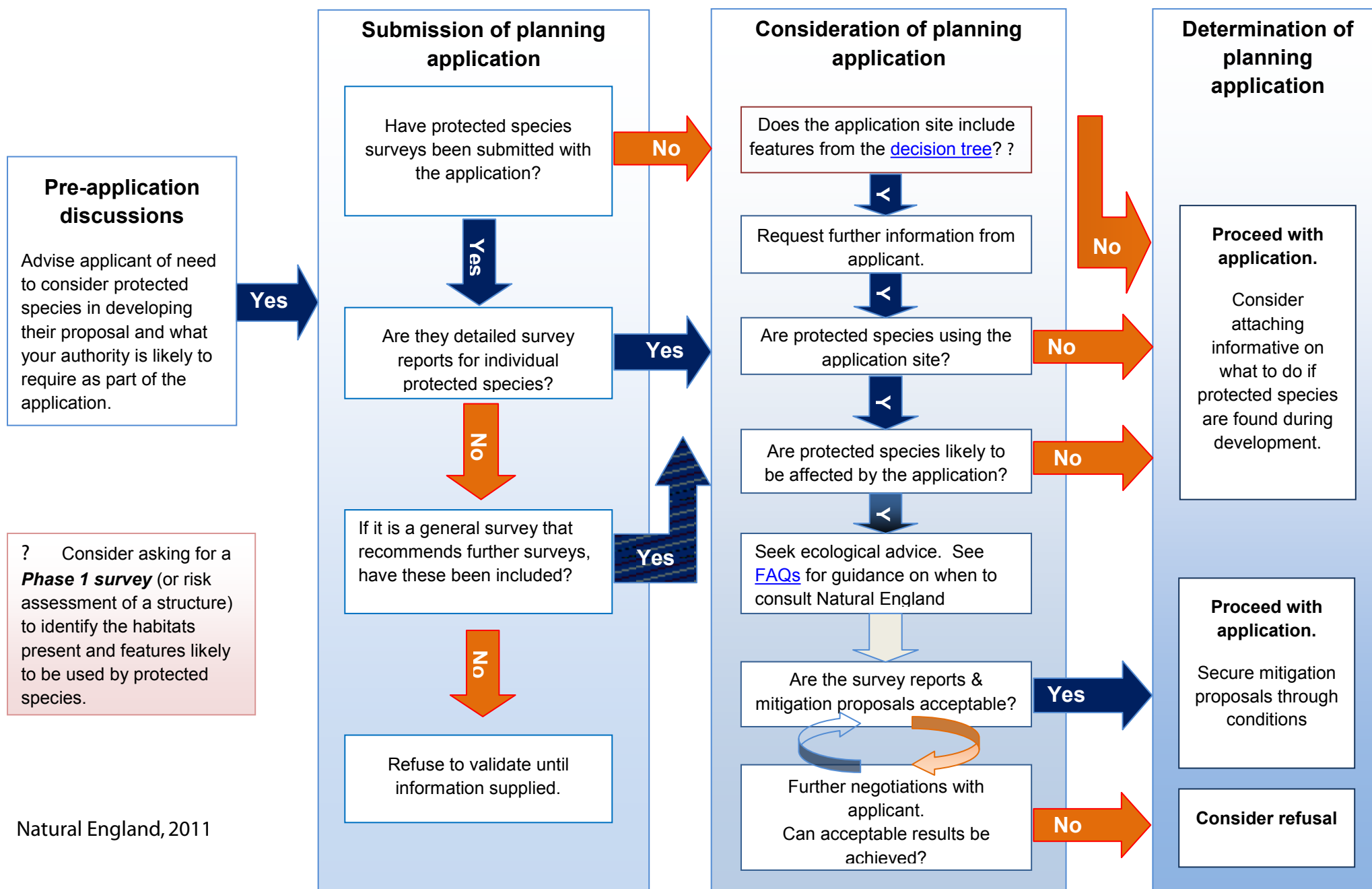
Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations and Health 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Appendix 4: Parks & Open Spaces. Details of the adoption process



Appendix 5 - Dealing with Protected Species in the Planning Process



Appendix_07_Ecological_survey_timetablev2

Surveys not possible	Limited survey period		Optimal survey period									
Habitats/ Vegetation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Phase I (sub-optimal) No other detailed plant surveys Mosses and lichens only			Detailed habitat assessment surveys National Vegetation Classification Surveys for higher plants and ferns Mosses and lichens in April, May and September only						Phase I (sub-optimal) No other detailed plant surveys Mosses and lichens only		
Badgers	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Limited sett/bait surveys	Limited Activity			Limited bait marking and sett surveys				Sett surveys			Limited sett/bait surveys
Bats	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Inspection of hibernation, tree and building roosts			Limited Activity	Summer roost emergence and activity surveys (Maternity roosts start to form in May, females give birth in June, Mating starts in September)					Limited Activity	Inspection of hibernation, tree and building roosts	
	Note: Potential roost and internal inspection surveys are possible all year round. Trees are best surveyed in winter.											
Birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Winter species		Breeding birds/migrants species		Breeding birds		Low activity		Migrant species		Winter species	
Dormice	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Gnawed hazelnut search (sub-optimal)	Nest tube / cage trap survey from April to November Nest searches (optimum time September to March)							Gnawed hazelnut search (optimum November to December)			
Great Crested Newts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Newts hibernating		Pond surveys for adults / Terrestrial surveys / Egg surveys April to mid-June / Larvae surveys from mid-May				Terrestrial habitat and larvae surveys		Terrestrial habitat survey		Newts hibernating	
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Surveys not possible			Optimal survey period							Surveys not possible	
Fish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	For coastal, river and stream dwelling species, the timing of the surveys will depend on the migration pattern of the species concerned. Where surveys require information on breeding, the timing of surveys will need to coincide with the breeding period, which may be summer or winter months, depending on the											
Natterjack Toad	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Hibernating			Surveys of breeding ponds for adults. Surveys for tadpoles from May onwards Surveys for adults on land.					Surveys for adults on land		Hibernating	
Otters	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Limited by vegetation cover and weather conditions rather than seasons											
Pine Martins	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Surveys may be conducted all year round weather permitting. Optimum time is spring and summer. Surveys for breeding dens from March to May.											
Red Squirrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Surveys may be conducted all year round weather permitting. Optimum time is spring and summer. Surveys for breeding females from December to September.											
Reptiles	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Reptiles hibernating		Peak survey months are April and May				Reduced basking time reduces effectiveness of refugia survey		Peak survey month	Limited activity	Reptiles hibernating	
Water Voles	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Low activity	Initial habitat survey	Habitat and field signs / activity surveys May be limited by vegetation cover and weather								Initial habitat survey	Low activity
White-clawed Crayfish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Reduced activity			Searching Torching Trapping	Breeding torchlight survey only (no handling due to females releasing their young)		Substrate search by hand Torchlight and trapping surveys				Reduced activity	
Surveys not possible	Limited survey period		Optimal survey period									

Note: This survey calendar should be used as a reference guide only with advice being sought from a qualified ecologist as site and project specific circumstances may alter seasonal windows

Mitigation works restricted	Some restricted mitigation may be possible	Mitigation conducted at these times
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Habitats/ Vegetation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Planting and Translocation		No mitigation for majority of species							Planting and Translocation		
Badgers	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Building of artificial setts No disturbance of existing setts					Stopping up or destruction of existing setts				See Jan to June		
Bats	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Works on maternity roosts		Works on maternity roosts until mid-May. Works on hibernation roosts from mid-March			Works on hibernation roosts only	Hibernation roosts until November. Maternity roosts from mid-September				Works on maternity roosts only	
Birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Clearance works may proceed at this time, but must stop immediately if any nesting birds are found		Bird nesting season No clearance or construction works (unless preceded with Breeding Bird Survey or exclusion nets have been erected over trees/hedges)				Clearance works may proceed at this time, but must stop immediately if any nesting birds are found					
Dormice	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	High coppicing and other low impact 'above ground' works...no stump or root removal		Sub-optimum time	No clearance works				Clearance works to late October (optimum time)			See Jan to March	
Great Crested Newts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	No trapping of newts. Pond management only		Newt trapping programmes in ponds and on land				Newt trapping on land only				No trapping of newts. Pond management only	
Fish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Mitigation for the protection of the watercourse is required at all times of the year. Mitigation for particular fish will need to be timed so as to avoid the breeding season. This varies from species to species.											
Natterjack Toad	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Pond management works			Trapping of adults in ponds from April to July. Trapping of adults on land. Trapping for tadpoles from May to early September.						Pond management works		
Otters	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Mitigation can potentially be conducted in any month, but is likely to be restricted where otters are found to be breeding											
Pine Martins	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Work in areas of pine martin habitat and dens		Avoid all works in pine martin habitat								Works in areas of pine martin habitat and dens	
Red Squirrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Avoid all works in red squirrel habitat									Works should preferably be carried out at this time		See Jan to Oct
Reptiles	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Above ground scrub clearance only		Capture and translocation programmes.				Capture and translocation (sub-optimal)	Capture and translocation programmes. Scrub clearance		Above ground scrub clearance only		
Water Voles	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Avoid all works in water vole habitat		Works in water vole habitat possible		Avoid all work in water vole habitat				Works in water vole habitat possible		Avoid all work in water vole habitat	
White-clawed Crayfish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Avoid capture programmes (low activity levels may lead to animals being easily missed)		As July to October	Avoid capture programmes			Exclusion of crayfish from construction areas				Avoid capture programmes (low activity levels may lead to animals being easily missed)	

Mitigation works restricted	Some restricted mitigation may be possible	Mitigation conducted at these times
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Note: This mitigation calendar should be used as a reference guide only with advice being sought from a qualified ecologist as site and project specific circumstances may alter seasonal windows

Appendix 6 - Decision Tree



Appendix 8: Protected & important Species Information Links

General information	<p>Protected Species (Natural England) http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>Protected species list (Natural England) http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/</p>
Class and species specific information	<p><u>Mammals</u></p> <p>The Mammal Society http://www.mammal.org.uk/</p> <p>Natural England publications about mammals http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/</p>
	<p><u>Bats</u></p> <p>Suffolk Bat Group http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org</p> <p>Suffolk Biological Records Centre Bat information http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk</p> <p>Mid Anglian Bat Group http://www.midanglianbatgroup.org</p> <p>Bat Conservation Trust http://www.bats.org.uk/</p> <p>Natural England publications about Bats http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Badgers</u></p> <p>Suffolk Wildlife Trust Badger Group via http://badgerland.co.uk</p> <p>The Badger Trust http://www.badger.org.uk/</p> <p>Natural England Badger information http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Hazel dormice</u></p> <p>People's Trust for Endangered Species Dormouse information http://ptes.org</p> <p>Forestry Commission guidance for managing woodlands with Dormice http://www.forestry.gov.uk</p> <p>Natural England Dormouse information sheet http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Hedgehog</u></p> <p>British hedgehog http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/</p>
	<p><u>Foxes</u></p> <p>Natural England urban fox information sheet http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Otter</u></p> <p>http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Water Shrew</u></p> <p>Suffolk wildlife trust water shrew information sheet http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org</p>

	<p><u>Water Vole</u> Natural England Water vole information sheet http://www.naturalengland.org.uk</p>
	<p><u>Birds</u> The RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/ The British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org/ Suffolk Ornithologists' Group www.sogonline.org.uk/ Hawk & Owl Trust www.hawkandowl.org Barn owl www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Skylark www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Bullfinch www.suffolkbiodiversity.org House sparrow www.naturalengland.org.uk Song thrush www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Common starling http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Dunnock (Hedge sparrow) http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Spotted flycatcher www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Bittern www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Common cuckoo http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Lesser spotted woodpecker http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Nightjar www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Swift http://www.swift-conservation.org/ Stone curlew www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Corn bunting www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Eurasian tree sparrow www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Grey partridge www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Yellow wagtail http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Northern lapwing http://jncc.defra.gov.uk Turtle dove www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Linnet</p>

	www.suffolkbiodiversity.org Yellowhammer http://jncc.defra.gov.uk
Reptiles and amphibians	Amphibians and Reptile Group www.arguk.org/ Amphibian and Reptile Conservation www.arc-trust.org/ Froglife www.froglife.org/ Reptiles & Amphibians of the UK http://www.herpetofauna.co.uk/ National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme www.narrs.org.uk/ Suffolk Amphibians and Reptile Group www.sarg.org.uk/ Natural England publication (NE15): Reptiles in your garden http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk Natural England publication (NE18): Amphibians in your garden http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk
	<u>Adder</u> Amphibian and reptile conservation http://www.arc-trust.org/adder/
	<u>Great Crested Newt</u> Natural England Standing advice sheet http://www.naturalengland.org.uk Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook http://www.froglife.org
	<u>Frogs & Toads</u> http://www.froglife.org
	<u>Grass Snake</u> Amphibian & reptile conservation www.arc-trust.org
	<u>Viviparous Lizard</u> Amphibian and reptile conservation trust common lizard fact sheet http://www.arc-trust.org
	<u>Slow worm</u> JPR environmental slow worm profile http://www.arc-trust.org
Invertebrates	<u>Bees</u> British Bee keepers Association http://www.bbka.org.uk/ Bumblebee Conservation Trust http://bumblebeeconservation.org/
	<u>Wasps</u> Bees, Wasps & Ants Recording Society (BWARS) http://www.bwars.com/ Wasp facts http://www.buglife.org.uk
	<u>Golden Hoverfly</u> Natural England Species leaflet (IN64) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk
	<u>Stag Beetles</u> Peoples Trust for Endangered Species: Facts and ID sheet http://www.ptes.org
	<u>Necklace Ground Beetle</u>

	Buglife species Management Sheet http://www.buglife.org.uk
	<u>Butterflies & Moths</u> Butterfly Conservation Suffolk http://www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk Suffolk Moth Group http://www.suffolkmoths.org.uk
Fish	UK BAP priority fish species list http://jncc.defra.gov.uk
Flora	Plantlife http://www.plantlife.org.uk/
Fungi	Natural England Fungi & Slimemold publications http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk
Species perceived by some as a nuisance	General information on pests and diseases Forestry Commission http://www.forestry.gov.uk Ragwort & wildlife benefits http://www.buglife.org.uk Tick Alert http://www.tickalert.org/ Common Wasp Information http://www.buglife.org.uk

Appendix 9 –Annex B of Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (BS 5837:2012)

Annex B (informative)

Trees and the planning system

Under the UK planning system, local authorities have a statutory duty to consider the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission for proposed development. The potential effect of development on trees, whether statutorily protected (e.g. by a tree preservation order or by their inclusion within a conservation area) or not, is a material consideration that is taken into account in dealing with planning applications. Where trees are statutorily protected, it is important to contact the local planning authority and follow the appropriate procedures before undertaking any works that might affect the protected trees.

The nature and level of detail of information required to enable a local planning authority to properly consider the implications and effects of development proposals varies between stages and in relation to what is proposed. Table B.1 provides advice to both developers and local authorities on an appropriate amount of information. The term "minimum detail" is intended to reflect information that local authorities are expected to seek, whilst the term "additional information" identifies further details that might reasonably be sought, especially where any construction is proposed within the RPA.

Table B.1 Delivery of tree-related information into the planning system

Stage of process	Minimum detail	Additional information
Pre-application	Tree survey	Tree retention/removal plan (draft)
Planning application	Tree survey (in the absence of pre-application discussions) Tree retention/removal plan (finalized) Retained trees and RPAs shown on proposed layout Strategic hard and soft landscape design, including species and location of new tree planting Arboricultural impact assessment	Existing and proposed finished levels Tree protection plan Arboricultural method statement – heads of terms Details for all special engineering within the RPA and other relevant construction details
Reserved matters/ planning conditions	Alignment of utility apparatus (including drainage), where outside the RPA or where installed using a trenchless method Dimensioned tree protection plan Arboricultural method statement – detailed Schedule of works to retained trees, e.g. access facilitation pruning Detailed hard and soft landscape design	Arboricultural site monitoring schedule Tree and landscape management plan Post-construction remedial works Landscape maintenance schedule

**IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE SPORT AND RECREATION
FACILITIES STUDY**



**A
REPORT
BY
PMP**

MARCH 2009

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction and background

The study

- 1.1 Ipswich Borough Council ('the Council') appointed PMP to undertake an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough of Ipswich ('the Borough') in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002) and produce an Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Strategy.
- 1.2 The assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities was undertaken alongside a playing pitch assessment, which considers provision of football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches in more detail. The Playing Pitch Strategy is provided separately to this report; however the two have been produced in conjunction to ensure that the findings of both reports are complementary.
- 1.3 The study includes an audit of all open space, sport and recreation facility provision, providing a clear strategy with priorities for existing and future open space, sport and recreation facility requirements and a direction for the allocation of future resources.
- 1.4 The prime objectives of the study are to:
 - establish local standards for provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities that reflect the community's needs and local circumstances
 - provide an analysis of areas with identified surpluses or deficiencies of provision across the Borough
 - inform the development of a strategy for the protection, planning, management, improvement and enhancement of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities
 - inform and provide an evidence base for site allocations and policies contained within the Ipswich Local Development Framework
 - provide a robust evidence base for the development of policy in Ipswich's development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.

The Borough of Ipswich

- 1.5 Ipswich Borough is situated in the eastern county of Suffolk, between the Districts of Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal.
- 1.6 The population of Ipswich Borough is 117,200 (2001 Census). The Borough is essentially the town of Ipswich, covering less than 4000 hectares. Consequently population density is high at 29.7 persons per hectare (ppha) compared to the rural Suffolk average of 1.7 ppha.

Why public open space?

- 1.7 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader government objectives, which include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promoting social inclusion and community cohesion
 - promoting health and well being
 - promoting sustainable development
 - relieving recreational pressures on sensitive European Natura 2000 sites e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 1.8 Open space and recreation provision in the Borough of Ipswich has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of these objectives.

Figure 1.1 Bourne Park



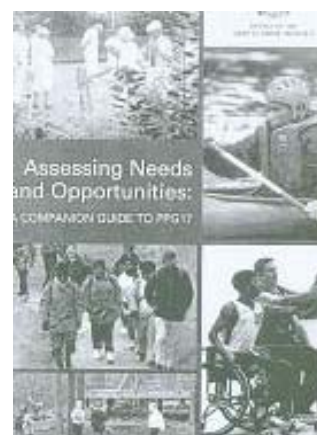
Function and benefits of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities

- 1.9 Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of towns and villages. For example the provision for play and informal recreation, a landscaping buffer within and between the built environment and a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity.
- 1.10 Each type of open space has various functions. For example allotments for the growing of produce, play areas for children's play and playing pitches for formal sports activities. Open space can additionally perform a secondary function, for example outdoor sports facilities have an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.

- 1.11 There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local needs. Not all residents' needs in particular areas will show a demand for open space in the form of playing pitches or allotments, for example. Some areas may have specific local demand for 'green corridor' sites, such as nature walks or bridleways, instead.
- 1.12 Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers including sport and leisure. Open spaces, sport and recreation facilities can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.13 Parks and open spaces are accessible to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities so may be better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation is key to a sustainable and thriving community.
- 1.14 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live and can result in a number of wider benefits. These are highlighted in Appendix A.

**National Policy Context: Planning Policy Guidance
Note 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and
Recreation & Assessing Needs and Opportunities -
PPG17 Companion Guide**

- 1.15 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities (paragraph 1).
- 1.16 It also states that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs, and opportunities for new open space and facilities (paragraph 2).
- 1.17 Paragraph 5 states that "The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and recreational facilities" and that "local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas".
- 1.18 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.



- 1.19 The Companion Guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:
- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards; and
 - promotes a consistent approach across various types of open space.
- 1.20 PMP and the Council have followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study. In following these recommendations, this study has the potential to make a significant difference to the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough of Ipswich.

Need for local assessments

- 1.21 This assessment of open space and local needs will enable the Council to:
- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space;
 - ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of the local community;
 - ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need; and
 - conduct Section 106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support such negotiations.
- 1.22 Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the Council to have robust data to protect open space, sport and recreation facilities within the Borough.

Structure of the report

- 1.23 The report is split into 18 sections. Section 2 sets out the methodology for undertaking the study. Section 3 sets out the strategic context to provide the background and context to the study. Section 4 provides a brief summary of the consultation undertaken, while some of the key themes are drawn out within each typology section.
- 1.24 Sections 5 -15 relate to each of the typologies identified within the scope of the study. Each typology chapter sets out the strategic context to that particular typology, the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards and the applications of these standards through the geographical areas and value assessments. These are not applicable to all typologies.
- 1.25 Sections 16 – 18 provide guidance on resourcing and planning for open spaces in Ipswich and draws up an action plan for the implementation of the strategy.
- 1.26 There are also a number of appendices that support the report and are referenced throughout.

SECTION 2

UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 This study was undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The Companion Guide suggests ways of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment as opposed to following national trends and standards. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are that:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics;
 - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance;
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend on both improving and enhancing existing open space as well as providing new open space; and
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations of this study are therefore representative of the local needs of the Borough of Ipswich.

Types of open space

- 2.3 The overall definition of open space within PPG17 is:
- “all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”*

- 2.4 PPG17 identifies ten open space typologies. These categories include nine types of greenspace and one category of urban open space. This study adapts the standard classification to include the assessment of the following typologies:

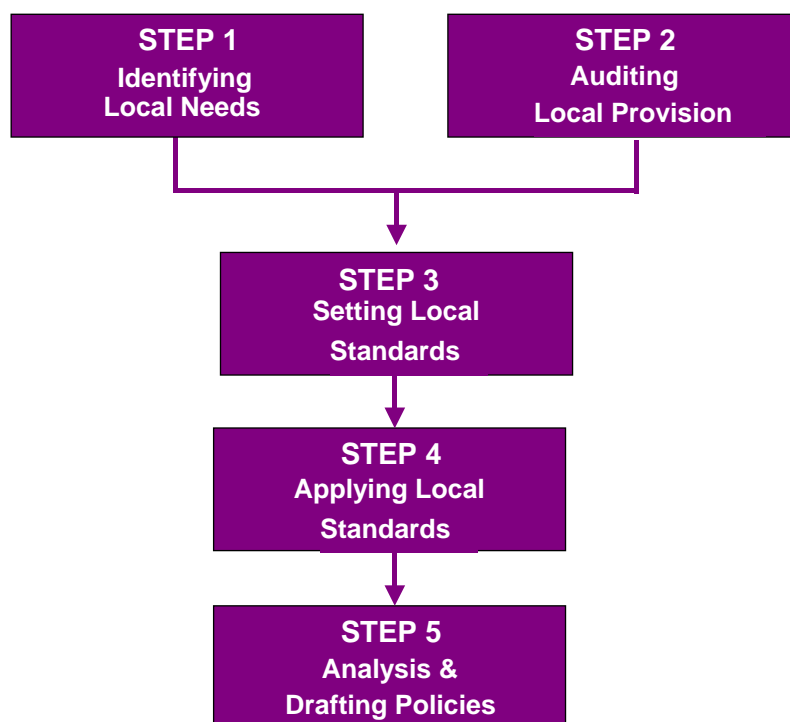
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • amenity green space | • green corridors |
| • parks and gardens | • civic spaces |
| • natural and semi-natural open space | • churchyards and cemeteries |
| • provision for children | • outdoor sports facilities |
| • provision for young people | • allotments and community gardens |

- 2.5 Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Appendix B.
- 2.6 'Children and young people's facilities' has been split into 'provision for children' and 'provision for young people'. This change was introduced at the Council's request to recognise the differing needs of young children and teenagers.
- 2.7 In addition, a supply and demand assessment for indoor sports facilities was undertaken in the Borough.
- 2.8 The study takes into account open spaces, sport and recreation facilities provided, owned and managed by public and private organisations to provide an accurate picture of current provision.

PPG17 – Five step process

- 2.9 The PPG17 companion guide sets out a five step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed in this study.
- 2.10 The five step process is shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 PPG17 Five Step Process



Step one - Identifying local needs

- 2.11 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out. These included:
- 5,000 household questionnaires distributed across Ipswich to capture the views of users and non-users of open space, sport and recreation facilities;
 - surveys to all identified sports clubs;
 - children's and young people's internet survey – sent out to all schools in the Borough;
 - two 'drop in' neighbourhood sessions at Corn Hill;
 - press releases, a specific email address and text messaging service to allow the general public to comment on open space, sport and recreation facility provision;
 - one-to-one consultations with Council officers; and
 - consultation with external agencies.
- 2.12 Further details on the Step one process are included in Section Four. Examples of the relevant questionnaires can be found in Appendices C – F.

Step two - Auditing local provision

- 2.13 PMP conducted a thorough audit of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities within the Borough through desk research and site assessments. This included ensuring consistency between the open space typologies used in the Ipswich study and PPG17 typologies.
- 2.14 A total of 276 sites across the Borough were identified through the audit. Where accessible, these sites were assessed on quantity, quality, accessibility and value using a scoring matrix. Usage level was also assessed and scored for each site through the site assessments (see the accompanying database for detailed individual site scores). The site assessment matrix and definitions of the assessment categories can be found in Appendices G and H.
- 2.15 Each open space site was then digitised using Geographic Information System (GIS) software and its associated ratings and characteristics were recorded on an Access database.
- 2.16 The Access database enables further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken. It allows a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism and enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail.

Steps three and four - Setting and applying provision standards

- 2.17 From the analysis of the data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value of the sites, PMP are able to:
- determine a set of provision standards for each type of open space;
 - apply such standards for each type of open space; and
 - identify gaps in provision across the different types of open space and thereby identify the areas of priority for improvement, re-designation or new provision.
- 2.18 Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative needs through the planning process.
- 2.19 Further detail regarding the process for the setting and application of each type of provision standard is outlined in Appendix J.
- 2.20 The quantity calculator showing the levels of provision in each analysis area is provided in Appendix Q.

The use of analysis areas

- 2.21 The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space, looking at different geographical areas across the local authority boundary (referred to as 'analysis areas' in this report), which were discussed and agreed with the Council.
- 2.22 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, and provides a geographical background to the analysis. Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2, overleaf, provide details on the analysis areas used in this study and the wards within each analysis area.

Table 2.1 Analysis area breakdown by ward

Area 1 Central	Area 2 North East	Area 3 South East	Area 4 South West	Area 5 North West
Westgate	Rushmere	Holywells	Gipping	Whitton
St Margaret's	Bixley	Gainsborough	Sprites	White House
Alexandra	St John's	Priory Heath	Stoke Park	Castle Hill
			Bridge	

Figure 2.2 Analysis area map



Key: Central North East South East South West North West

Step 5 – Drafting policies, recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.23 Applications of the standards provide strategic priorities and recommendations which are set out for each typology within the report.
- 2.24 The report also provides guidance for the application of Section 106 agreements and using best practice formula and costings based on the approach taken by other authorities and best practice.

SECTION 3

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strategic context

Introduction

- 3.1 It is important to consider the findings of the local needs assessment and audit within the local, regional and national context. All documents reviewed within this report have been provided by Ipswich Borough Council and are important within the context of this study.
- 3.2 The Ipswich Borough Local Plan, Local Development Framework and The Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan were key in driving and informing this study. Additional information was extracted from the Sport England, Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk County Council websites.
- 3.3 The following sets out the national, regional and local strategic context for Ipswich Borough Council. Further national guidance is contained within Appendix J.

National context

- 3.4 At the national level, Planning Policy Statement one states that:

'Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.'

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

- 3.5 Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities. These assessments should cover the distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities.
- 3.6 When planning on developing new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:
- promote accessibility from walking, cycling and transport links;
 - identify sites that will contribute to town centre viability and vitality;
 - avoid loss of amenity to residents;
 - improve the quality of the public realm through good design;
 - look to produce areas of open spaces in industrial or commercial areas;
 - improve the quality of existing facilities;
 - consider the safety of the people using them, ie children;
 - meet the regeneration needs of areas, therefore keeping greenfield sites untouched;
 - consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;

- assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion; and
- consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation, Sport England (2005)

- 3.7 Spatial planning is concerned with the physical aspects of location and land use, but also factors that make places attractive to live in: health provision, education choice, employment opportunities, crime prevention etc. and, in spirit, a wider, more inclusive approach to decision-making.
- 3.8 A key element of Sport England's work encompasses planning the provision of facilities and helping to ensure that they are fit for purpose and attractive to users. This document sets out Sport England's policy on how spatial planning can be used to provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed and where by communities in the future.
- 3.9 Sport England's aims are for two million more people to be active by 2012 and to provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:
- develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England;
 - encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence;
 - foster, support and undertake the development of facilities; and
 - advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.
- 3.10 Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.
- 3.11 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:
- 'Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.'*
- 3.12 Sport England sees the planning system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals. These are:
- taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy;
 - identifying opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term;
 - recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations;

- the development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest; and
- using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

Regional context

Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan (2006 – 2009)

- 3.13 The Children's Trust Partnership has agreed the ambitions set out in the Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan. Five target outcomes were identified:
- be healthy;
 - stay safe;
 - enjoy and achieve;
 - make a positive contribution; and
 - economic well being.
- 3.14 Priorities within these five core targets include encouraging children to adopt healthy lifestyles (BH1), providing safe environments (SS1) and providing access to informal leisure and recreation services (EA3).
- 3.15 The provision of safety features associated with, and access to, both children's play areas and areas of formal and informal recreation are considered within this PPG17 study.

The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for The East of England (RSS), May 2008.

- 3.16 The East of England Regional Assembly has prepared a new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England called the East of England Plan. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.
- 3.17 The East of England Plan will not be restricted to matters that can be implemented through the planning system or local transport plan process. It will also take account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.
- 3.18 The RSS has a key role in contributing to the sustainable development of the region. It sets out policies which address the needs of the region and key sub-regions. These policies provide a development framework for the next 15 to 20 years that will influence the quality of life and the character of places and how they function, and inform other strategies and plans. A major feature of RSS is that it identifies the significant investment that will be needed in social, environmental, economic and transport facilities ('infrastructure') if it is to achieve its desired results. That investment will come from a variety of sources, including central and local government funding and private developer funding.

- 3.19 RSS contains some significant policies for open space, sport and recreation. For example, Policy C2 guides the provision and location of strategic cultural facilities (which includes sport and recreation facilities). Policy ENV1 requires areas and networks of green infrastructure to be identified in the region. RSS forms part of the Ipswich development plan and the Ipswich Local Development Framework must be in general conformity with it.

‘Shaping the Future of Suffolk’ Community Strategy and Consultation document (2008 – 2028)

- 3.20 This Community Strategy will reflect the key priorities for strategic planning, underpinning Suffolk’s Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA) for the period 2008 – 2011. Following consultation, the strategy is currently being finalised and designed for printing.
- 3.21 The purpose of the Suffolk Strategic Partnership is
- ‘to establish the long-term vision and priorities for Suffolk, a vision which will promote the well-being of its people, economy and environment.’*
- 3.22 The strategy identifies ambitions, challenges, opportunities and actions for eight emerging themes for the county:
- creating the best place to grow and learn;
 - creating prosperity for all;
 - creating the greenest county;
 - creating the safest county;
 - creating a cohesive county;
 - creating the healthiest county;
 - valuing people; and
 - culture and sport.
- 3.23 The quality of the environment is seen as critical to Suffolk’s offer – based around the quality of the green environment, Suffolk coast and built heritage. Management of the ‘natural capital’ of the historic landscape and diverse wildlife is essential.
- 3.24 The strategy notes the need for more participation in sporting, cultural and creative facilities and the need to develop Suffolk as a creative, attractive and sustainable cultural tourism destination with accessible sporting facilities.
- 3.25 The challenge for the cultural and sporting sector is to demonstrate its *added value* given upcoming financial pressures – with a suggested focus on obesity issues and the potential of London 2012.

A Cultural Strategy for Suffolk (2002)

- 3.26 The Cultural Strategy for Suffolk Action Plan identifies a need to make sure culture is for everyone, to make the county more prosperous, promote inclusiveness and to improve partnership working between different organisations. This strategy adopts the Government's definition of culture: 'sports and recreation, countryside activities, tourism...historic buildings and landscapes'.
- 3.27 The accessibility of cultural activities was noted as being an issue, especially public transport issues for remote cultural venues. Raising the profile of cultural activities and utilising volunteers was also seen as important, as well as the creation of Cultural Champions to promote greater participation.

Suffolk Design Guide (2000)

- 3.28 The Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas was adopted as supplementary planning guidance by all the Suffolk local planning authorities in 1993 and was revised in 2000 to acknowledge changes in planning policy guidance. The guide's aims are to:
- promote a sustainable approach to the layout and design of estate development;
 - reflect the essential character of Suffolk in new housing developments;
 - improve the visual appearance of residential areas;
 - improve the quality of life for residents; and
 - ensure the provision of a footway, cycle and road network which is safe and convenient to use and which does not detract from the attractiveness of the estate.

The East of England Plan for Sport, Sport England (2004)

- 3.29 Sport England as the national agency driving sports development, takes a strategic lead on the provision of sport. This plan sets out the strategy for sport and physical activity in the East region and is the result of national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors. It has been facilitated by Sport England under the guidance of the East Regional Sports Board.
- 3.30 Sport England believes sport should be central to improving health, generating economic impact and encouraging social equality. The plan sets a challenge to
- '...raise participation levels, year on year, leading to a significant rise in the east's population being physically active by 2020'.*
- 3.31 The plan has six main priorities aimed at increasing participation:
- promotion and marketing;
 - legislation and regulatory change;
 - quality and improvement;

- structures and partnerships;
- innovation and delivery; and
- strategic planning and research.

3.32 This study will help to deliver the priorities set out in the regional strategies through:

- providing an evidence base built on local need for the protection of playing fields;
- setting out a strategy for the provision of sufficient, good quality and accessible facilities to accommodate, facilitate and encourage increases in participation; and
- driving a programme of enhancement across the borough that will ensure facilities are of a quality that encourages high level performance.

3.33 The PPG17 study will further contribute to the achievement of these objectives through the recognition of the wider roles that outdoor sports facilities can play in meeting the needs of local communities.

Creating Active Places – Sports Facility Strategy for the East of England, EEDA, 2007

3.34 This document provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of existing facility provision in the East of England area and therefore has a key role in supporting the development and delivery of a network of high quality sports facilities across the region.

3.35 The vision for future facility provision is ‘to develop and maintain a network of quality facilities, fit for purpose and accessible for all, meeting local, regional and national needs’. The scope of this document extends to sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness gyms (relevant for the indoor sports section of this study) as well as synthetic turf pitches and golf courses (relevant for the outdoor sports section of this study). Playing pitches are not covered.

3.36 There was a general conclusion that quantity of sports halls was generally good across the region, although a number of facilities needed to be upgraded in some areas. Similarly, pools provision was equally good, although some accessibility issues remain. Population growth was referenced as a future strain on these facilities however. The amount of ‘pay and play’ access for health and fitness suites needs to increase. There was an acknowledged need for more synthetic turf pitches that were sport specific and had floodlights.

3.37 It was noted the East of England region had poor provision of elite athlete facilities, and it was felt proposals to provide such facilities should be supported. This was linked to the role of London 2012 and the attraction of major sporting events to the region.

Suffolk county sports partnership business plan 2006 - 2010

3.38 Suffolk Sport is the official body for sport in the County and their role is to ensure everyone in Suffolk has the opportunity to take part in sport at their appropriate level. They work in partnership with many organisations to promote and set up new sporting opportunities.

- 3.39 Suffolk Sport's vision is 'to make Suffolk a physically active and successful sporting County through the provision of high-quality opportunities for everyone'. This is achieved through working in partnership with various organisations such as National Governing Bodies (NGBs), local authorities and schools as well as actively engaging with the Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 3.40 The plan outlines eight priority areas of work:
- monitoring and evaluation;
 - pathways for young people;
 - promoting and marketing;
 - club development;
 - workforce development;
 - performance measurement;
 - strategic planning; and
 - community well-being.
- 3.41 'Strategic planning' is about effective co-ordination of national, regional and local policy to meet the sporting needs of local communities. This includes the development of an effective Community Sports Network across the county.
- 3.42 'Club development' aims to provide a quality club environment providing more opportunities for participation. This includes promoting and achieving Clubmark and NGB accreditation, alongside increasing participation at all levels. Community well-being supports this by pointing to the value to the wider community of sports participation.

Suffolk Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.43 Each local biodiversity action plan works on the basis of partnership to identify local priorities and to determine the contribution they can make to the delivery of the national Species and Habitat Action Plan targets. Up to date information is available online at www.ukbap.org.uk.
- 3.44 The protection of species in Suffolk will contribute to the achievement of quality standards set out in this study, by providing visually appealing and diverse open spaces.

Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan

- 3.45 A Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study has been commissioned to ensure that the appropriate level and range of green infrastructure facilities are being delivered as part of new developments to serve existing and new communities within the Haven Gateway sub region. This work is also intended to influence open space, sport and recreation standards being set in new PPG 17 studies being prepared by local planning authorities within the sub growth region, as part of their Local Development Framework programmes. The Green Infrastructure Strategy was launched in 2008.

Local context

The Ipswich Sustainable Community Strategy, 'Everybody Matters' 2008 - 2010: One-Ipswich (2008)

- 3.46 One-Ipswich is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) made up of key organisations from the public, voluntary, community and business sectors to work together towards delivering shared outcomes for the residents and communities within Ipswich.
- 3.47 Their vision is 'Everybody Matters'. They want Ipswich to be a vibrant, prosperous and thriving place. They aim to address deprivation and inequality in neighbourhoods and develop an economically dynamic and enterprising society so everyone in Ipswich can:
- be prosperous and have a place to live;
 - be healthy and stay well;
 - achieve their potential and enjoy life;
 - have a greater say and better choices;
 - keep safe; and
 - live in friendly and supportive communities.
- 3.48 Detailed consultation on the Community Strategy resulted in a number of outcomes, each with associated goals. Those outcomes and goals which are linked to or may have an impact on open space, sport and recreation facilities provision are detailed below.

Outcomes	Goals linked to this study
Everyone should have a decent roof over their head	Research the local housing market and changing demography of communities. Address the impact of new housing provision on services.
People enjoy good health	Address health inequalities and continue to develop the Town and Bridge project. Improve access to ordinary community facilities for people with learning disabilities. Reduce the number of children and adults who are obese by 5%. Increase access and uptake of physical activity.

Outcomes	Goals linked to this study
Create a better environment for people in Ipswich	<p>Improve the air quality in Ipswich</p> <p>Increase the access, enjoyment and protection of our green spaces</p> <p>Improve transport connections in an environmentally sustainable way with other regional cities and the rest of the UK</p> <p>Increase public awareness of how individuals and businesses can make a difference in reducing their carbon footprint.</p> <p>Set targets for carbon reduction both in the domestic and business sectors.</p> <p>Increase our understanding of climate change implications, including the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Introduce a Yellow school bus and develop more 'walking school buses'.</p> <p>Remove barriers that prevent people from cycling more often.</p> <p>Develop a Definitive Map of Rights of Way.</p> <p>Develop 'green initiatives' with our partners in ways that promote better community engagement.</p> <p>Develop and value urban biodiversity.</p>

Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)

3.49 The Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan:

"...sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint."

- 3.50 The Plan aims to protect and enhance Ipswich's built and natural heritage and to accommodate new growth in ways that will enhance the environment, improve the quality of life and create economic opportunity.
- 3.51 The Plan identifies specific sites that have been allocated for residential development, with particular emphasis on the Waterfront and linking the Wet Dock with the main shopping areas.
- 3.52 The Plan seeks to accommodate future growth in Ipswich in an environmentally sustainable way by making the best use of vacant, under used and derelict land and buildings. New development is directed away from the open countryside on the edge of the Town and away from environmentally sensitive open spaces within the built up area.
- 3.53 The strategic environmental aims which make up the Strategy to provide for environmental enhancement include:
- to protect the setting of Ipswich within the surrounding countryside;
 - the promotion of a greener and healthier Town;
 - the improvement of public access to the countryside and prevention of urban sprawl by the promotion of urban fringe management;
 - to protect and conserve sites of wildlife importance;

- the protection of valuable open spaces which have high amenity value whether in public or private ownership;
- the protection and enhancement of the Town's built up areas including conservation areas and listed buildings and the achievement of quality new development and improvement to existing buildings and their surroundings;
- the reduction of the need for excessive travelling and the direction of traffic away from sensitive areas especially residential neighbourhoods; and
- the careful distribution of development to avoid conflict between different land uses.

3.54 The Plan's broad aims which make up the social strategy concerned with enhancing the quality of life include:

- the provision of a sufficient number and range of homes to meet the needs of the existing and future population;
- the creation of a new community on the site of Ipswich Airport;
- the provision of substantial new housing in the Wet Dock area in addition to that required for forecast local needs;
- the encouragement of road safety, security and the prevention of crime by careful design of children's play areas, footpaths, buildings and their surroundings;
- ensuring new shops and community facilities are conveniently distributed throughout the Town;
- the provision of a wide range of employment locations to allow greater opportunities for access;
- the provision of recreation and leisure facilities appropriate for the needs of a town the size of Ipswich;
- encouragement of the development of education establishments and broader opportunities; and
- the improvement of accessibility within the Town for all.

3.55 The Plan's strategic objectives for recreation and leisure include:

- to improve public access to open spaces and the countryside;
- to achieve a level of provision of sport and other recreational facilities to meet the identified needs of the people of Ipswich;
- to protect and enhance existing open spaces which have high recreational amenity value whether in public or private ownership; and
- to provide for improved facilities to complement the Town's entertainment and arts venues, tourist attractions, museums and other cultural facilities.

Ipswich Local Plan Review First Draft Deposit Local Plan (2001)

- 3.56 This Plan was originally intended to supersede the adopted 1997 Ipswich Local Plan. However, the Council decided not to proceed to revised deposit and instead to start the transition to the new Local Development Framework system when it was introduced in 2004. Therefore the First Deposit Draft Local Plan now carries limited weight. It was also superseded in 2002 by the publication of revised PPG17. Nevertheless, it remains the more up to date statement of the Council's position on recreation and leisure matters.
- 3.57 Chapter Seven, Recreation and Leisure, states the following four objectives:
- to improve public access to open spaces and the countryside;
 - to protect and enhance existing open spaces whether in public or private ownership;
 - to provide enough sport, leisure and other recreational facilities to meet the needs of the local area; and
 - to improve facilities to enhance the town's reputation as one of the region's most important leisure destinations.
- 3.58 Further to evidence in the previous Local Plan, land is allocated for the expansion of Orwell Country Park (RL1).
- 3.59 With regards to Parks and Opens Spaces, development proposals should avoid the loss of open space with recreational value, and proposals will be judged based on the recreational amenity value, local needs and the contribution of the proposal to the town's community facilities (RL6).
- 3.60 In residential developments of 15 homes or more, 5% of the total site area should be allocated for open space, or for sites where open space is not within 400m, 10% of the total site should be allocated for open space uses.
- 3.61 The Council's adopted 'Public Open Space' SPG will be used as guidance (for example in town centre locations where open space provision isn't practical).
- 3.62 Residential developments of 15 or more homes will be required to also provide a Children's Play Area in line with the Council's SPG Guidance (RL11). Further, where opportunities arise further play areas will be encouraged.
- 3.63 Development proposals should avoid the loss of playing fields and sports grounds, or provide for replacement provision in the event of a loss. Further provision is to be encouraged subject to adequate accessibility, the avoidance of conflict with other land uses and the avoidance of unacceptable loss of residential amenity (RL15).
- 3.64 The provision of indoor facilities will be encouraged subject to its effect on the character of the area, there being no loss on residential amenity and adequate accessibility can be ensured (RL18). The demand for sports facilities will determine planning permission (RL19).
- 3.65 RL22 states all allotment land should be retained, either as existing cultivation purposes, or for a substitute open space.

- 3.66 Chapter Eight includes the acknowledgement that the provision of Cemeteries and Crematoria now meets demand, although continuous monitoring will take place.

Public Open Space SPG (1998)

- 3.67 This Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) expands on Local Plan Policy RL6, which states that for residential developments of at least 15 homes, an appropriate amount of open space will be provided, either directly or if impractical through contributions to alternative sites via planning obligations.
- 3.68 The Suffolk Design Guide (adopted 1993) advocates that 10% of the developable area of housing should comprise amenity open space. It also estimates that 5% of a sites total area will be classified as 'structural open space' – trees or hedgerows, typically used as a buffer to developments or roads.
- 3.69 This SPG provides a revised plan of open space accessibility for local residents. To meet accessibility criteria, housing should be set within 400m of a public open space (defined as a Local Park or a District Park).
- 3.70 The Council acknowledges that they may assist developers with meeting their obligations by accepting capital payments in lieu of provision. The SPG sets out a set of guiding principles to administer such a commuted payment system.
- 3.71 The SPG acknowledges the difference between the demands of town centre and suburban housing areas in terms of open space. Smaller specific open space sites are suggested for Town Centre housing developments, as well as a cumulative contribution to a larger, out of centre site, and are supported by the Inspector's Report of the Local Plan Inquiry.
- 3.72 The Council expects issues of safety and security, maintenance, access, wildlife and energy to be considered at the design stage of open spaces related to housing developments.

Ipswich Borough Council Corporate Plan: 'Transforming Ipswich' 2005 – 2015

- 3.73 Ipswich set four goals for the period 2005 – 2015, based on the principle of value for money:
- clean and green Ipswich;
 - expanding Ipswich;
 - safe Ipswich; and
 - vibrant Ipswich.
- 3.74 The Council states it will 'ensure adequate open spaces and amenity areas are available' as well as enhancing biodiversity by appropriate management of natural habitats and sensitive wildlife sites.
- 3.75 A safe town will be promoted by ensuring all public premises, public open spaces and places of work are maintained to a high standard of public health and safety.
- 3.76 The Council aims to protect, enhance and interpret the town's historic buildings and designated conservation areas. Participation in leisure will be encouraged through events staged in local parks.

3.77 Greater use of all sports facilities, parks and open spaces will be encouraged.

Vibrant Ipswich – transforming Ipswich’s culture and leisure scene (2005)

3.78 Vibrant Ipswich sets the strategic vision for the local cultural sector. Culture in Ipswich has a key role to play through the:

- provision of leisure opportunities and activities;
- improvement of the town’s cultural status and ambition;
- generation of further economic growth in the cultural and tourism sector; and
- promotion of cultural activity as a means of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving health and generating community well-being by involving people of all ages in all sectors of society.

3.79 The Council acknowledges the impressive quantity of historic parks and gardens in the town, and is keen to widen access to these sites.

3.80 Despite the high quality of the Council facilities, further investment is deemed necessary in order to increase participation and widen access.

3.81 The role of sport is also acknowledged as being important from a social point of view in terms of increasing social inclusion, community cohesion and contributing to crime reduction and anti-social behaviour.

LDF Framework

3.82 The Council is producing a Local Development Framework for Ipswich (the LDF). The LDF will set out planning policies that will guide and influence the development of Ipswich. Together with the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, the Local Development Framework will form the Development Plan for Ipswich.

3.83 The Local Development Framework will be distinctive to Ipswich. It is intended that it will consist of the following three development plan documents:

- Core Strategy and Policies;
- Site Allocations and Policies; and
- IP-One Area Action Plan.

3.84 The provision standards set out in this Study will be used to guide the development of planning policies for open space, sport and recreation in the emerging Local Development Framework.

Ipswich River Strategy ‘a river for all’ (River Action Group, 2006)

3.85 The River Action Group came together in 1997. It consists of local community groups working with Ipswich Borough Council to examine and promote new opportunities for the people of Ipswich to enjoy the river that passes through their town.

3.86 In 1999 the group commissioned a firm of landscape architects, Gillespies, to help them prepare the “Ipswich River Strategy”, which outlined the aims of regenerating the river corridor from Ipswich Docks upstream as far as Sproughton.

- 3.87 12 strategic issues were crystallised into a “Vision for the River”, a statement of the basis for the development of the detailed proposals:

At the end of the first decade of the next millennium there will be a wide, ‘green’, lively and well used corridor at the heart of Ipswich. The river will belong to the community. Community groups will regularly meet to review the strategy and identify ways to ensure the improvement of the nature conservation, recreation and landscape values of the river in the future.

Safe and convenient access will be provided for all users of the path, including disabled people. A cycle path will be developed along much of the river corridor. Access to the path for people from the south of Ipswich will be improved. People from all parts of the Town will regularly visit the river to enjoy walking, cycling, fishing and boating. The path will be widely used for commuting, visiting the Town Centre and recreation.”

- 3.88 The plan outlines some successes that have been achieved towards this goal, such as Anglian Water’s ‘Project Orwell’, the creation of a skate park at Stoke Bridge and effective wildlife planning at the Alderman Canal.
- 3.89 In addition, acknowledged problems remain, such as the dangerous path between Stoke Bridge and Princes Street, ongoing problems with litter and vandalism and the accessibility problems associated with the Flood Barrier at the main line rail bridge.
- 3.90 Key long-term plans for the future include taking responsibility for assigning maintenance and cleaning duties, establishing a continuous cycle route, creating a riverside park in Lower Goods Yard and establishing a Green Living centre.

Ipswich Landscape & Wildlife Strategy (2004 – 2006)

- 3.91 The Ipswich Landscape and Wildlife Strategy addresses the need for and guides the process of protecting and enhancing the green environment of Ipswich and the surrounding countryside. The strategy is closely linked to the Ipswich Local Plan and seeks positive action to enhance the quality of the landscape and biodiversity of Ipswich.
- 3.92 The strategy addresses the physical and human factors that have shaped the landscape before addressing individual aspects of greenspace management through strategic objectives:
- working in partnership with the community;
 - making development work;
 - providing for nature in the town;
 - safeguarding trees, woodlands and hedgerows;
 - managing parks and open spaces;
 - allotments;
 - managing Ipswich’s countryside;
 - managing the river;

- improving housing estate landscapes; and
 - the street scene.
- 3.93 The strategy, whilst produced by the Parks and Landscape Services acknowledges the importance of the other service areas. An annual work programme will be produced which sets out in detail the practical activities needed to meet the expectations to the strategy.
- 3.94 A three year review of the strategy is recommended.
- 3.95 This strategy is complemented by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 2000 audit of wildlife in Ipswich. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity working to create an environment richer in wildlife for everyone to enjoy. Its audit identified local wildlife sites that contribute to local biodiversity, provide important wildlife habitats and make up wildlife corridors. Improvements required to the sites to establish more wildlife habitats in the area were also recommended.
- 3.96 This data is supported by the Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC) which is the centre of reference for all information relating to wildlife in Suffolk. It maintains an up-to-date record of sites and species found in the County and makes the data available for conservation, research, monitoring, education and general information.
- 3.97 The SBRC consists of local government, wildlife agency and environmental agency representatives and aims to promote a better understanding of Suffolk's wildlife by encouraging and co-ordinating biological recording within the County and through the publication of guides, surveys and scientific works on Suffolk wildlife.

Allotment Strategy (2005)

- 3.98 The Council's Allotment Strategy aims to raise awareness of benefits and increase the number of plot holders, set a standard of provision, consider the future demand for allotment sites and to review the provision and distribution of allotment sites in Ipswich.
- 3.99 This strategy links to the themes included in the Corporate Plan 'Transforming Ipswich' as well as the objectives of the Landscape and Wildlife Strategy.
- 3.100 The Strategy identifies 18 Council owned sites, seven of which have statutory protection. In total there are 2100 sites covering 61 hectares across the borough (18 plots per 1,000 population).
- 3.101 Issues of service promotion, security, site management, quality of service and the future of sites are discussed; which lead onto a set of action plans for the future.

Ipswich Tourism Strategy to 2010

- 3.102 This strategy aims to:
- 'establish Ipswich as one of the East of England's leading urban tourist centres and to have maximised the advantages this brings to the town'*
- 3.103 This is based on four main objectives of positioning Ipswich as a leading East of England heritage destination, promoting Ipswich as an urban centre in Suffolk, creating partnerships to maximise the tourism potential of the region, and encouraging continuous improvement of Ipswich's tourism product.

- 3.104 The market value of tourism to Ipswich in 2000 was an estimated £123.9million, with Ipswich being identified as a popular short break destination by UK residents. Ipswich is considered to appeal to the growing trend of an ageing population with a propensity for a second holiday and a subsequent growth in the short break sector. Also, in contrast to the rest of the region, Ipswich had a significantly higher proportion of day visitors, which puts greater emphasis on the retail and catering trade.

Greenways Countryside Project Strategy (2005 – 2010)

- 3.105 Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, and Suffolk Coastal District Council set up the Greenways Countryside project in 1994 with grant aid from the then Countryside Commission (now Natural England). The project area covers 100 square km and is deemed an effective way of dealing with the interactions between issues of wildlife, a working countryside and public access.
- 3.106 The main issues for the 2005 – 2010 period are identified as:
- promoting access to green space and associated strategies, provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyles and assist with the management of green spaces;
 - involving the community through local strategic partnerships, the fostering of volunteer support and the development of partnerships with business;
 - safeguarding biodiversity by supporting, advising and promoting the importance of open space through active land management;
 - raising awareness about open spaces and associated issues through educational events, publications, the establishment of a Riverside Environment Centre alongside other initiatives; and
 - promoting sustainable development through liaison with planning staff.

Team Ipswich Community Sports Network Strategy and Action Plan

- 3.107 The strategy was formed by ‘*teamipswich*’, the single delivery team for sport in Ipswich. The strategy acknowledges the need for first Programmes and Activities (labelled the ‘software’ of sport) and Facilities (the ‘hardware’) as two basic requirements to sport development. A key distinction is made between sport and active recreation – sport having an established set of rules, and recreational activities being a relatively unstructured use of people’s leisure time.
- 3.108 The Strategy outlines the strengths of Ipswich’s sporting scene – pointing to the national successes of Ipswich Swimming club, Ipswich Hockey club, the national gymnastics centre as well as extended Sports Colleges and Schools Sports Partnerships. The Director of the Suffolk County Sports Partnership commented:
- ‘the level of funding that Ipswich Borough Council has committed over many years to sport and sports provision has borne fruit with high levels of participation, good community engagement and significant levels of resident satisfaction with the services provided. It is hoped that this level of support continues in the future.’*

3.109 Acknowledged strengths of sport in Ipswich include the network of voluntary clubs, the talents pool, sports centre management and the number of facilities it can offer. Weaknesses include the lack of capital investment in existing facilities, the lack of key high level facilities (such as a six to eight court hall) and the potential for more coordinated working between agencies

3.110 Ipswich's vision is to become 'the most active town in the East of England'. In order to achieve this, four aims have been identified:

- to increase the range and level of opportunity for children and young people to participate in both curricular and extra curricular sport and active recreation;
- to obtain health, social inclusion and wider community benefits through locally based sport and active recreation initiatives and programmes;
- to develop participation and achievement in sport through successful Ipswich sports clubs; and
- to ensure that the Borough's talented young people, sportsmen and sports women have the support and resources to reach the highest level of excellence and to achieve their full potential in their chosen sport.

Ipswich Borough Council Play Strategy (2007)

3.111 This strategy acknowledges the importance of children's play areas and states aims in relation to accessibility, quality, safety and management. The strategy is set within the context of national government's 2002 report 'Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener', as well as Ipswich Borough Council's Corporate Plan 'Transforming Ipswich'.

3.112 There are currently 72 sites with play areas in the Borough, and they are identified in Appendix 2 of the strategy. This definition includes teenage facilities, where there is an acknowledged shortfall nationwide.

3.113 The Liveability Project, Community Improvements and other projects have led to a £1.4m programme of investment over three years (up to 2006/07). A full audit of sites is included in the strategy.

3.114 Three key policy statements underpin the strategy:

- the Council recognises the value of national standards developed by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and will use them to promote the provision of safe and well designed play areas and will seek to adopt these standards as a minimum requirement for the provision of all new play areas or refurbishment of existing play areas where appropriate;
- the Council will use these standards to indicate where there is insufficient provision for children's play so the Council can decide where it may need to create additional spaces for children's play; and
- where new developments are proposed the NPFA standards shall be used as a guide to identify needs for playing space.

Local Nature Reserve Management Plans (2004)

- 3.115 The Greenways Project and the Ipswich and Gipping Valley Wildspace! Project produced a number of draft Management Plans for nature reserves, namely at Stoke Park Wood, Bobbits Lane, Millennium Wood, Spring Wood and Alderman Canal.
- 3.116 These management plans aim to maintain and enhance the wildlife diversity and encourage local interest in the sites and associated woodland. Recommendations include issues of management, maintenance, improvements, workplans and costings and species lists at each site.
- 3.117 There is acknowledged to be a good quantity of open space in Ipswich. However the ability of Council management teams to maintain these sites to an appropriate standard is reliant upon sufficient resources. Management Plans will help to focus management of open spaces and the further provision of such plans will be addressed in the quality standards of this study.

Ipswich Borough Council 2001 Playing Pitch Strategy

- 3.118 The Council prepared an internal Playing Pitch Strategy in 2001 to identify whether it had a surplus or deficiency of playing pitches in the Borough. the strategy included an audit of all playing pitches and pitch sports teams in the Borough and an assessment of the supply versus demand.
- 3.119 The primary finding of the strategy was that adult football pitches were undersupplied across the Borough. A new playing pitch strategy has been carried out alongside this PPG17 study to update the results for the Borough (see Section 9 'Outdoor Sports Facilities' for discussion of the results).

Summary

- 3.120 The policy framework for open space, sport and recreation facilities in Ipswich is strong. The Council's many strategies reference the importance of open space, sport and recreation facilities as resources for the public that can provide many associated community benefits such as health improvements. The importance of open space to wildlife and the environment is also recognised, providing a strong strategic basis to justify the recommendations in this strategy relating to the improvement and development of the current open space sport and recreation facilities and making plans for future resources to meet the needs of the planned population increases.
- 3.121 The Ipswich Local Plan and Local Development Framework recognise and plan for the future development of Ipswich and the associated population growth. The demand placed on existing facilities and the need for additional facilities will be increased as a result of the changing demographic. This study will provide the evidence base and the detailed analysis to show what facilities are currently needed and what will be needed in the future, allowing the Council to plan future developments that will be appropriate for the needs of the residents of the borough.
- 3.122 The strategic message is clear that providing good quality open space, sport and recreation facilities in the right quantity is important to the Council. This study will be vital in assessing where additional provision and where quality improvements are required and helping the Council to make plans for the future.

SECTION 4

CONSULTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Consultation and assessment of need

Introduction

- 4.1 A series of consultations have been undertaken amongst both users and non-users across the Borough to establish the views on open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 4.2 Consultations were carried out with many organisations and individuals using various methods, including:
- **a household survey** – surveys were distributed to 5,000 randomly selected households across the Borough of Ipswich;
 - **sports club surveys** – to all identified sports clubs in the Borough;
 - **children and young people’s internet survey** – a letter and information pack was sent out to all the primary and secondary schools in the Borough, encouraging them to involve their pupils in an internet survey;
 - **drop-in sessions** – held at Corn Hill in Ipswich;
 - **internal consultations** – with Council Officers from a range of departments including planning, leisure and sports development; and
 - **external consultations** – primarily with major open space providers and sport and leisure provision stakeholders in the Borough to ascertain their views on open space and sports facilities.
- 4.3 The information gained from these consultations has been used to inform the study and to help understand:
- the needs and requirements of local residents;
 - the attitudes towards and expectations for open space;
 - good and bad points about the existing provision;
 - existing open space, sport and recreation provision at a strategic level; and
 - the key issues/problems facing different Council departments and agencies.
- 4.4 The information collected through the consultation forms the basis of the recommended local standards.
- 4.5 Overleaf is a summary of how the consultations have been used to inform the study and where the information and statistics can be found relevant to quality, quantity and accessibility.

Household survey

- 4.6 The household survey is one of the most important features of the consultation, allowing randomly selected households to comment on quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities, as well as providing the opportunity to comment on site-specific issues. It allows non-users to be consulted, as well as users.

- 4.7 5,000 surveys were sent to households spread across the five analysis areas of the Borough of Ipswich. 431 completed surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to extrapolate the views of the broader population within the Borough. A copy of the household survey can be found in Appendix C.
- 4.8 Specific questions in the household questionnaire feed into the standard setting process. For example, respondents were asked whether they consider there to be enough of each type of open space. They were also asked to explain their answer. This provides a sound, opinion-based rationale for the quantity standards. It can be further analysed to assess, for example, whether a perceived lack of open space is really a need for better quality facilities or a need for additional facilities.
- 4.9 Analysis of the household survey results can be found in Appendix K.

Sports club survey

- 4.10 The sports club survey forms part of the information collected to inform standards and recommendations for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Surveys were sent by PMP to 76 sports clubs across the Borough, and some from the surrounding areas who use Ipswich facilities. 17 surveys were completed and returned, accounting for the following types of sports clubs:
- football (3)
 - cricket (2)
 - volleyball (1)
 - tennis (1)
 - multi-sports club (1)
 - rugby (1)
 - martial arts (1)
 - basketball (1)
 - swimming (1)
 - athletics (2)
 - gymnastics (1)
 - badminton (2)
- 4.11 Additional surveys were sent to football, rugby, cricket and hockey clubs as part of the playing pitch strategy, which is being undertaken in parallel with this open space, sport and recreation study. A summary of the sports club survey responses can be found in Appendix K. To ensure the sports club data was comprehensive, further telephone consultations were carried out with clubs who did not respond to the surveys and the results of the sports club consultations carried out as part of the Ipswich Sports Strategy have been utilised.

Children and young people's internet survey

- 4.12 In July 2007, PMP sent an information pack to all schools in the Ipswich Borough inviting their pupils to complete an on-line questionnaire regarding open space and sports facilities in the Borough. The survey was based upon a standard questionnaire that has been developed through working on over 50 PPG17 studies; however, this has been amended to reflect local circumstances. Due to the impact of the summer holiday period on the response rate, the survey was redistributed again in September 2007 to ensure a satisfactory response level.
- 4.13 The children and young people's IT survey received 178 responses. This survey can be viewed in Appendix D and a summary can be found in Appendix K.

Internal consultation

- 4.14 The internal consultation provides an overview of Council plans, the roles of officers and expectations from their perspectives. Individuals from various Council departments were consulted.
- 4.15 This also feeds into the separate sections of the report (Sections 5-15) and setting of local standards (Appendices L - N). A full list of consultees is included in Appendix K.
- 4.16 The most significant points to come out of the internal consultations were as follows:
- overall provision of open space sites in Ipswich is considered to be very good, especially in relation to parks. However, issues with accessibility and locational deficiency were believed to exist, particularly in the north east of the borough;
 - a number of recent strategies have been developed that relate to various open space typologies included within this report, notably the Allotment and Play Area Strategies. These have contributed to the creation of, in particular, quality standards that can be applied uniformly across the borough;
 - this study will provide a statistical evidence base and quantifiable standards which can support a number of plans and initiatives for developments. For example, helping developers working in the Henley Road area or supporting funding applications (such as has been the case already for Christchurch Park);
 - the Greenways Project is a scheme that maintains a number of strategically important open space sites both within and outside the borough. Council staff considered the marriage between publicly accessible sites and the protection of wildlife diversity to be important. This has been incorporated into this study at every available opportunity;
 - this study will inform the appropriate utilisation of Council assets. The use of multi functional sites as well as the possible re-classification of sites to address shortfalls in some open space typologies in certain areas is an important part of this PPG17 study;
 - investment into the strategic direction and the provision of open space sites in recent years has been acknowledged across all those consulted. New popular sites, such as the Orwell Country Park, represent this success and there is interest to ensure that population growth and future developments don't result in the loss of this momentum;
 - the Council's move to become a Unitary authority has potential implications for open space planning, delivery and management. There is a fear that new statutory responsibilities such as education or social services may result in open spaces being relegated in importance. However, there may also be new opportunities to work with schools and other organisations in the planning, delivery and management of open space;
 - the quality of the sports service was considered to be good, with Quest accreditation reflecting the good level of service. However, with the department being restructured and having a young workforce including temporary staff, there is a need to ensure that standards do not slip and a high level of service is maintained; and

- the quality and quantity of indoor sports facilities was generally thought to be good. However, there are some notable issues in terms of the ‘tired’ condition of Crown Pools and the lack of a two court basketball hall with spectator seating and potentially a 50 metre swimming pool for elite swimming development. The leisure centres are generally perceived to be well used although there are car parking issues.

External consultation

- 4.17 A number of stakeholders external to the Council were consulted for this study. They represent, among others, neighbouring local authorities, wildlife and environmental groups, local volunteer groups, regional governing bodies of sport and representatives of ethnic minority groups. A full abstract of consultation responses is included in Appendix K.
- 4.18 The most significant points to come out of the external consultations were as follows:
- the quantity of open space provision in Ipswich is deemed to be very good. However, a number of sites are deemed to lack character, such as on Bramford Lane. The quality of these open spaces may need attention. This may be due to an overly strong focus on the larger parks, such as Christchurch, to the detriment of smaller parks/amenity spaces;
 - main concerns relate to the extent of new developments in Ipswich, in particular a fear that open space will not be provided in line with the level of development – expressed through formal open space land such as parks, or the linking of open spaces through green corridors or cycle routes;
 - recent investment made in open spaces, such as at Christchurch Park and in play areas across the borough, have been welcomed. There are however issues such as anti-social behaviour that have resulted from increased use of these sites, and these need to be addressed;
 - there was a concern that the Council’s bid for unitary status may lead to the relegation of open space in importance;
 - there was a feeling, supported by some internal managers, that the high quantity of open space sites under Council management has a detrimental effect on the quality of sites due to pressures of time and resource. There is a tendency therefore for sites to become overly ‘natural’ in appearance which goes against the demands of the public;
 - there is a perceived need from the Lawn Tennis Association for indoor tennis courts in Ipswich that can be utilised in the cold and dark winter months;
 - the Suffolk FA stated that more football pitches are always valuable however the balance in Ipswich is ‘not too far away’. However, Suffolk Sport believed that there is probably a shortage of grass pitches in the borough. The quality of football pitches is perceived to be mixed with some good facilities and some poorly maintained facilities. Thus there is a need to bring the lower quality sites up to the standard of the higher quality sites; and
 - Suffolk Sport believed that the low quality of some indoor facilities was a result of their age. This is supported by public consultation results and the findings of the internal officer consultations.

Drop-in sessions

- 4.19 The drop-in sessions provided another opportunity for the public to comment on open space within their local area. The sessions were advertised in the local press and were held at Corn Hill in Ipswich. Comments received related primarily to the major parks/sites in the borough as well as to specific local issues, such as individual experiences with play areas. A summary of the points raised is set out below.
- an overriding issue for local people was the lack of facilities for young people and teenagers. Children's facilities were considered to be of good quality, with recent investment noted and welcomed. However, provision of specific facilities for older children, such as skate parks or shelters, was deemed to be poor. This issue was believed to be linked to problems with vandalism and litter at sites such as Gippeswyk and Chantry parks;
 - the major parks were deemed to be of very good quality by the majority of the consultees. Christchurch Park was commended as the premier park in the borough alongside Holywells. Recent investment in the former had been welcomed, although issues with vandalism and accessibility of the park remain – as well as a lack of car parking and cycle routes. Chantry Park was criticised more than others for its poor cleanliness and prevalence of anti-social behaviour;
 - the appropriate maintenance of the number of smaller parks and amenity spaces were raised as an issue. For example, Murray Road recreation ground was seen as being poorly maintained and overgrown. The recent loss of tennis courts at this site was criticised;
 - there were mixed responses relating to allotments. Those who did respond felt there was an undersupply of plots but most people were unaware of any outstanding issues relating to provision of allotments across Ipswich; and
 - there were few responses relating to sports facilities but most comments linked the lack of teenage facilities to the provision of outdoor sports. Suggestions included keeping goal posts erected during the summer, or providing sporting activities (football in the community) as a means of providing facilities for young people.
- 4.20 The consultation and needs analysis is presented in more detail in each of the typology chapters.

SECTION 5
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Indoor sports facilities

Definition

- 5.1 In keeping with the requirements of the PPG17 exercise, an audit of indoor sports facilities has been undertaken alongside the main audit of open space, sport and recreation facilities (outdoor). This has included:
- swimming pools;
 - sports halls (including community halls);
 - health & fitness gyms;
 - indoor bowls; and
 - indoor tennis.
- 5.2 We have noted the new indoor gymnastics facility at Pipers Vale (next to Gainsborough Sports Centre). This facility is recognised as being of national quality and used by elite athletes. However it has been excluded from our analysis as it provides a different function to those facilities outlined above.
- 5.3 An assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to that completed for other PPG17 typologies, in so far as specific, parameter-based demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England guidelines. This exercise has been completed and its findings are explored in this section of the report.

Supply and demand

Demand for facilities

- 5.4 Current demand for facilities has been assessed through desk research, a review of documents, demographic analysis and an analysis of consultation findings.

Demographic analysis

- 5.5 When analysing the need and demand for sports facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure market and the impact it will have upon facility usage. The demographic profile of an area has a knock-on effect on the propensity to participate and subsequent demand for facilities. An analysis of the population in the Borough is shown in Table 5.1 below:

Table 5.1 Demographic analysis

	Borough catchments
Population	<p>Borough population for 2007 is estimated to be 128,073, based on Council Tax information.</p> <p>The proportion of males to females is 49% to 51%.</p> <p>Population is projected to increase to 145,600 by 2021 according to Suffolk County Council*</p>

	Borough catchments
Age structure	According to the Census data, in 2001, 21% of the resident population was under 16 years of age (compared to 20% for England and Wales), 58% was between 16 and 59 (compared to 59% in England and Wales) and 21% was aged 60 and over (compared to 21% in England and Wales). This shows that Ipswich borough's demographic is broadly comparable with the England and Wales average.
Ethnic background	93.4% of the population is white compared to the national average of 90.9%. 1.8% of the population are Asian (compared to the national average of 4.6%) and 1.9% are black (compared to the national average of 2.3%). This illustrates a degree of ethnic diversity in the population below the national average.
Economic activity	The proportion of residents in full or part-time employment is 60.2% (compared to 52% in England and Wales). 3.2% of the local population is unemployed (compared to 2.5% in England and Wales). 12.4% of the population is retired, compared to the national average of 9.9%. The statistics illustrate a positive economic profile for Ipswich, compared to the national averages, although the proportion of retired and unemployed people is slightly higher.
Mobility	29.3% of households in the Borough do not own a car, which is more than the average for England and Wales of 26.8%. This will have implications for the accessibility of both open spaces and indoor sport and leisure.
Health	The percentage of people who stated they had a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited daily activities or work was 16%, which is slightly below the average for England and Wales (17%). This is likely to have implications for the perceived accessibility of, and demand for, both open spaces and indoor sport and leisure.

* <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F548D326-168B-4CC7-9CA4-1409108A6CA4/0/Populationprojection01to21.pdf>

Propensity to participate

- 5.6 The Active People Survey, conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England, is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. It is a telephone survey of 363,724 adults in England (aged 16+) and provides reliable statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354 Local Authorities in England.

- 5.7 The survey provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and will allow levels of detailed analysis previously unavailable. It identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population. The questionnaire was designed to enable analysis of the findings by a broad range of demographic information, such as gender, social class, ethnicity, household structure, age and disability. It allows a comparison to be made between the levels of participation in all local authority areas in England.
- 5.8 However, the findings do not provide statistically reliable data on levels of participation for different sports for each local authority. Instead, we have applied the average participation rate across those sports reviewed within this study.
- 5.9 Participation is defined as taking part in sport or physical activity at least three times a week for 30 minutes. The key findings one can draw from the Active People Survey are that:
- the Ipswich participation rate is 16.6%;
 - the average East of England participation rate is 20.5%;
 - Ipswich participation is c.4% lower than the East of England rate;
 - the national average participation rate is 21%; and
 - Ipswich participation is c.4.5% lower than the national rate.
- 5.10 These statistics all serve to illustrate that participation rates amongst Ipswich residents are significantly lower than the national average.

Findings from public consultation

- 5.11 There were a variety of views regarding indoor sports provision in the Borough from the sports club survey and the household survey. The key issues raised were:
- some household survey respondents heavily criticised the quality of Crown Pools and expressed a desire for a new swimming pool;
 - a large majority of the public thought that there were not enough swimming pools (56%) compared to 31% who thought that provision was about right. Only 15% believed swimming pool quality was good with 39% rating it average and 36% rating it as poor;
 - sports halls were thought to be about right in terms of quantity (66%) with only 14% thinking there was not enough. Quality of sports halls was seen as good or average (76%);
 - the majority of people (68%) thought that there was enough or more than enough health and fitness provision;
 - public opinion on indoor tennis was evenly split with 27% responding 'about right' and 26% responding 'not enough';
 - 28% believed that indoor bowls provision was about right or more than enough and 16% thought that more provision was needed. Significantly, 57% did not offer an opinion;

- provision of community halls is thought to be sufficient with 57% responding 'enough' or 'more than enough' and only 13% responding 'not enough'. Again, a large percentage (30%) did not offer an opinion; and
- the quality of health and fitness facilities, indoor tennis centres, indoor bowls facilities and community halls were all largely viewed as average or good.

5.12 Consultation with sports related consultees also revealed the following issues:

- Ipswich Basketball Club noted the lack of a double court sports hall was a hindrance to development of the sport in the area. Ipswich Volleyball Club echoed this view, with there being only one two-court hall;
- the cost for hiring sports hall space was deemed to be higher for sports clubs than for casual users. Both the Corinthians and Gainsborough Badminton clubs felt this was a threat to the future of clubs. The cost of facilities is not something addressed directly in this study;
- TeamIpswich Swimming believed further swimming pool provision was needed in the borough, specifically through a 50 metre pool. The quality of Crown Pools was also criticised;
- Maidenhall Sports Centre and Crown Pools were highlighted as 'tired' facilities that require investment by the Council and Suffolk Sport;
- car parking was highlighted as an issue at all Council leisure facilities;
- the quality of staffing and customer care at the Council leisure facilities was identified as being very strong;
- a sports development officer stated that a 50 metre swimming pool is needed for elite competitor development reasons;
- Suffolk Sport highlighted the importance of the opportunity that the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme brings relating to the provision of new sports facilities in Ipswich. BSF is coming on line in Ipswich during 2008; and
- the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) suggested that provision for tennis is needed for the winter months and that this could be achieved by providing indoor tennis courts.

Analysis of supply and demand

5.13 We have carried out a comparative analysis to establish the adequacy of current facility provision in meeting local demand. The process has involved three stages:

- preparation of a full audit of current facilities within the Borough to establish the level of supply, using Sport England's Active Places database;
- plotting of all facilities using our in-house geo-demographic mapping package (MtF) to illustrate the geographical spread of facilities across the Borough; and

- use of demand modelling techniques based on national sporting participation parameters used within Sport England's facilities planning model (FPM), and using the findings of the Active People Survey, to calculate whether the level of current supply adequately meets demand or whether there is under or over provision.
- 5.14 PMP's supply and demand model is based around the following premise:
- there are X people in the catchment area who would be willing to use a particular type of sports facility (based on total population and propensity to participate in that sport);
 - at the same time, there are Y units of the relevant sports facilities (eg swimming pool water area, health and fitness stations, etc) in the catchment area; and
 - the relationship between X and Y indicates the surplus or shortfall in terms of number of units.
- 5.15 Supply and demand analysis has been completed for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness, indoor bowls and indoor tennis. Included facilities fall either within the borough boundary, or within a 3km buffer zone outside the borough boundary. A separate analysis has been made (with associated increased population projections) for this expanded analysis area and this is commented on throughout the report where relevant. This has been included to more accurately reflect the likely usage of facilities in Ipswich residents, given that a number of facilities fall within this buffer zone, and that Ipswich is a sole urban area surrounded by a significant rural expanse. Outlined below are our findings and the implications for the borough.
- 5.16 The different roles and accessibility (both perceived and actual) of public and private facilities have been reflected within the exercise, with private facilities being excluded from sports hall and swimming pool provision.
- 5.17 In addition, school facilities formally available to the public have been reduced in amount by 25% in line with Sport England modelling parameters, to take into account their limited availability. Under this approach a four court sports hall becomes a three court hall in terms of modelling. This reflects both the unavailability of the facility during daytime hours, and the perception that the facilities are designated for school use and are therefore not available to the general population of Ipswich.
- 5.18 It is also assumed that the total number of people entering the Borough from outside to participate in sport and exercise will broadly equate to the number of residents leaving the Borough to participate.

Ipswich supply and demand projections

Swimming pools

- 5.19 The key assumptions used in the swimming pools demand model are:
- proportion of visits during peak times is 63%;
 - average duration of visits is 64 minutes;
 - at one time capacity = 6m² per person;

- capacity of 212m² (one pool unit) = 35 people; and
- one pool unit = average four lane 25 metre pool.

On this basis, using 2007 population estimates, demand levels equate to a total of 1294m² of pool space within the Borough. The demand model estimates, using projected population statistics that in 2021 this demand will have risen to 1471 m².

- 5.20 The existing swimming pool provision in the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.1 overleaf. There are seven facilities within the Borough and one facility located just outside the borough that has been included at the Council's request (Martlesham Leisure). Only two of these are public 'pay and play' pools, and one is a dual use facility (Ipswich School). The remaining five pools are all private facilities with limited accessibility and therefore excluded from the supply side analysis. The facilities included are listed in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Swimming pool audit

Swimming Pool	Access	Size (m ²)
Crown Pools	Public	450
Fore Street Pool	Public	165
Ipswich School	Dual use	90
Total (public access only)		705

- 5.21 Ipswich therefore has an existing supply of 705m². The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.3 below.

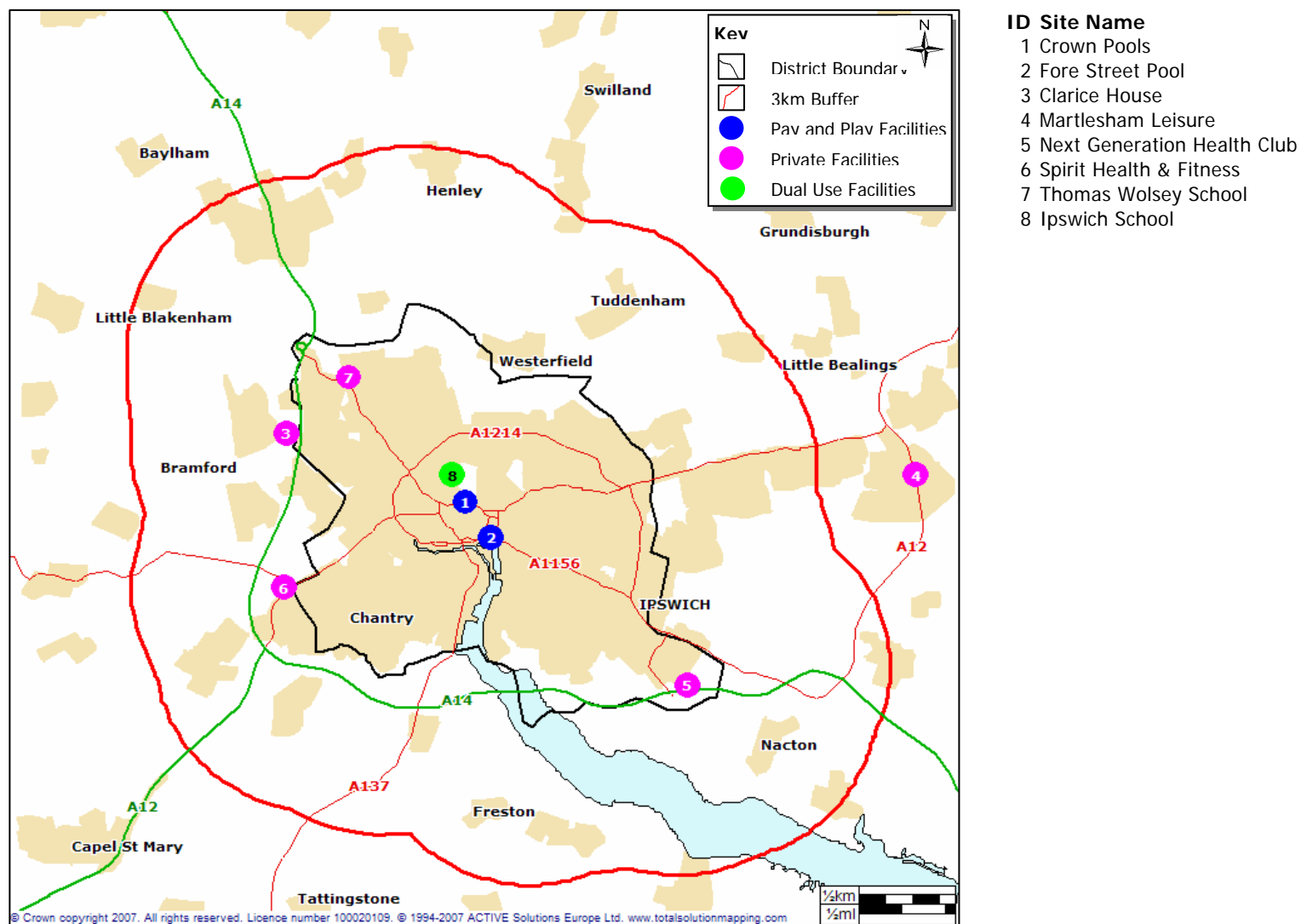
Table 5.3 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand (m ²)	Supply (m ²)	Oversupply/shortfall (m ²)
2007	1294	705	589
2021 projection	1471	705	766

- 5.22 The analysis of the swimming pools within a 3 km catchment area of Ipswich revealed only three private swimming pools. Within the increasing population in this area, this results in an increased undersupply to 919 m² of public pool water required, which will increase to 1216 m² by 2021.
- 5.23 Sport England has published a good practice tool kit on their website to assist local authorities in devising appropriate contributions to open space and sport/leisure provision. The toolkit includes a facility calculator which provides an indication of the expected level of provision based on the population within the local authority boundary.

- 5.24 Based on the current population (128,073), the Sport England Facility Calculator broadly concurs with our demand model, revealing a current requirement for 1311 m² of water and a future requirement for 1490 m² of water by 2021.
- 5.25 Active Places Power, another demand tool, considers the capacity of swimming pools to meet demand for the local population. However, this tool allows the user the option of including all swimming pools, irrespective of their size and access policy.
- 5.26 The results from Active Places Power show an over supply of swimming pools with the results revealing that 110% of demand for swimming pools in the borough is currently met. As already stated, this model includes all private pools, which are excluded from our model, which concentrates on public swimming pools. This tool also uses the current facility provision, but the 2001 census population data, whereas our in-house model uses the current facility provision with 2007 population data, thus explaining the lower demand and the increased supply.
- 5.27 PPG17 places an emphasis on facilities that are accessible to the public, thus additional pool water is recommended in the borough, as per our supply and demand model. This is supported by the results of the public consultation sessions.
- 5.28 In April 2007 The Council's Executive gave permission to the Broomhill Trust to proceed to try and obtain the funding to refurbish the open air 50m Broomhill Pool with a viable business plan to manage and operate it by December 2009. The Trust was unsuccessful in their application for Heritage Lottery Funding in 2008, but work continues. It should be noted that the pool is not a facility that is or could be covered and therefore could not be used throughout the year. Thus, it would not be included within our supply and demand modelling calculations.
- 5.29 Additionally, the Council is currently considering options regarding the future provision of Crown Pools. The facility is nearly 24 years old and poor investment over past years has contributed to the current state of the building and the need for substantial investment in order for the pools to meet modern standards.
- 5.30 The three options being considered are a low cost refurbishment of the plant and changing rooms, totally refurbishing the pool and adding leisure water facility, flumes and an expanded health and fitness suite, or developing a new pool on the present site or situated elsewhere in the town. This would not alter the numerical shortfall of swimming facilities in the town but would provide a significantly improved quality facility, addressing a problem that was identified through the consultation process.

Figure 5.1 Location mapping for swimming pools



Sports halls

5.31 The key assumptions are as follows:

- 60% visits during peak time;
- average visit duration = 1 hour; and
- at one time capacity = 5 people per badminton court.

On this basis, using 2007 population information supplied by the Council, demand levels equate to a total of 37 badminton courts within the Borough. The demand model estimates, using projected population statistics also provided by the Council, that in 2021 this demand will increase to 42 badminton courts.

5.32 The distribution of existing sports hall provision within the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.2 overleaf. There are 14 facilities in the Borough that have sports halls, and a further two that fall in the 3 km buffer zone just outside the borough boundary.

5.33 Facility size and accessibility for public use are key factors taken into consideration when assessing the current level of supply. Of the 14 facilities:

- two facilities are private and have therefore been excluded from the supply analysis;
- one has been excluded from the demand modelling analysis, in line with Sport England recommendations, due to the fact that it features only two courts (Sport England modelling parameters only include sports halls of at least three badminton courts in size);
- nine facilities have had their capacity reduced by 25% to reflect their dual-use (school and public) operation. This is due to their reduced accessibility (both actual and perceived) for public use during school hours. For modelling purposes this equates to ten sports halls; and
- two facilities are public and have been included under full accessibility.

5.34 By adding the two public and nine dual use (adjusted by 25%) sites, 11 sports halls are included in the model, as listed in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 Sports hall audit

Sports Hall	Access	Badminton courts
Gainsborough Sports & Community Centre	Public	4
Whitton Sports & Community Centre	Public	4
Northgate Sports Centre	Dual use	4
Maidenhall Sports Centre	Dual use	4
Chantry Sports Centre	Dual use	5
Copleston Centre	Dual use	4
Ipswich School	Dual use	4
Westbourne High School	Dual use	4
Holywells High School	Dual use	6
Thurleston High School	Dual use	6
St Josephs College	Dual use	4
Total		49
Total (25% Dual Use reduction)		38.75

- 5.35 The result is an existing supply level of 38.75 badminton courts. The results of the model under different scenarios are illustrated in Table 5.5 below.

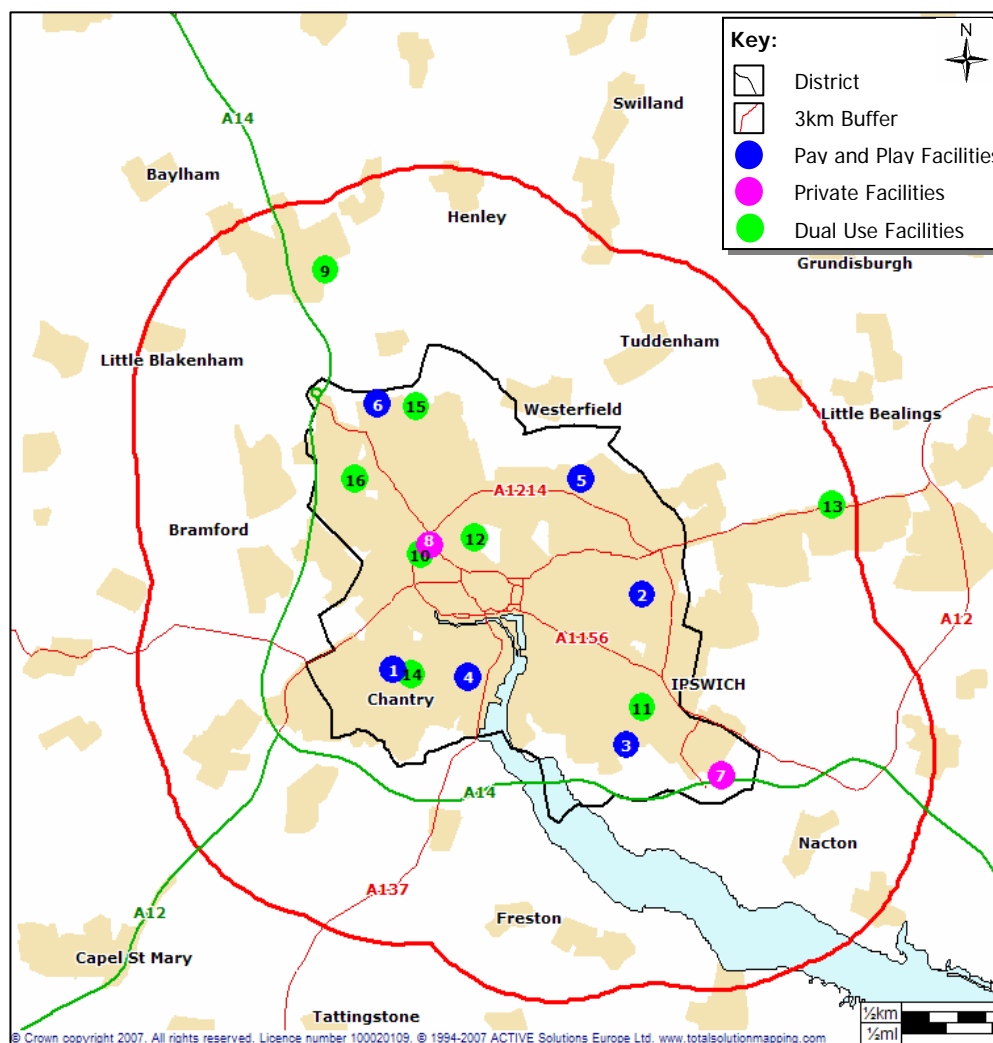
Table 5.5 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand (courts)	Supply (courts)	Oversupply/ shortfall (courts)
2007	36.8	38.75	1.95
2021 projection	41.8	38.75	3.05

- 5.36 Based on the current population (128,073), the Sport England Facility Calculator, which provides another demand tool, concurs with our demand model, revealing a current requirement for 36.8 courts and a future requirement for 41.8 courts by 2021.
- 5.37 Active Places Power considers the capacity of sports halls to meet demand for the local population. However, this tool allows the user the option of including all sports halls, no matter their size and access policy. The results from Active Places Power show a significant over supply of sports halls with the results revealing that 222% of demand is currently met. However, this information is based on 2001 census data, and all sports halls are included irrespective of their access policy.

- 5.38 Analysis of the 3 km buffer catchment area around the Borough reveals that there are another three dual use sports halls, a public sports hall and a private sport hall, providing a total of 20 badminton courts. Applying the supply and demand modelling parameters to this area and the Ipswich borough shows that the supply and demand is currently in balance although this will become an undersupply of eight courts by 2021 if the population grows as expected and provision is not increased.
- 5.39 The Team Ipswich Community Network Sports Strategy identifies a need for a two court facility with spectator seating and currently two possible sites have been identified. There are plans for a new facility in the south west of the borough, on land owned by Ipswich Borough Council but within Babergh District. This is currently known as the Swiss Centre and a six to eight badminton court hall has been proposed, or a two basketball court with spectator provision. There are also early suggestions for a two basketball court spectator facility to be located at the Copleston School/Sports Centre site.
- 5.40 Our data tells us that there is currently low demand for new sports hall space in Ipswich. Even by incorporating the 3 km buffer zone, which increases both the supply and demand catchments, there is still currently no demand for such a facility. Household survey results tell us that 75% of people feel sports hall provision is either about/right/more than enough. This supports our findings that current supply is broadly in line with demand.
- 5.41 However, consultation with Council officers and relevant clubs had identified that a need does exist for a two court sports hall with spectator provision and for a sports hall compatible with futsal (a game similar to five a side football), basketball and badminton. Ipswich currently has the national futsal champions, the Ipswich Wolves, however they often have to travel to Lowestoft or Crystal Palace to find a suitable facility to train and play in. In addition, low participation targets that have been identified for the borough mean that the Council may wish to develop new facilities that would increase sporting participation in the borough.
- 5.42 In addition to the sports halls within the borough, our audit of community halls found an additional 140 meeting places within the Borough. These vary from large school halls to hotel meeting rooms to small church halls. In reality these mostly offer facilities for meetings. Consultation highlighted that they are well used by community groups and businesses for meetings but are not generally sports facilities (ie with marked out badminton courts and correct height clearances).
- 5.43 Consultation results from the household survey revealed that people generally feel that there are enough community halls and that the quality of them is adequate. Interestingly, a majority of people did not express an opinion revealing that people may not be aware of these facilities and do not use them often. This was supported by a question in the survey asking people's opinions on sports provision within community halls. The majority of respondees either provided comments on sports facilities in general that were not linked to community halls or stated that they were not aware of sports provision within community halls.
- 5.44 The high current supply of sports halls and community halls, aligned with consultation results that do not express demand for further facilities, result in a recommendation that additional provision of sports halls marked out as badminton courts and community halls are not required. However, consultation has revealed a need for a two court sports hall with spectator seating which should be investigated further.

Figure 5.2 Location mapping for sports halls



Health and fitness

5.45 The key assumptions for the health and fitness demand model are as follows:

- average health and fitness session is one hour;
- 65% of use is during peak times;
- average user participates 1.5 times per week or six times in a month; and
- the at one time capacity of a health and fitness facility is calculated by the ratio of one user per station.

On this basis, using 2007 population information supplied by the Council, demand levels equate to a total of 443 stations within the Borough. The demand model estimates, using projected population statistics also provided by the Council, that in 2021 this demand will increase to 503 stations.

5.46 The profile of existing fitness gym provision within the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.3 overleaf. There are 12 facilities in the Borough and four outside the Borough. The model does not make adjustments for gym facilities on the basis of accessibility, with public, private and dual use facilities all assumed to be of equal accessibility. These facilities are listed below in Table 5.5.

Table 5.5 Health and fitness audit

Health and fitness facility	Access	Number of stations
Fitness First, Ipswich	Private	100
Gym & Trim	Pay and Play	200
Crown Pools	Pay and Play	25
YMCA (Ipswich)	Private	26
Ipswich Sports Club	Private	27
Swallow Leisure (Ipswich)	Private	14
Copleston Centre	Private	12
Gainsborough Sports & Community Centre	Pay and Play	19
Whitton Sports & Community Centre	Pay and Play	21
Next Generation Health Club	Private	120
Oaks Fitness	Private	50
Spirit Health & Fitness	Private	17

Health and fitness facility	Access	Number of stations
Hotel Elizabeth Leisure Club (Outside Borough)	Private	8
Hintlesham Hall Hotel Health Club (Outside Borough)	Pay and Play	15
Clarice House (Outside Borough)	Private	40
Martlesham Leisure (Outside Borough)	Private	40
Total		631

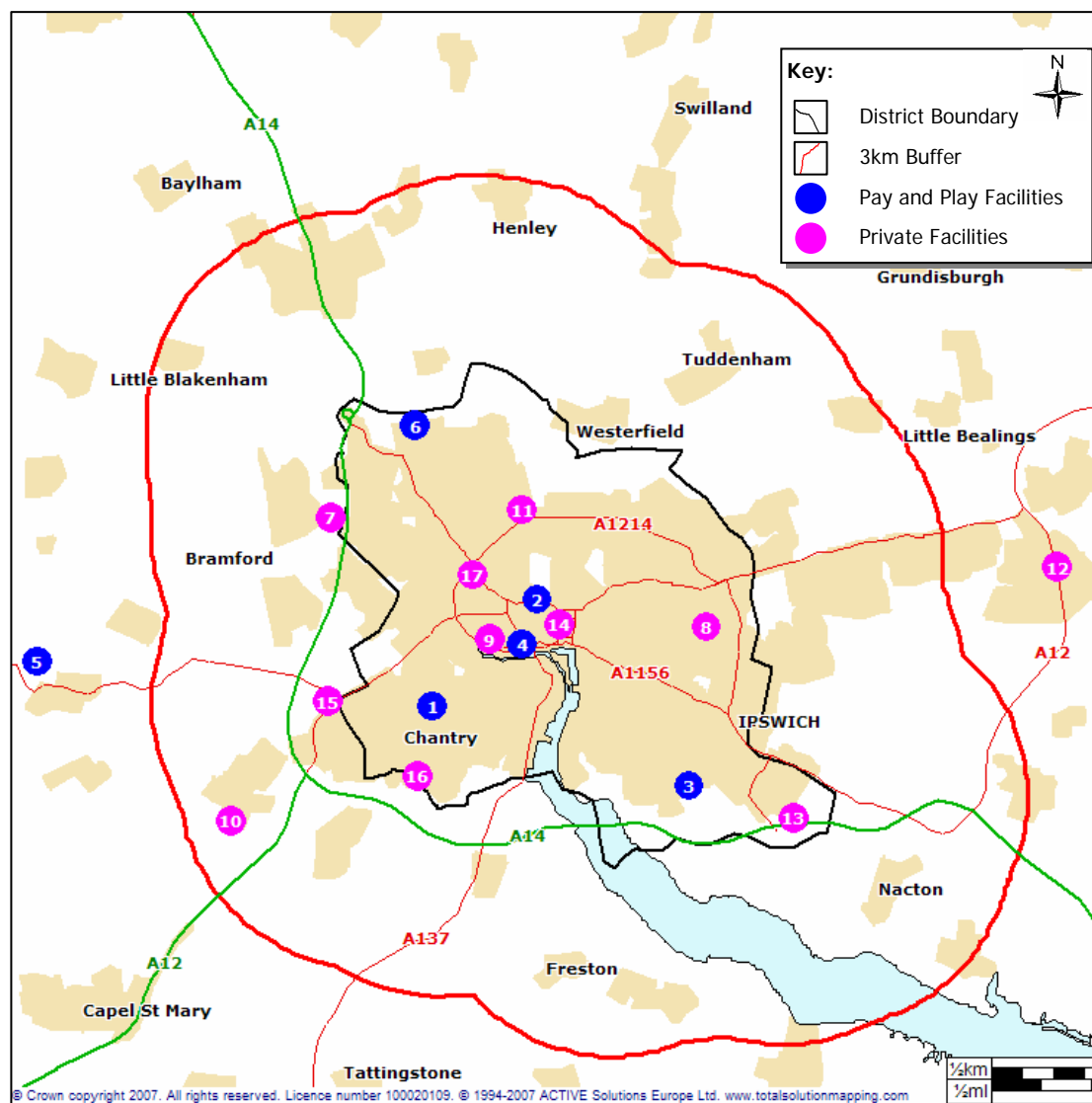
- 5.47 The audit has shown an existing supply of 631 fitness stations (includes cardiovascular and fixed weight machines, but excludes free weights). Of these 265 stations are deemed to be of public access, and 366 are private. The results of the model are illustrated below in Table 5.6 and show an oversupply of stations in the Borough.

Table 5.6 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand (stations)	Supply (stations)	Oversupply/ shortfall
2007	443	631	188
2021 projection	503	631	126

- 5.48 A significant proportion of the existing supply of health and fitness stations is accounted for by three facilities – Gym & Trim (public, 200 stations), Next Generation Health club (private, 120 stations) and Fitness First (private, 100 stations). Between them, the three sites deliver over 420 of the 629 total stations in the Borough.
- 5.49 The locations of existing fitness gym facilities in the Borough and the catchment area are shown in Figure 5.3. Of the 16 facilities within the Borough and the catchment area, five are public facilities available on a “pay and play” usage basis.
- 5.50 Household survey results reveal that 65.3% of people feel that current provision of health and fitness space is about right/more than enough. This supports the findings shown in Table 5.6.
- 5.51 Analysis of the 3 km buffer zone around the Borough reveals that there are an additional three private facilities and one public facility providing 103 stations between them. This results in an oversupply of 106 stations which will become an undersupply of two stations by 2021 if the population grows as expected and the level of provision does not increase.

Figure 5.3 Location mapping for health and fitness



ID Site Name

- 1 Chantry Sports Centre (no longer exists)
- 2 Crown Pools
- 3 Gainsborough Sports & Community Centre
- 4 Gym & Trim
- 5 Hintlesham Hall Hotel Health Club
- 6 Whitton Sports & Community Centre
- 7 Clarice House
- 8 Copleston Centre
- 9 Fitness First, Ipswich
- 10 Hotel Elizabeth Leisure Club
- 11 Ipswich Sports Club
- 12 Martlesham Leisure
- 13 Next Generation Health Club
- 14 Oaks Fitness
- 15 Spirit Health & Fitness
- 16 Swallow Leisure (Ipswich)
- 17 YMCA (Ipswich)

Indoor bowls

- 5.52 For indoor bowls, we have applied Sport England's demand model to the Ipswich Borough area. Sport England's research provides information on the levels and patterns of use of indoor bowls centres in order to define a set of parameters for its Facilities Planning Model (FPM). The results of this analysis are presented in Table 5.6 below. There is currently one indoor bowls facility in the Borough: the Ipswich and District Indoor Bowls Club (six rinks).
- 5.53 Sport England modelling suggests that there is currently a slight undersupply of rinks in the Borough.

Table 5.6 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand* (rinks)	Supply (rinks)	Oversupply/ shortfall
2007	7.7	6	1.7
2021*	8.6	6	2.6

*Based on standard Sport England model parameters

- 5.54 The current shortfall is not large enough to warrant a new facility. Additionally, consultation with clubs and the through the household survey did not highlight any quality or quantity issues. This suggests that Ipswich is already sufficiently catered for in terms of indoor bowls. Even with an ageing population and the associated likely increased propensity to participate, the Borough should continue to offer sufficient provision, in line with Sport England's modelling.

Indoor tennis

- 5.55 There are currently two indoor tennis facilities in the Borough at Ipswich Sports Centre (three courts) and the Next Generation health club (four courts). There is not currently a reliable demand model for indoor tennis. Sport England will, however, be extending its demand model in the near future to incorporate tennis. In the interim we have developed our own model based on assumptions from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and our prior experience. We would suggest that these projections be viewed as indicative, and subject to review upon publication of the Sport England parameters.
- 5.56 We note the following contributing factors:
- the average supply of courts in the UK is currently 1 court per 63,000 people;
 - LTA research shows **that 2% of the population regularly participates** in tennis;
 - the LTA recommends the following demand parameters for different facility types:
 - one outdoor floodlit court per 45 regular tennis players
 - **one indoor court per 200 regular tennis players;**
 - the LTA uses a 30 minute catchment for indoor tennis (source: National Tennis Facilities Strategy (1998-2002)); and

- Mintel research shows mean journey time of 17 minutes to tennis facilities, and 21 minutes for pay and play facilities.
- 5.57 Using data from the Active People Survey results, we have estimated the number of people in the Borough with a propensity to participate in tennis. We have applied a tennis demand model developed from LTA research ('The Need for Covered Tennis Courts', LTA 1998) to quantify the level of unmet demand in the area. This model quantifies demand in terms of the number of indoor courts that should be provided to meet the LTA's stated targets.
- 5.58 The Active People Survey results for Ipswich found that 1.6% of the sample surveyed in Ipswich had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. The Active People survey found that 2.2% of the regional (East of England) population sample surveyed and 2.1% of the national population sample surveyed had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. We also know from national LTA research that 2% of the population play tennis regularly. Using the Active People Survey results, it is therefore reasonable to assume that around 1.6% of the adult population of Ipswich play tennis regularly, equating to 1619 adults.
- 5.59 Using these figures, the demand for indoor tennis courts within the local catchment area of the site is:

Local adult population	= 101,216
Number of local regular tennis players	= 1.6%
	= 1619
Number of tennis players served per indoor court	= 200
Number of indoor tennis courts required	= 1619/200
	= 8 courts required

- 5.60 As noted previously, there are currently seven indoor tennis courts in the Borough. This would suggest that there is a latent demand for one indoor tennis court. We would note, however, that with other projects on which we have been engaged, the LTA's demand projections have produced figures that appear aspirational rather than practically deliverable. On this basis, latent demand might not be as pronounced as the modelling otherwise suggests.
- 5.61 In order to provide an alternative gauge of the level of indoor tennis provision in Ipswich, we have prepared a comparison with neighbouring local authorities based on the number of courts per 1,000 population. This is provided overleaf in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7 Indoor tennis facilities for comparable local authorities in the East region

Authority	Population*	No. of Courts	Courts per 1,000 population
Braintree	132,179	6	0.045
Maldon	59,418	4	0.067
Tendring	138,539	2	0.014
Babergh	83,461	0	0
Colchester	170,800	2	0.012
Ipswich	128,073	7	0.055
East England#	5,388,254	170	0.03
England#	49,138,856	1,200	0.024

* Source: National Statistics

Source: Active Places (power user)

- 5.62 The table illustrates that Ipswich is currently significantly above both the national and regional (East of England) average. It also compares very well with neighbouring authorities in the East of England region.
- 5.63 By 2021, the current one court under supply (using our model based on LTA parameters) will have increased to a two court under supply if participation rates remain unchanged.
- 5.64 Only one tennis club responded to our sports club survey and there was no indication from them that additional facilities are required. However there is a general consensus that indoor tennis facilities allow players to play all year round and that indoor facilities would complement outdoor courts during the colder and winter months.
- 5.65 The Council's sports development team believe there is currently a good supply of indoor tennis courts in the borough and there are no plans to provide further facilities at this present time. Despite the model predicting shortfalls in current provision, the relatively high current levels of indoor facilities in Ipswich compared both nationally and regionally mean that we consider the provision to be adequate at this time. Additionally, the household survey did not reveal any perceived quantity or quality issues.
- 5.66 Consultation also revealed that a previous indoor tennis centre on Henley Road was not successful and closed. This tells us that there is no strong latent demand for additional indoor tennis facilities in the borough.

Indoor sports audit summary and conclusions

- 5.67 The audit and supply/demand modelling exercise gives an indication of the current and projected future demand for sports facilities in the Borough. This has been further supported and informed by the consultation process with local residents and sports clubs.
- 5.68 A summary of the supply and demand findings is set out in Table 5.8 below. These results show the current picture and predicted results taking into account population increases by 2021.

Table 5.8 Ipswich supply and demand modelling results

Facility type	Current situation	2021 scenario
Swimming pools	Undersupply of 589m ² of water	Undersupply of 766m ² of water
Sports halls	Oversupply of 1.95 badminton courts	Undersupply of 3.05 badminton courts
Health and fitness	Oversupply of 188 stations	Oversupply of 126 stations
Indoor bowls	Undersupply of 1.7 rinks	Undersupply of 2.6 rinks
Indoor tennis	Undersupply of 1 court	Undersupply of 2 courts

- 5.69 In summary, the audit findings illustrate that there is currently:
- **swimming:** a significant undersupply of public water, equating to the equivalent of nearly two 25m swimming pools. If future predicted population increases occur, the undersupply will be even greater by 2021. This information should be considered in the light of the provision of swimming pools within private membership leisure facilities within the Borough. When these pools are also considered, there is an additional 195 m² of water available within the Borough however, a large undersupply remains;
 - **sports halls:** an oversupply of badminton courts, equating to approximately two badminton courts, and a good supply of community halls. This oversupply will reduce to an undersupply by 2021. If increased provision were required there remain opportunities to open up schools for dual use public access. Further there are two potential development outside the borough boundary (but within 3 km) that can address this future shortfall;
 - a significant oversupply of **health and fitness** facilities, a conclusion supported household survey results which show provision is good in the borough;
 - enough **indoor bowls** rinks to meet the current demand, a conclusion broadly supported by our public consultations; and
 - a very slight undersupply of **indoor tennis courts**.

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 5.70 The following recommendations can be drawn from the consultations and supply and demand analysis.

ISF 1	Consider the options regarding provision of a new additional public swimming pool.
ISF 2	Improve the quality of Crown Pools and Maidenhall Sports Centre to ensure cleanliness and maintenance are of the highest quality.
ISF 3	Investigate the possibility of facilitating access to further school sports halls facilities in Ipswich outside school hours in the future if demand levels rise significantly.
ISF 4	Utilise the Building Schools for the Future programme to prioritise and provide new sports provision for Ipswich, particularly related to swimming pool provision.

SECTION 6
PARKS AND GARDENS

Parks and gardens

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 The PPG17 Companion Guide and the adopted definition for this study defines Parks and Gardens as urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events.
- 6.2 This type of open space often has a variety of functions and provides a wide range of benefits, e.g. ecological, educational, cultural and heritage, social inclusion and health benefits. Parks provide a sense of place for the local community, helping to address social inclusion issues within wider society and providing structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas, and social benefits associated with the interaction with the natural environment.
- 6.3 Many parks also provide sports pitches and facilities (although the actual pitch areas have been separately audited within the Outdoor Sports Facilities category). The provision of high quality local parks can be instrumental in the achievement of increased physical activity targets, ensuring that all residents are able to access local facilities for informal recreation – particularly walking.

Figure 6.1 Bourne Park



- 6.4 Table 6.1 overleaf sets the strategic context for Parks and Gardens.

Table 6.1 Strategic context

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to parks and gardens	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>The plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p> <p>The Regional Assembly has adopted a regional environment strategy 'Our Environment, Our Future' (July 2003) which contains a summary of the current state of the environment of the East of England, an analysis of the main environmental challenges facing the region and a series of aims for responding to these challenges. The main challenges are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering sustainable patterns and forms of development; • meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change; • ensuring environmental sustainability in the economy; • enhancing environmental capital; and • achieving sustainable lifestyles. 	<p>Principles are set for the management of the East of England's natural, built and historic environment</p> <p>Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and programmes should seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve and enhance the natural, historic and built environment by positive management and protect it from development likely to cause harm; • adopt an approach that integrates protection and enhancement of nationally and internationally designated areas while meeting the social and economic needs of local communities; • protect, for their own sake, all important aspects of the countryside; • conserve and enhance, whenever possible, regional and local distinctiveness and variety; • promote a sustainable approach to the use of the region's natural resources; • secure effective protection of the environment; • restore damaged and lost environmental features whenever possible; and • adopt a common approach to environmental issues which cross local planning authority boundaries.

SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to parks and gardens	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)</p>	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The Plan identifies that Ipswich is richly endowed with public parks that are well established and frequently visited by large numbers of people. The Council is considering introducing management plans for each park with the aim of improving their appearance and the range and quality of public facilities.</p> <p>Areas of open space are categorised either as District Parks, Local Parks or small Local Parks. Homes should normally be within 1.2 kilometres of District Parks, whilst Local Parks, small Local Parks and open spaces should normally be within 0.4 kilometres of all homes.</p> <p>The Council is committed to improving and enhancing existing open spaces and parks for the benefit of its residents and visitors, as well as providing for further open space in the parts of the Town in most need.</p> <p>On other sites allocated for residential development there may be opportunities to provide new open spaces and the Council will seek, in cooperation with developers, to achieve as part of the design of the developments open space to serve the needs of residents for children's play and informal recreational use where 15 or more homes are to be provided and where the surrounding area cannot adequately provide for these needs or is generally deficient in public open space.</p> <p>Preservation and enhancement of the Town's historic parks such as Chantry Park and Christchurch Park is also an important aspect of the Council's policy and therefore any necessary alterations to these open spaces for recreational reasons such as the provision of barbecue areas, play equipment, toilets, paths, fences and gates must respect the Plan's conservation aims.</p>	<p>Highlights desire to improve access to and enhance parks</p> <p>Ensures development proposals should avoid the loss of park space</p> <p>Identifies management plans for each park as a target to ensure that the quality of parks is maintained</p> <p>Sets accessibility standards for local parks</p> <p>Focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the town's historic parks</p>

SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to parks and gardens	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p> <p>The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development; • IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and • Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to site allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development. 	The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.

SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to parks and gardens	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Public Open Space SPG (1998)	<p>This SPG expands on Local Plan Policy RL6, which states that for residential developments of at least 15 homes, an appropriate amount of open space will be provided, either directly or if impractical through contributions to alternative sites via planning obligations.</p> <p>It provides a revised plan of open space accessibility for local residents. To meet accessibility criteria, housing should be set within 400 metres of a public open space (defined as a Local Park or a District Park).</p>	Guidance for accessibility standards for parks and gardens.
Ipswich Borough Council Corporate Plan: 'Transforming Ipswich' 2005 – 2015	<p>Ipswich set four goals for the period 2005 – 2015, based on the principle of Value for Money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean and green Ipswich; • expanding Ipswich; • safe Ipswich; and • vibrant Ipswich. <p>The Council state they will 'ensure adequate open spaces and amenity areas are available' as well as enhancing biodiversity by appropriate management of natural habitats and sensitive wildlife sites.</p>	Aims to encourage greater use of all sports facilities, parks and open spaces, potentially impacting on future provision requirements.

SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to parks and gardens	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Vibrant Ipswich – transforming Ipswich’s culture and leisure scene (2005)	<p>Vibrant Ipswich sets the strategic vision for the local cultural sector. Culture in Ipswich has a key role to play through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provision of leisure opportunities and activities;• improvement of the town’s cultural status and ambition;• generation of further economic growth in the cultural and tourism sector; and• promotion of cultural activity as a means of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving health and generating community well-being by involving people of all ages in all sectors of society. <p>Specific investments were earmarked for Christchurch, Holywells and Chantry Parks through the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the Ipswich Parks Restoration Project.</p>	<p>Feeds into quality and accessibility standards - the document acknowledges the impressive quantity of historic parks and gardens in the town, and the Council is keen to widen access to these sites.</p>

Current position - quantity

- 6.5 For the purposes of this study, 21 sites have been identified, in conjunction with the Council, as being classified as parks and gardens.
- 6.6 In calculating the size of parks and gardens, other typologies that are located with the park, such as outdoor sports facilities and children and young people's facilities, are excluded from the total size (hectarage). They are separately accounted for in other typologies, thereby preventing the double counting of open space provision.
- 6.7 Table 6.2 below summarises the breakdown of park and garden sites by analysis area.

Table 6.2 Quantity of parks and gardens

Analysis Area	Population	Hectares	Number of sites	Hectares per 1000 population
Central	24,024	35.33	4	1.47
North East	24,547	0.18	1	0.01
South East	22,356	20.83	3	0.93
South West	31,828	71.42	12	2.24
North West	25,318	4.42	1	0.17
Overall	128,073	132.2	21	1.03

- 6.8 The South West analysis area has over half of the Borough's formal park provision, with 71.42 hectares. This is because it has three significant parks, Gippeswyk Park, Chantry Park and Bourne Park.
- 6.9 The South East and Central analysis areas both also have significant amounts of parks and gardens. This is heavily influenced by the presence of large parks in both analysis areas, Landseer Park and Holywells Park in the South East area and Christchurch Park in the Central area.
- 6.10 The North East and North West analysis areas both have low amounts of parks and gardens, providing only 0.18 and 4.42 hectares respectively. The North West's provision is all located at Whitehouse Road Park and the North East's at Penshurst Road Garden.
- 6.11 The main comments arising from the consultations are as follows:
- public perception from the household survey is that quantity of parks and gardens is sufficient within the Borough. 74% of respondents stated that quantity is more than enough or about right;
 - Council officer consultation generally supported the theory that, overall, quantity is adequate although there are pockets of deprivation, particularly in the north of the Borough (an observation supported by Table 6.2);

- the predominant trend from the public drop-in sessions was that Ipswich is well served with parks and gardens and that quantity is not an issue within the Borough; and
- the young person's internet survey found that parks were the most used open space (37%) and the majority (51%) thought that the amount of this type of open space in the Borough is about right.

Current position - quality

- 6.12 The quality of parks in the Borough is summarised in Table 6.3 below. Detailed comments from each site assessment can be found in the Access database that accompanies this study. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.

Table 6.3 Parks and gardens quality scores

Analysis Area	Number of Sites	Range of Scores %	Average Score %
Central	4	80 – 84	82
North East	1	71	71
South East	3	76 – 78	77
South West	12	64 - 84	75
North West	1	84	84
Overall	22	64 - 84	77

- 6.13 The main comments that can be derived from Table 6.3, and the consultations, are:

- the site assessments found that the quality of parks and gardens in Ipswich is generally good, with the average site quality score being 77%;
- the range of scores from the site assessments was 64% to 84%. This is not a wide range of scores and shows that the minimum score is still of acceptable quality and that the quality of parks and gardens is fairly consistent across the Borough;
- comments from the drop-in centres were generally positive regarding the quality of parks and gardens in the Borough. Christchurch Park was especially commended by many members of the public;
- the household survey revealed similar positive results. 65% thought that the quality of parks and gardens was good and 29% opted for 'average'; and
- the drop-in sessions and household survey revealed that the primary issues that concern residents regarding the quality of parks and gardens are related to vandalism, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, littering and a need for improved ancillary facilities such as bins, toilets and cycle routes.

Current position – accessibility

- 6.14 Parks and gardens were clearly the most frequently used PPG17 open space typology, with 62% of respondents indicating they used parks and gardens more than any other typology. Of all respondents, 68% indicated that they use parks and gardens more than once a month, with only 4% indicated that they never use parks and gardens.
- 6.15 Household questionnaire responses indicated that people would be willing to travel up to 15 - 20 minutes to a park and garden (75% of the respondees), with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time. The general perception (75% level) is that a walk time of up to 15 - 20 minutes is reasonable.
- 6.16 These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 67% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 73% stating that they travel up to 15 minutes.
- 6.17 Parks and gardens were the most popular types of open space, sport and recreation facility for children and young people, as highlighted through the internet survey. The majority of pupils walked to the open space that they visited most often (43%). The next most popular mode of transport was cycling (38%).
- 6.18 The majority of children and young people questioned were not willing to travel more than 10 minutes to an open space site with 54% indicating less than five minutes travel time and 29% indicating less than 10 minutes.

Setting local standards

- 6.19 In setting local standards for this typology there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through the consultation on local needs.
- 6.20 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices L, M and N. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 6.21 These standards have then been applied to Ipswich Borough in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action. This section deals with parks and gardens in isolation, although analysis in conjunction with other open space typologies (notably natural and semi natural and amenity green space sites) is necessary to give a more comprehensive picture of public open space provision.

Quantity standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.03 hectares per 1000 population	1.04 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision in Ipswich is 1.03 ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people. The spread of parks across Ipswich is relatively uneven. There are significant pockets of deficiency in the North East and North West analysis areas. The other analysis areas have greater numbers of parks, with the Central and South East areas having four and three parks respectively, and the South West area having 12 parks.</p> <p>Despite this locational deficiency, the responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in the Borough. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of a quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Ipswich. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens but also address locational deficiencies in provision in areas that do not meet the Borough wide standard (discussed below in the <i>applying standards</i> section). Moreover, given the population growth that is anticipated to 2021, it will be important for the Council to enhance accessibility to existing parks and gardens – for example by improving routes to them, access points to the individual sites, as well as maintaining quality standards in the face of likely increasing visitor numbers as the population grows.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>All parks to be maintained to Green Flag standards</p> <p>Implementation of Park Management Plans for each park</p> <p>All sites to be clean, well maintained and have appropriate lighting</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>All parks to achieve Green Flag status</p> <p>Provide toilet facilities on larger sites where appropriate</p> <p>Public art to be displayed in parks where appropriate</p>
Justification	
<p>A quality standard has been devised which reflects both aspirations and concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG17) and also the Green Flag Award criteria (the national benchmark).</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of parks across the Borough the Council must achieve a quality standard that will ensure consistency and high quality provision. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained parks are key elements of good urban design and are fundamentally important in delivering places in which people want to live. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Christchurch Park should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks.</p> <p>The Council is actively working towards Green Flag standards and implementing Park Management Plans so the quality standard reflects these goals and the feedback from the public and key stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>The most significant problem currently experienced at parks and gardens is their misuse. In many instances, play facilities are provided within existing parks and gardens. As a consequence, it could be argued that the achievement of the quality standard for these parks (and the delivery of high quality green spaces) will be influenced by the corresponding delivering of high quality play areas and sites for young people within them as addressed in Sections 5 and 6.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m)
Justification
<p>Household questionnaire responses indicated that people would be willing to travel up to 15 minutes to a park and garden, with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time. The general perception (75% level) is that a travel time of between 15 and 20 minutes is reasonable.</p> <p>These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 67% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 73% stating that they would travel up to 15 minutes. A 15 minute walk time is in line with the majority of PPG17 accessibility standards set by PMP on similar projects for local authorities that are predominantly urbanised authorities.</p> <p>It is important to seek to enhance the accessibility of all existing parks, for example by promoting new entrance points or better routes to them and/or information, publicity and signage.</p> <p>In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed park and garden standard should be considered in the context of other open space standards set. Those living with access to alternative open space sites may not necessarily need access to a formal park.</p>

Applying the standards

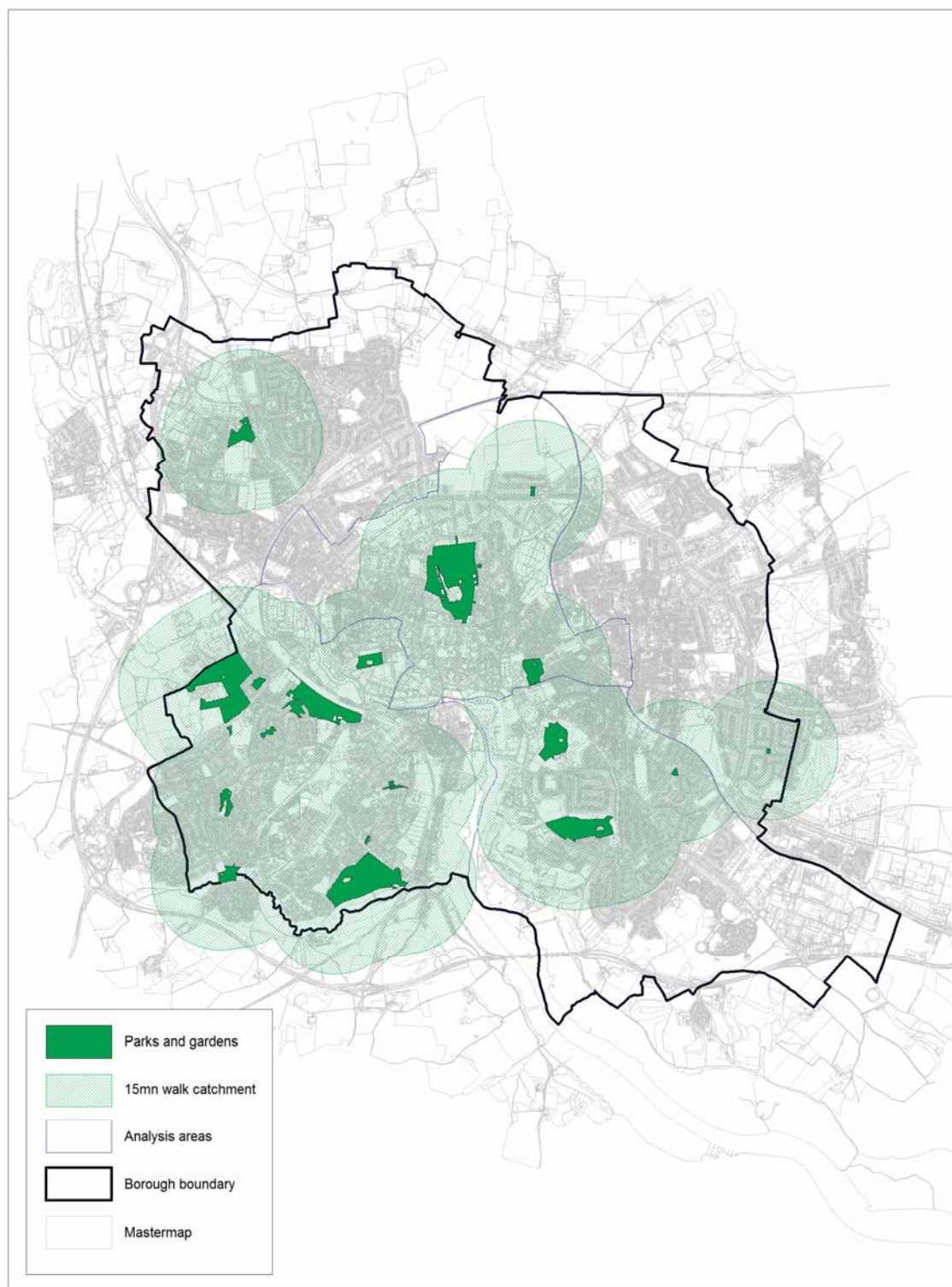
- 6.22 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 6.23 The future level of provision required across Ipswich Borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 6.4. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 6.4 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Ipswich Borough

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021
Central	24,024	1.47	1.04	10.35	6.93
North East	24,547	0.01	1.04	- 25.35	- 28.84
South East	22,356	0.93	1.04	2.42	- 5.6
South West	31,828	2.24	1.04	38.32	33.79
North West	25,318	0.17	1.04	- 21.91	- 25.51
Total	128,073	1.03	1.04	- 1.02	- 19.24

- 6.24 Whilst this table provides a starting point for the quantitative application of the local standards, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of parks and their geographical relationships to one another. As the household questionnaire indicates, parks are major facilities that may attract a significant proportion of their users from across the authority and potentially from outside the Borough.
- 6.25 Chantry Park and Christchurch Park are Ipswich's premier parks and are of strategic significance in the local authority area. They attract high numbers of users, both from within Council boundaries and from further afield.
- 6.26 Figure 6.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Ipswich Borough's parks and the catchment areas these sites serve.

Figure 6.2 Parks and gardens provision and accessibility catchments



Parks and gardens

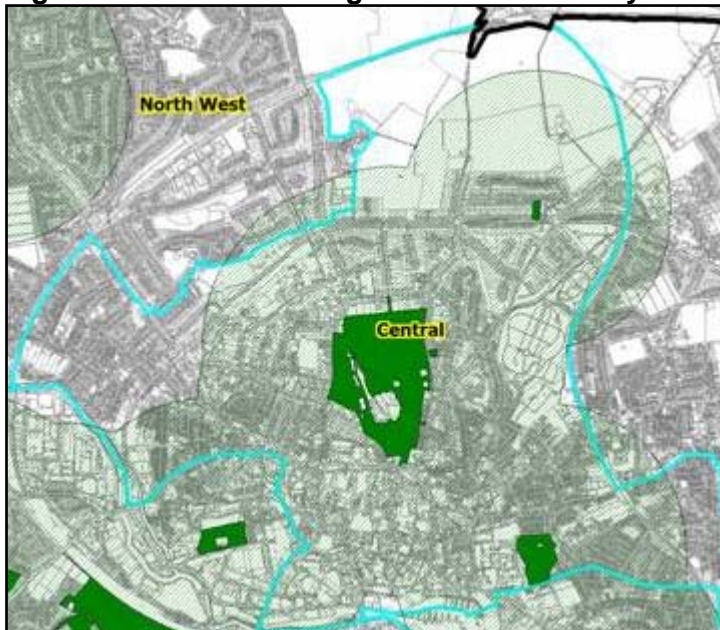
Based upon the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Officer. Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence No. 100021566.

- 6.27 Invariably, the delivery of new park sites will be opportunity led, based on large-scale regeneration schemes or the re-designation of existing open space sites. There will not always be clear opportunities to provide new facilities in areas that are currently outside of the accessibility thresholds. In these instances the Council should consider introducing smaller pocket parks. Additionally, it is increasingly important to look at what other open space opportunities exist within these areas – particularly amenity green space. There may be opportunities to upgrade sites to park status through improving site quality.
- 6.28 The main issues to arise from a Borough wide assessment of the accessibility of parks in Ipswich are summarised for each analysis area below.

Central

- 6.29 The Central analysis area has 1.47 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 residents. This equates to the second highest level of provision in the Borough and is 10 hectares above the suggested local standard of 1.04 hectares per 1,000 residents. If the population increases as expected by 2021 and the level of provision of parks and gardens in the analysis area remains the same, the level of provision above the local standard will reduce to 6.93 hectares.
- 6.30 The high level of provision in the Central area is affected by the presence of Christchurch Park, which makes up 30 of the 35 hectares of parks and gardens in the area. Alexandra Park is the other significant park in the area, providing four hectares of open space.

Figure 6.3 Parks and gardens accessibility in the Central analysis area



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- 6.31 Figure 6.3 illustrates that, due to the central location of Christchurch Park, almost the whole of the analysis area can access a park within a 15 minute walktime. The only significant area that does not have access to a park is to the west of the analysis area in the Bramford Road area. However, this is not a large area and sections seven and eight will demonstrate that the majority of this area has access to an amenity green space or natural and semi-natural area that can provide similar functionality to a park.

North East

- 6.32 The North East analysis area has 0.18 hectares of parks and gardens, equating to only 0.01 hectares per 1,000 people. This is by far the lowest level of provision of the analysis areas in the Borough and would require an additional 25 hectares of parkland to meet the recommended local standard for provision.

Figure 6.4 North East analysis area parks and gardens accessibility map

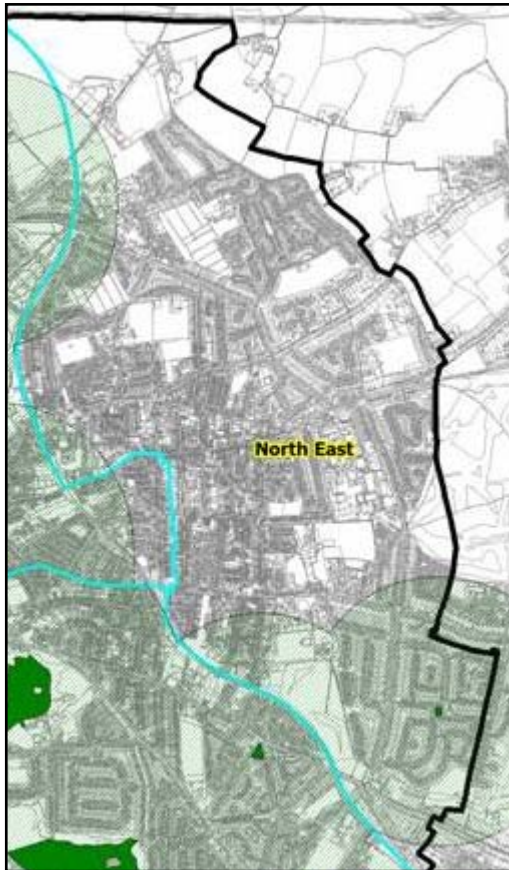
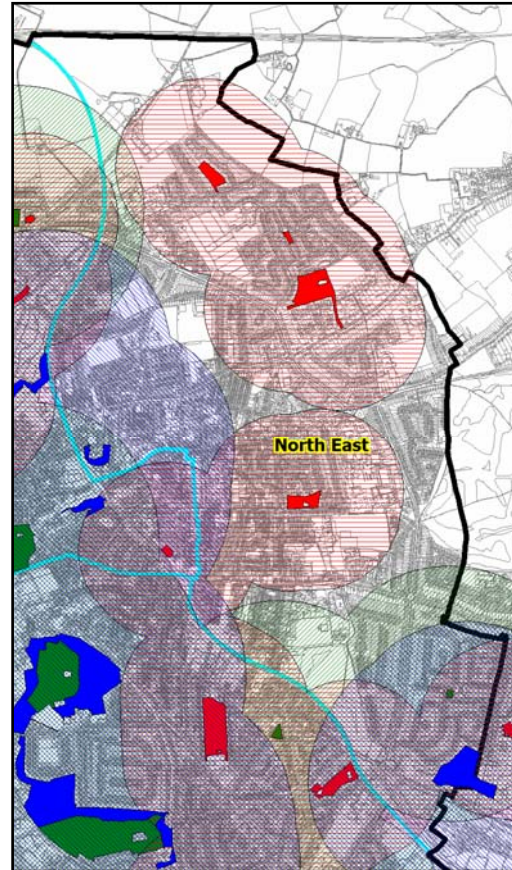


Figure 6.5 Parks & Gardens, Amenity Green Space and Natural and Semi Natural accessibility map



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- 6.33 The majority of the residents of the North East analysis area do not have access to a formal park and garden within a 15 minute walktime, as illustrated by Figure 6.4 above. The area is also undersupplied with regards to amenity green space and natural and semi-natural land when compared to the recommended local standards.
- 6.34 However, Figure 6.5 illustrates that there are several key strategically located amenity green spaces that fulfil the function of parks, such as Dumbarton Park Amenity Green Space and Newbury Road Recreation Ground. It is important that the quality of these amenity green spaces is maintained to the park and garden quality standards as they are key strategic sites and fulfil park and garden functionality for the analysis area.

PG 1

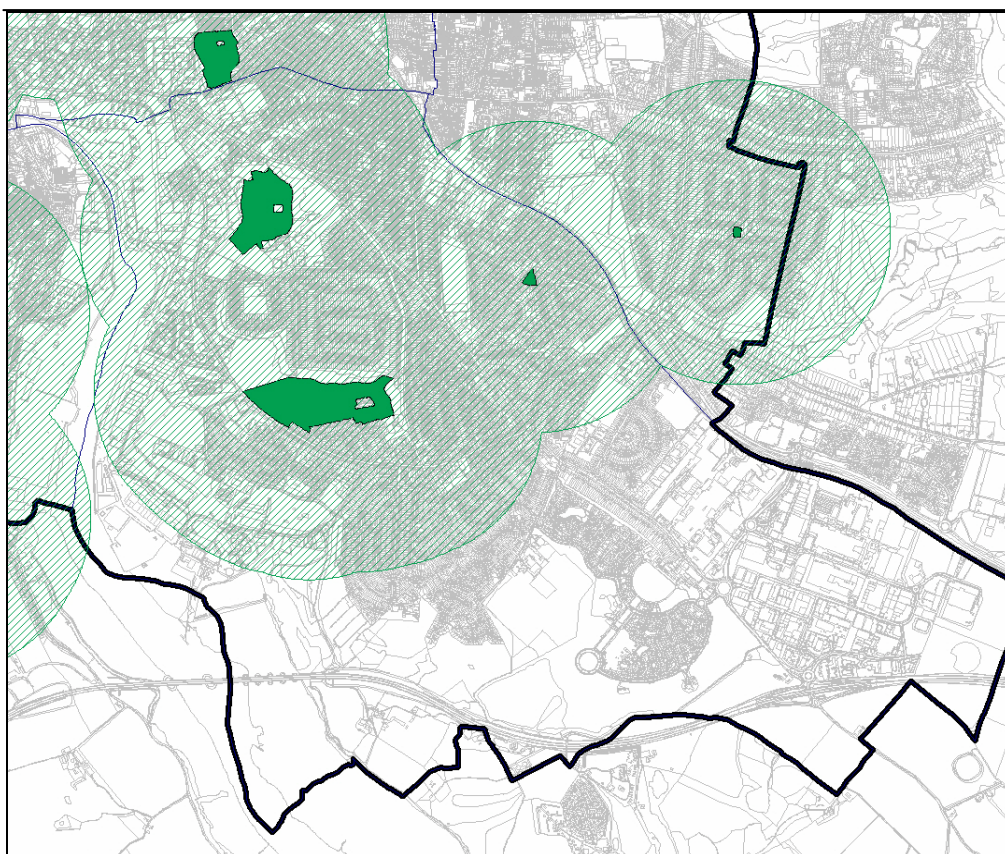
Ensure Dumbarton Park Amenity Green Space and Newbury Road Recreation Ground is maintained to the recommended parks and gardens quality standards.

- 6.35 When combined with the analysis of natural and semi-natural areas, it can be seen that almost the whole of the analysis area has access to some form of open space. In addition, Figure 6.5 does not illustrate the accessibility catchment area of Rushmere Golf Course, much of which falls outside the Borough and is categorised as an outdoor sports facility. In reality, this is a heath and has dual functionality as natural and natural and semi-natural area.

South East

- 6.36 The South East analysis area has 20.8 hectares of parks and gardens, equating to 0.93 hectares per 1,000 people. The area is currently only 2.42 hectares of parks and gardens below the recommended quantity standard. The predominant parks in this area are Holywells Park and Landseer Park.

Figure 6.6 South East analysis area parks and gardens accessibility map



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- 6.37 Figure 6.6 illustrates that the residents of the South East analysis area are mostly well served with accessible parks and gardens. There is a new residential development at Ravenswood in the south of the analysis area in the Priory Heath ward. These residents do not have access to a park within the 15 minute walktime catchment however do have access to amenity green space and natural and semi-natural provision. If this area is developed further in the future, a park meeting the quantity and quality standards should be located in this area.

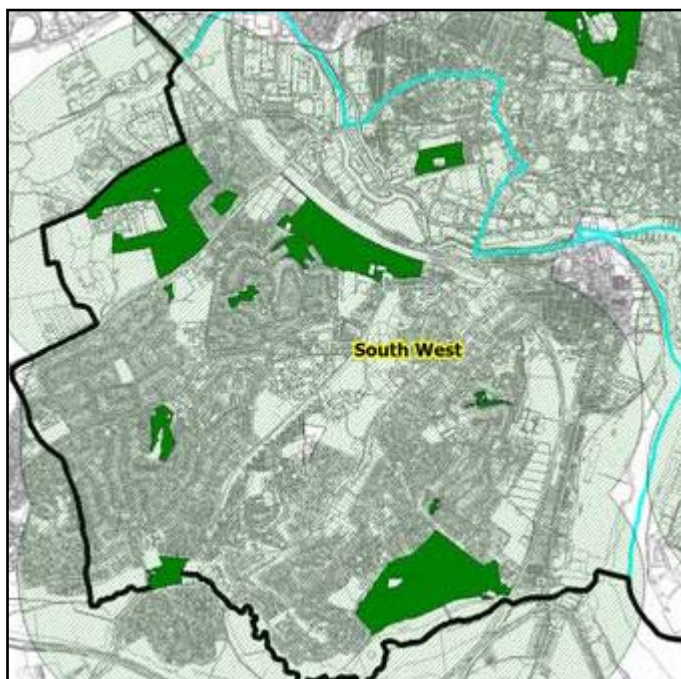
PG 2

Ensure an appropriate park is provided if the new development area in the Priory Heath ward continues to expand.

South West

- 6.38 The South West analysis area has the largest amount of parks and gardens within the Borough, 71 hectares. This equates to 2.24 hectares per 1,000 people, 38 hectares above the current recommended quantity standard.

Figure 6.7 South West analysis area parks and gardens accessibility map



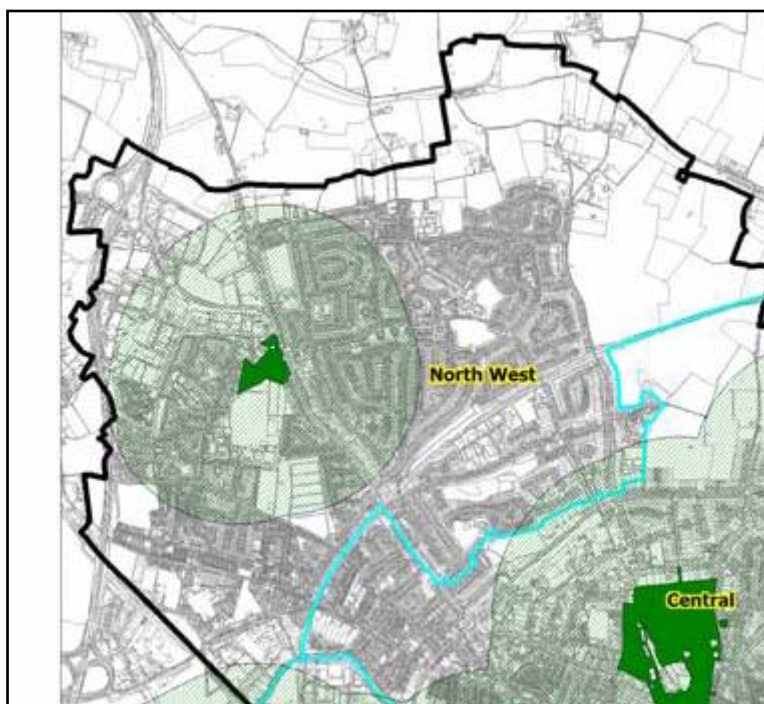
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- 6.39 Figure 6.7 above shows clearly that the majority of residents of the analysis area have access to at least one park within a 15 minute walktime, all of which are of good or very good quality. There is a small pocket in the north east of the area that has no access to parks. This situation is hampered by the river to the east, meaning all open space available is to the west. However this is a relatively small area and as a result we would not recommend any new provision here.

North West

- 6.40 The North West analysis area has the second lowest level of parks and gardens out of all five analysis areas, 4.4 hectares. This provides only 0.17 hectares per 1,000 people, nearly 22 hectares below the recommended quantity standard of 1.04 hectares per 1,000 people.

Figure 6.8 North West analysis area parks and gardens accessibility map



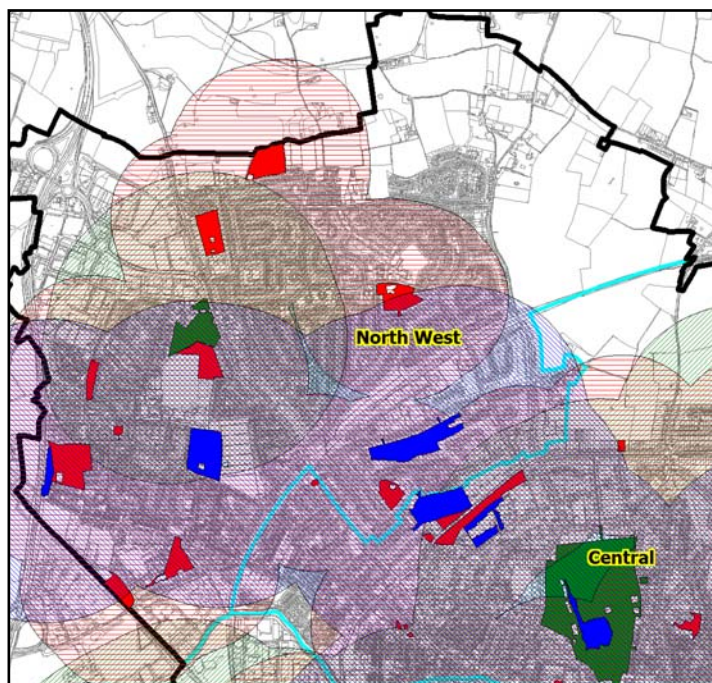
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- 6.41 All of the provision is located at one park, White House Road Park. Although this is a high quality park (scoring 84% in the site assessments), it leaves a significant proportion of the local residents without access to a formal park or garden. However, Figure 6.9 overleaf illustrates that there are many, large amenity green spaces (coloured orange on the map) within the analysis area that provide similar functionality to a park and rectify the parks and gardens accessibility gap for the analysis area. These should be maintained to parks and gardens quality standards and one of the larger sites should potentially be converted to a formal park.

PG 3

Maintain the amenity green spaces in the North West analysis area to the parks and gardens quality standard and investigate the possibility of converting one of the larger sites to a formal park.

Figure 6.9 North West analysis area parks and gardens, Amenity green space and natural and semi-natural provision accessibility catchment



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Summary

6.42 A summary of the recommendations for parks and gardens is provided below.

PG 1	Ensure Dumbarton Park Amenity Green Space and Newbury Road Recreation Ground is maintained to the recommended parks and gardens quality standards.
PG 2	Ensure an appropriate park is provided if the new development area in the Priory Heath ward continues to expand.
PG 3	Maintain the amenity green spaces in the North West analysis area to the parks and gardens quality standard and investigate the possibility of converting one of the larger sites to a formal park.

SECTION 7
AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Amenity green space

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the definition and background to the typology, strategic context, consultation and current provision. Recommended local standards have been established and applied. It also includes recommendations for the future development of amenity green space within the Borough.
- 7.2 This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity green space provides visual amenity and a meeting place for young people.
- 7.3 There are a number of benefits in providing this type of open space including recreation value, a meeting place and focal point for communities. It is also important to recognise and take account of the secondary functions of amenity green space, in particular the visual benefits.
- 7.4 Amenity green spaces can play an integral role in increasing participation in physical activity across the borough by providing local opportunities to participate in activity and informal sport.

Figure 7.1 Chantry Green amenity green space (Site 129)



- 7.5 Table 7.1 overleaf considers the strategic context for amenity green spaces.

Table 7.1 Strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to AGS	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p> <p>The Regional Assembly has adopted a regional environment strategy 'Our Environment, Our Future' (July 2003) which contains a summary of the current state of the environment of the East of England, an analysis of the main environmental challenges facing the region and a series of aims for responding to these challenges. The main challenges are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivering sustainable patterns and forms of development;• meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change;• ensuring environmental sustainability in the economy;• enhancing environmental capital; and• achieving sustainable lifestyles.	Whilst mostly applicable to Parks and Gardens and Natural/semi-natural open spaces, the appearance and prevalence of amenity green space sites across the Borough, contributes to the region's natural, built and historic environment.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to AGS	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The strategy of the Plan is to protect and enhance Ipswich's built and natural heritage and to accommodate new growth in ways that will enhance the environment, improve the quality of life and create economic opportunity.</p> <p>The Plan identifies specific sites that have been allocated for residential development, with particular emphasis on the South to link the Wet Dock with the main shopping areas.</p>	Provides guidelines on areas identified for future development. The standards for provision set in this project will need to be applied to future residential developments.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to AGS	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and has completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p> <p>The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development; • IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and • Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to site allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development. 	The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to AGS	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Public Open Space SPG (1998)	<p>This SPG expands on Local Plan Policy RL6, which states that for residential developments of at least 15 homes, an appropriate amount of open space will be provided, either directly or if impractical through contributions to alternative sites via planning obligations.</p> <p>The Suffolk Design Guide (adopted 1993) advocates that 10% of the developable area of housing should compromise amenity open space. It also estimates that 5% of a sites total area will be classified as 'structural open space' – trees or hedgerows, typically used as a buffer to developments or roads.</p> <p>This SPG provides a revised plan of open space accessibility for local residents. To meet accessibility criteria, housing should be set within 400m of a public open space (defined as a Local Park or a District Park).</p>	Establishes developer obligations for providing amenity space in new housing development areas.
Suffolk Design Guide (2000)	<p>The Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas was adopted as supplementary planning guidance by all the Suffolk local planning authorities in 1993 and was revised in 2000 to acknowledge changes in planning policy guidance. The guide's aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promote a sustainable approach to the layout and design of estate development;• reflect the essential character of Suffolk in new housing developments;• improve the visual appearance of residential areas; and• improve the quality of life for residents. <p>ensure the provision of a footway, cycle and road network which is safe and convenient to use and which does not detract from the attractiveness of the estate.</p>	Provides design guidelines for the provision of amenity areas within new housing developments.

Current position – quantity

- 7.6 The provision of amenity green space (AGS) should be closely linked with the provision of other types of open space such as parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural areas in each analysis area, as they fulfil similar roles in terms of providing recreational open space. For example, Alexandra Park is likely to provide the same amenity function as an amenity green space to local residents, and therefore should be included in the amenity green space analysis for that surrounding locale. In areas without park provision, amenity green space will have increased significance in providing local recreational opportunities for residents.
- 7.7 There are 37 amenity green space sites in the Borough of Ipswich. Current provision is summarised by analysis area in Table 7.1 below alongside parks and garden provision.

Table 7.1 Amenity green space in Ipswich Borough

Analysis Area	Pop	AGS (total ha)	AGS (ha per 1,000 pop)	Parks and Gardens (total ha)	AGS and Park and Garden provision (ha per 1,000 pop)
Central	24,024	7.38	0.31	35.33	1.78
North East	24,547	6.31	0.26	0.18	0.26
South East	22,356	9.85	0.44	20.83	1.37
South West	31,828	3.6	0.11	71.42	2.36
North West	25,318	21.8	0.86	4.42	1.04
Overall	128,073	48.9	0.38	132.2	1.41

- 7.8 The provision of amenity green space is greatest in the North West analysis area (per 1,000 population), and is above the overall Ipswich Borough average of 0.38 in the South East analysis area. The Central, North East and South West analysis areas have provision below the average level.
- 7.9 The most striking result is that the provision in the South West area is extremely low at only 0.11 hectares per 1,000 population. However, the inclusion of the many parks and gardens in this area increases the provision of accessible open space in this area to the highest level of all of the analysis areas. Similarly, by including parks and gardens in this analysis, both the North East and North West analysis areas can be seen to be lacking in accessible amenity open space.
- 7.10 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, quantity and accessibility deficiencies need to be considered in parallel.

- 7.11 Household questionnaire results indicate an even split between whether people feel there is enough amenity green space (43%) or not (45%), with a slight tendency in responses towards there being an undersupply. Usage data showed that only 3% of residents use amenity green space most frequently, compared to 62% for parks and gardens (the most frequently used typology).
- 7.12 The children's internet survey indicated that the most popular open space visited was parks (37%), followed by play areas (20%) and amenity green spaces (18%). These sites were visited regularly, with 52% indicating they visited once a week or more. Walking distances of up to 10 minutes was the predominant answer regarding method of travel and distances travelled, reinforcing the local value of these sites.
- 7.13 As already outlined, amenity green space sites often have visual amenity value that outweighs usage value, and therefore usage responses may not accurately reflect the true value of these spaces to communities.

Current position - quality

- 7.14 The quality of amenity green space sites across Ipswich is summarised below in Table 7.2. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.

Table 7.2 Quality of amenity green spaces in Ipswich Borough

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores (percentage)	Average Scores (percentage)
Central	13	60 – 84	75
North East	4	67 - 78	74
South East	5	67 - 82	73
South West	5	44 - 80	68
North West	10	64 – 84	72
Overall	37	44 - 84	73

- 7.15 Table 7.2 above, and consultation results, reveal the following:
- the average quality scores for amenity green spaces are fairly consistent across the analysis areas. The overall average score of 73% is very good and indicates that the quality of sites is high;
 - household survey results support this. 21% of respondents perceive the quality of amenity green space sites to be good, 46% average and only 12% poor;
 - 26% of household survey respondents indicate that they use amenity green space sites more than once a month, thus pointing to the usage value as well as the visual amenity value of the sites; and

- important issues for residents from the drop-in sessions were mainly based around problems with litter. It was noted also that amenity green space sites are particularly important in new development areas such as the waterfront and Portman Road. The linking of sites by walking and cycling routes was also noted as being important by members of the public.

Current position – accessibility

- 7.16 According to the Ipswich Public Open Space SPG (1998), housing should be set within 400m of a public open space (defined as a local park or a district park)
- 7.17 68% of respondents across the Borough indicated that the preferred mode of transport was on foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is a walk time of between 10 and 15 minutes.
- 7.18 The majority of school responses indicated that children walked to the open space site that they visited most often (43%). The next most popular mode of transport was to cycle (38%). The vast majority of children (83%) travelled for no longer than 10 minutes to get to their favourite open space.

Setting local standards

- 7.19 Local standards for amenity green spaces have been set taking into consideration national, regional and local standards and the findings of the local needs assessment and existing consultation. The recommended standards are derived from the findings of the local needs assessment and existing audit and are therefore directly representative of local needs.
- 7.20 The rationale behind each local standard, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices L, M and N. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.

Quantity standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.38 hectares per 1000 population	0.4 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.38 hectares per 1000 population. The public opinion within the Borough regarding the level of provision of amenity green space across the Borough is evenly split, with a very slight majority stating that there is an undersupply.</p> <p>The recommended standard has been set at 0.4 hectares per 1000 population. This is to reflect the slight undersupply perceived by the public and the significant population growth expected in Ipswich by 2021. Public consultation revealed that residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity provision standard is required to address this perception.</p> <p>The current levels of provision are above this standard in the North West and South east analysis areas and below this standard in all of the other analysis areas.</p> <p>Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in breaking up the urban texture and providing green space in what would otherwise be a built up area. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites, as well as focus on specific areas of deficiency to ensure that each area fulfils a role that is complementary to the surrounding green space network.</p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
Essential features: Sites should be clean, litter-free (including litter bins), graffiti-free and with well-kept grass.	Desirable features: Sites should have good lighting, seating, and signage providing contact information where beneficial. Sites should link to wider green networks. Public art should be displayed on larger sites.
Justification	
<p>Household survey results reveal that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month). This suggests that, whilst areas serve an important visual purpose, they also provide recreational and usable functions for local areas. The importance of their visual amenity function further emphasises the need to ensure the quality of these sites.</p> <p>The household survey found that the public feel that amenity areas are generally of good or average quality, with only 12% stating that they are of poor quality. This was supported by the site assessments where 73% was the average amenity green space quality score.</p> <p>Provision of amenity green space needs to be considered in the context of parks and gardens, to ensure that they are complimentary to the wider green space network and increasing their level of usage. For this reason, it is particularly important for larger sites to contain informal play opportunities and for smaller sites to provide visual amenity and promote a sense of ownership. For these reasons, the standard has highlighted cleanliness and maintenance as well as providing facilities such as benches and public art.</p>	

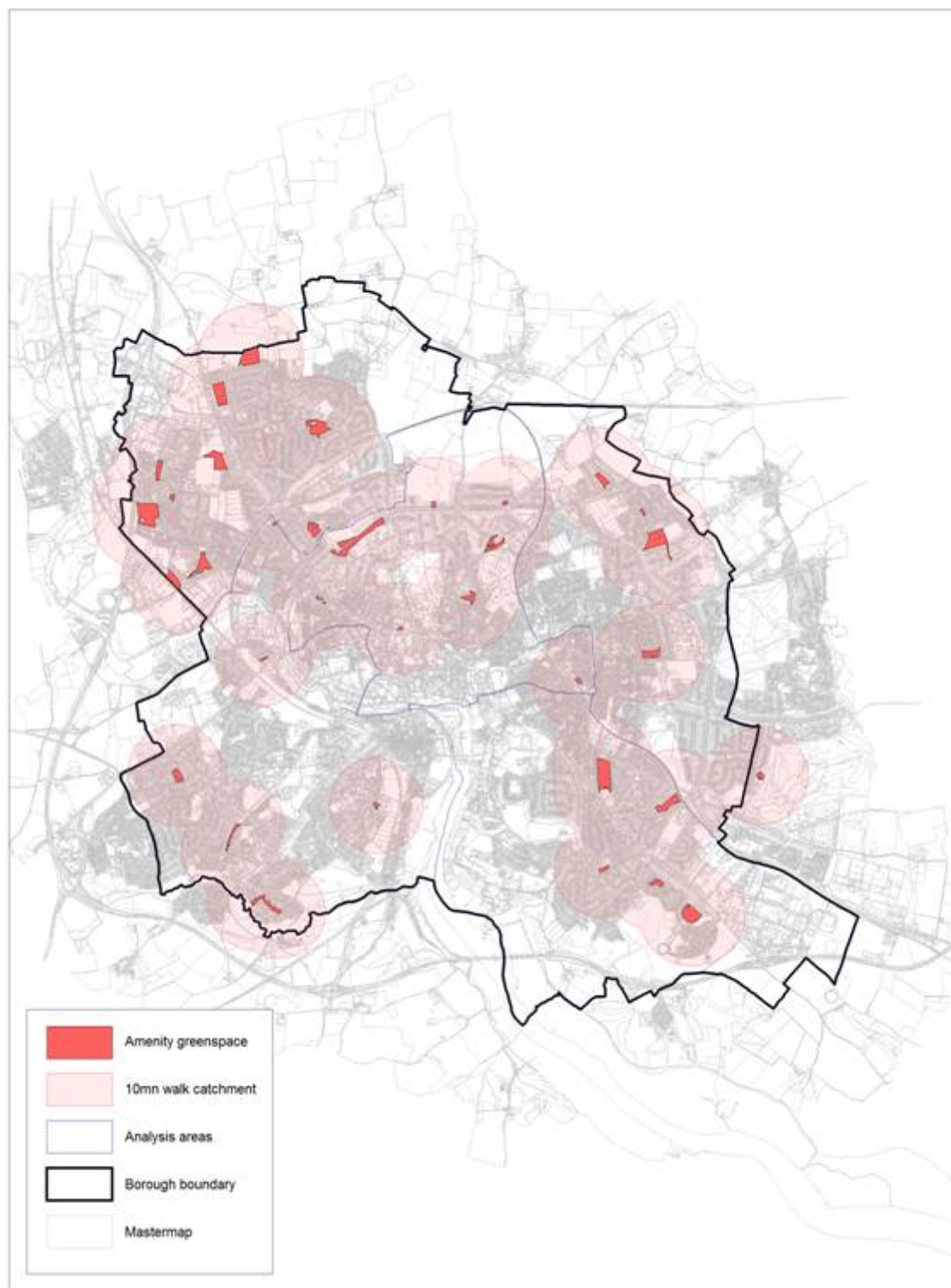
Accessibility standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m)
Justification
<p>Given the emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is recommended that a walking standard is set. The desire for local amenity green space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot is most appropriate. This is supported by the household survey where the most popular method of travel was on foot.</p> <p>In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision close to residential areas, localised amenity green spaces is particularly important. Applying a walk time will highlight areas of deficiency. Furthermore, whilst having a small distance threshold will reveal a larger number of accessibility deficiencies, within these areas the provision of alternative forms of open space can often substitute for provision of informal amenity green spaces and new amenity green spaces will not also be a priority in these areas. A small accessibility catchment is also more appropriate given the urban nature of much of Ipswich and will ensure all residents have local access to some type of open space. The importance of local provision to break up the urban landscape should not be underestimated.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level from all responses was for a travel time up to 10-15 minutes. This is supported by the opinions of those who use amenity green spaces most frequently, with 82% stating that they walk to amenity green spaces and 87% saying that they travel up to 10 minutes to get to the amenity green space.</p>

Applying local standards

- 7.21 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 7.22 It is important to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the wider context of open space across the Borough, in light of the overlapping roles that this space has with other open space typologies.
- 7.23 The map overleaf highlights the catchments served by amenity green spaces across the Borough. In addition, Table 7.3 highlights the areas where quantity deficiency exists.

Figure 7.2 Amenity green spaces in Ipswich



Amenity greenspace

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strategy finance delivery **pmp**

Table 7.3 Quantity of amenity green space by analysis area

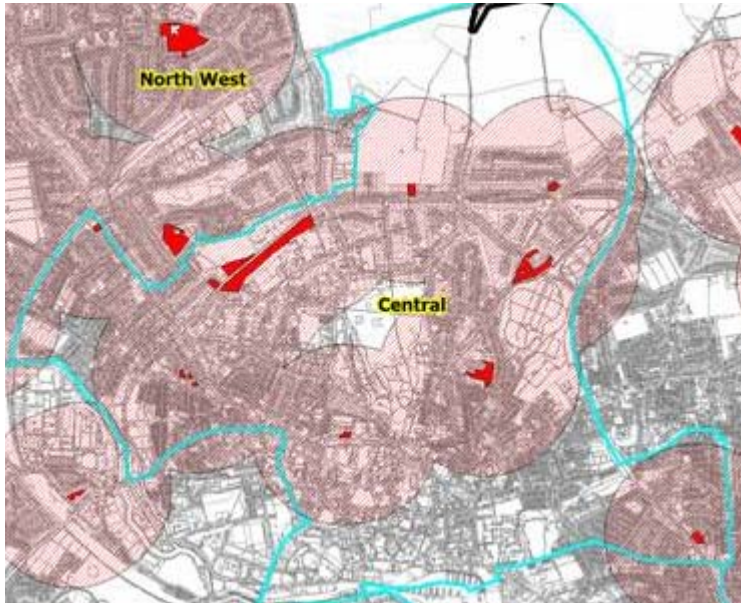
Analysis area	Pop	Current provision per 1,000 pop	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	24,024	0.31	0.4	- 2.23	- 3.54
North East	24,547	0.26	0.4	- 3.51	- 4.85
South East	22,356	0.44	0.4	0.91	- 0.32
South West	31,828	0.11	0.4	- 9.13	- 10.87
North West	25,318	0.86	0.4	11.67	10.29
Total	128,073	0.38	0.4	- 2.3	- 9.3

- 7.24 Table 7.3 illustrates that the provision of amenity green space is lowest in the South West analysis area (0.11 hectares per 1,000 people) and is below the quantity standard. Provision is also below the recommended quantity standard in the North East and Central analysis areas. The South East has marginally more amenity green space than the recommended quantity standard (0.9 hectares) but the North West has significantly more than the recommended quantity standard (11.7 hectares).

Central

- 7.25 The Central analysis area has 0.31 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 residents. This equates to a deficit of 2.2 hectares below the recommended quantity standard for the borough of 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people. This deficit is predicted to rise to 3.5 hectares by 2021 if the predicted population increases are realised and the provision of amenity green space does not increase.

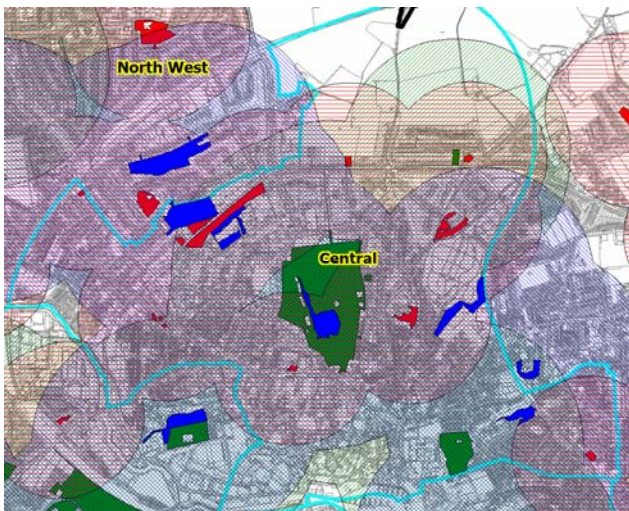
Figure 7.3 Amenity green space accessibility in Central analysis area



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- 7.26 Figure 7.3 above illustrates that the majority of the Central analysis area does have access to an amenity green space within a 10 minute walktime except for residents of the south of the analysis area. However, this area does have access to other parks and gardens (most notably Alexandra Park and Christchurch Park) and natural and semi-natural open space (as illustrated in Figure 7.4 below) so is not an immediate priority for more provision.

Figure 7.4 Amenity green space, parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural open space accessibility in Central analysis area

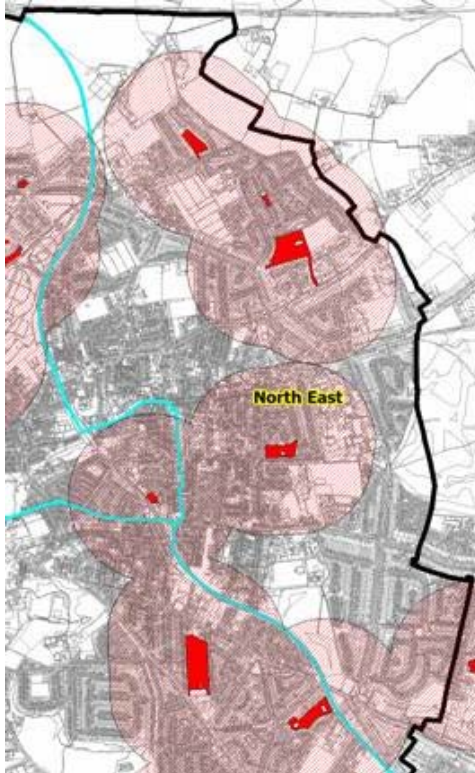


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North East

- 7.27 The North East analysis area has 0.26 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 people, a deficit of 3.5 hectares.

Figure 7.5 Amenity green space accessibility in North East analysis area



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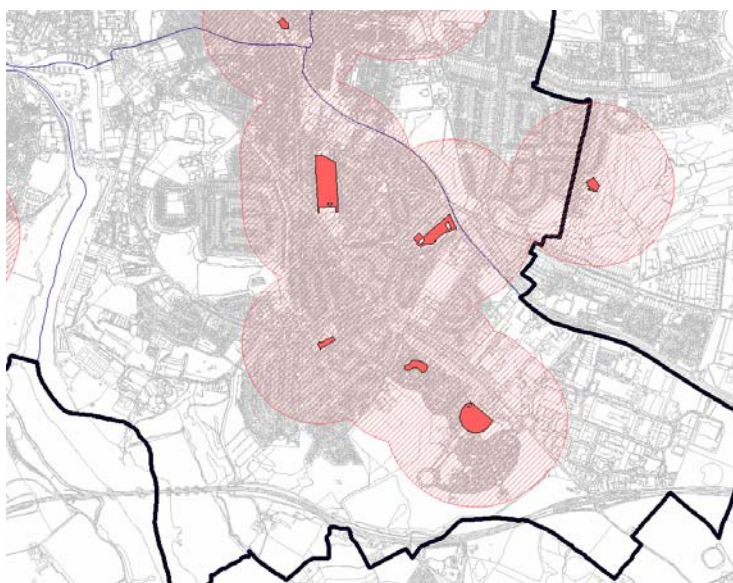
- 7.28 The accessibility map illustrated in Figure 7.5 above shows that the amenity green space in the analysis area is concentrated in several sizeable sites. There are three main areas without access to an amenity green space within a 10 minute walktime: in the west, the east and the south of the analysis area.
- 7.29 The area to the west of the analysis area that has no amenity green spaces does actually have access to a recreation ground on Lonsdale Close. Whilst this site is classified as an outdoor sports facility for the purposes of this study, the site has a secondary function as park/amenity green space.
- 7.30 The area to the east of the analysis area adjacent to the borough boundary has access to Rushmere Heath (which includes Rushmere Golf Course) so is not lacking in general provision of accessible open space.
- 7.31 This leaves the area to the south of the analysis area. Whilst it is covered by the periphery of accessibility catchments of two small parks, it does not have any amenity green space. The development of the St Clements Hospital site may provide an ideal opportunity to include some amenity green space in the new residential development.

AGS 1	Ensure amenity green space is provided to the recommended quantity and quality standards within the new development on the St Clements Hospital site.
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South East

- 7.32 The South East analysis area has 0.44 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 people. This is 0.9 hectares above the recommended local quantity standard of 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people.

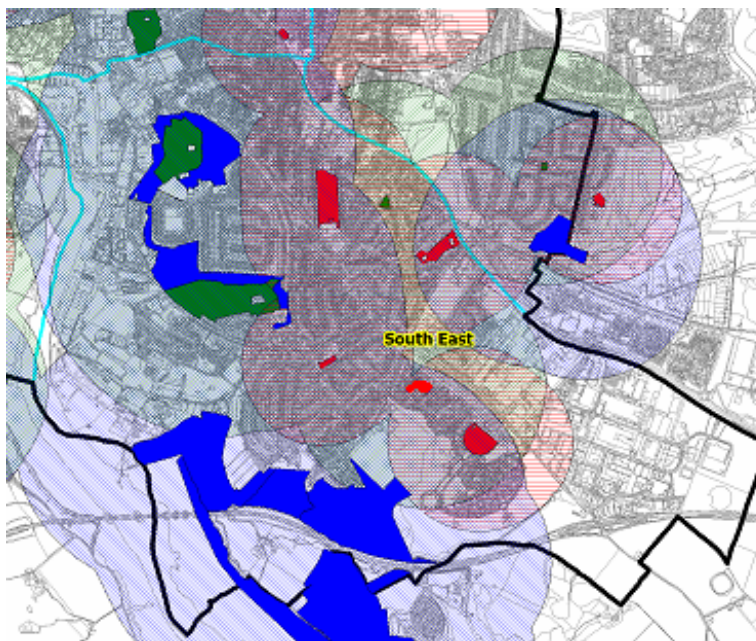
Figure 7.6 Amenity green space accessibility in South East analysis area



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- 7.33 Figure 7.6 above illustrates that there is a significant proportion of the analysis area without access to an amenity green space within a 10 minute walktime. However, Figure 7.7 below shows that the distribution of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural open spaces within the analysis area is sufficient to ensure that all residents have access to some form of public open space with amenity value. Thus, considering the high quantity of amenity green space within the borough, no further provision is recommended.

Figure 7.7 Amenity green space, parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural open space provision in the South East analysis area

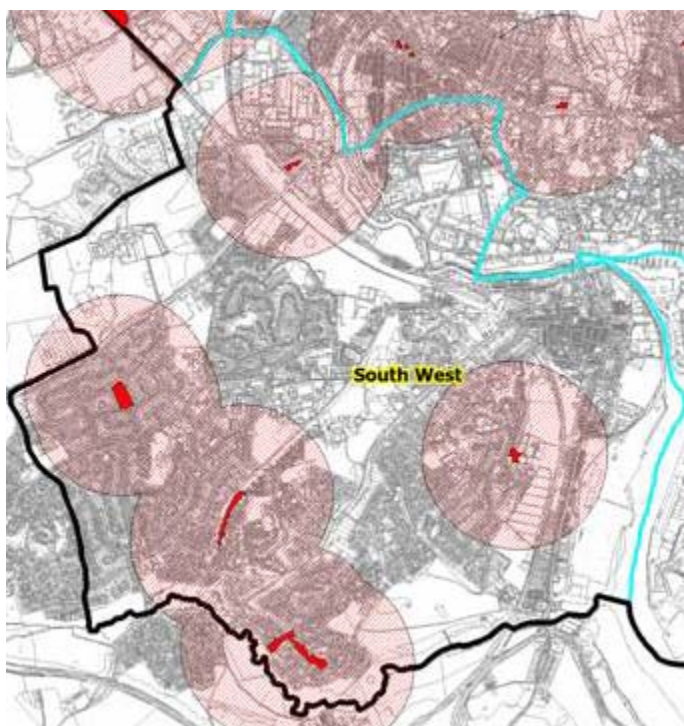


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South West

- 7.34 The South West analysis area has 0.11 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 people. This is a deficit of 9 hectares when compared to the recommended quantity standard and is the lowest level of provision of all of the analysis areas.

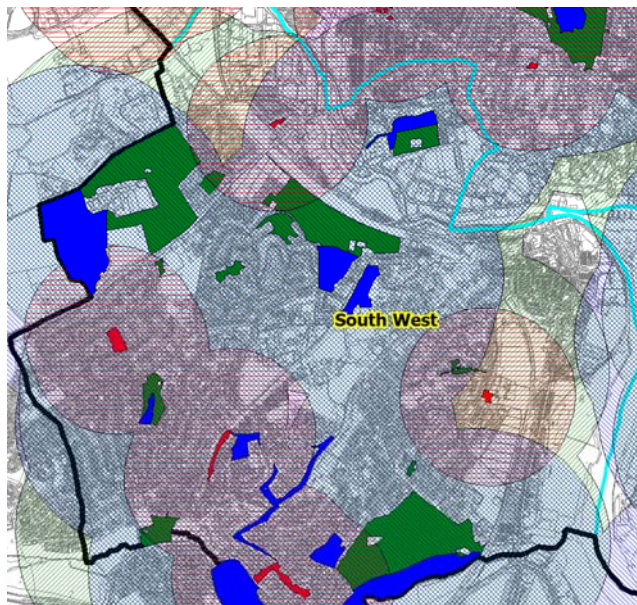
Figure 7.8 Amenity green space accessibility in South West analysis area



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- 7.35 The accessibility map shows that there are large areas of the analysis area without access to an amenity green space within a 10 minute walktime. However, this analysis area has the highest levels of provision of parks and gardens and also has significant natural and semi-natural sites. When combining the analysis of these typologies together it is clear that the area is not lacking in public open space with amenity value, as illustrated by Figure 7.9 below.

Figure 7.9 Amenity green space, parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural open space provision in the South West analysis area

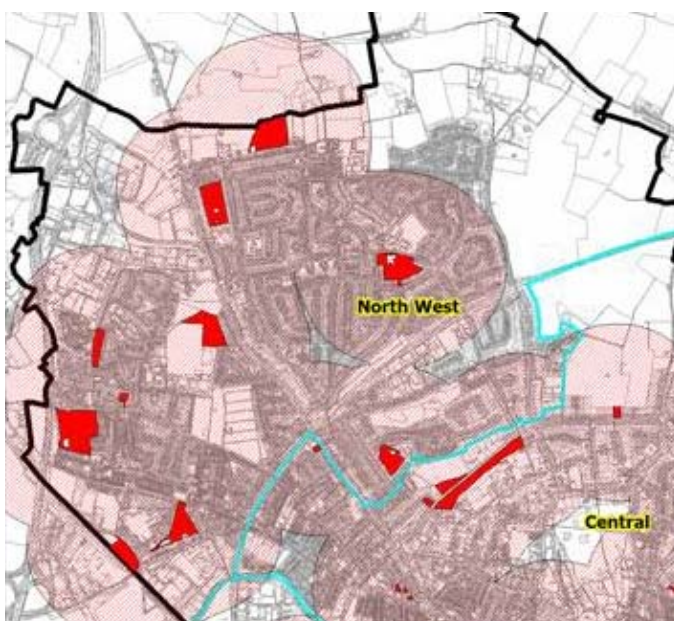


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North West

- 7.36 The North West analysis area has 0.86 hectares per 1,000 residents. This is the highest level of provision across all of the analysis areas and is over 11 hectares over the recommended quantity standard for the borough.

Figure 7.10 Amenity green space accessibility in North West analysis area



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- 7.37 The accessibility map for amenity green space in the North West analysis area demonstrates that almost the vast majority of the residents have access to an amenity green space within a 10 minute walktime.
- 7.38 There is one small neighbourhood close to Castle Hill in the North East of the analysis area that does not have access to an amenity green space, park or natural and semi-natural open space within the recommended walktimes. However, this area primarily consists of semi-detached houses with large gardens and is extremely close to the rural area to the north of the borough so may not require further provision in reality.
- 7.39 The low levels of parks and gardens in the North West analysis area places increased importance on the role of amenity green spaces. Thus, the quality of these sites is important and recommendation PG3 is repeated here.

PG 3	Maintain the amenity green spaces in the North West analysis area to the parks and gardens quantity standard and investigate the possibility of converting one of the larger sites to a formal park.
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Summary of recommendations

- 7.40 A summary of all recommendations relating to amenity green spaces is included below.

AGS 1	Ensure amenity green space is provided to the recommended quantity and quality standards within the new development on the St Clements Hospital site.
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SECTION 8

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Natural and semi-natural green space

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 Natural and semi natural (NSN) green space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grassland (eg downlands, commons, meadows, wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands) with the primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Figure 8.1 Gippeswyk Park NSN



- 8.2 In Ipswich, natural and semi-natural areas are often incorporated into larger park sites. For example Christchurch Park has been predominantly classified under the Park and Garden typology, even though much of its area could reasonably be classified as a NSN. Equally, a number of NSN sites could be classified as parks under some definitions, for example areas of Orwell Country Park.
- 8.3 Therefore it is important when setting standards to consider these typologies together, especially when we consider the secondary use of such sites which may satisfy the open space needs of the local population. For example, a NSN area, whose primary purpose is to provide an area for wildlife and biodiversity, may equally provide amenity value equivalent to that of a formal park.

Context

- 8.4 11% of residents indicated that NSN is the open space type that they use most regularly, making it the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities. 47% of residents indicated that they use NSN areas more than once a month and 40% indicated that they use the sites at least once a month, reinforcing the importance of these areas for local residents.
- 8.5 Consultation highlighted that there was generally a good supply of NSN areas in Ipswich, but the majority of consultee responses tended to concentrate on parks and gardens, indicating that people often consider natural and semi-natural provision and parks and gardens to be one and the same. This is one of the reasons why the provision of natural and semi-natural open spaces, parks and gardens, and amenity green space is analysed together when considering quantity and accessibility issues.
- 8.6 Table 8.1 overleaf summarises the key strategic context relating to NSN provision within the Borough.

Table 8.1 Strategic context relating to NSN provision

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008</p>	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p> <p>The Regional Assembly has adopted a regional environment strategy 'Our Environment, Our Future' (July 2003) which contains a summary of the current state of the environment of the East of England, an analysis of the main environmental challenges facing the region and a series of aims for responding to these challenges. The main challenges are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering sustainable patterns and forms of development; • meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change; • ensuring environmental sustainability in the economy; • enhancing environmental capital; and • achieving sustainable lifestyles. 	<p>Principles are set for the management of the region's natural, built and historic environment. This states that planning authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and programmes should seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve and enhance the natural, historic and built environment by positive management and protect it from development likely to cause harm; • adopt an approach that integrates protection and enhancement of nationally and internationally designated areas while meeting the social and economic needs of local communities; • protect, for their own sake, all important aspects of the countryside; • conserve and enhance, whenever possible, regional and local distinctiveness and variety; • promote a sustainable approach to the use of the region's natural resources; • secure effective protection of the environment; • restore damaged and lost environmental features whenever possible; and • adopt a common approach to environmental issues which cross local planning authority boundaries.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan	<p>The Haven Gateway 'sub-region' was identified in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England and it is one of the fastest growing areas in Britain. The Haven Gateway sub-region includes the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich, Mistley and surrounding hinterlands.</p> <p>A Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy has been published, to ensure that the appropriate level and range of strategic green infrastructure facilities are being delivered as part of new developments to serve existing and new communities within the Haven Gateway sub region. This work is also intended to influence open space standards being set in new PPG17 studies being prepared by local planning authorities within the sub growth region, as part of their Local Development Framework programmes. The Green Infrastructure Strategy was launched in 2008.</p>	Quality and quantity standards in the Haven Gateway plan link to the quality and quantity standards for natural and semi-natural provision in this study.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The Plan identifies that Ipswich is richly endowed with public parks that are well established and frequently visited by large numbers of people. The Council is considering introducing management plans for each park with the aim of improving their appearance and the range and quality of public facilities.</p> <p>Areas of open space are categorised either as District Parks, Local Parks or small Local Parks. Homes should normally be within 1.2 kilometres of District Parks, whilst Local Parks, small Local Parks and open spaces should normally be within 0.4 kilometres of all homes.</p> <p>The Council is committed to improving and enhancing existing open spaces and parks for the benefit of its residents and visitors, as well as providing for further open space in the parts of the Town in most need.</p> <p>On other sites allocated for residential development there may be opportunities to provide new open spaces and the Council will seek, in cooperation with developers, to achieve as part of the design of the developments open space to serve the needs of residents for children's play and informal recreational use where 15 or more homes are to be provided and where the surrounding area cannot adequately provide for these needs or is generally deficient in public open space.</p> <p>Preservation and enhancement of the Town's historic parks such as Chantry Park and Christchurch Park is also an important aspect of the Council's policy and therefore any necessary alterations to these open spaces for recreational reasons such as the provision of barbecue areas, play equipment, toilets, paths, fences and gates must respect the Plan's conservation aims.</p>	<p>Highlights desire to improve access to and enhance parks</p> <p>Ensures development proposals should avoid the loss of park space</p> <p>Identifies management plans for each park as a target to ensure that the quality of parks is maintained</p> <p>Sets accessibility standards for local parks</p> <p>Focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the town's historic parks</p>

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents</p>	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p> <p>The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development; • IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and • Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to site allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development. 	<p>The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.</p>

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>'Shaping the Future of Suffolk' Community Strategy and Consultation document (2008 – 2028)</p>	<p>This Community Strategy will reflect the key priorities for strategic planning, underpinning Suffolk's Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA") for the period 2008 – 2011. Following consultation, the strategy will be launched in October 2007.</p> <p>The purpose of the Suffolk Strategic Partnership is 'to establish the long-term vision and priorities for Suffolk, a vision which will promote the well-being of its people, economy and environment.'</p> <p>The strategy identifies ambitions, challenges, opportunities and actions for eight emerging themes for the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating the best place to grow and learn; • creating prosperity for all; • creating the greenest county; • creating the safest county; • creating a cohesive county; • creating the healthiest county; • valuing people; and • culture and sport. <p>The quality of the environment is seen as critical to Suffolk's "offer" – based around the quality of the green environment, Suffolk coast and built heritage. Management of the 'natural capital' of the historic landscape and diverse wildlife is essential.</p>	<p>Management of natural areas, incorporating diverse wildlife is essential to improving the quality of the environment – the site assessments of natural and semi-natural areas include biodiversity scoring criteria to indicate how Ipswich is performing in this area.</p>

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Suffolk Local biodiversity action plan	Each Local Biodiversity Action Plan works on the basis of partnership to identify local priorities and to determine the contribution they can make to the delivery of the national Species and Habitat Action Plan targets. Up to date information is available online at www.ukbap.org.uk .	Links to sites assessment scores of natural and semi-natural areas that include scores for biodiversity value of sites.
Local Nature Reserve Management Plans (2004)	<p>The Greenways Project and the Ipswich and Gipping Valley Wildspace! Project produced a number of draft Management Plans for nature reserves, namely at Stoke Park, Bobbits Lane, Millennium Wood, Spring Lane and Alderman Canal.</p> <p>These management plans aim to maintain and enhance the wildlife diversity and encourage local interest in the sites and associated woodland. Recommendations include issues of management, maintenance, improvements, workplans and costings and species lists at each site.</p>	Link to quality standard recommendations that include adhering to management plans.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers relating to NSN	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Greenways Countryside Project Strategy (2005 – 2010)	<p>Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, and Suffolk Coastal District Council set up the Greenways Countryside project in 1994 with grant aid from the then Countryside Commission (now Natural England). The Project area covers 100 square km and is deemed an effective way deal of dealing with the interactions between issues of wildlife, a working countryside and public access.</p> <p>The main issues for the 2005 – 2010 period are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting access to green space and associated strategies, provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyles and assist with the management of green spaces; • involving the community through local strategic partnerships, the fostering of volunteer support and the development of partnerships with business; • safeguarding biodiversity by supporting, advising and promoting the importance of open space through active land management; • raising awareness about open spaces and associated issues through educational events, publications, the establishment of a Riverside Environment Centre alongside other initiatives; and • promoting sustainable development through liaison with planning staff. 	This study identifies sites with biodiversity value and identifies areas and NSN sites with accessibility issues that need to be addressed.
Ipswich Landscape & Wildlife Strategy (2004 – 2006)	The Ipswich Landscape and Wildlife Strategy addresses the need for and guides the process of protecting and enhancing the green environment of Ipswich and the surrounding countryside. The strategy is closely linked to the Ipswich Local Plan and seeks positive action to enhance the quality of the landscape and biodiversity if Ipswich. The strategy addresses the physical and human factors that have shaped the landscape before addressing individual aspects of greenspace management through Strategic Objectives.	<p>Strategy objectives feed into quality standards set for NSN sites in this study.</p> <p>This complements the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Ipswich Wildlife Audit (2000) which included an audit of wildlife areas that has informed site identification and designation for this study.</p>

Current position – quantity

- 8.7 The current provision of natural and semi natural open space is summarised in Table 8.2 below:

Table 8.2 Natural and semi-natural open space provision

Analysis Area	Population	Number of sites	Hectares	Ha per 1000 population
Central	24,024	5	12.97	0.54
North East	24,547	2	4.98	0.20
South East	22,356	7	90.71	4.06
South West	31,828	10	48.15	1.51
North West	25,318	3	11.33	0.45
Overall	128,073	27	168.1	1.31

- 8.8 Key issues emerging from Table 8.2 above and consultations undertaken across Ipswich Borough include:
- there is a substantial variation in the number of NSN sites when broken down by analysis area. Similarly to the provision of parks and gardens, the South West and South East analysis areas have the largest number of sites and the highest hectareage provision, and the North West and North East areas have the lowest number of sites and hectareage provision;
 - when examining hectares per 1,000, the same pattern is followed. The South East and South West have the highest levels of provision;
 - the North East and North West have the lowest hectares per 1,000 provision however the location of Rushmere Golf Course (a registered heath) just outside the Borough boundary by the North East analysis area would significantly increase this level of provision;
 - the Central analysis area is only marginally better, with 0.54 hectares per 1,000 people. The majority of this provision is natural areas located within formal parks;
 - household questionnaire responses indicated that people felt the quantity of NSN sites was good (39%) or average (43%) with only 11% thinking that the quantity was poor; and
 - fears regarding the perceived loss of natural open space to development across Ipswich were also raised during consultation, further emphasising the importance of these open spaces to some residents.

Current position – quality

- 8.9 The quality of natural green space in Ipswich is summarised Table 8.3 below. All scores are detailed in percentages. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.

Table 8.3 Ipswich NSN quality scores

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores	Average score
Central	5	53 – 76	70
North East	2	76 – 87	81
South East	7	66 - 80	74
South West	10	64 - 76	71
North West	3	66 – 76	73
Total	27	53 - 87	72

- 8.10 The key issues arising from Table 8.3 above and the consultations are as follows:

- the public perception of the quality of NSN sites is deemed to be good, with 82% of household respondents indicating the quality of NSN sites was either good or average;
- site assessment tells us that the quality of NSN sites is good, with an average score of 72%. Table 8.3 shows that the average scores for the sites in each analysis area were fairly consistent, with no site scoring below 53% (still rated as an 'average' quality site);
- consultation told us the protection of nature reserves and access to nature was seen as important. The ever-increasing urbanisation of Ipswich means natural areas are under threat;
- consultation revealed that people valued the retention of the natural state of many NSN sites and feared fragmentation if sites were split into areas of woodland and areas of more amenable space suitable for recreation;
- the main issue surrounding the quality of sites, according to the household survey, is in relation to litter and general cleanliness; and
- the Haven Gateway has an agreed set of quality standards which were seen as important for sites in Ipswich to adhere to.

Current position – accessibility

- 8.11 62% people who use this open space type most frequently travel by foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is a maximum of between 15 and 20 minutes.
- 8.12 Of those residents who use NSN most frequently, 62% walk to these areas and the majority of respondents (84%) travel 20 minutes or less to get to these areas.

Setting local standards

- 8.13 In setting local standards for NSN there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through consultation on local needs.
- 8.14 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices L, M and N. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 8.15 These standards have then been applied to the existing Ipswich Borough provision in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action.

Quantity standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.31 hectares per 1000 population	1.4 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Current provision across Ipswich is equivalent to 1.31 hectares per 1000 people. The South East and South West analysis areas provide the highest levels of provision, 4.06 and 1.51 hectares per 1000 people respectively, with the North East and North West areas providing the lowest.</p> <p>The overall public opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is fairly evenly split with 43% of respondents stating that the provision was about right or more than enough and 51% stating that the provision was nearly enough or not enough.</p> <p>Consultation highlighted public concerns regarding the loss of natural areas to development and the lack of open space provision provided with new developments. To address these issues, a standard of 1.4 hectares per 1000 people is recommended. The standard would protect existing levels of provision whilst also placing demands for new provision close to residential areas. This recognises the value of these spaces and the importance of protection, offering opportunities for development of such facilities in areas perceived to be lacking. The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard.</p> <p>The recommended standard (which should be viewed as a minimum level of provision across all areas) is lower than current levels of provision in the South East and South West Analysis Areas but above the provision in the Central, North East and North West analysis areas.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Sites should be litter free; incorporate nature features; provide well maintained access and display interpretation panels.</p> <p>Green Flag standards should be used to guide maintenance of NSN areas within parks.</p> <p>Work with the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan and the Haven Gateway project and SWT wildlife audit definitions of quality.</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Footpaths should be clear, well maintained and lit where appropriate.</p>
Justification	
<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural areas believe that these areas are of good quality and are generally well maintained, with only 11% of responders stating that quality is poor. People value these natural sites for their recreational value, (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) indicating that ancillary facilities will be an important quality feature of this type of open space.</p> <p>Maintaining sites in their natural form is a clear issue for local residents. This has been reflected in the quality vision.</p> <p>Despite the quality being generally rated as good, the main issues that were identified through local consultations centre around litter and dog fouling. This is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free ('litter free' is defined as including dog bins).</p> <p>The standard also incorporates the Council's focus on site management plans and Green Flag standards for parks (many NSN areas are within parks). It also highlights the need to link with the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan and the Haven Gateway project definitions of quality.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720 metres)
Justification
<p>The recommended standard of a 15 minute walk time for NSN is based on results from public consultation. People's travel time and method to get to a natural and semi-natural area will often relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality. However, 63% of respondents to the household questionnaire indicated that they expect to travel on foot when travelling to natural and semi natural open spaces in the Borough.</p> <p>A drive time standard would produce a significantly larger distance threshold than a walk time standard. PPG17 states that higher thresholds may be appropriate if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to allow lower thresholds to be achievable, but can result in levels of provision that are too low and may not meet some local needs. Given the importance of facilitating everyday contact with nature, a standard based on a walk time is recommended as this will help to deliver a greater number of localised natural and semi natural spaces.</p> <p>An assessment of the 75% threshold level across the Borough suggests that residents are willing to walk up to a maximum of 15 - 20 minutes to a natural and semi natural open space. Given the high levels of agreement from respondents to the household survey regarding the appropriateness of this walk time, it is recommended that the standard is set at this level, reflecting nationally derived standards.</p>

Applying the standards

- 8.16 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 8.17 The future level of provision required across Ipswich Borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 8.4. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

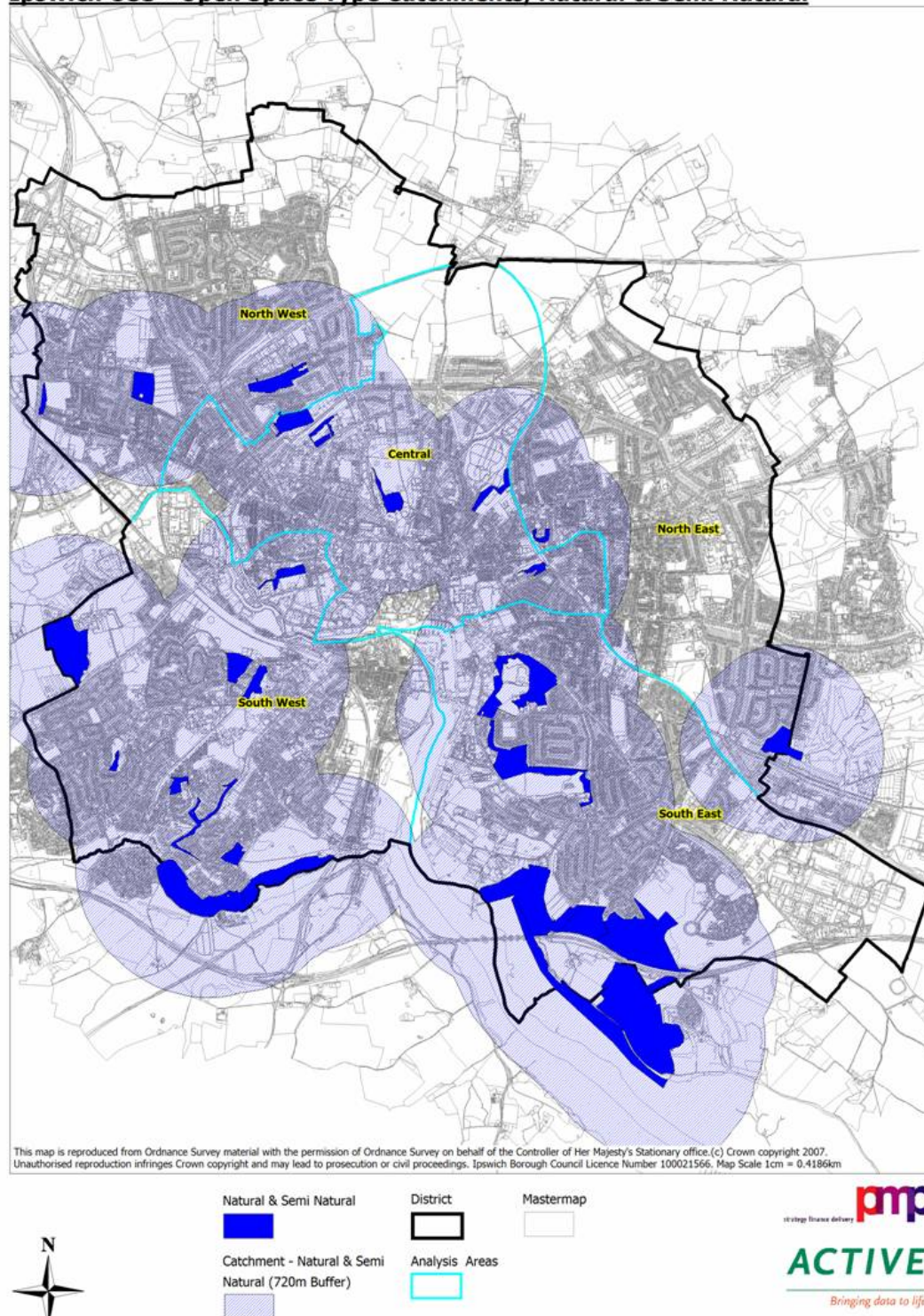
Table 8.4 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Ipswich Borough

Analysis area	Pop	Current provision per 1,000 pop	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	24,024	0.54	1.4	- 20.66	- 25.27
North East	24,547	0.20	1.4	- 29.39	- 34.09
South East	22,356	4.06	1.4	59.41	55.13
South West	31,828	1.51	1.4	3.59	- 2.51
North West	25,318	0.45	1.4	- 24.12	- 28.97
Total	128,073	1.31	1.4	- 11.16	- 35.7

- 8.18 As with the amenity green space and parks and gardens typologies, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of NSNs and their geographical relationships to one another in the context of the provision of other accessible open space sites.
- 8.19 Figure 8.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Ipswich Borough's NSN areas and the catchment areas these sites serve.

Figure 8.2 NSN provision and accessibility catchments

Ipswich OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Natural & Semi Natural

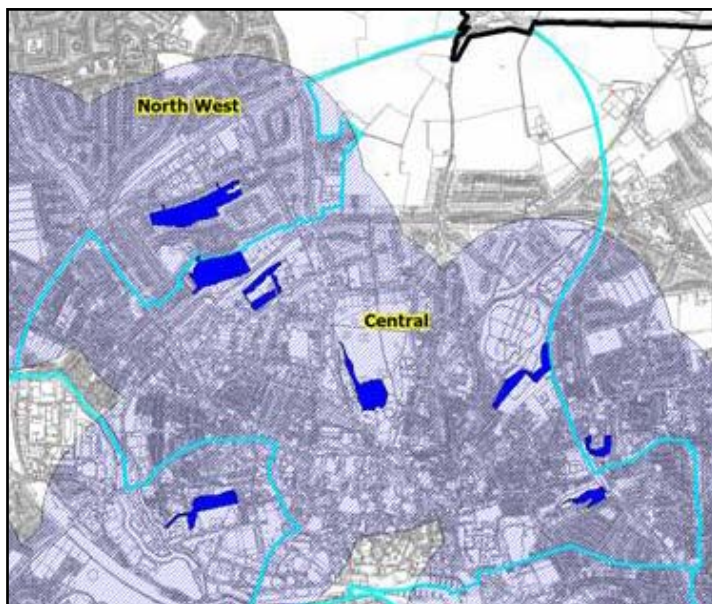


- 8.20 The main issues to arise from a Borough wide assessment of the accessibility of NSN areas in Ipswich are summarised for each analysis area below.

Central

- 8.21 The Central analysis area has 0.54 hectares per 1,000 people of natural and semi-natural provision. This is significantly below the recommended local quantity standard of 1.4 hectares per 1,000 people and would require the provision of an additional 20 hectares to meet this standard.

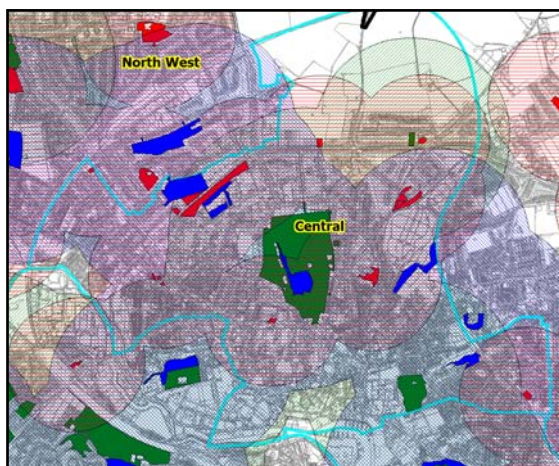
Figure 8.3 NSN accessibility in Central analysis area



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- 8.22 The accessibility map above reveals that the majority of the residents of the analysis area have access to a natural and semi-natural area within a 15 minute walktime, with the exception of a small pocket to the north east of the analysis area. However, Figure 8.4 below shows that there is Valley Road Community Garden and two amenity green spaces within the neighbourhood, so these residents do have access to some public open space.

Figure 8.4 Natural and semi-natural, amenity green space and parks and gardens accessibility catchments in the Central analysis area



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- 8.23 A practical method of increasing the overall level of natural and semi-natural provision within the Borough could involve converting more areas of current parkland into natural provision. Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park are the two large parks in the analysis area. Christchurch Park currently contains some natural areas although this could potentially be increased in the future.

NSN 1	Investigate the option of converting additional areas of Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park to natural and semi-natural provision.
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North East

- 8.24 The North East analysis area has the lowest level of natural and semi-natural provision in the Borough, 0.2 hectares per 1,000 people. This is 29 hectares below the recommended quantity standard for Ipswich.

Figure 8.5 NSN accessibility in North East analysis area

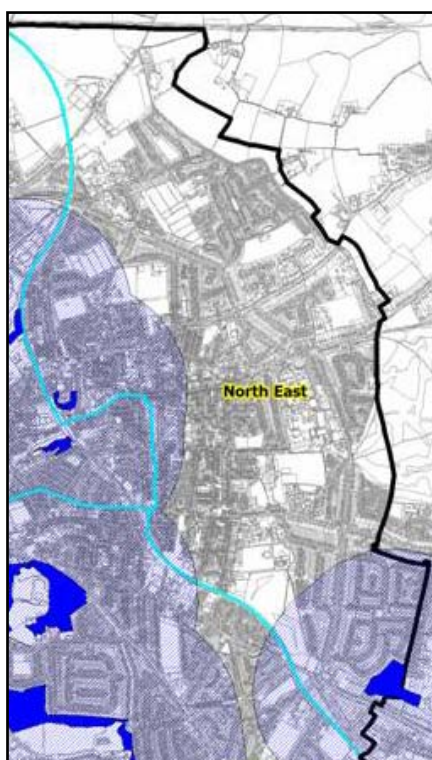
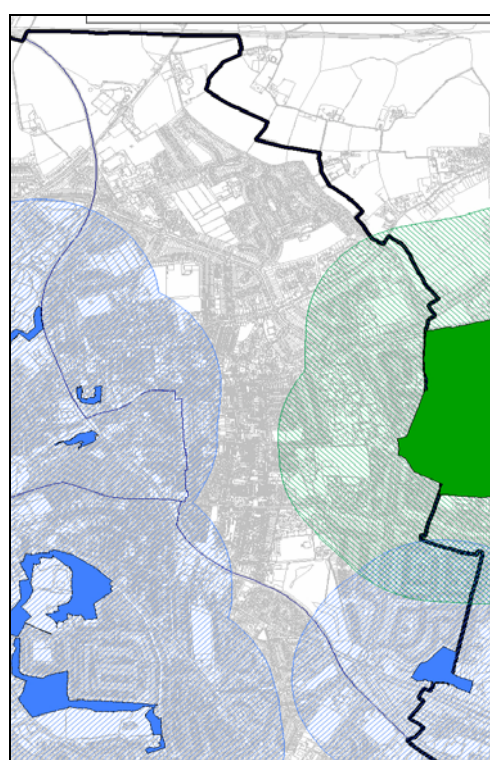


Figure 8.6 Impact of Rushmere Golf Course on NSN accessibility



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- 8.25 Figure 8.5 above illustrates that the majority of the residents of the analysis area do not have access to any natural and semi-natural provision within a 15 minute walktime. However, it should be noted that immediately to the east of the analysis area is Rushmere golf course, which is a registered heath and contains a large amount of accessible natural and semi-natural provision. Including this site in the audit as natural and semi-natural provision would illustrate that the residents of the east side of the analysis area are also well catered for, leaving a large 'corridor' along the centre of the analysis area from north to south without any accessible natural and semi-natural provision (as evidenced by Figure 8.6).

- 8.26 Additionally, studying the parks and gardens, amenity green spaces and natural and semi-natural provision together shows that almost the whole analysis area has access to some form of open space.
- 8.27 Opportunities for increasing the level of natural and semi-natural provision within this analysis area should focus on the other existing open space typologies within the area. For example, there are key strategically located amenity green spaces at Lonsdale Close, Newbury Road and Dumbarton Park. Parts of these sites could be converted to include small areas of natural and semi-natural provision.

NSN 2	Prioritise the North East analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no new sites are available, investigate the option of including small areas of natural and semi-natural provision within existing amenity green spaces in the North East analysis area.
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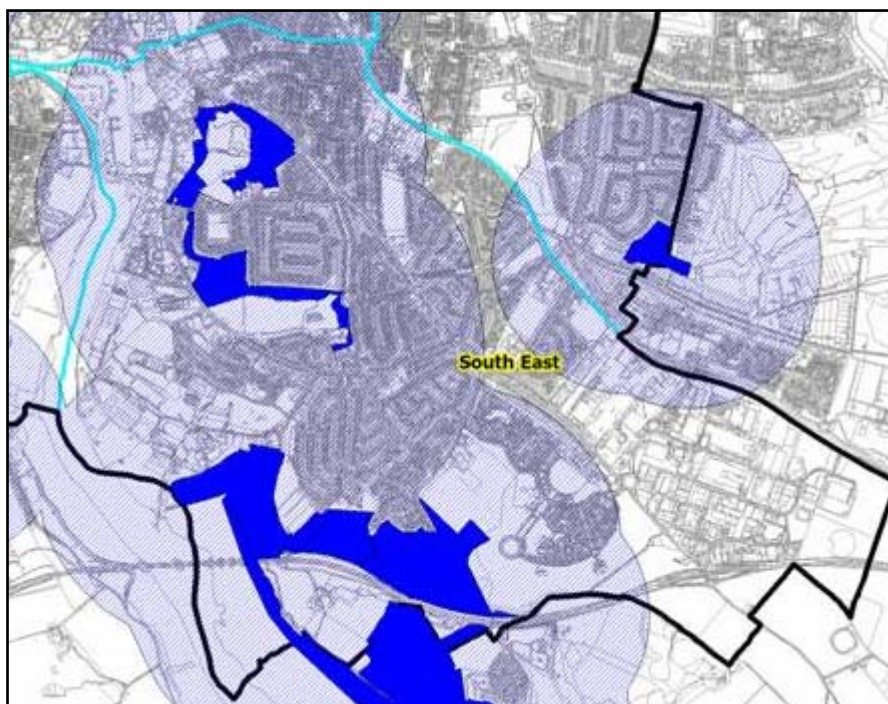
- 8.28 Section 10 explains that there is currently an oversupply of allotment plots compared to the levels of demand. There is an opportunity to temporarily turn some allotment plots that are not currently utilised into natural and semi-natural areas, thus reducing the surplus of allotment plots but still maintaining a healthy number above the national standard. Utilising some of the surplus plots in this way would enable the Council to increase the levels of natural and semi-natural provision and would be reversible should allotment demand levels increase dramatically in the future.
- 8.29 There are two allotment sites in the north of the analysis area (Northgate Allotments and Sidegate Lane Allotments) that, if some of the plots were converted to natural and semi-natural land, would address many of the accessibility issues in this area.

NSN 3	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments in the North East analysis area and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
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South East

- 8.30 The South East analysis area has four hectares of natural and semi-natural land per 1,000 people. This is significantly (59 hectares) above the recommended minimum quantity standard of 1.4 hectares per 1,000 people.
- 8.31 Figure 8.7 overleaf illustrates that the majority of the catchment area has access to a natural and semi-natural open space within 15 minutes walktime so no further provision is required in this area. The developed area to the south east is an industrial area.

Figure 8.7 NSN Accessibility in South East

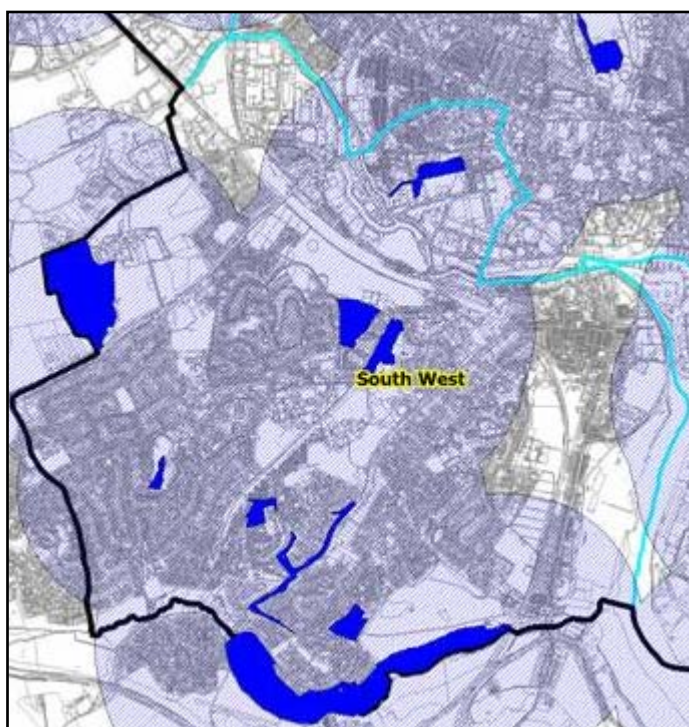


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South West

- 8.32 The South West analysis area has 1.51 hectares of natural and semi-natural open space. This equates to 3.6 hectares of provision above the recommended quantity standard of 1.4 hectares per 1,000 people.

Figure 8.8 NSN Accessibility in South West



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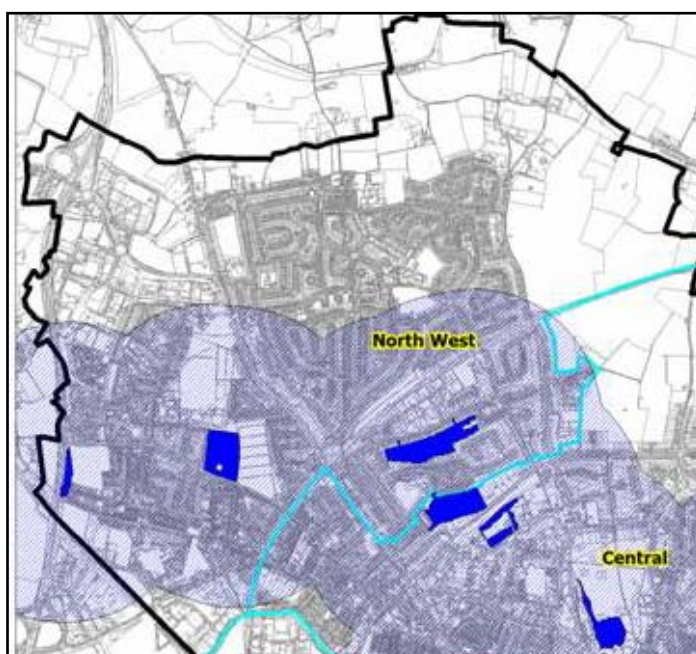
- 8.33 There is also a significant area of natural and semi-natural land that runs along the south boundary of the analysis area, Belstead Brook Park and Local Bobbitts Lane Nature Reserve. The majority of this land is just outside the Borough boundary so is not included within the quantity figures. However, in reality, it serves the residents of the South West analysis area.
- 8.34 The accessibility map (Figure 8.8) demonstrates that the majority of the population of the analysis area has access to natural and semi-natural land within a 15 minute walktime. There is an area to the east of the analysis area that does not have access to any natural and semi-natural land within this walktime. The river also provides a physical barrier to any sites to the east. This area is also not well served by parks or amenity green spaces. However, this area is served by a large allotment site (Halifax Road Allotments) which could be investigated for future natural and semi-natural provision as per the principles of paragraph 8.28.

NSN 4	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments at Halifax Road and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
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North West

- 8.35 The North West analysis area has only 0.45 hectares of natural and semi-natural land per 1,000 people. This area would require an extra 24 hectares of natural and semi-natural land to meet the recommended quantity standard of 1.4 hectares per 1,000 people.

Figure 8.9 NSN accessibility in North West



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- 8.36 Figure 8.9 clearly shows that the north of the analysis area does not have access to any form of natural and semi-natural provision within a 15 minute walktime. It is also lacking in parks and gardens, however, has a good supply of amenity green space.

NSN 5	Prioritise the North West analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no sites are available, investigate the potential for converting elements of existing amenity green space sites to natural and semi-natural land.
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- 8.37 The River Orwell runs through the centre of Ipswich, from the North West to the South East of the Borough. The importance of the river towpath as a green corridor is discussed in Section 14 however the river itself also has an important role as a natural and semi-natural open space.
- 8.38 The river has not been included in the audit as the river is a linear route way and would distort the quantity standard set for natural and semi-natural provision, influencing future planning decisions. However, the importance of the river as a natural and semi-natural open space should be acknowledged as it provides a vital habitat for local wildlife, a visual amenity for local people and a recreation space for activities such as boating.
- 8.39 The example of the river highlights the wider role of natural and semi-natural open space as providing opportunities for uses aside from their primary purpose. A prime example of this is that natural and semi-natural open space can provide an important location for informal environmental play, especially in areas where formal facilities for children and young people are in short supply. Environmental play provides opportunities for children and young people to play freely with, in and around natural environments. Ensuring that the quantity standard is rigorously applied at natural and semi-natural site will ensure that such sites are fit for this dual-purpose.

NSN 6	Encourage the use of natural and semi-natural sites for informal environmental play through the rigorous application of the quality standard at all Council managed sites.
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Summary

8.40 A summary of the recommendations for NSN areas is provided below.

NSN 1	Investigate the option of converting additional areas of Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 2	Prioritise the North East analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no new sites are available, investigate the option of including small areas of natural and semi-natural provision within existing amenity green spaces in the North East analysis area.
NSN 3	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments in the North East analysis area and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 4	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments at Halifax Road and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 5	Prioritise the North West analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no sites are available, investigate the potential for converting elements of existing amenity green space sites to natural and semi-natural land.
NSN 6	Encourage the use of natural and semi-natural sites for informal environmental play through the rigorous application of the quality standard at all Council managed sites.

SECTION 9
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction and definitions

- 9.1 Outdoor sport facilities represent one of the broadest typologies included within this PPG17 study. It includes all natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned and used for outdoor sport and recreation. Types of outdoor sports facilities include: sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. This category of open space also includes school playing fields (both community and non-community facilities).

Figure 9.1 Gippeswyk Park football pitches



- 9.2 Increasing the number and quality of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity may help other objectives such as the need to reduce crime, improve community health, raise levels of self-esteem and provide employment opportunities. Increasing levels of physical activity is becoming increasingly important both locally and nationally.
- 9.3 Local quantity and accessibility standards should be applied for broad planning need only (to identify overall the adequacy/level of provision). The identification of local requirements should be based on localised consultation and audits relevant to the sport and facility type, rather than application of a borough-wide standard to a small geographical area. The findings of this section should be read in conjunction with the findings of the Ipswich Playing Pitch Strategy which considers the detailed demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- 9.4 The land required to deliver new outdoor sport facilities can be sizeable. Provision of new sports facilities in the heavily developed areas of Ipswich can therefore be challenging. Maximising the use of facilities at school sites represents a key opportunity for the Council. Both the extended schools programme and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will facilitate the delivery of sport at school sites to ensure that facilities in existing schools are made more accessible and those to be included in new schools are designed with community sport and physical activity in mind.
- 9.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for outdoor sports facilities in Ipswich and provides a broad overview of areas of deficiency. Indoor facilities are considered in Section 5 of this report.

Context

- 9.6 Household survey results indicated that 50% of people use sports facilities. Of these, usage was split equally between regular users who play more than once a month (21%), and occasional users who participate less than once a month (29%).
- 9.7 74% of the young people's internet survey respondents indicated they play sport. Respondents also said they use parks and amenity spaces (54%) to take part in these activities as opposed to dedicated sports facilities (5%).
- 9.8 The analysis of participation rates for the Borough is important to ascertain the propensity of residents to partake in physical exercise. Sport England's Active People survey has conducted in depth research into the participation rates of adults. It includes walking and cycling for recreation in addition to more traditional formal and informal sports. Regular participation is defined as three days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate intensity.
- 9.9 The survey results for Ipswich taken from the October 2005 – October 2006 survey indicate a participation rate of 14.4% which places Ipswich in the bottom quartile nationally. The national average for adults is 21%.
- 9.10 FA data on football participation (2006) shows that Ipswich has good participation rates in all types of football, especially adult 11-a-side where the borough falls in the top 25% of boroughs classified as 'new and growing towns'. However, youth participation is very low, falling in the bottom quartile.
- 9.11 Consultation with football league secretaries noted that the quantity of provision in Ipswich is very good and that use of school pitches was high, and welcomed, in the borough. The lack of appropriate ancillary facilities was at times a hindrance to participation.
- 9.12 Table 9.1 overleaf summarises the strategic context for outdoor sports facilities in Ipswich.

Table 9.1 Strategic review

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p>	The provision and protection of outdoor sports facilities will contribute to the culture, sport and recreation strategic aims of this RSS.
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint. Chapter seven addresses recreation and leisure provision in the Borough.</p> <p>By applying the NPFA standard of between 1.6 and 1.8 hectares of outdoor playing space per 1,000 population to Ipswich's supply, there is deemed to be a significant shortfall equal to 1.25 hectares per 1,000 people.</p> <p>RL14: development proposals should avoid the loss of playing pitches and grounds used for outdoor sports use. Proposals involving the loss of playing pitches and grounds should provide for an equivalent facility in a location agreed with the Council secured by a planning obligation agreement.</p> <p>RL15: The Council will support proposals for the provision of playing pitches, or expansion of existing facilities and associated floodlighting providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the site can be adequately accessed and suitable changing facilities and on-site car parking arrangements can be made in accordance with the Council's standards; there would be no undue conflict with the interests of conservation of the natural and built environment, other recreational or sporting activities and land uses; the proposal would not involve an unacceptable loss of residential amenity to occupiers of nearby homes; and the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on highway safety. 	<p>Playing pitches are protected within the local plan. Policy RL14 and RL15 are in line with Sport England guidance on the protection of playing pitches (<i>A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England</i>)</p> <p>The protection of playing pitches is explored in greater depth in the accompanying playing pitch strategy.</p>

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p> <p>The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development;• IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and• Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to site allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development.	<p>The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.</p>

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)	<p>Sport England's aims are for a larger proportion of the population to become involved in sport and provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England; • encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence; • foster, support and undertake the development of facilities; and • advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities. <p>Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.</p> <p>Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.’</p>	Sport England sees the planning of the spatial system as an opportunity to deliver on aspirations for sport and recreation. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sports participation goals.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>The East of England Plan for Sport, Sport England (2004)</p>	<p>This plan sets out the plan for sport and physical activity in the East region and is the result of national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors. It has been facilitated by Sport England under the guidance of the East Regional Sports Board. The plan aims believes sport should be central to improving health, generating economic impact and encouraging social equality. The plan sets a challenge to</p> <p><i>‘...raise participation levels, year on year, leading to a significant rise the east’s population being physically active by 2020’.</i></p> <p>The plan has six main priorities aimed at increasing participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion and marketing; • legislation and regulatory change; • quality and improvement; • structures and partnerships; • innovation and delivery; and • strategic planning and research. 	<p>The PPG17 study will contribute to the achievement of these objectives through the recognition of the wider roles that outdoor sports facilities can play in meeting the needs of local communities.</p> <p>This study will help to deliver the priorities set out in the regional strategies through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing an evidence base built on local need for the protection of playing fields; • setting out strategy for the provision of sufficient, good quality and accessible facilities to accommodate, facilitate and encourage increases in participation; and • driving a programme of enhancement across the borough that will ensure facilities are of a quality that encourages high level performance.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Link to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Creating Active Places – Sports Facility Strategy for the East of England, EEDA (2007)</p>	<p>This document provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of existing facility provision in the East of England area and therefore has a key role in supporting the development and delivery of a network of high quality sports facilities across the region.</p> <p>The vision for future facility provision is ‘to develop and maintain a network of quality facilities, fit for purpose and accessible for all, meeting local, regional and national needs’. The scope of this document extends to sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness gyms (relevant for the Indoor sports section of this study) as well as synthetic turf pitches and golf courses (relevant for the outdoor sports section of this study). Playing pitches are not covered.</p> <p>There was a general conclusion that quantity of sports halls was generally good across the region, although a number of facilities needed to be upgraded in some areas. Similarly, pools provision was equally good, although some accessibility issues remain. Population growth was referenced as a future strain of these facilities however. The amount of ‘pay and play’ access for health and fitness suites needs to increase.</p> <p>There was an acknowledged need for more synthetic turf pitches that were sport specific and had floodlights. This includes the creation of community use agreements of existing facility refurbishment to meet current demands and standards.</p> <p>It was noted the East of England region had poor provision of elite athlete facilities, and it was felt proposals to provide such facilities should be supported. This was linked to the role of London 2012 and the attraction of major sporting events.</p>	<p>This study covers indoor and outdoor sports provision within Ipswich borough. This strategy will aid the creation of any sports facility recommendations made.</p>
<p>A Cultural Strategy for Suffolk (2002)</p>	<p>The Government’s widest definition of culture includes ‘sports and recreation, countryside activities, tourism...historic buildings and landscapes’. The Cultural Strategy for Suffolk Action Plan identifies a need to make sure Culture is for everyone, to make the county more prosperous, promote inclusiveness and to improve partnership working between different organisations.</p> <p>The accessibility of cultural activities was noted as being an issue, especially public transport issues for remote cultural venues. Raising the profile of cultural activities and utilising volunteers was also seen as important, as well as the creation of Cultural Champions to promote greater participation.</p>	<p>The provision of outdoor sports facilities forms a core part of culture, and the appropriate provision of such facilities will aid the attainment of this strategy.</p>

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Link to open space, sport and recreation study
Suffolk County Sports Partnership business plan 2006 - 2010	<p>Suffolk Sport is the official body for sport in the county and their role is to ensure everyone in Suffolk has the opportunity to take part in sport at their appropriate level. They work in partnership with many organisations to promote and setup new sporting opportunities.</p> <p>Their Business Plan sets a vision ‘to make Suffolk physically active and successful sporting County through the provision of high-quality opportunities for everyone’. This is achieved through working in partnership with various organisations such as National Governing Bodies (NGBs), local authorities and schools as well as actively engaging with the Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships.</p> <p>The plan outlines eight priority areas of work, two of which relate directly to this study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning relates to effective co-ordinating of national, regional and local policy to meet the sporting needs of local communities. This includes the development of an effective Community Sports Network across the county; and • Club Development aims to provide a quality club environment providing more opportunities for participation. This includes promoting and achieving Clubmark and NGB accreditation, alongside increasing participation at all levels. Community Well-being supports this by pointing to the value to the wider community of sports participation. 	<p>Strategic policy planning and club development initiatives contribute to the creation of standards that form the basis of this study.</p>
Vibrant Ipswich – transforming Ipswich’s culture and leisure scene (2005)	<p>Ipswich has a key role to play through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of leisure opportunities and activities; • improvement of the town’s cultural status and ambition; • generation of further economic growth in the cultural and tourism sector; and • promotion of cultural activity as a means of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving health and generating community well-being by involving people of all ages in all sectors of society. <p>The role of sport is also acknowledged as being important from a social point of view in terms of increasing social inclusion, community cohesion and contributing to crime reduction and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Vibrant Ipswich promotes the role of sports facilities in Ipswich and therefore supports the protection and further provision (where deemed necessary) of outdoor sports facilities within the borough.</p>

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Link to open space, sport and recreation study
Team Ipswich Community Sports Network Strategy and Action Plan (DRAFT)	<p>The strategy was formed by teamipswich, the single delivery team for sport in Ipswich. The strategy acknowledges the need for first Programmes and Activities (labelled the ‘software’ of sport) and Facilities (the ‘hardware’) as two basic requirements to sport development. A key distinction is made between sport and active recreation – sport having an established set of rules, and recreational activities being a relatively unstructured use of people’s leisure time.</p> <p>The Strategy outline’s the strengths of Ipswich’s sporting scene – pointing to the national successes of Ipswich Swimming club, Ipswich Hockey club, the national gymnastics centre as well as extended sports colleges and schools sports partnerships. The Director of the Suffolk County Sports Partnership commented:</p> <p><i>‘the level of funding that Ipswich Borough Council has committed over many years to sport and sports provision has borne fruit with high levels of participation, good community engagement and significant levels of resident satisfaction with the services provided. It is hoped that this level of support continues in the future.’</i></p> <p>Acknowledged strengths of sport in Ipswich include the network of voluntary clubs, the talents pool, sports centre management and the number of facilities it can offer. Weaknesses include the lack of capital investment in existing facilities, the lack of key high level facilities and the potential for more coordinated working between agencies. Ipswich’s vision is to become ‘the most active town in the East of England’. In order to achieve this, five aims/priorities are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the range and level of opportunity for children and young people to participate in both curricula and extra curricula sport and active recreation; • to obtain health, social inclusion and wider community benefits through locally based sport and active recreation initiatives and programmes; • to develop participation and achievement in sport through successful Ipswich sports clubs; and • to ensure that the Borough’s talented young people, sportsmen and sports women have the support and resources to reach the highest level of excellence and to achieve their full potential in their chosen sport. 	<p>This strategy aims to increase participation in Ipswich. This study will assist in the achievement of this aim by ensuring an appropriate quantity, quality and level of accessibility of outdoor facilities within the borough.</p>

Current position – quantity

- 9.13 There are currently 78 outdoor sport facilities in Ipswich. Publicly accessible outdoor sports facility sites and school sports facilities with secured community use have been included within the PPG17 audit. Golf courses have been included in the audit despite their tendency to skew the figures due to their large size. Where relevant, separate analysis has been provided to account for this.

Table 9.2 Quantity of outdoor sports facilities in Ipswich

Analysis area	Population	Total hectares	Number of sites	Ha per 1,000	Ha per 1,000 excl golf
Central	24,024	16.55	13	0.69	0.69
North East	24,547	78	28	3.18	2.23
South East	22,356	24.91	12	1.11	1.11
South West	31,828	41.33	19	1.3	1.3
North West	25,318	26.82	6	1.06	1.06
Overall	128,073	187.61	78	1.46	1.28

- 9.14 The main comments arising from this table and the consultation are as follows:
- provision of outdoor sports facilities across Ipswich is highest in the North East analysis area, with 3.18 hectares per 1,000 people, or 2.23 hectares per 1,000 people excluding golf courses;
 - the Central analysis area is severely lacking in outdoor sports facilities, however, it is to be expected as the analysis area covers the town centre;
 - 35% of respondents to the household survey thought that the level of provision of outdoor sports facilities is about right but only 3% thought there is more than enough provision. 29% thought that there was not enough and 20% thought that there was nearly enough provision. Overall, this highlights that a majority of residents (49%) feel that more provision is required;
 - 53% of household survey respondents thought that provision of grass pitches is more than enough or about right. Only 21% thought there was not enough, indicating that provision of grass pitches is believed to be sufficient;
 - 24% of household survey respondents indicated that provision of Synthetic Turf Pitches is sufficient, with 28% stating that more are required. 48% of respondents did not offer an opinion, indicating that synthetic turf pitches are not used often by many members of the public;
 - the most popular response from members of the public regarding tennis courts was that there was not enough (36%) indicating that more courts may be required;

- only 17% indicated that there are not enough bowling greens, with 34% saying there are more than enough or about right and 49% not offering an opinion;
- only 18% of members of the public stated that there are not enough golf courses. The rest stated no opinion (47%) or more than enough/about right (35%);
- Ipswich Rugby Club indicated that they need more land to accommodate increasing demand, especially from junior rugby;
- the total quantity of Council pitches in Ipswich is considered to be good by local football league representatives. Sunday mornings were however deemed to be a busy period for football, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough;
- a number of teams use school pitches instead of the major Council run sites. This was not deemed to be a problem through consultation and there was no acknowledged reliance on these pitches to make up any shortfall. A good proportion of schools with pitches have made them available for use by the community, albeit with partial availability; and
- consultations with internal council officers and the Suffolk Football Association indicated that provision of pitches is just about right although some further provision may be required.

Current position - quality

- 9.15 The quality of outdoor sport facilities in Ipswich is summarised in Table 9.3 below. All scores are detailed in percentages. The degree to which playing pitches are fit for purpose has been investigated in more detail as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.

Table 9.3 Quality of outdoor sports facilities

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores (%)	Average score (%)
Central	13	60-93.3	80
North East	28	60-82.9	76
South East	12	62.2-84.4	76
South West	19	65.7-84.4	78
North West	6	66.7-80	75
Overall	78	60-93.3	77

- 9.16 The breakdown of scores across the analysis areas reveals a consistent quality of outdoor sports sites. The average quality score of 77% represents a good site and even the lowest scores at 60% represent average quality sites.

- 9.17 The Central analysis area scored highest with an average quality score of 80% and the North West area scored lowest with an average score of 75%. Average scores were fairly consistent across all areas.
- 9.18 Assessment is inherently difficult with this typology for a number of reasons. Firstly, some of the sites are privately owned so access is difficult or impossible. Secondly, there is variation in expectations between sites, with a variety of sports being catered for in this typology. Finally, sports site usage is seasonal, making effective pitch assessment difficult when out of season. These factors need to be taken into consideration when interpreting the results.
- 9.19 The quality of Council cricket pitches was criticised, although the number of responding clubs was limited.
- 9.20 Consultation with local football league representatives revealed that the quality of pitches in Ipswich is generally very good, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough. Some issues with ancillary facilities were highlighted at Murray Road and Gippeswyk Park, in particular with changing facilities.
- 9.21 The quality of football pitches was generally thought to be sufficient by internal and external sports consultees although the Suffolk Football Association identified some pitches that needed to be brought up to the quality of the other pitches in the borough. Additionally, ancillary facilities such as parking and changing were deemed to be insufficient and needing quality improvements on some sites.
- 9.22 The quantity of outdoor tennis courts was deemed to be sufficient by the Suffolk Lawn Tennis Association and council officers although quality could be improved and there is a need for floodlighting to allow courts to be used all year round.
- 9.23 72% of household survey respondents who stated outdoor sports facilities were their most frequently used open space highlighted the importance of facilities for young people as an ideal feature of an outdoor sports facility. Further ideal features were for cleanliness from litter (74%) and toilet provision (63%).

Current position - accessibility

- 9.24 Household survey results indicate that over the whole borough, 87% favour walking as the preferred mode of transport to access outdoor sports facilities. This is a view reflected throughout the analysis areas. The 75% response for the expected travel time to get to an outdoor sports facility is between 15 and 20 minutes.
- 9.25 The sports clubs who use outdoor sports facilities prefer to travel by private car and expect to travel no more than 20 minutes. This response is to be expected as sports clubs often travel en masse to games or competitions with kit, equipment etc so would not tend to walk to a facility, irrespective of the distance.

Setting provision standards

- 9.26 In setting local standards for outdoor sport facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.
- 9.27 A summary of the key messages emerging from the analysis of existing provision and local need is provided at the end of this section.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 9.28 The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 9.29 The provision standard for outdoor sports facilities integrates the local standard derived as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy. This will enable the Council to ensure that the composition of the outdoor sports facility stock meets local needs.

Outdoor sport facilities

Quantity standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.46 hectares per 1000 population.	1.53 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and through other consultations. However, for this study, only school facilities with secured community access have been included. The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This will be important for achieving participation targets, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.</p> <p>Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for assessing planning applications only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the overall level of provision of grass pitches is sufficient, the Playing Pitch Strategy that has been undertaken provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of pitches locally, in particular, highlighting a shortage of football pitches.</p> <p>In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.46 hectares per 1,000) at 1.53 ha per 1,000 population. This equates to an increase of 8.34ha of outdoor sports facilities. The playing pitch strategy identifies 6.92 hectares of pitches that are required, leaving another 1.43 ha required for sports facilities not included in the Playing Pitch Strategy such as tennis and bowls.</p> <p>Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most; however results from the local consultation suggest there is demand for outdoor tennis courts. The standard has been set at an increased level to reflect Council aspirations to increase participation. Examination of other local authority provision levels shows that Ipswich's provision is below the level of many others such as Chelmsford (2.27 ha/1000) and Maidstone (2.11 ha/1000). Ipswich is however above some others, notably Colchester Borough which has 1.18 hectares per 1000 population (excluding golf).</p>	

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Quality standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
Essential features Facilities should meet relevant national governing body of sport specifications, have well-kept grass, appropriate toilets/changing facilities and be clean/litter-free. Facilities for cycle parking should be provided, along with adequate signage displaying contact information.	Desirable features Staff should be located on-site where appropriate and adequate parking provision should be provided on all sites. Sites should be accessible by bus and cycle routes.
Justification	
<p>Household and stakeholder consultations highlighted that the key issues for existing sites are the maintenance of facilities and for good ancillary facilities. In addition, national governing body guidance for sporting sites should be followed to ensure that playing area dimensions, maintenance and safety guidelines are appropriate. The standard has been designed to reflect these points.</p> <p>Given that there is general satisfaction regarding the quality of outdoor sports facilities from the household survey and site assessments, it is important that careful consideration is given to meeting aspirations for new sites by applying the quality standard rigourously.</p> <p>Given that the majority of sites will be of a substantial size, it is important that sites are designed with careful consideration of their local context.</p>	

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Accessibility standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk (720m)
Justification
<p>The Comprehensive Performance Assessment criterion for accessing quality sports facilities is a 20 minute walk time in urban areas or a 20 minute drive time in rural areas.</p> <p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board in accordance with PPG17 requirements. For example, residents are willing to travel further for synthetic turf pitches than for grass pitches.</p> <p>Given the predominantly urban nature of the Borough, it is suggested that a walk time is set. The household survey results show that 87% of people expect to walk to their nearest outdoor sports facility with the 75% threshold being no more than a 15 – 20 minute walk. It should be noted that the most popular response (the mode response) was for a 10 – 15 minute walk time.</p>

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 9.30 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 9.31 The future level of provision required across Ipswich to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 9.4. There are significant differences across the analysis areas when measured in hectares per 1,000 population. However, these apparent shortfalls and surpluses are somewhat academic given the willingness of sports clubs to drive to appropriate facilities.
- 9.32 The location of outdoor sports sites across the borough is shown overleaf in Figure 9.2.

Figure 9.2 Outdoor sports facilities in Ipswich

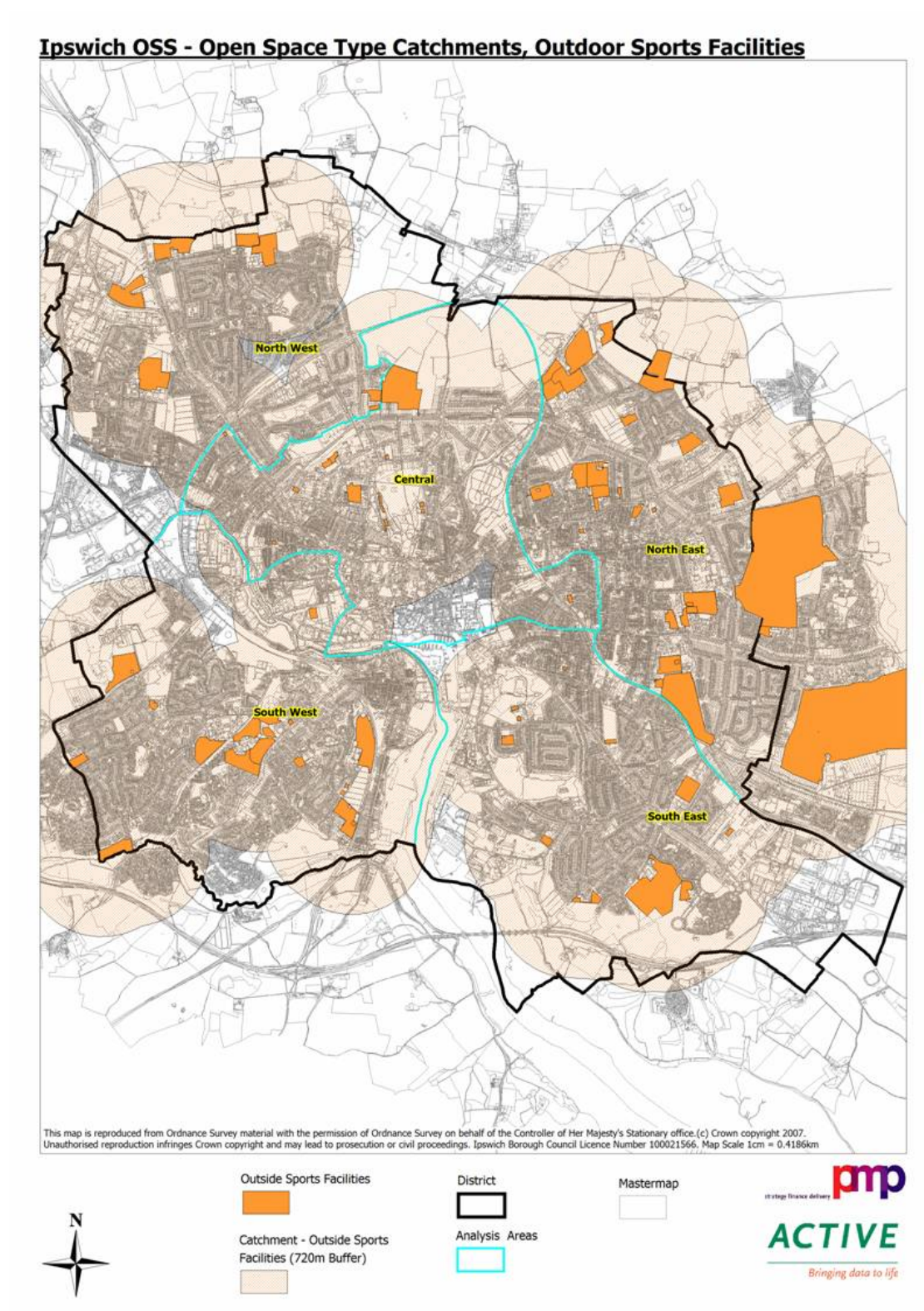
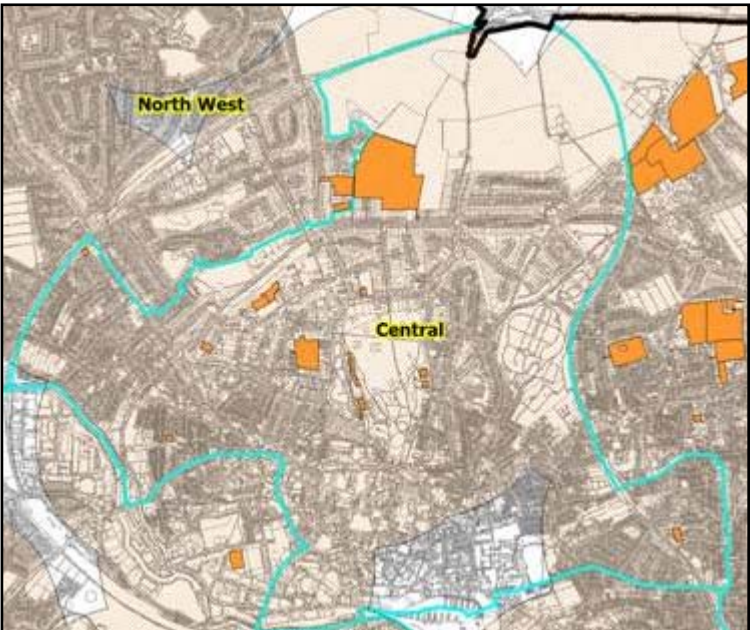


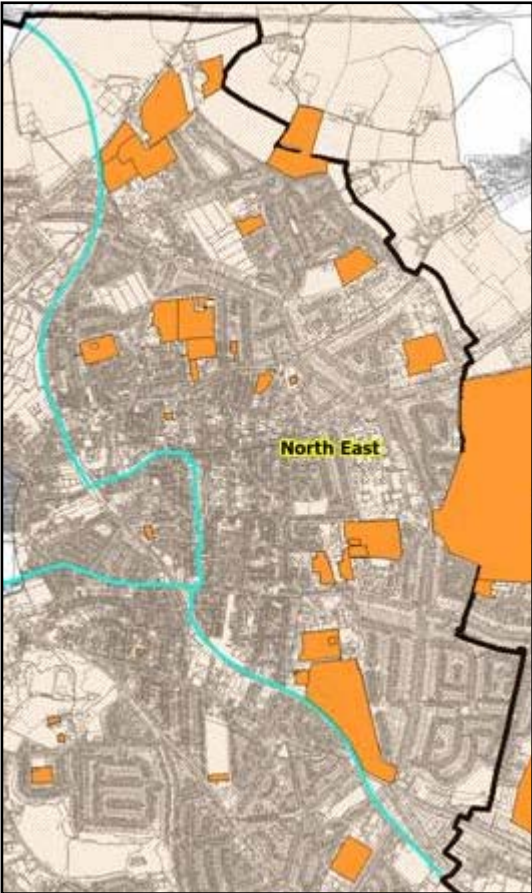
Table 9.4 Application of local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities

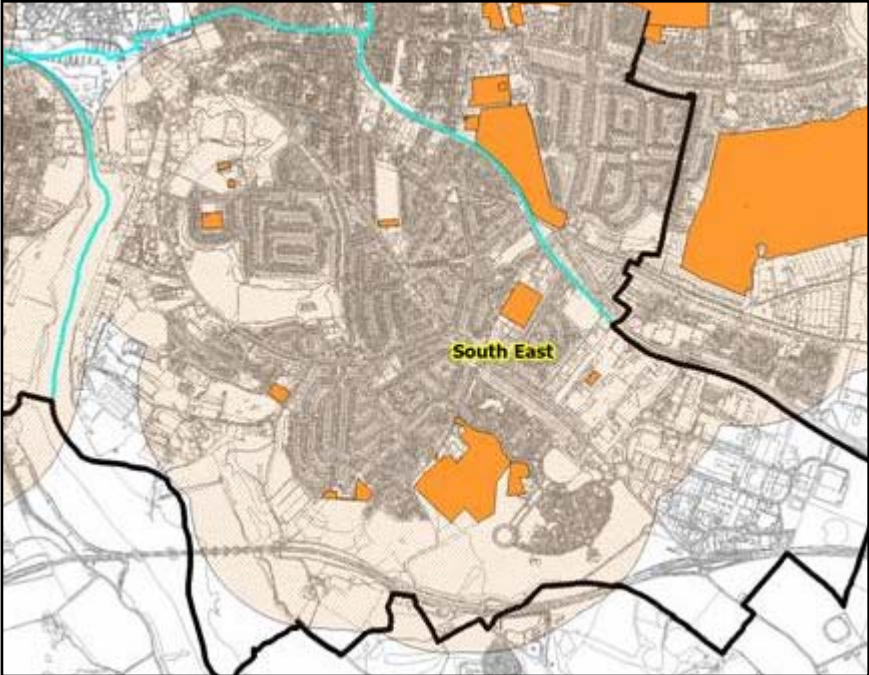
Analysis area	Population	Current total provision	Hectares per 1,000 pop	Standard	Current provision	Future provision
Central	24,024	16.55	0.69	1.53	-20.21	-25.24
North East*	24,547	78	3.18	1.53	40.44	35.3
South East	22,356	24.91	1.11	1.53	-9.29	-13.97
South West	31,828	41.33	1.3	1.53	-7.37	-14.03
North West	25,318	26.82	1.06	1.53	-11.92	-17.22
Overall	128,073	187.61	1.46	1.53	-8.34	-35.16

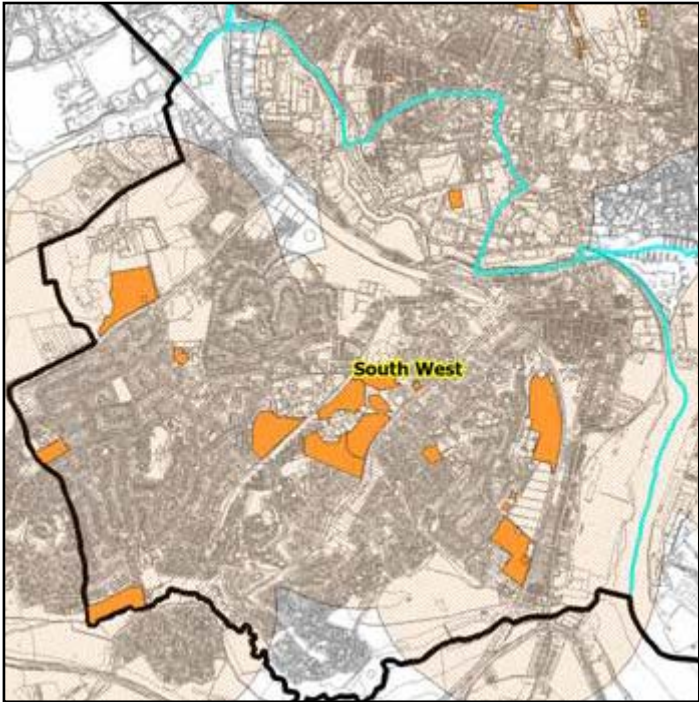
* North East analysis area provision figures include golf courses

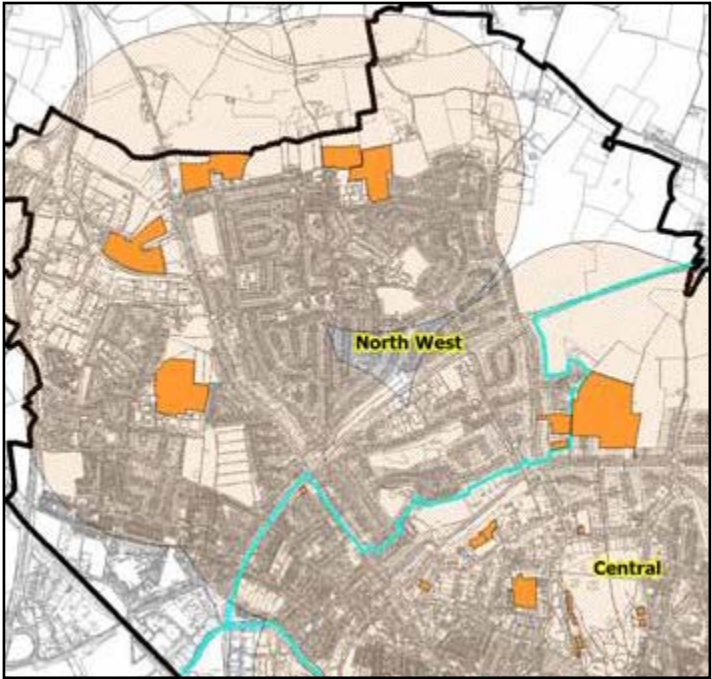
- 9.33 If we apply the current standard to current provision, there is a definite deficit in provision across the borough as a whole of 8.3 hectares. This will increase to 35 hectares by 2021. The only area with a current surplus is the North East area (40 hectares), although this includes golf provision located in the area.
- 9.34 An assessment has been made as to the specific issues that exist with regards to provision of sports facilities in each analysis area.

Analysis area	Key issues arising
<p>Central</p>	<p>There is currently a deficit in this area equal to the equivalent of 20 hectares, and will rise to a deficit of 25 hectares by 2021. However it is unlikely that there will be any space for new sites due to the urban nature of the area. It is therefore recommended that transport connections are maintained and improved to allow local residents to access sites outside of the area.</p> <p>The Ipswich School sites are the most significant in this area and their facilities are already open for public use. Should the Council seek to provide additional sports facilities in the Central analysis area, the school should be approached to see if increasing the number of hours of community access to the school's sports facilities is possible at these sites.</p>  <p>© Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence Number 100021566.</p>

Analysis area	Key issues arising
<p>North East</p>	<p>Provision in this area is currently very high and significant surpluses are shown in Table 9.4, both in 2007 and predicted for 2021. A number of the major sports facilities are located in or adjacent to this area including Ipswich Sports Club, Northgate Sports Centre, Ipswich RFC, Ransomes Sports Club, Copleston High School and both St Clements and Rushmere Heath Golf courses.</p> <p>These sites all are strategically important sports sites for the Borough and we would not recommend that any of these sites are lost. Total quantity of provision across the borough shows an overall deficit, so we would not recommend any loss of outdoor sports space in this area. In reality, these sites are used by clubs and individuals from across the whole Borough.</p>  <p>© Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence Number 100021566.</p>

Analysis area	Key issues arising
South East	<p>Quantity is currently below the recommended standard in this area, with provision currently being 1.11 hectares per 1000 population. This equates to a shortfall of nine hectares currently, and nearly 14 hectares by 2021.</p> <p>There were no specific issues with regards to quality that arose out of site assessments for this area. The average score was in line with the average for the borough as a whole. The map below shows accessibility to be excellent, as almost all of the area falls within the 15 minute walktime catchment.</p> <p>The Gainsborough Sports Centre represents the major outdoor sports facility in the borough and provides a core sporting function, not just for the area, but the borough as a whole.</p> <p>The other significant sports site is Murray Road recreation ground. This site's primary purpose was deemed to be for amenity use and has therefore has been included as an amenity green space despite the presence of two adult and one junior football pitch here. This helps address the quantity shortfall as shown by the quantitative analysis.</p>  <p>© Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence Number 100021566.</p>

Analysis area	Key issues arising
South West	<p>Quantity in the South West is below the quantity standard. There is currently a shortfall of seven hectares, and by 2021 this will have increased to 14 hectares. Quality is in line with the borough as a whole, with the average score being 78%. Accessibility is excellent, with only a small pocket in the south falling outside the 15 minute walktime catchment.</p> <p>Bourne Park, which is in the south of this area, and Gippeswyk Park, in the north, have both been recorded as parks based on their primary purpose. Bourne Park, however, has four football pitches, and Gippeswyk has two pitches, something that significantly helps to address the current quantity shortfalls expressed in Table 9.4. The other sites in the area are primarily school sites, such as St Joseph's, Stoke Park and Chantry High.</p> <p>We would not recommend the provision of any new sites given the presence of the pitches at both Bourne and Gippeswyk Parks. However, the mix of outdoor sports provision will need to be examined by Sports Development Officers in light of the results of the playing pitch strategy that will show where certain sports facility provision may be deficient.</p>  <p>© Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence Number 100021566.</p>

Analysis area	Key issues arising
North West	<p>There is a quantity shortfall in this area of nearly 12 hectares in 2007, and 17 hectares by 2021.</p> <p>Like other areas, quality is very good in this area, with an average score of 75 still considered to be very good, despite being the lowest of all the areas.</p> <p>There is a small pocket in the centre of the area without access to an outdoor sports facility. Castle Hill Recreation Ground, recorded as an amenity green space in this study, has the potential to incorporate an outdoor sports facility such as some tennis courts. This would address the accessibility shortfall in the area as well as the quantity shortfalls as noted in Table 9.4.</p>  <p>© Crown Copyright. Ipswich Borough Council. Licence Number 100021566.</p>

Golf courses

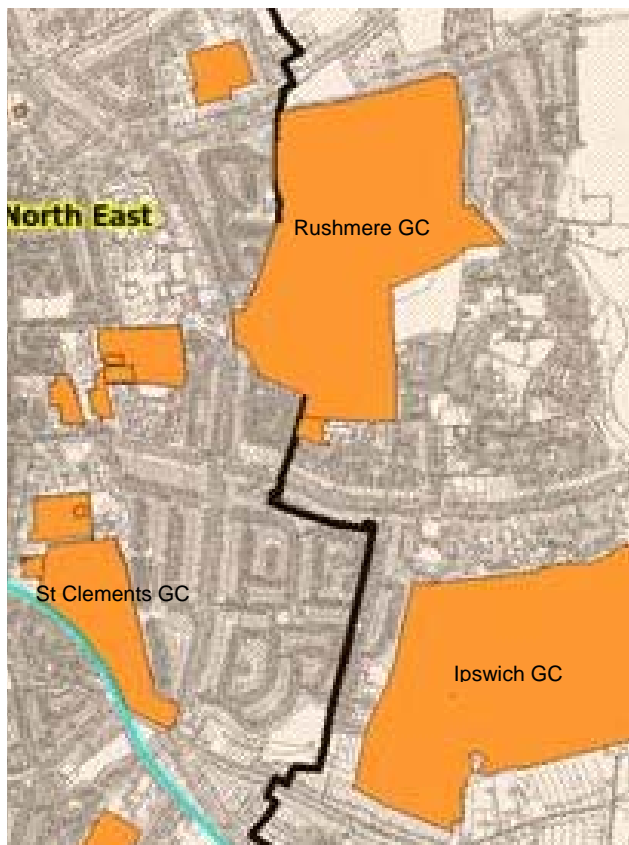
9.35 The Council has asked us to investigate the provision of golf facilities within the borough and the level of demand for additional golf facilities.

9.36 Our audit has identified three golf courses within the Ipswich area:

- Ipswich Golf Course – falls just outside the Borough boundary close to the North East / South East analysis areas. Provides an 18 hole course for members and a pay and play nine hole public golf course;
- Rushmere Golf Course – located on Rushmere Heath, on the borough boundary of the North East analysis area. Provides an 18 hole golf course for members; and
- St Clements Golf Course – in the North East analysis area close to the boundary of the South East analysis area. Provides a nine hole course for members.

9.37 The three courses are depicted on Figure 9.3 below.

Figure 9.3 Golf courses in Ipswich



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9.38 Additionally, close to Ipswich there are the following golf courses:

- Fynn Valley Golf Course – situated three miles north of Ipswich. Provides an 18 hole course, a nine hole course and a 22 bay floodlit driving range for members;

- Brett Valley Golf Course – located in Raydon, Suffolk. Provides an 18 hole golf course and a driving range for members; and
 - Hintelsham Golf Course – located in Hintelsham, Suffolk. Provides an 18 hole golf course for members.
- 9.39 There are also another 20 golf courses in Suffolk. We understand that a public nine hole golf course and a driving range has been identified as a possibility for Landseer Park in the South East analysis area.
- 9.40 The household survey consultation results do not support the need for a new golf course with 10% stating that current provision is more than enough, 25% about right and 18% not enough. 47% did not express an opinion, indicating that golf is not played by a significant percentage of the population sample surveyed. Additionally, no household survey comments or consultee comments expressed any need for a new golf course.
- 9.41 Previous consultation with TopGolf, a commercial driving range operator, has revealed that they would only consider sites with 300,000 people within a 20 minute drivetime and 1,000,000 people within a 30 minute drivetime. Ipswich could not meet these parameters, especially considering the fact that there is a driving range three miles away at Fynn Valley Golf course.
- 9.42 This information is intended as a guide and does not specifically examine the need for a public golf course. A full feasibility study would be required involving detailed public consultation to establish the need for a public golf course, although the number of private golf clubs in the area does not suggest that there will be a large unmet demand, particularly considering the close proximity of Landseer Park to Ipswich's existing golf courses.

Outdoor tennis courts

- 9.43 PPG17 stipulates that the standard for outdoor sports facilities should be set at an overall level, rather than by individual sport. However, at the Council's request we have carried out additional specific supply and demand modelling for outdoor tennis courts.
- 9.44 Whilst there is no official supply and demand model for outdoor tennis courts, Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) research shows that 2% of the population regularly participates in tennis. The LTA also recommends in its National Facilities Strategy one outdoor court per 45 regular tennis players.
- 9.45 Using these statistics, it can be assumed that approximately 2,561 people in Ipswich regularly participate in tennis (2% of the borough's population). If Ipswich was to meet the LTA's recommended guideline of one outdoor court per 45 regular tennis players, it would require circa 57 outdoor tennis courts.
- 9.46 Our audit identified 66 outdoor tennis courts in Ipswich. Whilst this shows that there is a slight oversupply of courts, 20 of these courts are on school sites and five are not currently in use. This indicates that there may be an undersupply of outdoor tennis courts in the borough, particularly when quality is also factored in, although the seasonal nature of usage for outdoor tennis courts and the lack of an official LTA supply and demand model should also be borne in mind when considering new provision.

OSF 5	Increase the quality of the existing outdoor tennis courts.
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Recommendations

- 9.47 Our recommendations regarding the provision of outdoor sports facilities are listed below.

OSF 1	Investigate the provision of new outdoor sports facilities in Castle Hill Recreation Ground in the North West analysis area.
OSF 2	Promote the availability of sports facilities across the borough and ensure that facilities are accessible to all sectors of the local community. This should include increasing signage to sites and maximising public transport links.
OSF 3	Actively pursue community use at school sites to maximise the number of residents that have access to local facilities.
OSF 4	Ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are fit for the purposes intended. Specific improvements required for playing pitches are set out in the Ipswich Playing Pitch Strategy.
OSF 5	Increase the quality of the existing outdoor tennis courts.

- 9.48 There is an increasing trend for providing opportunities for people who wish to exercise outdoors rather than joining health and fitness gymnasiums to exercise outdoors using 'green gyms' or 'trim trails'. These are exercise equipment alternatives that are built outdoors. Often made of timber, examples include balance beams, parallel bars, overhead ladders and leapfrog posts.
- 9.49 These provide a cheap and healthy alternative for the local population to exercise outdoors without the need to build large sports centres. The Council should investigate possible sites for locating such facilities throughout the Borough. They are commonly located in parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities although are also compatible with amenity green space sites and natural and semi-natural sites. Green gyms / trim trails can be built for children, young people and adults alike so are also often located on or alongside facilities for children and young people.

OSF 6	Investigate and identify potential sites for the installation of green gym equipment exercise stations for use by adults as well as young people and children.
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Summary

- 9.50 Participation in sport and physical activity is poor in Ipswich compared to other areas of the country according to both Active People and national FA participation statistics.
- 9.51 Consultation highlights that the quality of outdoor sports facilities across Ipswich is perceived to be excellent and site assessments confirmed this.
- 9.52 The application of the quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the distribution of outdoor sports facilities is fairly uneven across the borough, with low levels of provision (in terms of hectares) in both the Central and South East areas in particular. However, the majority of residents are able to access a minimum of one type of outdoor sports facility within the recommended distance threshold.
- 9.53 The accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy provides a more detailed assessment of existing provision, as well as identifying specific areas of the borough where latent demand exists.

SECTION 10
ALLOTMENTS

Allotments

Introduction and definition

- 10.1 This type of open space includes all forms of allotments with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for people to grow their own produce. This type of open space may also include urban farms.
- 10.2 Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community in addition to their primary purpose. These include:
- improving physical and mental health;
 - providing a source of recreation;
 - bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds;
 - making a wider contribution to the green and open space network; and
 - providing refuge areas for wildlife.
- 10.3 Allotments can be particularly important in dense, urban environments where many residents do not have private gardens. Allotments are also becoming increasingly popular as an alternative means of physical activity.

Context

- 10.4 Despite the popularity of allotments with their users, allotment use remains a minority activity. As a result, the survey of 5000 households in the borough returned a small number of responses with allotment users. It is not therefore appropriate to use statistical evidence from the household survey to justify recommendations. However, consultations with Council staff as well as examination of Council plot waiting lists indicate that there is a surplus of allotment sites in Ipswich with circa 60% - 70% of allotment plots utilised. However, utilisation of allotment plots in Ipswich is on an upward trend.
- 10.5 The Council is a key provider of allotment plots in the Borough, with key large sites at London Road, Aster Road and Sidegate Lane.
- 10.6 There are two main types of allotments, 'statutory' allotments and 'temporary' (non-statutory) allotments. These can be defined as follows:
- statutory allotments are parcels of land owned by a local authority specifically for use as allotments. These sites cannot be sold or used for other purposes without the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions
 - temporary (or non-statutory) allotments are on land which is allocated for other uses but leased or rented by an allotments authority. Temporary allotments are not protected from disposal in the same way that statutory allotments are.

Figure 10.1 Aster Road Allotments



Strategic context

10.7 The strategic context of allotment provision is outlined in Table 10.1 overleaf.

Table 10.1 Strategic context relating to allotment provision

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p>	Allotment provision contributes to the health, education, cultural, social inclusion agendas highlighted within this plan.
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>RL22 states Allotment land should be retained for gardening and cultivation purposes. On sites where the long term demand for allotment land is low and a significant majority of the plots remain vacant, alternative open space uses will be permitted providing the occupiers of remaining existing plots can be accommodated elsewhere in the locality.</p>	The Local plan protects allotment sites if demand is proven to be there to justify their retention.

SECTION 10 - ALLOTMENTS

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p>	The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.
Ipswich Landscape & Wildlife Strategy (2004 – 2006)	The Ipswich Landscape and Wildlife Strategy addresses the need for and guides the process of protecting and enhancing the green environment of Ipswich and the surrounding countryside. The strategy is closely linked to the Ipswich Local Plan and seeks positive action to enhance the quality of the landscape and biodiversity of Ipswich.	Allotments are recorded as a strategic objective
Allotment Strategy (2005)	<p>The Council's Allotment Strategy aims to raise awareness of benefits and increase the number of plot holders, set a standard of provision, consider the future demand for allotment sites and to review the provision and distribution of allotment sites in Ipswich.</p> <p>Issues of service promotion, security, site management, quality of service and the future of sites are discussed; which lead onto a set of Action Plans for the future.</p>	The Strategy identifies 18 Council owned sites, seven of which have statutory protection. In total there are 2100 sites covering 61 hectares across the borough (18 plots per 1,000 population).
Growing in the community: good practice guide to the management of allotments (Local Government Association)	<p>The objective of this guide is to assist those who are responsible for managing allotments, either within local authorities or under schemes for devolved management, to work more efficiently and effectively in achieving a new future for allotments by emulating examples of good practice.</p> <p>The guide will also help other stakeholders in allotments to understand the opportunities which allotments present for achieving multiple and inter-related benefits and the advantages of working together to attain common goals.</p>	Useful background for quality standards

Current position - quantity

10.8 The current provision of allotments is summarised in Table 10.2 below

Table 10.2 Quantity of allotments in Ipswich Borough

Analysis Area	Population	Hectares	Number of sites	Hectares per 1000 population
Central	24,024	2.8	2	0.12
North East	24,547	13.41	3	0.55
South East	22,356	9.6	4	0.43
South West	31,828	14.5	3	0.46
North West	25,318	14.87	3	0.59
Overall	128,073	55.2	15	0.43

- 10.9 In the household survey, 45.8% of respondents indicated there was more than enough/about right, and 28.5% indicated there was nearly enough/not enough. However, of all the typologies, allotments had the highest response of 'no opinion', with 25.8%. This suggests that the household survey results would not be able to provide a statistically robust assessment of the perception of allotment quantity across the Borough. This is supported by the fact 92.4% of respondents indicated that they do not use allotments.
- 10.10 The Central region shows a significantly smaller total area of allotments compared with the other analysis areas, with only 2.8 hectares at two sites. Provision in the other analysis areas is fairly consistent with total hectarage ranging from 9.6 hectares (at four sites) in the South East, to 14.87 hectares (at three sites) in the North West.
- 10.11 This picture is mirrored with regards to hectares per 1000 population, with only 0.12 hectares per 1000 population in the Central area. The other areas' provision ranges from 0.43 per 1000 population (South East) to 0.59 per 1000 population (North West).
- 10.12 Although spatial distribution of sites serves as an indicator of provision, demand for new sites should be determined primarily on indicators such as waiting lists rather than strict adherence to accessibility and quantity deficiencies.

Current position – quality

- 10.13 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit (where access was possible) and the completion of a detailed pro forma described in Section 2 and provided in Appendix G. It is important to note that the quality score records the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of allotments in Ipswich borough is summarised in Table 10.3 below. All scores are percentages.

Table 10.3 – Quality of allotments across Ipswich

	Allotment provision		
Analysis Areas	Number of sites	Range of scores (%)	Average Scores (%)
Central	2	76	76
North East	3	78 – 80	79
South East	4	73 – 80	76
South West	3	69 – 76	73
North West	3	75 – 78	76
Overall	15	69 - 80	76

- 10.14 Site scores across all areas are fairly consistent, with area averages falling between 73% and 79%. Sites with consistently higher quality scores are located in the North East area, with those in the South West area representing those with lower quality scores. However these differences are minimal.
- 10.15 The household survey results indicated that the perception of allotment quality was positive, with 49.2% indicating quality was either good or average. Only 6.7% indicated quality was poor. 44.1% of respondents had no opinion.
- 10.16 Assessment of allotment provision relies heavily on responses from users. As already indicated, the number of allotment users from the household survey was too low to form an evidence base. In addition, site assessors were invariably unable to actually enter the site (due to security measures), thus making assessment difficult and not as robust as compared with other open space typologies.
- 10.17 Allotment use is a private activity and therefore the best indicator of allotment quality is the feedback from users themselves. Our research indicates that there are no major issues with regards to lack of ancillary facilities, where they are deemed to be appropriate. However a fuller assessment of quality would be required to draw conclusions about the overall quality of allotment sites. A conclusion that can be drawn at this stage is that there are no notable differences in quality when comparing analysis areas.

- 10.18 The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently produced 'Growing in the Community', a best practice guide to the maintenance and management of allotments. The document is aimed at local authorities and associated stakeholders who have an active interest in allotment management. Guidelines of quality are included alongside best practice examples.
- 10.19 The recent 2005 Ipswich Borough Council Allotment Strategy sets out quality criteria that have been adopted as best practice by the Council, relating to management, maintenance and provision of sites.

Accessibility

- 10.20 Over the whole Borough, 77% favour walking and 23% favour driving for accessing allotments. The 75th percentile response suggests that a 10 - 15 minute walk time is reasonable for allotments.
- 10.21 Signposting and provision of clear routes to allotments could further raise the profile and increase awareness of allotments. This is particularly important as the majority of residents indicated that they expect to walk to allotment sites, reinforcing the importance of the provision of local facilities.

Setting local standards

- 10.22 In setting local standards for allotments there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendices L, M and N. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf in context with the allotment sites in Ipswich Borough.

Quantity standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.43 hectares per 1000 population	0.35 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Provision of allotments is fairly evenly spread across the analysis areas. Highest levels are in the North West analysis area with only the Central analysis area having significantly lower levels. More generally, consultation suggests that there is currently an excess of allotment sites in Ipswich, although take up has increased recently.</p> <p>Provision of allotments is demand driven. There is significant evidence that sites are currently operating under capacity with only 60 – 70% of plots utilised and there is no demand for new sites across the Borough.</p> <p>Our recommendation is for a standard of 0.35ha/1,000 population. This is lower than current provision, but it is still above the national standard of 0.2ha/1,000 population set out in the Thorpe Report (1967). 0.35ha/1,000 population is 80% of the current provision level so would still provide spare capacity.</p> <p>The recommended local standard would allow some of the unused allotment land to be converted to NSN provision, reducing the overall deficiency of NSN provision highlighted in section eight. Additionally, this change would still leave some spare allotment plots to cope with the increasing take up of plots and would be reversible should demand increase dramatically in the future.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
'All allotments should adhere to the standards set out in the Ipswich Borough Council Allotment Strategy of 2005 and the Local Government Association (LGA) document 'Growing in the Community'.
Justification
<p>The results of the household survey found that allotment quality is generally thought to be average or good, an opinion shared by the results of the site assessments. It is important that these standards are maintained and improved as good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community. In light of this, it is recommended that the quality of all allotments meets with the relevant guidelines in the national and local guidance documents, the Ipswich Borough Council Allotment Strategy of 2005 and the Local Government Association (LGA) document 'Growing in the Community'.</p>

Accessibility standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m)
Justification
<p>A standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time. This reflects household questionnaire results, as well as being in line with the PPG17 Companion Guide, which gives a 75% threshold of a 10 - 15 minute travel time. The most popular method of transport was walking, nominated by 77% of all respondents.</p> <p>The number of people responding that allotments are their most frequently used open space type was too low to draw any meaningful conclusions from the results.</p>

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 10.23 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where there is a potential unmet demand we apply the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 10.24 Apparent deficiencies should be investigated in detail in order to understand the real level of demand in the area at any one time. Should new allotment sites be developed, community involvement in the management and maintenance of the sites should be considered. This follows national good practice, and also takes into account the need to create communities given the expected population increase in the borough over the next few years.
- 10.25 The quantity standard is applied in Table 10.4 overleaf, which highlights both areas of under provision (shown as negatives) and areas of surplus.

Table 10.4 Application of the quantity standard

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021*
Central	24,024	0.12	0.35	- 5.61	- 6.76
North East	24,547	0.55	0.35	4.82	3.64
South East	22,356	0.43	0.35	1.78	0.7
South West	31,828	0.46	0.35	3.36	1.84
North West	25,318	0.59	0.35	6.01	4.8
Total	128,073	0.43	0.35	10.35	4.22

*Future balance is based on the deficiency of allotment provision using the current level of supply measured against a 2021 projected demand (based on 2021 population projections)

- 10.26 The distribution of allotments across Ipswich and the catchment areas these sites serve is illustrated in Figure 10.1 overleaf.
- 10.27 Table 10.4 informs us that there is a significant undersupply of allotments in the Central analysis area if we apply the standard of 0.35 ha per 1,000 population to current population levels. This increases to an undersupply of 6.76 based on future population projections. All other areas are however oversupplied, even when incorporating 2021 projections.
- 10.28 Figure 10.1 overleaf shows that a significant proportion of residents have access to allotments across Ipswich borough within the recommended distance threshold. There are however pockets within Ipswich town where distribution is poor. These include large areas in the Central analysis area, areas to the east and also the south-west.
- 10.29 However, given the high overall level of provision in the borough as a whole, we would not suggest any new provision. Indeed, we would propose, subject to further consultation with allotment users, that some sites be turned into NSN areas. This would address significant shortfalls in this type of open space as noted in section 8. In addition, NSN sites can be easily transferred back to allotment usage should demand change in the future. Recommendation NSN 3 has been repeated below to emphasise this point.

NSN 3	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments in the North East analysis area and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
ALL 1	Where allotment provision is significantly above the quantity standard, such as in the North East and North West area, investigate the possibility of converting plots to areas of publicly accessible NSN areas

- 10.30 The Council is considering selling all or part of the allotment site at London Road. This equates to roughly 1.5ha of allotment space, and affects the analysis for the South West area as well as for total provision. By removing this site from the analysis, total provision in the analysis area remains above the recommended standard at 0.4ha (the standard is 0.35ha). Total provision is similarly affected little, with total provision still being significantly above the recommended standard.
- 10.31 The loss of the London Road site will not affect the accessibility of allotments in the area too much given the close proximity of the site at Aster Road. However, given the relatively poor accessibility of allotment sites overall in this area, we would recommend investigating the need to provide a new site, firstly to address accessibility shortfalls and also to accommodate current allotment users at the London Road site.

ALL 2

Investigate the need to provide a new allotment site to compensate for the potential loss of the London Road site.

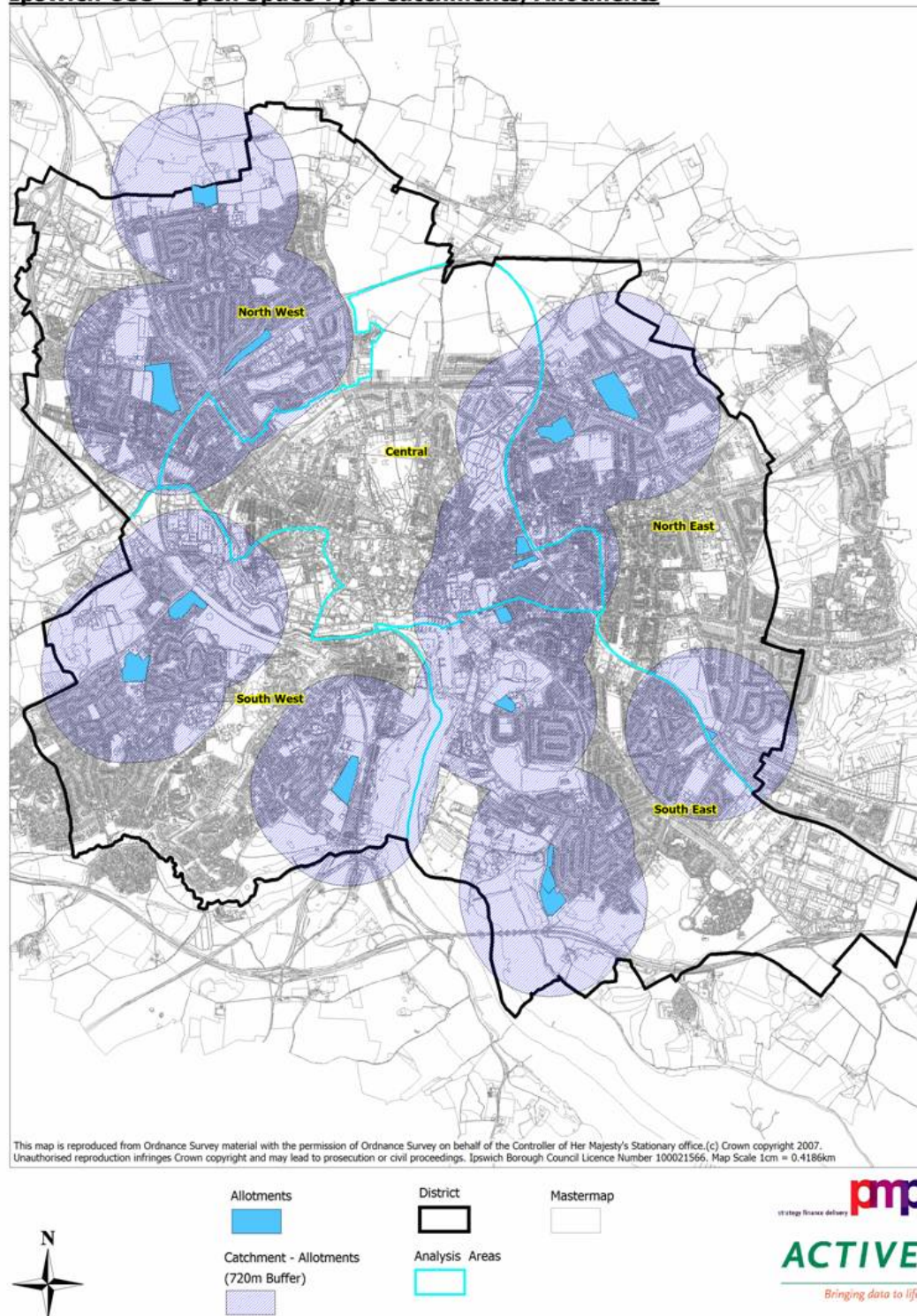
- 10.32 Waiting lists should be an indication of the demand and subsequent need for more allotment sites.

ALL 3

Use Council waiting lists as evidence of demand for allotment plots

Figure 10.2 Ipswich Borough allotment provision

Ipswich OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Allotments



Summary

- 10.33 The results of the household survey were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence in support of any decisions. However, consultations with Council staff as well as examination of Council plot waiting lists indicate that there is currently an oversupply of allotment plots.
- 10.34 The distribution of allotments is good across Ipswich town, and most residents have access to provision. Despite this, several areas of the Borough have been identified where accessibility is poor, notably in the Central, South East and South West areas.
- 10.35 The quality of allotments was perceived to be good and few issues were identified. As there was minimal variation in the quality of allotment scores according to site assessment, close attention should be made to feedback from current allotment users with regards to quality. Future investment in allotments should focus on the delivery of high quality ancillary facilities at sites and adherence to standards suggested by both the LGA publication and the Council's own Allotment Strategy.
- 10.36 A summary of recommendations regarding allotment provision is provided below.

ALL 1	Where allotment provision is significantly above the quantity standard, such as in the North East and North West area, investigate the possibility of converting vacant plots to areas of publicly accessible NSN areas.
ALL 2	Investigate the need to provide a new allotment site to compensate for the potential loss of the London Road site.
ALL 3	Use Council waiting lists as evidence of demand for allotment plots.

SECTION 11

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Cemeteries and churchyards

Introduction and definition

- 11.1. Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church while cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. According to PPG17, this typology includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.
- 11.2. While the primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, the amenity and visual benefits should also be recognised, in addition to the opportunities to promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Cemeteries and churchyards may also usefully break up the urban landscape.

Figure 11.1 Belstead Road churchyard



Context

- 11.3. Churchyards and cemeteries make a significant contribution to the provision of urban greenspace, offering a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. They represent a real opportunity for new kinds of conservation and green space policy. Some are visited by significant numbers of tourists, and they can be important to family history researchers.
- 11.4. There are no current strategies for cemeteries and churchyards within Ipswich.

Current position - quantity

- 11.5. A total of 76 cemetery and churchyard sites have been identified and audited across Ipswich. The distribution of these sites is set out below in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1 Quantitative distribution of cemeteries and churchyards

Analysis area	Population 2007	Hectares	Hectares per 1000 pop
Central	24,024	25.27	1.05
North East	24,547	8.47	0.35
South East	22,356	0.36	0.02
South West	31,828	0.51	0.02
North West	25,318	0.58	0.02
Overall	128,073	35.19	0.27

- 11.6. The distribution of cemeteries and churchyards is largely opportunity led. While cemeteries/churchyards may provide a local open space, many residents will also travel significant distances to reach the facility of their choice. Consultation highlighted that most residents feel that churchyards and cemeteries within the Borough are of average to good quality but are not particularly well used by members of the public.
- 11.7. It can be seen from Table 11.1 above that provision is unevenly distributed across the town with almost all of the provision being located in the Central and North East areas. This skew is a result of the presence of Ipswich Cemetery Chapels, which is the largest cemetery in the borough and is comparable in size to a major park.

Current position – quality

- 11.8. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards is perhaps more important than the quantity. Table 11.2 below examines the highest and lowest quality cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.
- 11.9. The consultation process revealed that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards are perceived to be in reasonable or good condition. However, the site assessment process did identify some sites that are in need of improvement. The top and bottom scoring sites are outlined overleaf in Table 11.2.

Table 11.2 Quality of cemeteries and churchyards across Ipswich

Best	Above 80%	Bolton Lane Church (97.1%) Millennium Cemetery (84.4%) Bucklesham Road Church (84.4%)
Worst	Below 70%	Raeburn Road Church (64.4%) St Helen's Church (65.7%) Carlyle Close Churchyard (68.9%)

11.10. Sites were identified as being well maintained and of very good overall quality. Only 7% of the household survey respondents indicated sites were of poor quality.

Setting local standards

11.11. The process for setting standards is outlined in section two. Whereas provision standards for quality, quantity and accessibility are set for other open space typologies, PPG17 Annex recommends that only a quality vision is required for cemeteries and churchyards stating

"many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."

11.12. PPG 17 Annex also states

"every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard."

11.13. In line with PPG17 and the Companion Guide only a quality standard has been set.

Quantity standard (see Appendix L)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
No local standard to be set	
Justification	
No quantity standard has been set in line with PPG17. The appropriate level of provision should be calculated taking into account population estimates, birth and death rates. This does not equate to a standard per 1000 population.	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix M)

Recommended standard
No local standard to be set
Justification
There is no requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Quality standard (see Appendix N)

Recommended standard
<p>Cemeteries should meet appropriate health and safety standards for headstones</p> <p>Cemetery quality should provide the basis for reflective contemplation and opportunities for wildlife and biodiversity</p> <p>Cemeteries should be clean, litter free and well-maintained (where necessary – well-maintained does not have to result in close mown grass as this may not be compatible with wildlife habitats).</p>
Justification
It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. It is important that good practice is promoted throughout the borough, through the attainment of well-kept grass (where necessary and appropriate), providing quiet litter free environments and providing car parking facilities where feasible.

Applying local standards

- 11.14. As it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for cemeteries and churchyards, it is not possible to comment on areas of deficiency for this type of open space. The value of cemeteries and churchyards should, however, be recognised. Opportunities should be seized to promote these sites sensitively for both human and wildlife use.

CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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- 11.15. There is a relatively uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough with almost no provision in the South East, South West and North West areas. However, as the consultation did not identify particular demand for new cemeteries or churchyards, it is inappropriate for this study to recommend new provision.

- 11.16. While the quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the Borough is, overall, very good, there is some variation in site assessment scores. We therefore recommend that quality improvements are made to those cemeteries and churchyards which do not currently meet the quality standard.

CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
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- 11.17. There are many wider benefits of churchyards and cemeteries including heritage, cultural, natural and landscape values. A good way of preserving these wider benefits is to manage sites according to a carefully prepared management plan. This plan should set out what the Council is trying to achieve in relation to the particular open space type and the best mechanisms for ensuring delivery of the objectives. A single, standardised plan can be applied to many sites.

CC 3	The Council should produce a standard management plan for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.
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Summary

- 11.18. There is an uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough with very high levels of provision in the Central and North East areas. However, this study has not identified a need to balance this with additional provision in the other analysis areas. Furthermore, while cemeteries/churchyards may provide a local open space, many residents will also travel significant distances to reach the facility of their choice.

SECTION 11 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 11.19. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough is considered excellent; although a few sites could be improved (the accompanying database indicates where quality is low).
- 11.20. In line with PPG17 Companion Guide guidance, local standards for accessibility and quantity have not been set. Instead, achievement of the quality standard should guide the future improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough. Partnership working with churches and 'friends of church' groups is important for maintaining high quality sites across the borough.
- 11.21. New cemeteries and churchyards may be required as the population increases. This should be planned for through detailed analysis of birth, death and burial rates within the borough.
- 11.22. A summary of the recommendations for cemeteries and churchyards is provided below.

CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
CC 3	The Council should produce a standard management plan for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.

SECTION 12

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Provision for children

Introduction and definition

- 12.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its eight open space typologies. It states that the broad objective of this typology is to ensure that children have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 12.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to amenity green space) to large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically:
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs);
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs); and
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 12.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as teenagers. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately to provision for young people.
- 12.4 Provision for children includes the following areas:
- Equipped Children's Play Areas; and
 - Adventure Play Grounds.
- 12.5 Amenity green spaces have an important role for children's play. Children play in a variety of locations and can gain equivalent or greater stimulus from playing in the natural environment and informal open spaces as equipped play areas. Consultees can have a tendency to focus on equipped play provision and therefore overlook the informal places where children play.
- 12.6 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for children in Ipswich. Local standards have been derived from the local consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of children's provision. The issues identified should complement those highlighted within the Ipswich Play Strategy.

- 12.7 Figure 12.1 below depicts a high quality children's play area at Alderman Road Recreation Ground.

Figure 12.1 Alderman Road Recreation Ground YPC



- 12.8 Table 12.1 overleaf details the strategic context with regards provision for children, highlighting the key strategic drivers and the associated links to this open space, sport and recreation study.

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p>	The provision of enough good quality children's play facilities in the correct locations will contribute to the strategic aims as set out in the RSS; specifically housing, culture and sport and recreation.
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The Plan identifies that Ipswich is richly endowed with public parks that are well established and frequently visited by large numbers of people. The Council is considering introducing management plans for each park with the aim of improving their appearance and the range and quality of public facilities.</p> <p>The Council is committed to improving and enhancing existing open spaces and parks for the benefit of its residents and visitors, as well as providing for further open space in the parts of the Town in most need.</p> <p>On other sites allocated for residential development there may be opportunities to provide new open spaces and the Council will seek, in cooperation with developers, to achieve as part of the design of the developments open space to serve the needs of residents for children's play and informal recreational use where 15 or more homes are to be provided and where the surrounding area cannot adequately provide for these needs or is generally deficient in public open space (Policy R11).</p> <p>Preservation and enhancement of the Town's historic parks such as Chantry Park and Christchurch Park is also an important aspect of the Council's policy and therefore any necessary alterations to these open spaces for recreational reasons such as the provision of barbecue areas, play equipment, toilets, paths, fences and gates must respect the Plan's conservation aims.</p>	<p>Identifies management plans for each park as a target to ensure that the quality of parks is maintained</p> <p>The provision of good quality play facilities for children will contribute to the development of the Borough.</p> <p>Requires provision for play in new developments.</p>

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage. The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development; • IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and • Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to sites allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development. 	The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.
Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan (2006 – 2009)	<p>The Children's Trust Partnership has agreed the ambitions set out in this document. The Children Act of 2004 was generated by the results of a national consultation. Five target outcomes were identified; be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and economic well being.</p> <p>Priorities within these five core targets include encouraging children to adopt healthy lifestyles (BH1), providing safe environments (SS1) and providing access to informal leisure and recreation services (EA3).</p>	The provision of sufficient play areas for children, in appropriate locations, will contribute to the achievement of the aims set out in this document.

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>IBC Play Area Strategy (2007)</p>	<p>The strategy acknowledges the importance of children's play areas and states aims in relation to accessibility, quality, safety and management. The strategy is set within the context of National Government's 2002 Report 'Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener', as well as Ipswich Borough Council's Corporate Plan 'Transforming Ipswich'.</p> <p>There are currently 72 sites with play areas in the Borough, and are identified in Appendix 2 of the Strategy. This definition includes teenage facilities, where there is an acknowledged shortfall nationwide.</p> <p>The Liveability Project, Community Improvements and other projects have led to a £1.4m programme of investment over three years (up to 2006/07). A full audit of sites is included in the strategy.</p> <p>Three key policy statements underpin the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council recognises the value of National Standards developed by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and will use them to promote the provision of safe and well designed Play Areas and will seek to adopt these standards as a minimum requirement for the provision of all new play areas or refurbishment of existing play areas where appropriate; the Council will use these standards to indicate where there is insufficient provision for children's play so the Council can decide where it may need to create additional spaces for children's play; and where new developments are proposed the NPFA standards shall be used as a guide to identify needs for playing space. 	<p>This strategy represents recent investment made into children's play space and the accompanying audit and quality assessment will help guide the recommendations of this study.</p> <p>The PPG17 methodology advocates the setting of local standards which may well be different from national standards such as the NPFA's Six Acre Standard. Local standards have been developed in this report.</p>
<p>Best Value General Survey (ODPM, 2003-04)</p>	<p>80% of residents think that, over the past three years, facilities for young children have got better or stayed the same for Ipswich. This is in the 50%-75% national quartile.</p>	<p>Need to improve quality and quantity of children's facilities.</p>

Current Position – Quantity (audit table and consultation comments)

- 12.9 There are currently 74 facilities for children across Ipswich. The current provision of children's play areas is summarised below in Table 12.2.

Table 12.2 Quantity of children's play areas across Ipswich

Analysis Areas	Population	Hectares	Hectares per 1000
Central	24,024	0.83	0.03
North East	24,547	0.64	0.03
South East	22,356	1.95	0.09
South West	31,828	1.83	0.06
North West	25,318	1.04	0.04
OVERALL	128,073	6.3	0.05

- 12.10 The key issues arising from this table and consultations are:

- the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.03 in the Central and North East areas, to 0.09 in the South East area;
- the highest levels of dissatisfaction with current levels of provision can be found in the South West area, with 57.6% of household questionnaire respondents indicating that provision was nearly enough or not enough;
- in contrast, the highest levels of satisfaction with current levels of provision were found in the South East and Central areas, where 58.9% and 51.1% of respondents indicated provision was either about right or more than enough;
- overall across Ipswich borough there was an almost even split between people who felt provision was enough and those who did not, with 45.9% indicating there was more than enough/about right, and 44% indicating there was nearly enough/not enough provision; and
- children's internet survey respondents indicated play areas were the second most frequently used open space (20% of responses), with parks being the most popular (37%).

- 12.11 The current quality of provision for children is illustrated in Table 12.3 below. The key issues arising from this analysis, detailed site visits and consultation are highlighted below. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G.

Table 12.3 Current position - quality

	Children's facilities provision		
Analysis Areas	Number of sites	Range of scores (%)	Average Scores (%)
Central	14	69 – 84	77
North East	10	60 - 84	60
South East	18	60 - 87	76
South West	19	49 - 84	68
North West	13	64 - 85	71
Overall	74	49 - 87	71

12.12 It can be seen through analysis of Table 12.3 and emerging issues from consultation that:

- the average quality of sites is fairly consistent across the borough, with the overall highest quality being in the Central area, and the lowest quality being in the North East area;
- the largest range in quality scores can be found in the South West analysis area;
- children in the internet survey stated the main reasons they visit their favourite open space site was to hang out with friends (29%) and for simply somewhere to go (23%);
- in the same survey, when asked what improvements children would like to see at a new or improved facility there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (20%);
- prevailing results from internet survey responses indicated that dog muck (19%), boring play facilities (15%) and feeling unsafe (15%) were the crucial characteristics that are least liked;
- comments from the drop in sessions revealed that almost all play areas were also perceived to be well used, reinforcing the importance placed on these facilities by local residents;
- household responses regarding quality across the borough indicated the quality of play areas was generally deemed to be either good or average, with 37.2% the former, and 33.7% the latter. Only 12.7% of respondents indicated quality was poor (16.5% had no opinion);

- the Central area showed the highest level of satisfaction with the quality of sites, with 52.1% indicating quality was good, and only 11% poor. The highest levels of dissatisfaction were found in the South West area, where only 22.5% felt quality was good, and 21.3% indicating quality was poor; and
- there was a positive response from the public consultation regarding the quality of play areas, in particular new sites and Christchurch and Chantry parks.

Current position – accessibility

- 12.13 20% of children responding to the internet survey stated that facilities for children were the open space type visited most often. Most children walk (43%) or cycle (38%) to their local facilities and the vast majority (83%) travel under 10 minutes. This view was also reflected by residents through the household survey with the majority (87%) expecting a walktime and the majority (54%) expecting a travel time of between 5 and 10 minutes to their nearest play area.
- 12.14 Other consultation, particularly the drop-in sessions, suggested that the current provision of play areas in Ipswich is good. Residents noted the good spread of play area sites across different types of amenity space in Ipswich. This reinforces the necessity of local facilities, a point that was further emphasised through the children's survey, where the proximity of facilities to the home was a significant factor in determining the likelihood of use of facilities (proximity to home was deemed to be the most popular aspect of a facility (31%) followed by the site being free to use (21%) and a good place to meet friends (18%)).

Local standards and justifications – quantity, quality and accessibility

- 12.15 In setting local standards for children's facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs. The internet survey and neighbourhood drop in sessions were particularly important in determining local needs.
- 12.16 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendix L, M and N. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.

Quantity Standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.05 hectares per 1000 population	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is 0.05 hectares per 1000 population. Existing sites are spread fairly evenly across the Borough in terms of the analysis areas, although levels of provision are highest in the South East and South West areas. However, locational deficiencies do exist. These are illustrated later in this section through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer.</p> <p>The household survey results show that public opinion is evenly split on whether there are enough children's play areas or not. 46% said that there is enough or more than enough, 18% said that there is nearly enough and 26% said that there is not enough. Respondents recognised the improvements that the Council have made to play areas in both quantity and quality. Thus, a standard has been recommended that seeks to maintain the overall levels of provision as a minimum, and encourages small quantities of new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas.</p> <p>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in the Central, North East and North West analysis areas, and lower than provision in the South East and South West analysis areas.</p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
Essential features Play areas should adhere to national and local standards for DEAPs (Destination Equipped Areas for Play), LEAPs and NEAPs (IBC 2007 Play Strategy standards). Play areas should be clean and litter free, and provide a safe and stimulating environment which encourages children's imaginations. Sites should be free of graffiti, provide seating, offer inclusive play opportunities and be fenced to exclude dogs.	Desirable features Sites should provide toilets and public art on larger sites and should be located alongside other open space types where possible.
Justification	
<p>Following feedback from consultations, recognition of the need for places to meet friends is reflected in the need for seating. The standard also recognises the need to provide an environment that stimulates a child's imagination rather than a focus only on formal equipment.</p> <p>The standard encompasses the need for play areas to meet the standards set out in the Council's Play Strategy, which reflect the national standards for LEAPs and NEAPs.</p> <p>The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are reflected in the quality standard.</p>	

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m)
Justification
<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a children's play facility (87%). The opinion that provision for children should be localised was emphasised in responses to the internet survey and a walktime was also the most popular response expressed by respondents.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances that parents are willing to let their children travel unaccompanied has reduced as concerns over safety have grown. However, PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel.</p> <p>For children's facilities there was a consensus throughout the Borough for a walktime based accessibility standard of between 5 and 10 minutes (54%). The 75th percentile travel time is a walk time of between 15 and 20 minutes. Analysis of the schools questionnaire showed that the majority of children travel less than 10 minutes to reach their preferred open space (83%). The majority of children (43%) currently walk or cycle (38%) to their preferred sites.</p> <p>Setting a 5 minute catchment would place a greater requirement on new provision, but local consultation revealed the importance of high quality sites and not just new facilities. The Council should continually seek to promote measures designed to improve accessibility, such as better public transport or cycling routes.</p> <p>A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provides a realistic target for implementation. This is broadly equivalent to existing national and local policy that seeks to ensure that Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are located within 5 minutes walking distance of every home and Neighbourhood Equipped Play Areas (NEAPs) are located within 15 minutes walking distance of every home. Furthermore, this local standard encompasses all types of provision for children, including the larger, more strategic sites that people could be expected to travel further to visit.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 12.17 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 12.18 Consideration has been given to the provision of facilities for young people in the context of other open space types. Amenity green space has a particularly important role to play in the delivery of facilities for children, providing a key opportunity for informal play.

Identifying deficiencies in quantity

- 12.19 The recommended local standard is the same as the level of current provision across the borough as a whole. It is, however, below current provision in the Central, North East and North West areas (see Table 12.4 below).
- 12.20 These results mirror the consultation responses, where quantity of provision was generally deemed to be good or adequate. In order for provision to meet the standard, especially by 2021, investment will need to be made into play areas (especially in the identified areas of shortfall).
- 12.21 The main opportunities for new provision are areas where comprehensive redevelopment may be proposed, derelict land, brownfield land unsuitable for development, educational sites where the school has existing facilities that are not made available for community use, or surplus land.
- 12.22 The application of the local quantity standard is set out in Table 12.4 below:

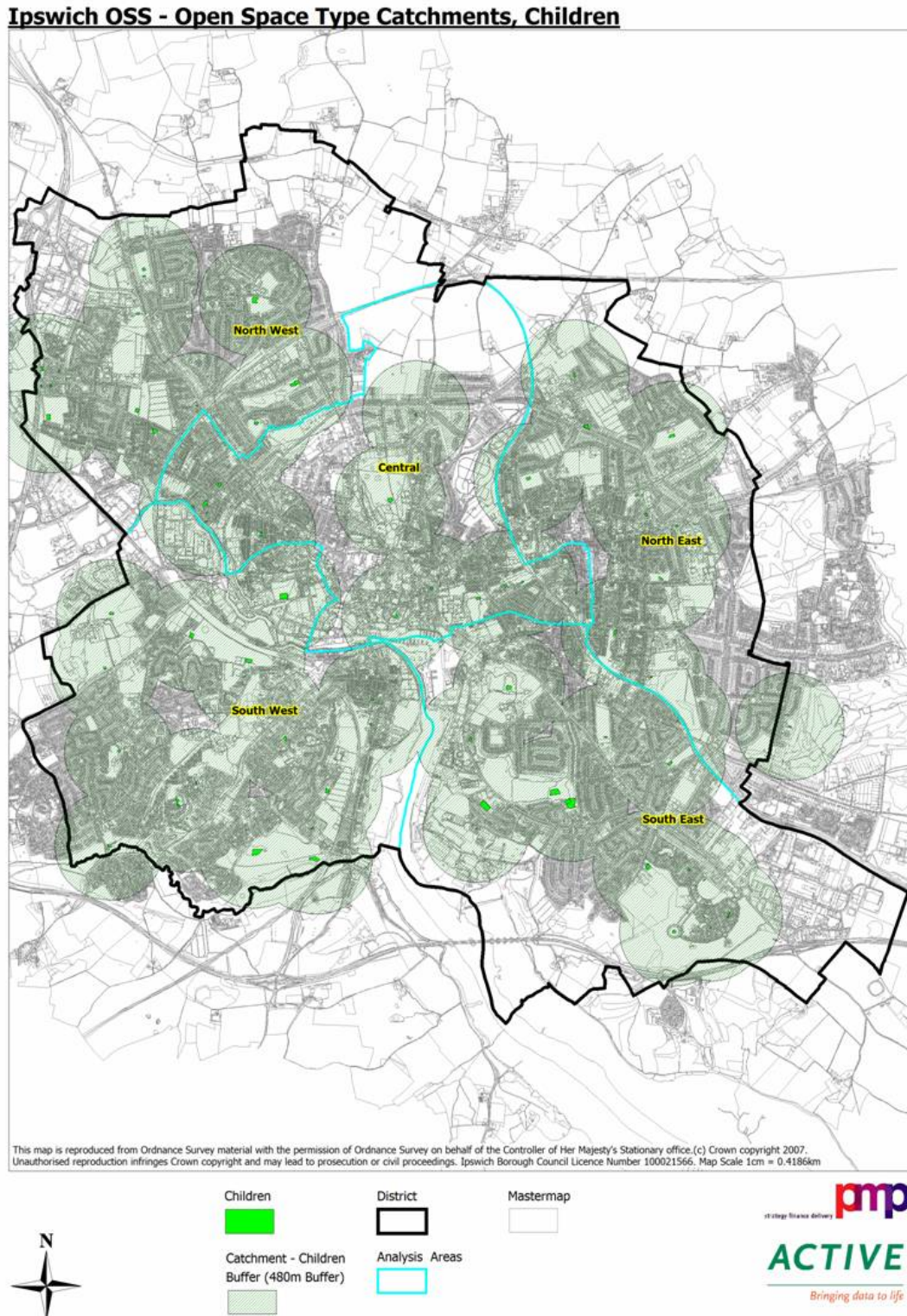
Table 12.4 Quantitative shortfalls and surpluses of provision for children's facilities

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021
Central	24,024	0.03	0.05	- 0.37	- 0.53
North East	24,547	0.03	0.05	- 0.59	- 0.76
South East	22,356	0.09	0.05	0.84	0.68
South West	31,828	0.06	0.05	0.24	0.02
North West	25,318	0.04	0.05	- 0.22	- 0.4
Total	128,073	0.05	0.05	- 0.11	- 0.98

12.23 Figure 12.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of facilities for children across the Borough and the catchment areas that these facilities serve. Together with Table 12.4 the following conclusions can be made:

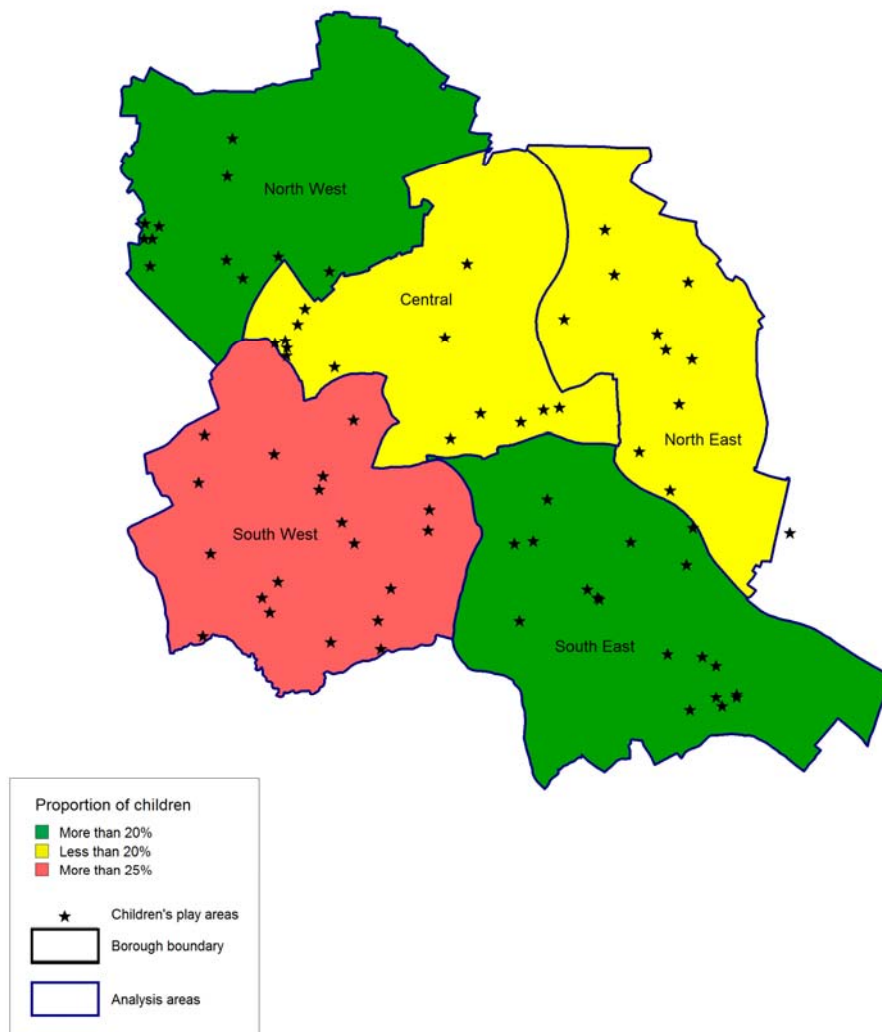
- there is a fairly uneven distribution of facilities for children when measured by quantity and analysis area. However, across the borough the majority of residents are located within the catchment of a facility;
- where there are residents outside of the catchment for formal equipped children's play, in the majority of instances, these residents have access to amenity green space, so as a minimum informal play opportunities exist; and
- the overall provision of play areas is deemed to be good and we have made few recommendations for new sites. This is in part driven by the knowledge of the shortfall in teenage facilities, something that will be addressed in greater detail in Section 13.

Figure 12.2 Provision of play areas within Ipswich



12.24 Figure 12.3 overleaf illustrates the percentage of the Borough's children that live in each analysis area. Analysis of Figure 12.3 will be utilised to support recommendations later in this section.

Figure 12.3 Percentage of the Borough's Children per Analysis Area



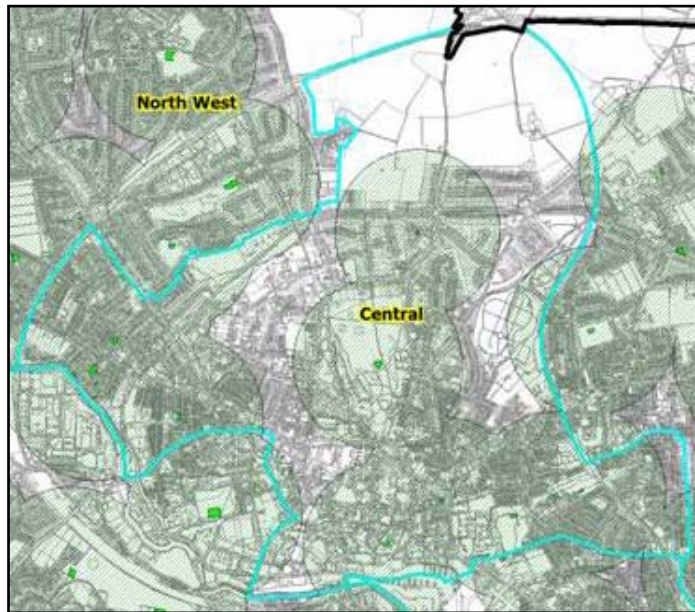
12.25 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each geographical area. Based on the application of the local accessibility, quality and quantity standards, key priority areas for future development are set out below.

Area specific application of local standards

Central

12.26 The Central area has a current deficit of 0.37 hectares, which will increase to 0.53ha by 2021. Importantly it also has a deficiency in amenity green space provision. The distribution of such space however is good, as is shown in Figure 7.3. This will help offset any localised deficiencies in play area provision.

Figure 12.4 Central analysis area children’s facilities accessibility map



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- 12.27 The general quality of sites in the Central area is also good. Table 12.3 shows the average quality rating score for sites to be the highest of all areas at 77%.
- 12.28 We would not recommend any new play area sites at this time, despite the acknowledged deficiencies identified above. This is because there is a significant shortfall in teenage facilities across the borough which should be a priority for investment. In addition recent investments have been made to the play area in Christchurch Park, and the facility now represents a significantly large and attractive play area for the surrounding population.
- 12.29 This recommendation is supported by Figure 12.3 which illustrates that the Central analysis area has the lowest density of children out of the five analysis areas.

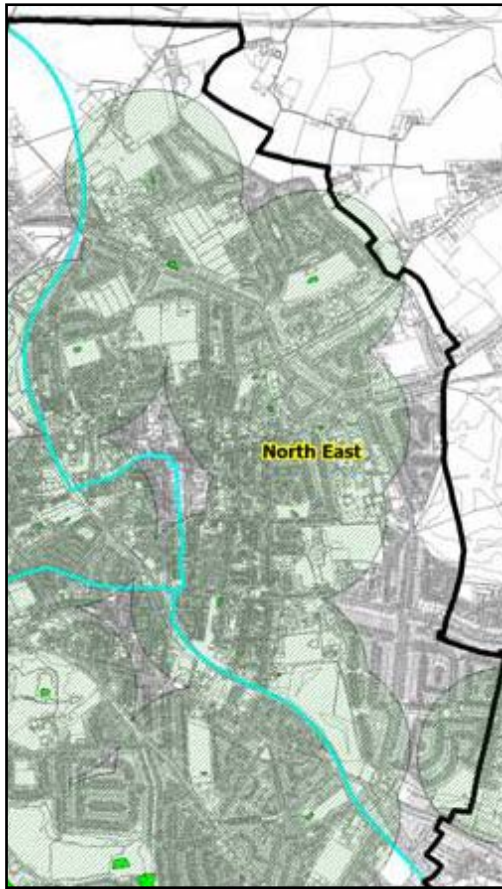
North East

- 12.30 The North East has the lowest play provision when measured against the standard, with a current deficit of 0.59 hectares rising to 0.76 by 2021. Crucially, the provision of amenity spaces for informal recreation, as well as for other open space typologies, is also low in this analysis area.
- 12.31 The level of accessibility of sites in the analysis area is also deemed to be poor as shown by Figure 12.5 overleaf. The area along the eastern fringe shows a complete lack of children's play provision, which is made worse by the lack of informal recreation areas. However the existence of the Heath along this eastern edge does provide a large space where a level of informal recreation may be possible.

C1	Investigate providing additional play space along the eastern edge of the North East analysis area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.
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- 12.32 Despite issues with quantity and accessibility, the quality of sites is good, with Table 12.3 showing an average score of 75%.

Figure 12.5 North east analysis area children's facilities accessibility map



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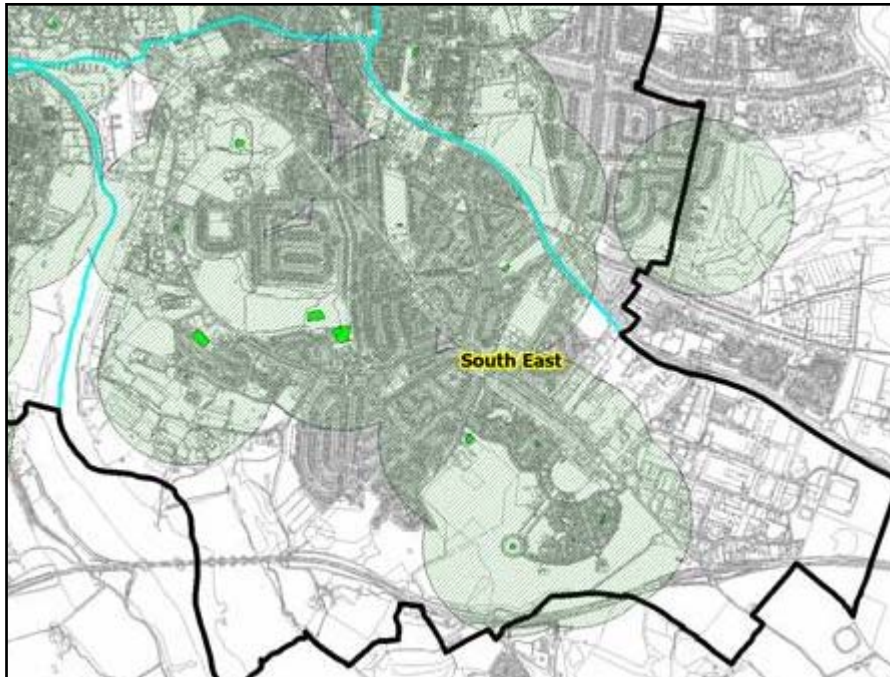
South East

- 12.33 The quantity of provision in the South East area is excellent, with total provision being 0.09ha, almost double the recommended standards and the borough average. Further, Figure 12.6 shows accessibility to be very good across the area, with the possible exception of a pocket in the south west of the area. This area is however on the edge of Orwell Country Park and there are therefore accessible informal recreation/open space sites in the vicinity.
- 12.34 Quality is very good across the sites, with an average score of 75% shown in Table 12.3.
- 12.35 Significant residential growth is taking place in this area and it is important that play areas for children are provided in line with the standards set out in this study such that new residents have access to appropriate facilities.

C2

Ensure new developments have play areas of appropriate quality provided at appropriate sites to maintain the standards set out in this study.

Figure 12.6 South East analysis area children's facilities accessibility map

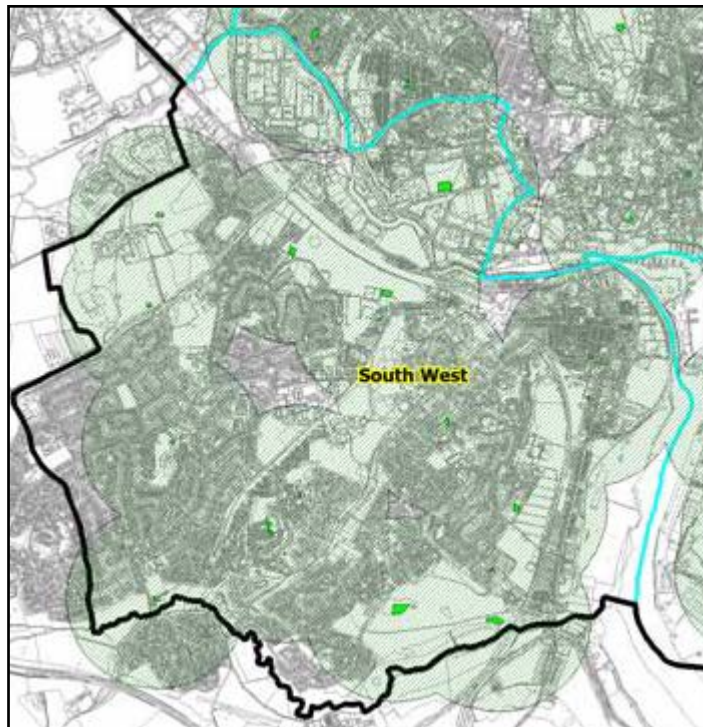


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South West

- 12.36 Total provision in the south west is very good, with current quantity being above the recommended standard at 0.06ha. Despite this, household responses suggest that more provision is needed. This can be explained by Figure 12.3 which illustrates that the South West analysis area has the highest percentage of the Borough's children residing in it out of the five analysis areas. Thus, residents still perceive a shortage even though there is a higher number of children's play areas than in other analysis areas.
- 12.37 Again, the quality of sites is deemed to be good across the area, although similarly to quantity household responses, household perceptions of quality are lower for this area than for other areas, with 36% seeing rating quality as average, and 21.3% rating them as poor.
- 12.38 The accessibility of sites is very good, with only one small pocket with no access in the centre of the area. However, given the high overall level of provision in the area, especially compared with other areas we would not recommend a new site here.

Figure 12.7 South west analysis area children’s facilities accessibility map



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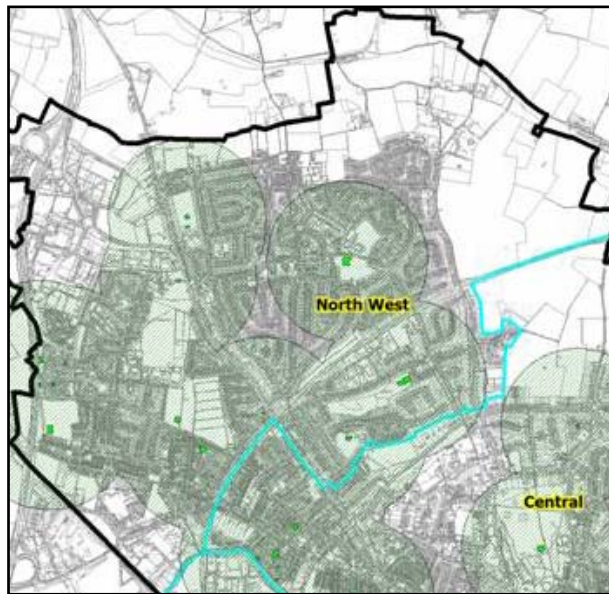
North West

- 12.39 Total quantity of play area provision in the North West is below the recommended standard at 0.04ha. By 2021 the shortfall will be 0.4ha in total. Interestingly household survey results showed an even split between those who thought provision was at least adequate and those who did not.
- 12.40 The quality of sites was again good, with an average score of 71%. This is supported by the household results, where only 12.7% of respondents said the quality of sites was poor.
- 12.41 Figure 12.8 overleaf shows again that the distribution of sites is very good, with only a few areas around the north-eastern edge suffering from a lack of access to sites. However, given the lack of alternative open space sites in the identified area to the north east of North West, we would recommend the investigation of the potential to provide a new play area to address accessibility shortfalls.

C3

Provide a new play area on the north-eastern edge of the North West area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.

Figure 12.8 North West analysis areas children’s facilities accessibility map



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Summary

12.42 A summary of our children’s facilities recommendations are provided below.

C1	Investigate providing additional play space along the eastern edge of the North East analysis area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.
C2	Ensure new developments have play areas of appropriate quality provided at appropriate sites to maintain the standards set out in this study
C3	Provide a new play area in the north east of the North West area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.

12.43 As has been shown by the relatively positive responses by households, by the high quality assessment scores and the generally good levels of accessibility across the borough as a whole, the provision of play areas across Ipswich Borough is good and not in need of significant further investment at this time. This can be attributed in part to the recent IBC Play Area Strategy that has resulted in significant investment into this area in recent years.

12.44 The IBC Play Area Strategy emphasises the importance of informal environmental play opportunities for children and young people. Informal environmental play is particularly important in areas where formal play facilities are in short supply. The Council should promote opportunities for developing these activities on natural and semi-natural sites in particular. A recommendation regarding this has been made in Section 8 but is reiterated here for completeness.

NSN 6	Encourage the use of natural and semi-natural sites for informal environmental play through the rigorous application of the quality standard at all Council managed sites.
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SECTION 13

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Provision for young people

Introduction and definition

- 13.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its open space typologies. However, PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as young people. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately from provision for young people.
- 13.2 For the purposes of this assessment, provision for young people is taken to include the following types of provision:
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs);
 - Skateparks;
 - basketball courts;
 - youth shelters;
 - informal kickabout areas; and
 - BMX tracks.
- 13.3 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for young people in Ipswich. Recommended local standards have been established and are derived from the local needs assessment. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and complements Ipswich Borough Council's Play Strategy.

Figure 13.1 Alderman Road Recreation Ground MUGA



Context

- 13.4 51% of young people responding to the internet survey stated that provision of play/teenage facilities was about right in Ipswich, whilst 29% felt there was not enough. The key improvements desired by young people were: more interesting play areas (20%), an indoor non-sports place (12%), a BMX park (12%) and more nature areas (12%).
- 13.5 Many residents highlighted the importance of providing facilities for young people, indicating that a lack of facilities and opportunities can generate a culture of antisocial behaviour and misuse of other sites.
- 13.6 The strategic context of facilities for young people is set out in Table 13.1 overleaf.

Table 13.1 Strategic Review

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p>	The provision of enough good quality provision for young people in the correct locations will contribute to the strategic aims as set out in the RSS; specifically housing, culture and sport and recreation.
Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The Plan identifies that Ipswich is richly endowed with public parks that are well established and frequently visited by large numbers of people. The Council is considering introducing management plans for each park with the aim of improving their appearance and the range and quality of public facilities.</p> <p>The Council is committed to improving and enhancing existing open spaces and parks for the benefit of its residents and visitors, as well as providing for further open space in the parts of the Town in most need.</p> <p>On other sites allocated for residential development there may be opportunities to provide new open spaces and the Council will seek, in cooperation with developers, to achieve as part of the design of the developments open space to serve the needs of residents for children's play and informal recreational use where 15 or more homes are to be provided and where the surrounding area cannot adequately provide for these needs or is generally deficient in public open space (Policy R11).</p> <p>Preservation and enhancement of the Town's historic parks such as Chantry Park and Christchurch Park is also an important aspect of the Council's policy and therefore any necessary alterations to these open spaces for recreational reasons such as the provision of barbecue areas, play equipment, toilets, paths, fences and gates must respect the Plan's conservation aims.</p>	<p>Identifies management plans for each park as a target to ensure that the quality of parks is maintained.</p> <p>The provision of good quality play facilities for young people will contribute to the development of the Borough.</p>

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents</p>	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will then be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p> <p>The three emerging LDF documents that were put out to consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy and Policies - covers three areas of policy. It sets out an approach to providing a strategic vision and objectives to guide the development of the town, it promotes a strategic approach to the development of the town and it provides an indication of the likely coverage of a suite of policies to control, manage and guide development; • IP-One Area Action Plan - the Area Action Plan sets out the development plans within an area called IP-One that broadly equates to the central part of Ipswich. It includes the town centre, the Waterfront, Ipswich Village and the Education Quarter; and • Site Allocations and Policies - covers two main areas of policy. It sets out a policy approach to site allocations in terms of an approach to control development on identified sites, and it identifies a wide range of sites that it suggests should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development. 	<p>The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.</p>

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan (2006 – 2009)</p>	<p>The Children's Trust Partnership has agreed the ambitions set out in this document. The Children Act of 2004 was generated by the results of a national consultation. Five target outcomes were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be healthy;• stay safe;• enjoy and achieve;• make a positive contribution; and• economic well being. <p>Priorities within these five core targets include encouraging children to adopt healthy lifestyles (BH1), providing safe environments (SS1) and providing access to informal leisure and recreation services (EA3).</p>	<p>The provision of sufficient play areas for children, in appropriate locations, will contribute to the achievement of the aims set out in this document.</p>

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
IBC Play Area Strategy (2007)	<p>The strategy acknowledges the importance of children's play areas and states aims in relation to accessibility, quality, safety and management. The strategy is set within the context of National Government's 2002 Report 'Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener', as well as Ipswich Borough Council's Corporate Plan 'Transforming Ipswich'.</p> <p>There are currently 72 sites with play areas in the Borough. The definition of play areas includes teenage facilities, where there is an acknowledged shortfall nationwide.</p> <p>The Liveability Project, Community Improvements and other projects have led to a £1.4m programme of investment over three years (up to 2006/07). A full audit of sites is included in the strategy.</p> <p>Three key policy statements underpin the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council recognises the value of national standards developed by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and will use them to promote the provision of safe and well designed play areas. The Council will seek to adopt these standards as a minimum requirement for the provision of all new play areas or refurbishment of existing play areas where appropriate; the Council will use these standards to indicate where there is insufficient provision for play so it can decide where it may need to create additional spaces for play; and where new developments are proposed, the NPFA standards shall be used as a guide to identify needs for playing space. 	<p>The provision of facilities for young people will build on the success of the recent investment made into play areas through this Play Area strategy.</p> <p>The PPG17 methodology advocates the setting of local standards which may well be different from national standards such as the NPFA's Six Acre Standard. Local standards have been developed in this report.</p>
Best Value General Survey (ODPM, 2003-04)	68% of residents think that, over the past three years, facilities for young children have got better or stayed the same for Ipswich. This is in the top national quartile.	This view has helped to inform the standard setting process.

Current position – quantity

- 13.7 There are currently 10 sites for young people in Ipswich. This provision is summarised in Table 13.2 below.

Table 13.2 Teenage provision in Ipswich

Analysis Areas	Population	Number of sites	Hectares	Hectares per 1000
Central	24,024	2	0.52	0.02
North East	24,547	0	0	0
South East	22,356	3	0.37	0.02
South West	31,828	3	0.33	0.01
North West	25,318	2	0.23	0.01
OVERALL	128,073	10	1.45	0.01

- 13.8 Key issues arising from the above table and the consultations include:

- the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0 hectares in the North East area to 0.02 hectares per 1000 population in both the Central and South Eastern areas;
- the audit revealed a low level of provision for young people across Ipswich – equivalent to only 0.01 hectares per 1000 population. It should be noted that the quantity of facilities available to young people is perhaps more important than the area/size of facilities. Young people often want areas where they can congregate and socialise, the quantity rather than the area being the important key indicator. A general lack of provision for young people was a consistent theme throughout all consultation. There are concerns that a lack of provision is causing safety issues at other open space types, specifically parks, during the evenings;
- 65% of respondents to the household survey stated that there were not enough teenage facilities. This was the highest percentage response indicating 'not enough' than any of the other open space types;
- the drop in sessions revealed a perceived lack of facilities for young people in Ipswich, something that was expressed through vandalism and anti social behaviour across the borough; and
- the household survey revealed that the majority of residents in all of the analysis areas believe that there is an undersupply of teenage facilities within the borough. Residents in the North West area expressed the strongest opinion to this effect (80.9% believing provision was nearly enough/not enough).

Current position – quality

- 13.9 The quality of provision for young people in Ipswich is summarised in Table 13.3 below. The quality scores have been calculated through a visual assessment of each site utilising the site assessment matrix included at Appendix G. All scores are expressed as percentages.

Table 13.3 Quality of Teenage Provision

Analysis Areas	Number of sites	Range of scores	Average Score
Central	2	73 – 76	74
North East	0	-	-
South East	3	79 – 83	80
South West	3	67 – 86	74
North West	2	71 – 76	73
OVERALL	10	67 – 86	76

- 13.10 The main comments to arise from Table 13.3, consultation findings and site visits are summarised below:

- an average quality score of 76% indicates that the sites are generally of good quality;
- young people indicated that lighting, cameras and staff on site were the three main things that would make them feel safer when using open spaces. Site assessments revealed that few facilities for young people and children are currently lit. The majority of respondents to the young people's survey rated the overall quality of play/teenage facilities as good or fair which confirms the site assessment results;
- when asked what improvements children would like to see at new or improved facilities there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (20%). A non-sports outdoor space, a BMX park and more natural areas (all 12%) were the next most popular responses; and
- concerns were expressed through the consultation that provision for young people could be more innovative and stimulating for children.

Current position – accessibility

- 13.11 Analysis of the internet survey suggests that as may be expected, the majority of respondents walk to facilities. The survey also revealed that 83% of respondents travel up to 10 minutes to their nearest facility. However it should be noted that the majority of respondents to this survey were children and not young people. Due to this fact, and to ensure the robustness of our recommendations, the responses from young people from the household survey and the drop-in sessions were also analysed and utilised to influence the recommendations in this section.

- 13.12 The household survey indicated that the majority of people walk to facilities for young people with the 75th percentile expected travel time being a walk time of 15 - 20 minutes.

Local standards and justifications (quantity, quality and accessibility)

- 13.13 The process for setting local standards for facilities for young people has taken into account existing national and local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for comparison and, most importantly, consultation on local needs.
- 13.14 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices L, M and N. The recommended local standards are summarised overleaf.

Quantity Standard (see Appendix L – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.01 hectares per 1000 population	0.02 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.01 hectares per 1000 population, which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. Across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision ranges from 0.02 hectares per 1000 population within the Central and South East analysis areas to 0 within the North East analysis area – a wide variety but all relatively low amounts compared to other local authorities. The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each site (illustrated through the application of catchment areas later in this section).</p> <p>Both adults and young people made similar comments at drop in sessions regarding the lack of facilities. Given that the existing level of provision is considerably lower than that for children, a standard has been recommended that will increase the numbers significantly by doubling the current level of provision.</p> <p>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in three of the five analysis areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard, provision of circa 1.6 hectares of facilities for young people would be required up to 2021.</p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix M - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
Essential Features	Desirable Features
Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people.	CCTV should be installed at facilities where appropriate.
Facilities should be clean and litter-free; functional and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities.	
Justification	
<p>Consultation with young people revealed the importance of spaces to 'meet friends', as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership of the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. The consultation identified that sites should be clean, safe and secure, so it has been reflected in the standard. It is important that sites continue to improve and the Council works towards the achievement of the quality vision.</p> <p>A recent CABI Space study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can help reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and result in long term cost savings. This is reflected in the quality vision.</p>	

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix N - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m)
Justification
<p>Consultation revealed that walking is the most popular mode of travel to a young person's facility. A walk time is appropriate as young people do not always have access to a car.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time is in line with the 75% threshold, as per PPG17 guidelines.</p>

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

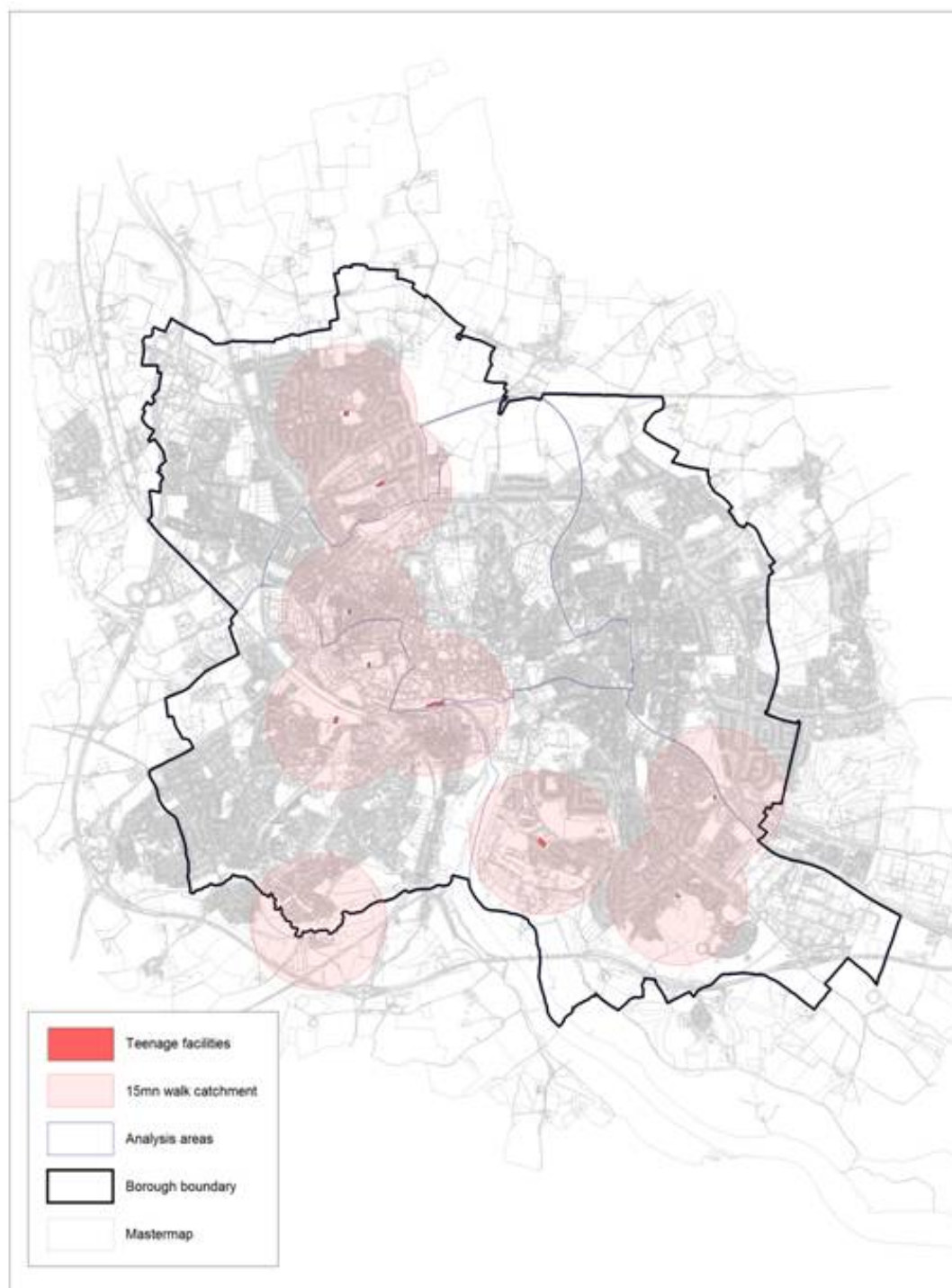
- 13.15 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 13.16 The future level of provision required across the Borough, through application of the local standard, is summarised below.

Table 13.4 Future level of teenage provision required (analysis areas)

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	24,024	0.02	0.02	0	- 0.03
North East	24,547	0	0.02	- 0.49	- 0.56
South East	22,356	0.02	0.02	0	- 0.14
South West	31,828	0.01	0.02	- 0.31	- 0.39
North West	25,318	0.01	0.02	- 0.28	- 0.35
OVERALL	128,073	0.01	0.02	- 1.12	- 1.47

- 13.17 Provision of teenage facilities falls below the recommended standard in three of the five areas, with the largest deficiencies being in the North East (where there were no identified facilities) and the South West and North West.
- 13.18 Whilst these tables provide a starting point for the application of the local quantity standard, it is important to consider the spatial location of provision. Figure 13.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of provision for young people and the catchment areas they serve.

Figure 13.2 Catchment areas for young people's facilities



Teenage facilities

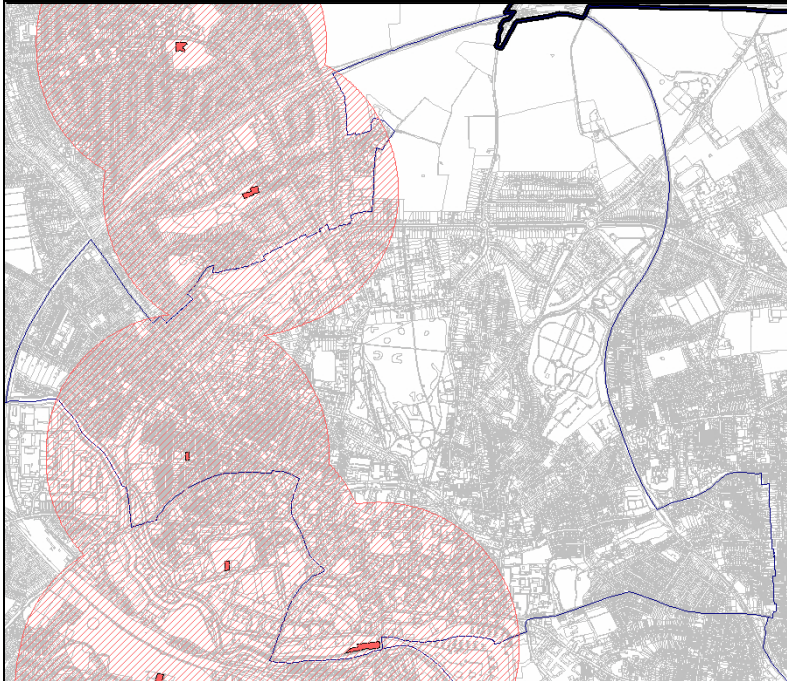
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strategy finance delivery **pmp**

Area specific application of the local quality, quantity, and accessibility standards

Central

Figure 13.3 Central accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



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- 13.19 Provision in the Central area is currently equal to the adopted standard at 0.02 hectares per 1000 population. This is expressed through two sites (Bridge Street skatepark and Stopford Court 5-a-side). The catchment of the kickabout area on the eastern edge of The Dales NSN also encompasses part of the Central area. There will however be a shortfall in total provision by 2021 equal to 0.03 hectares.
- 13.20 The quality of these sites is however deemed be good, with an average score of 74%.
- 13.21 Figure 13.3 shows that accessibility of sites is poor in the Central area, with the two current sites serving the western edge only. The presence of Christchurch Park in the centre of the analysis area may provide a location for a new facility. However the new children's play area located centrally here may mean an additional teenage facility may prove unpopular or impractical. Also the presence of the Millennium Cemetery in the east may mean teenage facilities could prove to be unpopular in a quiet area.
- 13.22 Despite this, there are two potential amenity green space sites to the east of this Central area on which a teenage facility could be situated. Each would serve residents who do not currently have access to facilities. These sites should be investigated as potential hosts of teenage facilities and are listed here:
- the amenity space at Vermont Crescent is an important natural site. It is however situated relatively close to Christchurch Park which also has NSN areas, as well as being located close to the natural and semi-natural areas on the edge of the Millennium Cemetery. This site should be investigated as a potential location for a teenage facility; and

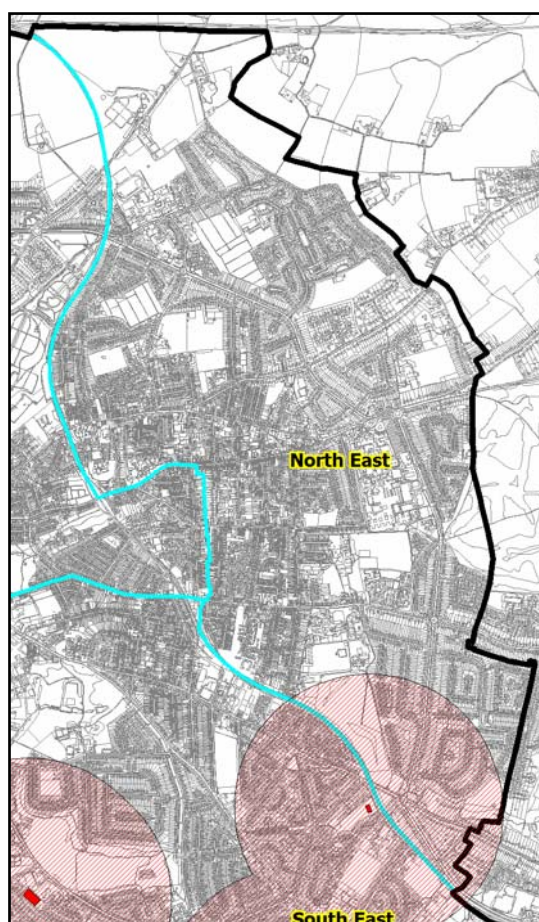
- Alexandra Park, to the extreme south of the analysis area is ideally located to address the accessibility shortfalls in both the Central area under discussion here, and also the accessibility shortfalls that are present in the South East area (discussed shortly).

YP1	Provide at least one new site within the Central area. This should be located to the east of the area. The two amenity green space sites at Vermont Crescent and Alexandra Park should be looked at as potential hosts.
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North East

- 13.23 There are no facilities for young people in this area. The facility on Recreation Way falls just outside the area (in the South East) and its catchment covers a small area of North Eastern residents. This is shown in Figure 13.4 overleaf.
- 13.24 This lack of facilities is further exacerbated by the lack of general open space throughout the area as was highlighted in Sections 6-8. There are currently very few park or natural and semi-natural open spaces in the area. This situation is shown in Figure 13.5 overleaf.
- 13.25 Given this situation, we strongly recommend that three new sites are provided in this area to address this shortfall. Amenity green space sites at Sidegate Lane, Dumbarton Park and Newbury Road recreation ground should be investigated as potential sites for such facilities.
- Sidegate Lane amenity green space, located in the north of the analysis area, is ideally situated to provide accessibility to teenage facilities. It is a large area of maintained grass, close to bus routes, well maintained and could accommodate a teenage facility;
 - Dumbarton Park is split into an amenity space and an outdoor sports area (specifically football pitches). Like Sidegate Lane amenity green space, this site has the potential size to host a teenage facility and is also located in an area outside of a catchment area. The site already hosts a children's play area; and
 - Newbury Road recreation ground is similar to Sidegate Lane amenity green space in size and is another option for additional teenage facilities.

Figure 13.4 North East accessibility catchments for teenage facilities

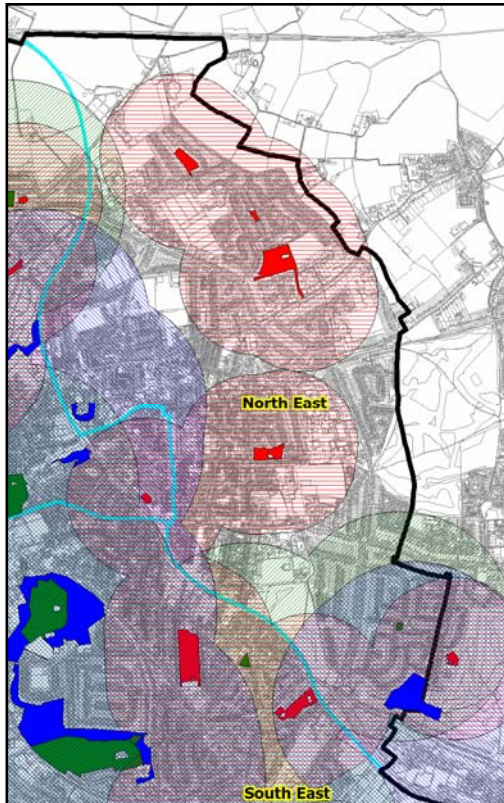


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YP2	Provide three new sites within the North East area. They should be located to the east of the area. The three amenity green space sites at Sidegate Lane, Dumbarton Park and Newbury Road recreation ground should be looked at as potential hosts.
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- 13.26 There may also be an opportunity to site a teenage facility on one of the numerous sports facilities that exist in this area, as these sites fall in strategically placed areas to address the accessibility shortfalls that exist. However, this would require consultation with clubs who own the sites in question.

Figure 13.5 Accessibility catchments of amenity green spaces, parks and gardens and NSN sites in the North East area



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- 13.27 Other sites should also be considered by the Council. Brownfield land, provided sites are safe and accessible, can provide opportunities for teenage facilities, typically brought forward through mixed use development. The locations of such areas are not part of this audit and so potential sites have not been identified.

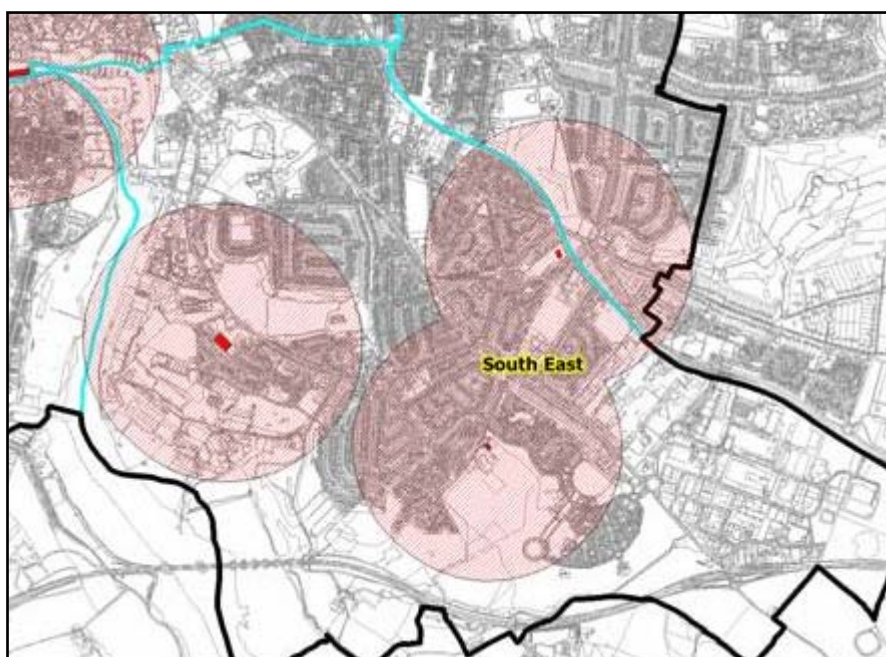
South East

- 13.28 Provision in the South East area is currently in line with the adopted current standard at 0.02 hectares per 1000 population, spread across three sites. By 2021, however, there will be a significant shortfall equivalent to 0.14 hectares, as shown by table 13.4. The sites serve their local area well, with catchment areas covering a large part of the area (see Figure 13.6 below).
- 13.29 We recommend the creation of a new facility in the north west of the analysis area to address accessibility shortfalls and future quantitative deficiencies.
- 13.30 The audit has revealed two sites where we recommend further investigation as they have the potential to accommodate a teenage facility. These are:
- Murray Road recreation ground currently has been classified as an amenity green space that also has a number of football pitches on it. Whilst not being ideally located to meet accessibility shortfalls, the site is large enough to accommodate a teenage facility (a small amenity green space surplus exists); and

- Holywells Park. This site is ideally situated in the area of accessibility deficiency. The site has been recorded in two parts: an area of NSN on the perimeter and park space in the centre, which also houses a significant play area for children. Should a new teenage facility be located here measures would be needed to separate sites to benefit both groups.

YP3	Provide an additional teenage facility in the north west of the South East area to address current accessibility shortfalls and future quantitative deficiencies.
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Figure 13.6 South East accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



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- 13.31 The Ravenswood growth area in the south east of the analysis area currently has no teenage provision. Future developments may be significant enough in size to warrant the provision of teenage facilities in this area.

YP4	Ensure the provision of new teenage facilities in line with new growth area in Ipswich, notably in Priory Heath ward in the south east corner (Ravenswood).
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South West

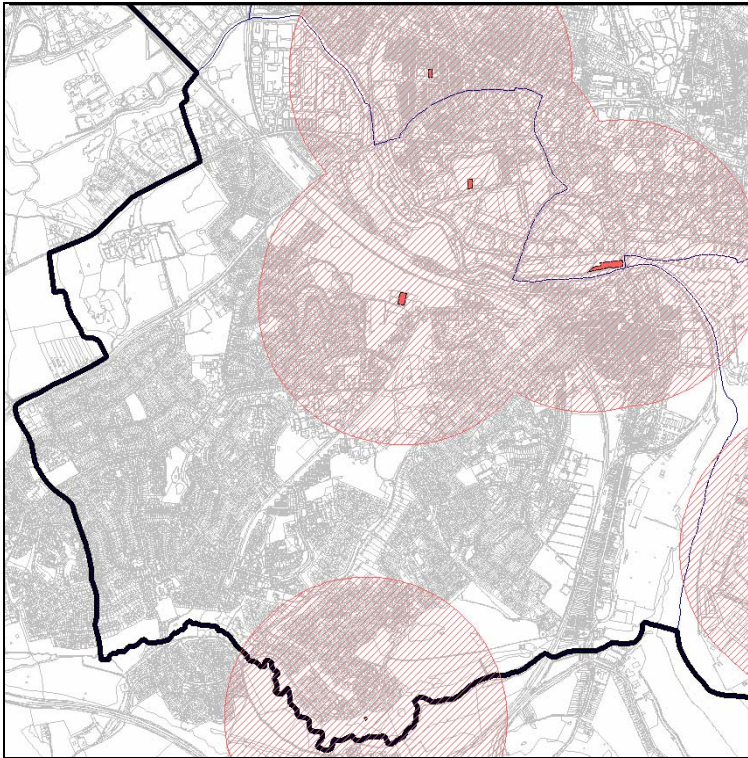
- 13.32 The South West area currently has a quantitative deficiency of 0.31 hectares of teenage sites. This will become a 0.39 hectare shortfall by 2021. Two of the three sites are both of slightly lower quality compared with other teenage areas in the borough, but not significantly so.

13.33 The sites are located in the north and south of the area, so there is a large band that runs east to west without access to teenage facilities. Within this band, there are a number of open space sites where teenage facilities sites could be located, the most appealing of which based on our site assessments are listed below:

- the amenity green space located at Chantry Green is well located to address accessibility shortfalls. However it is a relatively small site and is located in a significant residential district;
- Stonelodge Park is a larger site than Chantry Green amenity green space. It is also located close to Chantry Green such that a site here would address accessibility shortfalls identified in Figure 13.7. There is also a basketball court (recorded as an outdoor sports facility) at Hawthorn Drive on the northern edge of Stonelodge Park. Opportunities to maximise the use of this site by the community should be investigated;
- the natural and semi-natural open space at Cambridge Drive provides an important natural area and has biodiversity value. Changing its use to a teenage facility would affect this function. It is however well located to address accessibility shortfalls; and
- the amenity green space at Maidenhall Approach is similar to Chantry Green in size and appearance. It well located and is close to other open space sites such as the Halifax Road allotments and Stoke Park High school. The close proximity to Maidenhall Sports Centre also makes the site a good candidate for a teenage recreation facility.

YP5	Provide at least two new teenage sites in the South West area in order to address quantity and accessibility shortfalls. Sites at Chantry Green, Stonelodge Park, Cambridge Drive and Maidenhall Approach are proposed as potential sites.
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Figure 13.7 South West accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



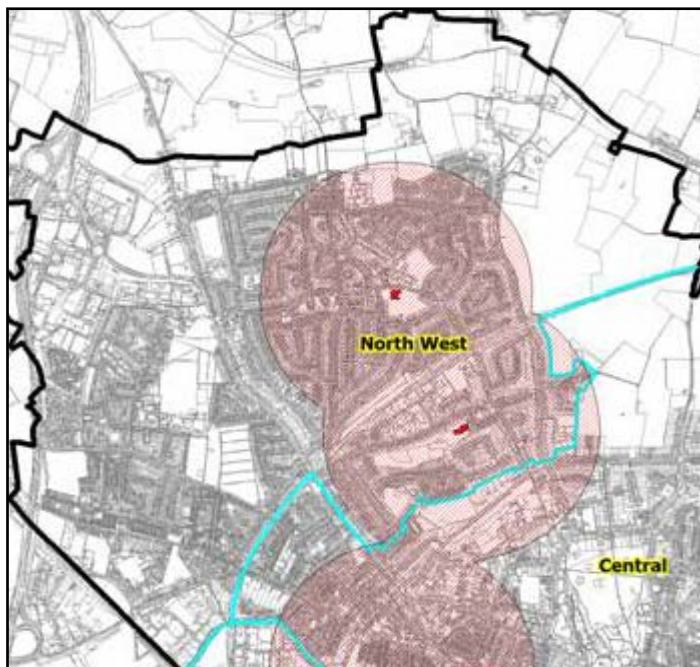
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13.34 There is a current quantity shortfall in the North West area of 0.28 hectares. This will rise to 0.35 hectares by 2021 based on current population projections. As shown by Figure 13.8 overleaf, the two sites are not enough to cover the requirements of the area. We recommend that additional sites be found for at least one additional teenage facility. There are numerous potential options for such sites including:

- the amenity green space at Lovetofts Drive, next to Whitehouse Road Park. This is ideally suited to address accessibility shortfalls in the area. Site assessment tells us the site is currently well maintained, and its location next to both the park and Westbourne High School to the south makes it a good candidate to host a teenage facility;
- Whitton Recreation Ground is currently well located and is large enough to host a teenage facility. It does however currently host two children's play areas and the locating of a teenage facility here would need to be carefully planned and managed;
- the Lovetofts Drive recreation ground at the eastern edge of the area is currently a sports facility. There may be potential for a teenage facility to be located here; and
- there may be some surplus allotment land in the area (from a quantitative perspective there appears to be an oversupply in the area). An allotment site, or part of a site, could be considered as a potential teenage facility. However the loss of an allotment site, especially to a use that is not easily reversible, may prove difficult and controversial.

YP6	Provide a new teenage facility in the north west of the North West area. There are numerous sites where this may be possible.
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Figure 13.8 North West accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



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Summary

- 13.35 Our analysis has revealed a significant shortfall in the provision for young people across Ipswich Borough, as well as significant gaps in accessibility.
- 13.36 Quantity analysis has revealed that there is a current deficit of 1.12 hectares of teenage facility provision across the borough. This will increase to 1.47 hectares based on current population projections by 2021. Our recommendation is to provide at least eight new facilities across the borough to address this quantity shortfall. This is based on the strategic direction expressed by Council officers and the recent IBC Play Area Strategy, as well as quantitative and accessibility shortfalls identified from this study. Specific locations of sites have been identified throughout this Section 13 in line with these requirements.
- 13.37 Our recommendations relating to the provision of facilities for young people in Ipswich are summarised overleaf.

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

YP 1	Provide at least one new site within the Central area. This should be located to the east of the area. The two amenity green space sites at Vermont Crescent and Alexandra Park should be looked at as potential hosts.
YP 2	Provide three new sites within the North East area. They should be located to the east of the area. The three amenity green space sites at Sidegate Lane, Dumbarton Park and Newbury Road recreation ground should be looked at as potential hosts.
YP 3	Provide an additional teenage facility in the north east of the South East area to address current accessibility shortfalls and future quantitative deficiencies.
YP 4	Ensure the provision of new teenage facilities is made in line with new growth areas in Ipswich, notably in the Ward of Priory Heath in the south east corner (Ravenswood).
YP 5	Provide at least two new teenage sites in the South West area in order to address quantity and accessibility shortfalls. Sites at Chantry Green, Stonelodge Park, Cambridge Drive and Maidenhall Approach are recommended as potential sites where this could be possible.
YP 6	Provide a new teenage facility in the north west of the North West area. There are numerous potential sites where this may be possible.

SECTION 14
GREEN CORRIDORS

Green corridors

Introduction and definitions

- 14.1 Green corridors are linear features of mostly open character, including canal towpaths, riverside paths, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways. They can act as wildlife corridors and attractive, safe off-road links between residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas. They give residents access to natural green space and the open countryside and provide opportunities for informal recreation. Green corridors increase in value if they are linked to form a network which extends within and beyond the Borough boundary.
- 14.2 Local networks of high quality and well-managed and maintained open spaces, sport and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Therefore the connectivity of all spaces through the provision of “green corridors” in Ipswich is an important strategic consideration.
- 14.3 PPG17 states that the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of the land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads. Instead, planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans National Cycle Network, town centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense, green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as the canal and riverside towpaths, roads, river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible.

Context

- 14.4 Green corridors are a key component of the green infrastructure of Ipswich and provide important links to the neighbouring local authorities for residents.
- 14.5 PPG17 suggests that all corridors, including those in remote rural settlements, should be considered. However, the Companion Guide suggests that unless a green corridor is used as a transport link between facilities (ie home and school, town and sports facility etc) it should not be included within an audit. We have found one green corridor site which runs along the river Orwell and Gipping and can be classified as being in an urban area, running as it does through Ipswich town. A number of open space sites are linked by this corridor.
- 14.6 The strategic context of green corridors is discussed in Table 14.1 overleaf.

Table 14.1 Strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, May 2008</p>	<p>This plan was adopted in May 2008 and guides planning and transport policy up to 2021. It covers economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation, mineral extraction and more.</p> <p>Beyond planning, this plan also takes account of a wide range of activities and programmes which have a bearing on land use including health, education, culture, economic development, skills and training, social inclusion, crime reduction and the impact of climate change.</p> <p>Policy ENV1: Green Infrastructure, highlights the need to retain green infrastructure networks as part of local authority Local Development Documents. Provision should aim to extend and enhance existing green infrastructure to create linked networks of green space.</p>	<p>Green corridors form an important way of linking open space sites identified in this strategy to the rights of way network.</p>
<p>Ipswich Local Plan (adopted 1997)</p>	<p>The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in 1997. The Plan sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and indicates areas of planned growth and restraint.</p> <p>The Council is committed to improving and enhancing existing open spaces and parks for the benefit of its residents and visitors, as well as providing for further open space in the parts of the Town in most need.</p> <p>The Plan identifies policies to establish green corridors in certain locations around the Borough and to ensure future developments within green corridors establish attractive green links, improve local biodiversity, and provide for public access wherever practicable.</p>	<p>Green corridors form an important way of linking open space sites identified in the Borough.</p> <p>The policies identified in the Local Plan relating to green corridors will ensure the future creation and maintenance of green corridors in targeted strategic areas throughout the Borough.</p>

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Documents	<p>The Council is currently starting to deliver the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Ipswich and have completed the initial stages of consultation. The policies and guidance contained within the emerging Ipswich Local Development Framework will eventually replace the policies contained in the current Local Plan and further information set out in supplementary planning guidance and other supporting documents.</p> <p>The consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the future planning of Ipswich closed in March 2008. The responses were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2008. There will be a further period of consultation at the submission stage.</p>	The PPG17 study is an important evidence base for the policies recommended within the Local Development Framework documents.
Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan	<p>A Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study has been commissioned to ensure that the appropriate level and range of green infrastructure facilities are being delivered as part of new developments to serve existing and new communities within the Haven Gateway sub region.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy was launched in 2008.</p>	This work is also intended to influence open space standards being set in new PPG17 studies being prepared by local planning authorities within the sub growth region, as part of their LDFs.

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Ipswich River Strategy 'a river for all' (River Action Group, 2006)</p>	<p>The River Action Group came together in 1997. It consists of local community groups working with Ipswich Borough Council to examine and promote new opportunities for the people of Ipswich to enjoy the river that passes through their town.</p> <p>In 1999 the group commissioned a firm of landscape architects, Gillespies, to help them prepare the "Ipswich River Strategy", which outlined the aims of regenerating the river corridor from Ipswich Docks upstream as far as Sproughton.</p> <p>Twelve strategic issues were crystallised into a "Vision for the River", a statement of the basis for the development of the detailed proposals:</p> <p><i>At the end of the first decade of the next millennium there will be a wide, 'green', lively and well used corridor at the heart of Ipswich. The river will belong to the community. Community groups will regularly meet to review the strategy and identify ways to ensure the improvement of the nature conservation, recreation and landscape values of the river in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Safe and convenient access will be provided for all users of the path, including disabled people. A cycle path will be developed along much of the river corridor. Access to the path for people from the south of Ipswich will be improved. People from all parts of the Town will regularly visit the river to enjoy walking, cycling, fishing and boating. The path will be widely used for commuting, visiting the Town Centre and recreation."</i></p> <p>Key long-term plans for the future include taking responsibility for assigning maintenance and cleaning duties, establishing a continuous cycle route, creating a riverside park in Lower Goods Yard and establishing a Green Living centre.</p>	<p>Green corridors alongside rivers form a crucial link between open space sites. The RAG note the importance of these for the future management of the river and its surrounding areas.</p>

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Ipswich Landscape & Wildlife Strategy (2004 – 2006)	<p>The Ipswich Landscape and Wildlife Strategy addresses the need for and guides the process of protecting and enhancing the green environment of Ipswich and the surrounding countryside. The strategy is closely linked to the Ipswich Local Plan and seeks positive action to enhance the quality of the landscape and biodiversity if Ipswich.</p> <p>The strategy addresses the physical and human factors that have shaped the landscape before addressing individual aspects of greenspace management through Strategic Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• working in partnership with the Community;• making development work;• providing for nature in the town;• safeguarding trees, woodlands and hedgerows;• managing parks and open spaces;• allotments;• managing Ipswich's countryside;• managing the river;• improving housing estate landscapes; and• the street scene.	The provision of green corridors will assist with the protection of wildlife as identified in this strategy

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Greenways Countryside Project Strategy (2005 – 2010)	<p>Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, and Suffolk Coastal District Council set up the Greenways Countryside project in 1994 with grant aid from the then Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency). The Project area covers 100 sq km and is deemed an effective way deal of dealing with the interactions between issues of wildlife, a working countryside and public access.</p> <p>The main issues for the 2005 – 2010 period are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting access to green space and associated strategies, provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyles and assist with the management of green spaces;• involving the community through local strategic partnerships, the fostering of volunteer support and the development of partnerships with business;• safeguarding biodiversity by supporting, advising and promoting the importance of open space through active land management;• raising awareness about open spaces and associated issues through educational events, publications, the establishment of a Riverside Environment Centre alongside other initiatives; and• promoting sustainable development through liaison with planning staff.	<p>Green corridors form crucial potential links between Greenway Project sites. Green corridors also promote access to open space sites as well as help protect wildlife and ecosystems, both strategic objectives of the Greenways Project.</p>

Current position

- 14.7 There was only one identified green corridor in the borough deemed to be suitable for inclusion in this PPG17 study. This was the extensive footpath that runs through the town alongside the river Orwell and Gipping, linking many small open spaces sites. The nature of this green corridor may have resulted in residents perceiving it as several different sites, thus explaining the indication from the household survey that there are enough green corridors in the borough. The majority of the green corridors discussed within the Local Plan were not directly included within this study as they are mostly abstract and aspirational proposed future green corridors. The standards set in this study should be applied to the proposed green corridors identified within the Local Plan.
- 14.8 Household survey results indicated that green corridors in Ipswich are predominantly of average quality. 40% of respondents rated them as being of average quality and 17% rated them as being of good quality. Only 19% rated them as being of poor quality with 23% expressing no opinion. 68% of respondents stated that they do use green corridors, highlighting their value to the local community. Future enhancement of green corridors, particularly along the river Orwell, would be likely to further increase the value placed on these amenities by residents.
- 14.9 29% of household survey respondents said that they use green corridors more than once a month and 39% said they use them less than once a month with the rest saying that they do not use them at all. Only 3% of respondents stated that green corridors are their most frequently used open space site.

Setting local standards

- 14.10 In light of the nature of green corridors it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for green corridors. Annex A of PPG17 supports this, stating that there is no sensible way of setting an appropriate provision standard.
- 14.11 There are currently no local standards relating to the provision of green corridors.
- 14.12 Consultation with the Ipswich Wildlife Group, the River Action Group, the IBC Environmental Protection Panel and Natural England revealed the following information:
- consultation with relevant organisations regarding developments along the river does not always occur, often to the detriment of both wildlife and public access to green corridors;
 - in areas of increasing population, it is important to provide alternative green infrastructure sites in order to meet the additional demand. In an urban context there is always scope for more access;
 - the IBC Environmental Protection Panel felt that connections between open space sites were good, although cycle paths within sites could be improved; and
 - cycle routes, especially along the river and its associated new developments, are being promoted. They should be encouraged further to promote greater accessibility to open space sites. These should also be linked to cycle routes through Ipswich town.

- 14.13 A quality vision has been set for green corridors. Further enhancement of the green corridor network will be undertaken through the development of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy. The quality vision should be used as an aspiration for the introduction of new linkages.

Quality standard for green corridors (see Appendix M)

Recommended standard	
Essential features Provide accessible paths and nature features. Be clean/litter-free and provide dog litter bins. Link open space sites.	Desirable features Provide for cycling where possible.
Justification	
<p>Sites need to be safe with clear pathways and well maintained to encourage usage. Opportunities for cycling were important to many consultees. The nature of green corridors means they provide car-free routes between open space sites, making them ideal for cycle paths.</p> <p>While green corridors have an important recreational role, this must also be balanced with the wildlife and biodiversity functions.</p>	

Applying local standards

- 14.14 Given that it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards, it is also not appropriate to state areas of deficiency or need.
- 14.15 The aim is to provide an integrated network of high quality green corridors linking open spaces together and opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport. Consideration should also be given to the provision of effective wildlife corridors, enabling the migration of species across the Borough.

Summary and recommendations

- 14.16 Green corridors provide opportunities close to people's homes for informal recreation, particularly walking and cycling, as part of every day routines, for example, travel to work or shops. The development of a linked green corridor network will help to provide opportunities for informal recreation and improve the health and well-being of the local community. Green corridors are important for the achievement of increased physical activity targets.
- 14.17 Future development needs to consider links between large areas of open space, develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites. Development should consider both the needs of wildlife and humans.
- 14.18 A network of multi-functional green space will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces together to help alleviate other open space deficiencies and provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport.

GC 1	The River Orwell green corridor should be maintained and developed in line with the quality standard and with the IBC Landscape and Wildlife Strategy, the Ipswich River Strategy, the Greenways Countryside Project Strategy and the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan.
GC 2	The Council should work with all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors.
GC 3	Actions arising from the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study regarding the development of greenways should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged.
GC 4	Using green corridors to link existing open spaces in Ipswich should be a key priority for the Council

SECTION 15
CIVIC SPACES

Civic spaces

Definition

- 15.1 Civic spaces include civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians with the primary purpose of providing a setting for civic buildings and community events or gatherings.
- 15.2 Civic spaces can also be important open spaces in some areas particularly in urban areas and town centres.
- 15.3 As PPG 17 states *‘the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design led basis. Accordingly it is for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas’.*

Setting provision standards

Quantity

- 15.4 Only two civic space areas were identified in the Borough, Corn Hill Market Square in the main shopping area of Ipswich town centre and Orwell Quay.
- 15.5 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces.
- 15.6 The consultation suggests that most people consider there to be enough or more than enough civic space provision (47%) compared to those who consider there is nearly enough or not enough (31%). A large percentage of people responded ‘no opinion’ (22%).
- 15.7 It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces across Ipswich due to the limited amount of civic space provision. Furthermore, PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces.
- 15.8 Therefore from the analysis it is suggested that no provision standard is set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres.

**RECOMMENDED
LOCAL STANDARD**

***No local standard to be
set***

Quality

- 15.9 The household questionnaire indicated that people are generally satisfied with the quality of civic spaces within the Borough. 12% responded that the quality is good, 43% that the quality is average and 12% that the quality is poor. Again, a large number (33%) responded ‘no opinion’.
- 15.10 No quality standard has been set for civic spaces as it is not felt to be appropriate to set a quality standard relating to one specific space in the Borough.

**RECOMMENDED
QUALITY STANDARD**

***No local standard to be
set***

Accessibility

- 15.11 Responses to the household questionnaire showed that a large majority of people would expect to walk (61%) to civic spaces as opposed to driving (14%), cycling (15%) or using public transport (10%).
- 15.12 However, there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as the scope to provide additional provision is limited. Civic spaces tend to be located in town or local centres or indeed opportunity led through the development of civic or large buildings.

***RECOMMENDED
LOCAL STANDARD***

***No local standard to be
set***

Summary

- 15.13 Due to the existence of such a small number of sites (two) it is considered inappropriate to set quantitative, qualitative and accessibility local standards for civic spaces.

SECTION 16

RESOURCE OPEN SPACE

Resourcing open space

Introduction

- 16.1 Local authority budgets for the enhancement and maintenance of open spaces have been reduced across the country.
- 16.2 It is essential to gain financial support (both internally and externally) for any improvements to existing provision or new provision. This section looks at a series of different mechanisms for the funding of open space.
- 16.3 The degree of funding will define the scope and timescale of any developments that could be implemented. It is therefore essential to carefully consider all possible sources of funding.
- 16.4 These should include Council capital and revenue funding, but should also include consideration of the release of existing funds; commercial opportunities such as the franchising of facilities like catering outlets; the delegated management of facilities such as outdoor sports; commercial sponsorship (eg floral bedding); planning gain (eg through Section 106 agreements); volunteer support; reviews of fees and charges; and increased income from events and activities.

Section 106 agreements

- 16.5 Once an open space strategy has been established, it can be used as a framework for negotiating Section 106 contributions from developers. These can then be used to deliver new or improved open space. However, they will, of course, be limited to areas where development proposals are put forward. Furthermore, Section 106 Agreements have to meet the test of Circular 05/2005 and “planning obligations should not be used solely to resolve existing deficiencies.”
- 16.6 In addition to capital contributions, Section 106 agreements can be used for revenue costs, for example, the costs of Development Officer posts or the maintenance costs of new open space via a commuted sum.
- 16.7 It is recommended that the Council continues to ensure that revenue funding for open space from developer contributions is maximised.

Use of redundant buildings

- 16.8 Redundant sport and leisure buildings should be re-used, wherever possible, for alternative sport and leisure use. For example, a redundant sports pavilion could be used as a children’s crèche or nursery.

Business funding and sponsorships

- 16.9 It is possible to use business sponsorship to fund improvements to open space. For example, Cardiff City Council’s events and festivals programme is sponsored, and the Playground Project in Auchinlea Park, Glasgow, is sponsored by the Body Shop.

Partnership arrangements with the voluntary sector

- 16.10 The voluntary sector can be engaged through the formation of parks ‘friends’ groups. An example is that of Rossmere Park, Hartlepool, where the community was encouraged to take ownership of the park. The park was promoted and became heavily used, attracting investment from funding bodies which may not have been accessible to the local authority.

Lottery funding

- 16.11 The Heritage Lottery Fund provides grants for works to parks which are of outstanding interest and importance to the national heritage. Funding is provided for whole park projects, the conservation of park features or park activities. Grants from £50,000 to £5 million are available for a period of up to five years. Projects must involve all stakeholders and must demonstrate sustainability and the heritage value of the park.

The Big Lottery Fund

- 16.12 The Big Lottery Fund has several different potential funding sources for open space, sport, play and recreation facilities. These include:
- Changing Spaces – between 2006 and 2009, £234 million is available to help communities in England improve the environment. The programme has three priorities, including community spaces and access to the natural environment; and
 - Young People’s Fund - this aims to support projects that will improve local communities and offer more opportunities to young people. Grants are available for:
 - individuals, to help them make a difference in their community; and
 - voluntary groups and community organisations, to run local projects with and for young people.
- 16.13 More information can be found at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

- 16.14 The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme allows registered landfill operators to contribute 6.5% of their annual landfill tax liability to environmental bodies approved by the organisation ENTRUST. The scheme must be used for social, environmental and community-based projects complying with specific “approved objects”. These objects are the provision and maintenance of public amenity, and restoration and repair of buildings open to the public with historical or architectural significance.
- 16.15 The project must be within 10 miles of a landfill or extraction operation.

Lottery Small Grants Scheme

- 16.16 The Lottery Small Grants Scheme offers Awards for All grants of between £500 and £10,000 for small projects, which involve people in their community. These can include local environmental work and community park projects.

Barclays Sitesavers

- 16.17 Barclays Sitesavers is a mechanism for community projects, which transform derelict land into community leisure and recreation facilities. Between £4,000 and £10,000 is available per project.

The Tree Council

- 16.18 The Tree Council supports the Community Trees Fund which funds up to 75% of all expenditure on tree planting schemes having a value of £100 to £700.

The Esmee Fairburn Foundation

- 16.19 The Esmee Fairburn Foundation aims to improve quality of life, particularly for people who face disadvantage. Eligible activities include the preservation and enhancement of open space and good management of woodlands, gardens and allotments. In 2006 they expected to make grants of £26 million across the UK.

Funding for development of playing pitches

Sources of capital funding

- 16.20 There are several potential sources of financial aid for pitch provision. These include:
- Football Foundation;
 - Sport England Lottery Fund;
 - Rugby Football Foundation; and
 - Council funding/grant aid support to voluntary clubs.

Football Foundation

- 16.21 The Football Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of football, constructing modern infrastructure and creating facilities that are fit for the game in the 21st century. The maximum grant for a capital project is £1 million. Grants of this size will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances. The percentage level of support is variable but in exceptional circumstances could reach 90%.
- 16.22 (See <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/> for more information).

Sport England

- 16.23 Sport England has recently published its new funding strategy 'Funding Sport in the Community' to run from April 2009 until March 2011. The strategy sets out the investment programmes that will be available to organisations delivering grassroots sport from April 2009.
- 16.24 Funding Sport in the Community explains how investment will be focussed on organisations and projects that can deliver the key outcomes of Sport England's overall strategy.
- 16.25 Sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, local authorities and education establishments will be able to apply to four open-access funding streams worth a maximum of £45 million per year.

16.26 The four funding streams are as follows:

- up to £30 million will be invested via regular themed funding rounds that meet specific needs of community sport;
- £7 million will be available in small grants of between £300 and £10,000 to support sporting projects across England;
- £3 million will be distributed through Sportmatch, enabling community clubs to make the most of the funding they receive from the private sector by matching that investment; and
- £5 million will be invested, through a new Innovation Fund, in projects that identify and pilot new ways of promoting and supporting grassroots sport.

16.27 Sport England will also invest £10 million per year of capital funding in projects that promote a sustainable approach to community facilities. This capital funding will be in addition to the facilities funding awarded to national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

16.28 Sport England will also invest in partner organisations such as NGBs, county sports partnerships and other national partners including Sporting Equals and the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation to deliver specific objectives.

16.29 For more information see

http://www.sportengland.org/sport_england_funding_strategy_20090106.pdf

Rugby Football Union

16.30 In January 2003, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) announced the commencement of the rugby football foundation fund. Community rugby clubs can apply for grants and/or interest-free loans to fund capital facility projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. This funding is available to clubs participating at Level 5 or below which means the vast majority of community clubs are eligible.

16.31 There are two different elements to the fund:

- **Ground Match Grant Scheme:** this provides easy-to-access grant funding for capital projects which contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. A list of projects that qualify for a grant will be sent to clubs on request as part of the application pack. All projects that qualify for a grant also qualify for the loan (see below). At present, clubs can apply for between £1,500 and £5,000, which they must equally match (ie 50:50). Clubs may only apply for one grant per project; and
- **Interest-free loan schemes:** The interest-free loan scheme provides loans to clubs to help finance capital projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of players. The key features of the scheme are:
 - loans will be interest-free (though if a club defaults on a capital payment, the whole loan will be subject to interest until the outstanding amounts are paid);
 - the maximum loan available is £100,000;

- the maximum loan period will be 15 years, including an initial two-year capital holiday; and
- security will be required for the loan scheme in the form of either a charge over property or personal guarantees.

16.32 Clubs may apply for both a grant and a loan for the same project (providing that the appropriate conditions are met). A club could, therefore, apply for a maximum grant of £5,000 (providing it matches it with £5,000 of other funding) and a maximum loan of £100,000. Grants and loans will be awarded by the Trustees of the Rugby Football Foundation.

16.33 Information packs are available from the Secretary of the Rugby Football Foundation, Graham Hancock. He can be contacted on 020 8831 6538 or by e-mail (grahamhancock@rfu.com) or at the Rugby Football Foundation, Rugby House, Rugby Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 1DS.

Other sources

16.34 These could include other proactive mechanisms such as:

- increased income from events and activities; and
- improvements negotiated as 'added value' from service providers.

16.35 The primary example of such proactive mechanisms is 'added value' from service providers as a result of negotiations during procurement processes, for example, when re-tendering a grounds maintenance contract or when negotiating with the incumbent contractor for a contract extension. The 'added value' secured will depend on negotiations and what the service provider is able to offer but could include for example:

- better prices/choice/quality on consumables such as flowers and plants;
- access to recycled materials for use on parks and open spaces;
- better prices/choice/quality on minor capital items such as goal posts, seating and bins; and
- park warden services.

Review of pricing

16.36 This needs to cover all charges where a significant income is obtained, including outdoor sports, allotments and burials. The review needs to consider:

- charges for similar provision in other local authorities;
- the quality of provision;
- whether the service can be improved to justify a price increase;
- the extent to which the market will bear any future increase;
- whether differential pricing can be used to encourage off-peak usage;

- concessions for minority groups, or those which the Council particularly wishes to encourage;
- pricing at a level which does not deny access; and
- lower and/or more favourable charges for Ipswich Borough residents.

16.37 Further detailed information regarding grants can be found in 'Claiming Your Share: A Guide to External Funding for Parks and Green Space Community Groups', obtainable from www.greenspace.org.uk

SECTION 17

PLANNING OVERVIEW

Planning overview

Policy assessment and guidance for the implementation of Section 106 contributions

Introduction

- 17.1 The purpose of this section is to provide a planning overview for the Council, in particular:
- providing guidance on the impact of the PPG17 study on the emerging LDF; and
 - providing guidance for the application of Section 106 contributions.

Background

- 17.2 Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that for the purposes of any area in England other than Greater London, the development plan is:
- the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the region in which it is situated; and
 - the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which have been adopted or approved in relation to that area.
- 17.3 Whilst not part of the statutory development plan, local planning authorities can also produce Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that expand upon the policies and proposals in the development plan. Alongside the DPDs these form the Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) that the new legislation demands. This open space assessment forms part of the evidence base to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDF are sound.

Planning contributions

Strategic context

- 17.4 Planning obligations are typically agreements negotiated between local authorities and developers in the context of granting planning consent. They provide a means to ensure that a proposed development contributes to the creation of sustainable communities, particularly by securing contributions towards the provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities required by local and national planning policies.
- 17.5 The framework for the current system of planning obligations in England is set out in Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the 1991 Act).
- 17.6 Section 106 provides that anyone with an interest in land may enter into a planning obligation enforceable by the local planning authority. Such an obligation may be created by agreement or by the person with the interest making an undertaking. Such obligations may restrict development or use of the land; require operations or activities to be carried out in, on, under or over the land; require the land to be used in any specified way; or require payments to be made to the authority either in a single sum or periodically.

- 17.7 The Planning Act 2008 was granted Royal Assent on Wednesday 26 November 2008. The Act introduces a new system for nationally significant infrastructure planning, alongside further reforms to the town and country planning system and the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 17.8 An Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be established under the Act as the new authority granting development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The Act also provides for the Government to produce national policy statements (NPSs) to be used as the policy framework for the Commission's decisions. It imposes a requirement on project promoters to consult affected parties and local communities prior to submitting an application, and sets out a new process for examining applications.
- 17.9 The Act makes further reforms to the town and country planning system, including improving the Local Development Plan system by removing some minor procedures; adding a duty on councils to take action on climate change in their development plans; and to have regard to the desirability of achieving good design; streamlining development control procedures; making changes to the appeals process; and adding transitional powers allowing regional assemblies to delegate some planning functions to regional planning bodies.
- 17.10 The Act also contains enabling powers to empower local councils to apply a Community Infrastructure Levy on new developments in their areas to support infrastructure delivery. The Community Infrastructure Levy will establish a better way to increase investment in the vital infrastructure that growing communities need. The regulations will not enter into force before October 2009.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation

- 17.11 PPG17 emphasises the importance of undertaking robust assessments of the existing and future needs of local communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities.
- 17.12 Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.
- 17.13 With regards the use of planning obligations, paragraph 33 of PPG17 states; "Planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreation provision. Local Authorities will be justified in seeking planning obligations where the quantity or quality of provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs. It is essential that local authorities have undertaken detailed assessments of needs and audits of existing facilities, and set appropriate local standards in order to justify planning obligations."

Assessing needs and opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17

- 17.14 Whilst the advice within the Companion Guide was written at a time when the guidance on developer contributions was contained within Circular 1/97, its recommendations on the implementation of developer contributions are still highly relevant.
- 17.15 Diagram 1 of the Companion Guide outlines a recommended approach of how to deal with the redevelopment of an existing open space or sports/recreation facility, using developer contributions and planning conditions.
- 17.16 Crucially paragraph 9.1 states that provided authorities have undertaken assessments of need and audits of existing facilities compliant with PPG17, locally determined provision standards will meet the tests of reasonableness set out in paragraph 7 of DoE Circular 1/97, Planning Obligations. Whilst Circular 05/2005 has superseded this circular, the reference to “reasonableness” remains.
- 17.17 The Companion Guide states that additional provision will be needed when the total amount of provision within the appropriate distance threshold of the site is or will be below the amount required in the area following the development. The decision as to whether on-site provision or a contribution to off-site provision will be more appropriate depends primarily on whether the total quantity of each form of new provision required as a result of the proposed development is above the minimum acceptable site size. If it is, then new provision should normally be on-site. If not, the developer should normally be required to contribute to off-site provision. The recommended minimum site sizes are set out overleaf.

Table 17.1 Recommended Minimum Size Thresholds

Typology	Minimum Size (hectares)
Parks and Gardens	0.4
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	0.05
Amenity Green Space	0.04
Provision for Children and Young People	0.04 + buffer (20 - 30 metres from nearest dwelling)
Outdoor Sport Facilities	0.28
Allotments	0.05

- 17.18 Before seeking contributions to off-site provision, authorities should be satisfied that they will be able to use them within the distance threshold of the proposed development site. If they do not use them within an agreed time frame, developers are able to submit an S106 application for their return. This underlines the importance of ensuring planning obligations are implemented or enforced in an efficient and transparent way, in order to ensure that contributions are spent on their intended purposes and that the associated development contributes to the sustainability of the areas. This will require monitoring by the local planning authority.
- 17.19 Whilst the Council will be justified in seeking contributions for the full range of open space sport and recreation facilities for which they have adopted provision standards, in practice they will have to be realistic and in many instances prioritise within the findings of the local needs and audit assessment. This will vary dependent on the location of the planning application.

Circular 05/2005: Planning obligations

- 17.20 This Circular replaces the Department of the Environment Circular 1/97, with the changes only concerning the negotiation of planning obligations. This Circular will apply in the interim period before further reforms are brought forward.
- 17.21 Planning obligations are intended to make acceptable development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. They may be used to:
- prescribe the nature of a development (eg proportion of affordable housing);
 - compensate for loss or damage created by a development (eg loss of open space); and
 - mitigate a development's impact (eg through increased public transport provision).
- 17.22 Planning obligations should only be sought where they meet all of the following tests, namely that they are:
- relevant to planning;
 - necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;
 - directly related to the proposed development;
 - fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development; and
 - reasonable in all other aspects.

Planning obligations: Practice guidance (July 2006)

- 17.23 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Practice Guidance aims to provide local planning authorities and developers with practical tools and methods to help the development, negotiation and implementation of planning obligations. It is accompanied by a model Section 106 agreement prepared by the Law Society. The guidance relates directly to sections of Circular 05/05 Planning Obligations. It covers the following issues:
- types of contribution, including maintenance payments and pooled contributions;
 - policies in Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Frameworks, and the roles of Supplementary Planning Documents;
 - improving processes of negotiation, by the use of applicant/stakeholder guides and setting local authority service standards;
 - developing formulae and standard charges, and the need to assess the impact and costs of proposals in order to inform such charging;
 - the Law Society model agreement, which is intended to form a template from which authorities can select relevant sections;
 - the use of third parties to validate and mediate agreements;

- the role of community involvement, and responsibilities of authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- unilateral undertakings; and
- improvements to ways of managing and implementing planning obligations, including the use of performance bonds.

Plan led system

- 17.24 Planning obligations can be in kind or in the form of financial contributions. Policies on the types of payment, including pooling and maintenance payments should be set out in Local Development Frameworks. Developers should be able to predict as accurately as possible the likely contributions they will be asked to pay.
- 17.25 Development Plan Documents should include general policies about the principles and use of planning obligations, for example, matters to be covered by planning obligations and factors to take into account when considering the scale and form of contributions.
- 17.26 More detailed policies applying the principles set out in the Development Plan Document, for example specific localities and likely quantum of contributions, ought to then be included in Supplementary Planning Documents. Depending on the scope of the SPD, the Council may wish to also consider the development of codes of practice in negotiating planning obligations, so as to make clear the level of service a developer can expect.

Maintenance

- 17.27 Where contributions are secured through planning obligations that are predominantly for the benefit of users of the associated development, it may be appropriate for the development to make provision for subsequent maintenance. Such provision (for example, children's play areas to serve a new housing development) may be required in perpetuity.
- 17.28 However, when an asset is intended for wider public use, the costs of subsequent maintenance should normally be borne by the authority. Where contributions to the initial support are necessary, maintenance sums should be time limited and should not be required in perpetuity. Examples where this might apply include, for example, outdoor sports facilities, which will serve a wider area.

Pooled contributions

- 17.29 Where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure, it may be reasonable for the associated developer contributions to be pooled. In addition, where the individual development will have some impact but is not sufficient to justify the need for a discrete piece of infrastructure, local planning authorities may seek contributions to specific future provision. This can be determined through the application of the quantity standards and the agreed accessibility thresholds developed in the study. However, a degree of certainty is needed that cumulatively sufficient developments will come forward in that locality within an agreed time frame or else the contributions will need to be returned to the developer. This should be closely linked to emerging Local Development Framework work on-site-specific allocations and knowledge of areas of significant development.

- 17.30 Alternatively, in cases where an item of infrastructure necessitated by the cumulative impact of a series of developments is provided by a local authority before all the developments have come forward, the later developers may still be required to contribute the relevant proportion of costs. Therefore it is recommended that the Council develops a strategy for the provision of new open space, sport and recreation as required, ensuring contributions are maximised in areas which are known to have a quantitative shortfall and where housing growth is expected.

Formulae and standard charges

- 17.31 Local authorities are encouraged to employ formulae and standard charges where appropriate as part of their framework for negotiating and securing planning obligations. The benefits to the system are that it:

- speeds up the negotiation process;
- ensures predictability;
- promotes transparency; and
- assists in accountability.

- 17.32 Standard charges and formulae applied to each development should reflect the actual impacts of the development or a proportionate contribution.

Revisions to the Developer Contributions system

- 17.33 Government policy on developer contributions has been under review in recent years, seeking to speed up the process, increase transparency and reduce uncertainty. The Government believes that the infrastructure needed to support the development of an area should be at least partly funded by owners of land the value of which increases when planning permission is granted for development.

- 17.34 To ensure that local communities are able to obtain the necessary resources to fund infrastructure, the Government carried out an initial impact assessment in 2007 considering the following mechanisms:

- do nothing: allow the current legislative framework for planning obligations to continue;
- introduce a statutory Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); and
- introduce a Planning-gain Supplement.

- 17.35 The Government's decision was to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy, which will help to harness the value of an increased range of planning permissions to generate additional infrastructure funding and thereby unlock housing growth.

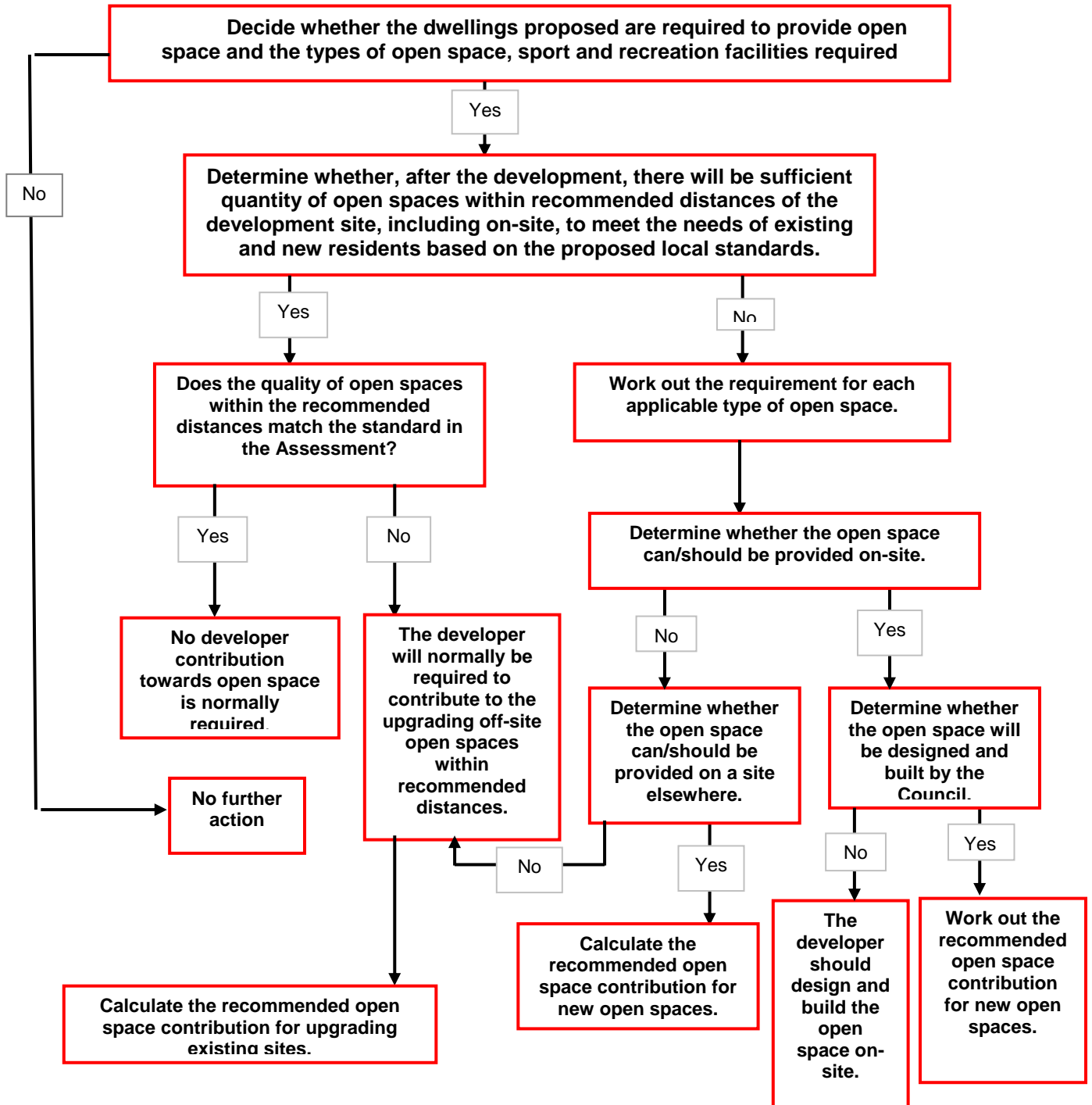
- 17.36 The Community Infrastructure Levy, the provisions for which were given Royal Assent in November 2008 through The Planning Act 2008, is a new charge which local authorities in England and Wales will be empowered, but not required, to charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying it. The proceeds of the levy will be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area.

- 17.37 Draft regulations setting out the detail of the CIL regime will be the subject of public consultation in 2009. The regulations will not enter into force before October 2009.

Policy assessment and guidance for the implementation of Section 106 contributions

- 17.38 The flow diagram overleaf (Figure 17.1) is based on the review of guidance and provides a step-by-step process for determining developer contributions. This is intended as a guide for the Council to develop the process for determining developer contributions and forms the structure of the rest of this section.

Figure 17.1 - Proposed Process for Determining Open Space Requirements
(adapted from Swindon Borough Adopted SPG: 2004)



Determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space

17.39 The first key stage detailed within the flow diagram is to determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space and what types of open space, sport and recreation facilities will require developer contributions. Table 17.1 below provides a summary of the approach taken by other authorities

Table 17.1 Summary of approaches taken by other authorities

Number and type of dwellings	
Tynedale Council	Applied to all new dwellings. Requirements for outdoor sports are only applied to three dwelling developments and above.
Mid Devon Borough Council	<p>All new developments to contribute to the provision of open space including single dwellings, tied accommodation, elderly persons units, conversions, flats, maisonettes and permanent mobile homes. Exceptions to this are replacement dwellings, extensions, wardened accommodation, nursing homes or similar institutional developments and temporary mobile homes.</p> <p>Affordable housing schemes can be unviable if required to contribute to open space provision but still incur a demand. The onus is on the developer to demonstrate that open space contributions would make the scheme unviable.</p>
Fareham Borough Council	Most types of residential development are considered to generate demand for all categories of open space. This includes market housing, new build dwellings, affordable housing, and permanent permissions for mobile homes. It excludes one for one replacement dwellings, extensions and annexes. Only specific types of open space are required for elderly accommodation (active/less active/least active) and a case by case basis is applied to specialist accommodations eg hostels and conversions or sub-division of dwellings.
Milton Keynes Council	<p>Applied to 10 dwellings or more.</p> <p>Most types of residential development will generate additional demand on open space. The SPG includes a table to assess whether open space is required for each type of dwelling. Open market housing/flats and affordable housing are required to contribute to all types of open space. Housing for active elderly excludes a requirement for playing fields, local play areas and neighbourhood play areas. Excludes extensions, replacement dwellings, nursing homes and substitute house types.</p>
Leicester City Council	Applies to all new residential development including flats, maisonettes, student accommodation.
Cambridge City Council	Open space required for developments of 10 or more dwellings and open space requirement is applied to all new build self-contained residential units and conversions or change of use.
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Requires provision of some form of open space for all residential dwellings. Non-residential development may have an impact on existing open space and a financial contribution may be sought for facilities such as footpath lighting.

- 17.40 In general the approach taken to affordable housing is to include a statement within the guidance stating that affordable housing schemes will require the same level of provision as open market housing but where it can be demonstrated that this would lead to the scheme being unviable, the level of provision required can be reduced.
- 17.41 The existing approach taken by the Council is that residential play space and equipment will usually be required in new developments.
- 17.42 Based on the review of existing guidance, it is recommended that the following approach be taken:
- to base the nature and scale of obligations sought from development on the size of development and the impact on open space, sport and recreation provision ensuring that all developments (1 dwelling +) could make a proportionate contribution if an area has a quantity deficiency within the relevant accessibility catchment;
 - require developers to provide and/or contribute towards all typologies of open space, sport and recreation facilities set out in the PPG17 audit which have their own local standards. This will require new development plan policies;
 - devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space. This can be broken down to indicate the types of open space different housing types will be required to contribute to. This builds in the flexibility that is currently left to negotiation, but ensures a clear implementation of the policy. An example from the Sport England/Milton Keynes Council/English Partnerships, Joint Pilot Project, Draft SPG on Open Space, Sport and Recreation, March 2004 is shown overleaf in Table 17.2; and
 - include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.

Table 17.2 Example implementation

Category	Open market housing/flats	Affordable housing	Housing for the active elderly
Playing fields	✓	✓	X
Local play areas	✓	✓	X
Neighbourhood play areas	✓	✓	X
Community centres/meeting halls	✓	✓	✓
Local parks	✓	✓	✓
District parks	✓	✓	✓
Swimming pools	✓	✓	✓
Sports halls	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓

- 17.43 The fact that industrial development of a strategic scale is included is in line with paragraph 20 of PPG17, which states that in identifying where to locate new areas of open space, sport and recreational facilities, local authorities should “look to provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas”. As such, this inclusion is supported although it may be difficult to quantify exactly where and when open space provision is appropriate in industrial developments.

PLAN 1	Ensure developer contributions can be required from all developments where necessary in local policies (ie one dwelling and above).
PLAN 2	Devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing that will be required to contribute to open space.
PLAN 3	Include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.
PLAN 4	Apply the policy to commercial development.
PLAN 5	Require developer contributions for all types of open space, sport and recreation facilities covered in the PPG17 audit (with local standards).

- 17.44 Determine whether, after the development, there will be sufficient quantity of open spaces within recommended distances of the development site, including on-site, to meet the needs of existing and new residents based on the proposed local standards. Does the quality of open spaces within the recommended distances match the standard in the assessment?
- 17.45 The next main step determines whether there is an existing open space need that, if there is no quantitative deficiency identified, leads to the next step of identifying a qualitative deficiency. Table 17.3 provides a summary of the approach taken by other authorities.

Table 17.3 Summary of approaches

Open space need?	
Tynedale Council	An assessment of open space, sport and recreation has been completed and identifies where there are deficiencies in existing provision. The authority area is divided into 21 sub areas and the strategy concludes that there are deficiencies in each of these sub areas. The implication is that there would always be a requirement for open space contribution.
Leicester City Council	Whether an open space contribution should be sought depends on the level of existing provision, determined by the existing amount of open space, quality, scale and nature of housing development.

Open space need?	
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	Whether an open space contribution should be sought depends on whether existing provision exceeds the minimum requirement and can meet increased demand.
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Whether an open space contribution should be sought depends on whether an over-supply of public open space is in easy walking distance (400m) of a proposed development.
Fareham BC	Normally only seek to secure provision of open space where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will exacerbate or create a deficit in provision based on the Open Space Survey and catchments of: children's equipped and informal play space is on a ward basis and outdoor sports facilities and recreation facilities is based on catchments of the 4 main built up areas. The only exception is sites accommodating over 200 dwellings where the site will be expected to include play spaces regardless of ward totals.

17.46 Despite the majority of authorities taking the approach of identifying whether there is an open space need in the area, it is considered that this moves away from the concept of ensuring the requirement on developers is fair and consistent. By applying the quantity standard based on the increased level of demand this ensures the developer is paying directly for the associated impact of the development rather than it being dependent on what open space happens to be around the development. In addition, by applying the open space study it is likely that if there is no quantitative or accessibility deficiency there is likely to be a qualitative deficiency that needs to be addressed.

17.47 To identify the level of quantitative, qualitative and accessibility deficiency within the area of the development, the PPG17 study should be applied for each of the types of open space. In simple terms, this is as follows (a worked example is shown later in this section):

- estimate the number of residents living in the proposed development (being explicit about assumed occupation rates);
- calculate the existing amount of open space within the agreed accessibility threshold of the new development. For example, there may be an existing quantitative undersupply of parks and gardens, provision for young people and children and allotments in the area of the development site;
- estimate the existing population within the relevant accessibility threshold and combine this with the estimated population of the new development;
- compare the existing amount of open space and the total population in the accessibility catchment area with the quantity standards developed for that typology in the PPG17 study to decide if after the development there will be sufficient quantity within recommended distances of the development site to meet local needs;

- if, when assessed against the relevant PPG17 quantity standards, there is a sufficient amount of that type of open space in the local areas to meet the needs of the total population, the Council may expect developer contributions to enhance the quality of open spaces within that accessibility threshold; and
- where it has been decided that a contribution is required to improve provision locally, reference should be made to the quality standards for each typology and assessment against these standards. Contributions should only be considered necessary where the quality of local provision is considered below the quality vision as outlined in the PPG17 assessment.

PLAN 6	Apply the PPG17 assessment's local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area
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17.48 A scenario may arise whereby a planned development under consideration would not result in an undersupply of open space within the agreed accessibility catchment area however other developments planned for the same area in the future, when added to the development under consideration, would result in an undersupply of open space. The Council may wish to consider a mechanism whereby the level of contribution for a development is calculated factoring in the cumulative impact of future planned developments for that area, thus spreading the contribution responsibility across all developments that have contributed to the oversupply in that area, and not just the final development that causes the oversupply of open space to turn into an undersupply.

17.49 It should be noted that there are risk involved in this approach, such as the potential for planned future developments to change in nature or not occur, potentially leading to Section 106 contributions needing to be refunded to the developers of previous schemes whose contributions were calculated based on the future developments occurring.

Determine whether the open space can/should be provided on-site.

17.50 In instances where a quantitative deficiency has been identified, it is necessary to determine whether the open space should be provided on-site. A new area of open space should be required where the existing amount of open space is insufficient to cater for the needs of the total population. The requirement should only be to such an extent as to cover the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development.

17.51 If a housing development generates a need for new open space then wherever possible this should be provided on-site. However, in many circumstances it will not be possible to achieve this. It is recommended that minimum size standards for each typology are developed to ensure that provision is useable and can be viably maintained.

Table 17.4 Off-site development examples

When should development be provided off-site?	
Tynedale Council	Includes a matrix detailing the on and off-site provision thresholds: at less than three dwellings – financial contribution for children’s play space and no requirement for outdoor sports; three to nine dwellings – financial contribution for children’s play and outdoor sports; 10 or more dwellings, on-site provision for children’s play and financial contribution for outdoor sport
Fareham Borough Council	Presumption in favour of on-site. Includes a number of factors to consider eg size of development site and whether site is located near to existing good open space. Includes a matrix of when on/off-site is considered appropriate according to the number of dwellings and open space type.
Milton Keynes Council	On-site provision (in existing Milton Keynes area) is worked out according to number of dwellings and type of open space, eg sites of 10 – 49 dwellings, on-site is normally required. Sites of 50-199 dwellings, on-site provision for LEAPs and Local Parks will normally be sought.
Mid Devon District Council	On-site provision is usually required when a development is 25 dwellings plus. There is a general preference for on-site provision.
Cambridge City Council	Any shortfall in provision, which cannot be accommodated on-site, should be met through commuted payments and be spent on identified projects
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	Commuted payments are acceptable for small scale developments and funds will be held in an interest earning account until enough is accumulated for improvements
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Thresholds are set for different types of open space and whether provision is appropriate on or off-site. Off-site provision is generally acceptable when development is too small to reasonably accommodate formal or informal open space and high density schemes
Reading Borough Council	In most cases, it is more appropriate to seek off-site contributions, especially in small developments.

PLAN 7	Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case by case approach will still be required.
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- 17.52 If it is not possible to provide the open space required on-site, then contributions should be sought towards the new provision or enhancement of that type of open space within the accessibility threshold. Where this is not possible, then contributions towards quality improvements could be considered as an alternative. Some different approaches to where off-site contributions should be spent in Table 17.5 below.

Table 17.5 Off-site contributions

Where should the off-site contribution be spent?	
Fareham Borough Council	Open Space Survey provides a framework for open space requirements. SPG sets out a list of appropriate items developer contributions can be spent on.
Mid Devon District Council	<p>Catchment areas are used to ensure provision is related to the development. Contributions generated within a catchment area will be spent within a catchment area. Catchments are based on the grouping of parishes, based on: anticipated rate of future residential development in an area and the location of existing facilities that could be extended or improved and the potential locations for the provision of new facilities.</p> <p>The SPG advocates the use of a pooled fund for these catchment areas.</p>
Leicester City Council	<p>For larger developments, the Council will be able to indicate exactly where any contributions made by developers will be spent.</p> <p>Smaller developments – may be appropriate to pay into an area based open space fund. Fund will be ring-fenced within the area based budget.</p>
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	Funds will be used within the area easily accessible from the funding development. For children's/casual play space this will be within 1000 metres from the funding development.
Reading Borough Council	Open Spaces Audit and Strategy points to a need for qualitative improvements to meet the needs of both existing population and those occupying new developments.
	Developments will contribute separately towards improvements on the basis of needs in relation to borough wide facilities and the needs in respect of smaller localised facilities. Capital expenditure to meet the needs of existing and future population is a key requirement in Reading and as such new developments should make contributions towards identified areas of open space that serve the whole Borough. Additional contributions are also required to improve play and other facilities in the local area. This will include specific works or improvements set out in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy or other approved programmes.

Where should the off-site contribution be spent?	
Salford City Council	When identifying a suitable site, the City Council will look at the availability of sites within a reasonable walking distance of the development. Where local play facilities are deemed adequate, the City Council will seek the contribution for alternative outdoor recreation needs in the area.

Calculate the recommended open space contribution for new open spaces.

- 17.53 The level of developer contributions for off-site provision will depend on whether it includes the costs of land acquisition. Standard costs towards the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces (across all typologies) should be clearly identified and revised annually.
- 17.54 The cost of open space can be difficult to determine based on what elements of open space provision to include within the costing, for example, whether the cost of a facility should include site preparation, eg levelling, drainage, special surfaces and what ancillary facilities to include within costings, what level of equipment and land costs. The costs should be based on local costings but a guide can be found on the Sport England website: http://www.sportengland.org/kitbag_fac_costs.doc and the FIT Cost Guide for Play and Sport.

For each typology, the size of provision or contributions should be based on:

number of people (in terms of increased demand over capacity within accessibility catchment of the development) x quantity provision per person x cost of provision per hectare

Worked example: contribution towards amenity greenspace

- a housing development for 70 dwellings has been submitted to the Council. The development consists of 30 four-bed dwellings, 30 three-bed dwellings and 10 two-bed dwellings. This will result in 230 additional residents living in the locality, assuming one person per room;
- the agreed accessibility catchment for amenity greenspace is a 10 minute walk time or 480 metres. Within this distance of the housing development there is currently 0.2 hectares of provision;
- the estimated population within 480 metres of the housing development is 800 people. Combined with the estimated population (230) this gives a total population of 1030;
- the quantity standard for amenity greenspace is 0.3 hectares per 1000 population. Multiplied by the total population (1030) produced a requirement for 0.31 hectares of amenity green space. The existing amount of amenity green space is 0.2 hectares;
- 0.2 hectares of amenity green space within 480 metres is a lower level of provision than the required 0.31. The developer will therefore be required to make further provision;

- the size requirement can be calculated by multiplying the quantity standard per person by the population of the new development. In this example this represents 0.0003 hectares per person multiplied by 230 people, producing a requirement for 0.07 hectares. Given the shortfall in provision is 0.11 hectares, in order to meet the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development; the full quantity provision should be secured; and
- reference should be made to the agreed minimum size standards to determine whether the requirement should be on-site or off-site. In this example the minimum acceptable size is 0.2 hectares, so a contribution towards off-site provision should be sought.

17.55 It is unreasonable to ask the developer to fund the entire shortfall in the area, and the contribution can only seek to obtain a contribution for the impact of the additional housing.

- if the open space were to be provided off-site, the estimated cost for the provision of amenity greenspace is £8,200 on the basis of a site being 0.2ha (2000m²) in size. The cost per hectare is therefore £41,000;
- the agreed local standard for provision is 0.30 ha per 1000 population, or 0.0003 ha per person; and
- using the formula set out above, the contribution required for a 70 dwelling development is:
 - 230 (number of people in development in terms of increased demand over capacity within accessibility catchment of the development) X 0.0003 (requirement per person) X 41,000 (cost of provision per hectare); and
 - the contribution required towards amenity greenspace is £2,829.

17.56 The application of this formula ensures that the level of provision required from developments is worked out proportionally as to the level of increased demand the development incurs.

17.57 The study can be used as a tool to determine the level of open space and indoor facilities required in major new urban extensions as well as within smaller new housing developments. The existing level of provision is measured against the projected population, which shows how much open space should be provided to meet the open space standards, however this includes existing deficiencies.

17.58 The worked example above can be applied to an urban extension area to calculate the required level of open space for the overall area as part of site-specific proposals in the LDF.

PLAN 8	Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.
PLAN 9	Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.

17.59 Maintenance sums are also an important element of any S106 process. A review of the approach taken by other authorities is set out below in Table 17.6.

Table 17.6 Maintenance approaches

Maintenance	
Tynedale Council	Developers are expected to make a contribution equivalent to 25 years maintenance costs, where a) they are providing on-site facilities and asking the Council to take on responsibility for management and maintenance or b) making a financial contribution to the capital costs of provision of facilities in the area.
Fareham Borough Council	<p>Maintenance of sites is required. If transferred to the Council, this is usually done after a period of 12 months, following completion of open space. The developer is only liable for maintenance of the amount of open space equivalent to that required by the development where the Council demonstrates that the off-site provision is of direct benefit to the residents of the proposed development (based on FIT defined sphere of influence for equipped and 1 km radius of development site for outdoor sports facilities).</p> <p>Maintenance rates are worked out on a number of beds/open space type basis and are updated annually.</p>
Milton Keynes Council	<p>Developer will be required to maintain the site for a period of 12 months after completion.</p> <p>Maintenance sum will then be required for a period of 20 years following establishment. The sum is based on contract prices and allows for inflation.</p>
Reading Borough Council	The Council will normally adopt and maintain properly laid out open space, subject to a commuted sum payment.
	The commuted sum payment should cover 20 years of maintenance costs.
	Commuted maintenance sum is calculated using current contract prices and maintenance costs for maintaining open spaces (ie work schedules) and multiplied to establish a 20 year figure. This allows for inflation of contract prices and deflation for diminishing present values over time.

Maintenance	
Harrogate Borough Council	<p>Where the provision of open space is principally of benefit to the occupants of a proposed development rather than the wider public, the developer will normally be required to pay a commuted sum to cover the cost of future maintenance.</p> <p>New provision of open space should be maintained by the developer for 12 months and will be transferred to the Council after this period with the commuted sum.</p> <p>Revise figures annually for the cost of maintaining different types of open space. Total commuted payment is calculated by adding 10% contingencies to the annual costs and multiplied by the number of years.</p> <p>Maintenance is required for a period of five years.</p>
Sedgemoor District Council	<p>Arrangements will be made for the transfer of new areas of open space to the Council (or Parish Council) after a period of 12 months.</p> <p>A commuted maintenance sum will be required for 15 years after the year of adoption by the Council.</p> <p>The commuted maintenance sum shall equate to the anticipated future expenditure of 15 years annual maintenance costs taking into consideration the cost of inflation and the interest received on the diminishing average balance of the sum.</p> <p>Sum is calculated by: costs and expenses estimated for the first year's maintenance based on the Council's ground maintenance bills, minus the interest received on the annual maintenance sum, with the cost of inflation added (in accordance with the annual rate of increases in the Retail Price Index at the time of calculation).</p>
Daventry Council	<p>Maintenance sum will be for a 20 year period.</p> <p>Maintenance costs should be based on current costs of maintaining the specific type of outdoor space that has been provided with an allowance made for inflation, calculated over a number of years. Examples are provided for the cost of maintenance per sq metre for a range of facilities.</p>

- 17.60 Where appropriate new developments should therefore make contributions towards the capital expenditure required to provide/enhance areas of open space and for its on going maintenance.
- 17.61 Where facilities for open space are to be provided by the developer and will be adopted by the Council:
- the Council should normally adopt and maintain properly laid out open space within residential areas subject to the payment, by the developer, of a commuted sum to cover the cost of future maintenance;
 - it is anticipated that the developer will be required to maintain the open space for 12 months, or other reasonable period for ‘establishment’;
 - a commuted sum payment is payable on transfer of the land covering cost of maintenance for a defined period. From the review of existing supplementary planning policy maintenance periods are normally between 5 and 25 years; and
 - the commuted maintenance sum should be calculated using current maintenance prices to manage open space, multiplied to allow for inflation of prices and the interest received on the diminishing average annual balance of the sum.

PLAN 10	Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.
PLAN 11	Prepare an SPD detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions

Summary and recommendations

- 17.62 The open space sport and recreation study is an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.
- 17.63 The study provides the tools with which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development and for pre-empting growth implications as part of the LDF.
- 17.64 The use of a standard formula for open space provision in new housing developments (based on the cost of provision) will greatly aid the negotiation process and provide a transparent approach in line with Circular 05/2005.
- 17.65 There are many other factors to consider in administering planning obligations such as determining occupancy rates, costings and on-site versus off-site provision. The Council’s approach should be set out clearly within a Supplementary Planning Document.

- 17.66 Maintenance sums are an important element of open space provision. It is not considered reasonable to expect maintenance in perpetuity, however the maintenance agreements made by those local authorities reviewed are typically of 20 years duration.
- 17.67 More generally, it is important to note that the provision standards are only the starting point in negotiations with developments and high quality environments will not result simply from applying them in a mechanical way. This is why it is desirable also to complement provision standards with design guidance that concentrates on effective place making.
- 17.68 The recommendations for the planning overview section are as follows:

Summary of recommendations

PLAN 1	Ensure developer contributions can be made to all dwellings where necessary in local policies (ie one dwelling and above).
PLAN 2	Devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space.
PLAN 3	Include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.
PLAN 4	Apply the policy to commercial development.
PLAN 5	Require developer contributions for all types of open space, sport and recreation facilities covered in the PPG17 audit (with local standards).
PLAN 6	Apply the PPG17 assessment's local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area.
PLAN 7	Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case by case approach will still be required.
PLAN 8	Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.
PLAN 9	Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.
PLAN 10	Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.
PLAN 11	Prepare an SPD detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions.

SECTION 18

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendations and action plan

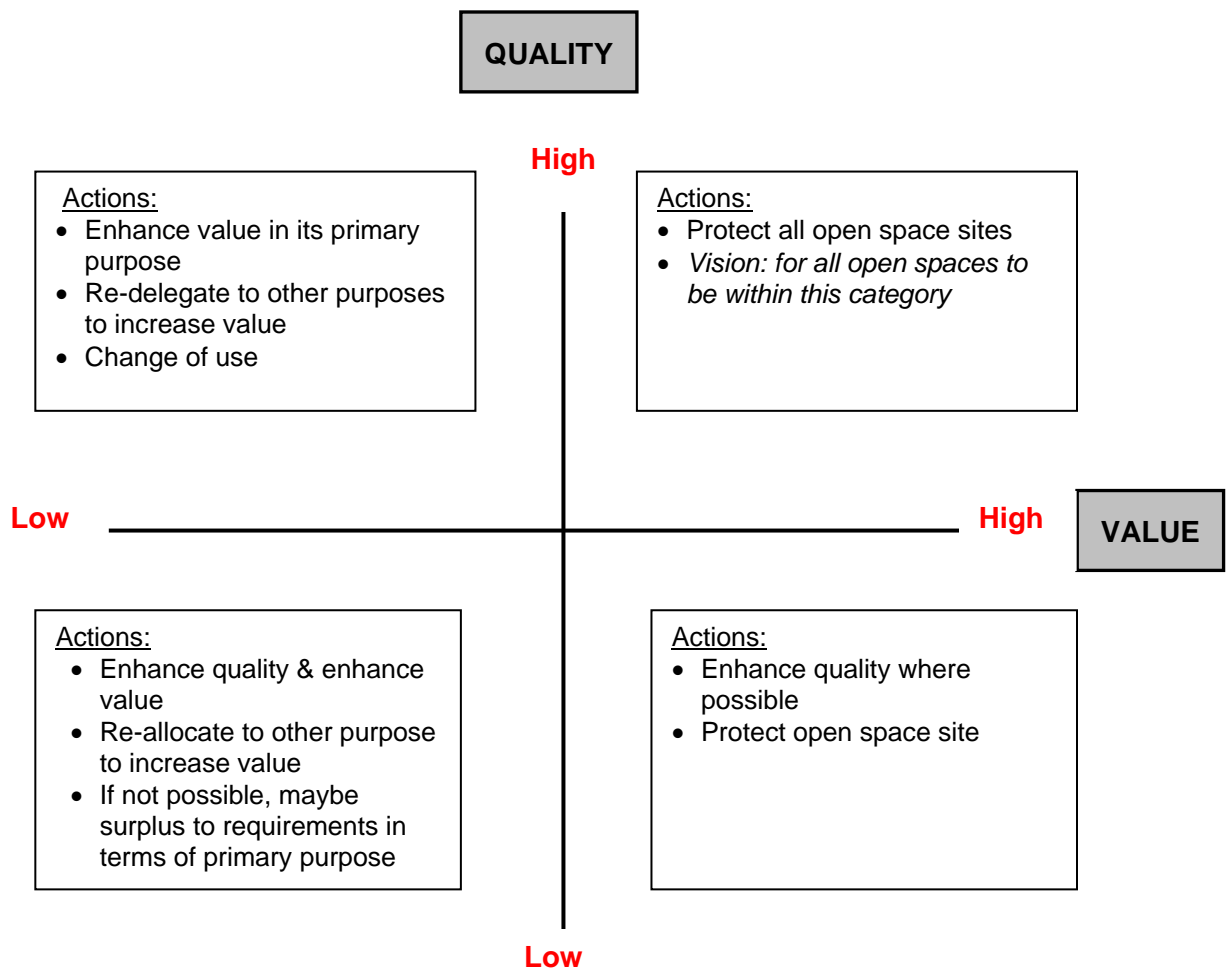
Introduction

- 18.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” (September 2002).
- 18.2 The prime objectives of the study were to:
- establish local standards for provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities that reflect the community’s needs and local circumstances;
 - provide an analysis of areas with identified surpluses or deficiencies of provision across the Borough;
 - inform the development of a strategy for the protection, planning, management, improvement and enhancement of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities;
 - inform and provide an evidence base for site allocations and policies contained within the Ipswich Local Development Framework; and
 - provide a robust evidence base for the development of policy in Ipswich’s development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.
- 18.3 It is important to note that the Council only controls a limited amount of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the Council needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the various owners of the sites (eg charities, schools, private owners) may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Ipswich Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.

Open space, sport and recreation facilities framework

- 18.4 The management of Ipswich’s open spaces, sport and recreation facilities appears to generally be of high quality. The site assessments have revealed good scores which have been presented throughout the report.
- 18.5 Sites can be awarded a value score based on a combination of their accessibility scores (allocated through the site assessments) and perceived usage levels. Sites that generally have a high accessibility score frequently have a high level of usage, as there is a direct correlation between these factors, and thus are high value sites.
- 18.6 Sites that achieve low scores for accessibility are often used less and should be allocated a low value score and considered for future management improvements. We have created a framework (see Figure 18.1 below) for the future management, protection, enhancement and accessibility of sites in Ipswich based on their current value and quality scores which identifies future management improvements to be applied.

Figure 18.1 Open space, sport and recreation facilities framework



- 18.7 Under this framework, sites that are of high value and high quality should be protected. It is the intention of this strategy that all sites should eventually be in this category. Those that are currently not in this category can be improved based on the recommended actions in Figure 18.1.
- 18.8 Sites that are of high quality but low value should be considered for a change of use as the site is not being highly utilised (hence its low value score). This may be because there are too many sites of the same typology in the area or that demand is not sufficient in the area.
- 18.9 If sites are of high value but low quality they should be protected as they are well used. However the quality should be improved to ensure that the site moves into the high value, high quality quartile.
- 18.10 Sites that are of low value and low quality should be prioritised for quality and value improvements, potentially by redesignating the site to another purpose/typology to increase its usage and value. If this is not possible then quality improvements should be prioritised however it may be that the site may be surplus to requirements in the area.

- 18.11 Each site has been evaluated for its quality and value (accessibility and usage) scores from the site assessments (which can be found in the database accompanying this report). Using the framework described above, high quality and value sites can be identified and recommended for protection and low quality and value sites can be identified for potential redevelopment or where a change in the management regime for the sites may be required.
- 18.12 Each site will fall into one of the four quartiles in the facilities framework. Each of the quartiles has associated recommendations which could potentially be applied to any of the sites that have been scored within that quartile. Whilst it is not possible to list every site and the associated potential actions for that site within this report, we have highlighted below some examples of sites that fall into each category.

Table 18.1 Examples of site allocations in the Facilities Framework

Framework Quartile	High quality, high value
Possible Action(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect all open space sites
Example Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chantry Park (Site 65) Whitton Sports and Community Centre OSF (Site 4)
Framework Quartile	High quality, low value
Possible Action(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance value in its primary purpose Re-delegate to other purposes to increase value Change of use
Example Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bixeley Heath NSN (Site 223) Valley Road AGS (Site 42)
Framework Quartile	Low quality, high value
Possible Action(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance quality where possible Protect open space site
Example Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray Road Recreation Ground (Site 183) Valley Road AGS (Site 427)
Framework Quartile	Low quality, low value
Possible Action(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance quality & enhance value Re-allocate to other purpose to increase value If not possible, maybe surplus to requirements in terms of primary purpose
Example Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talmarsh Gardens YPC (Site 337) Stonelodge Park NSN (Site 434)

Barriers to use

- 18.13 Through the consultation process, in particular the surveys carried out, a number of barriers to use were identified which reflected reasons why members of the public in Ipswich do not use certain open space, sport and recreational facilities within the Borough. A summary of the key themes that arose relating to barriers to use and some potential solutions is provided below in Table 18.2 below.

Table 18.2 Barriers to use and potential solutions

Barrier to Use	Potential Solution
Cost – swimming pools, tennis courts and allotments overpriced preventing some elements of the community from using the facilities	Review pricing structures compared with neighbouring local authorities
Distance – facilities too far away to be able to access without a car	Application of recommendations in report linked to accessibility and quantity standards established in this report
Lack of information – public do not know what facilities are available, how to access the facilities and what special events are occurring, particularly linked to sports facilities and allotments	Increased marketing and advertising of facilities and events eg free monthly newsletter
Maintenance – poor maintenance and cleanliness of facilities, particularly linked to swimming pools, tennis courts and children's play areas	Review of asset maintenance budgets for increased / reprioritised investment and application of quality standards established in this report
Anti-social behaviour – youths loitering in facilities, vandalism and poorly controlled dogs prevent people from using facilities, especially children's play areas and parks	Increased park ranger patrols in major sites and application of quality standards established in this report
Time – lack of time to utilise facilities on offer, especially linked to allotments and sports facilities	Increased and improved advertising of facilities on offer and application of quantity and accessibility standards established in this report to encourage local use

Vision

18.14 The vision for the Ipswich Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Strategy is:

‘to provide accessible, well maintained and safe open space, sport and recreation facilities that are in the right location and of the appropriate quantity and quality to meet the recreational needs of residents across the whole borough’.

18.15 The following table summarises the key findings of the study, under the headings of each typology.

Table 18.3 Recommendations

ISF 1	Consider the options regarding provision of a new additional public swimming pool.
ISF 2	Improve the quality of Crown Pools and Maidenhall Sports Centre to ensure cleanliness and maintenance are of the highest quality.
ISF 3	Investigate the possibility of facilitating access to further school sports halls facilities in Ipswich outside school hours in the future if demand levels rise significantly.
ISF 4	Utilise the Building Schools for the Future program to prioritise and provide new sports provision for Ipswich, particularly related to swimming pool provision.
PG 1	Ensure Dumbarton Park Amenity Green Space and Newbury Road Recreation Ground is maintained to the recommended parks and gardens quality standards.
PG 2	Ensure an appropriate park is provided if the new development area in the Priory Heath ward continues to expand.
PG 3	Maintain the amenity green spaces in the North West analysis area to the parks and gardens quality standard and investigate the possibility of converting one of the larger sites to a formal park.
AGS 1	Ensure amenity green space is provided to the recommended quantity and quality standards within the new development on the St Clements Hospital site.
NSN 1	Investigate the option of converting additional areas of Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 2	Prioritise the North East analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no new sites are available, investigate the option of including small areas of natural and semi-natural provision within existing amenity green spaces in the North East analysis area.

NSN 3	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments in the North East analysis area and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 4	Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments at Halifax Road and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.
NSN 5	Prioritise the North West analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no sites are available, investigate the potential for converting elements of existing amenity green space sites to natural and semi-natural land.
NSN 6	Encourage the use of natural and semi-natural sites for informal environmental play through the rigorous application of the quality standard at all Council managed sites.
OSF 1	Investigate the provision of new outdoor sports facilities in Castle Hill Recreation Ground in the North West analysis area.
OSF 2	Promote the availability of sports facilities across the borough and ensure that facilities are accessible to all sectors of the local community. This should include increasing signage to sites and maximising public transport links.
OSF 3	Actively pursue community use at school sites to maximise the number of residents that have access to local facilities.
OSF 4	Ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are fit for the purposes intended. Specific improvements required for playing pitches are set out in the Ipswich Playing Pitch Strategy.
OSF 5	Increase the quality of the existing outdoor tennis courts.
	Investigate and identify potential sites for the installation of green gym equipment exercise stations for use by adults as well as young people and children.
ALL 1	Where allotment provision is significantly above the quantity standard, such as in the North East and North West areas, investigate the possibility of converting plots to areas of publicly accessible NSN areas.
ALL 2	Investigate the need to provide a new allotment site to compensate for the potential loss of the London Road site.
ALL 3	Use Council waiting lists as evidence of demand for allotment plots.
CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
CC 3	The Council should produce a standard management plan for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.
C1	Investigate providing additional play space along the eastern edge of the North East analysis area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.
C2	Ensure any new developments have play areas of appropriate quality provided at appropriate sites to maintain the standards set out in this study.
C3	Provide a new play area in the north east of the North West area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.
YP 1	Provide at least one new site within the Central area. This should be located to the east of the area. The two amenity green space sites at Vermont Crescent and Alexandra Park should be looked at as potential hosts.
YP 2	Provide three new sites within the North East area. They should be located to the east of the area. The three amenity green space sites at Sidegate Lane, Dumbarton Park and Newbury Road recreation ground should be looked at as potential hosts.
YP 3	Provide an additional teenage facility in the north east of the South East area to address current accessibility shortfalls and future quantitative deficiencies.
YP 4	Ensure the provision of new teenage facilities is made in line with new growth areas in Ipswich, notably in the Ward of Priory Heath in the south east corner (Ravenswood).
YP 5	Provide at least two new teenage sites in the South West area in order to address quantity and accessibility shortfalls. Sites at Chantry Green, Stonelodge Park, Cambridge Drive and Maidenhall Approach are recommended as potential sites where this could be possible.
YP 6	Provide a new teenage facility in the north west of the North West area. There are numerous potential sites where this may be possible.
GC 1	The River Orwell Green Corridor should be maintained and developed in line with the quality standard and with the IBC Landscape and Wildlife Strategy, the Ipswich River Strategy, the Greenways Countryside Project Strategy and the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan.

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GC 2	The Council should work with all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors.
GC 3	Actions arising from the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study regarding the development of greenways should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help contribute, enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged.
GC 4	Using green corridors to link existing open spaces in Ipswich should be a key priority for the Council
PLAN 1	Ensure developer contributions can be made to all dwellings where necessary in local policies (ie one dwelling and above).
PLAN 2	Devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space.
PLAN 3	Include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.
PLAN 4	Apply the policy to commercial development.
PLAN 5	Require developer contributions for all types of open space, sport and recreation facilities covered in the PPG17 audit (with local standards).
PLAN 6	Apply the PPG17 assessment's local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area.
PLAN 7	Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case by case approach will still be required.
PLAN 8	Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.
PLAN 9	Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.
PLAN 10	Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.
PLAN 11	Prepare an SPD detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions.

Action plan

- 18.16 The Action Plan overleaf sets out how the aims and objectives of the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Strategy will be achieved. It sets clear targets, defines responsibility, and indicates any financial implications to enable targets to be achieved.
- 18.17 The timescale is over five years and includes those targets which are to be achieved in three phases leading up to the end of the five year plan. These are:
- Phase 1: Years 2009/10 (short term goals);
 - Phase 2: Years 2011/12 (medium term goals); and
 - Phase 3: Year 2013+ (longer term goals).
- 18.18 It is intended that the Strategy should be iterative and will continue to evolve in accordance with changing conditions, needs and demands.
- 18.19 Examples of best practice from other local authorities should be examined in relation to improving the quality of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that nominated Council staff are given responsibility for implementation of the Strategy. These staff should study and visit suitable spaces and facilities themselves. This will assist in applying best practice “blueprints” to open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in Ipswich and will ensure that delivery is carried out effectively.

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES				
ISF 1 - Consider the options regarding provision of a new additional public swimming pool.	Phase 1	Team Ipswich Sport England Local residents Local clubs / user groups	Phase 1 – officer time Phase 1 – feasibility study (c£20k) Phases 2 - 3 – construction cost (c£10m +)	Feasibility study to be completed.
ISF 2 - Improve the quality of Crown Pools and Maidenhall Sports Centre to ensure cleanliness and maintenance are of the highest quality.	Phase 1	IBC leisure management operations team Local clubs / user groups Team Ipswich	Repairs and maintenance costs Officer time (audit and evaluation)	Quest self-assessment scores
ISF 3 - Investigate the possibility of facilitating access to further school sports halls facilities in Ipswich outside school hours in the future if demand levels rise significantly.	Phase 3	Team Ipswich Local Education Authority	Officer time Potential long-term increased revenue subsidy costs	Additional school sports halls open for public access Future user satisfaction surveys

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
ISF 4 - Utilise the Building Schools for the Future program to prioritise and provide new sports provision for Ipswich, particularly related to swimming pool provision.	Phase 2	Department for Children, Schools and Families Partnerships for Schools Team Ipswich Local Education Authority	Linked to BSF funding	Provision of new dual use sports facilities within new schools
PARKS AND GARDENS				
PG 1 - Ensure Dumbarton Park AGS and Newbury Road Recreation Ground is maintained to the recommended parks and gardens quality standards.	Phase 1	Grounds maintenance officers Contractors Parks officers	Officer time Funding for quality improvements	Repeat PPG17 site audits for quality on an annual basis
PG 2 - Ensure an appropriate park is provided if the new development area in the Priory Heath ward continues to expand.	Phase 3	Parks officers Council planners Developers	Officer time	Maintaining quantity standards as development increases
PG 3 - Maintain the amenity green spaces in the North West analysis area to the parks and gardens quality standard and investigate the possibility of converting one of the larger sites to a formal park.	Phase 1	Grounds maintenance officers Contractors Parks officers	Officer time Funding for quality improvements	Repeat PPG17 site audits for quality on an annual basis

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
AMENITY GREEN SPACES				
AGS 1 - Ensure amenity green space is provided to the recommended quantity and quality standards within the new development on the St Clements Hospital site.	Phase 3	Grounds maintenance officers Council planners Developers	Officer time	Achieving quantity and quality standards for the development area
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE				
NSN 1 - Investigate the option of converting additional areas of Christchurch Park and Alexandra Park to natural and semi-natural provision.	Phase 1	Parks officers Grounds maintenance officers Greenways project officers	Officer time Funding for ground works	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the Central analysis area to the quantity standard
NSN 2 - Prioritise the North East analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no new sites are available, investigate the option of including small areas of natural and semi-natural provision within existing amenity green spaces in the North East analysis area.	Phase 1	Parks officers Grounds maintenance officers Greenways project officers Council planners	Officer time Funding for ground works Possible site acquisition costs	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the North East analysis area to the quantity standard

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
NSN 3 - Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments in the North East analysis area and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.	Phase 1	Allotments officers Greenways project officers Community/residents association Allotment association Local ward members	Officer time Funding for ground works	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the North East analysis area to the quantity standard Percentage utilisation of allotment plots
NSN 4 - Investigate the plot utilisation and demand levels for allotments at Halifax Road and consider temporary conversion of some surplus plots (if any exist) to natural and semi-natural provision.	Phase 1	Allotments officers Greenways project officers Community/residents association Allotment association Local ward members	Officer time Funding for ground works	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the South West analysis area to the quantity standard Percentage utilisation of allotment plots
NSN 5 - Prioritise the North West analysis area for new natural and semi-natural provision. If no sites are available, investigate the potential for converting elements of existing amenity green space sites to natural and semi-natural land.	Phase 1	Allotments officers Greenways project officers Community/residents association Allotment association Local ward members	Officer time Funding for ground works	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the North West analysis area to the quantity standard Percentage utilisation of allotment plots

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
NSN 6 - Encourage the use of natural and semi-natural sites for informal environmental play through the rigorous application of the quality standard at all Council managed sites.	Phase 1	Grounds maintenance officers Greenways project officers	Officer time Funding for quality improvements at lowest quality sites	Quality of natural and semi-natural sites being improved to meet specified quality standard – measured through resident satisfaction surveys and self-assessments on quality of sites in question
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES				
OSF 1 - Investigate the provision of new outdoor sports facilities in Castle Hill Recreation Ground in the North West analysis area.	Phase 3	Team Ipswich Sport England Local residents Local clubs / user groups	Officer time – consultation and feasibility Capital funding	Increased outdoor sports facilities level (linked to playing pitch strategy)
OSF 2 - Promote the availability of sports facilities across the borough and ensure that facilities are accessible to all sectors of the local community. This should include increasing signage to sites and maximising public transport links.	All phases – on-going	Team Ipswich Local contractors	Officer time Investment in signage etc	Increased usage of sports facilities
OSF 3 - Actively pursue community use at school sites to maximise the number of residents that have access to local facilities.	Phase 2	Team Ipswich Local Education Authority	Officer time Potential long-term increased revenue subsidy costs	Additional school sports halls open for public access Future user satisfaction surveys

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
OSF 4 - Ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are fit for the purposes intended. Specific improvements required for playing pitches are set out in the Ipswich Playing Pitch Strategy.	Phase 1	Team Ipswich Sport England Local residents Local clubs / user groups IBC Green Space Officers	Officer time Funding for capital improvements	Repeat PPG17 site audits for quality on an annual basis
OSF 5 - Increase the quality of the existing outdoor tennis courts.	Phases 1 and 2	Council grounds maintenance team	Funding for capital improvements	Site audits and user surveys on an annual basis
OSF 6 - Investigate and identify potential sites for the installation of green gym equipment exercise stations for use by adults as well as young people and children.	Phase 2	Council Officers	Capital funding required	User surveys

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS				
ALL 1 - Where allotment provision is significantly above the quantity standard, such as in the North East and North West areas, investigate the possibility of converting plots to areas of publicly accessible NSN areas.	Phase 1	Allotments officers Greenways project officers Community/residents association Allotment association Local ward members	Officer time Funding for ground works	Increased NSN quantity provision levels (ha per 1,000 people) in the North East and North West analysis areas Percentage utilisation of allotment plots
ALL 2 - Investigate the need to provide a new allotment site to compensate for the potential loss of the London Road site.	Phase 2	Allotments officers Community/residents association Allotment association Local ward members Council planners	Officer time Funding for ground works	Allotment plot utilisation and waiting lists
ALL 3 - Use Council waiting lists as evidence of demand for allotment plots.	All phases – on-going	Allotments officers	Officer time	Allotment plot utilisation and waiting lists

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS				
CC 1 - The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.	Phase 2	Council cemeteries officers (Bereavement Services) Local churches Local wildlife organisations	Officer time Funding for improvement works	Repeat PPG17 site assessments for quality (includes biodiversity) on a yearly basis
CC 2 - The Council should work in partnership with other providers (eg the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.	All phases – on-going	Council cemeteries officers (Bereavement Services) Local churches 'Friends of Church' groups Maintenance contractors Health and safety officers	Officer time Funding for improvement works	Repeat PPG17 site assessments for quality on a yearly basis Health and safety assessments
CC 3 - The Council should produce a standard management plan for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.	Phase 1	Council cemeteries officers (Bereavement Services) Local churches 'Friends of Church' groups	Officer time	Repeat PPG17 site assessments for quality, quantity and accessibility on a yearly basis

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN				
C1 - Investigate providing additional play space along the eastern edge of the North East analysis area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.	Phase 2	Developers Community groups Council parks officers	Officer time Capital cost of new play area	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for North East analysis area
C2 - Ensure any new developments have play areas of appropriate quality provided at appropriate sites to maintain the standards set out in this study.	All phases – on-going	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time	Repeat PPG17 site assessments for quality on a yearly basis
C3 - Provide a new play area in the north east of the North West area to address current accessibility and quantity shortfalls.	Phase 2	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new play area	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for North West analysis area
FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE				
YP 1 - Provide at least one new site within the Central area. This should be located to the east of the area. The two amenity green space sites at Vermont Crescent and Alexandra Park should be looked at as potential hosts.	Phase 2	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for Central analysis area

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
YP 2 - Provide three new sites within the North East area. They should be located to the east of the area. The three amenity green space sites at Sidegate Lane, Dumbarton Park and Newbury Road recreation ground should be looked at as potential hosts.	Phase 2	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for North East analysis area
YP 3 - Provide an additional teenage facility in the north east of the South East area to address current accessibility shortfalls and future quantitative deficiencies.	Phase 3	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for South East analysis area
YP 4 - Ensure the provision of new teenage facilities is made in line with new growth areas in Ipswich, notably in the ward of Priory Heath in the south east corner (Ravenswood).	Phase 3	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for the South East analysis area
YP 5 - Provide at least two new teenage sites in the South West area in order to address quantity and accessibility shortfalls. Sites at Chantry Green, Stonelodge Park, Cambridge Drive and Maidenhall Approach are recommended as potential sites where this could be possible.	Phase 1	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for South West analysis area

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
YP 6 - Provide a new teenage facility in the north west of the North West area. There are numerous potential sites where this may be possible.	Phase 2	Developers Community groups Council parks officers Council planners	Officer time Capital cost of new facility	PPG17 quantity (ha per 1,000 people) standard for North West analysis area
GREEN CORRIDORS				
GC 1 - The River Orwell Green Corridor should be maintained and developed in line with the quality standard and with the IBC Landscape and Wildlife Strategy, the Ipswich River Strategy, the Greenways Countryside Project Strategy and the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan.	Phase 2	Wildlife officers Greenways project officers	Officer time Funding investment in quality improvement	PPG17 quality assessment for green corridors
GC 2 - The Council should work with all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors.	All phases – on-going	Wildlife officers Greenways project officers	Officer time Potential funding investment in improvements	Usage assessments
GC 3 - Actions arising from the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study regarding the development of greenways should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help contribute, enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged.	Phase 3	Council officers Greenways project officers	Officer time Potential funding investment in improvements	Usage and quality assessment improvements

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
GC 4 - Using green corridors to link existing open spaces in Ipswich should be a key priority for the Council.	Phase 3	Council officers Council planners	Officer time	Usage assessments
PLANNING				
PLAN 1 - Ensure developer contributions can be made to all dwellings where necessary in local policies (ie one dwelling and above).	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers Developers	Officer time	Increased developer contributions
PLAN 2 - Devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space.	Phase 1	Council planning officers Developers	Officer time	Creation of matrix
PLAN 3 - Include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.	Phase 1	Council planning officers	Officer time	Clear policy on affordable housing
PLAN 4 - Apply the policy to commercial development.	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers Developers	Officer time	Increased developer contributions
PLAN 5 - Require developer contributions for all types of open space, sport and recreation facilities covered in the PPG17 audit (with local standards).	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers Developers	Officer time	Increased developer contributions
PLAN 6 - Apply the PPG17 assessment's local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area.	Phase 1	Council planning officers Council open space officers	Officer time	Open space of the appropriate quantity and high quality in all new developments

SECTION 18 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Timescale	Key partners	Resource implications	Performance indicators
PLAN 7 - Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case by case approach will still be required.	Phase1	Council planning officers Council open space officers	Officer time	Development of matrix
PLAN 8 - Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers	Officer time	Development of formula
PLAN 9 - Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers	Officer time (monitoring)	Structured planning for future open space, sport and recreation needs
PLAN 10 - Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.	All phases – on-going	Council planning officers	Officer time	Well maintained facilities reflected in increasing scores from future quality assessments
PLAN 11 - Prepare an SPD detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions.	Phase 1	Council planning officers	Officer time	Completion of SPD

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Benefits of open space

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise ·• social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride·• providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising·• providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits·• offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games·• open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world·• play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities·• providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity·• helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity·• providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials ·• providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment·• open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues·• contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects·• contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events·• encouraging employment and inward investment ·• complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.

APPENDIX B

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Open space typology definitions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation biodiversity environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Green Space	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> equipped play areas.
Provision for Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people, typically teenagers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ball courts outdoor basketball hoop areas skateboard areas teenage shelters and 'hangouts'.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor sports pitches tennis and bowls golf courses athletics playing fields (including school playing fields) water sports.

APPENDIX B – OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">growing vegetables and other root crops. <p>N.B. does not include private gardens.</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">quiet contemplationburial of the deadwildlife conservationpromotion of biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">walking, cycling or horse ridingleisure purposes or travelopportunities for wildlife migration.
Beaches and Coastal Areas	Includes both public and private beaches, estuaries and coastal areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">leisure purposeswalking.
Civic Spaces	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">designed for pedestriansprimary purpose of providing a setting for public events.
Indoor Sport and Recreation	Opportunities for participation in indoor sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">sports hallsswimming poolshealth and fitness facilitiesindoor tennisindoor bowls.

1.1 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment of open space in conjunction with PPG17, namely:

- grass verges on the side of roads
- small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of two roads
- SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e in and around a block of flats)

- farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.
- 1.2 As a result of the multi-functionality of open spaces there is a requirement to classify each open space by its '**primary purpose**' as recommended in PPG17 so that it is counted only once in the audit.
- 1.3 This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example - in areas of deficiency of amenity greenspace, playing pitches may exist that provide the function of required amenity greenspace but its primary purpose is as an outdoor sports facility.

APPENDIX C
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Definitions of Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities

Parks and gardens - These range from large country parks to urban parks and small memorial formal gardens

Natural and semi-natural areas – Include woods, nature reserves and unmanaged greenspaces such as scrubland

Amenity areas - These are small or large greenspaces often found amongst housing estates (eg village greens)

Play areas for children - These are equipped play areas for children (eg swings, slides and climbing frames)

Teenage facilities - These range from youth shelters, to skate parks and multi-use-games-areas

Outdoor sports facilities – Include natural and artificial surfaces, sports pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and golf courses

Allotments - Public or private open spaces dedicated to growing produce and gardening

Civic spaces – Hard paved areas used for a variety of purposes

Cemeteries and churchyards - Open and closed burial grounds and cemeteries

Green corridors - These include footpaths, canal towpaths, bridleways and cycleways, and opportunities for wildlife migration

Indoor sports facilities – These include swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness suites (gyms), indoor tennis facilities, indoor bowls facilities and local church/parish/community halls

SECTION ONE - QUANTITY

Q1 Please tick below whether you feel there is **ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH** provision for each type of open space, sport and recreational facility within the Borough and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer (eg not enough in your area/ quality is poor/ inaccessible).

	<i>More than enough</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Nearly enough</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>				
Indoor sports facilities					
<i>See section four</i>					

Travel time

Q2 Please write the **TIME** you would be willing to travel, and the type of transport you would be willing to use, when travelling to open spaces, sport and recreational facilities in the Borough (*please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only*):

	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Parks and gardens	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Natural areas	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Amenity areas	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Play areas for children	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Teenage facilities	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Outdoor sports facilities	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Allotments	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Civic spaces	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Cemeteries and churchyards	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Green corridors	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins

Usage

Q3 How **OFTEN** do you use each of the following types of open space, sport and recreational facility? (please tick one option only for each type of open space)

	<i>More than once a month</i>	<i>Less than once a month</i>	<i>Don't use</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Do you or any member of your household own/ manage/ use an allotment in the Borough?

Yes (*please proceed to Q6*)..... ☐ No ☐

Q5 If **NO**, would you be interested in using an allotment within your local area?

Yes..... ☐ No ☐

If YES please

indicate why you are

not an allotment user

already

Q6 Do you visit any open spaces, sports and recreational facilities located outside of the Borough e.g. Rendlesham Forest? If so, please let us know which sites you visit, how often and how you travel to the sites.

Quality

Q7 How would you rate the quality of the following types of open space, sport and recreational facility in the Borough?

	Good	Average	Poor	No opinion
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION TWO - SPECIFIC TO THE TYPE OF OPEN SPACE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY

Q8 Please indicate which open space TYPE you use MOST FREQUENTLY in the Borough? (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE)

<i>Parks and/or gardens</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Teenage facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cemeteries and churchyards</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Natural areas</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Outdoor sports facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Green corridors</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Amenity areas</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Allotments</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Play areas for children</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Civic spaces</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Type most frequently used

Q9 Please name the SITE you use MOST FREQUENTLY and where it is located (eg road/ area of Ipswich, or other village/town).

Site Name

Location

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE OPEN SPACE TYPE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY AS INDICATED IN QUESTION 8

Travel

Q10 How do you normally TRAVEL there? (please tick one box only)

<i>Walk</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Public transport</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Car</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cycle</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>			

Q11 How LONG does it take you to reach this type of open space? (please tick one box only)

<i>Less than 5 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Between 10-15 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Between 20-25 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Between 5-10 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Between 15-20 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Over 25 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>

Aspirations

Q12 If you were describing your ideal features within this type of open space, what would be the TOP FEATURES you think should be provided? (please only tick up to FIVE)

<i>Well kept grass</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Level surface/ good drainage</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nature features (eg wildlife habitat)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Good access to site</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Clean/litter free</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Events eg music</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pond/lake/water features</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>On site security (eg warden/CCTV)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Flowers/trees and shrubs</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Toilets</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dog walking facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Information boards/signage</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Changing facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cafe</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dog free area</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dog mess bins</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Car parking facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Seating</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Litter bins</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Footpaths</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Cycle parking facilities</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Picnic area</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Facilities for children and young people</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Q13 Which of the following factors would make you feel SAFER using this type of open space (please tick one or more)

Adequate lighting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff-on-site (e.g. park rangers).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overlooked by housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clear route to open space.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reputation of area/space.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other users	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCTV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Quality

Q14 Please indicate whether you experience any of the following PROBLEMS at the open space type you visit most frequently as indicated in Q8 by rating the seriousness of the problem in the boxes below:

	Significant problem	Minor problem	No problem
Vandalism and graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety and age of equipment (play areas, seating)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mis-use of site (eg youths congregating)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q15 Please rate the following quality factors for the type of open space in the Borough you visit most frequently as stated in Q8:

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied	Not applicable
Play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General maintenance and management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boundaries (railings, hedges etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycle parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of bins for litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seats/benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information and signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planted and grassed areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION THREE - OUTDOOR SPORTS

Q16 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of outdoor sport facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer.

	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
Grass pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer	<hr/>			
Synthetic turf pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer	<hr/>			
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer	<hr/>			
Bowling greens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer	<hr/>			
Golf courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer	<hr/>			

Q17	Please write the TIME you would be willing to travel below the type of transport you would be willing to use when travelling to outdoor sports facilities in the Borough (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only):			
	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Grass pitches	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Synthetic turf pitches	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Tennis courts	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Bowling greens	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Golf courses	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

General

Q18 If you have any other COMMENTS that you would like to make regarding outdoor sports in the Borough, please write them in the box below.

SECTION FOUR - INDOOR SPORTS

Q19 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of indoor sport facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer.

	<i>More than enough</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Sports halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Health and fitness (Gyms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Indoor tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Indoor bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Church/parish/community halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				

Q20 Please write the TIME you would be willing to travel below the type of transport you would be willing to use when travelling to indoor sports facilities in the Borough (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only):

	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Swimming pools	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Sports halls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Health and fitness (Gyms)	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Indoor tennis	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Indoor bowls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Church/parish/community halls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

Q21 How would you rate the quality of indoor sports facilities in the Borough?

	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and fitness (Gyms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church/parish/community halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q22 Do you have any comments about indoor sports activities based in your local community/parish/church hall?**General****Q23 If you have any other COMMENTS that you would like to make regarding indoor sports in the Borough, please write them in the box below.****SECTION FIVE - SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOU**

Q24 Are you;
Male ☐ *Female*..... ☐

Q25 How old are you?
Under 16 ☐ *25-39*..... ☐ *60-75* ☐
16-24 ☐ *40-59*..... ☐ *75+* ☐

Q26 Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?

<i>White British</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Black Other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mixed White and Black Caribbean.</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>White Irish</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asian British</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mixed White and Black African</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>White Other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asian Pakistani</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mixed White and Asian</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Black British</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asian Indian</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mixed Other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Black African</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asian Bangladesh</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chinese</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Black Caribbean</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asian Other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Other (please specify)</i> _____		

Q27 Are there any children in your household under 16 years?
Yes..... ☐ *No* ☐

Q28 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?
Yes..... ☐ *No* ☐

PMP Consultancy is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 with the Notification Department of the Information Commission.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire, please return it in the prepaid envelope provided, by Friday 21st September 2007

APPENDIX D

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTERNET SURVEY



Open Space, Sport and Recreation in Ipswich



This is ***your*** opportunity to tell us what ***you*** think of open spaces and sports and recreational facilities in your area and how they can be improved for you, your friends, and the people of Ipswich

What do we mean by 'Open Space'?

Parks, play areas, skate parks, Multi-Use Games Areas (where you can play basketball or football), sports pitches and courts, public grassy areas in housing estates and very large paved areas in towns

Instructions

- 1) Please read each question carefully and click the box to the answer or answers that apply to you
- 2) Please make sure you continue to the end of the questionnaire and press "**submit**" once you have finished all your answers
- 3) It should not take more than 10 minutes to complete

Q1 Which school do you go to?

Q2 What is your postcode? If you don't know just write the name of the road you live on

Q3 Which school year are you currently in:

- | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Year 11 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 8 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 5 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Year 10 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 7 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 4 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Year 9 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 6 | <input type="radio"/> | Year 3 | <input type="radio"/> |

Q4 Are you a...

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Boy | <input type="radio"/> | Girl | <input type="radio"/> |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|

Q5 Which of the following is your favourite thing to do in your free time? (please only tick one)

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Indoor things like playing games and watching TV | <input type="radio"/> | Playing or hanging out with friends outside | <input type="radio"/> |
| Playing sport | <input type="radio"/> | Playing or hanging out with friends inside | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other (please write in the box): | | <input type="text"/> | |

Q6 Is there a specific place (eg shelter, park) near your house or school where you can play or hang out with your friends?

Yes	<input type="radio"/>	Don't know	<input type="radio"/>
No	<input type="radio"/>		

Q7 Have you been to any of the following types of places in the last year? (tick all that apply to you)

Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor sports facilities (like playing pitches, basketball courts or tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland or overgrown wild area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grassy areas in a housing development, or a village green	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cemeteries or churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas or youth shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8 If you do NOT use open spaces, what are your main reason for not using them? (tick as many as you feel are relevant)

I don't have enough time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Getting there is not safe	<input type="checkbox"/>
They're not very good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buses don't go at the right times	<input type="checkbox"/>
It's a difficult route to get there	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not feel safe there	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm not interested	<input type="checkbox"/>	I can't get there by bus	<input type="checkbox"/>
There aren't things there I want to use or do	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like the people there	<input type="checkbox"/>
They're too far from my home	<input type="checkbox"/>	They're too close to a busy road/railway	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm not allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	I play at home in my garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
It costs too much to get there	<input type="checkbox"/>	I use other parks/open spaces that are outside Ipswich	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)		<div></div>	

Q9 What is the name of your favourite outdoor open space or the road it is on

Section 1 - Questions 10 to 18 apply to the outdoor open space you use most often

Q10 What is the name of the outdoor open space you go to most often

Q11 What type of open space is it?

Grassy area within a housing estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Grass</u> pitch with posts or markings (eg Football, Cricket and Rugby)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teenage facility eg youth shelter or skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-use games area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities (like basketball courts or tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)		<div></div>	

Q12 How often do you visit the site?

More than once a week	<input type="radio"/>	More than once a month	<input type="radio"/>	More than once a year	<input type="radio"/>
Once a week	<input type="radio"/>	Once a month	<input type="radio"/>	Once a year	<input type="radio"/>

Q13 **How do you normally get there?**

Walk	<input type="radio"/>	Skate	<input type="radio"/>	Car	<input type="radio"/>
Cycle	<input type="radio"/>	Bus	<input type="radio"/>	Other	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Q14 **How would you prefer to get there?**

Walk	<input type="radio"/>	Cycle	<input type="radio"/>	Skate	<input type="radio"/>	Bus	<input type="radio"/>	Car	<input type="radio"/>
------	-----------------------	-------	-----------------------	-------	-----------------------	-----	-----------------------	-----	-----------------------

Other (please specify)

Q15 **How long does it take you to get there?**

0 to 5 minutes	<input type="radio"/>	10 to 15 minutes	<input type="radio"/>	20 to 25 minutes	<input type="radio"/>
5 to 10 minutes	<input type="radio"/>	15 to 20 minutes	<input type="radio"/>	Over 25 minutes	<input type="radio"/>

Q16 **What are your top TWO reasons for using this place?**

To use the playground/play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	To meet friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
To play for a team on the outdoor sports pitches/courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	It's just somewhere to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
To play on sports pitches/courts with friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	It's the only place I can go	<input type="checkbox"/>
For a kickabout/play	<input type="checkbox"/>	To walk the dog	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (Please specify)

Q17 **What are the top TWO things you like MOST about this place?**

It's close to my home	<input type="checkbox"/>	It's free to use	<input type="checkbox"/>
The play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	I can use it in an evening because it is well lit	<input type="checkbox"/>
It's a good place to meet friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	It's good for playing sport	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, please specify

Q18 **What are the TWO things you like LEAST about this place?**

It is too far away from my home	<input type="checkbox"/>	There's not enough space for playing sport	<input type="checkbox"/>
The play facilities are boring	<input type="checkbox"/>	It's too dirty (eg with litter, graffiti or glass)	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is the only place I can go	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog muck	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am unable to use it in an evening	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parents won't let me go there	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is too close to people's houses	<input type="checkbox"/>	I feel unsafe there	<input type="checkbox"/>

It costs too much ☐

Other, please specify

Section 2 - Questions 19 to 24 are about all open spaces in your local area

Q19 **Are there any open spaces where you feel unsafe?**

Yes ☒ No ☒ [Go to Q21](#)

If Yes, please say which ones:

What is it that makes you feel unsafe?

Q20 **What would make you feel safer?**

Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Houses nearby	<input type="checkbox"/>	Travelling there with adults	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cameras/CCTV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organised activities on-site	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Staff on-site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Travelling there with friends	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)					

Q21 **What do you think about the amount of open spaces near you?**

More than enough	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	About right	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Not Enough	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Don't know	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Q22 **Do you like the open spaces near you?**

Yes ☒ No ☒ Don't know ☒

Q23 **If you could make improvements to existing open spaces or have new places to go what would they be? (tick up to three boxes)**

More interesting play equipment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Skate park	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Indoor non-sports place (eg somewhere to hang out with friends)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	BMX park	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Multi-use games area / Kickabout area	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Planned organised activities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Outdoor sports equipment (eg tennis, football)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Shelters	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Indoor sports (eg badminton)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Nature areas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other, please specify			

Q24 **How long would you be willing to take getting there?**

0 to 5 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	15 to 20 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
5 to 10 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	20 to 25 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
10 to 15 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	More than 25 minutes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Section 3 - Questions 25 to 29 are about indoor sports in your area

Q25

Do you play any indoor sports outside of school? If yes, please let us know which sports

Badminton

☐

Indoor bowls

☐

Swimming

☐

Martial arts (eg judo, karate)

☐

Squash

☐

Indoor basketball

☐

Indoor tennis

☐

Indoor netball

☐

Indoor football

☐

Gymnastics

☐

Table tennis

☐

Other (please specify)

Q26

Have you been to any of the following sports locations in the last year?

Swimming pool

☐

Sports Hall (eg where you play badminton or basketball or martial arts)

☐

Indoor bowls

☐

Squash court

☐

Indoor tennis

☐

Q27

How often do you visit an indoor sports location?

More than once a week

☐

Once a week

☐

Once a month

☐

Once a year

☐

Q28

How do you normally get there?

Walk

☐

Bus

☐

Cycle

☐

Car

☐

Skate

☐

Other

☐

Q29

How would you prefer to get there?

Walk

☐

Bus

☐

Cycle

☐

Car

☐

Skate

☐

Other

☐

And finally...

Q30

If you have any other comments on open spaces or sports and recreational facilities you use, or on improvements you would like to see in Ipswich please write them in the box below:

Thanks for your time - now back to school work!

APPENDIX E

NON PITCH CLUB SURVEY

Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Please spare a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire on behalf of your club/organisation. Please tick boxes as appropriate. Thank you.

Q1 Please state the name of your club/organisation:

Q2 Which of these activities does your club participate in? (You may tick more than one box).

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <i>Athletics</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Netball</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bowling</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Badminton</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Gymnastics</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Cycling</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Swimming</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Walking</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Squash</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Tennis</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bowls</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Other (please specify)

Q3 Which of the following groups does your club cater for? (You may tick more than one box).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Primary age children</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Families</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Young people/Teenagers</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Older people (50+)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Adults</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Other (please specify)

Q4 What type of facility does your club primarily use?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Squash court</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Tennis court</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Sports hall</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Athletics track</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bowling green</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Swimming pool</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other
(please
state)

Q5 Of your chosen facility type (Q4), please indicate whether you feel there is enough or not enough provision in the Borough

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <i>More than enough</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>About right</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Nearly enough</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Not enough</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|---|---|--|

Reason

Q6 Please name the facility that you use most often? (provide site name and location)

Q7 If there is a second facility that you use on a regular basis please state it here: (provide site name and location)

Q8 What mode of transport do the majority of your members use to travel to the above facility (Q6)?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Walk</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Bus</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Taxi</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Motorcycle</i> <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>Cycle</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Car</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Train</i> <input type="radio"/> | <i>Unknown</i> <input type="radio"/> |

Other
(please
specify)

Q9 How long do you believe to be reasonable to travel to use a site for your primary sporting purpose (in minutes)?

0-5 ☐ 5-10 ☐ 10-15 ☐ 15-20 ☐ 20-25 ☐ 25-30 ☐ 30+ ☐

Q10 Do the existing leisure facilities you use meet all the needs of your club/organisation?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q11 If no, please explain the main reasons why not (please state facility name):

Q12 What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in your local area? (You may tick more than one option).

Swimming pool (lane swimming)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Synthetic turf / All weather pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use games area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indoor bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and fitness gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	Squash courts	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other ☐

Q13 How would you rate the overall provision of leisure facilities in terms of QUALITY within your local area?

Very good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Average	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please explain the reason for this choice:

Q14 What top two features would you prioritise within the provision of new / improved leisure facilities?

Well maintained grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Range of activities on offer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geographic access to the site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Level surfaces / good drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ease/security of parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcoming staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cost of facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refreshment facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

Q15 If you have any general comments that you would like to make us aware of regarding the provision of leisure facilities please use the space provided below (or continue on an additional page) and specify the area of the Borough you are commenting on:

Please return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided by **Friday 31 August 2007**. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

APPENDIX F

PITCH SPORTS CLUB SURVEY

Q1. Please state the full name of your sports club:

Q2. Which sport(s) does your club participate in?

Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugby Union	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If you only selected 'other', you do not need to complete the questionnaire. Thank you for your time

Q3. How many members does your club have?

	Under 18	Adult	Veteran
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Over the last 5 years has membership....

Increased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remained static	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approx percentage change	<input type="text"/>	%
-----------	--------------------------	-----------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	---

Q5. How many teams does your club have?

	Mini (Under 11)	Junior 11-15	Adult (16 to 45)	Veteran (over 45)
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6. Do any of your junior teams currently use an adult sized pitch?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

If yes would you prefer them to be using a junior sized pitch?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

Q7. Which leagues/ competitions do your teams participate in? Please include contact name and telephone number for the league/ competition organisers

(if possible, please attach a fixture list)

Q8. Does your club currently have a written development plan?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	(please enclose a copy)
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q9. Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (please tick all that apply)

Lack of internal funding (subs/ fund-raising)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of external funding (parish council, governing bodies etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of appropriate local facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of information about local facilities/ services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor/ No relationship with other local clubs (facility usage/ exit routes etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of voluntary assistance (committee members/ coaches etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership recruitment/ retention	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="text"/>

Q10. Please complete the table below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:

(example responses are shown in *italic*)

MATCHDAY VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Recreation Ground, Kings Road,</i>	<i>GU99 1AB</i>	<i>2 junior grass football pitch, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Leased</i>	<i>Alton Parish Council</i>	<i>Sunday 10-12am Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

OUTDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton School, Queens Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1CD</i>	<i>1 junior grass football pitch, no changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton School</i>	<i>Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

INDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Leisure Centre, Prince Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1EF</i>	<i>3 court sports hall, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Thursdays 8-10pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

Q11. Are the matchday pitches listed in Q10 your preferred location to play home matches?

Yes
No

☐
☐

If NO, please state your preferred location (site name and address with postcode)

Q12. How many matches do you play on your main pitch each season? (please tick)

☐ 1 to 10

☐ 11 to 20

☐ 21 to 30

☐ over 30

Q13. How many games were cancelled due to the pitch condition last season (excluding frozen pitches)? (please state approximate number)

Q14. How many matches per week do you feel that your main match pitch can adequately sustain? (please tick)

☐ 1 match

☐ 3 matches

☐ 2 matches

☐ 4 matches or more

Q15. Does your club train on your main match pitch?

Yes

☐

If YES, for how many hours per week?

Number of hours:

No

☐

If NO, do you train on another grass pitch? If so, where

Other pitch details:

Q16. What are the three BEST pitches in Ipswich Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q17. What are the three WORST pitches in Ipswich Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q18. Please rate the following aspects of your main match pitch:

	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Grip underfoot	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Bounce of ball on pitch	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Evenness of pitch	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Length of grass	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Grass cover	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Posts and sockets	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Line markings	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Free from litter, dog fouling etc	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Changing facilities	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Showers - clean, hot, plenty of water	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Parking	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Value for money	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Overall quality of pitch	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Other (please state)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Q19. What future plans does your club have?

Increase the number of members	<div></div>
Expand the range of facilities provided	<div></div>
Refurbish existing facilities	<div></div>
Relocation to different premises	<div></div>
None	<div></div>
Other - please state	<div></div>

Q20. In which town/ village do the majority of your players reside?

Q21. In your opinion is pitch provision (quality and quantity) in the Borough of Ipswich area sufficient to meet your clubs needs?

Q22. How long do you believe it is reasonable for players to travel to home games?

0 -5 mins ☐ 5-10 mins ☐ 10-15 mins ☐ 15-20 mins ☐ 20-25 mins ☐ Over 25 mins ☐

Q23. What mode of transport do the majority of your clubs members use to attend home games?

Car ☐ Walk ☐ Bus ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Cycle ☐ Train ☐ Other (please state)

Q24. If your club does not use public pitches, would you consider doing so in the future?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q25. In your opinion, do the ancillary facilities at the site where you play your homes matches meet the requirements of people with disabilities?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q26. Does your club operate an equal opportunities policy for membership?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q27. Does your club have a child protection policy?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q28. If you have any other comments about any sports provision in the Borough of Ipswich please let us know in the box below.



Please return this questionnaire in the FREEPOST envelope provided by no later than 31 August 2007.

Many thanks for your assistance

MD

APPENDIX G

SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID:

Date of Visit:

Site Name:

Specific Facilities

Site Address:

Type of Open Space:

1

Parks and Gardens

2

Natural and semi natural areas

3

Green Corridors

4

Amenity Greenspace

5

Young People and Children

6

Outdoor Sports Facilities

7

Allotments

8

Cemeteries and Churchyards

9

Civic Spaces

PMP Audit Codes:

Very Good

Good

Average

Poor

Very Poor

Weighting

Assessor's Comments

Cleanliness and Maintenance

Includes: Vandalism and Graffiti Litter problems Dog Fouling Noise
Equipment Maintenance

5

4

3

2

1

x3

Security and Safety

Includes: Lighting Equipment Boundaries (e.g. fencing)

5

4

3

2

1

x2

Vegetation

Includes: Planted areas Grass areas

5

4

3

2

1

x1

Biodiversity

Includes: wildlife areas, nature reserves,
deliberately overgrown to allow for wildlife habitat

5

4

3

2

1

x1

Ancillary Accomodation

Includes: Toilets Parking Provision of bins for rubbish/litter Seats / Benches
Pathways (within the open space sites)

5

4

3

2

1

x2

PMP Open Space Site Assessment

APPENDIX H

SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

		Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	No evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Some evidence of vandalism or graffiti but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Litter problems	No evidence of litter	Limited evidence of litter	Some evidence of litter but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of litter which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of litter which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Dog Fouling	No evidence of dog fouling; specific dog fouling wastage bins provided where appropriate	Limited evidence of dog fouling	Some evidence of dog fouling but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter some users; no specific bins provided in appropriate areas	Clear evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Noise	Very quiet and peaceful site; no intrusion by any noise	Limited intrusion by noise; ie site located away from roads, railways, works sites etc	Little intrusion by noise (eg busy road, railway nearby) but wouldn't really deter usage of the site	Noise intrusion apparent; may have some affect on potential usage	Noise intrusion clearly apparent by a number of sources and would probably deter some usage
	Equipment (eg condition and maintenance of equipment in play areas or recreation provision)	Equipment in excellent condition and provides an attraction for users	Equipment in good condition	Equipment in reasonable condition; some potential improvements but not a necessity at this stage	Some equipment in poor condition and obvious that improvements could be made	Majority of equipment in poor condition and in a state of disrepair; no signs of the issue being addressed
	Smells (unattractive)	No unattractive smells	Limited unattractive smells	Little unattractive smells or some smells that would be a one-off; shouldn't deter any usage	Some unattractive more permanent smells; may deter some users	Clearly apparent unattractive permanent smells; would deter some potential users
	Maintenance and Management	Clean and tidy; well-maintained site that is inviting to users; possibly an example of good practice	Clean and tidy site; good maintenance	Reasonably clean and tidy site; some potential improvements	Some questions regarding the cleanliness of the site; some obvious improvements could be made	Poor cleanliness; clear evidence of a lack of maintenance
Security and Safety	Lighting	Appropriate lighting that promotes the safety of the open space; well-maintained	Appropriate lighting; well-maintained	Some lighting; some general improvements could be made	Limited lighting; or appropriate lighting in poor condition	Limited lighting in poor condition; or no lighting in places required
	Equipment (eg protection of equipment and appropriate flooring and surfaces)	Equipment in excellent condition; excellent surfaces provided throughout the site; appropriate fencing of site to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in good condition; appropriate and suitable surfaces provided throughout the majority of the site; sufficient measures provided to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in reasonable condition; appropriate surfaces provided but some potential improvements; some measures provided to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in poor condition; some questions regarding safety of use; appropriate surfaces provided but in poor condition or some clear concerns regarding surfaces; limited measures to protect equipment of users	Equipment in very poor condition; clear questions regarding safety of use; inappropriate surfaces; no measures to protect equipment of users
	Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)	Clearly defined and well-maintained to a high standard	Clearly defined and maintained to a reasonable standard	Mostly clearly defined but possibly improvements to be made to the standard and condition	Poorly defined and some questions regarding the standard and condition	Poorly defined and in a state of disrepair
Vegetation	Planted areas	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard; no weeds	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard; very few weeds	Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants but reasonable maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants; poor maintenance with some areas clearly suffering
	Grass areas	Full grass cover throughout; cleanly cut and in excellent colour and condition	Full grass cover throughout and cleanly cut; few weeds but generally in good condition	Grass cover throughout but with some thin patches or excessive growth in some areas; some bald areas and a few weeds; but generally in good condition	General grass cover but some significant areas thin, saturated and/or poorly maintained; cut infrequently with obvious clippings still in existence	General grass cover but with some serious wear and tear and/or limited grass cover in many areas; little or no serious attempt to correct the problem
Biodiversity	Wildlife and nature areas (often deliberately overgrown to allow for wildlife habitat)	Area provides a large secluded, dedicated space where wildlife can flourish and habitats can be protected	Good areas provided where wildlife has been allowed to flourish	Some provision for wildlife, generally in amongst other types of open space	Minimal provision for wildlife and habitat protection	No provision for natural areas
Ancillary Accommodation	Toilets	Provided where appropriate; easy to access; signed and well-maintained	Provided where appropriate; easy to access; some minor improvements could be made (eg cleanliness)	Provided where appropriate; reasonable access; generally not very well maintained	Insufficient toilets provided; or those provided are in poor condition and likely to be generally avoided by open space users; uninviting	No toilets in a place that should be provided; or some provided but in a state of disrepair that are unlikely to be used
	Parking (related to open spaces)	On-site parking provided; adequate number; clean and in good condition; well signposted	On-site or appropriate off-site parking provided; adequate number; generally clean but some improvements could be made	Appropriate off-site parking provided; some limit in terms of spaces; generally clean	No on-site and limited off-site parking provided; or adequate number of spaces but in poor condition	Parking provision limited and in poor condition
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	Numerous bins provided and in good condition; in right locations and clearly labelled for appropriate purpose	Numerous bins provided and in average condition; clearly visible and in appropriate locations	Adequate number provided and in average condition; some signs of overuse/ damage etc	Insufficient number provided but in average/good condition; or appropriate number but with significant signs of damage or limited maintenance	Insufficient number provided and in poor condition
	Seats / Benches	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition	Adequate number for the size of site and in good condition	Insufficient number but in good condition; or adequate number but in poor condition	Insufficient number and in poor condition
	Pathways (within the open space sites)	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined; surfaces clean, debris and weed free and in excellent condition	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined; little debris and/or weeds but overall in good condition; good disabled access in most areas	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges reasonably well defined; some debris and/or weeds but doesn't detract too much from overall appearance; disabled access in some areas	Suitable materials but some faults; some difficulty with defined edges; debris and/or weeds detract slightly from appearance; some difficulties with disabled access	Inappropriate materials and/or significant faults; edges not clearly defined; significant debris and/or weeds; limited disabled access or very restricted
	Information & Signage	Information clearly displayed in various formats (eg noticeboards, leaflets etc); signage in good condition	Information clearly displayed in appropriate format; signage in good condition	Appropriate information displayed in some format; condition of signage reasonable	Limited information displayed; signage that is provided in poor condition and uninviting	No information displayed in appropriate areas; no signage

APPENDIX I

STEPS 3 & 4 – SETTING AND APPLYING STANDARDS

Steps 3 & 4: setting and applying provision standards

Quantity

- 1.1 PPG17 advocates that planning policies for open space, including playing fields, should be based upon local standards derived from a robust assessment of local need.
- 1.1 The quantity of provision provided by the audit of open space has assisted in the setting of such local provision standards for both local authority areas. This is included for each type of open space in the separate sections and, as recommended by PPG17, takes into account the population to calculate the quantity of provision per person.
- 1.3 The quantitative analysis has also taken into account key issues raised from previous consultations with the public. This provides a more objective view rather than relying solely on statistical calculations. A comparison with the community's view on the existing level of facilities required and the current level of provision needs to be undertaken to help establish a reasonable level of provision.
- 1.2 Provision standards are then applied to determine whether there is a surplus of provision, or a deficiency. All standards are based on 2001 Census data.
- 1.5 The standards are based on the 2007 population projection data and population projections for 2021 provided by Ipswich Borough Council.

Basic methodology: setting the quantity standard

- existing national and local standards are identified
- the existing level of open space is calculated from the open space audit and provided against the population by analysis area and at the borough level
- benchmarking is provided from other studies carried out by PMP giving an indication of whether the level of provision in Ipswich is above or below other authorities
- consultations are undertaken as part of the study from the local needs assessment to determine whether standards should be set above or below existing levels of provision, using question 2 of the survey – whether respondents feel there is enough/not enough etc. and WHY
- the information is brought together to determine whether the standard should be increased or decreased or left at the existing level. The use of the quantity standards calculator and worksheet help to determine the exact standard.

- 1.6 The overall aim of the assessment is to:
 - establish areas of the Borough suffering from deficiency of provision within each type of open space
 - areas of significant surplus where it may be possible to investigate redesignating the type of open space to types that are deficient in that area.

Quality

- 1.7 Quality and value of open space are fundamentally different and can sometimes be completely unrelated. An example of this could be:
- a high quality open space is provided but is completely inaccessible. Its usage is therefore restricted and its value to the public limited; or
 - a low quality open space may be used every day by the public or have some significant wider benefit such as biodiversity or educational use and therefore has a relatively high value to the public.

Basic methodology: setting a quality vision

The quality vision is devised based on the consultations with the community, other national and local design guidelines, etc for other authorities. This provides a benchmark for the existing provision and the basis to which new provision should aspire.

The quality vision is linked to the site assessments of quality by setting a percentage score for each typology. This score reflects the key points from the local quality vision. This score can then be applied to the existing level of provision to identify any key areas for improvements and to identify those sites that currently meet this standard.

- 1.8 The needs assessment therefore analyses quality and value separately within each type of open space.
- 1.9 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:
- the geographical areas of the borough
 - specific types of open space
 - specific quality factors that ensure a high quality open space.
- 1.10 This enables resources to be concentrated on areas that need to be improved.

Accessibility

- 1.11 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value. The overall aim of an accessibility assessment should be to identify:
- how accessible sites are
 - how far people are willing to travel to reach open space
 - areas of the Borough deficient in provision
 - areas of the Borough differing in accessibility and therefore of priority importance
 - key accessibility factors that need to be improved.
- 1.12 Setting accessibility standards for open space should be derived from an analysis of the accessibility issues within the audit and in light of community views.

Basic methodology: setting the accessibility standard

Distance thresholds (i.e. the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). This is assessed through the household survey asking how far people would expect to travel to each type of open space (question 3) and the 75% percentile that is derived from this.

This is supplemented by other consultations and the distances people currently travel.

- 1.13 PPG17 encourages any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites to be accessible by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. There is a real desire to move away from reliability on the car.

APPENDIX J

NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

National strategic context

Green Spaces, Better Places - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)

1.1. The main messages to emerge from Green Spaces, Better Places are:

- urban parks and open spaces remain popular, despite a decline in the quality as well as quantitative elements
- open spaces make an important contribution to the quality of life in many areas and help to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits
- planners and planning mechanisms need to take better account of the need for parks and open spaces including related management and maintenance issues
- parks and open spaces should be central to any vision of sustainable modern towns and cities
- strong civic and local pride and responsibility are necessary to achieve the vision reinforced by a successful green spaces strategy
- there is a need for a more co-ordinated approach at the national level to guide local strategies.



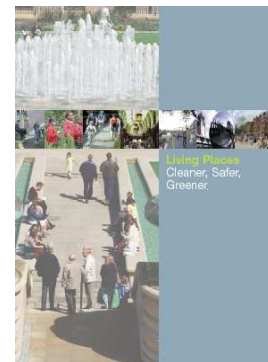
Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)

1.2. The Government stated that parks and green spaces need more visible champions and clearer structures for co-ordinating policy and action better at all levels.

1.3. Several existing national bodies have responsibilities or programmes with impact on various aspects of urban green spaces including English Heritage, Sport England, Groundwork, English Nature, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission.

1.4. Instead of setting up a new body, the Government stated it would take action on three levels to improve co-ordination of policy and action for urban parks and green spaces. It will:

- provide a clearer national policy framework
- invite CABE to set up a new unit for urban spaces (CABE Space)



- encourage a strategic partnership to support the work of the new unit and inform national policy and local delivery.

Improving urban parks, play areas and green space, DTLR (May 2002)

- 1.5. In May 2002 the DTLR produced this linked research report to Green Spaces, Better Places which looked at patterns of use, barriers to open space and the wider role of open space in urban regeneration.
- 1.6. The vital importance of parks and other urban green spaces in enhancing the urban environment and the quality of city life has been recognised in both the Urban Taskforce report and the Urban White Paper.



Wider Value of Open Space

- 1.7. There are clear links demonstrating how parks and other green spaces meet wider council policy objectives linked to other agendas, like education, diversity, health, safety, environment, jobs and regeneration can help raise the political profile and commitment of an authority to green space issues. In particular they:
- contribute significantly to social inclusion because they are free and accessible to all
 - can become a centre of community spirit
 - contribute to child development through scope for outdoor, energetic and imaginative play
 - offer numerous educational opportunities
 - provide a range of health, environmental and economic benefits.
- 1.8. The report also highlights major issues in the management, funding and integration of open spaces into the wider context of urban renewal and planning:
- 1.9. **Community Involvement** - Community involvement in local parks can lead to increased use, enhancement of quality and richness of experience and, in particular, can ensure that the facilities are suited to local needs.
- 1.10. **Resources** - The acknowledged decline in the quality of care of the urban green space resource in England can be linked to declining local authority green space budgets but in terms of different external sources for capital development, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Section 106 Agreements are seen as the most valuable.

Partnerships - between a local authority and community groups, funding agencies and business can result in significant added value, both in terms of finances and quality of green space.

- 1.11. **Urban Renewal** - Four levels of integration of urban green space into urban renewal can be identified, characterised by an increasing strategic synergy between environment, economy and community. They are:

- attracting inward economic investment through the provision of attractive urban landscapes
- unforeseen spin-offs from grassroots green space initiatives
- parks as flagships in neighbourhood renewal
- strategic, multi-agency area based regeneration, linking environment and economy.

Sport England

Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)

- 1.12. The main messages from Sport England within this document are:

- Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides 5 exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG 17 (paragraphs 10-15)
- Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years or is identified as a playing field in a development plan
- it is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and therefore increasing the importance of setting local standards
- in undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies'.



A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England / Playing Fields for Sport Revisited, Sport England (2000)

1.13. These documents provide Sport England's planning policy statement on playing fields. It acknowledges that playing fields:

- are one of the most important resources for sport in England as they provide the space which is required for the playing of team sports on outdoor pitches
- as open space particularly in urban areas are becoming an increasingly scarce resource
- can provide an important landscape function, perform the function of a strategic gap or provide a resource for other community activities and informal recreation.



CABE Space

CABE Space is part of the Commission for the Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and is publicly funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). CABE Space aims :



“to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities.”

Through their work, they encourage people to think holistically about green space, and what it means for the health and well being of communities, routes to school and work, and recreation through play and sport. Their ultimate goal is to ensure that people in England have easy access to well designed and well looked after public space.

Lessons learnt for some of CABE Space's case studies include:

- strategic vision is essential
- political commitment is essential
- think long-term
- start by making the case for high quality green spaces in-house (persuading other departments is key – high priority)
- a need to market parks and green spaces
- a need to manage resources more efficiently
- work with others - projects are partnerships

- keep good records: monitor investments and outcomes
- consult widely and get public support for your work.

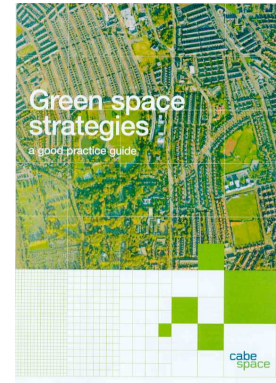
Green Space Strategies – a good practice guide CABE Space (May 2004)

The guidance draws on the principles of the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and will help contribute to national objectives for better public spaces, focusing on three broad stages in producing a green space strategy.

Stage 1: Preliminary activities - provides the foundation of a successful strategy

Stage 2: Information gathering and analysis – provides the objective and subjective data necessary to make informed judgements

Stage 3: Strategy production - preparing consultation draft and final strategy drawing on consultation responses.



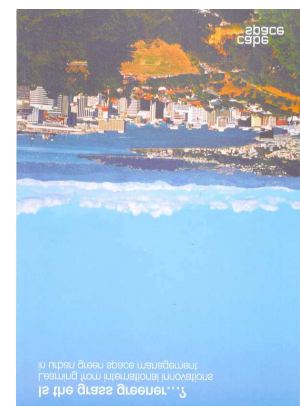
The document demonstrates why a green space strategy is important and the potential opportunity and benefits that it can provide, including:

- reinforcing local identity and enhancing the physical character of an area, so shaping existing and future development
- maintaining the visual amenity and increasing the attractiveness of a locality to create a sense of civic pride
- securing external funding and focusing capital and revenue expenditure cost-effectively
- improving physical and social inclusion including accessibility, particularly for young, disabled and older people
- protecting and enhancing levels of biodiversity and ecological habitats.

Is the grass greener...? Learning from the international innovations in urban green space management, CABE Space (July 2004)

This is an international perspective using examples of good and bad practice that demonstrate the many issues common to English local authorities that international cities also face and providing practical solutions that have combat the problems overseas.

The guide focuses in particular on aspects of management and maintenance practice, providing a series of challenging and inspiring solutions to common issues that are not dissimilar to current English practice.



The problem in England!

The document describes the problems faced by green space and how English towns and cities are often criticised for:

- **being poorly maintained** – uncoordinated development and maintenance activities
- **being insecure** – the hostile nature of many green spaces
- **lacking a coherent approach to their management** – conflicting interventions by a multitude of agencies, without clear overall responsibility
- **offering little to their users** – lacking in facilities and amenities and being a haven for anti-social behaviour
- **being poorly designed** – unwelcoming to people, created with poor quality materials

Manifesto for better public spaces, CABE Space (2003)

There is huge national demand for better quality parks and public spaces. Surveys repeatedly show how much the public values them, while research reveals how closely the quality of public spaces links to levels of health, crime and the quality of life in every neighbourhood. CABE Space 'manifesto for better public spaces' explains the 10 things we must do to achieve this:



- 1) **ensure** that creating and caring for well-designed parks, streets and other public spaces is a national and local political priority
- 2) **encourage people of all ages** – including children, young people and retired people – to play and active role in deciding what our parks and public spaces should be like and how they should be looked after
- 3) **ensure that everyone understands** the importance of good design to the vitality of our cities, towns and suburbs and that designers, planners and managers all have the right skills to create high quality public spaces
- 4) **ensure that the care** of parks and public spaces is acknowledged to be an essential service
- 5) **work to increase public debate** about the issue of risk in outside spaces, and will encourage people to make decisions that give more weight to the benefits of interesting spaces, rather than to the perceived risks
- 6) **work to ensure** that national and local health policy recognises the role of high quality parks and public space in helping people to become physically active, to recover from illness, and to increase their general health and well-being

- 7) **work to ensure** that good paths and seating, play opportunities, signs in local languages, cultural events and art are understood to be essential elements of great places – not optional extras that can be cut from the budget
- 8) **encourage people** who are designing and managing parks and public spaces to protect and enhance biodiversity and to promote its enjoyment to local people
- 9) **seek to ensure** that public spaces feel safe to use by encouraging councils to adopt a positive approach to crime prevention through investment in good design and management of the whole network of urban green spaces
- 10) **encourage people** from all sectors of the community to give time to improving their local environment. If we work together we can transform our public spaces and help to improve everyone's quality of life.

The Value of Public Space, CABE Space (March 2004)

- 1.14. CABE Space market how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value, as well as being beneficial to physical and mental health, children and young people and a variety of other external issues.

Specific examples are used to illustrate the benefits and highlight the issues arising on the value of public space :

- the economic value of public spaces - A high quality public environment is an essential part of any regeneration strategy and can impact positively on the local economy. For example - property prices
- the impact on physical and mental health - Research has shown that well maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health encouraging more people to become active
- benefits and children and young people - Good quality public spaces encourage children to play freely outdoors and experience the natural environment, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning
- reducing crime and fear of crime - Better management of public spaces can help to reduce crime rates and help to allay fears of crime, especially in open spaces
- social dimension of public space - Well-designed and maintained open spaces can help bring communities together, providing meeting places in the right context and fostering social ties
- movement in and between spaces - One of the fundamental functions of public space is to allow people to move around with the challenge of reconciling the needs of different modes of transport



- value from biodiversity and nature - Public spaces and gardens helps to bring important environmental benefits to urban areas, as well as providing an opportunity for people to be close to nature.

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans, CABE Space (May 2004)

A primary intention of the guide is to encourage wider use of management plans by dispelling the myth that the creation of a site management plan is an exceptionally difficult task that can be undertaken only by an expert.

The guide presents ideas on benefits of management plans identifying steps to be taken to writing the plan. It also provides a list of subject areas that need to be addressed in any comprehensive management plan. The document has been split into two sections, providing a logical explanation of the management process:



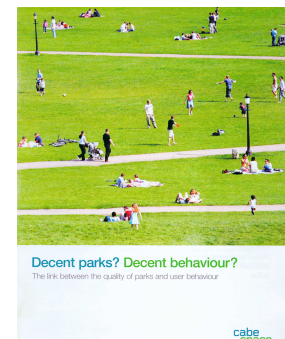
Part 1: Planning the plan - the who, what, when, where and how questions that may arise in the preparation of a park and green space management plan.

- **Part 2: Content and structure of the plan** - what information needs to be contained in the final management plan and how should that information be presented?

Decent parks? Decent behaviour? – The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour, CABE space (May 2005)

Based on research that supports public consultation that poor maintenance of parks, in turn, attracts anti-social behaviour. Encouragingly it provides examples of places where a combination of good design, management and maintenance has transformed no-go areas back into popular community spaces.

There are nine case studies explored in the report. Below are some of the key elements that have made these parks a better place to be:



- take advantage of the potential for buildings within parks for natural surveillance e.g. from cafes, flats offices
- involve the community early in the process and continually
- involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible and work hard to avoid single group dominance in the park
- provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young peoples fear of crime as well as that if adults

- 1.15. The evidence in this report suggests that parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic, however by investing and creating good-quality parks and green spaces, which are staffed and provide a range of attractive facilities for the local community, can be an effective use of resource.

Improving access to the countryside: Planning bulletin 17, Sport England (2006)

- 1.16. In October 2005 new access to the countryside rights allowed walkers in the West Midlands and the East of England to join their counterparts in the rest of England enjoying open access rights on areas of mountain, moor, heath and down.
- 1.17. The countryside offers a range of benefits to people's quality of life, health and well being. It offers the opportunity for fresh air, to enjoy scenery, healthy exercise, adventure, recreation and appreciation of nature.
- 1.18. Walking has formed the cornerstone of recent campaigns to encourage people to be more active, including Everyday Sport by Sport England, developing the 30 minutes of moderate daily exercise as recommended by health experts.
- 1.19. Exclusions to access exist to protect the natural environment, it is important to evaluate whether recent changes in legislation and the promotion of a new approach will provide the necessary momentum for resolving wider recreational issues in the countryside.

Planning for play: Guidance on the development and implementation of a local play strategy, National Children's Bureau and Big Lottery Fund (2006)

- 1.20. 'Planning for play' outlines the importance of adequate play opportunities for children and young people. Play is of fundamental importance for children and young people's health and well being, their relationships, their development and their learning.
- 1.21. Evidence is emerging that increased opportunity for free play is the most effective way of encouraging children to get the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-intense physical activity per day. A range of increasing health problems are associated with decreased play opportunities.
- 1.22. The document sets out advice on how to develop a local play strategy, which is reflective of the PPG17 process.

APPENDIX K

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Consultations

Household survey

Respondee profile

- 1.1 61% of respondents were female with the majority of completed surveys from residents aged 40-59 (36%), 25-39 (24%) and 60-75 (23%) respectively. 67% of respondents had no children in the household. 95% of residents surveyed were of white British background. This skew in the results is offset by information received via other consultation methods.

Open space quantity

- 1.2 The following table provides percentages relating to respondents opinions on the quantity of each of the open space typologies within the Borough:

Table 1.1 Open Space Quantity

Typology	Perceived Quantity (%)				
	More than enough	About right	Nearly enough	Not enough	No opinion
Parks and gardens	6 %	68 %	13 %	11 %	2 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	3 %	40 %	18 %	33 %	6 %
Amenity areas	4 %	38 %	17 %	28 %	13 %
Play areas for children	6 %	40 %	18 %	26 %	10 %
Teenage facilities	2 %	10 %	9 %	65 %	14 %
Outdoor sports facilities	3 %	35 %	20 %	29 %	12 %
Allotments	5 %	40 %	13 %	16 %	26 %
Civic spaces	7 %	40 %	16 %	15 %	22 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	8 %	50 %	10 %	14 %	17 %
Green corridors	2 %	29 %	16 %	38 %	15 %

- 1.3 In terms of quantity, a majority of respondents thought that there was an adequate number of parks and gardens. There was a slight undersupply of both natural and semi natural areas and amenity areas. There are locally specific issues where this is more pronounced, as discussed in the main body of the study.
- 1.4 Teenage facilities were recognised as a priority area with 65% recording an unsatisfactory supply. In contrast, provision for children was deemed to be good, with an even split between provision being enough or not so.

- 1.5 There was a suggestion of an undersupply of sports pitches, with 49% indicating provision was perhaps below what is required. It is with little surprise that allotment awareness was limited with 26% offering no opinion, although responses received suggested there is currently adequate supply.

Open space usage

- 1.6 The following table provides percentages relating to how often respondents used each of the open space typologies:

Table 1.2 Usage frequency

Typology	Usage frequency (%)		
	More than once a month	Less than once a month	Don't use
Parks and gardens	68 %	28 %	4 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	47 %	39 %	14 %
Amenity areas	26 %	35%	39 %
Play areas for children	35 %	15 %	50 %
Teenage facilities	9 %	11 %	80 %
Outdoor sports facilities	22 %	28 %	50 %
Allotments	8 %	3 %	87 %
Civic spaces	18 %	33 %	49 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	15 %	38 %	47 %
Green corridors	29 %	39 %	32 %

- 1.7 There is consistent usage of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural areas. Those who use children's play areas do so on a regular basis. Typologies with limited use are most notably allotments and teenage facilities, the latter of which can be partly explained by the demographic surveyed. Outdoor sports facilities, amenity areas, civic spaces, cemeteries and green corridors usage is split between non-users, regular users and irregular users.

Perceived quality

- 1.8 Identifying perceived quality of open space areas is critical to establishing specific typology deficits within the Borough of Ipswich. Residents were asked whether they found each type of open space good, average or poor.

Table 1.3 Perceived quality

Typology	Perceived quality (%)		
	Good	Average	Poor
Parks and gardens	65 %	29 %	4 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	39 %	43 %	11 %
Amenity areas	21 %	46 %	12 %
Play areas for children	37 %	34 %	13 %
Teenage facilities	6 %	16 %	45 %
Outdoor sports facilities	21 %	42 %	23 %
Allotments	19 %	30 %	7 %
Civic spaces	12 %	43 %	12 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	30 %	37 %	7 %
Green corridors	17 %	40 %	19 %

- 1.9 Parks and Gardens were considered to be the highest quality site, with 65% of respondents considering them to be good. Natural/semi natural areas and children's play areas had a similar split between good and average ratings. Amenity areas and outdoor sports facilities were seen as predominantly average, as opposed to good. The only typology where respondents perceived quality to be poor, as opposed to either good or average, was teenage facilities (45% perceived them as poor).

Open space most frequented

- 1.10 Residents were asked which typology they visited most often. The most popular was parks with 62%; the second was outdoor sports facilities with 14% and third natural/semi natural areas with 11%. The other typologies were seen as the most popular by less than 4% of respondents.

Outdoor sports

- 1.11 Residents were asked how they perceived the quantity of various outdoor sport facilities in the Borough; results are listed in Table 1.4 below.

Table 1.4 Perceived provision of outdoor sports facilities

Type of facility	Perceived provision (%)			
	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
Grass pitches	6 %	47 %	21 %	26 %
Synthetic turf pitches	1 %	23 %	28 %	48 %
Tennis courts	2 %	28 %	36 %	34 %
Bowling greens	4 %	30 %	17 %	49 %
Golf courses	10 %	25 %	18 %	47 %

- 1.12 The only type of facility where the majority of respondents suggest that the quantity of provision is about right is grass pitches. The majority offered no opinion on all other facilities, except for tennis where 36% said there were not enough courts. Few respondents across all facilities imply that there is an oversupply of outdoor sport facilities.
- 1.13 The following are collective opinions expressed by residents regarding outdoor sport facilities across the Borough of Ipswich:
- 35% of respondents to the household survey thought that the level of provision of outdoor sports facilities is about right but only 3% thought there is more than enough provision. 29% thought that there was not enough and 20% thought that there was nearly enough provision. Overall, this highlights that a majority of residents (49%) feel that more provision is required
 - 53% of household survey respondents thought that provision of grass pitches was more than enough or about right. Only 21% thought there was not enough, indicating that provision of grass pitches is believed to be sufficient
 - 24% of household survey respondents indicated that provision of synthetic turf pitches is sufficient, with 28% stating that more are required. 48% of respondents did not offer an opinion, indicating that synthetic turf pitches are not used often by many members of the public
 - the most popular response from members of the public regarding tennis courts was that there was not enough provision (36%) indicating that more courts may be required
 - only 17% indicated that there were not enough bowling greens, with 34% saying there was more than enough or about right and 49% not offering an opinion
 - only 18% of members of the public stated that there were not enough golf courses. The rest stated no opinion (47%) or more than enough/about right (35%)

- 72% of household survey respondents who stated outdoor sports facilities were their most frequently used open space highlighted the importance of facilities for young people as an ideal feature of an outdoor sports facility. Further ideal features were for cleanliness from litter (74%) and toilet provision (63%).

Indoor sport facilities

- 1.14 Residents were asked how they perceived the quantity of various indoor sport facilities in the Borough; results are listed in table 1.5 below.

Table 1.5 Perceived provision of indoor sports facilities

Type of facility	Perceived provision (%)			
	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
Swimming pool	3 %	31 %	56 %	10 %
Sports halls	9 %	66 %	14 %	11 %
Health and fitness (gyms)	17 %	48 %	12 %	22 %
Indoor tennis	4 %	27 %	26 %	44 %
Indoor bowls	24 %	24 %	16 %	57 %
Church halls	8 %	49 %	13 %	31 %

- 1.15 Similarly to outdoor sport facilities, there is a minority within the Borough that believe there is an oversupply of indoor facilities. Almost half of all respondents believe that there is a shortfall of indoor swimming pools. Provision of sports halls, health and fitness centres and church halls is considered to be about right. The greatest levels of no opinion were expressed in responses to indoor bowls and indoor tennis. Where interest was expressed, provision of indoor tennis was seen as adequate, and bowls more than adequate.
- 1.16 The following are collective opinions expressed by residents regarding indoor sport facilities across the Borough:
- some household survey respondents heavily criticised the quality of Crown Pools and expressed a desire for a new swimming pool
 - a large majority of the public thought that there were not enough swimming pools (56%) compared to 31% who thought that provision was about right. Only 15% believed swimming pool quality was good with 39% rating it average and 36% rating it as poor
 - sports halls were thought to be about right in terms of quantity (66%) with only 14% thinking there was not enough. Quality of sports halls was seen as good or average (76%)

- the majority of people (68%) thought that there was enough or more than enough health and fitness provision
- public opinion on indoor tennis was evenly split with 27% responding 'about right' and 26% responding 'not enough'
- 28% believed that indoor bowls provision was about right or more than enough and 16% thought that more provision was needed. Significantly, 57% did not offer an opinion
- provision of community halls is thought to be sufficient with 57% responding 'enough' or 'more than enough' and only 13% responding 'not enough'. Again, a large percentage (30%) did not offer an opinion
- the quality of health and fitness facilities, indoor tennis centres, indoor bowls facilities and community halls were all largely viewed as average or good.

Sports club survey

1.17 General issues relating to club attendance, type of facility currently used and general facility concerns are summarised below:

- there was a fairly even split between facility users defined as adults and young people. The 50+ age group represented the smallest cross-section of users
- the facility type primarily identified for use by the sports club survey was the grass pitch (used by various football clubs in particular). Sports halls were also frequently used by responding clubs
- there was a clear consensus among indoor sports clubs that there was not enough provision of sports halls, with Gainsborough Karate Club (who use Gainsborough Sports Centre) being the only respondent who felt provision was about right. This may however be biased in that responding clubs are more likely to be those who would like more/improved facilities
- TeamIpswich Swimming Club indicated that the Crown Pool facility was inadequate, and that a 50m facility was needed to meet the demands and aspirations of Ipswich' swimming community
- unsurprisingly, given the nature of the Borough, the car was seen as the primary method of transport to and from facilities and fixtures
- the majority of sports clubs were at least satisfied by their level of access to outdoor facilities
- football clubs generally indicated the provision of football pitches was adequate
- almost half of clubs stated that their membership had expanded in the last few years, and a similar amount stated a desire to increase membership in the future. Improved playing and training facilities was seen as an important way to achieve this aim, alongside more funding and improved/more coaching
- changing facilities were sometimes seen as poor, especially with regard to heating and security. This was especially true at a number of the smaller sites across the borough

- Ipswich Rugby Club indicated that they needed more land to accommodate increasing demand, especially from junior rugby
- a number of teams use school pitches instead of the major Council run sites. This was not deemed to be a problem through consultation and there was no acknowledged reliance on these pitches to make up any shortfall. A good proportion of schools with pitches had made them available for use by the community, albeit with partial availability
- Ipswich Basketball Club noted the lack of a double court sports hall was a hindrance to development of the sport in the area. Ipswich Volleyball Club echoed this view, with there being only one two-court hall
- the cost for hiring sports hall space was deemed to be higher for sports clubs than for casual users. Both the Corinthians and Gainsborough Badminton clubs felt this was a threat to the future of clubs. The cost of facilities is not something addressed directly in this study.

Key sports stakeholder consultations

1.18 Consultation with key sports stakeholders also revealed the following issues:

- TeamIpswich Swimming believed further swimming pool provision was needed in the borough, specifically through a 50 metre pool. The quality of Crown Pools was also criticised
- Maidenhall Sports Centre and Crown Halls were highlighted as ‘tired’ facilities that require investment by the Council and Suffolk Sport
- car parking was highlighted as an issue at all Council leisure facilities
- the quality of staffing and customer care at the Council leisure facilities was identified as being very strong
- it is felt that a 50 metre swimming pool is needed for elite competitor development reasons
- consultations with internal Council officers and the Suffolk Football Association indicated that provision of pitches is just about right although some further provision may be required
- the total quantity of Council pitches in Ipswich is considered to be good by local football league representatives. Sunday mornings were however deemed to be a busy period for football, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough
- the quality of football pitches was generally thought to be sufficient by internal and external sports consultees although the Suffolk Football Association identified some pitches that needed to be brought up to the quality of the other pitches in the borough. Additionally, ancillary facilities such as parking and changing were deemed to be insufficient and needing quality improvements on some sites
- consultation with local football league representatives revealed that the quality of pitches in Ipswich was generally very good, especially at the major sites such as Gainsborough. Some issues with ancillary facilities were highlighted at Murray Road and Gippeswyk Park, in particular with changing facilities

- Suffolk Sport highlighted the importance of the opportunity that the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) program brings relating to the provision of new sports facilities in Ipswich. BSF is coming on line in Ipswich during 2008
- the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) suggested that provision for tennis is needed for the winter months and that this could be achieved by providing indoor tennis courts. The quantity of outdoor tennis courts was however deemed to be sufficient by the Suffolk Lawn Tennis Association and Council officers, although quality could be improved and there is a need for floodlighting to allow courts to be used all year round.

Children and Young People's Internet survey

Demographics

1.19 A total of 174 individual surveys were completed and submitted on-line. Seven schools responded to the survey:

- St Matthews CEVAP
- Winesham Primary School
- Murrayfield Primary
- Britannia Primary
- Thurleston High School
- Clifford Road Primary
- Rose Hill Primary.

1.20 Of the respondents 77% were in year five (10 years old). 76% of the respondents were female however the ethnic background was not requested.

Other interests

1.21 Pupils were asked what activities they preferred to do in their spare time, for which three main options were provided. The results were:

- play sport (74%)
- play or hang out with friends outside (10%)
- indoor activities like playing games and watching TV (11%).

1.22 If none of the three main options were selected, a fourth "other" option was available, where respondents could indicate other interests they had. Responses in here included visiting allotments and the park.

Open space most frequently used

1.23 90% of respondents stated that they use open space near to where they lived. In the last year, respondents had indicated they had visited parks (32%), woodlands (26%) and grassy areas (24%) in the last year. Reasons as to why open space sites were not visited were varied, but the most popular responses were pressures of time (15%) and playing at home (14%).

- 1.24 Of the most popular open spaces used by respondents, 37% of them were parks, 20% were play areas, 18% were general grassy areas, and 16% were grassed sports areas. These sites were visited more than once a week by 52% of respondents, and once a week by 20%.
- 1.25 43% of respondents walked to these favourite sites and 38% cycled. This broadly mirrored respondents *preferred* method of travel. Interestingly, despite no-one indicating they skated to their favourite sites, 13% indicated they would like to skate there.
- 1.26 83% of respondents indicated it took them less than 10 minutes to access their favourite open space, with 4% indicating it took them over 4 minutes to do so.
- 1.27 The top reasons for using this open space are listed below:
- to meet friends (29%)
 - somewhere to go (23%)
 - use the playground/equipment (16%)
 - a kickabout/play(16%).
- 1.28 The top three “likes” about the open space used was that it is located close to home (31%), it is free to use (21%) and it is a good place to meet friends (18%). The biggest dislike was the levels of dog muck (19%). Other dislikes included the facilities being too boring and unsafe (both 15%).

Open spaces in the local area

- 1.29 41% of respondents stated that there are open spaces in their local area where they feel unsafe. In terms of improving safety, the following were the popular responses given with regards to the implementation of specific safety features:
- travelling with adults (35%)
 - cameras/CCTV (24%)
 - staff on site (16%)
 - travelling with friends (11%)
- 1.30 51% of respondents felt the quantity of open space was about right. 29% felt more was needed. Overall the open spaces were seen as popular, with 75% indicating they liked the local open spaces.
- 1.31 The most popular suggestions for improvements to open space sites were:
- more interesting play areas (20%)
 - indoor non-sports places (12%)
 - BMX Park (12%)
 - Nature areas (12%)
- 1.32 The ideal travel times to open space sites was recorded as:

- 0-5 minutes (34%)
- 5-10 minutes (28%)
- 10-15 minutes (26%)

Indoor sports in the local area

- 1.33 When asked what indoor sports played outside of school, 40% indicated they went swimming. There was a general spread across other indoor sports including football, basketball, tennis, gymnastics and badminton. Indoor facilities usage matched this profile, with 51% indicating they had used a swimming pool in the last year, 19% a sports hall, and 15% an indoor tennis facility.
- 1.34 Indoor sports locations were visited with the following frequency:
- more than once a week (30%)
 - once a week (26%)
 - once a month (28%)
 - once a year (16%)
- 1.35 60% of respondents used a car to get to these facilities. 24% walked and 10% cycled. When asked about *preferred* means of transport, only 45% stated they would like to use a car, and 24% indicated they would like to cycle. 20% indicated they would like to walk.

Other comments

- 1.36 The final question was a general comments box regarding open spaces and sports facilities. The main themes from answers to this question were:
- wider paths
 - age limits/restrictions at sites were requested
 - improved safety
 - more bins
 - more and improved facilities (swimming pool, sports hall and children's play equipment)

Internal consultation

- 1.37 The following individuals from Ipswich Borough Council were successfully consulted with as part of this study:
- Cllr Judy Terry – Portfolio for Arts, Culture and Leisure
 - Andy Sheppard – Parks and Landscape Services Manager
 - Billy Brennan – Head of Cultural and Leisure services
 - Russell Williams – Head of Planning, Transport and Regeneration

- Steve Millar – Development Control Manager
- James Baker – Greenways project officer
- Mike Gregory – Asset and Capital Performance manager
- Cllr John Mowles – sits on Culture and Leisure Committee, and the Parks Panel
- Bob Kindred – Conservation and urban design Manager, also sits on the Park Forum
- Tim Snook – Operations Manager
- Adam Keer – Sports Development Officer.

External consultation

1.38 The following individuals from external groups and organisations were consulted with as part of this study:

- Mick Allison – Ipswich Borough Council Environmental Protection Panel
- Carol Evans – Parks Forum (Christchurch and Alexandra Park)
- Derek Page – Holywells Park management Board, and secretary of the Bowls club, Holywells Park
- Stuart Grimwade – Chairman of the Park Forum and Friend of Christchurch Park
- Richard Vivian – Holywells Park management Board
- Crispin Downs – Essex County Council (Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure)
- Paul Bruce – Friends of Ipswich Museums
- John Welsh – Chairman, Ipswich Wildlife Group
- Jean Hill – Secretary, Friends of Christchurch Park
- Ann Manning – Holywells Group
- Andy Clarke – Holywells Group
- Elizabeth Ball – service user, Christchurch Park Forum
- Mary Platten – Holywells Park Watch.

1.39 Further specific consultation was made with sport and recreation stakeholders which informed both this PPG17 study and the accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy. They were:

- Nigel Hampton – Regional Manager, British Cycling
- Kevin Wray – Amateur Swimming Association
- Owain Richards – Chairman of Ipswich Primary Schools Association

- Stuart Moore – East Ipswich and District Partnership Development Manager
- Michael Kay – England and Wales Cricket Board
- John Clough – Director of Suffolk Sport
- Martin Head – Suffolk Football Association County Secretary
- Peter Drew – Lawn Tennis Association East Region Operations Manager.

APPENDIX L

QUANTITY STANDARDS

Setting Quantity Standards

Typology	National Standards and/or benchmarks	National Standards (advantages and disadvantages)	Existing Local Standards	Consultation	Standard set	PMP Justification
Parks & Gardens	No national standards	No national standards	None	6% More than enough 68% about right 13% nearly enough 11% not enough	1.04 hectares per 1000 population	<p>The current level of provision in Ipswich is 1.038 ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people. The spread of parks across Ipswich is relatively uneven. There are significant pockets of deficiency in the North East and North West analysis areas. The other analysis areas have greater numbers of parks, with the Central and South East areas having four parks each, the South West area having 12 parks.</p> <p>Despite this locational deficiency, the responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in the Borough. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of a quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Ipswich. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens but also address locational deficiencies in provision in areas that do not meet the Borough wide standard (discussed below in the <i>applying standards</i> section). Moreover, given the population growth that is anticipated to 2021, it will be important for the Council to enhance accessibility to existing parks and gardens – for example by improving routes to them, access points to the individual sites, as well as maintaining quality standards in the face of likely increasing visitor numbers as the population grows.</p>
Natural & Semi-Natural	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha</p> <p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population</p> <p>Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation</p>	<p>Ads - promotes a hierarchy of provision and links sizes and axxessibility issues / provides a broad guide</p> <p>Disads - Unachievable in most urban areas / elevance to rural areas questionable</p>	<p>Haven Gateway - ANGs</p> <p>- 500 ha site within 10km of home</p> <p>- 60 ha site within 3.2km of home</p> <p>- 20 ha site within 1.2km of home</p> <p>- 2 ha site within 300m of home</p>	3% More than enough 40% about right 18% nearly enough 33% not enough	1.4 hectares per 1000 population	<p>Current provision across Ipswich is equivalent to 1.31 hectares per 1000 people. The South East and South West analysis areas provide the highest levels of provision, 4.06 and 1.51 hectares per 1000 people respectively, with the North East and North West areas providing the lowest.</p> <p>The overall public opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is fairly evenly split with 43% of respondents stating that the provision was about right or more than enough and 51% stating that the provision was nearly enough or not enough.</p> <p>Consultation highlighted public concerns regarding the loss of natural areas to development and the lack of open space provision provided with new developments. To address these issues, a standard of 1.4 hectares per 1000 people is recommended. The standard would protect existing levels of provision whilst also placing demands for new provision close to residential areas. This recognises the value of these spaces and the importance of protection, offering opportunities for development of such facilities in areas perceived to be lacking. The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard.</p> <p>The recommended standard (which should be viewed as a minimum level of provision across all areas) is lower than current levels of provision in the South East and South West Analysis Areas but above the provision in the Central, North East and North West analysis areas.</p>
Amenity Greenspace	<p>Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that provide informal recreation and visual amenity or land provided for environmental or safety reasons</p> <p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for childrens playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residnetial areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <p>LAPs - aged 4-6 ; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line) ; min area size 100msq ; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p>	<p>Ads - quick and easy to use / developers have accepted the standard largely because it's the same everywhere</p> <p>Disads - PPG 17 advocates setting local standards in relation to local needs / questions relevance of NPFA standards - national standards cannot reflect local needs / relates only to limited typology / no real basis for the standard</p>	None	4% More than enough 38% about right 17% nearly enough 28% not enough	0.4 hectares per 1000 population	<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.38 hectares per 1000 population. The public opinion within the Borough regarding the level of provision of amenity green space across the Borough is evenly split, with a very slight majority stating that there is an undersupply. The recommended standard has been set at 0.4 hectares per 1000 population. This is to reflect the slight undersupply perceived by the public and the significant population growth expected in Ipswich by 2021. Public consultation revealed that residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity provision standard is required to address this perception. The current levels of provision are above this standard in the North West and South east analysis areas and below this standard in all of the other analysis areas. Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in breaking up the urban texture and providing green space in what would otherwise be a built up area. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites, as well as focus on specific areas of deficiency to ensure that each</p>

Provision for Children	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for childrens playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residnetial areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments (1) LAPs - aged 4-6 ; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line) ; min area size 100msq ; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace (2) LEAPs - aged min 5 ; min area size 400msq ; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)	Ads - quick and easy to use / developers have accepted the standard largely because it's the same everywhere Disads - PPG 17 advocates setting local standards in relation to local needs / questions relevance of NPFA standards - national standards cannot reflect local needs / relates only to limited typology / no real basis for the standard / recommendations for childrens play are excessive and probably financially unsustainable	2 acres (0.81 hectares) of play space per 1000 population (including childrena nd young people facilities)	6% More than enough	0.05 hectares per 1000 population	The current level of provision is 0.05 hectares per 1000 population. Existing sites are spread fairly evenly across the Borough in terms of the analysis areas, although levels of provision are highest in the South East and South West areas. However, locational deficiencies do exist. These are illustrated later in this section through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer.
				40% about right		The household survey results show that public opinion is evenly split on whether there are enough children's play areas or not. 46% said that there is enough or more than enough, 18% said that there is nearly enough and 26% said that there is not enough. Respondents recognised the improvements that the Council have made to play areas in both quantity and quality. Thus, a standard has been recommended that seeks to maintain the overall levels of provision as a minimum, and encourages small quantities of new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas.
				18% nearly enough		
				26% not enough		The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in the Central, North East and North West analysis areas, and lower than provision in the South East and South West analysis areas.
Provision for Young People	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for childrens playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residnetial areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments	Ads - quick and easy to use / developers have accepted the standard largely because it's the same everywhere Disads - PPG 17 advocates setting local standards in relation to local needs / questions relevance of NPFA standards - national standards cannot reflect local needs / relates only to limited typology / no real basis for the standard / recommendations for childrens play are excessive and probably financially unsustainable	2 acres (0.81 hectares) of play space per 1000 population (including children and young people facilities)	2% More than enough	0.02 hectares per 1000 population	The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.01 hectares per 1000 population, which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. Across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision ranges from 0.02 hectares per 1000 population within the Central and South East analysis areas to 0 within the North East analysis area – a wide variety but all relatively low amounts compared to other local authorities. The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each site (illustrated through the application of catchment areas later in this section).
				10% about right		
				9% nearly enough		Both adults and young people made similar comments regarding the lack of facilities at drop-in sessions. Given that the existing level of provision is considerably lower to that for children, a standard has been recommended that will increase the numbers significantly by doubling the current level of provision.
				65% not enough		The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in three of the five analysis areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard, provision of circa 1.6 hectares of facilities for young people would be required up to 2021.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (ie 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquest lawns NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residnetial areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments	Ads - quick and easy to use / developers have accepted the standard largely because it's the same everywhere Disads - PPG 17 advocates setting local standards in relation to local needs / questions relevance of NPFA standards - national standards cannot reflect local needs / relates only to limited typology / no real basis for the standard	None	3% More than enough	1.53 hectares per 1000 population	Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and through other consultations. However, for this study, only school facilities with secured community access have been included. The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This will be important for achieving participation targets, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.
				35% about right		Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the level of provision of grass pitches is sufficient, the Playing Pitch Strategy that has been undertaken provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of pitches locally.
				20% nearly enough		
				29% not enough		In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.46 hectares per 1,000) at 1.53 ha per 1,000 population. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most; however results from the local consultation suggest there is demand for outdoor tennis courts. The standard has been set at an increased level to reflect Council aspirations to increase participation. Examination of other local authority provision levels shows that Ipswich's provision is below the level of many others such as Chelmsford (2.27 ha/1000) and Maidstone (2.11 ha/1000). Ipswich is however above some others, notably Colchester Borough which has 1.18 hectares per 1000 population (excluding golf).
Allotments	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households (ie 20 allotments plots per 2,200 people (2.2 people per house) or 1 allotment plot per 200 people. 1969 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population	None	None	5% More than enough	0.35 hectares per 1000 population	Provision of allotments is fairly evenly spread across the analysis areas. Highest levels are in the North West analysis area with only the Central analysis area having significantly lower levels. More generally, consultation suggests that there is currently an excess of allotment sites in Ipswich, although take up has increased recently.
				40% about right		Provision of allotments is demand driven. There is significant evidence that sites are currently operating under capacity with only 60 – 70% of plots utilised and there is no demand for new sites across the Borough.
				13% nearly enough		Our recommendation is for a standard of 0.35ha/1,000 population. This is lower than current provision, but it is still above the national standard of 0.2ha/1,000 population set out in the Thorpe Report (1967). 0.35ha/1,000 population is 80% of the current provision level so would still provide spare capacity.
				16% not enough		The recommended local standard would allow some of the unused allotment land to be converted to NSN provision, reducing the overall deficiency of NSN provision highlighted in section eight. Additionally, this change would still leave some spare allotment plots to cope with the increasing take up of plots and would be reversible should demand increase dramatically in the future.

Cemeteries / Churchyards	No national standards	No Quantity Standards to be set : PPG 17 Annex states "many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one. " For Cemeteries, PPG 17 Annex states "every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard." This does not relate to a quantitative ha requirement.	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	No national standards	No Quantity Standards to be set : PPG 17 Annex states "the need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard , just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads. Instead planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors and demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible"	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	No national standards	No Quantity Standards to be set : PPG 17 Annex states "the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, such as town halls, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design-led basis. Accordingly, it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas." Therefore it is unrealistic to set a quantitative ha requirement like other typologies.	n/a	n/a

APPENDIX M

QUALITY STANDARDS

Appendix M - Quality Standards

Quality Standards – Parks and Gardens

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
<p>Green Flag Award Criteria – currently used as a guide to Park maintenance standards</p> 	<p>Greenways project – improving quality at specific sites</p>	<p>Site assessments:</p> <p>Majority of good quality – 77% average park quality score</p> <p>Household surveys:</p> <p>65% Good, 29% Average</p>

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
<p>Aim for Management Plans for each park</p> <p>Top household survey issues:</p> <p>Clean/litter free, toilets, well maintained fauna, facilities for the young</p> <p>Safety issues:</p> <p>Staff on site and adequate lighting</p>	<p>Vandalism & Anti-social behaviour in parks</p> <p>Graffiti & broken glass – Newbury Park, Chantry</p> <p>Better lighting required</p> <p>More park rangers required</p> <p>Sports usage can be domineering at some sites</p>	<p>Essential features:</p> <p>All Parks maintained to GF standard</p> <p>Implement Park Management Plans for each Park</p> <p>All sites to be clean, well maintained and have appropriate lighting</p> <p>Desirable features:</p> <p>All Parks to achieve GF status</p> <p>Provide toilet facilities on larger sites where appropriate</p> <p>public art where appropriate</p>

Quality Standards – Amenity Green Space

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
None	None	<p>Site assessments:</p> <p>Majority of good quality – 73% average AGS site quality score</p> <p>Household surveys:</p> <p>21% Good, 46% Average, 12% poor</p>

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
<p>Recent attempts at creating a sense of place need be continued (Dumbarton Park an example)</p> <p>AGS especially important at Waterfront and Portman Road Development areas</p>	<p>YPC areas have improved in number and quality recently, thus improving quality and usage of AGS sites</p> <p>Linking of sites through Rights of Way seen as important</p>	<p>Essential features: Clean/litter-free; well-kept grass; litter bins; graffiti-free</p> <p>Desirable features: Good lighting; seating, linking to wider green networks, signage providing contact info where beneficial</p> <p>Public art on larger sites</p>

Quality Standards – Natural and Semi-Natural Areas

National Standards	Local Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision	Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
Countryside Agency – land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs	Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan – to provide a countryside that is attractive, and accessible to all sections of the community, while safeguarding and enhancing its wildlife, natural and historic features	Haven Gateway work Greenways project - improving quality & biodiversity at specific sites Ipswich Wildlife Audit	Site assessments: Majority of good quality, 70% average site quality score Household survey: 39% Good, 43% Average, 11% poor	The Natural areas within formal Parks seen as important Orwell Country Park an excellent addition to Ipswich Household survey results mirror Park results: Clean/litter free, natural features Importance of footpaths	Close alignment between Parks and NSN in Ipswich. Standards should closely mirror each other Active attempts made to encourage natural areas for biodiversity	Essential features: litter free*; nature features; access well maintained, interpretation panels GF standards should be used to guide maintenance of NSN areas within Parks Work with SBAP Work with Haven Gateway project definitions of quality Desirable features: Footpaths should be clear, well maintained and lit where appropriate

* 'litter free' includes dog bins

Quality Standards – Outdoor Sports Facilities

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
<p>NPFA – recommends various quality factors</p> <p>NGBs of specific sports also highlight specific quality criteria.</p>	PPS 2007	<p>Household survey:</p> <p>21% Good, 42% Average, 14% poor</p> <p>Site assessments: 76% average score</p>

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
<p>Improved maintenance of tennis courts</p> <p>Suffolk FA – some pitches and changing facilities good – others need to be brought up to same standard</p> <p>Drop-in session – more playing pitches required</p>	<p>Quality is generally deemed to be good across borough</p> <p>Tennis courts could be improved</p> <p>CSP – facilities generally of good quality</p> <p>IBC cricket pitches not up to standard so hire private pitches</p>	<p>Essential features: Meet relevant national governing body of sport specifications, well-kept grass; appropriate toilets/changing; clean/litter-free, cycle parking, adequate signage displaying contact info</p> <p>PPS 2007</p> <p>Desirable features: staff on-site where appropriate; adequate parking provision on all sites</p> <p>Accessible by bus & cycle routes</p>

Quality Standards – Provision for Children

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
NPFA sets out quality standards for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs	IBC Play Strategy 2007 – based on LEAP and NEAP standards 'where practical, to increase the play value of all play areas'	Household survey: 37% Good, 34% Average, 13% poor Site assessments: Generally good quality – 71% average score

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
Welcomed significant recent investment – many sites are of a high quality Acknowledged shift away from LAPs, and also towards more activity-led provision	Young People's survey: Reasons for not using: dog fouling, play facilities are boring, feel unsafe Top improvement: more interesting play equipment	Essential features: Adhere to DEAP, LEAP and NEAP & 2007 Play Strategy standards Must be clean/litter free, safe & stimulating environment which encourages children's imaginations; free of graffiti; seating, Offer inclusive play opportunities Desirable features: Toilets & public art on larger sites; located alongside other open space types where possible

Quality Standards – Teenage Facilities

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
NPFA Six Acre Standard sets out quality standards for NEAPs	IBC Play Strategy 2007 – areas for teenagers to 'hang out'	Household survey: 6% good, 16% average, 45% Poor lowest levels of satisfaction across all typologies Site assessments: generally good quality – 75% average score

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
Need to differentiate between children and teenage areas Improved lighting More security patrols	need for high quality MUGAs anti-social behaviour and graffiti problems CCTV required – top desired safety improvement response was Cameras/ CCTV	Essential Features: Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people; clean/litter-free; functional; mixture of formal and informal facilities Desirable Features: CCTV where appropriate

Quality Standards – Green Corridors

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
Natural England – a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation; a path on un-vegetated natural surfaces.	River Action Group (RAG) formed to address quality issues	<p>Site assessments:</p> <p>River Orwell GC</p> <p>Household survey:</p> <p>17% Good, 40.4% Average, 19% poor, 24% No opinion</p>

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
<p>Network of green corridors, especially along the river</p> <p>Clean, litter-free and freely accessible</p>	<p>Major green corridor identified alongside river</p> <p>Local Plan identifies pedestrian/cycle route in Orwell CP</p> <p>Drop-in session: riverbank could be made cleaner and improved</p>	<p>Essential Features: Accessible paths; nature features; clean/litter-free; dog litter bins – linking open space sites</p> <p>Desirable features: Provide for cycling where possible and interpretation</p>

Quality Standards – Allotments

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
LGA 'Growing in the Community'	IBC Allotment Strategy 2005	<p>Household survey: 19% good, 30% average, 7% poor</p> <p>44% no opinion</p> <p>Site assessments 76% average score</p>

Consultation (<i>aspirations</i>)	Consultation (<i>comments</i>)	Recommended Standard
<p>Limited responses, both drop in session and household survey</p> <p>Isolated cleanliness/vandalism improvements comments</p>	No significant identified issues of quality noted through consultation	<p>Essential Features:</p> <p>Adhere to standards of Allotment Strategy 2005/'Growing in the Community'</p>

Quality Standards -- Cemeteries and Churchyards

National Standards	Local Standards	Current Provision
National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Cemetery of the Year Award – quality criteria	No local standards	<p>Site assessments: 78% average score</p> <p>Household survey: 30% good, 37% average, 7% poor</p>

Consultation (aspirations)	Consultation (comments)	Recommended Standard
<p>Car parking</p> <p>Clean</p> <p>Well maintained</p> <p>No obvious consensus on major issues</p>	<p>Millennium Cemetery seen as impressive – Drop-in session</p> <p>some memorials need restoring before they fall down</p>	<p>Essential standard: Meet appropriate health & safety standards for headstones</p> <p>Cemetery quality should provide the basis for reflective contemplation and opportunities for wildlife and biodiversity</p> <p>Clean, litter free and well-maintained</p>

APPENDIX N

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Appendix N – Accessibility Standards

Accessibility standards

Exceptions under PPG17 Companion Guide

- Green Corridors
- Civic Spaces
- Churches & Cemeteries
- Companion Guide specifies that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for these typologies due to planning issues associated.

Accessibility – Parks and Gardens

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation	Consultation	Standard approved
No national standards	IBC Local Plan: Housing should be within 400m of an area of 'public open space'	<i>Northampton - 10 min walk (480 m)</i> <i>Crawley BC – 15 min walk</i> <i>Colchester BC - 15 min urban walk</i> <i>Chelmsford BC - 10 min drive</i>	<p>Of those who use parks and gardens most frequently:</p> <p>67% walk</p> <p>73% travel up to 15 minutes</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was:</p> <p>15-20 minutes</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) was:</p> <p>5-10 minutes (50% of responses)</p> <p>Most popular mode:</p> <p>Walking</p>	15 minute walk

Accessibility – Amenity Green Space

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation (current)	Consultation (aspirations)	Standard approved
No national standards however many Councils have added one acre to the NPFA's (FIT) six acre standard for this typology	No Existing Local Standards	<p><i>Northampton – 5 min walk (240m)</i></p> <p><i>Crawley BC - 10 min walk (480 m)</i></p> <p><i>Colchester BC - 10 min walk (480 m)</i></p> <p><i>Tamworth BC - 5-10 min walk (240-480 m)</i></p>	<p>Of those who use AGS most frequently:</p> <p>82% walk</p> <p>87% travel up to 10 minutes</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was:</p> <p>10-15 minutes</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) was:</p> <p>5-10 minutes (62.5% of responses)</p> <p>Most popular mode:</p> <p>Walking</p>	10 minute walk

Accessibility – Natural and Semi Natural Areas

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation	Consultation	Standard approved
Natural England - accessible natural space within 300 metres (5 minutes walk)	No Existing Local Standards	<p><i>Northampton - 15 min walk (720m)</i></p> <p><i>Maidstone BC - 10-15 min walk (480-720 m)</i></p> <p><i>Crawley BC - 15 min walk (720 m)</i></p> <p><i>Colchester BC - 15 min walk (720m)</i></p>	<p>Of those who use NSN most frequently:</p> <p>62% walk</p> <p>84% travel up to 20 minutes</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was: 15-20 minutes</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) was: 5-10 minutes (51% of responses)</p>	15 minute walk

Accessibility – Outdoor Sports Facilities

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation	Consultation	Standard approved
Comprehensive Performance Assessments criteria has stated guidelines of a 20 minute walktime in urban areas and 20 minute drivetime in rural areas for accessing quality facilities (Current figure is 52.88%).	No Existing Local Standards	<p><i>Northampton - 15 min walk (720m)</i></p> <p><i>Ryedale - 15 min drive (urban) 20 min drive (rural)</i></p> <p><i>Colchester BC - 20 min walk (urban)</i></p> <p><i>Crawley BC – 15m drive</i></p>	<p>100% of sports clubs travel by car, majority travel <20 mins</p> <p>Of those who use OSF most frequently:</p> <p>76% travel for 0 - 10 minutes</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was:</p> <p>15 - 20 minute walk</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) was:</p> <p>10 - 15 minutes walk</p> <p>Most popular mode:</p> <p>Walk (87%)</p>	15 minute walk

Accessibility – Provision for children

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation (current)	Consultation (aspirations)	Standard approved
NPFA (FIT): LAP (1 min walk) LEAP (5 mins walk) NEAP (15 mins walk)	IBC Ipswich Play Area Strategy – as per NPFA (FIT)	<i>Northampton – 5 min walk (240m)</i> <i>Chelmsford BC – 5-10 min walk (240-480 m)</i> <i>Crawley BC – 10 min walk (children)</i> <i>Colchester BC – 10 min walk</i>	Of those who use this provision most frequently: 87% walk School's survey: 83% travel up to 10 minutes 43% walk, 38% cycle	75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was: 15-20 minutes Most popular response (children's survey) was: 5-10 minutes (54% of responses) Most popular mode: Walking	10 minute walk

Accessibility – Provision for young people

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation (current)	Consultation (aspirations)	Standard approved
<p>LAP (1 min walk)</p> <p>LEAP (5 mins walk)</p> <p>NEAP (15 mins walk)</p>	<p>IBC Ipswich Play Area Strategy – as per NPFA (FIT)</p>	<p><i>Northampton - 10 min walk (480m)</i></p> <p><i>Colchester BC – 15m (walk)</i></p> <p><i>Chelmsford BC - 5-10 min walk (240-480 m)</i></p> <p><i>Crawley BC - 15 min walk</i></p>	<p>School's survey:</p> <p>83% travel up to 10 minutes</p> <p>43% walk</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was:</p> <p>15-20 minutes</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) Household survey was:</p> <p>5-10 minutes</p> <p>Most popular mode:</p> <p>Walking</p>	<p>15 minute walk</p>

Accessibility – Allotments

National Standards	Local Standards	Other LAs	Consultation (current)	Consultation (aspirations)	Standard approved
No national standards	IBC Allotment Strategy 2005 sets no accessibility standard	<p><i>Northampton - 15 min walk (720m)</i></p> <p><i>Crawley BC - 20 min walk</i></p> <p><i>Colchester BC - 15 min walk (720m)</i></p> <p><i>Chelmsford BC - 10 min drive</i></p>	<p>Of those who use allotments most frequently:</p> <p>Sample too limited to draw conclusions</p>	<p>75% threshold (as per PPG 17) was:</p> <p>10-15 minutes</p> <p>Most popular response (mode) was:</p> <p>5-10 minutes</p> <p>Most popular mode:</p> <p>Walking (77%)</p>	15 minute walk

APPENDIX O

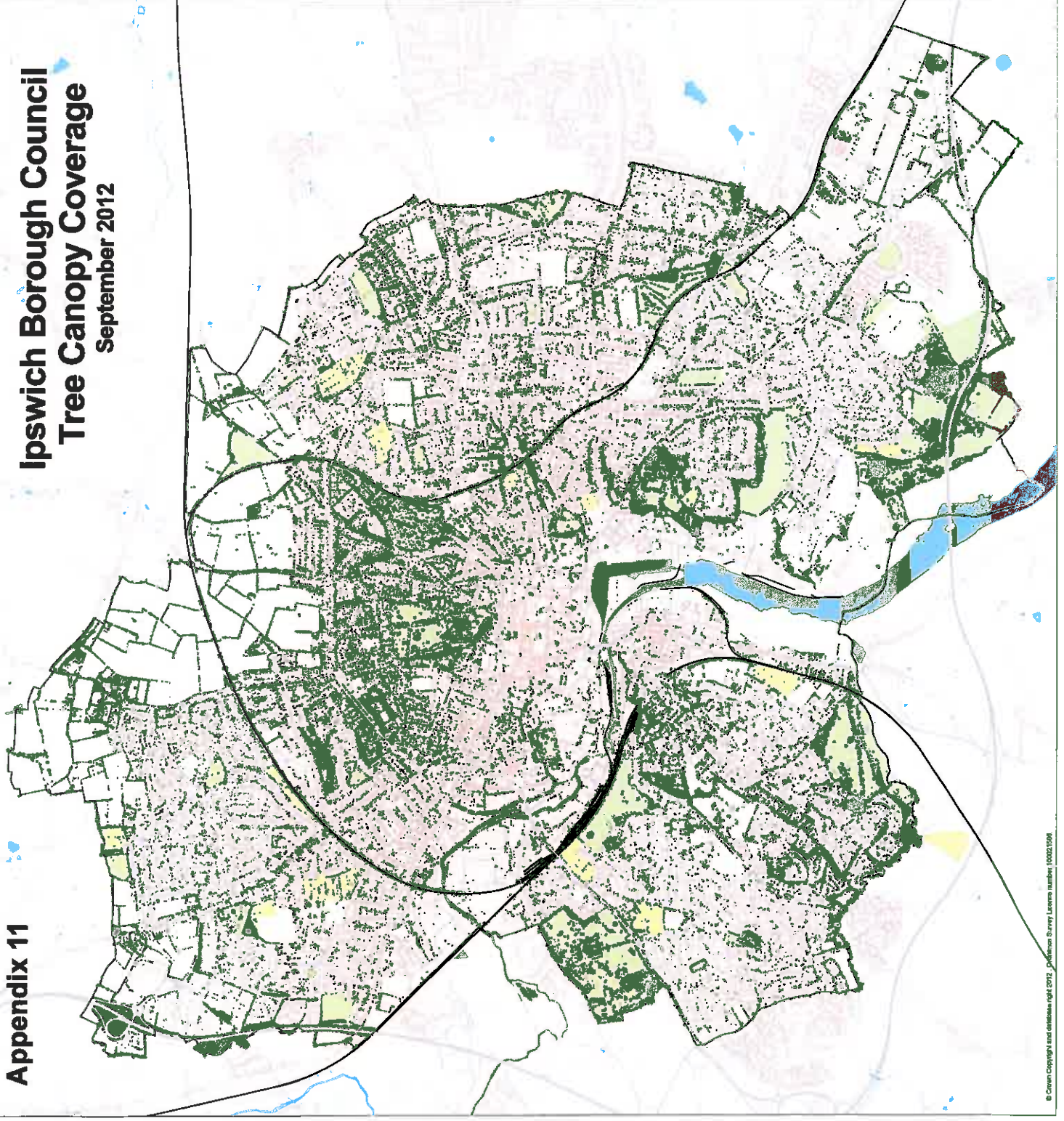
QUANTITY STANDARDS CALCULATOR

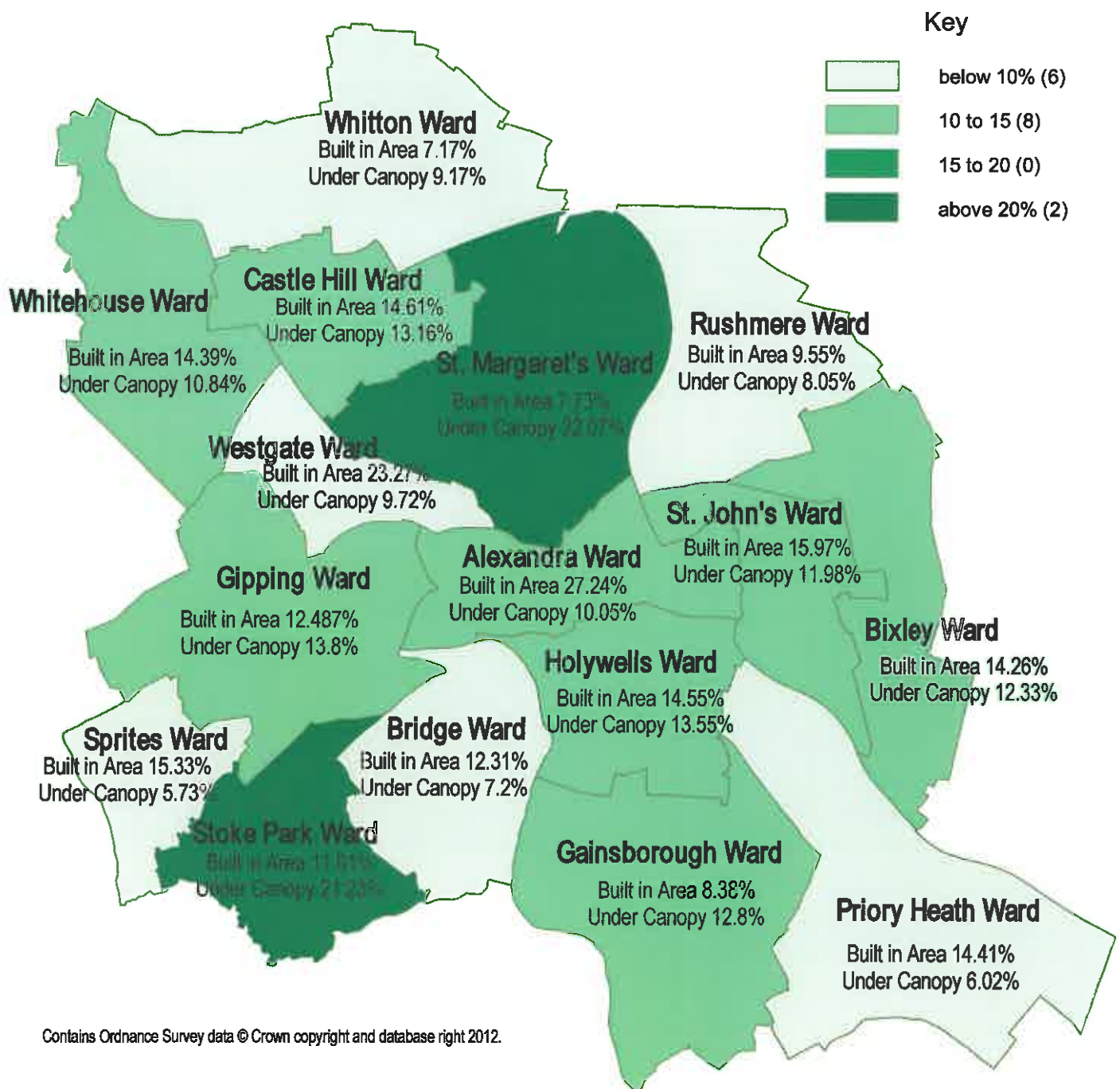
Ipswich Borough Council - Open Space Calculations (Quantity)

	Category	Populations	Parks and Gardens (in hectares)	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space (in hectares)	Amenity Greenspace (in hectares)	Provision for Children (hectares)	Provision for Teenagers (hectares)	Allotments (in hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (in hectares)		
Quantity Calculations	Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)									without golf courses	
	CENTRAL	24,024	35.3300	12.9700	7.3800	0.8319	0.5181	2.8000	16.5500	16.5500	
	NORTH EAST	24,547	0.1800	4.98	6.31	0.6400	0.0000	13.4100	78.0000	54.7048	
	SOUTH EAST	22,356	20.8300	90.7100	9.8500	1.9535	0.3683	9.6000	24.9100	24.9100	
	SOUTH WEST	31,828	71.4200	48.1500	3.6000	1.8300	0.3300	14.5000	41.3300	41.3300	
	NORTH WEST	25,318	4.4200	11.3300	21.8000	1.0433	0.2267	14.8700	26.8200	26.8200	
	OVERALL	128,073	132.2	168.1	48.9	6.3	1.4	55.2	187.6100	164.3148	
	Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)										
	CENTRAL	24,024	1.4706	0.5399	0.3072	0.0346	0.0216	0.1166	0.6889	0.6889	
	NORTH EAST	24,547	0.0073	0.2029	0.2571	0.0261	0.0000	0.5463	3.1776	2.2286	
	SOUTH EAST	22,356	0.9317	4.0575	0.4406	0.0874	0.0165	0.4294	1.1142	1.1142	
	SOUTH WEST	31,828	2.2439	1.5128	0.1131	0.0575	0.0104	0.4556	1.2985	1.2985	
	NORTH WEST	25,318	0.1746	0.4475	0.8610	0.0412	0.0090	0.5873	1.0593	1.0593	
	OVERALL	128,073	1.0321	1.3128	0.3821	0.0492	0.0113	0.4308	1.4649	1.2830	
	Consultation (%)										
	More than Enough			6	3	4	6	2	5	3	
	About Right			68	40	38	40	10	40	35	
	Nearly Enough			13	18	17	18	9	13	20	
	Not Enough			11	33	28	26	65	16	29	
	No Opinion			2	6	13	10	14	26	13	
	RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD										
				1.04	1.40	0.40	0.05	0.02	0.35	1.53	1.35
	Balance										
	CENTRAL	24,024	-10.35	20.66	2.23	0.37	-0.04	5.61	20.21	15.88	
	NORTH EAST	24,547	25.35	29.39	3.51	0.59	0.49	-4.82	-40.44	-21.57	
	SOUTH EAST	22,356	2.42	-59.41	-0.91	-0.84	0.08	-1.78	9.29	5.27	
	SOUTH WEST	31,828	-38.32	-3.59	9.13	-0.24	0.31	-3.36	7.37	1.64	
	NORTH WEST	25,318	21.91	24.12	-11.67	0.22	0.28	-6.01	11.92	7.36	
	OVERALL	128,073	1.02	11.16	2.29	0.11	1.12	-10.35	8.34	8.58	
	Future Balance 2021										
	CENTRAL	27,312	-6.93	25.27	3.54	0.53	0.03	6.76	25.24	20.32	
	NORTH EAST	27,906	28.84	34.09	4.85	0.76	0.56	-3.64	-35.30	-17.03	
	SOUTH EAST	25,415	5.60	-55.13	0.32	-0.68	0.14	-0.70	13.97	9.40	
	SOUTH WEST	36,183	-33.79	2.51	10.87	-0.02	0.39	-1.84	14.03	7.52	
	NORTH WEST	28,783	25.51	28.97	-10.29	0.40	0.35	-4.80	17.22	12.04	
	OVERALL	145,599	19.24	35.70	9.30	0.98	1.47	-4.22	35.16	32.24	

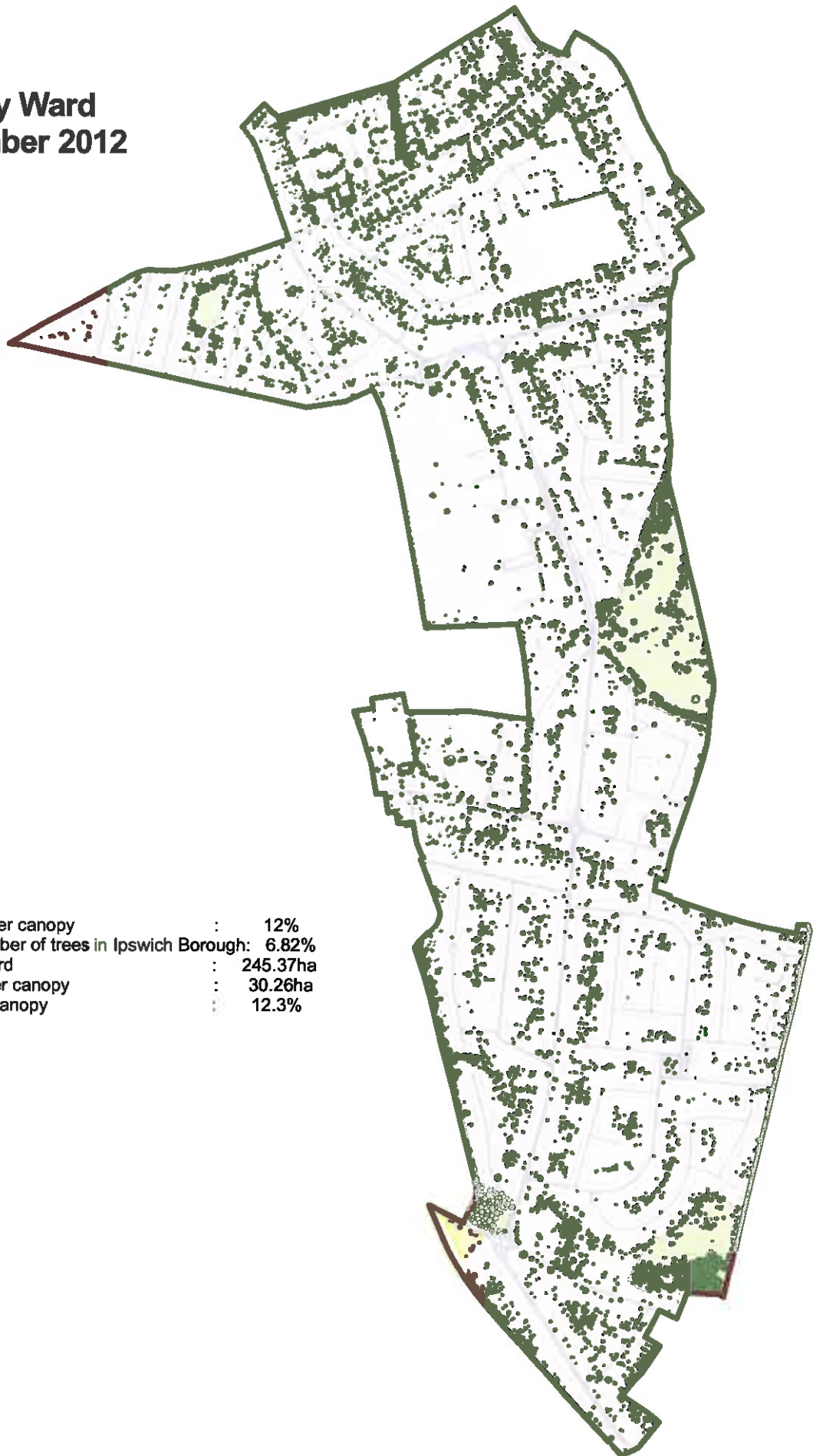
Appendix 11

Ipswich Borough Council Tree Canopy Coverage September 2012



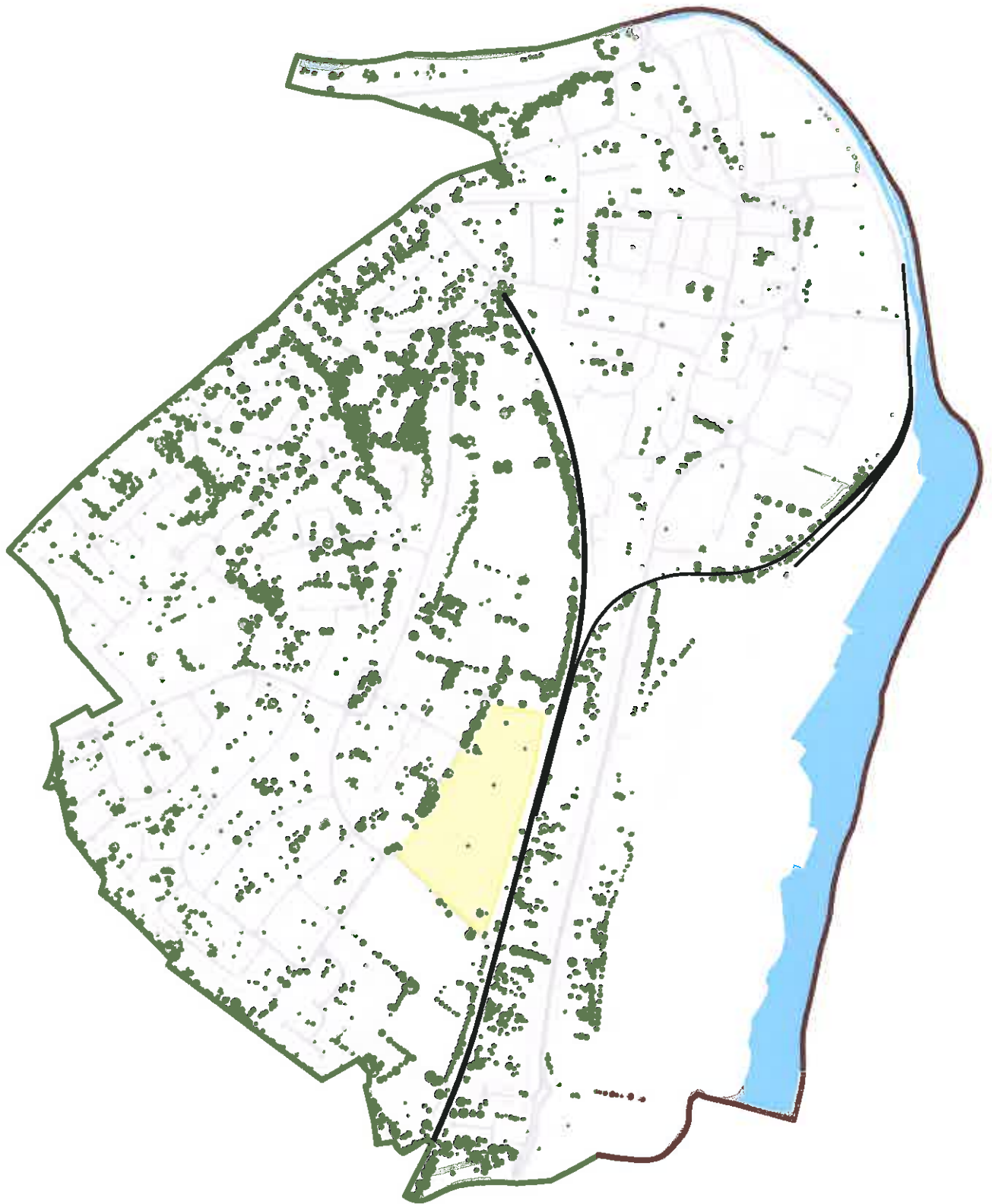


Bixley Ward September 2012



% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	6.82%
Area of Bixley Ward	:	245.37ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	30.26ha
% of ward under canopy	:	12.3%

Bridge Ward September 2012



% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough	:	3.33%
Area of Bridge Ward	:	217.7ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	15.67ha
% of ward under canopy	:	7.2%

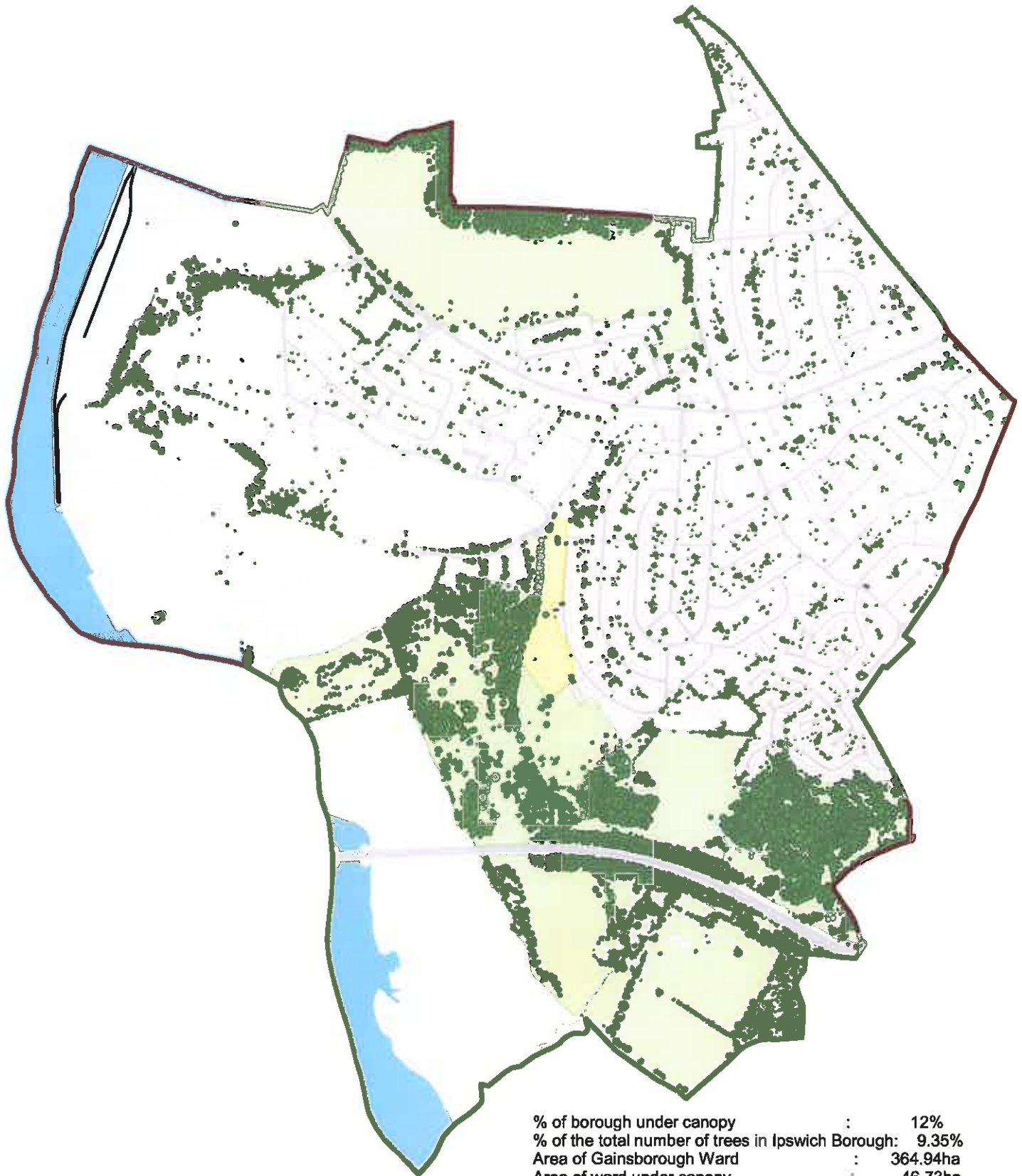
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Castle Hill Ward September 2012



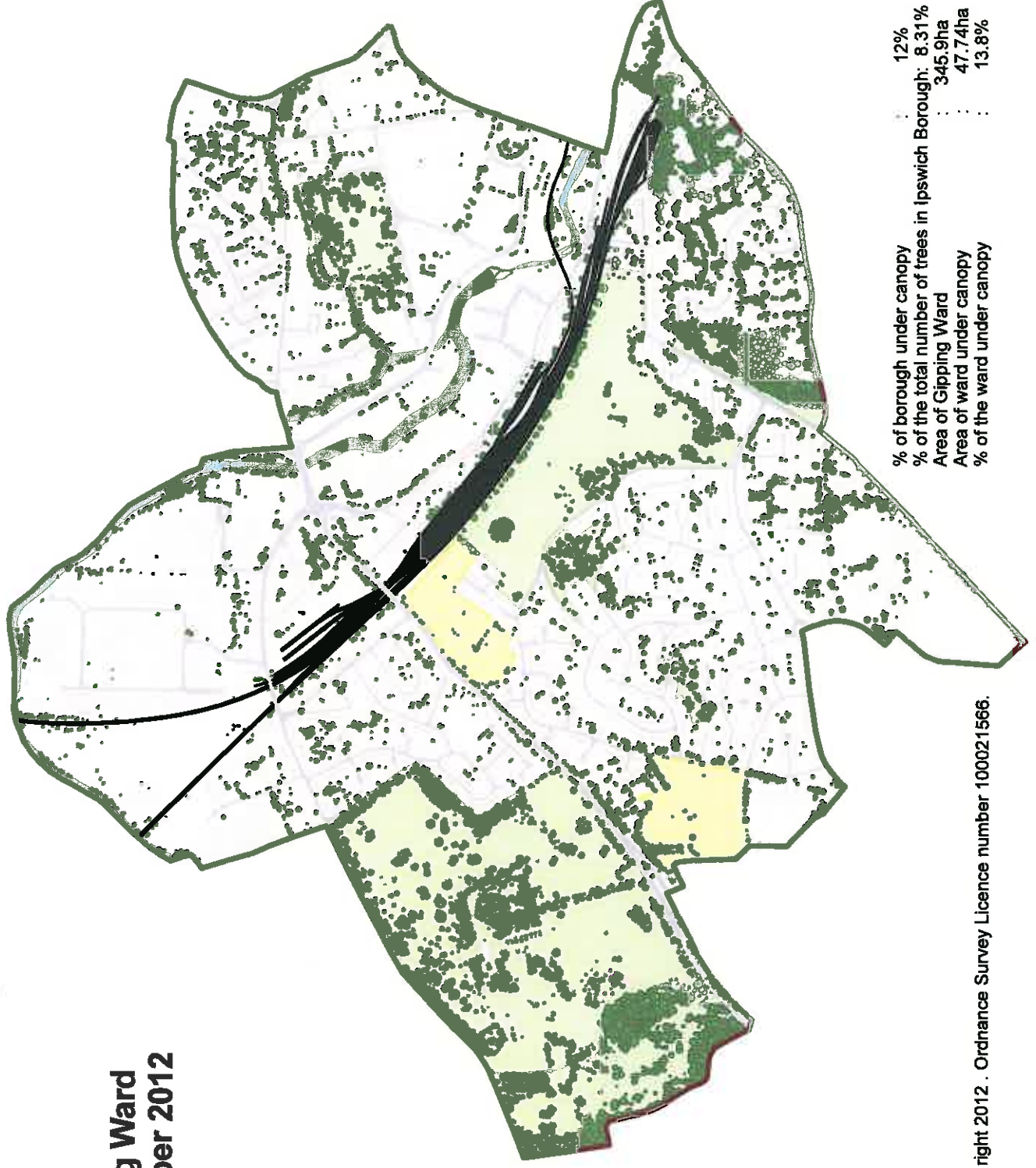
% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	5.7%
Area of Castle Hill Ward	:	175.37ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	23.08ha
% of the ward under canopy	:	13.16%

Gainsborough Ward September 2012

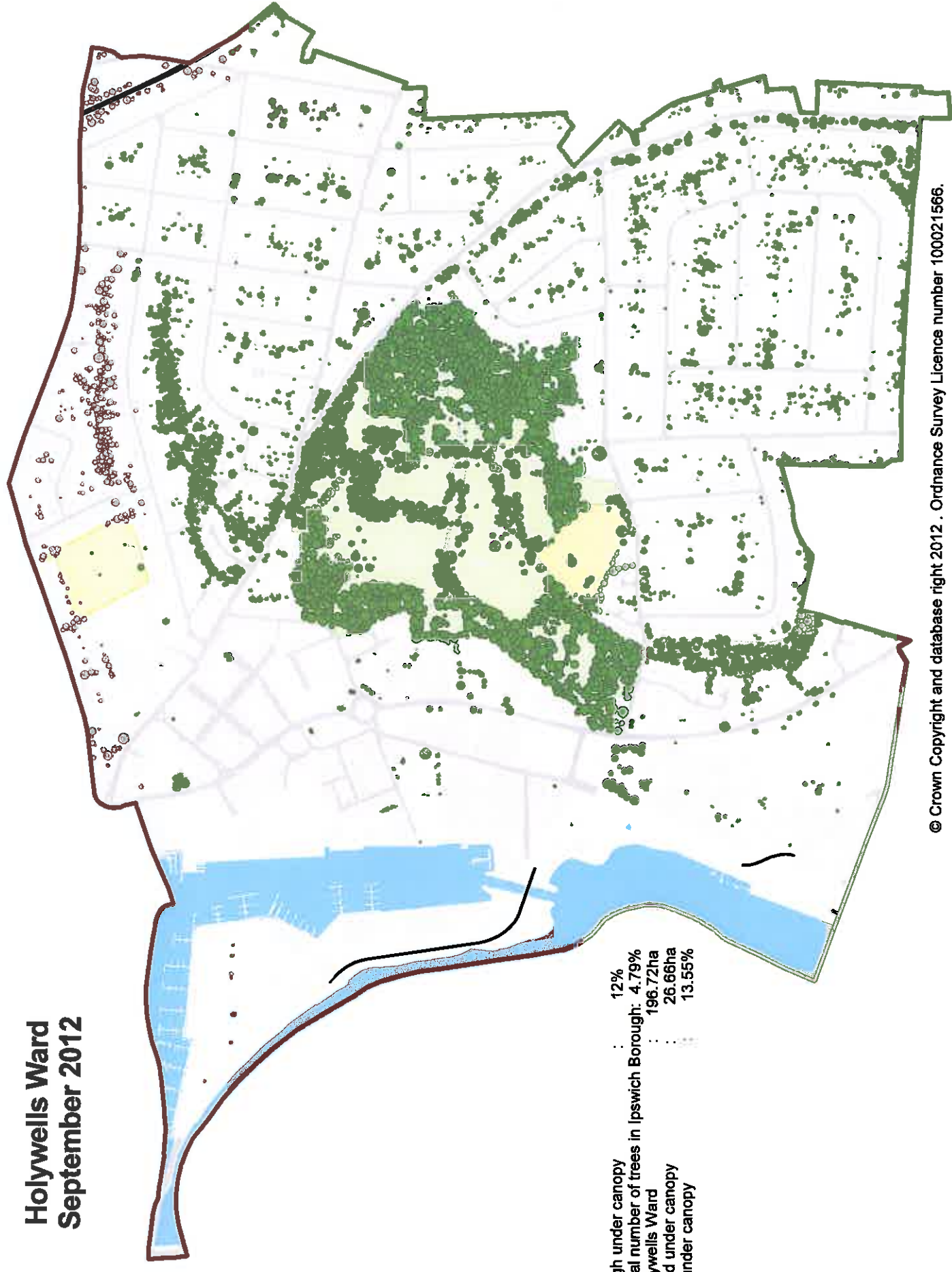


% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	9.35%
Area of Gainsborough Ward	:	364.94ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	46.73ha
% of the ward under canopy	:	12.8%

Gipping Ward September 2012



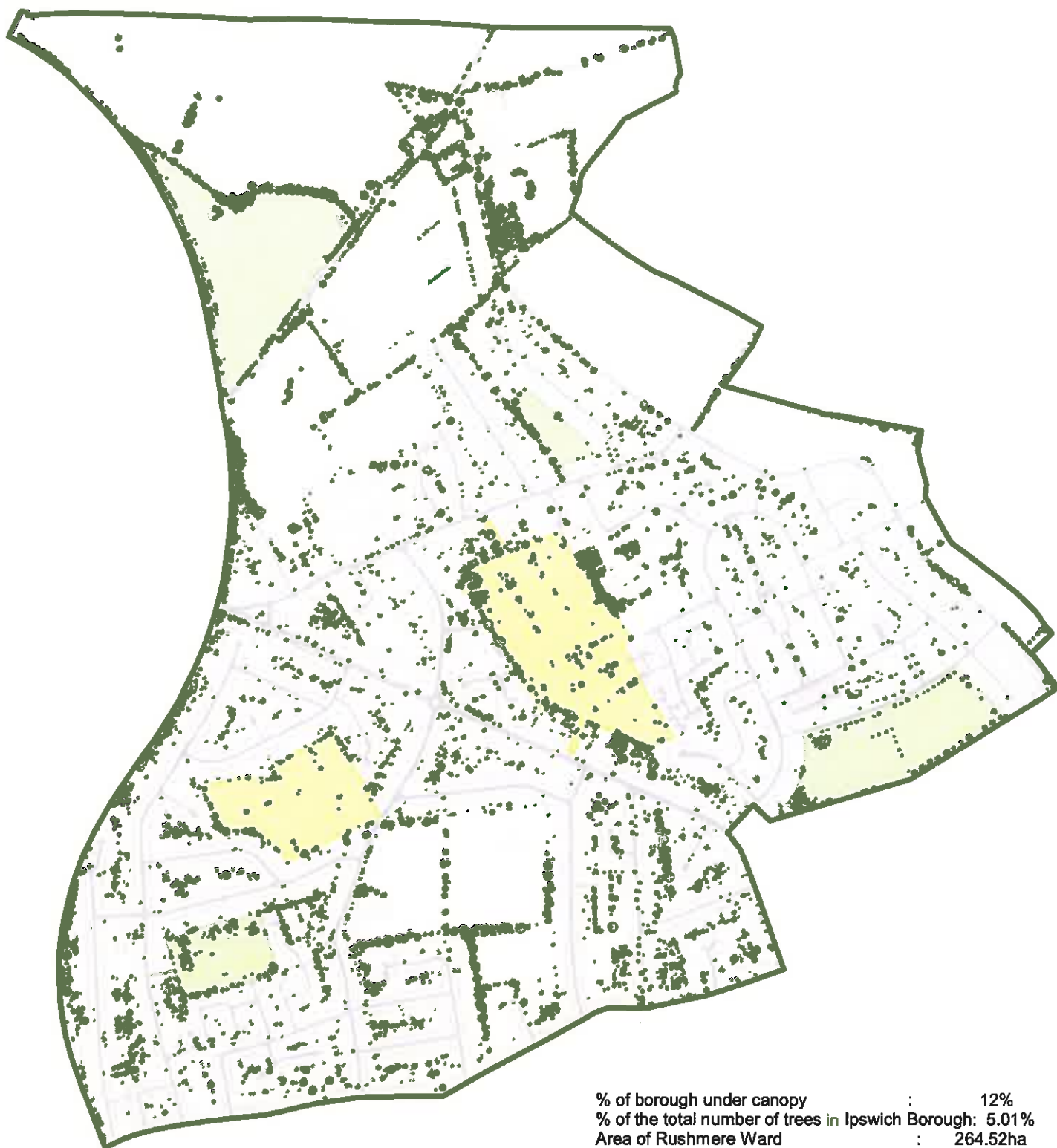
Holywells Ward September 2012



Priory Heath Ward September 2012



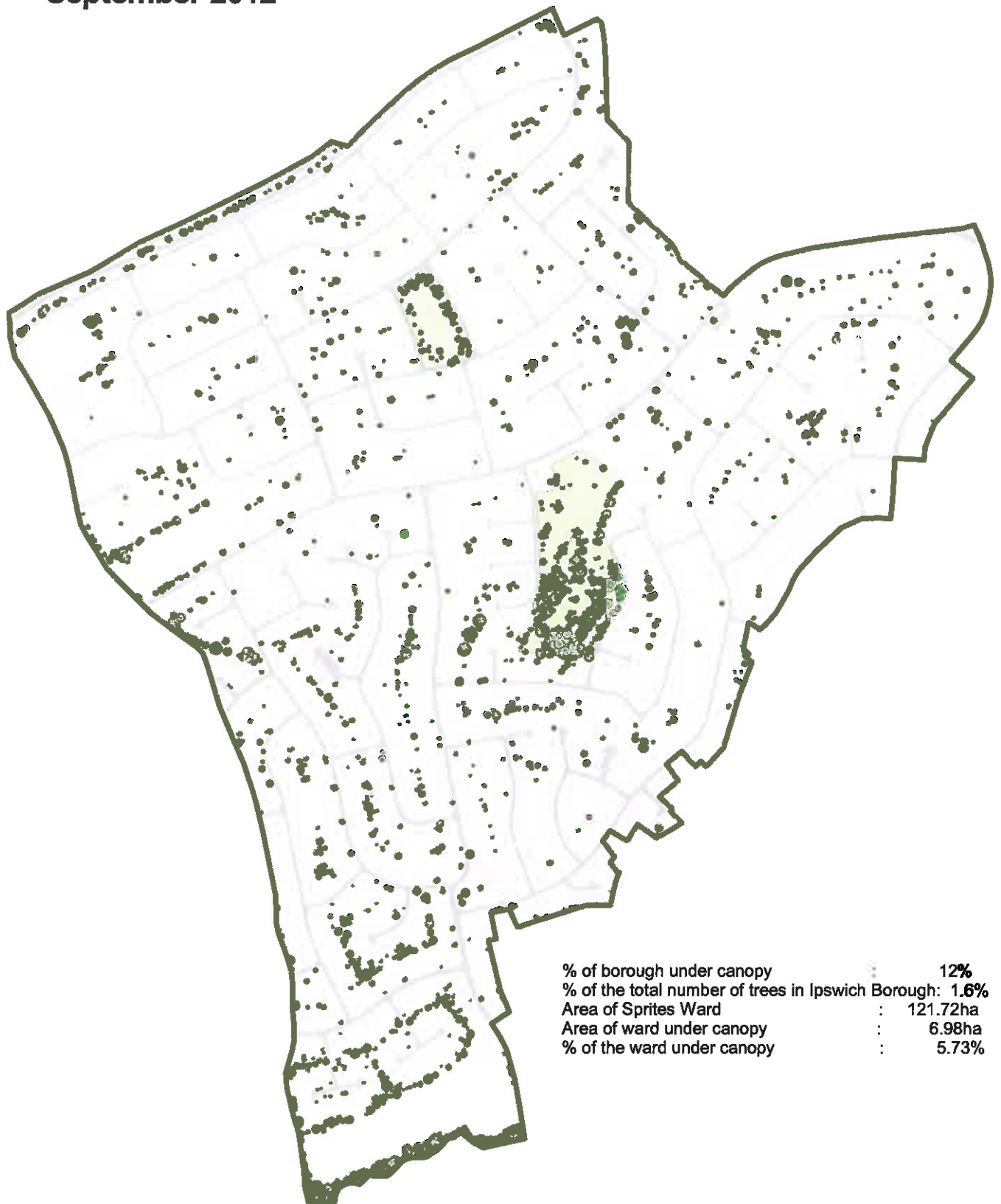
Rushmere Ward September 2012



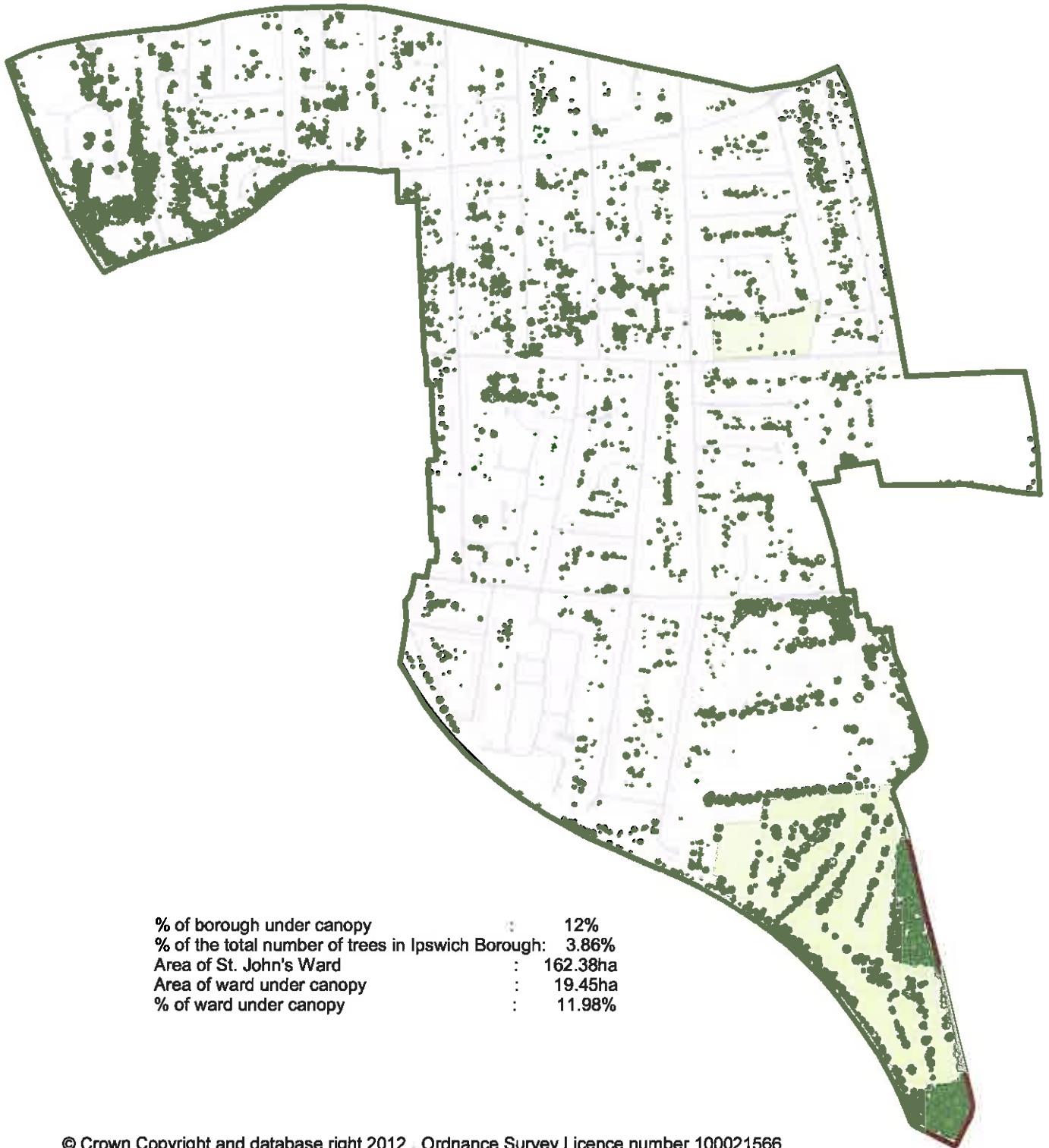
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Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021566.

% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough	:	5.01%
Area of Rushmere Ward	:	264.52ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	21.3ha
% of the ward under canopy	:	8.05%

Sprites Ward September 2012



St. John's Ward September 2012

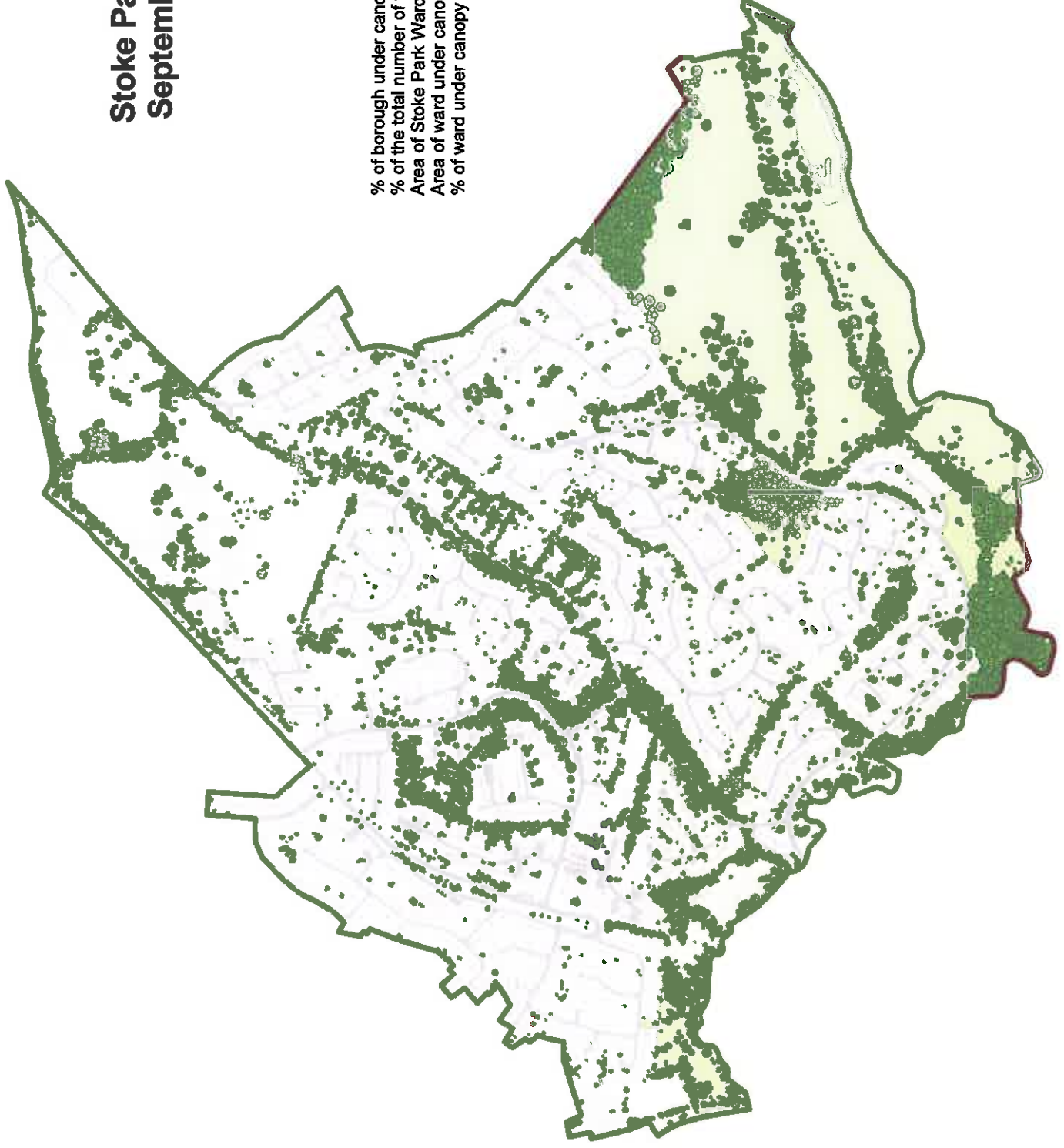


St. Margaret's Ward September 2012



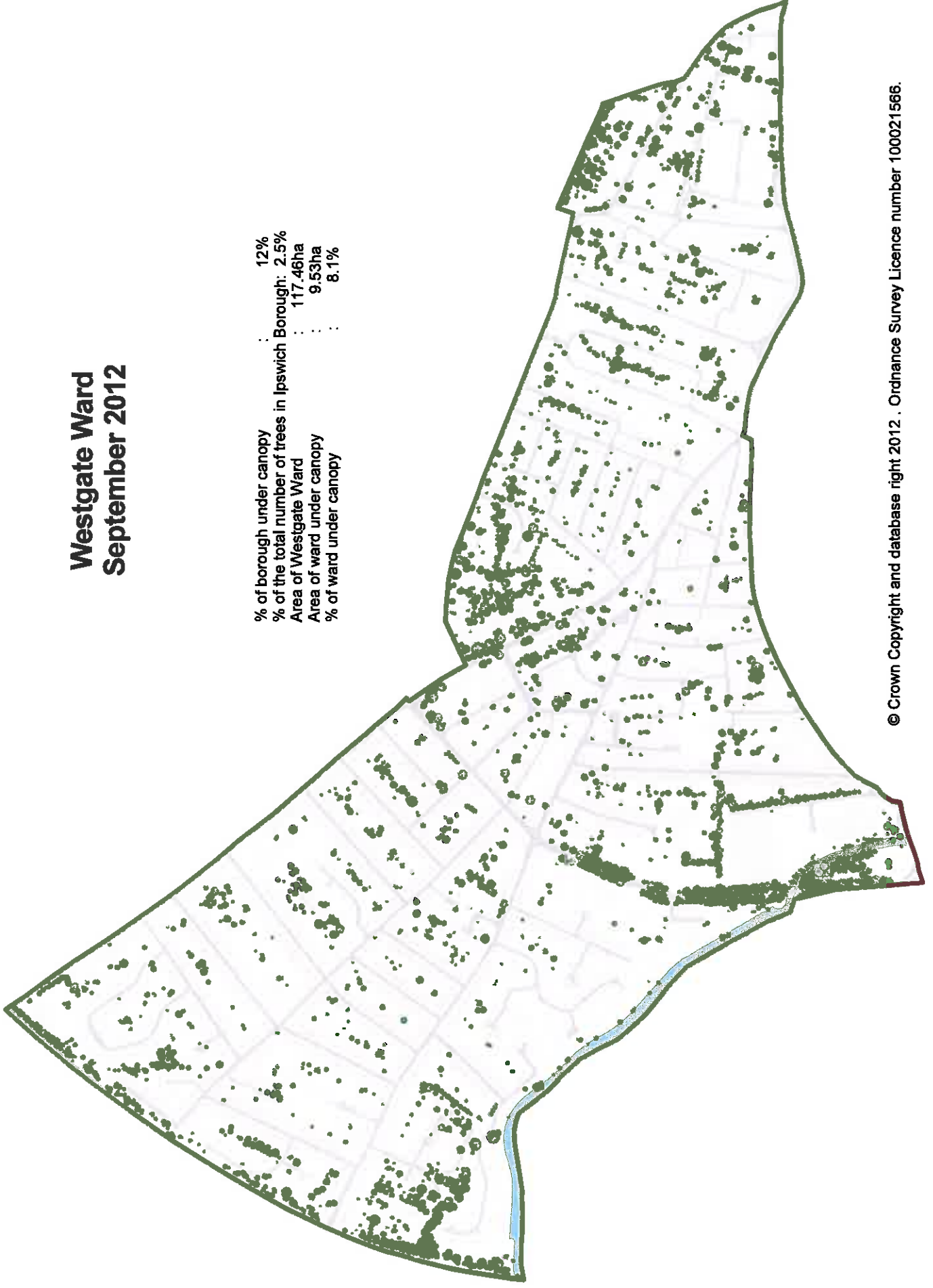
Stoke Park Ward September 2012

% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	6.38%
Area of Stoke Park Ward	:	197.04ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	41.83ha
% of ward under canopy	:	21.23%

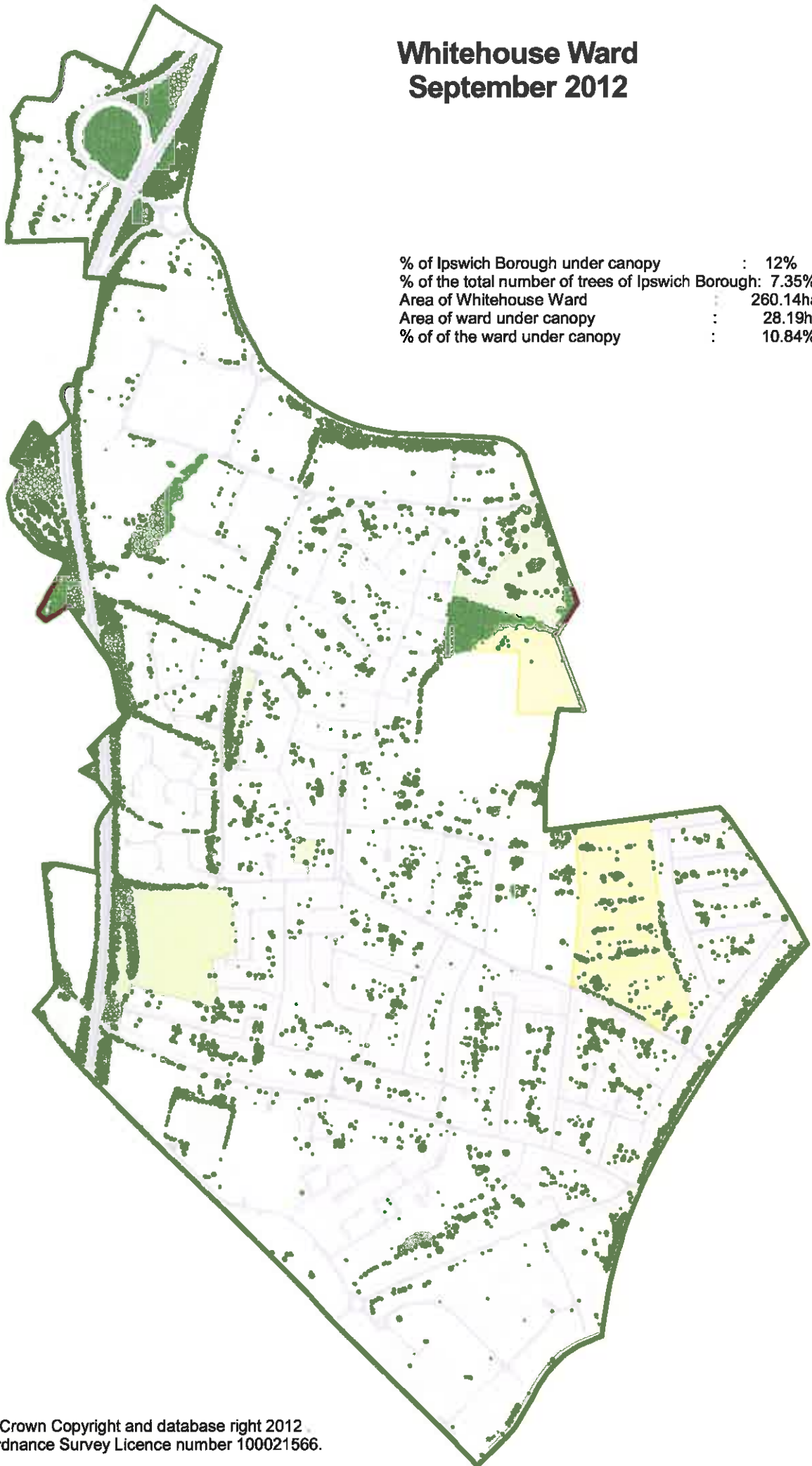


Westgate Ward September 2012

% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	2.5%
Area of Westgate Ward	:	117.46ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	9.53ha
% of ward under canopy	:	8.1%

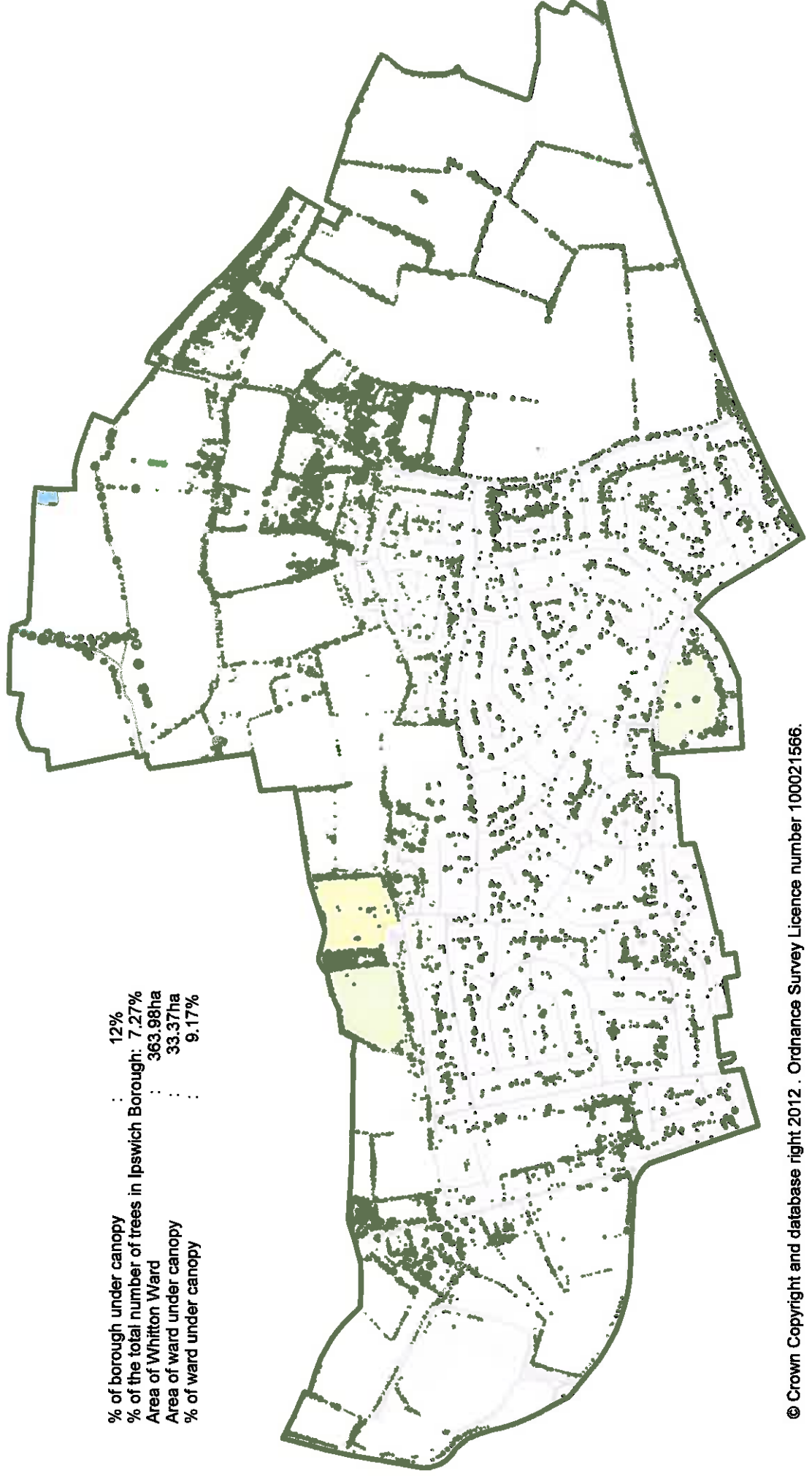


Whitehouse Ward September 2012



Whitton Ward September 2012

% of borough under canopy	:	12%
% of the total number of trees in Ipswich Borough:	:	7.27%
Area of Whitton Ward	:	363.98ha
Area of ward under canopy	:	33.37ha
% of ward under canopy	:	9.17%



Blackpool	8921.981098	495.6656166	720000	1.24%
Peterlee	7113.032187	508.0737277	560000	1.27%
Skelton (Redcar and Cleveland)	2110.880384	527.720096	160000	1.32%
Barnard Castle	1078.817505	539.4087527	80000	1.35%
Dearne	4990.386543	623.7983179	320000	1.56%
Shildon	3834.343162	639.0571937	240000	1.60%
Ashington (Wansbeck)	10390.75921	799.2891701	520000	2.00%
Amble	3353.323134	838.3307835	160000	2.10%
Redcar	16604.67017	976.7453039	680000	2.44%
Hartlepool	21859.03047	1040.906213	840000	2.60%
Ilstock	2220.67763	1110.338815	80000	2.78%
Stockton-on-Tees	22104.89234	1163.415387	760000	2.91%
Langley Park	4684.728812	1171.182203	160000	2.93%
Wirksworth	6040.18797	1208.037594	200000	3.02%
Stoke-on-Trent	23470.91026	1235.311067	760000	3.09%
Hemsworth	6206.956582	1241.391316	200000	3.10%
Newport (Telford and Wrekin)	7457.691819	1242.948636	240000	3.11%
Bishop Auckland	18486.10987	1320.43642	560000	3.30%
Sudbury	16149.33825	1345.778187	480000	3.36%
Rushall	5398.564547	1349.641137	160000	3.37%
Garforth	9555.865679	1365.123668	280000	3.41%
Lewisham	18533.83518	1425.679629	520000	3.56%
Cudworth	1445.066897	1445.066897	40000	3.61%
Penrith	21350.56934	1525.040667	560000	3.81%
Shepley-Shelley	4607.978599	1535.992866	120000	3.84%
Chopwell	4894.713127	1631.571042	120000	4.08%
Worksop	23013.75054	1643.839325	560000	4.11%
Garstang	5016.921942	1672.307314	120000	4.18%
Keighley	26189.12831	1745.941887	600000	4.36%
Clay Cross-North Wingfield	14144.73792	1768.09224	320000	4.42%
Maldon	21322.54669	1776.878891	480000	4.44%
York	30225.23223	1777.954837	680000	4.44%
Carlisle	35967.92236	1798.396118	800000	4.50%
Ross-on-Wye	9027.785825	1805.557165	200000	4.51%
Ashbourne	11237.13931	1872.856552	240000	4.68%
Middlesbrough	37612.66347	1880.633173	800000	4.70%
Walsall	32220.11778	1895.301046	680000	4.74%
Keswick	5699.049617	1899.683206	120000	4.75%
Ealing	31316.99471	1957.312169	640000	4.89%
Stourport	15933.40269	1991.675337	320000	4.98%
Southam	4062.594507	2031.297253	80000	5.08%
Sleaford	10246.57066	2049.314132	200000	5.12%
South Shields	32926.88385	2057.930241	640000	5.14%
Thirsk	12538.72775	2089.787958	240000	5.22%
Boston	28318.16838	2178.320644	520000	5.45%
Bradford	46118.44166	2196.11627	840000	5.49%
West Bromwich	40010.60746	2222.811526	720000	5.56%
Southwark	38048.66919	2238.157011	680000	5.60%
Cleethorpes	22461.20341	2246.120341	400000	5.62%
Bedford	46351.85968	2317.592984	800000	5.79%
Corby	28217.27233	2351.43936	480000	5.88%
Brent	54265.1065	2359.352457	920000	5.90%
Luton	42685.60092	2371.422273	720000	5.93%
Newcastle upon Tyne	47485.08365	2374.254183	800000	5.94%
Earby	4775.052973	2387.526486	80000	5.97%
Consett	26752.5524	2432.050218	440000	6.08%
Glastonbury	19714.86739	2464.358424	320000	6.16%
Withemsea	7482.079934	2494.026645	120000	6.24%
Keyworth	15096.31398	2516.052331	240000	6.29%
Hungerford	7829.679	2609.893	120000	6.52%
Taunton	39651.85271	2643.456847	600000	6.61%
Oakham	18726.43072	2675.204388	280000	6.69%
Downham Market	21405.78958	2675.723697	320000	6.69%
Swindon	40301.28824	2686.752549	600000	6.72%
Callington	16130.51553	2688.419255	240000	6.72%

Brighton	43193.0221	2699.563881	640000	6.75%
Cromer	10962.72355	2740.680888	160000	6.85%
Durham	41286.17923	2752.411949	600000	6.88%
Sunderland	55095.28556	2754.764278	800000	6.89%
Salford	55910.34291	2795.517146	800000	6.99%
Ashford	53330.02118	2806.84322	760000	7.02%
Church Stretton	5677.800205	2838.900102	80000	7.10%
Featherstone	11437.246	2859.311501	160000	7.15%
Milnrow	20072.57277	2867.510396	280000	7.17%
North Weald Bassett	14506.36492	2901.272985	200000	7.25%
Brixworth	11661.58405	2915.396011	160000	7.29%
Peterborough	56267.80887	2961.463625	760000	7.40%
Warboys	8921.167736	2973.722579	120000	7.43%
Lincoln	53655.50429	2980.861349	720000	7.45%
Leeds	73829.98248	3076.24927	960000	7.69%
Nottingham	71363.74146	3102.771368	920000	7.76%
Richmond upon Thames	56843.76132	3157.98674	720000	7.89%
Calne	31996.42426	3199.642426	400000	8.00%
Bromyard	9674.070508	3224.690169	120000	8.06%
Plymouth	64581.82984	3229.091492	800000	8.07%
Maidstone	58156.61049	3230.922805	720000	8.08%
Derby	68961.39255	3283.875836	840000	8.21%
Rochdale	69084.17783	3289.722754	840000	8.22%
Rugby	46374.97827	3312.498448	560000	8.28%
Helsby	16649.93235	3329.98647	200000	8.32%
Leicester	76871.58175	3342.242685	920000	8.36%
Rawmarsh	23414.80974	3344.97282	280000	8.36%
Fazeley	13670.41162	3417.602904	160000	8.54%
Hebden Bridge	6901.481132	3450.740566	80000	8.63%
Newham	55620.83272	3476.302045	640000	8.69%
Nantwich	34983.12918	3498.312918	400000	8.75%
Ely	35053.79141	3505.379141	400000	8.76%
Saffron Walden	35076.46807	3507.646807	400000	8.77%
Cambridge-Milton	80795.99779	3512.869469	920000	8.78%
St Ives	21275.22015	3545.870024	240000	8.86%
Bromley	78608.0127	3573.091486	880000	8.93%
Chipping Ongar	17883.73693	3576.747386	200000	8.94%
Paignton	50177.13683	3584.081202	560000	8.96%
Dudley	71492.56611	3762.766637	760000	9.41%
Lowestoft	68437.04049	3802.057805	720000	9.51%
Pudsey	42036.78547	3821.525952	440000	9.55%
Southport	57956.96768	3863.797846	600000	9.66%
Greasby_Moreton	52042.3766	4003.259738	520000	10.01%
Stockport	85460.86268	4069.564889	840000	10.17%
Shaftesbury	24572.67362	4095.445603	240000	10.24%
Netley	16432.42915	4108.107288	160000	10.27%
Birkenhead	82221.75348	4111.087674	800000	10.28%
Northampton	96455.29108	4193.708307	920000	10.48%
Stratford	71982.99983	4234.294108	680000	10.59%
Banbury	67917.50038	4244.843774	640000	10.61%
Witney	43926.58627	4392.658627	400000	10.98%
Kingston upon Thames	97174.11805	4417.005366	880000	11.04%
Reading	92778.1908	4418.009086	840000	11.05%
Hillingdon	88457.78248	4422.889124	800000	11.06%
Norwich	98239.67673	4465.439851	880000	11.16%
Tonbridge	66075.37776	4719.66984	580000	11.80%
Euxton	28697.96033	4782.993388	240000	11.96%
Coventry	116374.304	4848.929335	960000	12.12%
Tower Hamlets	74621.78145	4974.78543	600000	12.44%
Bournemouth	109480.7895	4976.399521	880000	12.44%
West Kingsdown	19958.53173	4989.632932	160000	12.47%
Crawley	110005.675	5000.257955	880000	12.50%
Bristol	124413.37	5183.890419	960000	12.96%
Christchurch	69336.74205	5333.595542	520000	13.33%
Oxford	110089.8957	5504.494785	800000	13.76%

Sheffield	128867.6079	5857.618539	880000	14.64%
Whaley Bridge	17601.21742	5867.072472	120000	14.67%
Princes Risborough	35975.49807	5995.916346	240000	14.99%
Tadley	30486.91144	6097.382289	200000	15.24%
Huddersfield	127065.9452	6353.297258	800000	15.88%
Midhurst	25520.92168	6380.23042	160000	15.95%
Truro	65685.81364	6568.581364	400000	16.42%
Poole	123221.3013	6845.62785	720000	17.11%
Hythe	82396.67984	6866.389987	480000	17.17%
Tavistock	55532.85547	6941.606934	320000	17.35%
Budleigh Salterton	21896.88198	7298.960661	120000	18.25%
Chigwell	59174.78699	7396.848374	320000	18.49%
Knowle Bentley Heath	76390.44382	8487.827092	360000	21.22%
Windermere	62327.93377	10387.98896	240000	25.97%
Heathfield	82021.60417	11717.37202	280000	29.29%

Appendix 12: Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria

Green Flag Award applications are judged against eight key criteria. Where certain criteria are not met, applicants can provide justifications that may be taken into account. What's more, if management practice changes are in progress but not yet fully implemented, transitional phases will be acknowledged and viewed positively.

The judging criteria also considers the fact that each park/green space will offer different kinds of facilities, and will be managed and developed to varying opportunities and constraints. Innovation and the way facilities offered are tailored to the needs of the community will also be taken into account.

Eight key criteria

1. A welcoming place

When approaching or entering the park/green space, the overall impression for any member of the community - regardless of the purpose of their visit - should be positive and inviting. There should be:

- Good and safe access
- Good signage to and in the park/green space
- Equal access for all members of the community

2. Healthy, safe and secure

The park/green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Any issues that have come to light must be addressed in the management plan and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately.

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use
- It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed
- Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted.

3. Clean and well maintained

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management
- The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

4. Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the park/green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Parks/green spaces should:

Have an environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed

- Minimise and justify pesticide use
- Eliminate horticultural peat use
- Recycle waste plant material
- Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards
- Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures

5. Conservation and heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and fauna
- Landscapes
- Buildings and structural features
- These should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment

6. Community involvement

The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible. The following should be demonstrated:

- Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use
- Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved
- Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community

7. Marketing

- A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed
- There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved
- The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource

8. Management

- A management plan or strategy should be in place
- This should clearly and adequately address all of the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park/green space's management
- The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed
- A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated



Project sustainability appraisal review

Proposed Project Title:	
Date prepared:	
Project Category:	
Lead Officer: (Project Manager)	
Brief Project task:	
Brief Project purpose:	

Development appraisal process

The following questions should be addressed in the sustainability review process

Are the proposal / development necessary? <i>Check- the most sustainable option is 'no action' if the development is not necessary. Have alternatives been considered? Does the proposal meet with service area objectives (see table 1 below)?</i>	
Do the proposal/ development contribute to overall sustainability within the town? <i>Check – prepare sustainability matrix (see table 2 below)?</i>	

<p>Is the proposal adequately resources?</p> <p><i>CHECK – is the budget for implementation adequate? Have the maintenance implications of the development / proposal been addressed? If no additional finance is available, can the development / proposal be sustained? Are there any risks associated with the implementation of this proposal? Are the resources adequate to accommodate all the risks identified?</i></p>	
<p>Is the timing of implementation appropriate?</p> <p><i>Check – are there related proposals linked to this proposal / development?</i></p>	

Development appraisal process for new proposals
Service Area objectives

Table 1

	Objective	Key contribute to the objective	Compatibility						Explanation / evidence	Suggested solution
Quality			U	P	N	F	G	E		
1	(TBC)	A B C								
2	(TBC)	A B C								
3.	(TBC)	A B C								
4	(TBC)	A B C								

5.	(TBC)	A B C								
6.	(TBC)	A B C								
7.	(TBC)	A B C								
8.	(TBC)	A B C								
9.	(TBC)	A B C								

Compatibility

U
P

N
F

G
E

Undermining – significantly undermines the objective

Poor – does not fully explore the potential to contribute to the Objectives

Neutral – does not contribute to the objectives

Fair – makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the Objective

Good – makes a significant positive contribution

Excellent – makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective

Sustainability appraisal matrix

Element				Evidence	Action required / comments
	Negative	Neutral	Positive		

	-	0	+		
Protection of environment and prudent use of resources					
Protect and enhance biodiversity					
Reduce air, land, water, noise and light pollution					
Mitigation of climate change – minimising energy use and or utilising renewable energy					
Adaption to climate change					
Reducing consumption of materials and natural resources					
Encourage water reduction / increasing reuse and recycling					
Reducing water usage					
Encouraging walking, cycling, use of public transport and reducing car dependency					
Land regeneration					
Economic growth and employment					
Green purchasing					
Supporting ethical trading and global equity					
Provision of local goods and services					
Consumption of local goods and services					
Investment in the local economy and businesses					
Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone					
Involving people in shaping their local community and quality of life					
Health of individuals					
Reducing crime / fear increasing safety of individuals.					
Access to local facilities					
Reducing poverty					
Reducing homelessness					
Equality of opportunity					
Providing opportunity for learning					
Increased understanding of sustainability					

Appendix 14 - Project Scope Template



Project Scope

Project Title:	
Date prepared:	
Project Category:	
Project Sponsor:	
Lead Member: (Project Champion)	
Lead Officer: (Project Manager)	
Project Team Core:	
Project Team Peripheral:	
Project concern:	
Project task:	
Project purpose:	
Customer:	
End Users:	
End result:	
Success criteria:	
Project Information:	
Timescale:	
Resources:	
What has to be done:	
Risk Assessment:	

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Appendix 15: Management plan framework

notes

1. *Just as no two green spaces are the same, no two management plans will be the same. But there are common themes that should be considered in formulating a management plan. The following headings provide quick pointers on how to start.*
2. **The purpose of the management plan** – *Why is the plan being written now? What happened to the previous one? What should the current plan to achieve?*
3. **Know the site** – *Is there a good understanding of the green space, its landscape, history, ecological value, amenities, the character of the surrounding area and who uses it and why? How is the site defined and what other information is needed? Does the site meet current objectives?*
4. **Management and maintenance** – *How are things done at the moment? What approaches to management and to maintenance will need to be introduced to deliver the agreed priorities and objectives for the park or green space?*
5. **Incorporating policy and relevant data** – *How are environmental/ conservation/ heritage/ play/ health policies to be put into practice on this site? How are these issues to be worked out on the ground in this particular green space?*
6. **Analysis and assessment of priorities** – *How will any external data collected shape the plan? A self-assessment using the Green Flag Award criteria may help.*
7. **Resources** – *What funds are available for this site? As well as budget headings, are there staff, voluntary input, contributions from partner organisations and other departments that can be identified? Identify possible sources of money, both internal and external.*
8. **Expectations and aspirations** – *What does the community expect? Are they consulted - if so, how, when and how often? How inclusion of all groups, i.e. children and young people, as well as older people, be achieved? Most importantly how are the results of consultation planned to be used?*
9. **Agreed objectives** – *What are the investment/development priorities? Are these agreed with community groups and all partners objectives for the time period of the plan? Are they achievable?*
10. **Partnerships** – *What active partnerships will be established as part of this plan? Does a 'Friends of' / user group exist? If not, is it worth helping to form one?*
11. **Skills and development** – *Do the right skills exist to deliver the plan? If not, are there training or recruitment options (horticultural, environmental, project management, community liaison, events production, marketing and so on)?*

Parks and Open sapce– PROCEDURES MANUAL

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DATE: 27/11/12

LATEST UPDATE: 27/11/12

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12. **Time-scale** – *What is the time-frame for the management plan? Is it five years, ten years? How does it align with a corporate plan? Are the investment/development projects in the right order and how long will each take?*
13. **Monitoring and review arrangements** – *How will success be measured (external validation, continuous performance assessment, Best Value inspection, EMAS, Investors in People, Quality Assurance)? What kinds of checks are in place to make sure implementation is going to plan?*
14. **Project management** – *Who is responsible for development and then the delivery of the plan? Spell out the project management requirements.*

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QMIS: 6.1.4.1 - Management Plans

The checklist below has been derived from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Civic Trust guidelines for the contents of Management and Maintenance Plans

- 1 Executive Summary**
 - Introduction**
 - 1.1 Description of Park
 - 1.2 History of the Park
 - 1.3 Restoration project
- 2 Where are we now?**
 - 2.1 Introduction
 - 2.2 Policy context
 - 2.3 Site Description – Landscape Character Areas
- 3 Where do we want to get to?**
 - 3.1 Assets, Vision and Objectives
 - 3.2 Assessment and Analysis
 - 3.3 Aims & Objectives
- 4 How will we get there?**
 - 4.1 Work Plans
 - 4.2 Finance and resources
- 5 How will we know when we have arrived?**
 - 5.1 Monitor & Review

Green Flag Manual headings

- 6 A welcoming place**
 - 6.1 Announcing the park
 - 6.2 Access – Physical
 - 6.3 Access – Social
- 7 Healthy, safe and secure**
 - 7.1 Health and Well-being
 - 7.2 Equipment & Facilities
 - 7.3 Security in our Parks
 - 7.4 Towards a safer park
 - 7.5 Health and Safety Policies
 - 7.6 Control of Dogs

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- 8 Well Maintained & Clean**
 - 8.1 Litter and Waste Management
 - 8.2 Grounds Maintenance
 - 8.3 Building Maintenance
 - 8.4 Infrastructure & other facilities
 - 8.5 Equipment maintenance – Staff
 - 8.6 Equipment maintenance – Public
 - 8.7 Cleanliness

- 9 Sustainability**
 - 9.1 Environmental Management
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LATEST UPDATE: 27/11/12

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