

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PPG17 TECHNICAL STUDY



A

DRAFT REPORT

BY

PMP

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Figure 1.1 Station Road OS (Site ID 33)



- 1.7 The provision of green spaces, sport and recreation facilities is becoming increasingly important on the national stage and the contributions it can bring to both national and local priorities are more readily recognised. The important role of greenspaces to local communities is reflected in the recently published Park Life Report (Greenspace June 2007), which indicates that 92% of all those questioned had visited a park within the last month.
- 1.8 In addition, the recently published *Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England (2008)*, supports the creation of a healthy society, particularly healthy children, and recognises the role of sport and physical activity in doing this. There is a need for quality, accessible sporting facilities and opportunities as acknowledged in *The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures (DCSF)*.
- 1.9 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
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - health and well being
 - promoting more sustainable development.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.10 The recent planning white paper (May 2007) highlights minimising climate change and the protection of the environment as some of the key challenges to be addressed through the planning system in future years. The provision of green space will be instrumental in the achievement of these objectives.

Function and benefits of open space

- 1.11 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/or a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity.
- 1.12 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. The various types of open spaces can also provide safe places for young people to meet and hang out.
- 1.13 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.
- 1.14 Changing social and economic circumstances, changed 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. While the provision of open spaces can be challenging, open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector. Open spaces should provide residents with places where they are safe in the face of crime and disorder issues within communities.
- 1.15 Parks and open spaces are more accessible to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities and are better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation provision is key to an ideal, sustainable and thriving community. The recently completed Park Life Report (Green Space June 2007) highlighted that 83% of those surveyed feel that parks are the focal point of a community. In rural areas, village greens are often the centre for village activity.
- 1.16 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 (PPG) 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Assessing Needs and Opportunities - PPG17 Companion Guide

- 1.17 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). It encourages local authorities to



Introduction and background

The study

- 1.1 During July 2007, Broxbourne Borough Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake a PPG17 technical study and produce sub-strategy action plans. This report sets out the study findings and includes an assessment of local needs and existing open space, sport, recreation and community provision.
- 1.2 The study will inform the preparation of the Broxbourne Local Development Framework (LDF) and will help to shape the strategic direction for open space in the Borough.
- 1.3 The three overall objectives of the study are to:
 - deliver a robust technical study in line with PPG17 requirements, which evaluates the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreational land in Broxbourne and recommends appropriate strategy, policy, standards and specific provision required to meet the Borough's future needs
 - deliver a 'sub strategy' for the Council's priority/directly owned/managed open spaces and community facilities in the form of a deliverable, SMART Action Plan for each typology, informed by the technical study as well as qualitative/value and needs assessments in addition to identifying prioritised activities/tasks to improve local open space and community facilities and better meet local needs – for the next five years.
- 1.4 The findings of this work will enable the Council to adopt a clear vision, priorities for the future (based on local need) and establish a direction for the allocation of resources.
- 1.5 This study is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the updated PPG17, and its Companion Guide published in September 2002. Further details of these documents are set out later in this section.

Why public open space?

- 1.6 Open space and recreation provision in the borough of Broxbourne has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of both national objectives and more locally in the achievement of key Council priorities.

effectively plan for the future delivery of appropriate open space, sport and leisure facilities.

- 1.18 The document suggests local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs and opportunities for new open space and facilities (paragraph 2).
- 1.19 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”.
- 1.20 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.
- 1.21 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
 - promotes a consistent approach across various types of open space.
- 1.22 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 in the borough of Broxbourne.

Need for local assessments

- 1.23 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
 - conduct Section 106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support such negotiations.
- 1.24 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 within the borough.

Local features and demographics

- 1.25 The borough of Broxbourne lies in southeast Hertfordshire. It covers an area of 20 square miles and has a population of circa 87,000 (2001 Census). The borough is a mixture of rural and urban areas, with the four main towns of Waltham Cross, Cheshunt, Broxbourne and Hoddesdon lying along the Lee Valley's main roads and railways and the metropolitan green belt (MGB) protecting the surrounding countryside.
- 1.26 The borough is relatively prosperous, compared to the average in England and Wales, as reflected by 2001 Census statistics:
- above average number of people in full time employment and below average levels of unemployment
 - below average long-term illness and poor health
 - above average ownership of two or more cars per household.
- 1.27 Results from the Active People survey indicate that 17.7% of people in Broxbourne are participating in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or active recreation on at least three days a week, placing it in the lowest quartile of local authorities nationally and far below the current national average of 21.3%. This indicates there is significant potential to increase levels of participation in the borough. As detailed above, open spaces and sport, recreation and community facilities have a key role to play in achieving this.

Structure of the report

- 1.28 This report is split into 15 sections. Section 2 summarises the methodology used to undertake the study and Section 3 provides the strategic context to the study.
- 1.29 Sections 4-15 relate to each of the typologies identified within the scope of the report. 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.
- 1.30 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 key emphasis of PPG17 is the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to following national trends and guidelines.
- 2.2 The Companion Guide indicates that the four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- understanding that local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - recognising that the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - considering that delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - taking into account that the value of open space will be greater when local needs are met. It is essential to consider the wider benefits that sites generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.3 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The process set out in PPG17 has therefore been adopted to ensure that the needs and expectations of residents in the borough of Broxbourne are adequately addressed.

Types of open space

- 2.4 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance 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”.*
- 2.5 PPG17 identifies ten typologies including nine types of open space and one category of urban open space. It states that local authorities when preparing assessments of needs and audits of existing open space and recreation facilities should use these typologies, or variations of it. This study adapts the standard classification to include assessments of the following typologies:
- amenity green space
 - parks and gardens
 - natural and semi-natural open space
 - provision for children
 - provision for young people
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - allotments and community gardens
 - green corridors
 - churchyards and cemeteries
 - civic spaces.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

- 2.6 The typology 'Children and young people's facilities' has been split into 'provision for children' and 'teenage facilities'. This change was introduced at the Council's request to recognise the differing needs of young children and teenagers.
- 2.7 In addition, indoor sports and community facilities have been included, in line with PPG17, and are discussed further in Sections 14 and 15 of this report.
- 2.8 The study takes into account open spaces provided, owned and managed by public and private organisations to provide an accurate picture of current provision.
- 2.9 Full details of typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Appendix B.

The geographical area

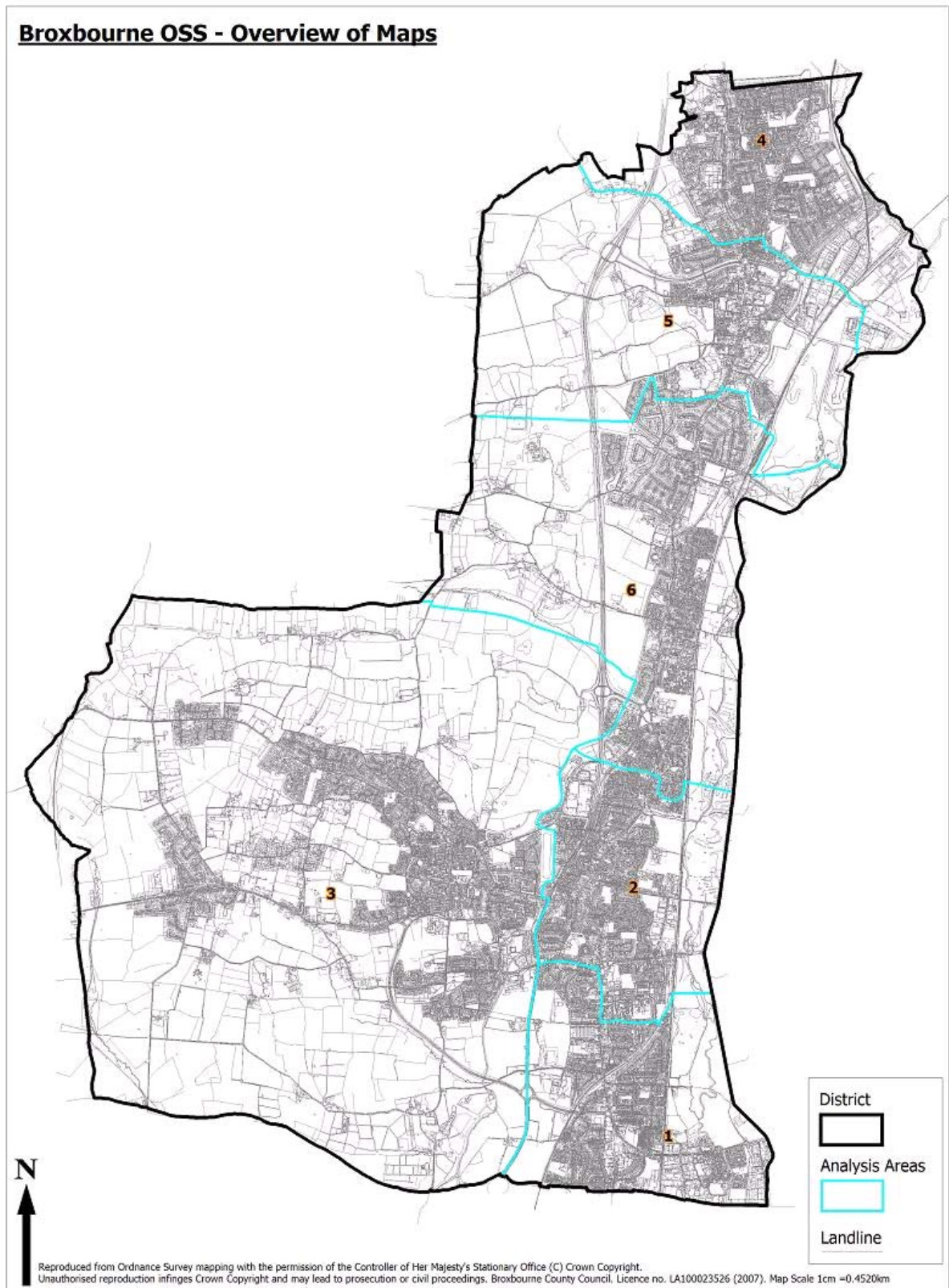
- 2.10 Analysis of the open space, sport and recreation and community facilities across the borough has been undertaken by looking at the supply and demand in six different areas within the local authority boundary (referred to as analysis areas in this report). These areas were discussed and agreed with the Council at the outset.
- 2.11 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, enabling an understanding of the geographical distribution of open spaces and ensuring that differences in perception and opinion across the borough are understood.
- 2.12 These analysis areas have been used to ensure that consultation was undertaken proportionately across the borough and the application of local standards will enable the identification of priorities at neighbourhood level.
- 2.13 Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 provide details on the analysis areas used in this study and the wards within each analysis area.

Table 2.1 The analysis areas of Broxbourne borough

Area name	Population*	Wards included
1	13,171	Waltham Cross and Theobalds
2	14,616	Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North
3	24,981	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End
4	13,741	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park
5	6,276	Hoddesdon Town
6	14,269	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne

**Census 2001 data*

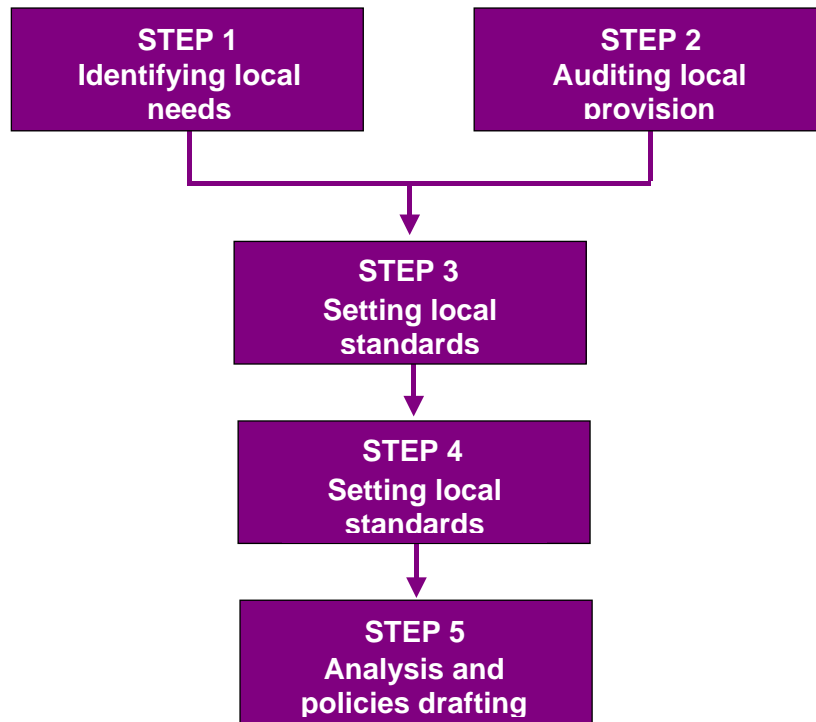
Figure 2.1 Analysis area breakdown



PPG17 – Five step process

- 2.14 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed in this study. The five step process is shown in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2 PPG17 Five Step Process



Step 1 - Identifying local needs

- 2.15 PPG17 states that community consultations are essential to identify local attitudes to existing provision and local expectations for additional or improved provision.
- 2.16 The PPG17 guidance relies less on the implementation of national standards and places increased emphasis on local needs. The assessment of needs should result in qualitative visions and quantity and accessibility standards that reflect the type and amount of facilities that local communities want to see. It is essential that the local standards set are directly reflective of local needs and expectations.
- 2.17 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out including:
- household survey
 - neighbourhood drop in sessions
 - IT young people survey
 - sports club survey
 - consultation with external agencies
 - internal one-to-one consultations with Council officers.

2.18 Background is provided on each of the key elements of the consultation in the paragraphs that follow.

Household survey

2.19 The household survey provides an opportunity for randomly selected households to comment on the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open space, sport, recreation and community provision as well as identifying their aspirations for future provision.

2.20 5,000 questionnaires were distributed to households across the borough to capture the views of both users and non-users of open spaces. Residents were randomly selected using the electoral register.

2.21 Random distribution of questionnaires to a geographically representative sample (based on the populations living in each of the identified analysis areas) of households ensures that representatives from all age groups and both genders were given the opportunity to participate. In order to promote an even response rate across ages and gender, residents with the next birthday were asked to complete the questionnaire. In addition, to increase the response rate, the Council provided a prize draw with the winner receiving a £50 shopping voucher. A copy of the household survey and accompanying covering letter can be found in Appendix C.

2.22 439 postal surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to assume responses for the remaining population across the borough. Obtaining more than 400 responses means that the results are accurate to +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval.

Neighbourhood drop in sessions

2.23 Neighbourhood drop in sessions were held in three locations across the borough, specifically:

- The Brookfield Shopping Centre, Cheshunt
- Hoddesdon market
- Waltham Cross market.

2.24 These sessions provided an informal opportunity to residents to give their views on open space, sport, recreation and community facility issues. The drop in sessions were well attended and the key issues arising from discussions fed directly into the recommended local standards.

IT young people survey

2.25 Consultation with young people and children is traditionally difficult but, it is important to understand the views of this large sector of the community. Children are important users of open space, sport, recreation and community facilities.

2.26 A questionnaire was therefore posted on the internet and all schools within the Council boundary were notified of the website address and asked to encourage their pupils to complete the questionnaires.

- 2.27 Unfortunately, the level of response to the surveys was limited, with only 50 responses received in total from two different schools, Cranbourne Primary School and Dewhurst St Mary's C of E Primary School. Respondents were for the majority in Grade 4 (25%) and Grade 5 (40%). 15% said to be in Grade 6, with the remaining respondents not providing an answer.
- 2.28 The information obtained through the distribution of these questionnaires is instrumental in the development of the local standards and will supplement the findings of the other consultation techniques. An example of the survey can be found in Appendix D.
- 2.29 Broxbourne Borough Council has consulted widely with young people in recent years over a wide range of issues to assess local needs. The latest Play and Free Time Strategy included a Borough wide youth survey. Details can be found in Section 3 of this report.

Sports club survey

- 2.30 The sports club survey forms part of the information collected to inform standards and recommendations for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. An example of the survey can be found in Appendix E.
- 2.31 Surveys were sent by PMP to 112 sports clubs across the Borough, from which 38 surveys were successfully completed and returned (some of which accounted for multiple clubs/activities). This represents a good response rate of 34%. The results account for the following types of sports clubs (some clubs offering more than one activity):

- football (6)
- cricket (4)
- bowls (3)
- tennis (3)
- athletics (3)
- sub-aqua (1)
- table tennis (1)
- boxing (1)
- netball (2)
- swimming (1)
- martial arts (5)
- squash (2)
- angling
- yoga (3)
- target shooting (1)
- badminton (1)
- hockey (2)
- rugby (2)
- dance (9)
- rowing (1)
- golf
- archery (1)
- keep fit (1)

External agencies questionnaire

- 2.32 Questionnaires were distributed to key regional and local external agencies with the primary purpose of obtaining the viewpoint of key stakeholders and ensuring that the recommended local standards dovetail with local and regional priorities. A list of consultees can be found in Appendix F.

Internal officers

- 2.33 Internal consultations with Council officers were undertaken in order to understand the work, focus and key priorities of the Council and to provide a detailed strategic and practical overview.

Step 2 - Auditing local provision

- 2.34 PPG17 states that audits of provision should encompass all existing open space and sport and recreation irrespective of ownership and the extent of public access. The logic for this is that all forms of provision can contribute to meeting local needs. Audits should also include all primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions. Only those sites located within settlement boundaries are included.
- 2.35 Audits should consider both the quantitative and the qualitative elements of open space, sports, recreation and community facilities. Audits of quality are particularly important as they allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and maintenance.
- 2.36 The multi functionality of some types of open space can present a key challenge in the auditing of open space. In order to address this issue, all spaces are classified by their primary purpose. This ensures that all spaces are counted only once, but does not negate the need to consider the inter-relationships between different types of open space as part of the study.
- 2.37 Additionally, some specific types of open space are located within a larger space. Where this occurs and the primary purpose is clearly defined, these sites are considered to be two separate sites and should be subdivided. A good example is the location of a children's play area within a park. It is important that these sites are considered separately as they have different roles and fall into different typologies.
- 2.38 The Council provided PMP will all available data on the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities and community halls across the borough. PMP then undertook a detailed desk based exercise, using data sources including:
- aerial photography
 - A–Z/ large scale maps
 - local plan maps
 - Internet search engines.
- 2.39 It is important to note that only those sites within settlement boundaries have been included in the audit, in line with guidelines set out in PPG17. However, the significance of sites outside of these boundaries, alongside areas of nearby natural countryside will be considered throughout this report.
- 2.40 A total of 246 sites were identified during the audit process. Each site was classified into a relevant typology and site assessments were then carried out at each site identified.
- 2.41 Site assessments were undertaken using a matrix developed with Council Officers enabling comparisons between sites in the same typology and across typologies. For consistency purposes, all sites were assessed by the same person. Sites were rated against the following categories:
- accessibility
 - quality

- wider benefits.
- 2.42 The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site in addition to ratings for each individual factor. The site assessment matrix can be found in Appendix G.
- 2.43 In addition to assessing the quality, accessibility and wider benefits of open space sites across Broxbourne, the site visits also provided an opportunity to ensure that no sites had been omitted and that the classification of each open space was correct.
- 2.44 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. 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 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards

- 2.45 PPG17 recommends that local authorities use information gained from the assessment of needs and opportunities (Step 1) to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. These local standards should include:
- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed)
 - a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities)
 - accessibility (including distance thresholds).
- 2.46 The local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, sport and community facilities should relate directly to the local consultation undertaken and should therefore be reflective of local needs. PMP has produced locally based standards using the findings of the household survey and other consultations undertaken where appropriate.
- 2.47 Table 2.2 summarises the process adopted for setting each of the local standards.

Table 2.2 – The setting standards process

Process stage	Methodology
National standards	Analysis of any existing national standards for each typology. These are usually provided by national organisations e.g. National Playing Fields Association for playing pitches. It is important to ensure that national standards are taken into account as part of determination of local standards.
Existing local standards	Consideration of existing local standards for each typology that are currently applied by the Council. These include standards set out in the Local Plan and in other strategies and documents.
Current provision (quantity standards)	Assessment of the current quantity of provision within the local authority area as a whole and within each of the four analysis areas.

Process stage	Methodology
Benchmarking	Figures detailing local standards set by PMP within other open space projects to provide a comparison benchmark when setting local standards.
Consultation (household survey)	Consideration of the findings of the household survey with regards the quantity of provision for each type of open space. This analysis provides a robust indication (at the Borough wide 95% confidence level) of public perception of the existing level of provision of all different types of open spaces.
Consultation comments (quantity)	PPG17 indicates that where local provision is regarded as inadequate it is important to establish why this is the case. A feeling of deficiency can sometimes be due to qualitative issues of existing open space sites rather than actual quantity issues. It is therefore important to assess findings of both the household survey and the drop in sessions and other qualitative consultation in order to gain a thorough understanding of local community need and perception.
PMP recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard. The standard is based on an assessment of the local community need and will be in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity – x hectares per 1000 population • Accessibility – a distance threshold in metres • Quality – a list of essential and desirable features.
PMP justification	Full justifications for the recommended local standard based on qualitative and quantitative consultations are provided for each typology.

Quantity

2.48 The audit developed enables an understanding of the quantity of provision of each type of open space in each area of the borough. The collection of this level of detail enables the calculation of the provision of each type of open space per 1,000 population. This information is provided within typology specific Sections 4 – 15.

2.49 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:

- provide an understanding of the adequacy of existing provision for each type of open space in the borough
- establish areas of the borough suffering from deficiency of provision of each type of open space
- provide a guide to developers as to the amount of open space expected in conjunction with new development.

- 2.50 This assessment measures the quantity of provision against the current population of 87,054 (Census 2001). Consideration is also given to the likely implications of future population growth up to 2021. The Council provided the population projections used in this report. The population is projected to increase by 9.5% up to 2021 based on 2004-based Sub-national population projections for Hertfordshire and Districts.
- 2.51 In order to ensure that any standards set are reflective of local community needs and opinions, key themes emerging from consultations in each geographical analysis area relating to the quantity of each type are analysed. The key issues for each type of open space are assessed within Sections 4 – 15. Local standards are subsequently set taking into account the current level of provision compared to the perceived community need.

Accessibility

- 2.52 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without good accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or sufficient quantity of open space sites would be of limited value. The overall aim of accessibility standards should be to identify:
- how accessible are sites?
 - how far are people willing to travel to reach open space?
 - areas of the borough that are deficient in provision (identified through the application of local standards).
- 2.53 Similar to quantity standards, accessibility standards should be derived from an understanding of the community views, particularly with regards to the maximum distance that members of the public are willing to travel.
- 2.54 Distance thresholds (ie the maximum distance typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a useful planning tool especially when used in association with GIS. 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.
- 2.55 Accessibility standards are set in the form of a distance in metres where walking is considered to be the most appropriate mode of travel, and a drive time where driving to the open space site would be more appropriate.

Quality

- 2.56 The 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.
- 2.57 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

- the geographical areas of the borough
 - specific types of open space.
- 2.58 The quality standards set as part of the study are intended to provide information on key features of open space that are important to local residents. Sites are then assessed and given a score for a range of factors including:
- cleanliness and maintenance
 - security and safety
 - vegetation
 - ancillary accommodation.
- 2.59 Each element of quality is rated on a scale of very good (5 points) to poor (1 point) and a total percentage score is then calculated. Where an element of provision (such as toilets) is considered to be not applicable, this will not be taken into account in the calculation of the percentage score.
- 2.60 Scores achieved during site visits are translated into percentages and can then be benchmarked against each other. The application of the process for each typology can be found in typology specific Sections 4 – 15.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.61 The application of the local standards enables the identification of deficiencies in terms of accessibility, quality and quantity and also enables spatial distribution of unmet need.
- 2.62 Based on this analysis, strategic options can be devised based on existing provision to be protected, existing provision to be enhanced, existing provision to be relocated and proposals for new provision.
- 2.63 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology. An example is provided below:

P&G1	Given the low number of sites within the borough, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection.
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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.
- 3.2 The following sets out the national, regional and local strategic context for Broxbourne Borough Council. Further national guidance can be found in Appendix H. Local strategic documents have also been reviewed within the individual typology sections, highlighting specific strategic objectives that link into this study.

National context

- 3.3 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)

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 When planning on developing new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:
- promote accessibility from walking, cycling and transport links
 - locate 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
 - consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)

- 3.6 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
 - advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.'*
- 3.9 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
 - identify 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
 - using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

Regional policy documents

Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) (2004)

- 3.10 The East of England Plan (RSS14) will replace existing Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) and Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia (RPG6). The East of England Plan will be regional spatial strategy guiding development in Bedfordshire, Luton, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Hertfordshire, Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Norfolk and Suffolk until 2021.
- 3.11 The Plan is currently under review. Upon adoption, it will form part of the development plan for Broxbourne and will provide a framework for more detailed policies in the Council's Local Development Framework.
- 3.12 Policy SS7: Green Belt identifies that reviews of some Green Belt boundaries will be required to identify the most sustainable locations for development. The Green Belt around Broxbourne has been identified for review but notes that this will need to satisfy the national criteria for Green Belt releases and accord with the spatial strategy set out in the RSS.
- 3.13 There are a number of other policies within the plan that have an impact on the open space, sport and recreation provision in Broxbourne. Of particular note is policy ENV1: Environmental Maintenance which states that development plan documents set targets for the provision of natural green space within development areas and provide connected and substantial networks of accessible multi-functional green space.
- 3.14 Policy C2 relates to the provision and location of strategic leisure, sport, recreation and/or tourism facilities, which relates to facilities of regional or national significance. Policy C4 relates to sporting facilities and requires local development documents to meet the needs of rural and urban locations, protect and enhance important existing facilities and to make provision for new facilities where needs have been identified. Policy C5 relates to recreation and natural resources and requires local development documents to ensure satisfactory access to sites and facilities.
- 3.15 Having an open space, recreation and sport strategy in place will ensure that Broxbourne has the tools to develop local development documents and policies in accordance with the East of England Plan.

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

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 There was a general conclusion that quantity of sports halls was 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. 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.

- 3.19 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.

'Active Hertfordshire' – the Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy (2007-16)

- 3.20 The vision for Active Hertfordshire is:

"to develop a network of quality and accessible community and specialist sports facilities, with appropriate support services, within Hertfordshire that will facilitate increased participation and achievement of potential, enhance quality of life and improve the health and well-being of local communities".

- 3.21 This vision will be supported by six policy objectives:

- demonstrate strategic need, both current and future, to inform need for facility provision
- increase participation countywide by 1% per annum
- ensure provision of appropriate resources for young people, physical education and school sport
- develop countywide capacity of clubs, coaches and volunteers to facilitate participation at grassroots and elite performance level
- improve health, and address social inclusion issues
- develop innovative partnerships for delivery which maximise available resources for investment and development of community and specialist sports facilities.

- 3.22 This study will help establish the various needs in terms of sports facilities specifically for the borough of Broxbourne and will help the borough achieve countywide objectives in terms of sporting facility provision regarding quantity, quality and accessibility.

Local strategic documents

- 3.23 Local strategic documents have been reviewed within the individual typology sections, highlighting specific strategic objectives that link into this study. However, the key principles of each document have been set out in Table 3.1 alongside the relevance of this study to the assessment of local needs.

Table 3.1 Strategic Context – Implications for this assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p>Borough of Broxbourne Local Plan Second Review (2001-2011)</p> <p>Chapter 2: Green Belt and countryside</p> <p>Chapter 7. Sport leisure and tourism</p>	<p>This document is the framework for guiding, controlling and bringing forward development in the borough.</p> <p>Two chapters are of particular interest in relation to this study: Chapter 2 relating to the Green Belt and Countryside, and Chapter 7 relating to Sport, Leisure and Tourism. These chapters have been reviewed below.</p> <p>The Council's objectives for its Green Belt and countryside include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development • protecting and enhance the appearance of the countryside and conserve and positively manage important landscape features • increasing and promote public access to the countryside • affording appropriate degrees of protection to nationally and locally designated wildlife sites. <p>The Council's objectives in respect of the provision and retention of community, leisure and recreation facilities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop and protect existing facilities for community use and sport and recreation generally, as identified in the Community Plan • to identify a hierarchy of open space including parks • to ensure that adequate provision is made for a wide range of community sporting and leisure activities commensurate with the demands of the population of the borough • to continue to monitor provision against need, providing and/or 	<p>New developments or redevelopments on the Green Belt around Broxbourne will only be approved if they answer specific criteria, including enhancing sport and outdoor recreation facilities, and protect the existing wildlife.</p> <p>The Green Belt area is of great importance to the borough, and needs to be given special consideration in this study.</p> <p>This study will assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of each type of open space in the borough, as well as all the sports and leisure facilities and community halls, to ensure that current and future demand can be met.</p>

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p>Chapter 8: Heritage and design</p>	<p>promoting new facilities when need for such is clearly identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure provision of parks, open space, sports and community and recreational facilities keeps pace with new development/population trends to provide additional and improve children's play areas within those parts of the borough which are currently deficient and ensure adequate provision is made in association with new residential development whether on site or on adjacent land. <p>The Council will also seek to introduce the concept of 'leisure gardens', "principally an area of allotments provided with central facilities (club room, storage etc) and children's play areas, making allotments a gardening a pursuit more attractive as a family activity."</p> <p>The New River Green Chain is an important visual amenity that passes through the Borough. It is important that its openness is preserved so that it can continue to make a valuable contribution to the character of those parts of the Borough through which it passes and provide a continuous green link with adjoining administrative areas. Public rights of way already run along part of the route of the New River.</p> <p>The Council will seek to ensure that the essentially open character, amenity and wildlife value of all waterside 'green chains' throughout the Borough is protected. This supported by policy HD19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which would have a materially detrimental effect upon the open character of waterside green chains whether located within the urban area or the countryside 	<p>The study will identify specific areas in the borough where there is a need for any type of open space, and will make recommendations as to how to address these needs.</p> <p>Green corridors are considered in this study as a necessary mean to link the various open spaces throughout the Borough. Recommendations will enable the Council to reach its objectives in terms of protection and enhancement of green corridors.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (II) the Council will permit, in conjunction with Thames Water PLC and riparian land owners, development proposals that make a positive contribution to enhancing the biodiversity, wildlife, and amenity value of waterside green chains throughout the Borough and will seek to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are incorporated into any development proposals proximate to these chains. 	
<p>Broxbourne Community Plan 2007-09</p>	<p>This document has been developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, which consists of high-level representation from all public and voluntary sector bodies in the Borough.</p> <p>The vision outlined in the Plan is <i>“to create an area where residents want to live and work and to increase the ‘sense of place’ and sense of community”</i>.</p> <p>It is centred on several themes. Those of relevance to this study are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Active and healthy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing levels of fitness for all Young people, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for more activities to occupy young people and teenagers, along with places for them to hang around with friends, in order to reduce anti-social behaviour Places to live, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of the borough is located on the Green Belt, which is protected from further developments including housing. This constitutes a challenge for the borough with an increasing population Cleaner and greener, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting wildlife sites 	<p>Sufficient and adequate sports and recreation facilities are key to obtain the Council's objectives. This study will identify potential areas for improvement.</p> <p>Additionally, the assessment of community halls and teenage facilities will help address some of the issues that are facing the borough.</p> <p>The study will also identify potential sites for redevelopment, in order to preserve the Green Belt and open spaces in general.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving access and information about Lee Valley Regional Park and other natural resources - ensuring that new developments have access to high quality local areas of green space - improving local open space areas in Waltham Cross and Rye Park. 	
<p>Borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance</p>	<p>This is a supporting document to the new borough Local Plan. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development standards which the Council will use to assess planning applications • definitions and advice on how certain policies will be interpreted by the Council • checklists of information that may be required when an application is made. <p>Section 8 of the SPG is specifically related to open space:</p> <p>Play areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional provision, whether by expansion of existing facilities or provision of new, will be required as new housing takes place, creating additional demand. The document acknowledges that the situation is not ideal, and all new developments of 15 houses or more will be expected to either contribute to the provision of a play space within the immediate area or include children’s play areas within the new development. 	<p>This study will provide additional standards recommendations for all types of open space with a view to protect, enhance or re-designate existing provision.</p> <p>This study will identify key areas of deficiency to focus the objectives of the Council on the sites where open space is most needed.</p> <p>The standards recommended in this study will be adapted specifically to the characteristics of the borough, and provide a more accurate and realistic target.</p>

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<p>Recreational space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in order to provide a fair assessment of the demand likely to be generated from a new housing scheme for use of recreational open space the Council will have regard to the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standard • the document recognises that recreational open space is unlikely to be provided directly in association with most new housing development. Therefore, a commuted sum payment calculated on the total cost of land cost, site preparation, purchase and installation of equipment and future maintenance costs will be the subject of the legal agreement • the Council will maintain a schedule of recreational land expansion and facility improvement. The development proposed will then be expected to make a contribution to the appropriate facility. Development of 15 dwellings or more on one site will be expected to either provide children’s play space(s) commensurate with the NPFA standard or make a contribution to provision off-site based on the same formula as for recreational land. <p>Amenity Greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council will insist that a landscaping scheme on a scale appropriate to each new development will be provided. • the Council will seek financial contributions towards the provision or improvement of such facilities from all new residential development. Contributions will be assessed in accordance with the identified needs of the local community and will be linked to the additional demand likely to be placed upon local facilities or facilities, either existing or future. 	

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p>The Asset Management Plan 2003</p>	<p>The purpose of this document is to describe existing asset management arrangements and planned action to improve corporate asset use. The principal objectives for leisure property include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver a balanced programme of recreational and sporting opportunities that appeal to a wide range of residents and other users, offering opportunities to improve their health, quality of life and lifelong learning • ensure the portfolio of Council owned/leased facilities and properties meets the needs of the community and delivers efficient asset management. Maintain, protect and develop all of the Councils parks and open-spaces to ensure they are safe, attractive and fit to provide quality outdoor leisure experiences • to provide an entertainment, events bar and catering service to the community that is continually improving, balanced and of high quality • to provide a sensitive, flexible, effective and efficient cemeteries service to all users • ensure access and maintain facilities in good condition and protect the local environment • promote and communicate service opportunities effectively to users and residents and consult with users and residents concerning service satisfaction, identifying barriers to participation and new service improvements. <p>Leisure consultation</p> <p>During 2001/02 and in 2002/03 the Council consulted the public on the way forward in managing leisure properties.</p>	<p>The report will look at local provision of leisure facilities in the borough, and identify key areas for improvement, as well as make recommendations towards local standards in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility to such facilities.</p> <p>This study is based on extensive consultation with the local residents, sports clubs, and young people, and will provide an updated view on the population’s views.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<p>Over 30% of teenagers interviewed were interested in BMX and skateboard activities. As a result, the “No Pedestrians Youth Action Group” was formed to build a “Wheel Park” at Rye Park, Hoddesdon, one of the borough’s hot spots of reported anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The questionnaire distributed to customers of Cheshunt Park Golf Course in 2001 requested feedback on works undertaken at the golf course and suggestions for further improvements. 93% of respondents were either very or fairly satisfied with the facilities overall.</p> <p>There have been substantial investments in Grundy Park Leisure Centre, (replacement health suite and aromatherapy room) parks (works to the lake, new play areas and renewal of pets corner) and John Warner Sports Centre (conversion of squash courts and dance studio into fitness suite and aerobics studio).</p>	
<p>Play and Free Time Strategy 2007</p>	<p>The strategy is based on an independent assessment of what play and free time activities currently exist in Broxbourne, and what is likely to be needed in the future. The top priorities identified by consultees include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help children and young people feel safe when they play outdoors • address gaps in play provision: North Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford, Goffs Oak, Theobalds and Waltham Cross especially in areas of high density housing/flats • provide more play and free time activities ‘close to home’, such as good standard outdoor play areas for a wide age range, and more youth centres 	<p>Play provision for children and teenagers is a key priority for the council. This study will provide recommendations for quality, quantity and accessibility standards for such provision and identify the key areas for improvement.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to address negative perceptions of children and young people gathering to socialise and play and to promote and engage children and young people in the positive value of play and free time activities • increase information about play and free time activities for residents, young people and children. To increase access to children’s play activities and opportunities including natural play in parks, and develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical ‘hands on’ activities for children and young people. 	
<p>Residents Survey Report 2006</p>	<p>This report presents the findings of research conducted by Ipsos MORI’s Local Government Unit on behalf of Broxbourne Borough Council. The survey follows on from previous research conducted by Ipsos MORI for the Council from 1993 onwards, providing the opportunity to monitor change over time. Key findings relating to open space and recreational facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues related to crime and anti-social behaviour dominate overall priorities. Crime/community safety is cited by over one in four residents as a priority for the area. This is closely followed by problems with young people and anti-social behaviour. This contrasts to 2001 when development pressures/overbuilding was the most important issue cited by residents in Broxbourne (although this remains the top issue after community safety/anti-social behaviour concerns) • in line with the concerns around problems with young people and crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing the facilities for teenagers is suggested as the top priority for the Council, followed by more police and an improvement in community safety/reduction in crime. These findings mirror those in 2003 and reconfirm the continuing concern around anti-social behaviour 	<p>Local residents have expressed what their key issues are. This study will take into account their views as part of the PPG17 process, and standards will be recommended based on several factors including the population’s opinion.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services which are rated as important but which attract relatively low satisfaction ratings are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - control of the amount of building and land development - facilities for young people. <p>Facilities for young people remain the only leisure service with a negative satisfaction rating (i.e. more people dissatisfied than satisfied). Given the importance attached to these facilities, improving this negative rating remains a key priority. Perceptions of parks, playgrounds and open spaces and public halls have improved which is a significant change since 2003.</p>	
<p>Borough of Broxbourne Housing Needs Assessment Report 2007</p>	<p>This report analyses housing requirements in the public and market sector in order to predict changes in the local population and their impact on future housing demands. The report concludes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the population of the Borough of Broxbourne will increase from 86,800 in 2003 to 97,700 in 2021, an increase of 12.6%/10,900 people • the population rise will be across all age groups with the exception of the 30-44 demographic which is forecast to fall by 1100 over the selected period • the largest increases will be in the 45-64 age group (4,800) and the 65+ age group (4,600) • the retired population as a whole (65+) will increase by 34.8% (4800) by 2021 • overall there will be a marginal fall in the numbers of younger economically active households. 	<p>The study will identify key areas for improvements in relation to future population projections, to ensure that the needs of the future generations can be addressed.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p>Borough of Broxbourne Best Value Performance Plan 2006/2007</p>	<p>Theme 7 of the Plan, ‘Cleaner and Greener’, outlines an action plan to improve quality of the environment, biodiversity and green spaces in Broxbourne. Priorities open space and wildlife sites include the protection of existing sites, reduction of litter and dumped rubbish and improved access.</p> <p>Community projects are a valuable way of improving sport and recreational facilities while also enhancing community involvement in redevelopment.</p> <p>Broxbourne Council has agreed to provide capital funding to enable the construction of adult learning facilities and two children’s centres to be built in the Borough in 2007/2008. These will be at Flamstead End School and Arlesdene Nursery School and are both located in areas where there are concerns about the skill levels of adults.</p> <p>The Holdbrook South Regeneration Scheme has secured funding from the East of England development agency to improve the shopping precinct and open spaces in the area, while also helping to build a shared community centre/family learning facility and a young people’s ball park.</p> <p>The Council’s goals, outlined in ‘Performance Management’ in the Plan include an aim to improve the quality of parks, open spaces and the ‘street scene’ and improve services to young people with a specific view to securing more supervised activities for youth and affordable amenities for young people.</p> <p>Capital investment in sport and leisure facilities for 2007/2008 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £284,400 for parks and open spaces • £171,000 for investment in youth facilities • £66,500 for investment in play facilities 	<p>The study will make recommendations for improvement on specific sites, which will enable the Council to fulfil its objectives in terms of quality of open space as well as sports and recreation facilities.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £457,550 for improvements within leisure facilities • £237,500 for community plan projects • £47,500 for town centre improvements • £69,500 for ‘street scene’ improvements (bins, seats etc). 	
<p>Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>The Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy highlights the surplus and deficiencies of a number of sports pitches in the borough. Key findings from the study are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an oversupply of mini-soccer pitches and adult football pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches • an optimum number of hockey pitches • an oversupply of adult rugby pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches • an undersupply of cricket pitches. <p>PPS recommendations included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘the Council should re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for sports with an identified shortfall (eg mini soccer), where another solution has not been identified’ • ‘the Council should try to secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quality of existing playing fields in the borough and provide new facilities (including re-designation of pitches) where a shortfall is identified’ 	<p>Outdoor sports pitches are an important type of open space, providing numerous opportunities for sporting activities and recreation. This study will provide recommendations and standards for all types of outdoor sports facilities.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the Council should continue to focus upon improving pitch quality standards’. <p>The PPS updated the Playing Pitch standard to 0.76 ha per 1,000 population</p>	

Summary and conclusions

- 3.24 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, and promoting a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle.
- 3.25 Any development of open spaces (i.e. provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.26 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in the borough of Broxbourne include the need to:
- protect the Green Belt area
 - increase opportunities for play across the borough, and specifically in the targeted areas
 - increase participation in physical activity through improved sports facilities and activities.
- 3.27 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within the borough of Broxbourne. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.

SECTION 4

PARKS AND GARDENS

Parks and gardens

Introduction and definition

- 4.1 This type of open space (as defined by PPG17) includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events, within settlement boundaries.
- 4.2 Parks often contain a variety of facilities and amenities, including some that fall within different classifications of open space, e.g. children's play facilities, sport pitches and wildlife areas. For classification purposes, the different open spaces within parks have been separated according to the PPG17 typology under which they most appropriately fall.
- 4.3 Large green areas, footpaths, lakes and less dense woodland will provide the park area (total hectares) and the other facilities will be calculated separately under their own classification. This ensures that open space sites are not counted twice within the PPG17 assessment.
- 4.4 Parks provide a sense of place for the local community and help to address social inclusion issues within wider society. According to the recently published Park Life Report (June 2007), 83% of those questioned feel that parks are a focal point of community life. Parks also provide an important recreational resource, and many residents enjoy visiting parks to walk or to undertake more physical exercise.
- 4.5 The Active People survey reveals that walking is the most popular recreational activity for people in England. Over eight million adults aged 16 and over did a recreational walk for at least 30 minutes in the last four weeks. Provision of parks therefore represents a key opportunity to increase levels of physical activity across the local population and to subsequently address health inequalities, which is a key target of the Council, as detailed within the Community Plan.
- 4.6 In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by parks, these large green sites provide structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding local area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas. The provision of parks to break up urban landscapes is becoming increasingly important, particularly in light of growing fears regarding climate change and the role that provision of green space can play in reducing this impact.
- 4.7 Larger facilities tend to attract users from a wider catchment than the smaller parks and tend to have a higher local profile. There are a number of larger sites within the borough including:
 - **Cedars Park** – a small but highly significant historical public park located on the edge of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross. The park lies within the ruins of Theobalds Palace and provides formal green space with a diverse variety of wildlife with wild flowers, trees and shrubs. Park features include tearooms, ornamental gardens and woodland. This is a key site for the Council, demonstrated by a recent Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application to further enhance the quality of provision and invest in the site. A draft Conservation Management Plan for the park proposes key areas for improvement, relating to improving and refurbishing ancillary facilities, as well as improving accessibility. The park is popular with residents' with important historic features, and the Management Plan aims at increasing the heritage value profile of the site

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- **Barclay Park** – comprises recreational grassland and a man made lake. The Council has again demonstrated the value of the site to the local community by recent works to improve access to and around the site
- **Cheshunt Park** – a country park providing the largest open space in the borough with the widest range of facilities. The site includes a large children's play facility and is adjacent to Cheshunt Park Golf Course. 90% of the site is grassland with wildflower meadows and woodland areas, and therefore for the purposes of this study has been classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace (NSN). Only the formal grassland area of the park has been classified within the parks and garden typology. The local strategic importance of Cheshunt Park is evident by its attainment of the Green Flag award – the nationally recognised quality accreditation for parks. This award was achieved in 2005 and retained in October 2007

4.8 In addition, there are a number of smaller sites within the borough. These are:

- **Whit Hern Park** – this is an ornamental park with grassland and established borders, which is situated in the Churchgate conservation area. An adjoining old nursery site has just been developed by the Council in to car parking to support activities and better access to the park.
- **Old Highway Recreation Ground** – this community park primarily includes play areas and recreational activities and is a highly valued site within the northern part of the borough serving the Rye Park community.

Figure 4.1 Barclay Park (Site ID 26)



Context

4.9 There are no specific standards relating to the quantity of parks and gardens in the borough. However, within the Council's Local Plan 2001/11, there are details regarding the Council's objectives in respect of the provision and retention of community, leisure and recreation facilities. Those that are specific to parks and garden provision are as follows:

- to develop and protect existing facilities for community use and sport and recreation generally as identified in the Community Plan
- to identify a hierarchy of open space including parks
- to ensure that adequate provision is made for a wide range of community sporting and leisure activities commensurate with the demands of the population of the borough
- to ensure provision of parks, open space, sports and community and recreational facilities keeps pace with new development/population trends.

Consultation

4.10 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:

- parks and gardens are one of the most frequently used types of open space within the borough of Broxbourne, with 66% of respondents to the household survey indicating that they use them more than once a month. This equates to approximately 1.4 million visits per year. Only 7% of respondents indicated that they never visit parks and garden sites
- Cedars Park is the most frequented park, and of the highest quality. It is also the site that is most valued by the community. Site specific consultation is currently underway for this site, which is supported by a project planning grant from the HLF
- the wider benefits of parks are far reaching, and it is evident that many residents use parks for informal recreation and walks, reinforcing the health benefits that these spaces offer. Parks were seen as a focal point of the community, encouraging social interaction and acting as a meeting place for the old and the young.

P&G 1	Maximise the role that parks and garden sites can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the borough by effectively promoting these opportunities. Consider and develop the provision of alternative means of exercise such as walks, fitness and walk trails, outdoor gyms and 'play' activities and facilities.
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Quantity of existing provision

4.11 The provision of parks and gardens across Broxbourne borough is summarised in Table 4.1. As detailed above, the majority of Cheshunt Park has been categorised as natural semi-natural open space and is therefore predominantly considered in Section 5 of this report. In addition, a number of sites such as Station Road, Pound Close and Grundy Park have also been categorised under other PPG17 typologies based on their primary purpose.

Table 4.1 – Provision of parks and gardens across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	9.02	1	0.685
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	0.00	0	0.000
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	4.00	2	0.160
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	2.20	1	0.160
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	9.47	1	1.509
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	0.00	0	0.000
Overall	87,054	24.69	5	0.284

4.12 The key issues emerging from Table 4.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of parks and gardens across the borough include:

- the majority of the borough’s parks and gardens open space provision is within the Waltham Cross and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas. This is made up respectively of Cedars Park and Barclay Park, both of which provide over nine hectares of open space
- in contrast the Cheshunt analysis area and the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area have no parks and garden provision
- there is a single park within the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area. This is Old Highway Recreation Ground and provides circa two hectares of open space
- the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area benefits from two park and garden sites – Whit Hern Park and Cheshunt Park, which provide a combined total of four hectares of open space

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 71% of respondents stated that there is ‘more than enough’ or an ‘about right’ level of overall park provision across the borough. 26% of respondents indicated that there are ‘not enough’ parks in the borough
- the overall view on adequate provision is reflected across all analysis areas with over 65% of respondents satisfied with existing levels of park provision in each of the six analysis areas
- the highest levels of satisfaction were in the Hoddesdon Town and the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis areas (at 78%), and lowest levels of satisfaction in the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne and the Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area (66% of respondents rating quantity as ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’).

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 4.13 The recommended local quantity standard for parks and gardens has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix J.

Quantity standard (see Appendices J and K)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.284 ha per 1,000 population	0.284 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision in Broxbourne borough is 0.284 ha per 1,000 population. There are a number of large park and garden sites distributed across the borough, including Cedars Park and Barclay Park. As a result of these larger more strategic sites, there are significant pockets of deficiency which are outside of the recommended distance threshold. However, feedback from the majority of respondents to the household survey is that the current level of provision of parks and gardens across the borough is adequate. This view is reflective of respondents from all analysis areas.</p> <p>The household survey findings indicate that there is a general level of satisfaction amongst borough residents as to the provision of formal park space in Broxbourne borough. This suggests that the major parks, such as Cedars Park, are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them to use the full range of facilities and activities on offer. It is therefore recommended that the Council adopt a local quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Broxbourne borough (ie 0.284 ha per 1,000 population). This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens, which will increase levels of usage and facilitate the pursuit of quality standards, such as attaining Green Flag status. In addition, this will allow locational deficiencies in provision to be addressed in areas that do not meet the borough wide local accessibility standard. The application of the accessibility standards should be undertaken alongside the amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace provision, as this will support the prioritisation of quantitative increases.</p> <p>Given the population growth anticipated to 2021, it will be important for the Council to enhance accessibility to existing parks and gardens, including sites that lie on the edge of the borough, such as Lee Valley Regional Park. For example, by improving</p>	

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.

Quality of existing provision

- 4.14 The quality of existing parks and gardens in the borough was assessed through site assessments and is set out in Table 4.2. Detailed comments from each site assessment can be found in the Access database that accompanies this study. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 4.15 The site assessments rated each site within the audit against a series of quality criteria, including cleanliness, signage and provision of ancillary facilities.
- 4.16 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and greenspace, and provides a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. One park in the borough, Cheshunt Park, has achieved this accreditation in Broxbourne borough during 2007.

Table 4.2 – Quality of parks and gardens across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site(s)	Highest quality site(s)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	1	76	76	Cedars Park (Site ID 144)	
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	2	71	71	Whit Hern Park (Site ID 83)/ Cheshunt Park (Site ID 89)	
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	1	69	69	Old Highway Recreation Ground (Site ID 17)	
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	1	66	66	Barclay Park (Site ID 26)	
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Overall	5	66 – 72	71	Barclay Park (Site ID 26)	Cedars Park (Site ID 144)

- 4.17 The key issues emerging from Table 4.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of parks and gardens include:

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- the overall quality of Broxbourne borough’s parks and gardens is deemed to be good. There is minimal variance in the quality scores between the five sites across the borough, and the average score of 71% is high
- of the five sites in the borough, Cedars Park scored highest in terms of quality
- 58% of household survey respondents indicated that the quality of parks and gardens in the borough is good, and with only 6% stating overall quality as poor. There is a similar level of satisfaction across all analysis areas of the borough
- key issues raised during consultation relate to dog fouling, vandalism and graffiti and litter, which were all rated as minor problems at parks and garden sites across the borough
- the highest rated aspirations for parks and garden sites by household survey respondents were clean and litter free, well-kept, the provision of toilets, and provision of flowers/trees or nature features
- Barclay Park and Cedars Park were both highlighted as well used sites that provide a high quality of open space provision.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 4.18 The recommended local quality vision for parks and gardens is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix L. In order to produce applicable, objective quality standards, in conjunction with the Council a list of essential and desirable characteristics that parks and gardens sites should comprise were agreed. This provides a tool for future quality assessments.

Quality standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents, and should be reflected in the quality of park and garden provision in Broxbourne borough:	
Essential features:	Desirable features:
Clean and well maintained	Community involvement
Safe and secure	Access to toilets
A welcoming place	Natural features
Plants and trees	Achieve Green Flag status
Dog mess bins	

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 and meets the needs/aspirations of borough residents. The improvement of quality parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Cedars Park should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks.</p>

- 4.19 It was agreed that Green Flag status and the associated criteria for attainment, should remain the overarching aspiration for the quality of Broxbourne’s parks and gardens, particularly for Cedars Park due to the site’s strategic value.

Current position – accessibility

- 4.20 Parks and gardens are the most popular type of open space across the borough, with 66% of respondents stating that they use park and garden sites more than once a month and 39% of respondents to the household survey stating that they use parks and gardens more frequently than any other typology.
- 4.21 Household survey responses indicated that the majority of users (68%) walk to parks and garden open space sites. Of those respondents who use park and garden open space sites most frequently, 34% responded that their current duration of travel is between 10 and 15 minutes, 28% take less than 5 minutes and 25% between 5 to 10 minutes.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 4.22 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation.
- 4.23 Site-specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.
- 4.24 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:
- the majority of respondents (68%) to the household survey indicated walking as their preferred method of travel to parks and garden open space sites, followed by travelling by car (20%)

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- these overall findings are reflected across the six analysis areas. 85% of those residing in the Hoddesdon Town analysis area indicated walking as their preferred method of travel. A higher percentage of people living in the Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak & Rosedale analysis area (30%) expect to travel by car
- 45% of respondents to the school survey stated that they usually walk to parks, with a journey of less than 10 minutes for more than 80%
- in terms of the length of time respondents would expect to travel to parks and gardens, 80% indicated a walk time of less than 10 minutes and 92% less than 15 minutes
- in terms of how far respondents are willing to walk to park and gardens sites, the 75th percentile is 15 minutes. If assessed at each analysis area level, the 75th percentile is 15 minutes in Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak & Rosedale and Hoddesdon North & Rye Park but 10 minutes in the remaining four analysis areas, which reflects the modal response.

4.25 The recommended local accessibility standard for parks and gardens is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix M.

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m*)
Justification
<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of walking to park and garden sites in the borough. Current usage patterns show that 68% of users walk to park and garden sites. 68% of respondents to the household survey indicated that they expect to walk to this typology.</p> <p>In terms of the duration of travel, of the respondents that currently use parks and gardens, 34% take between a 10 to 15 minute walk to reach their preferred park and garden site. The modal response on the expected duration to walk to a park and garden site was 10 minutes (68%) with 12% indicating a 15-minute walk time. These results are reflective across all analysis areas, with the modal response being between 10 to 15 minutes for all. The 75th percentile level, which has been derived in line with the PPG17 Companion Guide, is a 15-minute walk time. Again, this is reflective across all analysis areas where the 75th percentile is 15-minute walk time for the Hoddesdon Town and Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis areas and a 10-minute walk time for all other analysis areas.</p> <p>It is recommended that a 15-minute walk time is set as the local standard, reflecting the 75th percentile level in the household survey responses (as recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide). Although this represents a slightly higher response than the modal response in the household survey (10 minute walk), it will ensure that parks are equitably distributed across the borough and help to ensure that parks are viewed as the focal point of the community. The shorter distance threshold for amenity greenspace will ensure that all residents have access to more local informal open space.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 720m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 1200m. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 4.26 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 4.27 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 4.28 The future level of provision required across Broxbourne borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised in Table 4.3. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 4.3 Applying quantity standards

Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (0.284 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	4.98
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-4.48
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	-3.66
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-2.01
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	7.55
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	-4.37
Overall	-1.99

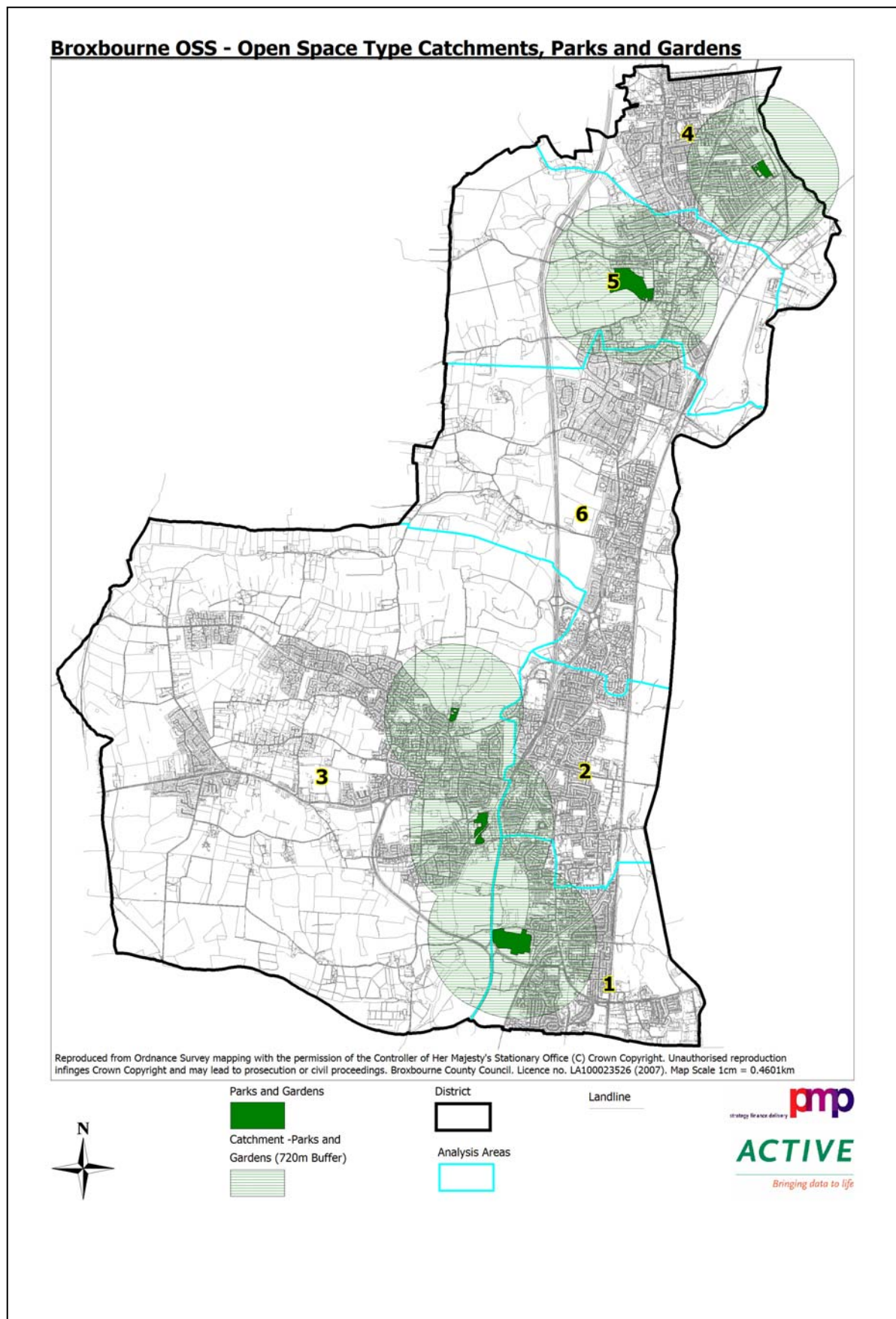
Green = above the standard; Red = below the standard.

- 4.29 The key headlines in relation to the quantity of provision include:
- there is a strong perception amongst those engaged through the consultation exercise that the borough is currently well provided for in terms of parks and gardens
 - current levels of provision equate to circa 0.284 ha per 1,000 population
 - the local quantity standard has been set at the current level of provision
 - applying the recommended local quantity standard against the projected population in 2021 reveals that there are likely to be deficiencies in four of the six analysis areas
 - only provision in the Waltham Cross and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas exceeds the minimum standard. This is where Cedars Park and Barclay Park are respectively located. Overall, given projected increases in population, a potential shortfall of 1.99 hectares has been identified for 2021.

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- 4.30 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 survey indicates, parks are major facilities that may attract a significant proportion of their users from across the authority and potentially from outside of the borough.
- 4.31 All five park and garden sites within the borough are well used and of strategic significance in the local authority area, attracting high numbers of users, both from within the Council boundaries and from further a field. Cedars Park is particularly important along with Barclay Park and Cheshunt Park, which is the country park with Green Flag status.
- 4.32 The application of the local accessibility standards for parks and gardens is set out overleaf in Figure 4.2.

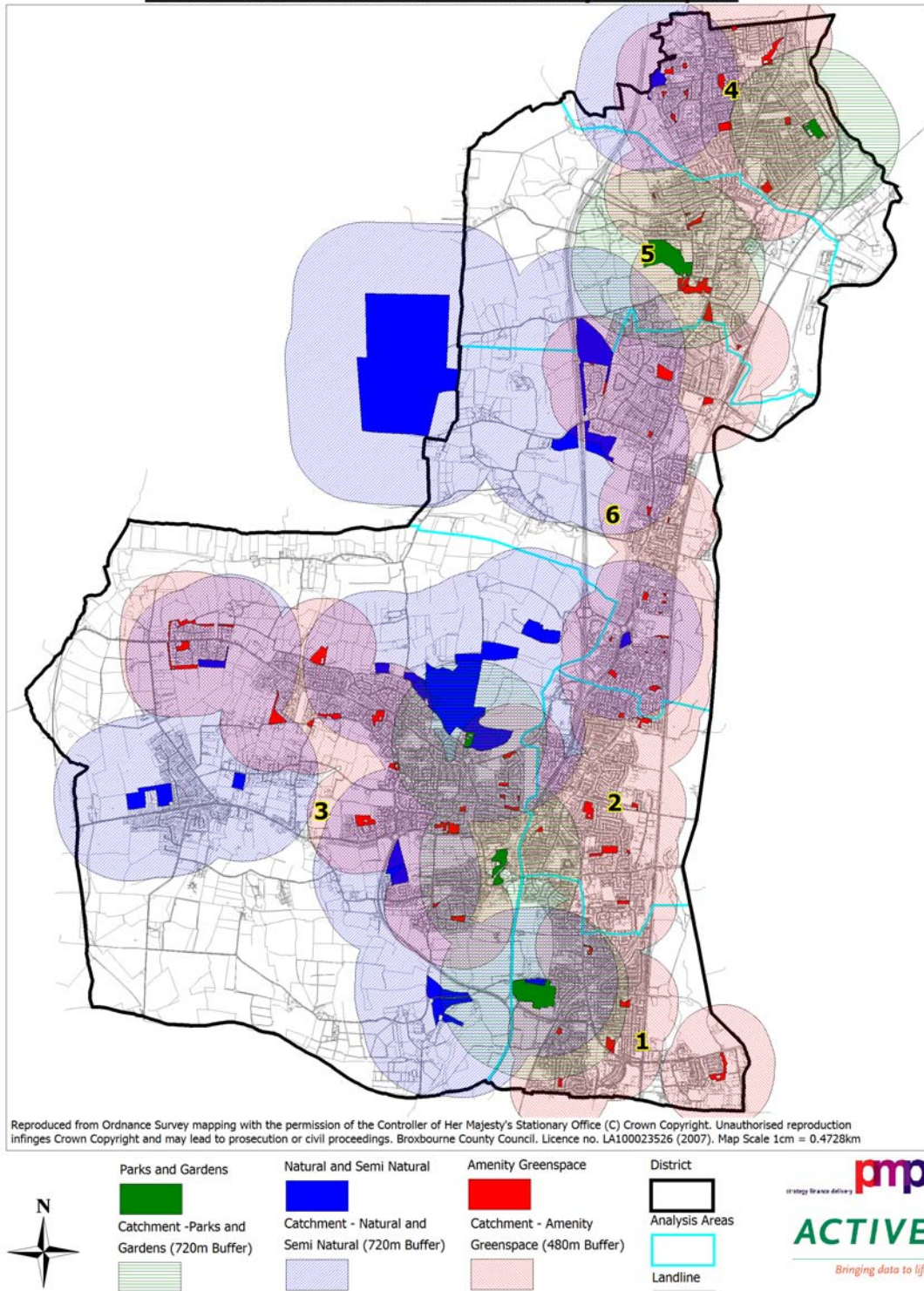
Figure 4.2 Provision of parks and gardens in Broxbourne borough



- 4.33 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites include:
- a significant proportion of the borough is outside of the recommended accessibility catchment of a park and garden site
 - only residents in Hoddesdon Town, Rye Park, Flamstead End and Bury Green are within a recommended accessible catchment area.
- 4.34 Given that there is significant overlap with other typologies, such as outdoor sports facilities, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space, the distribution of park and garden sites has also been considered alongside the provision of these typologies as illustrated in Figure 4.3.
- 4.35 As illustrated in Figure 4.3, all the main residential areas in the borough are within an accessible catchment of a park and garden, amenity greenspace or natural and semi-natural site. Whilst not all of these sites will provide a full range of activities, they do provide greenspace for residents to enjoy for a variety of purposes. For example, the majority of Cheshunt Park is classified as natural and semi-natural open space because it is a country park.
- 4.36 In addition, park and garden sites that lie on the edge of the borough boundary such as Lee Valley Regional Park should be considered when assessing accessible catchments. Lee Valley Regional Park is a significant site that provides for Broxbourne borough residents.
- 4.37 The significance of the park and garden sites in the borough should not be underestimated. Of particular importance are the larger sites, which provide a variety of different types of open space, including formal park provision, facilities for young people and children and even outdoor sports facilities. These sites are of strategic significance but do not negate the need for smaller, localised parks in close proximity to residents' homes.

Figure 4.3 Provision of parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural semi-natural greenspace in Broxbourne

Broxbourne OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Parks & Gardens, Natural and Semi Natural and Amenity Greenspace



Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

4.38 The current supply of parks and gardens matches the recommended local standard of 0.284 hectares per 1,000 population, reflecting the current satisfaction from local residents as to the existing levels of park provision across the borough and the need for this level of provision to be retained and protected. This is particularly pertinent given the potential shortfall of circa 2 hectares that has been identified for 2021.

4.39 However, the accessibility mapping shows that there are some significant accessibility catchment deficiencies across residential areas of the borough. Despite the presence of these accessibility deficiencies, the distribution of sites is relatively even, with few overlapping catchment areas.

P&G 2	Given the low number of sites within the borough, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection.
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4.40 The quality of parks is predominantly good, with an average quality score of 71%. In light of the limited number of park sites in the borough and the value placed on parks, the quantity of these sites should be maintained and any sites not achieving the recommended local quality standard be improved. Achievement of Green Flag status is the overarching aspiration for the quality of the borough's parks and gardens.

P&G 3	Strive to achieve Green Flag quality criteria at all sites across the borough and target improvements at all sites where quality standards fall short through the development of appropriate management plans...
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4.41 As highlighted, Cedars Park is a focal point for both residents of the borough and visitors travelling into the borough and therefore should be promoted as an example of good practice. To support the prominent role of Cedars Park, the Council should seek to achieve Green Flag accreditation for the site.

P&G 4	Continue to develop and enhance Cedars Park to ensure that it meets both local and regional needs. Promote the park as a resource for local people and an example of good practice. The Council should seek Green Flag accreditation at key strategic sites such as Cedars Park.
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4.42 Given the high value placed on park sites in the borough, a challenging local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk (720m) was set. Whilst new park provision is not a priority, in order to maximise the benefit of any new parks, additional facilities should be targeted in locations that are currently lacking in provision. This means that to ensure that the maximum number of residents is within the recommended accessibility catchment of parks and gardens, any new site should be located so that there is no overlap with the catchment of existing parks. A priority for additional provision would therefore be in the Cheshunt and Wormley analysis areas. However, it should be noted that the priority for the Council should be on improving quality and access to existing sites rather than new provision.

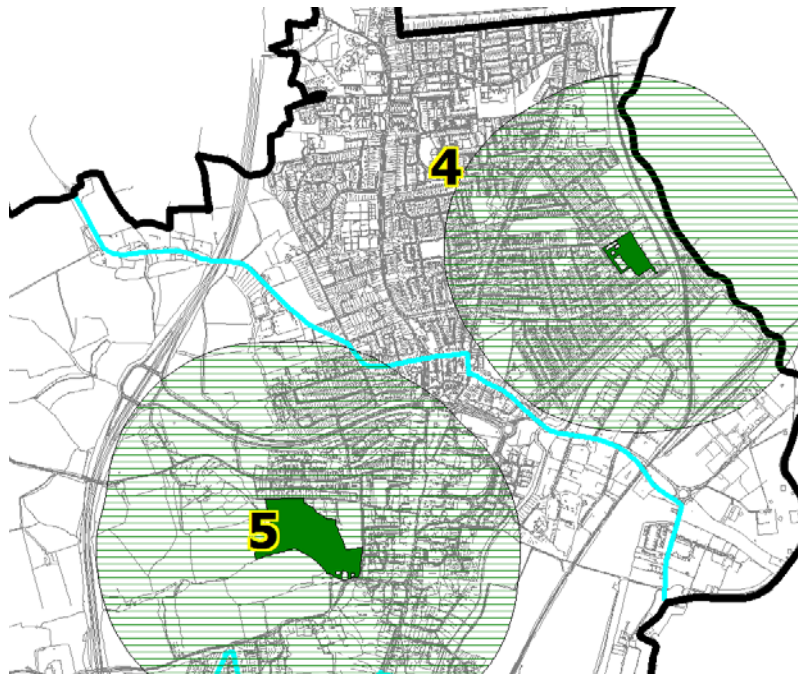
4.43 Figure 4.3 illustrates the provision of parks in the context of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space sites in the borough. In particular, the presence of amenity greenspace in areas deficient of parks provide an opportunity to formalise these spaces and better meet the needs of local residents.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.44 Amenity greenspace fulfils many similar functions as parks and where parks are provided within a 10-minute walk time catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity greenspace) they may negate the need for further provision of amenity greenspace (as a higher order facility they provide a greater range of facilities). This is further discussed in Section 6.
- 4.45 Application of the accessibility standards highlights a particular lack of parks in various parts of the borough, as discussed in further detail below.

Rye Park and Hoddesdon North

Figure 4.4 Parks and garden provision in the north of the Borough



- 4.46 As detailed in Figure 4.4, in the north of the borough ie Rye Park and Hoddesdon there is only Old Highway Recreation Ground (Site ID 17) serving residents within this part of the borough. As a result there is a quantitative deficiency in this analysis area both now and in the future (-1.65 and -2.01 hectares respectively). However, Pound Close (Site ID 21) has also been classified for the purposes of this study as an outdoor sports facility or play area (based on its primary purpose) within this area and provides a similar function to a park and garden site to local residents. For this reason there is no recommendation for new provision within this analysis area.

Hoddesdon Town

- 4.47 Barclay Park (Site ID 26) serves the residential areas of those in the Hoddesdon Town analysis area. There is no quantitative deficiency in this analysis area, as Barclay Park is the largest park and garden site in the borough. However, it does have the lowest quality score. The focus should therefore be on improving existing quality of provision at this site.

Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne

Figure 4.5 Parks and garden provision in the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area

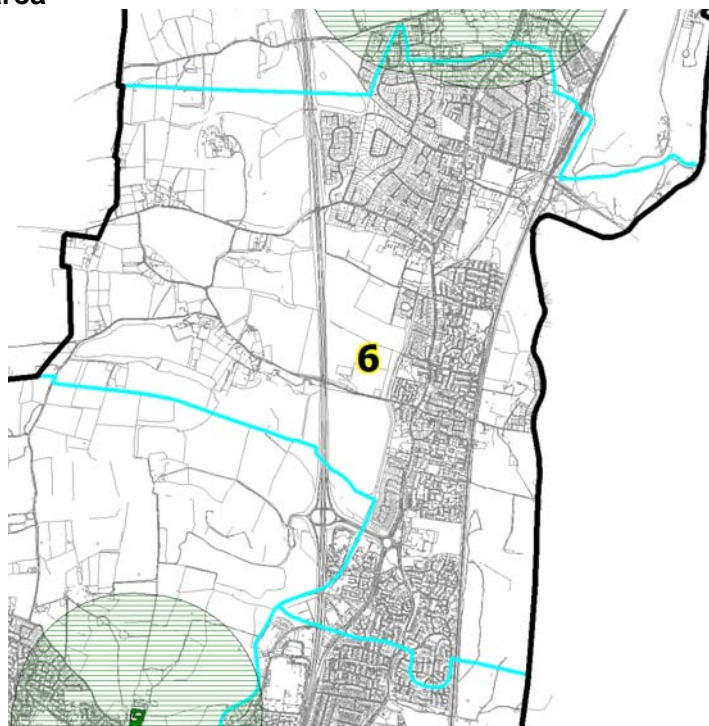
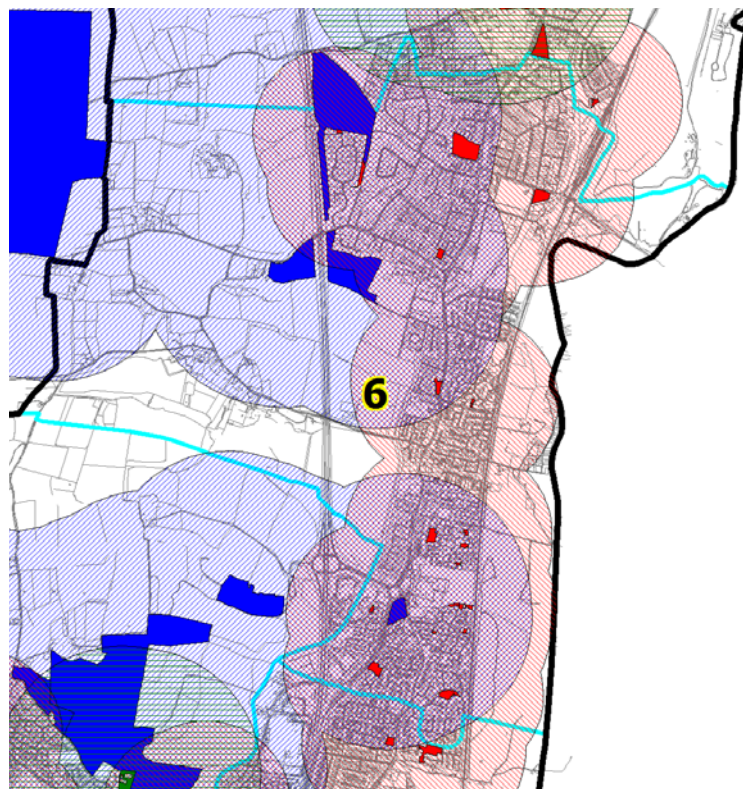


Figure 4.6 Parks and garden, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space provision in the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area



SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.48 As illustrated in Figure 4.5, there is no park and garden site within the Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne analysis area. This means that there is a quantitative deficiency now and in the future of circa four hectares and all residential areas within this analysis areas are outside of an accessible catchment area.
- 4.49 Rather than recommend additional park and garden provision, it is important to note existing open space sites that provide park and garden functions. For example, Baas Common (Site ID 43) has picnic areas and parkland, but has been classified as a natural and semi-natural open space site, serves residents within this analysis area. In addition, to the west there is Broxbourne Woods, a significant open space site within close proximity. However, both of these sites are separated from the main residential areas by the A10, which impacts on the recommended walk time catchment.
- 4.50 To the east of the A10 there is Station Road Recreation Ground (Site ID 33). This is a particularly large open space site in the area that provides outdoor sports and play facilities and is therefore a potential site for upgrading to provide park and garden functions.
- 4.51 In addition, to the east, Lee Valley Regional Park lies on the borough boundary and serves residents within this analysis area. Access to Lee Valley Regional Park should therefore be facilitated and promoted through partnership working with the Lee Valley Park Authority.

P&G 5	Access to Lee Valley Regional Park should be facilitated and promoted through partnership working between the Council and the Lee Valley Park Authority.
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Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North

Figure 4.7 Parks and garden provision in the Cheshunt analysis area

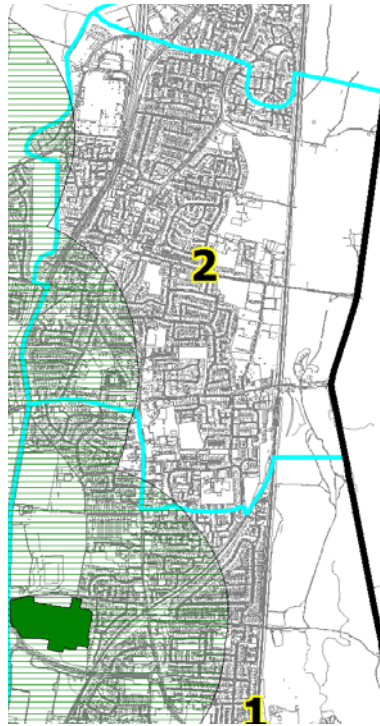
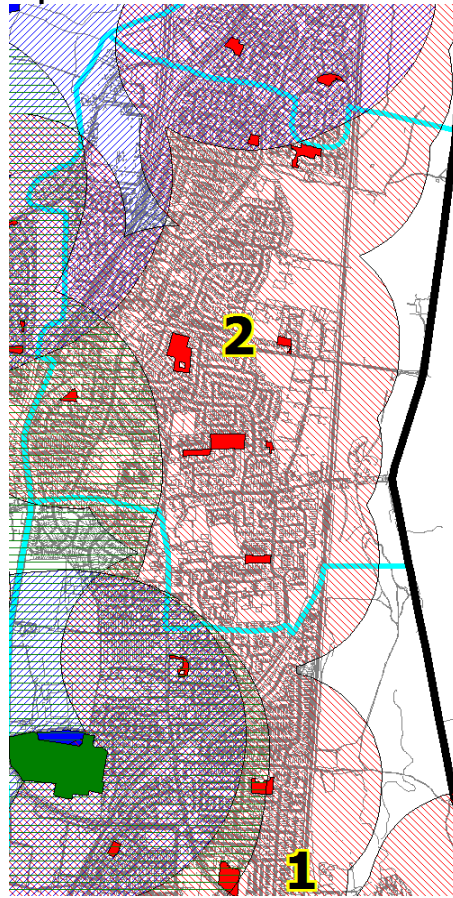
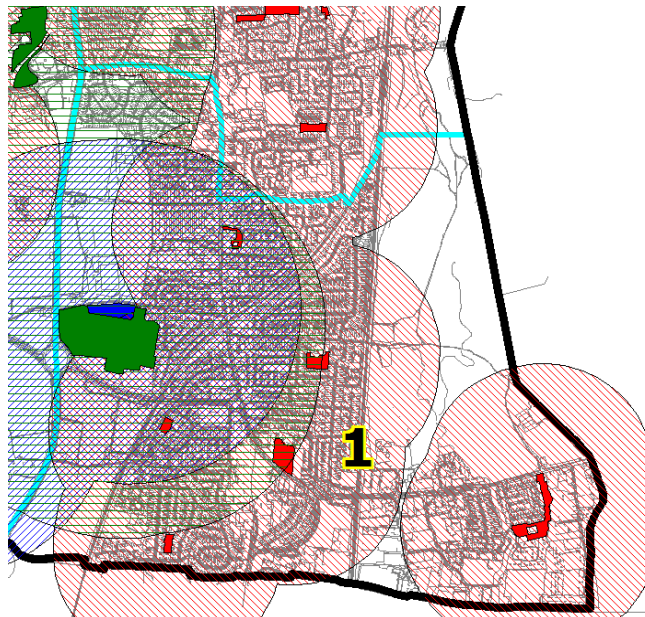


Figure 4.8 Parks and garden, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space provision provision in the Cheshunt analysis area



- 4.52 Although there are deficiencies in parks in the Cheshunt area, the area is particularly well served by amenity greenspace, with a number of sites of varying sizes situated in the area and providing open space to all residential areas within the recommended accessibility catchment.
- 4.53 Grundy Park (Site ID 79) lies within the south of this analysis area and provides a full range of facilities, including football pitches, play area, a trim trail, toilets and car parking – all features of a typical park and garden site. It should also be noted that Lee Valley Regional Park is located just on the eastern boundary of the borough and therefore is within an accessible walking distance for residents within the southern part of the Cheshunt analysis area and also those within the northern part of the Waltham Cross and Theobalds analysis area, as illustrated in Figure 4.9.

Figure 4.9 Parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space provision in Waltham Cross and Theobalds



- 4.54 As illustrated in Figure 4.9, the majority of this analysis area is within the recommended accessible catchment due to Cedars Park and further enhanced if Lee Valley Regional Park and Grundy Park are taken in to account.
- 4.55 Cedars Park provides over nine hectares of parkland and is the highest quality park and garden site in the borough. Given the size of the site, there are no quantitative deficiencies in this analysis area and therefore the focus should be on ensuring that Cedars Park is maintained to the highest quality, and that it is further protected and conserved in light of its heritage value. There should be an overall commitment towards ensuring that Cedars Park achieves Green Flag accreditation.
- 4.56 As with the Cheshunt analysis area, given that Lee Valley Regional Park borders the Waltham Cross and Theobalds analysis area, access to LVRP should be promoted to ensure that local residents are aware of this significant provision. This will be achieved through working in partnership with the Lee Valley Park Authority.

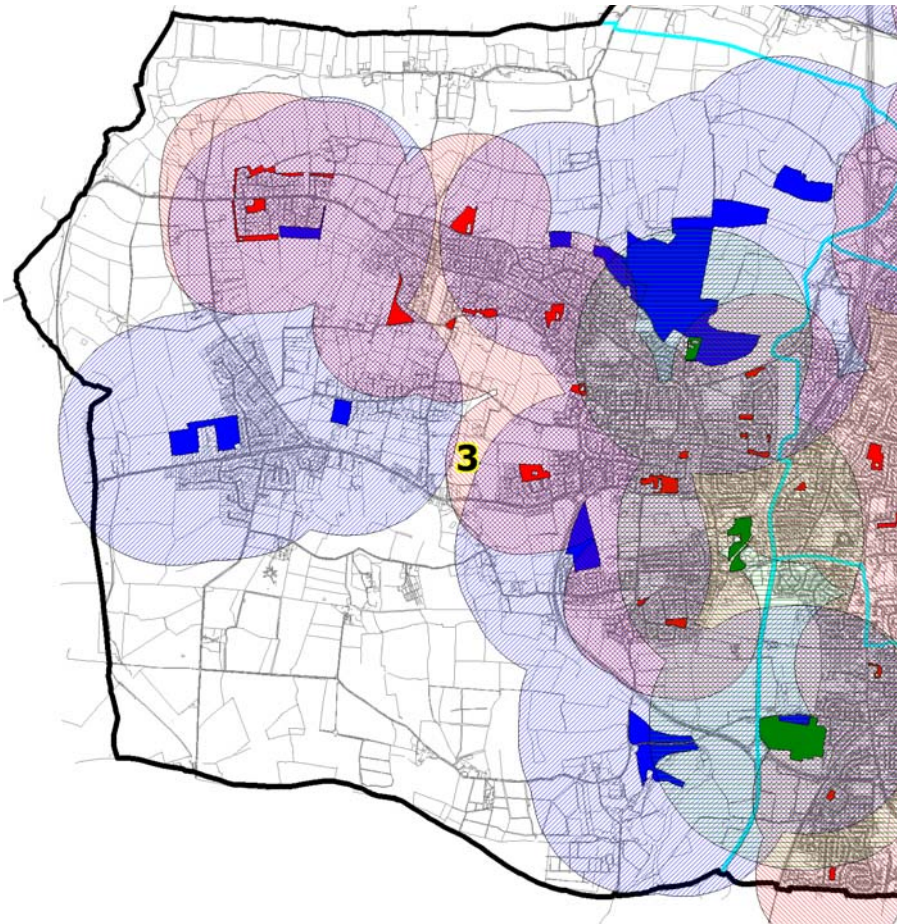
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End

- 4.57 Whilst there are two park and garden sites within the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End analysis area, namely Whit Hern Park (Site ID 83) and Cheshunt Park (Site ID 89), there are still residential areas within this analysis area that are outside of an accessible catchment area and a quantitative deficiency in provision overall. As shown in Figure 4.10, there is however a number of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space sites, including Rosedale Way Park (Site ID 97), which could be adapted to fulfil the function of a park.
- 4.58 Cheshunt Park is a country park providing the largest open space in the borough with the widest range of facilities. Only the formal grassland area of the park has been classified within the parks and garden typology, with the remaining 90% classified as natural and semi-natural and discussed further in Section 5. The local strategic importance of Cheshunt Park is evident by its attainment of the Green Flag award and the focus should therefore be on ensuring that the site is retained to the highest quality standard and Green Flag status retained.

Figure 4.10 Parks and garden provision in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End analysis area



Figure 4.11 Parks and garden, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural open space provision provision in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End analysis area



Summary and recommendations

- 4.59 Parks and gardens were perceived to be particularly important to local residents and are the most frequently used type of open space within the borough, with 66% of respondents to the household survey indicating that they use them more than once a month and only 8% of respondents indicating that they never visit park sites. Cedars Park is the most frequented park and garden site in the borough.
- 4.60 Whilst there are only five parks and garden sites across the borough, the overall perception from borough residents is that existing levels of provision are adequate. The focus should therefore be on ensuring that the quality of parks and gardens is consistently high across the borough. In particular, Cedars Park was highlighted as an example of good practice as it is a well used and well maintained site that attracts both local residents and those from further a field. This reinforces the heritage value and strategic significance of Cedars Park to the Council.
- 4.61 Although the importance of maintaining the high quality of existing park provision is recognised and therefore the priority for the Council is on improving the quality of sites, application of the accessibility standards highlights some key deficiencies in provision particularly within the centre of the borough. In the first instance, where possible this should be addressed through improving access to existing park and garden sites in the borough and also to Lee Valley Regional Park, which lies on the eastern borough boundary. However, deficiencies also need to be considered in light of other open space provision in these areas, which provide similar function of open space to park and garden sites. The focus should be on upgrading these facilities as opposed to entirely new provision.

P&G 1	Maximise the role that parks and garden sites can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the borough by effectively promoting these opportunities. Consider and develop the provision of alternative means of exercise such as walks, fitness and walk trails, outdoor gyms and 'play' activities and facilities.
P&G 2	Given the low number of sites within the borough, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection.
P&G 3	Strive to achieve Green Flag quality criteria at all sites across the borough and target improvements at all sites where quality standards fall short through the development of appropriate management plans..
P&G 4	Continue to develop and enhance Cheshunt Park to ensure that it meets both local and regional needs. Promote the park as a resource for local people and an example of good practice. The Council should seek Green Flag accreditation at key strategic sites such as Cedars Park.
P&G 5	Access to Lee Valley Regional Park should be facilitated and promoted through partnership working between the Council and the Lee Valley Park Authority.

SECTION 5

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

Natural and semi-natural open space

Introduction and definition

- 5.1 This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity within the settlement boundaries. Natural and semi natural open space can frequently be found within other open space types, and in some instances there may be some sites classified as amenity green space or parks that play a similar role to natural and semi natural open space sites. This serves to highlight the overlap between typologies.
- 5.2 In line with PPG17, larger sites that sit outside of settlement boundaries have been excluded from the audit and calculations. However, it is important to consider the role that these sites play in alleviating deficiencies and providing resources for both residents and wildlife. This is particularly pertinent in Broxbourne, where 65% of the borough is Green Belt.
- 5.3 Although natural and semi natural open space plays a key role in wildlife conservation and biodiversity the recreational opportunities provided by these spaces are also important. In this respect, natural and semi natural open spaces play a similar role and function to that of amenity greenspace and park and gardens. It is essential that a balance is achieved between recreational use and biodiversity and conservation.
- 5.4 This section outlines the strategic context and key consultation findings relating to natural and semi natural open space within Broxbourne borough, and concludes with the development of local standards. These local standards are then applied in the context of existing provision, with due consideration to the provision of parks and amenity green space (which fulfil similar roles).

Figure 5.1 Roselands Woods (Site ID 2)



Context

- 5.5 The key issues for natural and semi natural open spaces arising from a review of strategic documents are:

- Green Belt area and countryside represent 65% of the borough and as a result there are therefore various policy statements within the **Broxbourne Local Plan Second Review 2001-2011** that relate to natural and semi-natural open space. This reflects the great importance to the borough of the Green Belt area. Key priorities, as detailed within Chapter 2 (Green Belt and Countryside) of the document, are as follows:
 - protecting the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development
 - protecting and enhancing the appearance of the countryside and conserve and positively manage important landscape features
 - increasing and promoting public access to the countryside
 - affording appropriate degrees of protection to nationally and locally designated wildlife sites.
- **the Broxbourne Community Plan 2007-09** also emphasises the important role of Green Belt within the borough and the need to preserve the Green Belt and open spaces in general.

5.6 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:

- natural and semi natural open spaces are one of the most frequently used types of open space in Broxbourne, with 64% of respondents to the household survey using these spaces more than once a month and only 10% of respondents stating that they do not use this type of open space. This reinforces how highly valued these spaces are to residents of the borough
- in addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation. A number of sites, such as Cheshunt Park (Site ID 265) and Baas Hill Common (Site ID 43) were highlighted in this regard. In addition, Broxbourne Woods and Lee Valley Regional Park, which are both on the borough boundary, were highlighted as strategically important sites that are well used by borough residents
- natural and semi natural open spaces, alongside areas of countryside, were perceived to be a key part of the character of Broxbourne and the value placed on these sites was clear. The need to protect these sites from development was a key theme throughout all consultations
- the Lee Valley Regional Park, although situated on the borough's boundaries, attracts many residents of Broxbourne. The informal part of Cheshunt Park is also of great value to residents
- feedback during the drop-in sessions highlighted concerns over the increasing amount of housing development within the borough, particularly potential developments on the Green Belt.

Quantity of existing provision

5.7 The provision of natural and semi-natural open space across Broxbourne borough is summarised in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 – Provision of natural and semi-natural open space across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Size range (hectares)	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	1.05	1	1.05	0.08
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	81.73	9	1.39 – 45.32	5.73
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	2.09	1	2.09	0.15
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	7.42	1	7.42	0.52
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	17.52	4	1.1 – 6.23	1.23
Overall	87,054	109.81	16	1.05 – 45.32	1.26

5.8 The key issues emerging from Table 5.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of natural and semi-natural open space across the borough include:

- across the borough, 70% of the household survey respondents stated that the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace is ‘about right’ or ‘more than enough’. 28% of respondents are not satisfied with current levels of provision
- this overall view is reflected across the analysis areas. Levels of satisfaction are highest within the Hoddesdon Town area, where 74% of respondents believe provision is ‘about right’

- in contrast, the lowest levels of satisfaction are found in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area where 35% of respondents believe current levels of provision to be insufficient. This view contradicts Table 5.2 above, where the greatest level of provision is actually within the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area and the number of hectares per 1,000 population is substantially higher than any other parts of the borough and significantly above the overall figure
- there is no natural and semi-natural open space provision in the Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North analysis area, however 70% of household survey respondents from this analysis area feel that current levels of provision of this typology are adequate. This is most likely due to the fact that the Lee Valley Regional Park is easily accessible from this area.
- drop in session attendees expressed a desire to protect natural and semi-natural areas, recognising them as a key part of the borough make up. Cheshunt Park was most commonly referred to as a key site
- there are currently 16 natural and semi natural open spaces in Broxbourne. The overall level of provision is 109.82 hectares, giving an average site size of 6.86 hectares. The size of sites ranges significantly – with some sites as small as 1.05 hectares whilst others are as large as 45.32 hectares. This can be explained by the broad nature of this typology
- as evident in Table 5.1, there is a range in terms of both the number of sites and the level of provision per 1,000 population. The largest number of sites is in Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End (9) whilst there are no sites in the Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North analysis area. As a result , provision in terms of hectares per 1,000 population ranges from 0 through to 5.73 hectares per 1,000 population.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 5.9 The recommended local quantity standard for natural and semi natural open space has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.26 ha per 1,000 population	1.26 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 1.26 ha per 1,000 population. Provision is spread across the borough but with the greatest proportion in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area due to the Cheshunt Park site. This is also the more rural area of the borough and the spread of natural and semi-natural provision across the borough's more urban areas, such as Cheshunt and Waltham Cross is more limited. This is to be expected, as the geography of the more urban area does not lend itself to this type of provision and relies on other open space types to fulfil an open space function.</p> <p>Feedback from the majority of respondents to the household survey is that the current level of provision of natural and semi-natural green space across the borough is adequate but circa 25% did indicate that current levels of provision are 'not enough'. Although this reflects the concerns highlighted during consultation of building on the Green Belt and the need to protect greenspace in the borough, given that a greater proportion of respondents are satisfied with provision, it is recommended that the Council adopt a standard equivalent to the current level of provision. This will emphasise the need to retain the existing level of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the borough, particularly in the Green Belt area, without placing onerous demands for new provision to meet future need. This will also enable the Council to focus on either maintaining or improving the quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

- 5.10 The quality of existing natural and semi-natural open space in the borough was assessed through site assessments and is set out in Table 5.2. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

Table 5.2 – Quality of natural and semi-natural open space across Broxbourne borough

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site	Highest quality site
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	1	69	69	Theobalds Lane NSN (Site ID 126)	
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site	Highest quality site
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	9	42 – 80	58	Cuffley Hill NSN (Site ID 158)	Cheshunt Park (Site ID 265)
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	1	71	71	Roselands Woods (Site ID 2)	
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	1	58	58	Lucern Warren OS (Site ID 42)	
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	4	40 – 64	55	High Road Turnford NSN (Site ID 59)	Land at Baas Hill (site ID 44)
Overall	16	40 – 80	59	High Road Turnford NSN (Site ID 59)	Cheshunt Park (Site ID 265)

5.11 The key issues emerging from Table 5.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of natural and semi-natural open space are:

- findings from the household survey show that 66% of respondents perceive the quality of natural and semi-natural areas to be good, 27% average and only 7% stating the quality is poor
- across the analysis areas similar results are evident and this type of open space is predominately perceived as good quality. The highest level of satisfaction is found in Waltham Cross and Theobalds, where 73% of respondents stated quality of this type of open space to be good. In contrast, the lowest level of satisfaction is found in the Hoddesdon North/Rye Park area, where 11% of residents feel the quality of natural and semi-natural open space is poor.
- as detailed in Table 5.2, the average quality score for natural and semi-natural sites is 59%, with sites ranging in scoring from 40% through to 80%. Given this range in scoring, a balance between quality and quantity should be established to improve the quality of current sites
- the higher scoring quality sites, such as Roselands Woods and Cheshunt Park, should be considered examples of good practice. Providers of other sites should aspire to achieve the same quality standard as these. Lower scoring sites should be prioritised for enhancement to help achieve the quality standard set for this type of open space

- consultation feedback indicated that the major problems experienced by users of this type of open space were dog fouling and litter problems. As a consequence, it is not surprising therefore that clean/ litter free, natural features and well maintained footpaths were particularly important to those residents who use natural and semi natural open spaces

Setting provision standards – quality

5.12 The recommended local quality standard for natural and semi natural open space is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Nature features</p> <p>Improve biodiversity</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Dog mess bins</p> <p>Footpaths</p>
Justification	
<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural and semi-natural open space believe that these areas are of good quality and are generally well maintained. These sites are well used and it is clear that people value natural and semi-natural sites for both their recreational value (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) and conservation value. As a result it is important that these sites are maintained in their natural form, whilst also being accessible (both to and within the site) to meet recreational needs. 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 that is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free.</p>	

Current position – accessibility

- 5.13 Natural and semi-natural sites are one of the most popular type of open space across the borough, with 64% of respondents stating that they use natural and semi-natural open spaces sites more than once a month and 22% of respondents to the household survey stating that natural and semi-natural is the open space typology that they use most frequently.
- 5.14 Of those household survey respondents who use natural and semi-natural open space sites most frequently, walking is the most common mode of travel used to access sites (59%), followed by public transport (29%). 56% of these respondents indicated that their current duration of travel is less than 10 minutes, with a further 22% indicating that they currently travel between 10 and 15 minutes.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 5.15 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use them. The local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m*)
Justification
<p>Natural and semi-natural open spaces were amongst the most frequently used of all types of open space. Consultation indicates that the majority of respondents expect to walk to this typology. This is reflective of current usage patterns and consistent across all of the analysis areas. It is therefore recommended that the standard should be based on a walk time across the local authority.</p> <p>The 75th percentile is 15 minutes, with the modal response for expected walk time duration to a natural or semi-natural site being 10 minutes. However, further scrutiny by each of the six analysis areas indicates that the 75th percentile is a minimum of 20 minutes in all areas. In terms of current usage patterns, 56% indicated existing travel time of 10 minutes with a further 22% stating current travel between 10 and 15 minutes.</p> <p>Based on the above, a 15-minute walk time is recommended in line with overall user expectations and current user patterns. It is however important to recognise that there is also a reliance on the case to visit natural and semi-natural open space sites, particularly those larger sites, such as Lee Valley Regional Park and Broxbourne Woods, which fall just outside of the local authority boundary.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 720m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 1200m. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 5.16 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 5.17 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 5.18 The future level of provision required across Broxbourne borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised in Table 5.3. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 5.3 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Broxbourne borough

Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (1.26 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	-17.12
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-20.16
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	47.27
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-16.86
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	-1.24
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	-2.16
Overall	-10.27

Green = above the standard; Red = below the standard

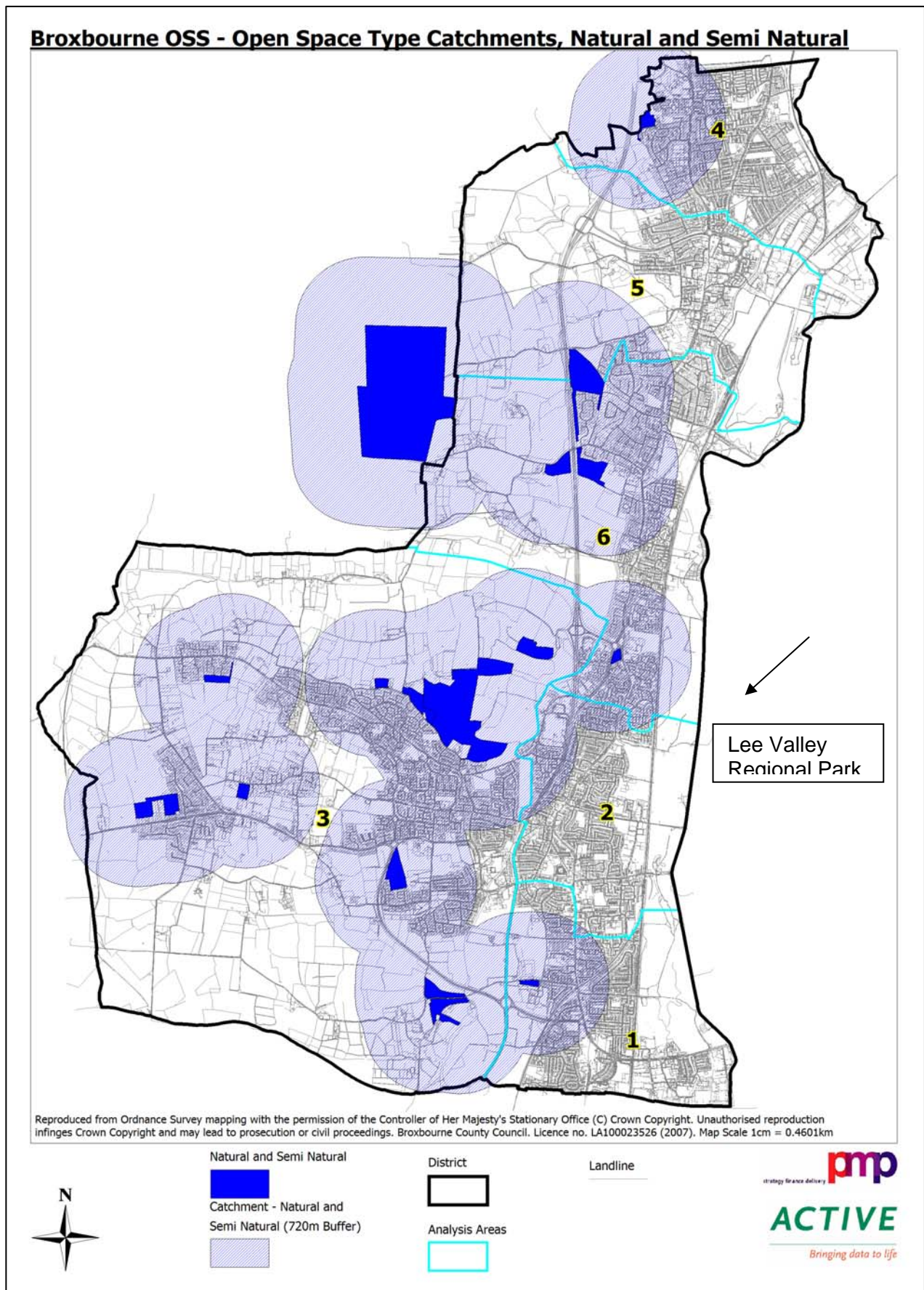
5.19 The key headlines in relation to the quantity of provision are:

- there is a strong perception amongst those engaged through the consultation process that the borough is currently well provided for in terms of natural and semi-natural open space provision
- current levels of provision equate to circa 1.26 ha per 1,000 population
- the local quantity standard has been set at the current level of provision
- applying the recommended local quantity standard against the projected population in 2021 reveals that there are likely to be deficiencies in five of the six analysis areas. The largest overall deficiency is found within Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North. The quantitative deficiency in two of the analysis areas – Hoddesdon Town and Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne are minimal (ie circa 2 ha)
- only provision in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis areas exceeds the minimum standard. Overall, given projected increases in population, a potential shortfall of circa 10 hectares has been identified for 2021.

5.20 As with the parks and gardens typology, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of natural and semi-natural sites and their geographical relationships to one another in the context of the provision of other accessible open space sites.

5.21 Figure 5.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Broxbourne borough’s natural and semi-natural sites and the catchment areas these sites serve. In addition, Broxbourne Woods and Lee Valley Regional Park, which both lie on the borough boundary, have been included for reference.

Figure 5.2 NSN provision and accessibility catchments



SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

- 5.22 As illustrated in Figure 5.2, natural and semi natural open space sites are well distributed across the borough, which reflects feedback from borough residents as to the importance of this type of open space and how it defines the character of the borough. The need to protect these sites from development was one of the overriding themes of the consultation.

NSN 1	In light of the wider benefits of natural and semi natural open spaces and the expressed importance of these sites by local residents, the Council should protect all natural and semi natural sites from development.
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- 5.23 With the exception of residents living within the north of the borough (ie Hoddesdon North and Rye Park analysis) and in Cheshunt (ie Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North analysis area) the majority of residents are able to reach at least one natural and semi natural open space site within the recommended distance threshold. It is important to note that Lee Valley Regional Park lies just outside of the borough boundary but provides a valuable resource to borough residents and is within an accessible walking catchment for those within the Cheshunt analysis area. Large park sites, such as Cedars Park and Barclay Park will also provide areas of natural and semi natural open space that will attract both residents and visitors alike, despite their primary classification in parks and gardens.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 5.24 The local quantity standard equates to the current borough wide level of provision, indicating that, on the whole, there is perceived to be sufficient natural open space. This encourages a focus on the enhancement of the quality of these sites, as opposed to encouraging the development of more natural open space.
- 5.25 The importance of qualitative enhancements is reinforced by the findings of the site assessments, which indicated an average score of 59%, lower than most other typologies. Future efforts should therefore be concentrated into improvements to the quality of natural and semi natural spaces. While it is not expected that these sites will be managed in the same way as formal parks/amenity spaces, they should still be inviting. Many natural sites were perceived to be poor in terms of safety and security. Ancillary features (such as signage and benches) are also a key area for improvement.
- 5.26 The quality of provision of natural and semi natural open spaces should not only consider recreational opportunities, but should also take into account the biodiversity and wildlife value of the site.

NSN 2	Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes.
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- 5.27 Although the distribution of sites is generally good, it is important to ensure adequate access to these sites so that they do effectively meet the local need.

NSN 3	Maximise the access and promotion of natural and semi natural areas (including the Lee Valley Regional Park) through communication and effective site and directional signage.
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SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

- 5.28 In addition to natural and semi natural open spaces located within settlement boundaries, there is also an array of larger strategic sites within or just outside of the borough, such as Broxbourne Woods and Lee Valley Regional Park. While these do not serve local needs within the recommended accessibility catchment, they complement the provision within settlements and ensure that residents have choice and opportunity.
- 5.29 Within the more rural areas of the borough, such as the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area, accessible countryside provides much of the natural provision for residents. It is important that this countryside is made accessible through the signposting of rights of way and green corridors.

NSN 4	Work to establish a network of green corridors, walking and cycling routes to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of local open space and also to wider strategic sites including the Lee Valley Regional Park.
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- 5.30 While the overall emphasis is on improving the quality of existing sites, the application of both the quantity and accessibility standards highlights some areas of deficiency. Opportunities to provide naturalised areas in these locations should be explored.
- 5.31 Additional provision of natural and semi natural open space should not be a priority as the current provision is satisfactory. However, there will be a need for additional natural and semi natural provision over the Local Development Framework period (up to 2021) as population increases. Any new provision should be targeted in the areas where existing provision is limited, such as Hoddesdon and Cheshunt. However, as new provision of natural and semi natural areas is largely opportunity led, consideration should be given to the inclusion of naturalised open space within other open space types in these areas.
- 5.32 While opportunities for new provision should be taken, it is important to note that these areas are well served by amenity green space and park provision so residents can access some informal open space. Consideration should be given to opportunities to provide an element of natural open space within a larger site of another typology.

NSN 5	If appropriate, consider the opportunity to address access deficiencies to natural and semi natural open space within all areas and promote access to Lee Valley Regional Park to all borough residents.
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Summary and recommendations

- 5.33 Natural and semi natural open space is one of the most popular of all types of open space in the borough, with 64% of respondents to the household survey using these open spaces at least once a month. This reinforces how highly valued these spaces are to residents of the borough.
- 5.34 In addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation.

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

- 5.35 Natural and semi natural open spaces, alongside areas of countryside, were perceived to be a key part of the character of Broxbourne and the value placed on these sites was clear. The need to protect these sites from development was a key theme throughout all consultations.
- 5.36 Application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the key priority for natural and semi natural open space is improvements to the quality of sites. Maximising access to natural and semi natural sites, both within settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside, should also be a key future priority.

NSN 1	In light of the wider benefits of natural and semi natural open spaces and the expressed importance of these sites by local residents, the Council should protect all natural and semi natural sites from development.
NSN 2	Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes.
NSN 3	Maximise the access and promotion of natural and semi natural areas (including the Lee Valley Regional Park) through communication and effective site and directional signage.
NSN 4	Work to establish a network of accessible green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of local open space and also to wider strategic sites.
NSN 5	If appropriate, consider the opportunity to address access deficiencies to natural and semi natural open space within all areas and promote access to Lee Valley Regional Park to all borough residents.

SECTION 6

AMENITY GREENSPACE

Amenity greenspace

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity greenspace provides more of a visual amenity for older residents and a meeting place for young people.
- 6.2 Amenity greenspace is also often found in villages, in the form of village greens. Amenity greenspaces can have an overlapping function with parks and gardens and natural areas and can also be used as informal areas of play for children where there are no other facilities. It is important therefore to consider the provision of amenity greenspaces in the context of other types of open space.
- 6.3 There are a number of benefits in providing this type of open space including recreation value, a meeting place and/or focal point for communities. It is also important to recognise and take account of the secondary functions of amenity greenspace, in particular the visual benefits.
- 6.4 Amenity greenspaces can play an integral role in increasing participation in physical activity across the borough, providing local opportunities to participate in activity and informal sport.
- 6.5 This section sets out the strategic context, key findings of the consultations and recommended local standards. The standards are then applied both individually considering the adequacy of the existing amenity greenspace and the associated demand for these spaces. Standards are also applied in the context of other open spaces with overlapping functions.

Figure 6.1 Isabel Christie Park (Site ID 16)



Context

6.6 The key issues for amenity greenspace emerging from a review of strategic documents across Broxbourne borough are:

- Broxbourne Borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance (August 2004) highlights that in addition to the provision of recreational open space, all new housing developments must also include adequate amenity landscape areas to ensure a good environment in accordance with the principles set out in DETR document 'By Design'. The Council will:
 - insist that a landscaping scheme on a scale appropriate to each new development will be provided
 - seek financial contributions towards the provision or improvement of such facilities from all new residential development.

6.7 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:

- amenity greenspace is one of the most infrequently used of all of the types of informal open space in the borough by respondents to the household survey, with 34% of residents visiting these sites more than once a month and 37% of never using this type of open space

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

- despite the lower levels of use of amenity greenspace in comparison to some other typologies of open space, the wider benefits of these sites were recognised by local residents, particularly the contribution to landscape benefits
- the importance of the protection of amenity greenspace was a key theme of many consultations.

Quantity of existing provision

6.8 The provision of amenity greenspace across Broxbourne borough is summarised in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.1 – Provision of amenity greenspace across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	3.82	6	0.29
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	4.46	9	0.31
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	14.91	21	0.60
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	5.64	11	0.41
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	5.32	7	0.85
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	4.69	17	0.33
Overall	87,054	38.84	71	0.45

6.9 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of amenity greenspace across the borough include:

- while 43% of household respondents state that there is not enough provision of amenity greenspace in the borough, 45% indicated that provision of amenity greenspace is satisfactory
- opinion is equally divided across individual analysis areas, with a higher percentage of respondents within both the Hoddesdon Town and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas indicating dissatisfaction with the level of provision of amenity greenspace. Only within the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area are the majority of respondents more satisfied than dissatisfied with existing levels of amenity greenspace provision.
- the overall level of provision in Broxbourne borough equates to 38.84 hectares. This is split across 71 sites. With the exception of Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End, which has circa 15 ha of amenity greenspace provision, amenity greenspace provision is spread evenly across the borough with between 3.8 and 5.6 ha in the remaining five analysis areas.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 6.10 The recommended local quantity standard for amenity greenspace has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.45 ha per 1,000 population	0.46 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.45 ha per 1,000 population. The public opinion within the borough regarding the borough wide level of provision of amenity greenspace is fairly evenly split, with 43% stating provision to be inadequate and 45% as adequate.</p> <p>The recommended standard has been set at 0.46 ha per 1,000 population. This is to reflect the perceived inadequacy of current provision by local residents and support the need for additional provision to meet population growth to 2021. Consultation revealed that borough residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity greenspace local quantity standard is required to address this perception.</p> <p>Consultation also highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes by breaking up the urban texture and providing greenspace in what would otherwise be a built up area. This will enable to 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 greenspace network.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

- 6.11 The quality of existing amenity greenspace in the borough was assessed through site assessments and is set out in Table 6.3. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

Table 6.3 – Quality of amenity greenspace across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site(s)	Highest quality site(s)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	6	47 – 80	59	Creasey Hall AGS (Site ID 136)	Dairyglen OS (Site ID 312)

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site(s)	Highest quality site(s)
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	9	42 – 67	56	Cadmore Lane OS (Site ID 69)/ Penton Drive OS (Site ID 74)	Thomas Rochford Way AGS (Site ID 63)
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	21	36 – 71	59	Lakeside Road AGS Site ID 88)	Appleby Street Park (Site ID 163)
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	11	49 – 74	62	Tregelles OS (Site ID 8)	Roselands Ave (Site ID 6)
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	7	40 – 80	64	Brookside (Site ID 24)	Civic Hall (Site ID 336)/
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	17	56 – 80	65	Deaconsfield OS (Site ID 32)/ Juniper Close (Site ID 56)	Farmhouse Close (Site ID 309)
Overall	71	36 – 80	61	Lakeside Road AGS Site ID 88)	Dairyglen OS (Site ID 312)/ Civic Hall (Site ID 336)/ Farmhouse Close (Site ID 309)

6.12 The key issues emerging from Table 6.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of amenity greenspace include:

- consultation indicated that the quality of amenity areas is perceived to be average by 52% of household survey respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were good (28%) as opposed to poor (20%)

- the quality ratings across the individual analysis areas provide similar responses, and the common perception in all areas is that amenity space is of average quality. The highest level of satisfaction is from respondents in Waltham Cross & Theobalds, where 34% rated the quality of amenity greenspaces as good, which is surprising given the lower levels of provision. In contrast, the lowest level of satisfaction is located in Broxbourne, Wormley & Turnford, where 25% of residents feel the quality of this type of open space is poor
- Table 6.2 shows that quality of provision ranges significantly across the 71 amenity greenspace sites in the borough from 36% through to 80%. The average quality score is 61%
- similar to other types of open space, respondents to the household survey indicated that safety concerns are a particular issue and reduce the overall level of use. There is particular mention of groups of teenagers engaging in anti-social behaviour (drinking and vandalism). This was reflected in feedback through the drop-in sessions where reference to vandalism, graffiti and mis-use of amenity greenspace sites were cited as major problems
- the highest rated quality aspirations for amenity greenspace sites as identified by household survey respondents were clean and litter free, followed by well-kept grass.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 6.13 The recommended local quality standard for amenity greenspace is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Safe and secure</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Plants and trees</p>
Justification	
<p>Local consultation reveals that amenity greenspaces are one of the least used types of open spaces in the area. This suggests that whilst areas serve an important visual purpose, they provide little recreational and usable functions for local areas. Amenity greenspaces can in particular, serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. The importance of their visual amenity function further emphasises the need to ensure the quality of these sites.</p> <p>Provision of amenity greenspace needs to be considered in the context of parks and gardens and other open space types, to ensure that they are complementary 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 an important visual amenity function and promote a sense of ownership. In all cases, it is essential that sites are safe, as well as clean and well maintained as this will maximise usage and benefit of the site.</p> <p>The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice and link in with the Green Flag criteria where appropriate.</p>	

Current position – accessibility

- 6.14 34% of respondents use amenity greenspace sites more than once a month, with 29% indicating usage less than once a month and the remaining 37% of respondents stating that they do not use amenity greenspaces. Only 2% of respondents to the household survey stated that amenity greenspace is the type of open space that they use most frequently.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 6.15 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation.
- 6.16 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:
- the majority of respondents (68%) to the household survey indicated walking to be their preferred method of travel to parks and garden open space sites, followed by travelling by car (18%)

- analysis of the breakdown across the six analysis areas reflects the same trend with at least 60% in all analysis areas indicating a preferred option to walk to amenity greenspace sites
- in terms of the length of time respondents would expect to travel to parks and gardens, 66% indicated a walk time of between 5 and 10 minutes, with only 14% indicating an expected walk time of 10 to 15 minutes
- using the borough wide results, the 75th percentile is calculated at a 10 minute walk time to an amenity greenspace site. This is reflected across three of the six analysis areas (Waltham Cross/Theobalds; Broxbourne/Wormley/Turnford and Cheshunt). For the remaining three analysis areas (Hoddesdon Town; Bury Green/Flamstead End/Goffs Oak/Rosedale and Hoddesdon North/Rye Park), the 75th percentile is calculated at 15 minutes walk
- 38% of respondents to the school survey stated that they cycled to amenity greenspace. A further 38% said they travelled by car. 88% indicated that cycling was their preferred method of travel to reach this type of open space.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m*)
Justification
<p>Consultation indicates that the majority of respondents expect to walk to amenity greenspaces. This is in line with the function that an amenity greenspace site should serve can often play a key role in the improvement of the landscape as well as offering recreational opportunities. It is therefore recommended that the local standard should be based on a walk time. The 75th percentile indicates that respondents would be willing to travel 10 minutes to an amenity greenspace site, which is consistent with the modal response for expected walk time duration. Further scrutiny by each of the six analysis areas indicates that the 75th percentile is either 10 or 15 minutes for each of the six analysis areas.</p> <p>Based on the above, a 10-minute walk time is recommended in line with overall user expectations. The importance of the provision of local open space was an overriding theme of consultation with younger borough residents, which reinforces the importance of setting a local standard that will ensure that amenity greenspace is within close proximity to residential housing.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 480m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 800m. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 6.17 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 6.18 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 6.19 It is also important to consider the provision of amenity greenspaces 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.
- 6.20 The future level of provision required across Broxbourne borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised in Table 6.2 below. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 6.2 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Broxbourne borough

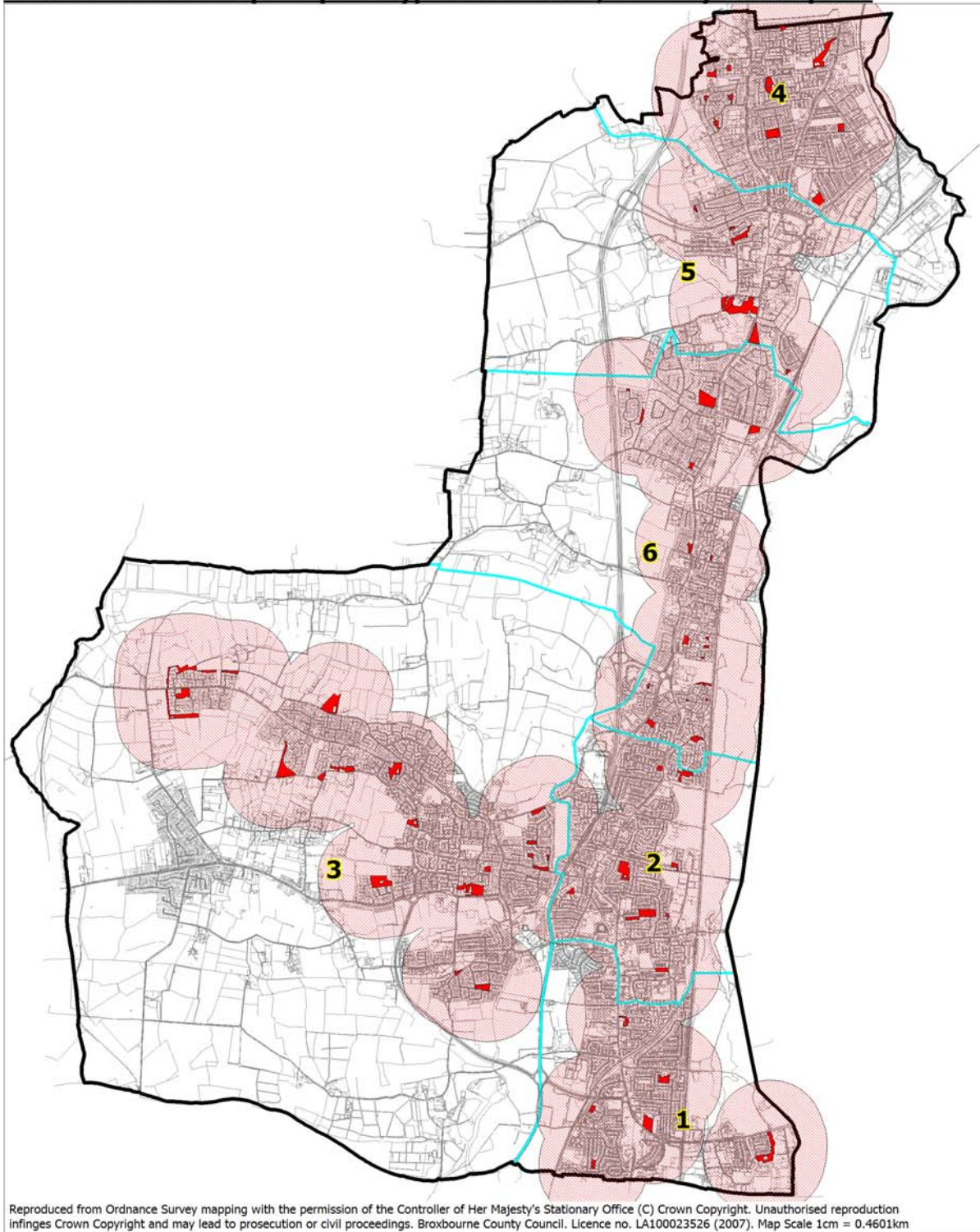
Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (0.46 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	-2.81
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-2.90
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	2.33
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-1.28
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	2.16
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	-2.50
Overall	-5.00

Green = above the minimum standard, Red = below the minimum standard

- 6.21 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:
- the overall standard is set above the current level of provision at 0.46 ha per 1,000 population. By 2021, in light of population increases, there will be an overall shortfall in provision of circa 5 ha.
 - when looking at the future provision per 1,000 of the population balanced against the standard of 0.46 hectares, four of the six analysis areas show a deficiency, the largest being in Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North (-2.90 ha)
 - there are two analysis areas where supply exceeds the minimum standard. These are Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas by 2.33 ha and 2.16 ha respectively. Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End contains the greatest number of sites (21)
- 6.22 Figure 6.2 illustrates the geographical distribution of Broxbourne borough's amenity greenspace sites and the catchment areas that these sites serve.

Figure 6.2 amenity greenspace sites in Broxbourne borough

Broxbourne OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Amenity Greenspace



6.23 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites include:

- the application of the accessibility standard reveals only a limited number of residential areas in the borough fall outside of the recommended local accessibility standard of a 10 minute walk time catchment for amenity greenspace. The main area of deficiency is Goffs Oak
- there is therefore an even distribution of sites across the analysis areas, with several sites in close proximity to one another.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

6.24 The current supply of amenity greenspace is below the recommended local standard of 0.46 hectares per 1,000 population. However, the accessibility mapping shows that there are only limited accessibility deficiencies within all analysis areas.

6.25 Consultation highlights the importance of obtaining a balance between the quality and quantity of amenity space. The existing quality of amenity spaces is variable, with quality of sites ranging from 36% through to 80%. It is important that all sites offer a similar quality of provision.

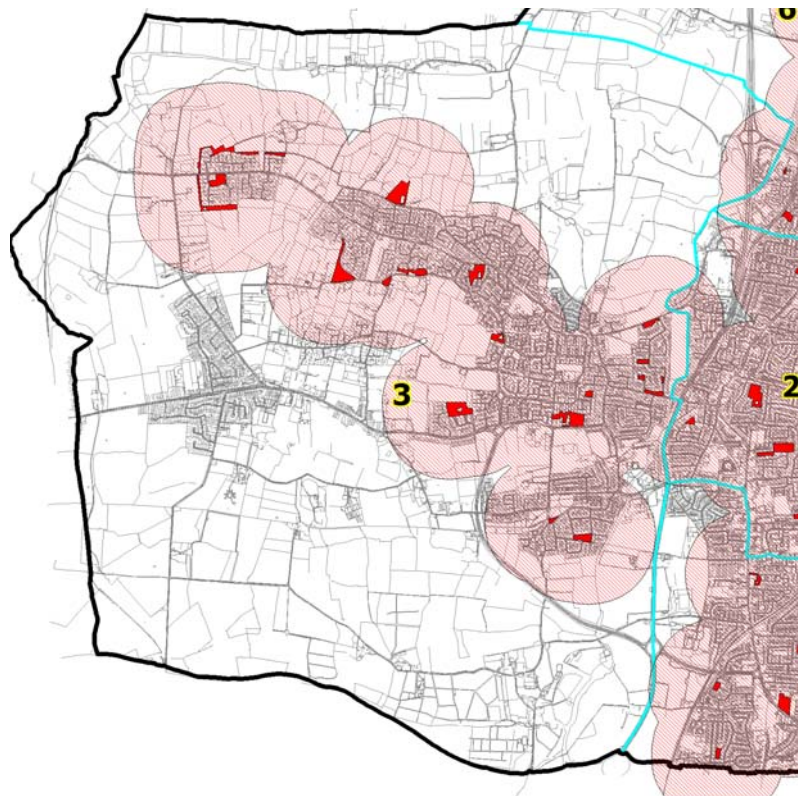
AGS 1	Strive to improve the quality of all existing amenity greenspace sites in the borough so that there is a consistently high quality standard of provision for all borough residents. In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity greenspace.
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6.26 The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2021 in four of the six analysis areas, with only Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End and Hoddesdon Town containing sufficient provision. This is not supported by the application of the accessibility standard, which suggests that only residents in Goffs Oak are outside of the recommended distance threshold. In light of this, qualitative improvements rather than the provision of additional amenity spaces are recommended.

6.27 In order to ensure the future quality of open spaces, consideration should be given to the size of sites. Smaller sites (particularly those located in proximity to larger facilities) may be of limited value to the residents and costly in terms of maintenance to the provider.

6.28 As indicated, the application of the local quantity standard suggests there is currently adequate provision within Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End. However, due to the distribution of these sites, a proportion of residents in Goffs Oak fall outside of the accessibility catchment, as is illustrated in Figure 6.3 overleaf.

Figure 6.3 – Amenity Greenspace provision in Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area



6.29 Although these residents are close to natural and semi-natural open space sites, and therefore do have access to informal recreation opportunities, there may still be benefit from supplementing this with access to local amenity provision. Formalising part of one of these sites to provide more amenity greenspace provision may better meet the needs of the local population.

AGS 2	Investigate opportunities of formalising natural and semi-natural amenity greenspace in the Goffs Oak Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area.
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6.30 Given that the majority of the borough is within an accessible catchment of an amenity greenspace site and that in some cases there are overlapping catchments areas, there may be some opportunities for disposal of sites. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for this and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

AGS 3	Consider the appropriateness for disposal of sites. Capital received through the release of any land should be reinvested in qualitative improvements in the area.
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- 6.31 In quantitative terms, the largest deficiency is in the south of the borough within the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross analysis areas. This is not however reflected through the application of the accessibility standards, where all areas are within the catchment area for amenity greenspace. In light of this, there is no immediate recommendation for additional provision but consideration should be given to opportunities to address the lack of amenity greenspace within future housing developments to offset the quantitative deficiency. Instead the primary focus should be on improving the quality of existing amenity spaces.

AGS 4	Use the findings of the site assessment to prioritise sites for qualitative improvement within the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas.
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Summary and recommendations

- 6.32 For many residents amenity greenspace will be the most accessible form of open space provision. The value of amenity greenspaces within close proximity to residents was noted through the local consultation. While amenity greenspace often fulfils a similar role to larger informal open spaces (eg parks and natural areas) the local nature of this type of open space is of particular importance.
- 6.33 Local consultation highlighted the importance of the balance between quality and quantity. Despite shortfalls of amenity space when measured against the quantity standard, the spread of amenity space in the central areas of the borough is reasonable and there are few residents outside of the catchment for amenity space.
- 6.34 Given that there are some deficiencies in provision, opportunities for new sites in should be taken, however the primary focus should be on improving the quality of existing amenity spaces (particularly with regards cleanliness and maintenance and increasing the range of facilities provided).

AGS 1	Strive to improve the quality of all existing amenity greenspace sites in the borough so that there is a consistently high quality standard of provision for borough residents. In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity greenspace.
AGS 2	Investigate opportunities of formalising natural and semi-natural amenity greenspace in the Goffs Oak Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area.
AGS 3	Consider the appropriateness for disposal of sites. Capital received through the release of any land should be reinvested in qualitative improvements in the area.
AGS 4	Use the findings of the site assessment to prioritise sites for qualitative improvement within the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas.

SECTION 7

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Provision for children

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its eight green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they 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.
- 7.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of 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)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Provision for children is taken to include the following areas, which generally cater for children under the age of 12:
- Equipped Children’s Play Areas
 - Adventure Play Grounds.
- 7.5 The role of amenity green space sites in the delivery of facilities for children is important. It should be recognised that children play in a variety of locations and can gain equivalent or greater stimulus and benefit from playing in the natural environment and informal open spaces as well as in equipped play areas. Consultees can have a tendency to focus on equipped play provision and therefore overlook the informal places where children play.
- 7.6 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for children and young people in Broxbourne borough. 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 Council’s Play and Free Time Strategy.

Figure 7.1 Barclay Park play area (Site ID 519)



Context

7.7 The key issues for children's play provision arising from a review of strategic documents are:

- there are no currently specific standards relating to children's play provision in the borough
- Broxbourne Borough Council's Local Plan (2001-2011) highlights that children's play areas are less well provided across the borough than other types of recreational space. As a consequence, the Council states that new development must be in line with national standards, which is reinforced within the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy (2007)
- the Council's borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance (August 2004) indicates that "all new developments with 15 houses or more will be expected to contribute to the provision of a play area or include one in the development"
- the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy 2007 includes a SWOT analysis that has identified key issues in relation to play provision within the borough. Those that are most applicable to this study include that there are:
 - high density housing areas with limited open spaces/play provision
 - specific geographical gaps in provision of play facilities were identified in the following locations: North Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Wormley/Turnford, between Cheshunt and within Waltham Cross

- key gaps in outdoor play provision where children and young people have to travel long distances to play provision, and therefore a need to provide more play and free time activities 'close to home' for all age groups
- the Strategy details the need to:
 - increase access and opportunities to children's play activities, including natural play in parks
 - develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical 'hands on' activities for children and young people
 - introduce 'Play Rangers' in the borough's parks to make children/young people feel safer and increase use of existing play areas and opportunities
 - increase amount of inclusive equipment in play areas to provide accessible play for the Borough's disabled and special needs children.

7.8 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues in regard to child play areas:

- the highest perceived level of provision was in the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area, with 53% indicating that provision was more than enough or about right, compared to 37% suggesting an undersupply. The highest proportion of residency to indicate that there was an undersupply of play facilities for children was Hoddeston Town, with 64% suggesting there was insufficient provision
- a significant number of residents across all analysis areas (34%) believe that the quality of equipment is poor, with the most significant areas being Cheshunt (42%) and Waltham Cross & Theobalds (40%)
- the main issues to arise from the consultations with regards to quality was safety of the equipment, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour around the play area. A specific area of concern regarding equipment quality was Grundy Park
- there is a general consensus that Broxbourne lacks a suitable range of equipment and the quality of facilities is poor. This reiterated throughout the household surveys and drop-in sessions
- most regular users of children's facilities walk to the site so accessibility is an important factor for local residents. A low percentage (12%) preferred to access the sites by car. The aggregated desired travel time was identified as 10 minutes. This however was a factor raised in the drop-in sessions that new housing developments are not offering the desired level of accessibility to children's play areas.

7.9 It should be noted that the Council has plans to invest in seven play facilities in the borough, which will be implemented in the near future. Consultation feedback on quality reflects pre-investment in these facilities.

Quantity of existing provision

7.10 There are currently 36 play areas for children across Broxbourne. The current provision of children’s play areas is summarised in Table 7.1 overleaf.

Table 7.1 – Provision of children’s play areas across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	0.18	5	0.0137
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	0.37	3	0.0253
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	1.04	10	0.0416
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	0.75	3	0.0546
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	0.13	8	0.0207
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	0.35	7	0.0245
Overall	87,054	2.82	36	0.0324

7.11 The key issues arising from this table and consultations undertaken include:

- the consultations findings from Hoddesdon North & Rye Park are contradictory of the relatively high supply of children’s play areas. Generally the analysis areas 1, 2, 5 and 6 all have a relatively low provision
- there appears to be a low level of provision of play areas in Hoddesdon Town, despite there being eight sites, confirming the perceptions of the largest proportion of residents (64%) from all areas who indicated that there was not enough provision. It is possible that barriers to access such as the A10 may restrict users reaching the sites in Hoddesdon Town, an issue that will need addressing if further provision is to be considered
- Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End generally has a reasonable supply of children’s play although due to the geographic nature of this analysis area it will be important to identify areas of undersupply where population densities are high, while ensuring that accessibility catchments are sufficient to capture those residents in more rural localities.

Setting provision standards – quantity

7.12 The recommended local quantity standard for children’s play has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.04 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision of children’s play areas in the borough is 0.03 ha per 1,000 population. There are 36 play areas distributed across all parts of the borough, although provision is more limited in the more urban areas, such as Cheshunt, Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross. Waltham Cross in particular is deficient in provision. Feedback from borough residents is that current provision is not adequate to meet demand and that additional play provision is required – this was the view of nearly half of household survey respondents. The Council recognise the value and importance of adequate play provision, as detailed in the new Play and Free Time Strategy, and are already responding to the lack of provision within the borough, with additional sites planned in Waltham Cross and elsewhere in the borough.</p> <p>Given the findings from the local needs assessment of a lack of provision and the Council’s strategic aim to improve and provide additional play provision within the borough, it is recommended that the Council set the local quantity standard above the current level of provision at 0.04 ha per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 0.01 ha per 1,000 population, which equates to additional provision of circa 0.7 ha – the equivalent of 10 LEAPs (400sqm in size each). This standard reinforces the Council’s commitment to increase levels of provision to meet the needs of the younger borough residents, while remaining realistic and achievable in the level of additional future play provision that can be provided. New provision should meet the local quality standard and the quality of existing sites should be improved, where appropriate as this will increase usage and further ensure that borough wide play provision meets the needs of Broxbourne residents.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

7.13 The current quality of provision for children is illustrated in Table 7.2. This was assessed through site assessments and therefore it is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

Table 7.2 – Quality of children’s play areas across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	5	56 – 80	65
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	3	44 – 58	53
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	10	38 – 71	54

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	3	60 – 73	67
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	8	51 – 76	59
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	7	44 – 80	61
Overall	36	38 – 80	59

7.14 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of provision for children include:

- while consultations highlighted poor quality equipment in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Cheshunt analysis areas, the site assessment scores listed above indicate that there is also a notable lack of quality in Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne. The low quality score in the Cheshunt analysis area reflects consultation results that specifically highlight Grundy Park play area as a site requiring immediate attention
- the main area for improvement was the variety and range of facilities provided, an issue emanating from the Play and Free Time Strategy that suggests there are a lack of NEAPs being developed as part of new housing projects
- the lowest quality score was recorded for the Dig Dag Hill YPC (Site ID 96) in Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End. The sites achieving the highest quality score were Dairyglen Avenue play area (Site ID 311) in Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Canada Fields (Site ID 330) in Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne. These high scoring sites should be used as an aspirational standard for all future developments and improvements made.

Setting provision standards – quality

4.17 The recommended local quality standard for children’s play is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K. In order to produce applicable, objective quality standards, in conjunction with the Council a list of essential and desirable characteristics that parks and gardens sites should comprise were agreed. This provides a tool for future quality assessments.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Safe and secure</p> <p>Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Maximise range of play opportunities</p> <p>Supervised sessions</p>
Justification	
<p>Following feedback from consultations, recognition of the need for places for children to both play and go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for the provision of facilities which provide a range of play opportunities in a safe environment that adhere to FIT standards. This reflects concerns highlighted in the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy and support delivery of the strategy's aim and objectives.</p> <p>The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are also reflected in the quality standard.</p>	

Accessibility of existing provision

- 7.15 Children's play is one of the more popular types of open space in the borough, with 37% of household survey respondents stating that they use park and garden sites more than once a month. This means that those that use children's play sites, do so on a frequent basis as 50% of respondents to the household survey stated that they never use this type of open space.
- 7.16 Of those respondents to the household survey that use children's play sites, the majority (81%) stated that they currently walk to children's play sites and in terms of current duration of travel 43% indicated a travel time of less than 5 minutes, with a further 24% indicating 5 to 10 minutes and 20% 10 to 15 minutes. This shows flexibility as to how far users currently travel to this type of open site, which may be influenced by the location of existing facilities.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 7.17 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation.
- 7.18 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:
- 78% of household survey responses highlighted walking as the preferred method of travel to children's play sites. Only 12% of respondents stated travelling by car as a preferred option

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- feedback in terms of travel time to children’s play sites indicate that 69% of respondents expect a walk of between 5 to 10 minutes duration, with 11% less than 5 minutes and 12% between 10 to 15 minutes
- an analysis of the breakdown of travel expectations across the six analysis areas reflects those at the borough-wide level. For example, 69% of respondents in the Waltham Cross and Theobalds area believe that a 10 minute walk is appropriate to reach this type of facility
- using the borough-wide findings in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to walk to a children’s play site, the 75th percentile can be calculated at 10 minutes. This is consistent with the modal response of 10 minutes as detailed above
- in addition, when scrutinised on an analysis area basis, the 75th percentile was 10 minutes for all analysis areas with the exception of Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford area, residents of which indicated a willingness to travel slightly further (ie up to 15 minutes) to access a children’s play space.

7.19 The recommended local accessibility standard for children’s play is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix L.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m*)
Justification
<p>Circa 80% of respondents to the household survey stated that they would expect to walk to children’s play sites. This is in line with current user patterns, as evident through both the household and the school survey, and therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set as the local standard.</p> <p>A 10-minute walk time is recommended in line with the 75th percentile calculation of 10 minutes. This is reflected across all but one of the analysis areas and is in line with the modal response. In addition, over 90% of school survey respondents indicated a current travel time of 10 minutes. A local standard of 10 minutes walk time will ensure that residents have access to local facilities in line with local expectations, whilst simultaneously providing a realistic and achievable challenge which will ensure that adequate levels of accessible provision is balanced with quality. This will support the Council’s aim as detailed in the Play and Freetime Strategy to provide more play facilities ‘closer to home’ and identify the gaps in accessible provision to address existing concerns by residents over the adequacy of current provision.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 480m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 800m. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 7.20 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.
- 7.21 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

- 7.22 The recommended local quantity standard is higher than the current level of provision across all geographical areas of the borough except for Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas, and achievement of this standard will therefore require further provision within most areas (see Table 7.3).
- 7.23 This is reflective of the findings of the consultation, in which further provision for children emerged as a key priority for local residents in certain areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard by 2021, circa one hectares of play space would be required. This is an increase of approximately 35% on the current level of provision up to 2021.
- 7.24 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.
- 7.25 The application of the local quantity standard is set out in Table 7.3 below. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 7.3 Applying quantity standards

Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (0.04 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	-0.40
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-0.27
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	-0.05
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	0.15
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	-0.14
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	-0.27
Overall	-0.99

Green = above the standard; Red = below the standard.

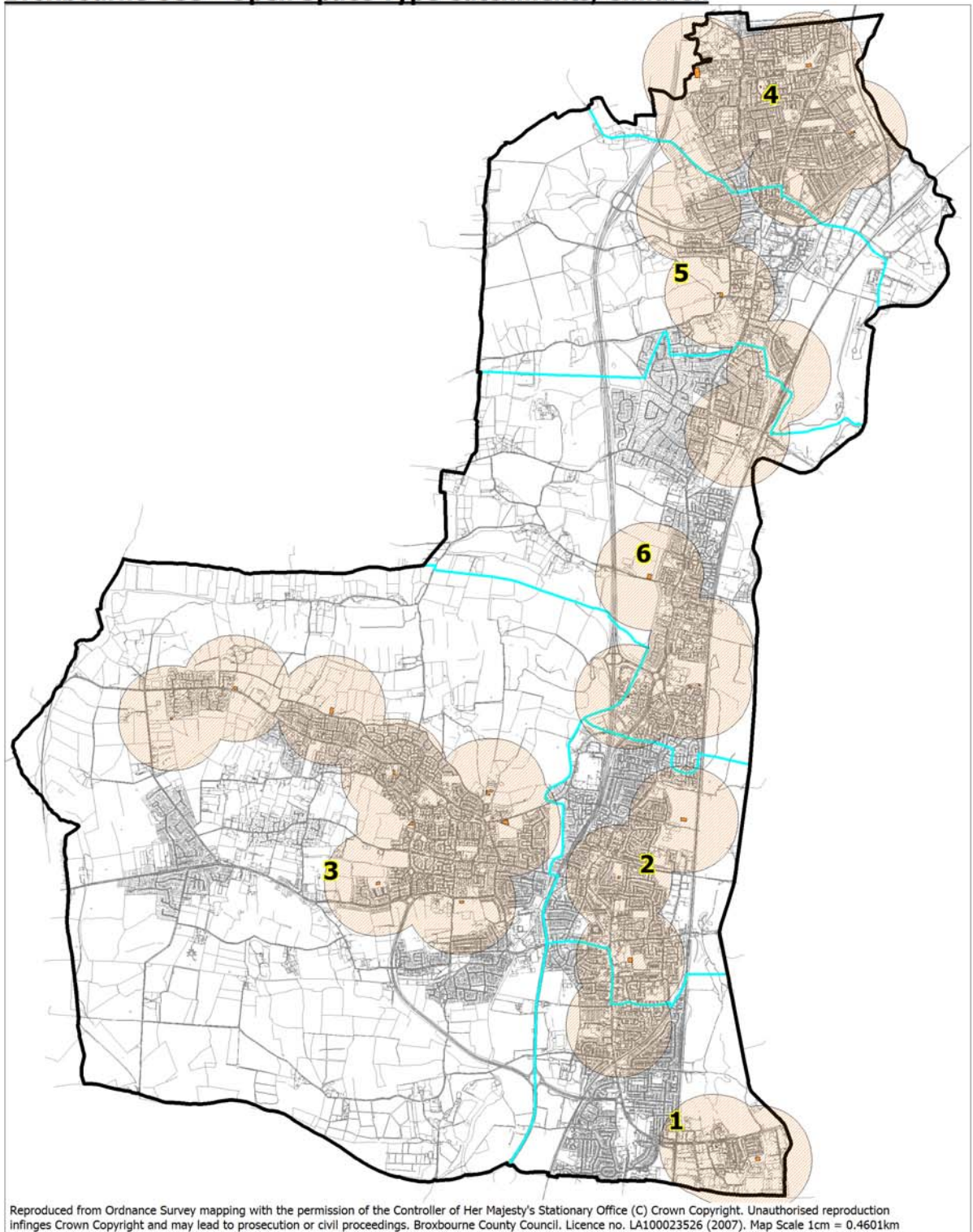
7.26 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:

- a large undersupply at present and projected for 2021 in Waltham Cross & Theobalds, Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North and Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis areas. The overall shortfall is currently 0.66 hectares, which is projected to rise, subject to no new play area developments, to 0.99 hectares
- the current oversupply in Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End is projected to become an undersupply by 2021 with predicted population increases
- there is a significant current oversupply of 0.20 in Hoddesdon North & Rye Park, remaining at a similar level of 0.15 hectares with 2021 projections. It is possible that part of this area could be relocated to address analysis areas with current undersupplies, although there should be consideration of the type of facilities provided. While relocating part of a site may address quantity standards it is important that the variety and range of equipment is not effected, subsequently impacting on quality standards.

7.27 Figure 7.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of facilities for children across the Borough and the catchment areas that these facilities serve.

Figure 7.2 Provision for children in Broxbourne borough

Broxbourne OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Children



	Children Catchment - Children (480m Buffer)	District 	Landline 	 strategy finance delivery ACTIVE <i>Bringing data to life</i>
		Analysis Areas 		

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

7.28 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites are:

- there is no provision in Goffs Oak and in the Hammond Street/St James Road area, both of which are located in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area
- while overall quantity supply is currently meeting the proposed standard the above is a significant gap in localised supply and with no amenity green space or park to locate such a play area it is important that the Council either redevelop an area of natural and semi-natural land, making it suitably accessible for a play area or ensure any new developer contributions target this typology and location
- other gaps in supply exist west of Cheshunt near Dark Lane; south of Waltham Cross; west and central Broxbourne; north Wormley; south west of Turnford. It is also noted that there is a significant gap in provision east of Hoddesdon. Although this is a commercial area with no child play are required there should be consideration regarding a new site north of Yewlands, especially with any localised residential growth
- the importance for the Council to realise the need for clear access routes to facilities in the northern analysis areas (ie 4, 5 and 6) by residents in the rural settlements to the west of the motorway.

7.29 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 as follows.

CYP1	There is a need for additional play provision within the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. The preferred site should be easily accessible to all residents within the area.
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7.30 It is understood that the above recommendation is in the process of being delivered by the Council through new provision in Goffs Oak that comprises both a toddlers area and a kick-about area for all ages.

CYP2	Council to address the significant undersupply in Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area by providing a large children's play facility south of Waltham Cross. Other gaps in provision also need addressing with the priorities currently being west and central Broxbourne and south west of Turnford.
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7.31 While accessibility and quantity require addressing and an initial priority, a major concern of residents was the current quality of facilities, problems with vandalism and the supply of a diverse range of equipment. It is vital that the Council recognise specific sites that fall significantly below the standard set and address such issues.

CYP3	Quality of sites needs to be enhanced, primarily in the Cheshunt analysis area. Other sites falling significantly below the benchmark should be addressed with the focus being on achieving
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	maintenance and safety criteria.
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- 7.32 As mentioned earlier, the Council has plans to invest in seven play facilities across the borough, which will support the delivery of the above recommendation.

Summary and recommendations

- 7.33 The overarching theme from the consultations was that quality of sites across all areas could be substantially improved, especially in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Cheshunt analysis areas. The main aspirations of many residents was for play areas that offered a range of equipment that were regularly maintained and deterred anti-social behaviour. The other area of concern highlighted in the consultation phase was that of quantity and accessibility, something reconfirmed by the accessibility mapping showing significant gaps in provision.
- 7.34 The recommended local standards address these issues, setting challenging criteria that can be used to identify priority areas. Analysis of existing facilities highlight that there is significant variation in the quality of sites and that the distribution of facilities varies significantly between analysis areas with all areas projected to have an area provision shortfall by 2021 with the exception of Hoddesdon North and Rye Park.
- 7.35 Application of the standards highlights particular priorities, with the most significant gap being in Goff Oak and Hammond Street area. While potential undersupply exists in five of the six analysis areas, and given the fairly even distribution of sites there is limited justification for relocating any play areas at present. Instead it is suggested new sites are identified that conform to FIT standards and prioritise quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement. The site database should act as a live source of information that is continually updated to reflect any redevelopments.
- 7.36 It will be vital that accessibility, primarily through public transport, footpaths and cycleways, is clear and safe so that residents in the northern half of the borough that reside to the west of the motorway can access the facilities.

CYP1	There is a need for additional play provision within the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. The preferred site should be easily accessible to all residents within the area.
CYP2	The Council to address the significant undersupply in Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area by providing a large play facility south of Waltham Cross. Other gaps in provision also need addressing with the priorities currently being west and central Broxbourne and south west of Turnford.
CYP3	Quality of sites needs to be enhanced, primarily in the Cheshunt analysis area. Other sites falling significantly below the benchmark should be addressed with the focus being on achieving maintenance and safety criteria.

SECTION 8

OUTDOOR TEENAGE FACILITIES

Outdoor teenage facilities

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they 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.
- 8.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to a large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association (now know as Fields in Trust) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically;
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 8.3 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 from provision for young people.
- 8.4 For the purposes of this assessment, provision for teenagers is taken to include the following types of provision:
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - skateparks
 - basketball courts
 - youth shelters
 - informal kickabout areas
 - BMX tracks.
- 8.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for young people in Broxbourne. 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 the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy.
- 8.6 It should be noted that the consultation exercise and the site visits were conducted prior to the Council's investment in seven new facilities. The results will therefore not reflect the quality of the new provision.

Figure 8.1 Old Highway MUGA (Site ID 505)



Context

8.7 The key issues for children's play provision arising from a review of strategic documents are:

- teenagers are a priority target group for the Council, and therefore delivery of teenage facilities is a key concern for the Council and considered integral to community development
- the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy (2007) identifies a perceived lack of free time activities and facilities for young people
- a number of issues of relevance are highlighted in the Broxbourne Play and Free Time Strategy (2007), including:
 - the importance of proximity to play areas to the quality of life of parents, children and young people, noting its particular relevance to older children and young people – “the things I want to do are too far away from where I live” was the most frequently cited barrier to play or free time activities
 - the need to increase information about play and free-time activities for residents, young people and children
 - the need to increase access to children's play activities and opportunities including natural play in parks, and develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical 'hands on' activities for young people.

8.8 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues in regard to teenage facilities:

- the overall consensus during consultation was that there is not enough for teenagers to do within the borough and that there is a perceived lack of provision for this particular age group. This was evident throughout consultation, for example 65% of household survey respondents viewed the existing level of provision of teenage facilities as ‘not enough’
- the perceived lack of provision is believed to be a factor contributing to occasions of anti-social behaviour in the borough
- the total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was less than 1%. However, the use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology
- analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to teenage facilities sites highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 65%
- results from the household survey show that the majority of respondents (58%) think that the quality of teenage provision in Broxbourne is poor. Only 10% perceived the quality of teenage facilities to be good
- the highest rated quality aspirations for teenage facilities included being well lit, having on-site security, being clean/litter free and having good access
- of those household respondents who use outdoor teenage facilities most frequently, dog fouling, vandalism/graffiti and misuse of equipment were all identified as the major problems impacting in the quality of provision
- the Council is already committed to building seven new teenage facilities in, Canada Fields, Wormley, Holdbrook, Pound Close, Goffs Oak and Nightleys. A new facility has also recently been completed at Goffs Lane. These additional sites will significantly increase the level of provision and address the needs of residents more adequately. The location of these proposed facilities are represented by the arrows on Figure 8.2.

Quantity of existing provision

8.9 There are currently eight teenage facilities across Broxbourne borough, current provision is summarised in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1 – Provision of outdoor teenage facilities across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	0.68	3	0.0516
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	0.11	1	0.0075
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	0.01	1	0.0007
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	0.06	2	0.0096
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	0.02	1	0.0015
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	0.01	0	0.000
Overall	87,054	0.88	8	0.0101

8.10 The key issues arising from this table and consultations undertaken include:

- the majority of respondents to the household survey (69%) indicated that there is currently insufficient provision. Only 14% believing that provision levels are 'more than enough' or 'about right'. 16% of respondents did not have an opinion
- opinion on the quantity of provision was largely consistent across the six analysis areas, with the majority of respondents indicating dissatisfaction with levels of provision in all cases
- the highest proportion of respondents identifying a shortfall in teenage provision was in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds, and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas. Whereas, respondents within the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park and Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis areas indicated the highest levels of satisfaction
- Table 8.1 illustrates the limited teenage provision across all areas with the exception of Waltham Cross and Theobalds. This contradicts findings from the household survey where, as detailed above, the highest proportion of respondents identifying a shortfall in teenage provision was in this analysis area. In contrast, the highest level of satisfaction with the current level of provision is in the only analysis area that has no teenage facilities - Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne
- it should be noted that the seven facilities planned in the borough for Holdbrook, Canada Fields, Wormley, Pound Close, Goffs Oak, Nightleys,

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR TEENAGE FACILITIES

Goofs Lane and Canada Fields will cater for those areas that currently have a deficiency

- no sites are of significant size to provide a focal point for outdoor teenage activity. Site size and equipment variation should be addressed to offer a more attractive and diverse level of provision to potential users. Future facilities should reflect this need for diversification of facilities.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 8.11 The recommended local quantity standard for children’s play has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.010 ha per 1,000 population	0.018 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision of teenage facilities in the borough is 0.010 ha per 1,000 population, which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. There are only eight dedicated teenage facility sites across the borough, which are spread across five of the six analysis areas. Only the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area does not have any outdoor provision for teenagers. This means that across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision (in ha per 1,000 population) ranges from 0 through to 0.05 in Waltham Cross & Theobalds (where there are three sites) – a significant variation across the borough. 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 the relevant accessibility buffer).</p> <p>The overwhelming feedback from borough residents is that there is not enough dedicated provision for teenagers. Nearly 70% of household survey respondents indicated that current levels of provision are not adequate, and this view was echoed by adults and young people during the drop-in sessions, as well as by the Council. As with children’s play provision, the Council have already recognised the need for additional teenage facilities in the borough to address the existing lack of provision and seven new sites are planned across the borough.</p> <p>In light of the feedback from borough residents on the lack of teenage facilities, it is recommended that the Council set the local quantity standard above the existing level of provision at 0.18 ha per 1,000 population. This will facilitate new provision in all areas, something that the household survey results concurred with and reflects the Council’s current plans to increase provision through the seven new sites. The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in five of the six analysis areas (the exception being Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne). In order to meet the recommended local quantity standard, additional provision of circa 0.7 ha of teenage facilities would currently be required. This standard reinforces the Council’s commitment to increase levels of provision to meet the needs of the younger borough residents, while remaining realistic and achievable in the level of additional future provision that can be provided.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

8.12 The current quality of provision for children is illustrated in Table 8.2. This was assessed through site assessments and therefore it is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

Table 8.2 – Quality of outdoor teenage facilities across Broxbourne borough

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	3	47 – 60	54
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	1	40	40
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	1	47	47
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	2	62 – 66	64
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	1	74	74
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	0	N/A	N/A
Overall	8	40 – 74	57

8.13 The key issues emerging from Table 8.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of provision for children include:

- users of teenage facilities identified dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and misuse of equipment as the main issues regarding quality of current provision. Amongst all areas the worst perceived quality condition of sites was in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Cheshunt analysis areas
- the consultations identified that the lack of provision had a subsequent impact upon quality. It was felt that sites were not readily available and existing sites did not provide an adequate range of facilities
- the highest rated site was Barclay Park kickabout area in Hoddesdon Town. This site recorded a site assessment quality score of 74% and should be used in reference to the site assessment matrix criteria to improve other existing sites to a similar standard
- the lowest scoring site from the site assessments was Nightleys Skate Park in the Cheshunt analysis area. The quality score for this site was 40%, therefore requiring immediate attention.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 8.14 The recommended local quality standard for children’s play is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K. In order to produce applicable, objective quality standards, in conjunction with the Council a list of essential and desirable characteristics that parks and gardens sites should comprise were agreed. This provides a tool for future quality assessments.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Safe and secure</p> <p>Apply FIT standards</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Well lit</p> <p>Supervised sessions</p>
Justification	
<p>Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of teenage facilities to ‘meet friends’, as somewhere to go and not specifically to always use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure. This was a key element emerging from local consultation and is therefore reflected within this standard, including the desirable features of being well lit and with supervised sessions. It is important that sites continue to improve and comply with FIT standards and the Council works towards achievement of the quality vision for both existing and new sites.</p> <p>This will in turn help to support the Council achieve its objectives as outlined in the Play and Free Time Strategy.</p> <p>A recent CABE Space study shows that well designed, well-maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour and result in long term cost savings and this is reflected in the quality vision.</p>	

Accessibility of existing sites

- 8.15 The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology. The total number of people through the household survey stating this was their most frequented type of open space was less than 1%.
- 8.16 However, feedback through the drop-in sessions indicated that existing teenage facilities are well and highly valued by young people in the borough.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 8.17 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation.
- 8.18 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards to accessibility include:
- analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to teenage facilities highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 65%. Only 17% of respondents stated travelling by car as a preferred option
 - feedback in terms of travel time to teenage facilities indicate that 60% of respondents expect a walk of between 5 to 10 minutes duration, and 18% between 10 to 15 minutes
 - an analysis of the breakdown of travel expectations across the six analysis areas reflects those at the borough-wide level. For example, 60% of respondents in the Flamstead End, Bury Green, Rosedale & Goffs Oak area believe that a 10 minute walk is appropriate to reach this type of facility
 - using the borough-wide findings in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to walk to a teenage facility, the 75th percentile can be calculated at 15 minutes
 - when scrutinised on an analysis area basis, the 75th percentile was 15 minutes for four of the six analysis areas with a slight variations for Cheshunt (12.5 minutes) and Hoddesdon Town (17.5 minutes).
- 8.19 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor teenage facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix L.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time - (720 metres)
Justification
<p>Whilst there is limited local feedback from the household survey specific to outdoor teenage facilities, consultation indicates that walking is the most preferred method of travel to this typology. This reflects the nature of the typology and specific user age group, who do not always have access to a motorised vehicle. It is therefore recommended that a walk time standard be adopted, which is in line with other local authorities and national (NPFA) standards and will enable access for all ages and users.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes is in line with the 75th percentile threshold. This threshold is higher than that for children’s play because of the more specialised nature of provision and also the fact that there are reduced safety concerns as to how far teenagers, as opposed to children, can travel from home to an open space site. Setting a higher travel time threshold also provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights priority areas for new provision. The standard is also in-line with the recommended accessibility standard for parks and gardens, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for teenagers at these sites, as suggested within the Council’s Play and Free Time Strategy.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 720m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 1200m. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 8.20 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.
- 8.21 Consideration has been given to the provision of outdoor teenage facilities in the context of other open space types. Amenity greenspace has a particularly important role to play in the delivery of facilities for young people, providing a key opportunity for informal play.
- 8.22 The application of the local quantity standard is set out in Table 8.3 overleaf. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 8.3 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Broxbourne borough

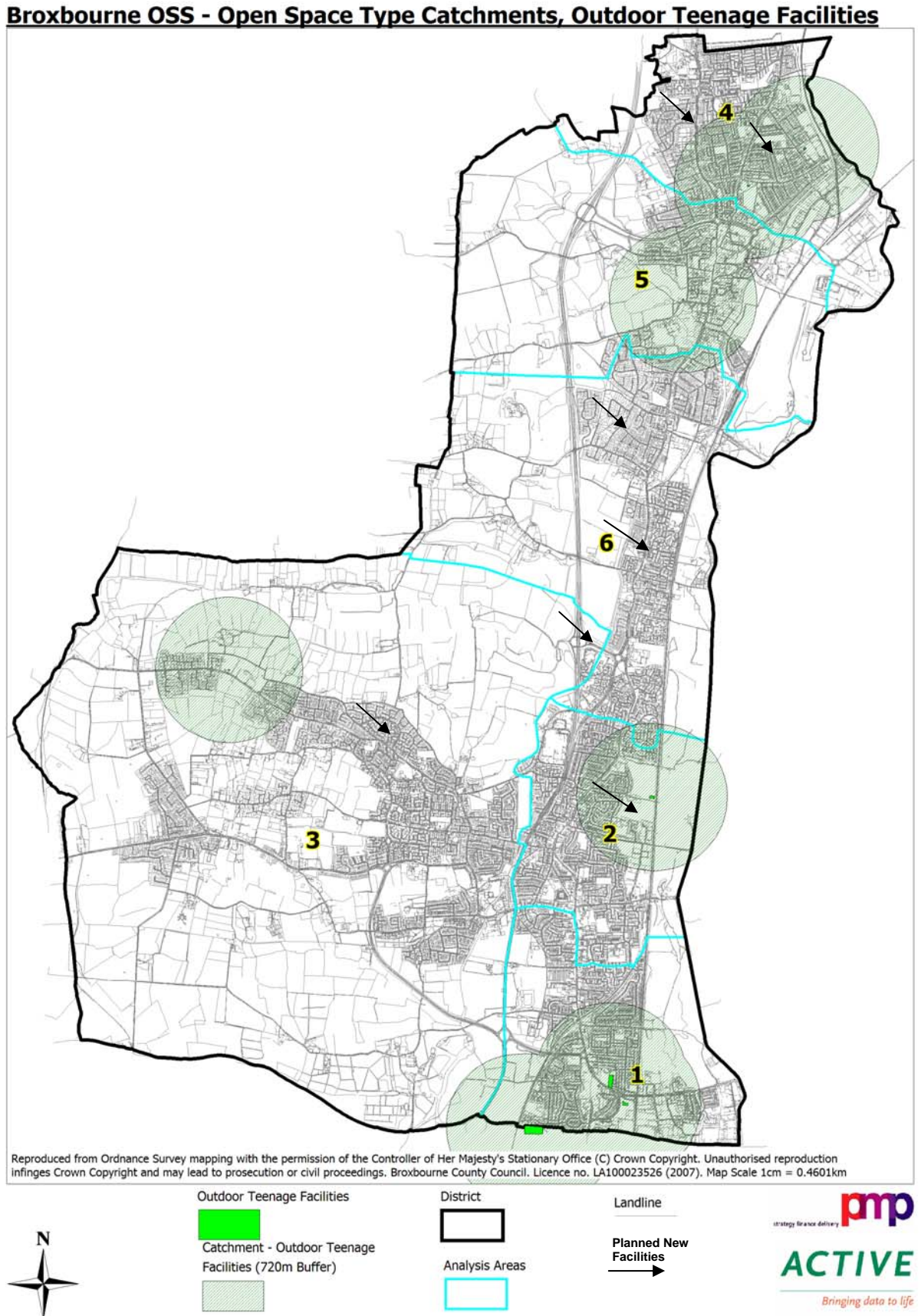
Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (0.018 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	0.42
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-0.18
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	-0.48
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-0.21
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	-0.10
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	-0.28
Overall	-0.84

8.23 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:

- approximately 0.84 additional hectares is required across the borough based on local standards to meet demand by 2021. This is a significant shortfall that needs addressing as soon as possible, which will in part be achieved through the planned new provision at seven new sites across the borough
- the Council is already committed to providing these seven new teenage facility sites across the borough, locations of which are illustrated by the arrows in Figure 8.2. This provision will be in five of the six analysis areas, the exception being Waltham Cross & Theobalds, and will therefore help to significantly address both the current and future shortfall in provision, which is below the recommended minimum level
- only Waltham Cross & Theobalds has a current and future level of provision above the recommended minimum for outdoor teenage facilities, which justifies the rationale for no additional provision in this analysis area
- Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End has the greatest shortfall based on future projections. This will in part be due to the significantly higher population levels compared to other analysis areas with similarly low provision. The new teenage facility planned for Goffs Oak and Goffs Labe will however reduce the shortfall in this analysis area. It is also understood that there is the potential for investment in outdoor teenage facilities at Flamstead End Gap in the next few years through a S106 from a housing development at the reservoir site.

8.24 Figure 8.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of outdoor teenage facilities across the borough and the catchment areas that these facilities serve. The black arrows that are detailed on Figure 8.2 point to the location of the proposed seven additional facilities that will be provided across the borough (as detailed in paragraph 8.8).

Figure 8.2 Outdoor teenage facilities in Broxbourne borough



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR TEENAGE FACILITIES

- 8.25 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of outdoor teenage facility sites include:
- there are currently several significant gaps in provision in terms of residential areas outside of the recommended distance threshold
 - the most sizeable areas with no provision are:
 - Goffs Oak and Hammond Street and the entire residential area on the central east side of the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area
 - the whole of the Chestnut analysis area
 - between Wormley, Broxbourne and South Yewlands ie the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area.
 - it is however important to note the seven additional teenage facilities that are being provided in the borough. At this stage, the timescale for provision of these facilities and the exact quantum (in terms of hectareage per site) is unconfirmed however funding has been allocated within the Council's capital programme
 - as shown in Figure 8.2, the location of these proposed facilities will address some of the existing accessibility deficiencies, particularly in the Broxbourne, Wormley & Turnford analysis area and in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area
 - it is likely that once these facilities are completed only the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End will have a significant proportion of the population outside of the recommended distance threshold. This will primarily be around Bury Green, Flamstead End and Theobalds.
- 8.26 In light of the localised nature of teenage facilities, 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 as follows:

OTF 1	The Council should address the significant gaps in quantity and accessibility. In the first instance the seven additional teenage facilities that have already been proposed should be delivered as soon as possible. Following which, additional outdoor teenage facility provision should be built in to any new housing developments in the borough.
OTF 2	The Council should quality benchmark to ensure existing provision is brought up to an acceptable standard and that any new provision reflects the recommended local quality standard. Sites should therefore conform to FIT standards and consideration should also been given to quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety.

Summary and recommendations

- 8.27 The overarching theme from the consultations was that additional outdoor teenage facility provision is required across the borough. The Council is already working to address this through the proposals for seven additional outdoor teenage facility sites in the borough. This will help to meet local need and aspirations in relation to provision and also address Council priorities as outlined in the Play and Free Time Strategy.
- 8.28 Feedback also indicated that the quality of sites across all areas could be substantially improved. This was reiterated by the site assessments, indicating that sites particularly in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis areas require immediate improvements. Further concern highlighted in the consultation phase was that of maintenance and vandalism of sites. These quality issues need to be addressed and both existing and the proposed new sites should reflect the recommended local quality standard. Sites should therefore conform to FIT standards and consideration should also been given to quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety.
- 8.29 Application of the local standards highlights priority areas to address in relation to gaps in provision. The most significant gaps currently being in the Goff Oak/Hammond Street area and in Wormley. Outdoor teenage facilities are however proposed in Wormley and Goffs Oak, which will help to address the current deficiencies in these areas. Where possible, teenage facilities should be located adjacent to existing amenity greenspace or outdoor sport facility sites.

OTF1	The Council should address the significant gaps in quantity and accessibility. In the first instance the seven additional teenage facilities that have already been proposed should be delivered as soon as possible. Following which, additional outdoor teenage facility provision should be built in to any new housing developments in the borough.
OTF2	The Council should quality benchmark to ensure existing provision is brought up to an acceptable standard and that any new provision reflects the agreed local quality standard. Sites should therefore conform to FIT standards and consideration should also been given to quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety.

SECTION 9

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction and definitions

- 9.1 PPG17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, these are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Broxbourne.
- 9.2 Outdoor sport facilities represent one of the broadest typologies included within the PPG17 Companion Guide. It includes all natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for outdoor sport and recreation. Types of outdoor sports facilities include; grass sports pitches, synthetic turf pitches (STPs), tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. This category of open space also includes school playing fields (both community and non-community facilities).
- 9.3 Increasing the number and quality of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity is likely to assist in the implementation of other equally important 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.
- 9.4 Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand-led and as a consequence the application of local quantity and accessibility standards should be applied for broad planning need only (to identify overall the adequacy/level of provision). For example, should a neighbourhood of Broxbourne require further provision of outdoor sport facilities to have a level of provision that is equivalent to other areas within the borough, the specific nature of this facility (be it pitches, greens, courts etc) should be based on local demand. Therefore the findings of this section should be read in conjunction with the findings of the Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy, which considers the detailed demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- 9.5 The land required to deliver new outdoor sport facilities can be sizeable. Provision of sports facilities in some of the more developed urban areas in the borough 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 use in mind.
- 9.6 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for outdoor sports facilities in Broxbourne and provides a broad overview of areas of deficiency. Built indoor facilities and community halls are considered separately and are contained within Sections 14 and 15 of this report.

Figure 9.1 Broxbourne Sports Club



Context

- 9.7 The key issues for outdoor sports facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are:
- the Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) (2005) highlights the surplus and deficiencies of a number of sports pitches in the borough. Key findings from the study are as follows:
 - an oversupply of mini-soccer pitches and adult football pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches
 - an optimum number of hockey pitches
 - an oversupply of adult rugby pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches
 - an undersupply of cricket pitches.
 - PPS recommendations included the following:
 - 'the Council should re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for sports with an identified shortfall (eg mini soccer), where another solution has not been identified'

- 'the Council should try to secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quality of existing playing fields in the borough and provide new facilities (including re-designation of pitches) where a shortfall is identified'
- 'the Council should continue to focus upon improving pitch quality standards'.
- the PPS updated the Playing Pitch standard to 0.76 ha per 1,000 population
- the Broxbourne Borough Council Local Plan refers to Sport England's view of there being no substantial deficiencies in outdoor sports pitch provision in the borough but with some expansion being desirable to keep pace with the development of the borough
- Active People Survey results indicate that sports participation in Broxbourne is below the national average, with 17.7% of residents participating in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or active recreation on at least three days a week. This places Broxbourne in the lowest quartile of local authorities nationally and far below the national average of 21.3%
- the Community Strategy is centred on several themes, including:
 - Active and Healthy: increasing levels of fitness for all
 - Young People: the need for more activities to occupy young people and teenagers, along with places for them to hang around with friends, in order to reduce anti-social behaviour.

9.8 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:

- the user base of outdoor sports facilities and interest in the local provision in Broxbourne is relatively low. Only 22% of residents indicated that they frequently use outdoor sports facilities more than once a month, contrasting with 63% who never use these facilities
- despite this, the benefits that outdoor sports facilities offer in terms of health improvements are recognised by the local population. Parks, natural areas and amenity areas also offer significant health benefits to local residents, encouraging them to engage in physical activity and recreation
- there are issues with the quantity of provision, indicating particularly that there are locational deficiencies of this type of open space. Improvements to the quality of existing provision were also highlighted as vital
- opportunities to increase the value of the sports stock to the local community through enhancing community access were highlighted. Residents also viewed the protection of pitches as particularly important.

Quantity of existing provision

- 9.9 There are currently 82 outdoor sport facilities in Broxbourne. 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, but have been discounted from the analysis as they skew the figures and are not deemed to be valid when assessing access to sports facilities.
- 9.10 The current provision of outdoor sports facilities is summarised below in Table 9.2.

Table 9.2 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Total provision (ha) (excluding golf courses)	Hectares per 1,000 population (excluding golf courses)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	16.24	10	16.24	1.23
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	22.77	9	22.77	1.56
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	101.08	31	56.48	3.96
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	12.95	11	12.95	2.06
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	12.64	6	12.64	0.92
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	102.39	15	42.76	1.71
Overall	87,054	268.07	82	163.84	1.88

- 9.11 The key issues arising from this table and consultations undertaken include:
- overall 45% of respondents to the household survey believe there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities, with 40% perceiving current levels of provision to be either ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’

- this divided opinion is reflected across the analysis areas, where there is little variation in terms of numbers believing provision to be either adequate or not. Only in the Hoddesdon North and Rye Park analysis area do the majority of respondents (59%) feel that provision is 'about right'. In each of the other five analysis areas less than 50% of respondents were satisfied with current levels of provision
- consultations with residents and Council officers identified that facilities at Grundy Park are of particularly poor quality with major vandalism problems on the two synthetic turf pitches, which has led to a decline in usage of the site. This reinforces the idea that improvements in terms of quality will also compensate for the perceived undersupply of sports facilities in the borough
- the current level of provision is 268.07 ha spread across 82 sites, which equates to an average site size of 3.27 ha. Excluding the three golf courses in the borough total provision equates to 163.84 ha. This results in a current level of provision of 1.88 ha per 1,000 population
- due to the nature of the typology the size of sites varies significantly. The smallest site is Highway Bowls Club (Site ID 507) at 0.16 ha and the largest is Hertfordshire Golf & Country Park (Site ID 47) at 51.91 ha.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 9.12 The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision (Excluding golf courses)	Recommended standard (Excluding golf courses)
1.88 ha per 1,000 population	1.88 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of outdoor sports provision is equivalent to 1.88 ha per 1,000 population. Golf courses have been removed from all calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources in both the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and through other consultations and therefore have been included in the calculations. As per a recommendation in the PPS it is therefore important that the Council facilitate secured community access at these sites so that more outdoor sports provision is accessible. The extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, 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 planning need only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the perception on the adequacy of the overall level of outdoor sports facility provision is divided, to a certain extent provision of this type of open space is demand led, and only sport specific strategies will provide a clear picture of supply and demand. The Playing Pitch Strategy that was undertaken in 2005 provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of pitches locally. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports 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 at the current level of provision of 1.88ha per 1,000 population. This means that the Council will still have to address the recommendations outlined in the PPS and provide additional outdoor sporting facilities to meet future needs in 2021. As such, the local quantity standard will support the Council’s aspirations to increase participation and to provide sufficient outdoor sports facilities for the growing population of the borough.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

- 9.13 The quality of outdoor sport facilities in Broxbourne is summarised in Table 9.3. This was assessed through site assessments and therefore it is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snap shot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

Table 9.3 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	10	40 – 84	65
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	9	60 – 78	69
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	31	36 – 82	65
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	11	47 – 86	69
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6	51 – 87	67
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	15	53 – 91	74
Overall	82	36 – 91	67

9.14 The key issues emerging from Table 9.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities include:

- responses from the household survey show a mixed opinion. While the majority of residents feel the quality of outdoor sports facilities is average (48%), 21% of respondents state the quality is good and 31% feel the quality is poor. This may be reflective of varying quality around the borough
- in contrast, the individual analysis areas show little variation in opinion. The greatest contrast can be found in Hoddesdon Town, where the proportion of people feeling the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good is equal to those who believe provision is poor (36%)
- the major problems experienced by frequent users of this typology were vandalism and graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Consultation also highlighted the importance of appropriate maintenance (including well kept grass), provision of toilets and cleanliness as the three most important determinants of the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Ancillary accommodation was also perceived to be important
- in line with the above, the highest rated aspirations for outdoor sports facilities as identified by household survey respondents are for well kept grass, clean/litter free, and on-site security

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- the range of quality scores across Broxbourne portrays a significant variation in the quality of provision across the borough. A number of playing fields have particularly low quality scores and the Council should focus upon the enhancement of these sites.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 9.15 The recommended local quality standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
Essential features: Safe and secure Clean and well maintained Apply relevant NGB specifications	Desirable features: Car parking Toilets Changing facilities
Justification	
<p>Household consultation highlighted that the key issues for users of existing sites are for well-kept grass and for sites to be clean and well maintained. In addition, national governing body guidance for sporting sites should be used to ensure that appropriate playing area dimensions, maintenance and safety guidelines are followed where appropriate. This will help to ensure that the quality of outdoor sports facility sites across the borough is improved to address the current perception by borough residents that sites are typically of only average quality. Ensuring that there is adequate ancillary provision, such as car parking, toilets and changing will help to support an increase in levels of satisfaction for borough residents.</p> <p>It is also important to consider that many quality grievances may have arisen out of quantity deficiencies and subsequent pressure on site maintenance.</p>	

Current position – accessibility

- 9.16 The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology. The total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was minimal (5%).

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 9.17 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 9.18 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.

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9.19 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility were:

- expectations regarding the appropriate mode of travel vary according to the type of outdoor sports facility in question. While people would expect to drive to outdoor swimming pools and golf courses, grass pitches, synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens are expected to be provided locally and should be accessible on foot
- the three types of outdoor sports pitch provision for which there was an overall preference for walking (ie grass pitches, STPs and tennis courts) the 75th percentile calculation was a 10 minute walk time for grass pitches and a 15 minute walk time for both STPs and tennis courts
- for the remaining types of outdoor sport facilities, to which respondents indicated that they would expect to drive (ie golf courses and outdoor swimming provision) the 75th percentile calculation was a 20-minute drive time. For bowling greens, where there was a balance between walking and driving the 75th percentile also indicated a 20min walk time or a 15min drive time
- respondents to the sports club survey stated that 97% of their club members primarily use their cars to travel to the facilities. The majority of respondents felt that a 15 to 25 minute journey to the facilities was acceptable
- the John Warner Sports Centre was the single most popular site with sports clubs, with 14% of respondents identifying it as a site they regularly use.

9.20 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix L.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
<p>Grass pitches, STPs, tennis courts and bowls: 15 mins walk</p> <p>Golf courses, outdoor swimming pools: 20 mins drive</p>
Justification
<p>There are a number of factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities; most pertinent is the extensive range of facilities that comprise this typology, which makes it difficult to make a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have differing expectations in relation to outdoor swimming provision (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches, for which there is an assumption of more localised provision.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 9.21 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.
- 9.22 The future level of provision required across Broxbourne to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 9.4. There are significant differences across the analysis areas when measured in hecterage per 1,000 population. As a consequence, the application of a wide quantity standard creates a scenario with both large surpluses and deficiencies.

Table 9.4 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Broxbourne borough

Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (1.88 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	-10.87
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-7.31
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	5.07
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-15.33
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	-0.28
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	13.39
Overall	-15.32

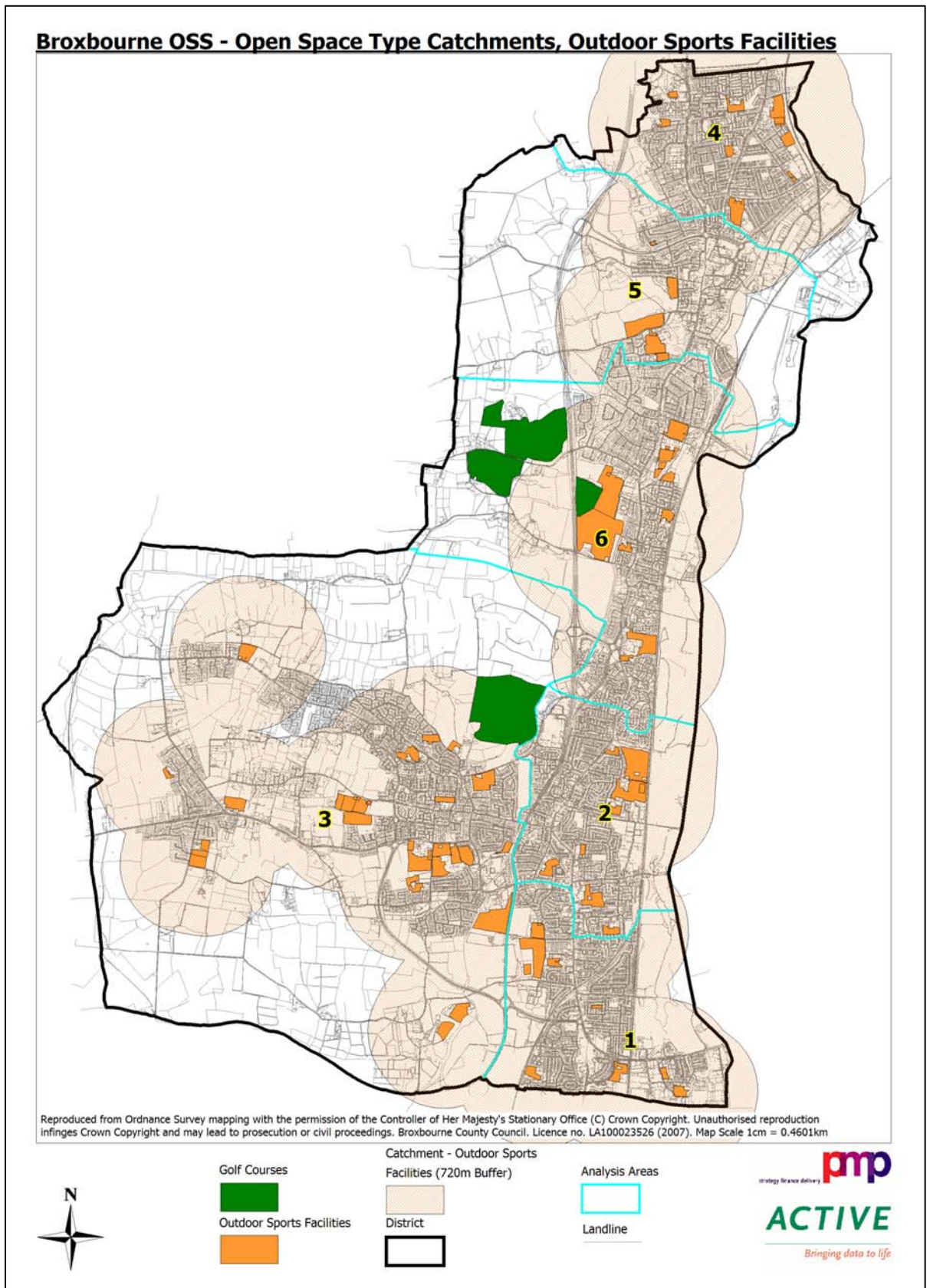
Green = above the standard; Red = below the standard

- 9.23 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:
- there is a strong perception amongst those engaged through the consultation exercise that the borough is not adequately provided for in terms of outdoor sports facilities
 - current levels of provision equate to circa 1.88 ha per 1,000 population (excluding golf courses)
 - the local quantity standard has been set at the current level of provision
 - applying the recommended local quantity standard against the projected population in 2021 reveals that there are likely to be deficiencies in four of the six analysis areas
 - only provision in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End and Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis areas exceeds the minimum standard. Overall, given projected increases in population, a potential shortfall of 15 hectares has been identified for 2021.

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9.24 Figure 9.2 illustrates the distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the borough and the catchment areas that these facilities serve.

Figure 9.2 Outdoor sports facilities in Broxbourne borough



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- 9.25 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites include:
- there is a good distribution of outdoor sport facilities across the borough and as a result the majority of residents fall within the accessibility catchment. However, there is a large variety in the scale of outdoor sport facilities meaning that whilst some residents are in close proximity to large sites, other neighbourhoods are only served by very small sites or school sites
 - school facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. The importance of enhancing access to school facilities needs to be considered and has been previously highlighted through the Playing Pitch Strategy (2005)
 - analysis of the spread of different outdoor sports facilities indicates that pitches are evenly distributed, suggesting a network of local provision. There are several larger sites containing multiple facilities distributed across the borough, such as Grundy Park and Wormley Playing Fields
 - the application of the accessibility catchment for outdoor swimming pools and golf courses shows that the entire borough lies within a 20-minute drive time of these facilities.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 9.26 Quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 9.27 Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic in some areas, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.

OSF 1	Strive to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve the quality standard. This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.
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- 9.28 In addition to the quality of outdoor sports facilities, consultation highlighted that the quantity of provision in some areas is problematic. The quantitative analysis has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2021 in four of the six analysis areas and overall.
- 9.29 The good distribution of facilities illustrated on Figure 9.2 suggests that on the whole, quantity issues relate to the capacity of existing facilities to accommodate the level of demand from local residents. Quantitative issues may relate to access to facilities (or to the specific type of facility required) rather than an overall shortfall.

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- 9.30 This reinforces the need to maximise the number of sites that are accessible to local residents, in particular focusing on access to school facilities for local residents (as recommended within the PPS). This is particularly critical in the analysis areas that have overall quantitative deficiencies, as well as across the borough, given that there are deficiencies in provision.

OSF 2	In locations where there is expressed demand for further sporting provision, and where school facilities could be made available to the public but are not currently, the Council should consider the feasibility of formalising community-use agreements at school sites prior to seeking delivery of new outdoor sport facilities.
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- 9.31 In order to address locational quantitative issues, consideration is given to the opportunities for new provision within the different areas of the borough. However the emphasis should remain with qualitative improvements to existing facilities.
- 9.32 As illustrated in Figure 9.2, the majority of borough residents are within the appropriate distance threshold of at least one outdoor sports facility. Despite this, application of the local quantity standards has revealed an approximate requirement for over 15 ha of new provision up to 2021.
- 9.33 Waltham Cross & Theobalds, Hoddesdon North & Rye Park and Cheshunt analysis areas all have shortfalls below the recommended minimum level of provision at 2021 at c.11 ha, c.15 ha and c.7 ha respectively. Priority for any new facilities should therefore be given to these analysis areas but it is important that any provision is demand led.
- 9.34 Space for new sites may be limited due to the more urban nature of these analysis areas and expansion of existing facilities may be more appropriate. In the first instance it is therefore important that access to existing facilities is maximised through ensuring that transport connections are maintained or improved to allow local residents to access sites outside of these analysis areas.

OSF 3	Investigate the demand for and the potential to deliver further provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area analysis.
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- 9.35 The following are key sites in their respective analysis areas, and these sites should all be retained and the quality improved in line with the recommended local standard:
- Waltham Cross & Theobalds: Albide Ride Playing Fields (Site ID 123/124) and Waltham Cross Playing Fields (Site ID 135)
 - Hoddesdon North & Rye Park : Pound Close Playing Fields (Site ID 21) and John Warner Sports Centre (Site ID 12)
 - Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North: Nightleys Recreation Ground (Site ID 64) and Grundy Park (Site ID 79).

Summary and recommendations

- 9.36 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are owned and managed by sports associations, schools and individual sports clubs. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- 9.37 This PPG17 study considers the provision of all the different types of outdoor sport facilities as one and does not break down the typology into more detailed assessments for each sport. Broxbourne’s Playing Pitch Strategy considers current and future pitch provision in detail as a bespoke element of outdoor sport facilities. It is recommended that a similar approach be taken with other outdoor sports.
- 9.38 Consultation highlighted issues with both the quantity and quality of facilities, which is supported by analysis of the existing provision:
- there is significant variation in the quality of facilities across the borough, with site assessment scores ranging from 36% to 91%
 - the application of the local quantity standards reveals an appropriate level of current provision but a requirement of circa 15 ha of new provision up to 2021.
- 9.39 The application of the quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the distribution of outdoor sports facilities is fairly evenly spread across the borough, with lower levels of provision (in terms of hectares) than the recommended minimum standard in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds, Hoddesdon North & Rye Park and Cheshunt analysis areas. However, residents in all analysis areas are able to access a minimum of one type of outdoor sports facility within the recommended distance threshold.
- 9.40 While there are few accessibility deficiencies and therefore few clear priorities for new provision, consideration should be given to providing new facilities in areas where there is currently little variety. This is particularly important considering participation in sport and physical activity in Broxbourne is below the national and regional average. Improvements to the quality and accessibility of existing facilities should also be prioritised.

OSF 1	Strive to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve the quality standard. This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.
OSF 2	In locations where there is expressed demand for further sporting provision, and where school facilities could be made available to the public but are not currently, the Council should consider the feasibility of formalising community-use agreements at school sites prior to seeking delivery of new outdoor sport facilities.
OSF 3	Investigate the demand for and the potential to deliver further provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area.

SECTION 10
ALLOTMENTS

Allotments

Introduction and definitions

- 10.1 This typology includes all forms of allotments with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. 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 different cultural backgrounds
 - making a wider contribution to the green and open space network
 - 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.

Figure 10.1 Old Highway allotment site in Rye Park



Context

10.4 The key issues for allotments emerging from a review of strategic documents across Broxbourne borough are:

- within the Borough of Broxbourne Local Plan Second Review (2001-2011), there is reference to the Council introducing the concept of ‘leisure gardens’. These leisure gardens will consist of:
 - an area of allotments provided with central facilities (club room, storage etc) and children’s play areas, making allotment gardening a pursuit more attractive as a family activity.

10.5 The results of the household survey were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence to support any decisions. However, consultation highlighted the following key issues:

- 91% of respondents to the household survey indicated that they do not use allotments. However, wider consultation indicated that the allotment sites that are provided across the borough are well used. This indicates that allotments are a demand led typology
- the Council is a key provider of allotment plots in the borough, with large sites at Halfhide Lane in the Wormley and Turnford analysis area and Dark Lane in Bury Green, as well as smaller sites such as Dover Field in Goffs Oak.

Quantity of existing provision

10.6 There are currently 15 allotment sites in Broxbourne. A summary of this provision is provided in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1 – Provision of allotments across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	2.65	3	0.20
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	3.04	2	0.21
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	3.43	2	0.14
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	2.45	2	0.18
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	0.62	2	0.01
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	5.38	4	0.38
Overall	87,054	17.57	15	0.20

10.7 The key issues emerging from Table 10.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of allotments include:

- household survey respondents indicated that overall provision of allotments across the borough is adequate, with 39% stating current provision being 'about right' or 'more than enough'. However, 37% of respondents offered no opinion
- less than 10% of household survey respondents actually rent an allotment and when asked if interested in renting an allotment, only 15% of respondents indicated yes
- consultees at drop in sessions who were interested in renting an allotment plot often had to join a waiting list. However, it would appear that a number of currently rented plots are left unmaintained, and some residents suggested that the Council introduce a better distribution system
- allotment provision is adequately distributed across the borough, with allotment sites in all analysis areas. Total provision varies from 0.62 ha in Hoddesdon Town analysis area through to 5.38 ha in the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area
- current usage levels have been identified at the following sites:
 - Cadmore Lane, Cheshunt: 75% occupied
 - Halfhide Lane, Wormley: 80% occupied
 - Dark Lane, Bury Green: 90% occupied
 - Russells Ride, Cheshunt: 80% occupied
 - Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross: 90% occupied
 - Holdbrook, Waltham Cross: 90% occupied
- 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.

Setting provision standards – quantity

10.8 The recommended local quantity standard for allotments has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix I.

Quantity standard (see Appendices I and J)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.20 ha per 1,000 population	0.20 ha per 1,000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.2 ha per 1,000 population, which is in line with the national standard and those set by neighbouring local authorities. There are 15 allotment sites in the borough, spread across all analysis areas. The quantity of provision (in ha per 1,000 population) is therefore relatively balanced across the six analysis areas, and in line with the overall level of provision, with the exception of Hoddesdon Town where provision is only 0.01 ha per 1,000 population. The greatest level of provision is in Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne at 0.38 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Consultation suggests that the current level of allotment provision is adequate, and that there is only very limited demand for allotment sites. Provision of allotments is demand driven and not all sites are at maximum levels of occupancy. However, in light of the wider health agenda it is important that allotment provision in the borough is promoted and usage maximised. This is in line with the Council’s aim, as detailed in the Local Plan, to promote leisure gardens in the borough.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council adopt a local quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision. This will emphasise the need to retain the existing level of allotment gardens in the borough, and strengthen to need to maintain and improve the quality of the existing sites.</p>	

Quality of existing provision

- 10.9 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit (where access was possible). It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of allotments in Broxbourne borough is summarised in Table 10.2 below. All scores are percentages.

Table 10.2 – Quality of allotments across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	3	60 – 64	62
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	2	56	56
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	2	60 – 62	61
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	2	56 – 64	60

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	2	51 – 56	54
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	4	51 – 67	57
Overall	15	51 – 67	58

10.10 The key issues emerging from Table 10.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of allotments include:

- site scores across all areas are fairly consistent, with area averages falling between 54% and 62%. Sites with consistently higher quality scores are located in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area, with those in the Hoddesdon Town area representing those with lower quality scores
- the highest scoring site was Church Lane Allotments (Site ID 193) and the lowest scoring sites Burnside Allotments (Site ID 25) and Mill Lane Allotments (Site ID 35)
- 59% of household survey respondents perceived allotment provision to be average, 28% good and only 13% poor
- there were also concerns raised in the consultations about vandalism and graffiti at sites. However this was a general concern and no specific sites were repeatedly mentioned
- complaints have also previously been made to the Council by allotment users concerning the quality of the soil at the various sites.

10.11 Assessment of allotment provision relies heavily on responses from users. There were not enough household survey responses in order to be statistically significant. 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.

- 10.12 Allotment use is a private activity and therefore the best indicator of allotment quality is the feedback from users themselves. Our initial 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.
- 10.13 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have a set of standards that set out measures of quality relating to allotment sites, and can be consulted on matters of allotment quality. Essential sample features identified by the household questionnaire results relate to prevention of vandalism and maintenance of grass, as well as the need for clear boundaries and on site management where it is appropriate (mainly the larger sites).

Setting provision standards – quality

- 10.14 The recommended local quality standard for amenity green space is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix K.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
Essential features:	Desirable features:
Safe and secure	Car parking
Clean and well maintained	
Footpaths	
Water supply	
Justification	
The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to encourage use of allotment sites and raise the existing standard of provision. Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community.	

Accessibility of existing provision

- 10.15 Over 90% of respondents to the household survey stated that they do not use allotment sites. Of those that do, only 2% of respondents indicated that they use allotment sites more frequently than any other typology. None of the school survey respondents indicated that they visited an allotment in the past 12 months.
- 10.16 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 provision standards – accessibility

- 10.17 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation. Full justifications and consultation relating to the accessibility of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix L.
- 10.18 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:
- respondents to the household survey indicated that walking would be the most popular method of travel to an allotment site with 61%, followed by 26% stating that travel by car as a preferred option
 - 68% of household survey respondents would expect to travel up to 10 minutes to reach an allotment site
 - calculation of the 75th percentile to determine how far borough residents are willing to travel to reach an allotment site indicates 15 minutes duration.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720m*)
Justification
<p>The provision of allotments is a demand led typology, which should be reflected in the application of the accessibility and quantity standards. As such any deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p>However, the local standard has been set as a 15-minute walk time in line with the 75% threshold level in the household survey and to reflect consultation with existing allotment users.</p>

*a straight-line distance of 720m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of XXXm. This is based on average walking distances reduced by a factor of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in the straight lines. The 40% factoring is based on the approach set out in the NPFA Six Acre Standard.

Applying provision standards

- 10.19 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.
- 10.20 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 further develop communities given the expected population increase in the borough over the next few years.

10.21 The future level of provision required across Broxbourne borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised in Table 10.2 below. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

Table 10.4 Quantitative surpluses and shortfalls across Broxbourne Borough

Analysis area	Future balance (2021) against local standard (0.2 ha per 1,000 population)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	-0.23
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	-0.16
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	-2.04
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	-0.56
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	-0.75
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	2.26
Overall	-1.49

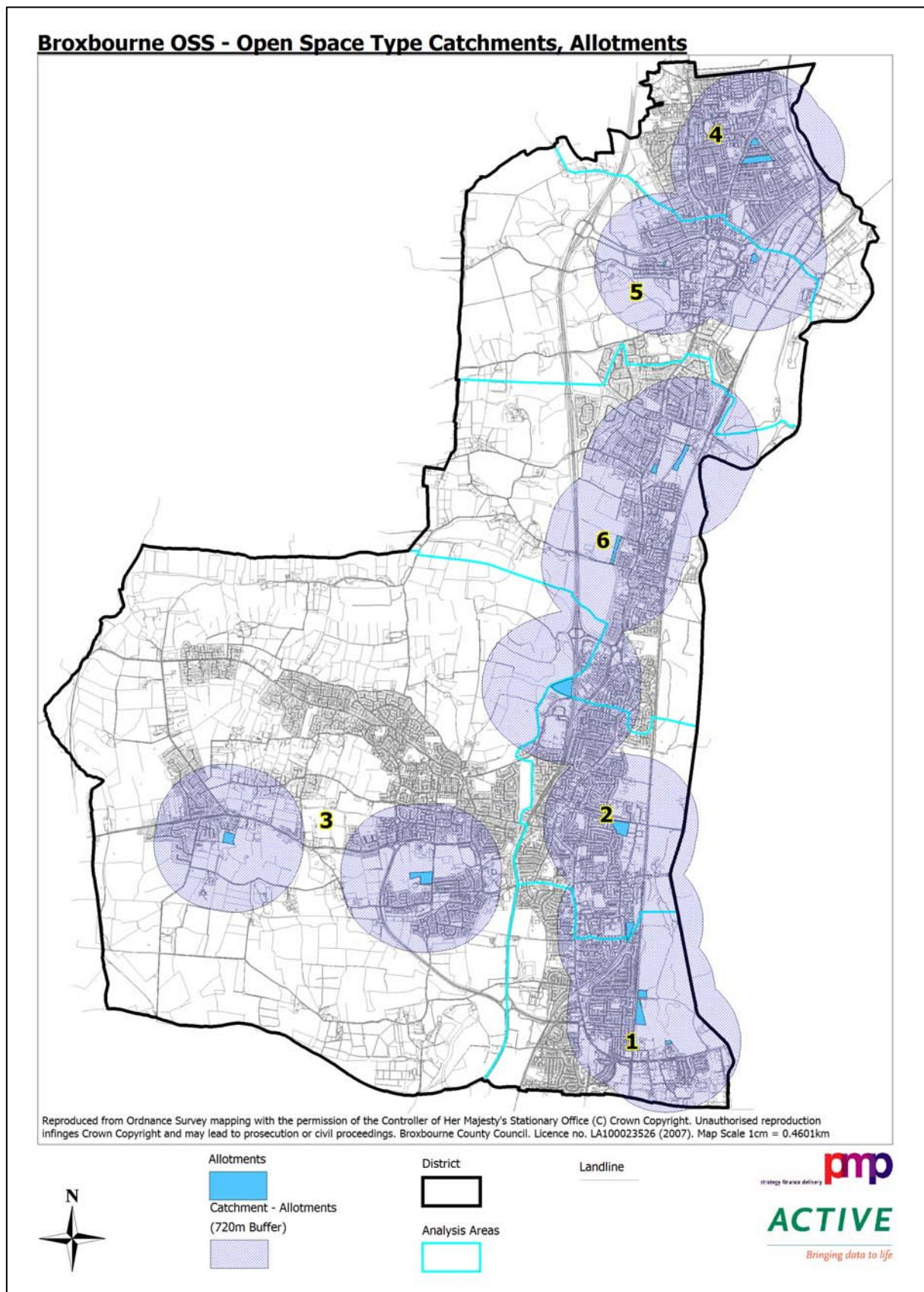
Green = above the minimum standard, Red = below the minimum standard

10.22 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:

- the overall standard is set at the current level of provision at 0.2 ha per 1,000 population. By 2021, in light of population increases, there will be an overall shortfall in provision of circa 1.5 ha
- when looking at the future provision per 1,000 of the population balanced against the standard of 0.2 ha per 1,000 population, five of the six analysis areas show a deficiency, the largest being in Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End (-2.04 ha)
- there is only one analysis area where supply exceeds the minimum standard. This is the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area with 2.26 ha. This analysis area contains the greatest number of sites (4) and the largest overall amount of total provision of 5.38 ha.

10.23 Figure 10.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Broxbourne borough's allotment sites and the catchment areas that these serve.

Figure 10.2 Allotment sites in Broxbourne borough



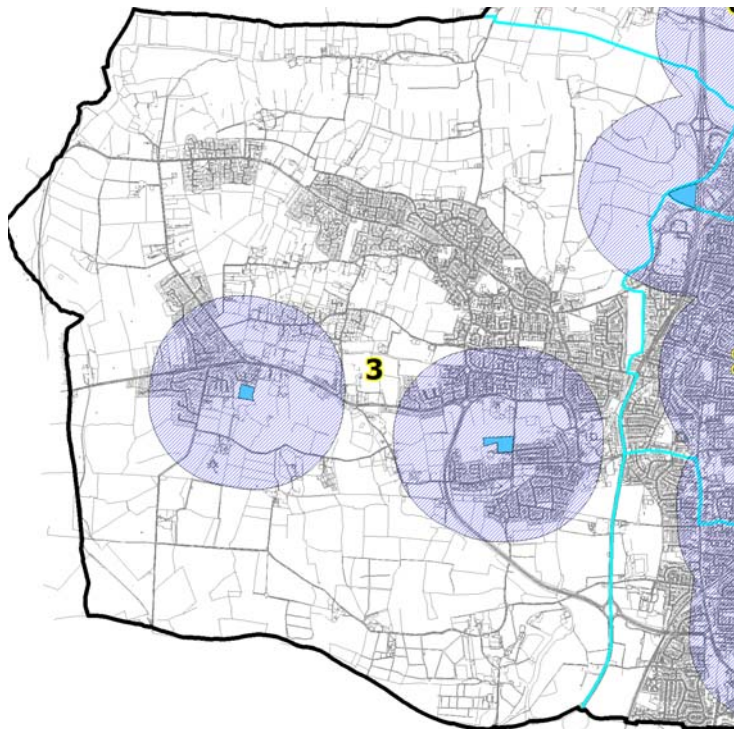
SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

10.24 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of allotment sites include:

- there is a good coverage of allotment provision across the borough with the majority of residential areas within the recommended distance threshold. Distribution of sites across the analysis areas is even, with only limited overlapping catchments. Residents of Cheshunt, Wormley and Turnford and Hoddesdon Town are all within the accessible catchment of at least one allotment site
- the application of the accessibility standard does however reveal that a limited number of residential areas in the borough do fall outside of the recommended local accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time. The main areas of deficiency being:
 - the Flamstead End, Rosedale and Hammond Street areas
 - Theobalds on the southern border of the borough.

10.25 Whilst the current supply of allotments is in line with the recommended local standard of 0.2 hectares per 1,000 population, there is a future undersupply of provision of circa 2 ha. The accessibility mapping shows that there are currently limited accessibility deficiencies within some analysis areas. These areas of current deficiency, as highlighted in Figure 10.3, should be considered key priority areas for future development.

Fig 10.3 – Provision of allotments in the Flamstead End, Bury Green, Rosedale, and Goffs Oak area



ALLOT 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the borough, with reference to current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility deficiency. Following this, where appropriate, seek to provide additional plots to meet future demand.
ALLOT 2	Identify specific sites, which are lower quality and may therefore be a suitable location for redevelopment, and investigate the potential for these sites to be redeveloped with the allotment provision relocated to the Green Belt.

Summary and recommendations

- 10.26 The results of the household survey were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence in support of any decisions. However, consultations with the Council and borough residents indicate that there is currently not a high demand for additional allotment plots in Broxbourne.
- 10.27 The distribution of allotments is good across the borough, and most residents have access to provision within the recommended distance threshold. Despite this, several areas have been identified as priority areas for future development, notably around Flamstead End. However, additional allotment provision is not a priority at present as overall levels are adequate.
- 10.28 The quality of the majority of allotment sites was perceived to be average and a few issues were identified relating to vandalism and graffiti. As there was little variation in the quality of allotment scores according to site assessments, close attention should be made to feedback from current allotment users with regards to quality. Future investment in allotments should focus on ensuring the recommended local quality standard is met and the delivery of high quality ancillary facilities at sites.
- 10.29 A summary of recommendations regarding allotment provision is provided below.

ALLOT 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the borough, with reference to current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility deficiency. Following this, where appropriate, seek to provide additional plots to meet future demand.
ALLOT 2	Identify specific sites, which are lower quality and may therefore be a suitable location for redevelopment, and investigate the potential for these sites to be redeveloped with the allotment provision relocated to the Green Belt.

SECTION 11

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Cemeteries and churchyards

Introduction and definitions

- 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 recognised 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 St Augustine’s Church (Site ID 525)



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.
- 11.4 There are no documented strategies for cemeteries and churchyards within Broxbourne borough, although the Council are looking at future provision and potential locations for new cemetery sites.

SECTION 11 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

11.5 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. As detailed below, 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:

- 60% of respondents to the household survey do not use churchyards and cemeteries. However, 13% of respondents use this typology more than once a month
- three sites in the borough have been identified as being used often. These are Hoddesdon Cemetery, the Old Cemetery in Cheshunt, and Bury Green Cemetery. All other sites have been identified as having low usage
- 54% of respondents rate the quality of cemeteries and churchyards as average and 42% rate the quality of this open space typology as good.

Quantity of existing provision

11.6 There are currently nine churchyards and cemeteries in Broxbourne borough. A summary of this provision is provided in Table 11.2.

Table 11.1 – Provision of churchyards and cemeteries across Broxbourne borough

Analysis Areas	Population (2001 Census)	Total provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000 population
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	13,171	0	0	0
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	14,616	0	0	0
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	24,981	33.81	5	1.35
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	13,741	3.86	1	0.28
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	6,276	0.21	1	0.03
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	14,269	1.2	2	0.08
Overall	87,054	39.08	9	1.74

11.7 The key issues emerging from Table 11.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of churchyards and cemeteries include:

- the overall level of provision is 39.08 ha, producing an average site size of 4.34 ha. The size of sites varies from nearly 22 ha (Bulls Cross Cemetery, Site ID 152) to 0.2 ha (St Catherine & St Paul’s Church, Site ID 517)
- provision is relatively unevenly distributed across the borough with almost all of the total provision being located in AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End). This skew is a result of Bulls Cross Cemetery, which is the largest cemetery in the borough.

Setting provision standards – quantity

11.8 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.

11.9 No quantity standards have been set for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG17 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."*

11.10 For cemeteries, PPG17 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 hectare per 1,000 population requirement.

Quantity standard (see Appendices J and K)

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.	

Quality of existing provision

11.11 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit. It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of churchyards and cemeteries in Broxbourne borough is summarised in Table 11.2 overleaf.

Table 11.2 – Quality of churchyards and cemeteries across Broxbourne Borough

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality site(s)	Highest quality site(s)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt North)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	2	56 - 91	77	Bulls Cross Cemetery (site ID 152)	Bury Green (site ID 119)
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	1	87	87	St Catherine and St Paul's Church (Site ID 517)	
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	1	60	60	Hoddesdon Cemetery (site ID 5)	
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	5	71 - 80	75	St Augustine's Church (Site ID 525)	St Laurence's Church (Site ID 313)
Overall	9	56 – 91	76	Bulls Cross Cemetery (site ID 152)	Bury Green (site ID 119)

11.12 The key issues emerging from Table 11.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of churchyards and cemeteries include:

- there is a wide variation in the quality scoring of cemeteries and churchyards, with scores ranging from 56% through to 91%. In the main, sites were identified as being well maintained and of good quality
- both the highest and lowest quality scoring sites within the borough are located within AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End). These sites are respectively, Bulls Cross Cemetery and Bury Green

- only 4% of the household survey respondents indicated sites were of poor quality, with 54% believing sites to be average quality and the remaining good
- features identified as being important, and therefore maybe requiring improvement at some sites, were well-kept grass, cleanliness (especially litter) and flowers/trees.

Setting provision standards – quality

11.13 In setting local standards for churchyards and cemeteries, it is only appropriate to set a quality standard and take into account any national or local standards. Full indication of consultation and justifications for the recommended local standard is provided within Appendix K. The recommended local standard, derived directly from consultation across Broxbourne borough has been summarised below:

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Safe and secure</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Well laid out</p> <p>A welcoming place (cemeteries)</p> <p>Seating</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Toilets (cemeteries)</p>
Justification	
Consultation with residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. Seating should be available for visitors. Access to toilets is also a desirable feature at cemeteries.	

Setting provision standards – accessibility

11.14 With regards to accessibility there are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards. There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typologies as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

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.

Applying provision standards

11.15 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 and 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 historic and nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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11.16 It is also particularly important to consider the quality of the provision of cemeteries and churchyards and to strive to achieve the local quality standard that has been recommended. Sites scoring well in terms of quality should be considered examples of good practice.

CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard and ensure provision reflects best practice.
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11.17 In areas of limited open space provision, churchyard and cemetery sites are of particular importance. In these areas, enhancement is particularly important to ensure local residents value them. This is particularly the case in the more rural areas where the provision of other types of open space is more limited.

11.18 There are many wider benefits of churchyards and cemeteries including heritage, cultural, natural and landscape values. It is wrong, therefore, to place a value on them which focuses solely on quantity, quality and accessibility. However, it is important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision.

CC 3	The Council should produce management plans 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 for all.
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Summary and recommendations

- 11.19 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas, particularly in rural areas. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land required, but are important for nature conservation.
- 11.20 There is a relatively uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough with a significant proportion of total provision in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area. Cemeteries offer opportunities for quiet recreation as well as acting as important wildlife sanctuaries and are effective in breaking up the urban landscape texture.
- 11.21 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.
- 11.22 Consideration should also be given to the wider benefits offered by cemeteries and churchyards. 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 will be essential to effectively deliver high quality sites across the borough.
- 11.23 The essential and desirable features set out in the quality standards should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough is currently considered average and this needs perception needs to be improved.
- 11.24 Future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards should be undertaken through detailed analysis of birth, death and burial rates within the Borough.
- 11.25 A summary of the recommendations for cemeteries and churchyards is provided below.

CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the historic and nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard and ensure provision reflects best practice.
CC 3	The Council should produce management plans 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 for all.

SECTION 12
CIVIC SPACES

Civic spaces

Introduction and definition

- 12.1 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, public demonstrations and community events.

Figure 12.1 – Hoddesdon Town Centre (Site ID 178)



Context

- 12.2 Civic spaces can be important open space in some areas particularly in urban areas and town centres.
- 12.3 As PPG17 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”.*
- 12.4 Civic spaces need to be considered as an important asset as an area of open space for the residents in towns and settlements across Broxbourne borough. It is the only open space type that is not considered as green space.
- 12.5 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:
- 33% of respondents from the household survey stated that they visit a civic space site at least once a month

- however only a small proportion of respondents to the household survey (5%) identified this type of open space as the type they use most frequently. This does not necessarily suggest that residents do not use these open spaces, just that they visit other types on a more frequent basis.

Quantity of existing provision

12.6 A total of four civic space sites have been identified in the borough. These are:

- Hoddesdon Town Centre (Site ID 178)
- Newgatestreet Road (Site ID 318)
- Old Pond (Site ID 326)
- Waltham Cross Town Centre (Site ID 547)

12.7 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces.

12.8 Feedback from the household survey indicates that the majority of respondents (63%) consider there to be adequate civic space provision in the borough, although 20% stated that there is insufficient provision. A significant percentage of respondents indicated that they had ‘no opinion’ on civic space provision.

Setting provision standards – quantity

12.9 It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces across the local authority area 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.

Quantity standard (see Appendices J and K)

12.10 It is recommended that no local quantity standard be set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their towns and city centres, and where appropriate the Council should seek to achieve this.

Quality of existing provision

12.11 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit. It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records only the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of civic spaces across the borough is set out in Table 12.1 below. It has to be noted that Waltham Cross Town Centre was not quality assessed due to major refurbishments taking place at the time of site visits.

Table 12.1 Quality of civic spaces across Broxbourne borough

Analysis area	Name of sites	Quality scores (%)
AA1 (Waltham Cross & Theobalds)	Waltham Cross Town Centre	N/A
AA2 (Cheshunt Central & Cheshunt)	Old Pond	76

Analysis area	Name of sites	Quality scores (%)
North)		
AA3 (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End)	Newsgatestreet Road	64
AA4 (Hoddesdon North & Rye Park)	N/A	N/A
AA5 (Hoddesdon Town)	Hoddesdon Town Centre	71
AA6 (Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne)	N/A	N/A

12.12 The key issues emerging from Table 12.1 and consultations relating to the quality of provision of civic spaces include:

- consultation from the household survey indicates a large proportion of respondents (65%) view civic spaces to be of average quality. 25% of respondents rate this typology as being of good quality and the remaining 10% poor
- all three sites have relatively high quality scores ranging from 64% through to 76%. This is reflective of the results from the household survey.

Setting provision standards – quality

12.13 In setting local standards for civic spaces, it is only appropriate to set a quality standard, taking into account any national or local standards. Full details of the consultation and justifications for the recommended local standard are provided within Appendix K. The recommended local standard, derived directly from consultation across Broxbourne borough has been summarised overleaf.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Safe and secure</p> <p>Seating</p> <p>Access to toilets</p> <p>Plants and trees</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Events</p> <p>Access to refreshments</p>
Justification	
<p>Consultation with residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe and well maintained to encourage usage. In addition, where appropriate, the hosting of events at civic space sites, as well as the provision of seating and access to refreshments will promote usage.</p>	

Accessibility of existing provision

- 12.14 Responses to the household survey showed that more people would expect to walk (48%) to a civic space sites as opposed to drive (34%), with the 75th percentile threshold being 20 minutes. This suggests that civic spaces are believed to be generally accessible on foot.
- 12.15 Site assessment ratings shows that all three civic spaces are good or average in terms of transport links and general site access.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 12.16 There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they are limited in their scope to provide additional provision. Civic spaces tend to be located in town or local centres or indeed opportunity led through the development if civic or large buildings. This is particularly the case in the more rural areas of the borough, where there would be little expectation to find civic spaces located in such areas.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
PPG17 states that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such a typology as it cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation. However, it is recommended that the Council consider the accessibility of civic spaces as a standard that can be used for broad planning need.

Summary and recommendations

- 12.17 There are only three civic spaces across the Broxbourne borough, located in three of the six analysis areas. The nature of this typology means that they are very specific to their locality.
- 12.18 Whilst no local quantity or accessibility standard has been set, careful consideration should be given when new developments are designed to the opportunity for providing additional civic spaces.
- 12.19 A quality standard has been set as a benchmark for new areas of civic space and the maintenance of existing areas across the borough.

CIV 1	The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of civic spaces across the borough in line with the quality standard and to ensure civic spaces provide a value community resource.
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SECTION 13
GREEN CORRIDORS

Green corridors

Introduction and definition

- 13.1 Green corridors are linear features of mostly open character, including canal towpaths, riverside paths, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, which act as wildlife corridors and attractive, safe off-road links between residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas. They also give residents access to natural green space and the open countryside and provide opportunities for recreation. Green corridors increase in value if they are linked to form a network that extends within and beyond the borough boundary.
- 13.2 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 Broxbourne is an important strategic consideration.
- 13.3 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. 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, and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them with proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible.

Context

- 13.4 Green corridors are a key component of the green infrastructure of Broxbourne and provide important links to the neighbouring local authorities for residents. In addition to improving sustainability and linking urban areas with nearby rural countryside, green corridors represent an important chance to promote sustainable transport by cycle and on foot. Provision and use of green corridors will be a key determinant in the achievement of targets for participation in sport and active recreation.
- 13.5 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.
- 13.6 The strategic context of green corridors is detailed below:
- the latest government plan published by the Department for Transport and entitled “Walking and Cycling: an action plan” states: *“walking and cycling are good for our health, good for getting us around, good for our public spaces and good for our society, for all these reasons we need to persuade more people to choose to walk and cycle more often”*
 - therefore it is important to address any qualitative deficiencies of green corridors and capitalise on any opportunities to increase and enhance the network. Providing a high quality infrastructure will not only increase use of green corridors, but linkages between sites will increase use of individual open space sites and remove barriers to access

- many residents of the Borough visit the Lee Valley Regional Park and walk or cycle alongside the various rivers and streams
- in addition, the New River is a significant main green corridor in the Borough, and has considerable ecological interest as well as providing a rich source of industrial archaeology
- the Local Plan outlines that the Council will seek to ensure that the essentially open character, amenity and wildlife value of all waterside 'green chains' throughout the borough are protected. This supported by policy HD19:
 - (I) Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which would have a materially detrimental effect upon the open character of waterside green chains whether located within the urban area or the countryside
 - (II) The Council will permit, in conjunction with Thames Water PLC and riparian land owners, development proposals that make a positive contribution to enhancing the biodiversity, wildlife, and amenity value of waterside green chains throughout the borough and will seek to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are incorporated into any development proposals proximate to these chains.

13.7 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues regarding green corridors:

- 50% of respondents to the household survey use green corridors once a month or more
- 46% of respondents to the household survey believe that the quality of green corridors is good, whilst 44% believe the quality is average
- consultees commented on the important role that green corridors play within the community, primarily in terms of their role as a link to different amenities.

Quantity of existing provision

13.8 There are currently no local standards relating to the provision of green corridors. The linear nature of green corridors means it is inappropriate to measure the area and assess these spaces. Nevertheless their importance within the borough should not be undermined as they provide an essential linkage between open spaces and increase the accessibility of other sites.

Setting provision standards – quantity

13.9 In light of the nature of green corridors it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards. Annex A of PPG17 supports this, stating that there is no sensible way of setting an appropriate provision standard as detailed below.

Quantity standard (see Appendix J)

13.10 Annex A of 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 land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads”.*

13.11 It is therefore recommended that no provision standard should be set. PPG17 goes onto to state that:

“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 are 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”.

Setting provision standards – quality

13.12 Only a quality vision has been set for green corridors. Site assessment scores have not been included in this analysis, as it is not feasible to assess the length of all footpaths/corridors. However, the quality standard should be used as an aspiration for the introduction of new linkages.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
Essential features:	Desirable features:
Clean and well maintained	Cycle tracks
Improve biodiversity	Footpaths
Justification	
<p>Consultation with residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe and well maintained to encourage usage. Cycle tracks and footpaths should be provided where appropriate.</p> <p>While green corridors have a key recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play.</p>	

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 13.13 There is no requirement to set catchments for green corridors as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

Recommended standard
There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led.

Applying provision standards

- 13.14 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.
- 13.15 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

- 13.16 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. In this way, green corridors can be integral to the achievement of targets for increased active participation.
- 13.17 There are already a number of footpaths and green corridor networks within the borough and consultation indicates that they are well used and valued. Future development needs to encompass linkages between large areas of open space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites. Development should consider both the needs of wildlife and humans.
- 13.18 A network of multi-functional greenspace will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities in the future. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces, helping to alleviate other open space deficiencies and provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport.

GC 1	Existing green corridors should be linked to open spaces in the Borough, including the Lee Valley Regional Park and Broxbourne Woods. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces.
GC 2	Those responsible for the green corridors in Broxbourne should aspire to the essential and desirable quality features. The Council should also work in tandem with all delivery partners, such as Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, in order to maximise the use of green corridors.

SECTION 14
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Indoor sports facilities

Introduction and definition

- 14.1 PPG17 states that it is essential to also consider the role that indoor sports facilities play in meeting the needs of local residents. It states that the provision of swimming pools, indoor sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis should be considered as part of the local supply and demand assessment.
- 14.2 The methodology for the assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England parameters. Nevertheless, while these national standards are taken into account, the emphasis and focus remains on the development and application of local standards, which are representative of the needs and expectations of local residents.

Context

- 14.3 As detailed above, it is important to consider the provision of indoor sports facilities in relation to local need. The local context is considered below, where key strategic documents have been summarised along with headline findings from the local consultation.

Borough of Broxbourne Local Plan Second Review 2001-2011

- 14.4 The Local Plan outlines the Council's objectives in respect of the provision and retention of community, leisure and recreation facilities including:
- to develop and protect existing facilities for community use and sport and recreation generally as identified in the Community Plan
 - to ensure that adequate provision is made for a wide range of community sporting and leisure activities commensurate with the demands of the population of the borough
 - to continue to monitor provision against need, providing and/or promoting new facilities when need for such is clearly identified
 - to ensure provision of parks, open space, sports and community and recreational facilities keeps pace with new development/population trends.

Broxbourne Community Plan 2007-09

- 14.5 The Community Plan has been developed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which consists of high-level representation from all public and voluntary sector bodies in the borough.
- 14.6 The vision outlined in the Plan is “to create an area where residents want to live and work”, and to increase the “sense of place” and “sense of community”. It is centred on several themes. Those of particular relevance to this study include:
- active and healthy – increasing levels of fitness for all
 - young people – an emphasis is put on the need for more activities to occupy young people and teenagers, along with places for them to ‘hang out’ with friends, in order to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Active Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy 2007-2016

14.7 The Active Hertfordshire Sports Facility Strategy outlines the following vision:

“To develop a network of quality and accessible community and specialist sports facilities, with appropriate support services, within Hertfordshire that will facilitate increased participation and achievement of potential, enhance quality of life and improve the health and well-being of local communities”.

14.8 This vision will be supported by six policy objectives:

- to demonstrate strategic need, both current and future, to inform need for facility provision
- to increase participation countywide by 1% per annum
- to ensure provision of appropriate resources for young people, physical education and school sport
- to develop countywide capacity of clubs, coaches and volunteers to facilitate participation at grassroots, and elite performance level
- to improve health and address social inclusion issues
- to develop innovative partnerships for delivery which maximise available resources for investment and development of community and specialist sports facilities.

Consultation

14.9 Consultation specific to indoor sports provision in Broxbourne borough provides an indication of public opinion whilst providing some meaningful statistics. Key findings from consultation provide a justification for setting local standards against local needs and include:

- the majority of household survey respondents indicated that they perceive provision of indoor sports facilities in the borough to be ‘about right’
- the greatest levels of satisfaction relate to the level of provision of sports halls and swimming pools in the borough, where respectively 66% and 64% of household survey respondents indicated provision to be adequate
- there was a more balanced view on the adequacy of provision of indoor tennis and indoor bowls facilities in the borough, with approximately the same percentage of household survey respondents indicating provision is either adequate or not enough. Significantly, in both cases, over 40% of respondents indicated no opinion
- household survey respondents indicated that the highest rated quality aspirations for indoor sports facilities are:
 - cleanliness of changing rooms (17%)
 - value for money (16%)
 - range of activities (14%)

- and well maintained (12%).
- the majority of respondents to the household survey indicated that they expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. A preference for driving is supported by the sports club survey consultation, whereby the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they currently travel by car to indoor sports facilities
- indoor sports facilities (community halls, school halls, leisure centre sports halls and activity rooms, martial arts halls and dance studios) are used by 27 out of the 38 clubs who responded to the sports club survey
- responses from netball clubs and martial arts clubs indicated a clear perceived lack of provision – all netball clubs and 75% of martial arts clubs indicated that there is not enough provision in the borough to meet their facility needs
- 19% of sports clubs indicated a demand for additional sports hall provision
- John Warner Sports Centre was the single most popular site amongst sports club respondents with 14% identifying it as a site they use on a regular basis
- 58% of sports club respondents identified ‘affordable prices’ as a priority for sport and leisure provision in Broxbourne. This is supported by comments made by numerous clubs at the end of the survey.

14.10 Consultation with Council officers outlined the following key issues:

- the priority should be on improving the quality of existing facilities, as the level of provision is believed to be adequate
- a priority for quality improvements is Grundy Park. This site needs investment in new changing rooms estimated at £750,000. This is a key site in the borough as it has a throughput of circa 400,000 per annum, but has more recently been the target of vandalism and anti social behaviour.

Quantity of existing provision

14.11 A broad review of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken to guide future planning within Broxbourne based on the Active Places database. This overview provides an evidence base for planning purposes.

14.12 Provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor tennis and indoor bowls has been considered in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. Local standards for quantity and accessibility are specific to each type of facility and are detailed in the paragraphs that follow. An overarching quality standard has been set for indoor facilities, and follows at the end of the section.

Setting provision standards – quantity

14.13 In order to derive quantity standards for each type of indoor sports facility, the level of supply is compared to an estimated demand. The foundations of all demand assessments are based on an analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population within a catchment area of the site. Demand models are also used in the development of provision standards. The application of these provision standards will be critical in meeting the needs of the local community.

Demographic analysis

	Borough catchments
Population	<p>The resident population based on the 2001 Census findings was 87,054.</p> <p>The proportion of males to females is 49% to 51%.</p> <p>Population is projected to increase to 95,300 by 2021.</p>
Age structure	<p>According to the 2001 Census, 21% of the resident population is under 16 years of age (20% for England), 60% is between 16 and 59 (compared to 59% in England and Wales) and 20% is aged 60 and over (compared to 21% in England and Wales).</p>
Ethnic background	<p>The ethnic structure of the population shows that 96% of the population is white compared to the national average of 90.9%.</p> <p>1% of the population is Asian (compared to the national average of 4.6%) and 1.1% is black (compared to the national average of 2.3%).</p>
Economic activity	<p>The proportion of residents in full time employment is 44% (compared to 41% in England and Wales). 2.4% of the local population is unemployed (compared to 3.4% in England and Wales).</p> <p>13.7% of the population is retired which is marginally higher than the 13.5% average for England and Wales.</p>
Mobility	<p>17.1% of Broxbourne households do not own a car, which is significantly less than the average for England and Wales of 26.8%.</p>
Health	<p>The percentage of people who stated they had a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited daily activities or work was 14%, which is below the average for England and Wales (18%).</p>

Propensity to participate

- 14.14 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.

- 14.15 The survey provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and allows 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.
- 14.16 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.
- 14.17 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 Broxbourne participation rate is 17.7%
 - the average East of England participation rate is 20.5%
 - Broxbourne participation is c.3% lower than the East of England rate
 - the national average participation rate is 21%
 - Broxbourne participation is c.3.5 lower than the national rate.
- 14.18 These statistics all serve to illustrate that participation rates amongst Broxbourne residents are significantly lower than the national average.

Analysis of supply and demand

- 14.19 A comparative analysis to establish the adequacy of current facility provision in meeting local demand has been undertaken. 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 PMP's in-house geo-demographic mapping package (MtF) to illustrate the geographical spread of facilities across the borough
 - use of demand modelling techniques based on Sport England's Facilities Calculator to calculate whether the level of current supply adequately meets demand or whether there is under or over provision. This toolkit has been devised to provide an indication of expected level of provision, based on populations within the local authority boundary.
- 14.20 The demand modelling 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

- the relationship between X and Y indicates the surplus or shortfall in terms of number of units.
- 14.21 Supply and demand analysis has been completed for sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls and indoor tennis. This includes facilities that are located within the borough boundary. We have also audited some facilities that fall close to the borough boundary and we have commented on these where relevant to our supply side analysis. These have been included to more accurately reflect the likely usage of facilities for Broxbourne residents.
- 14.22 The different roles and accessibility (both perceived and actual) of public and private facilities have been reflected within the demand modelling, with private facilities being excluded from sports hall and swimming pool provision.
- 14.23 In addition, it is assumed that school facilities formally available to the public have their accessibility reduced 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 Broxbourne.
- 14.24 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.

Sport halls

- 14.25 There are currently eight sports halls in the borough. However only four of these have at least three courts and therefore these are the only facilities included in our calculations, as per Sport England modelling parameter guidance. The remaining four facilities are:
- Grundy Park Leisure Centre (6 courts)
 - John Warner Sports Centre (4 courts)
 - Goffs School Sports Centre (3 courts)
 - Hertford Regional College (3 courts).
- 14.26 The sites at both Goffs School Sports Centre and Hertford Regional College are dual use facilities. As a result, usage capacity has been reduced by 25% (from 4 courts to 3 courts) to reflect the perceived and actual unavailability of courts during the day. The dual use agreement at Hertford Regional College is a newly signed community use agreement that has been put in place to improve public access to the facility.
- 14.27 **Total sports hall supply in the borough is therefore considered to be 16 courts.** This equates to 0.18 courts per 1,000 population.
- 14.28 The Sport England Facility Calculator considers the capacity of sports halls to meet demand for the local population. Findings reveal that there is **currently demand for 25 courts**, or just over six four-court sports halls in the borough. This equates to 0.29 courts per 1000 population. If we adjust the model to include the projected population for 2021, demand increases to 27.5 courts (just under seven sports halls).

Sport England Facility Calculator demand	Current supply	Surplus/deficiency
25 courts	16 courts	9 court shortfall

- 14.29 It should be noted that provision at facilities exclusively for club use, village halls and community facilities gives additional supply. This is analysed in Section 15.
- 14.30 Facility size and accessibility for public use are key factors taken into consideration when assessing the current level of supply. Sports hall facilities that are below four badminton courts in size are not included within the audit due to the restrictions this puts on the mix of sports that can be played in the hall.
- 14.31 Our audit also revealed further sports hall space equivalent to five courts that fall just outside the borough catchment area. These are, however, predominantly single court and private facilities.

Sports halls quantity standard

- 14.32 Results from the household survey indicate that 66% of respondents believe the provision of sports halls in the borough is about right or more than enough. However, 22% believe it is not enough, and 12% gave no opinion.
- 14.33 The demand modelling has shown there to be a significant shortfall in the quantity of sports hall provision in Broxbourne borough. However, this is not reflected in the local consultation where the overall consensus is that provision is in line with local need. As a result, it is recommended that the local quantity standard is set to equal the level of demand as set by Sport England’s Facilities Calculator (ie at 0.29 courts per 1,000 population). This means that whilst local residents are currently satisfied with existing levels of provision, by setting the standard at the level of demand indicated through the Sport England Facilities Calculator, there is a need to provide additional sports hall facilities in the borough to address the shortfall in provision and support the needs of a growing and more active population. Full justification for the local quantity standard is set out in Appendix I.

LOCAL QUANTITY STANDARD
0.29 courts per 1,000 population

Sports halls accessibility standard

- 14.34 With regards to accessibility, Sport England research indicates that all residents should be within a 15-minute drive time of a sports hall. In terms of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) accessibility target, 63% of residents in Broxbourne are within 20 minutes travel of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard (standard suggests between 30% and 50%). Both Grundy Park Leisure Centre and John Warner Sports Centre have achieved Quest accreditation.

- 14.35 A standard of a 15-minute drive time is in line with the 75% threshold level calculated through the household survey responses. It is also supported through feedback from the sports club survey where nearly 50% of respondents indicated a travel time of 15 to 25 minutes. The 15-minute drive time, whilst a national standard, is also representative of the expectations and aspirations of local residents within Broxbourne.
- 14.36 However, it is important to consider the need for local facilities and in this respect a local accessibility standard of a 20-minute walktime may be more appropriate. This is in line with CPA recommendations for an urban area, which would apply for the majority of the borough.
- 14.37 Whilst the majority of respondents to the sports club survey indicated that they currently drive to sports halls, 40% of respondents to the household survey stated that they would prefer to walk to such facilities. This reiterates the importance of localised provision, and that the close proximity of facilities to where people live will increase the likelihood that they will visit and become more active. In this respect sports hall provision is closely aligned to that of other community facilities.

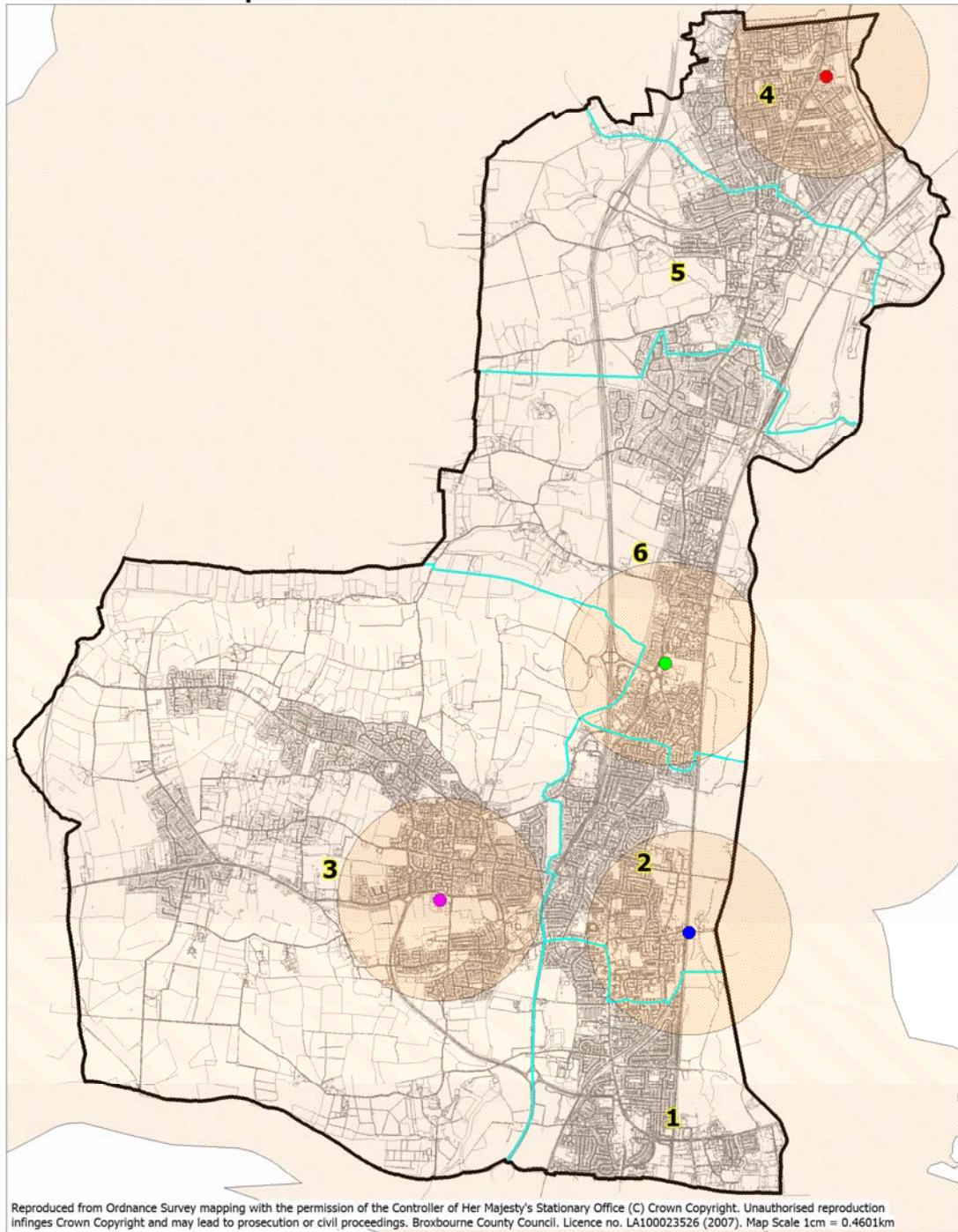
**LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY
STANDARD**

15 minute drive time

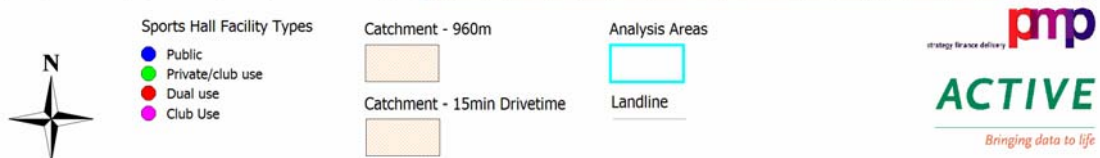
- 14.38 As detailed above, it is therefore important to recognise the valued contribution made by smaller provision such as community halls within the borough. These may allow certain sporting activities to take place and may be located much closer than the drive time standard, but are not included within the analysis because the Active Places definition of a sports hall assumes four or more badminton courts. These facilities are analysed separately in Section 15.
- 14.39 Figure 14.1 overleaf summarises the provision of sports halls within Broxbourne and illustrates any existing deficiencies based on the standards that have been set. It can be seen that the 15-minute drive time standard covers the whole borough, which means that all borough residents are within the recommended accessibility catchment for sports hall provision in Broxbourne.
- 14.40 If a 20-minute walk time accessibility catchment were applied, it is evident that there are significant deficiencies in accessibility in all areas given that the current supply of sports halls is so low at 13 courts. There is sports hall provision in three of the six analysis areas:
- Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (Goffs School Sports Centre)
 - Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (Grundy Park Leisure Centre)
 - Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (John Warner Sports Centre).
- 14.41 These three sites serve only the residential areas in the immediate vicinity, meaning that residential areas such as Cheshunt, Waltham Cross and Hoddesdon are outside of an accessible catchment. This deficiency is considered in light of community facilities provision and detailed in Section 15.

Figure 14.1 – Provision of sports halls in Broxbourne

Broxbourne OSS - Sports Hall Facilities



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Sports halls summary

- 14.42 A local quantitative standard of 0.29 courts per 1,000 population has been set for sports hall provision in Broxbourne borough. This is in line with Sport England’s Facilities Calculator, a modelling tool that estimates what provision should be for a local authority area, based on their current and future populations.
- 14.43 Club use and private facilities are excluded from the calculations due to a lack of public access, although their presence has been acknowledged where relevant to the analysis. Improved access to these sites may help to reduce any programming difficulties at key sites and also address the issues regarding an uneven distribution accessible sports hall provision across the borough, as illustrated in Figure 14.1.

ISF 1	Work in partnership with sports hall providers in the borough to facilitate community access to these sites, to help alleviate any programming conflicts at key sites and address public accessibility deficiencies across the borough.
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- 14.44 As levels of active participation increases in the borough in line with borough and countywide, as well as national, strategic objectives, consideration should be given to the maximisation of resources on school sites and access by the community. Programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the extended schools programme offer significant opportunities.

ISF 2	Work in partnership with education providers in the borough to facilitate community access to sports hall provision on school sites and maximise opportunities through the BSF and extended schools programme.
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- 14.45 It is important that quantity and accessibility is considered parallel to quality and providers of all indoor sports facilities should strive to achieve the quality vision that is set out at the end of this section. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality. Grundy Park Leisure Centre and the John Warner Sports Centre have already attained this accreditation.

ISF 3	Strive to achieve a high quality of provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
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Swimming pools

- 14.46 There are currently eight swimming pools in the borough. One of these is an outdoor pool (Hoddesdon Outdoor Pool) and has been excluded from the demand modelling. Of the remaining seven pools, only three are publicly accessible. The four other facilities excluded are either private facilities or are reserved for dedicated club use and have therefore been excluded from our analysis.
- 14.47 The three public indoor swimming pools in the borough are:

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- Lee Valley Leisure Centre pool (which is proposed to close in 2009). Whilst predominantly a leisure pool, the facility has two-lanes that are dedicated to lane swimming, providing over 100 sqm of public water space
- John Warner Sports Centre pool (25m six-lane pool)
- Grundy Park Leisure Centre (25m six-lane pool plus learner).

14.48 The **current level of provision in Broxbourne is equivalent to 755m² of water space.**

14.49 Based on the current population of 87,054, the Sport England Facility Calculator reveals a **requirement for 904m² of water space.** This is equivalent to 17 lanes and just over four 25m pool units.

14.50 Based on a future population of 95,300 in 2021, the Sport England Facility Calculator reveals a requirement for 990m² of water space, equivalent to just under 19 lanes and over four 25m pool units.

14.51 Based on the current level of provision, this analysis reveals a shortfall of 149m², which equates to circa half a 25m pool unit.

Sport England facility calculator demand	Current supply	Surplus/deficiency
904m ²	755m ²	Shortfall of 149m ²

Swimming pools quantity standard

14.52 64% of respondents to the household survey stated that the provision of swimming pools in the borough is about right or more than enough. 25% believed it was not enough and 11% gave no opinion.

14.53 On this basis, demand within the borough of Broxbourne is equivalent to 904m². Using these provision standards, demand per 1,000 population can be calculated as:

- population of Broxbourne = 87,054
- demand per 1,000 people = $(904\text{m}^2 / 87,054) * 1000$.

14.54 The demand model indicates that 10.38m² of water space per 1,000 population is required to meet current demand. However, as there is currently a shortfall in provision, it is recommended that the quantity standard be set at a higher level than the current level of supply ie 8.67m² per 1,000 population to meet demand. This equates to an additional 1.71m² per 1,000 population.

LOCAL QUANTITY STANDARD
10.38m² water space per 1,000 population

14.55 Based on the demand modelling, the supply of swimming pools in the borough is calculated as being short of circa half a 25m pool unit. There are however two

swimming pools on schools sites in the borough that are not currently publicly accessible, facilitating community use at these sites will help to address the current deficiency. In addition to the indoor swimming pool facilities, Hoddesdon Open Air Pool also provides additional water supply in the borough. However, this has not been included in our analysis because it is recognised that an outdoor pool is a significantly different swimming experience from indoor swimming, and the two in some respects are not comparable.

- 14.56 It is understood that the future of the outdoor pool is currently under review, and that Lee Valley Leisure Centre pool is also proposed to close in 2009, this will further exacerbate the current shortfall in water provision in the borough and supports the need to set the local standard higher than the current level of provision.
- 14.57 Whilst consultation indicates that borough residents are satisfied with the current levels of provision, in order to meet increased levels of participation, the local standard should be set above the current level of supply and in line with current demand as calculated through the Sport England Facilities Calculator. This will ensure that the future needs and expectations of borough residents are addressed, particularly if the proposed closure of the Lee valley site is progressed.
- 14.58 Participation has been identified as low in the borough, and by recommending a standard in line with Sport England recommendations, impetus is given to increase participation levels to maximise current facilities that exist.

Swimming pools accessibility standard

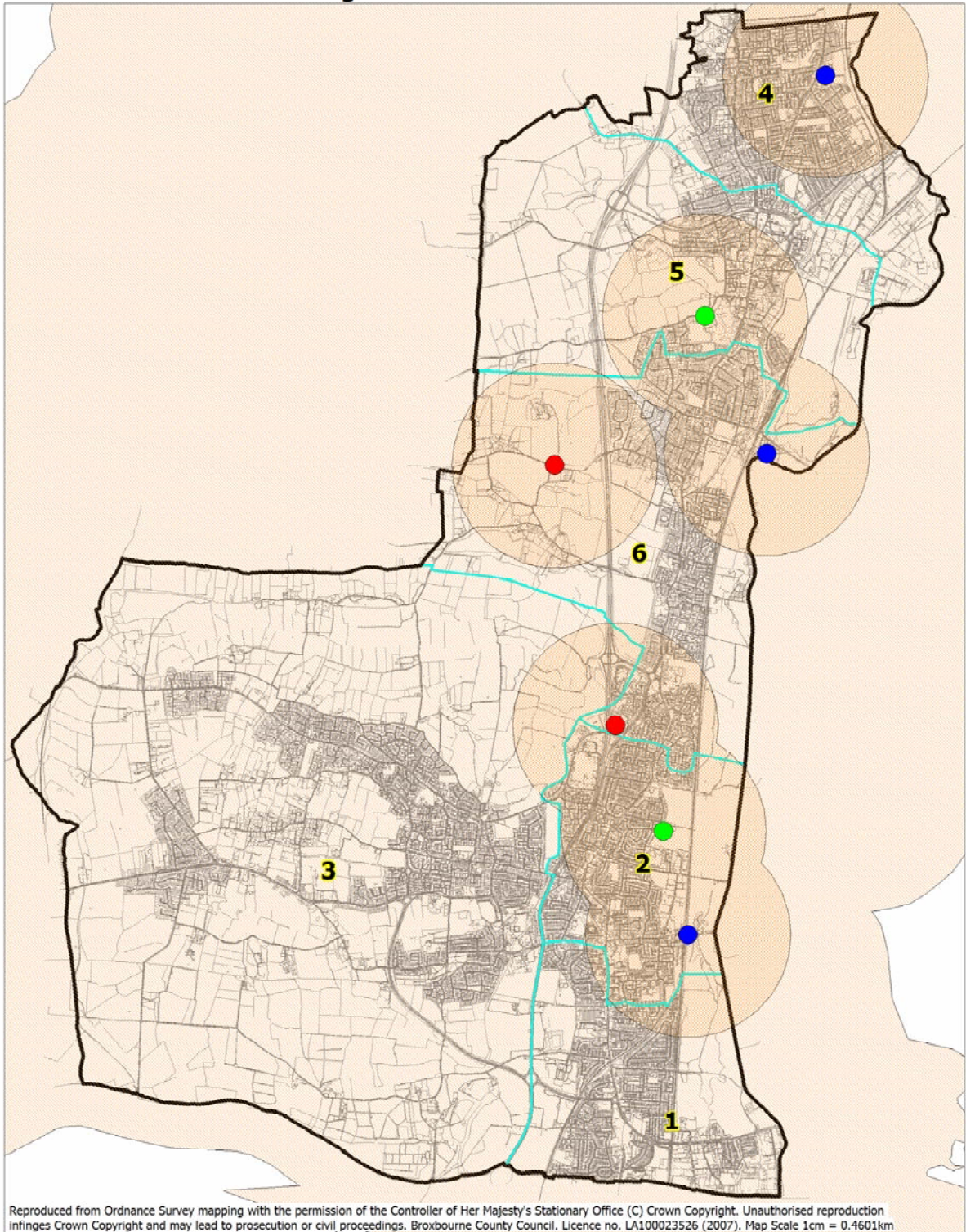
- 14.59 With regards to accessibility, Sport England research indicates that all residents should be within a 20-minute drive time of a swimming pool. In terms of the CPA accessibility target, 63% of residents in Broxbourne are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of three different sports facility types, of which one has achieved a quality assured standard (standard suggests between 30% and 50%). Both Grundy Park Leisure Centre and John Warner Sports Centre have achieved Quest accreditation.
- 14.60 In line with the 75% threshold, of those respondents who suggested that they would drive to an indoor swimming pool (45%), it is recommended that the local accessibility standard should be set at a 15-minute drive time. This is representative of the expectations and aspirations of local residents within Broxbourne.

LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
15 minute drive time








- 14.61 Figure 14.2 overleaf summarises the provision of swimming pools within Broxbourne and illustrates any existing deficiencies based on the standards that have been set. It can be seen that all residents can access facilities within the recommended distance threshold.

Figure 14.2 – Provision of sports halls and swimming pools in Broxbourne

Broxbourne OSS - Swimming Pool Facilities



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	Swimming Pool Facility Types ● Public ● Private/club use ● Private	Catchment - 960m  Catchment - 15min Drivetime 	Analysis Areas  Landline 	 strategy through delivery  Bringing data to life
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Swimming pools summary

- 14.62 The quantity standard for swimming pools is set at 10.38m² of water space per 1,000 population. This is in line with the level of demand as calculated through the Sport England Facility Calculator analysis, and above the existing supply of publicly accessible water provision in the borough, which indicates a shortfall of circa half a 25m pool unit (ie 150 sqm).
- 14.63 Setting the standard in line with demand will ensure that the current deficiency in water provision in the borough is addressed and that increased levels of participation can be accommodated, which will in turn help ensure that the future needs and expectations of borough residents are met, particularly with the proposed closure of the Lee Valley Leisure Pool facility. Encouraging community access at the two school sites in the borough with swimming facilities, Sheredes School and Turnford School will raise the current level of supply in line with the recommended quantity standard also help to address the current shortfall in water provision in the borough.

ISF 4	Work in partnership with Sheredes School and Turnford School to facilitate community access to swimming pool provision on site.
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- 14.64 Current levels of swimming pool provision in Broxbourne are high and well spread throughout the borough. This means that all borough residents are within the recommended local accessibility drive time catchment of a swimming pool facility. Despite the current shortfall in public pool provision as detailed above, there are a number of school facilities that could meet the swimming needs of borough residents. Encouraging community access to these facilities would enable the Council to increase current participation levels in the borough that are low at 17.7%.
- 14.65 As detailed previously, providers of all indoor sports facilities should strive to achieve the quality vision that is set out at the end of this section and where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality. Both Grundy Park Leisure Centre and John Warner Sports Centre have achieved Quest accreditation and should seek to renew this accreditation at the relevant time.

ISF 5	Strive to achieve a high quality of provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
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Indoor bowls

- 14.66 There are currently no indoor bowls facilities in Broxbourne borough. The nearest facility is located in Bishops Stortford, about 20 miles northeast of Cheshunt in East Herts.
- 14.67 When asked their views on the provision of indoor bowls in the borough, 55% of respondents to the household survey did not give an opinion. 23% stated there was not enough provision and 22% indicated that provision was adequate.
- 14.68 Based on the current borough population (87,054), the Sport England Facility Calculator reveals a requirement for 5.21 rinks (equivalent to 0.87 indoor bowls centres). Based on a future population of 95,300 in 2021, the Sport England Facility Calculator reveals that the requirement will grow to 5.84 rinks (equivalent to 0.97 indoor bowls centres).

Sport England facility calculator demand	Current supply	Surplus/deficiency
5.21 rinks	0 rinks	Shortfall of 5.21 rinks

Indoor bowls quantity standard

14.69 Based on the above, there is a strategic need for an indoor bowls facility to be provided in the borough to meet demand as outlined by the Sports Facility Calculator results.

14.70 Provision standards per 1000 population can be calculated by:

- current population of Broxbourne – 87,054
- therefore demand per 1,000 people = $(5.21 \text{ rinks} / 87,054) * 1000$
- demand per 1,000 population = 0.06 rinks.

14.71 Setting a standard at 0.06 rinks will help to highlight the need for an indoor facility for the borough but will also represent a realistic target as some residents may make use of facilities located outside of the borough. In addition, it is important to consider that opinion during consultation on indoor bowls facility provision was limited. The household survey responses indicated that a balanced view on whether there was adequate or too little provision and 56% of respondents gave no opinion. This suggests that demand for such a facility in the borough is not high and should not be considered a priority for development.



Indoor bowls accessibility standard

14.72 With regards to accessibility, Sport England research indicates that all residents should be within a 15-minute drive time of a bowls hall. In terms of the CPA accessibility target, 63% of residents in Broxbourne borough are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard (standard suggests between 30% and 50%).

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 14.73 The local consultation undertaken reveals that 50% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor bowls rink. The 75% threshold level borough wide was a 15-minute drive time. As a result, the recommended local accessibility standard has been set at a 15-minute drive time to reflect local consultation.
- 14.74 There is no existing indoor bowls provision in Broxbourne and therefore residents currently have to travel to neighbouring local authorities to access provision. The nearest provision is in Bishops Stortford.

Indoor bowls summary

- 14.75 There is currently no provision of indoor bowls facilities in Broxbourne.
- 14.76 A local quantity standard of 0.06 rinks per 1,000 population has been set to highlight the need for an indoor facility in the borough. Based on public consultation, there is no overwhelming demand for an indoor bowls facility therefore this should not be considered a priority and a sports specific strategy would be a better determinant of strategic need for additional provision.
- 14.77 The local accessibility standard has been set at a 15-minute drive time to reflect findings from local consultation. This is also in line with national standards.

Indoor tennis

- 14.78 Broxbourne currently does not have any indoor tennis facilities accessible to the public. There is one indoor tennis facility in the borough, at the Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club, however this is a private facility.
- 14.79 Three tennis clubs responded to the sports club survey, Rye Park Tennis Club, Broxbourne Sports Club and Hoddesdon Lawn Tennis Club. Key findings are as follows:
- all clubs currently use outdoor tennis facilities in the borough due to the lack of indoor provision
 - membership levels at the Hoddesdon LTC are decreasing but increasing at the other two clubs
 - Rye Park Tennis Club stated that there is currently not enough provision of tennis courts in the borough. The other tennis clubs believed provision to be about right. No specific reference was made to the need for indoor tennis provision
 - Broxbourne Sports Club stated that in four years time their synthetic surface will need replacing. The club believes that they will have to cover the majority of the replacement cost (circa £125,000).
- 14.80 The Sport England Facility Calculator does not consider indoor tennis facilities but Sport England will in the future be extending its demand model to incorporate tennis. In the interim PMP has developed its own model based on assumptions from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and our prior experience. It is suggested that these projections be viewed as indicative, and subject to review upon publication of the Sport England parameters.
- 14.81 The following contributing factors should be noted:
- LTA research shows that 2% of the population regularly participates in tennis and that the average supply of indoor courts in the UK is currently 1 court per 63,000
 - the LTA also recommend the following demand parameters for different facility types:
 - one outdoor floodlit court per 45 regular tennis players

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- one indoor court per 200 regular tennis players.
 - the LTA uses a 30min catchment (source: National Tennis Facilities Strategy (1998-2002).
- 14.82 The LTA has a target drive time of 30 minutes for indoor tennis facilities:
- “the LTA will target suitable locations for both expansion of existing facilities and the building of indoor tennis centres within a 30 minute drive.” (National Tennis Facilities Strategy, LTA, 1998-2002, p12)*
- 14.83 Using data from the Active People Survey results, the number of people in the borough with a propensity to participate in tennis has been estimated. 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.
- 14.84 The Active People Survey results for Broxbourne found that 1.8% of the sample surveyed in Broxbourne had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. The survey found that 2.2% of the regional 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 1.8% of the adult population of Broxbourne play tennis regularly ie about 68,018 adults.
- 14.85 Using these figures, the demand for indoor tennis courts within the local catchment area of the site is:

Local adult population	= 68,018
Number of local regular tennis players	= 1.8%
	= 1224
Number of tennis players served per indoor court	= 200
Number of indoor tennis courts required	= 1224/200
	= 6 courts required

Indoor tennis quantity standard

- 14.86 There are currently no public indoor tennis facilities in Broxbourne. We recommend a standard be set equal to Sport England’s recommendation as outlined above. A requirement for six courts equates to 0.01 courts per 1,000 population. This will highlight the need for a new facility within the borough, the case for which increases if we include population projections to 2021.

LOCAL QUANTITY STANDARD
0.01 courts per 1,000 population

Indoor tennis accessibility standard

- 14.87 LTA research indicates a target drive time of 30 minutes for indoor tennis facilities. The local consultation undertaken reveals that 50% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor tennis facility, while 37% would expect to walk.
- 14.88 It is recommended that the local accessibility standard is set at a 30-minute drive time, taking in to consideration the LTA guidelines and public consultation. This standard reflects the fact that there is currently no provision for this type of facility within the borough.

LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
30 minute drive time

Indoor tennis summary

- 14.89 There are currently no indoor tennis facilities in Broxbourne. A local standard of 0.01 courts per 1,000 population has been set to highlight the need for a new facility within the borough. By including population projections, the demand for a facility increases further.

ISF 6	Investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor tennis facility in the borough in order to address the current deficiency in provision.
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- 14.90 The accessibility standard, set at a 30-minute drive time, is in line with LTA guidelines and local consultation results.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 14.91 The PPG17 Companion Guide reinforces that design and management are factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high quality sport and recreation, stating that:

“Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other.”

- 14.92 Improvements to the quality of existing indoor sports facilities in the borough were highlighted as being of greater importance than increases in the overall quantity of provision.
- 14.93 The quality standard for indoor facilities should reflect the views and aspirations of the local community and should be linked to the national benchmark and design

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

criteria. Household survey respondents indicated that the highest rated quality aspirations for indoor sports facilities are:

- cleanliness of changing rooms (17%)
- value for money (16%)
- range of activities (14%)
- and well maintained (12%).

14.94 The quality standard for indoor facilities should reflect these views and aspirations of the local community and should also be linked to national benchmark and design criteria. The aspirations identified through the household survey, and as listed above, have been combined with good practice guidance to identify the following essential and desirable features of indoor sports facilities in Broxbourne borough:

Essential	Desirable
Affordable prices	Car parking
Clean and well maintained	Easy access
Ease of booking	

14.95 Further detail on the views and aspirations of the local community, alongside the recommendations for the local quality standards can be found in Appendix K.

Benchmarking and design specifications

14.96 In line with PPG17 recommendations, in addition to establishing a quality vision for sports facilities based on local community needs, a quality standard for indoor sport and recreation facilities has been set using national benchmarks, Sport England Technical Design Guidance Notes and Quest Best Practice Standards. Key objectives underpinning this quality standard are:

- to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the targeted range of sports and standards of play as well as individual requirements for specialist sports and uses
- to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality leisure experience for all users of facilities.

14.97 The quality standard is therefore split into two components:

- QS1 – design and technical
- QS2 – management and operational.

14.98 It can be seen that some elements of the quality standard, derived from local needs and aspirations, are linked to the specifications detailed in QS1 and QS2.

QS1: Quality standard (design and technical)

QS1: All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities.

14.99 A full list of Sport England Design Guidance Notes can be found on, and are available to download free, from the Sport England website.

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_downloads/design_guidelines.htm

14.100 The space requirement for most sports depends on the standard of play – generally the higher the standard, the larger the area required. Although the playing area is usually of the same dimensions, there is a need to build in provision for increased safety margins, increased clearance height, spectator seating, etc. Similarly, design specification varies according to level of competition with respect to flooring type and lighting lux levels, for example.

14.101 Sport England Design Guidance Notes are based on eight standards of play. Consideration should be given to the desired specification of the facility in question at the outset.

QS2: Quality standard (facility operation and management)

QS2: All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review. The detail of the internal systems, policies and practices underpinning implementation of these principles will correlate directly to the scale of facility, varying according to the position of the facility within the levels of the established hierarchy.

ISF 7	Strive to improve the quality of indoor sports facilities in the borough to meet the recommended quality standard.
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Summary and recommendations

14.102 An analysis of the provision of sports halls, swimming pool, indoor tennis and indoor bowls provision within Broxbourne has been undertaken and current provision has been measured against identified demand, enabling an understanding of any additional provision required.

14.103 An overarching quality vision has been set in line with local community need, Quest and Best Value principles.

14.104 The development and application of the local quantity and accessibility standards should be considered a basis for the future strategic planning of indoor sports facilities in Broxbourne. Further detailed user consultation at key centres across the borough, and detailed analysis into the size and characteristics of the resident population that each centre is serving, should be conducted. This information should then be supplemented with the local standards.

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

14.105 To meet the needs of an increasing population, focus should be placed on the community use of school suites. Programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and the extended schools programme offer significant opportunities.

ISF 1	Work in partnership with sports hall providers in the borough to facilitate community access to these sites, to help alleviate any programming conflicts at key sites and address public accessibility deficiencies across the borough.
ISF 2	Work in partnership with education providers in the borough to facilitate community access to sports hall provision on school sites and maximise opportunities through the BSF and extended schools programme.
ISF 3	Strive to achieve a high quality of sports hall provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
ISF 4	Work in partnership with Sheredes School and Turnford School to facilitate community access to swimming pool provision on site.
ISF 5	Strive to achieve a high quality of swimming pool provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
ISF 6	Investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor tennis facility in the borough in order to address the current deficiency in provision.
ISF 7	Strive to improve the quality of indoor sports facilities in the borough to meet the recommended quality standard.

SECTION 15
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities

Introduction and definition

- 15.1 This section considers the provision of indoor community facilities across Broxbourne borough. For the purpose of this study, we have included community centres and halls that are less than three badminton courts in size. Facilities larger than three courts in size have been categorised as a sports hall and reviewed in Section 14.

Context

- 15.2 PPG17 identifies community and village halls in rural areas as a highly important community resource. Statistics from the national General Household Survey indicate that nine per cent of women take part in sport in an indoor venue such as a church hall, community centre or village hall. Local population characteristics in Broxbourne indicate that there is demand for local access to indoor provision in community halls.
- 15.3 There are over 9,000 village halls and community centres recognised as charities in England and Wales. “RS9 - Village Halls and Community Centres” (Charity Commission for England and Wales, December 2004), presents the findings of research into the way in which these charities are changing. Best practice examples are used to illustrate how charities are adapting to meet the needs of their local communities.
- 15.4 The report identified a number of issues affecting the future viability of some rural village halls and community centres:
- falling demand for services due to:
 - ageing populations
 - lack of interest among younger people or new residents in commuter villages
 - competition from nearby towns and cities due to improved accessibility and transport links.
 - financial constraints leading to:
 - decreasing revenue streams
 - difficulties in funding building repairs and maintenance
 - difficulties in financing modernisation programmes in line with regulatory changes relating to disability access and health and safety.
- 15.5 It was emphasised that village hall charities in particular were faced with the need to adapt their services and facilities. There was evidence of a move away from the traditional village hall concept to a community based ethos of charities combining to provide a broad service – the creation of a ‘community hub’. All of these issues will form key challenges for Broxbourne borough.
- 15.6 There are no specific national standards for community facilities. However, the Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality suggests that the catchment population required to sustain one community centre is circa 4,000. In the Broxbourne context, the range of community facilities audited may not all be ‘assumed’ to be community centres.

- 15.7 At a local level, the Council's Community Plan includes the vision "*to create an area where residents want to live and work and to increase the 'sense of place' and sense of community*". As a result, the importance of community facilities is emphasised, with the intention where possible, to create new facilities that benefit the local community.
- 15.8 The Council's Asset Management Plan (2003) outlines specific objectives that relate to community facilities:
- deliver a balanced programme of recreational and sporting opportunities that appeal to a wide range of residents and other users, offering opportunities to improve their health, quality of life and lifelong learning
 - ensure the portfolio of Council owned/leased facilities and properties meets the needs of the community and delivers efficient asset management
 - provide an entertainment, events bar and catering service to the community that is continually improving, balanced and of high quality.

Consultation

- 15.9 Consultation specific to community facility provision provides an indication of public opinion. Key findings from consultation, which have informed the development of the recommended local standards, include:
- feedback on the adequacy of the current level of provision of community facilities was limited. Nearly 50% of respondents to the household survey stated that they did not have an opinion on the quantity of community facility provision in the borough. Of those that did respond, the majority (33%) indicated that overall provision is either 'more than enough' or 'about right'. 26% stated that there is 'not enough' community facility provision
 - Council Officers highlighted that the towns of Waltham Cross and Cheshunt are the main areas in the borough that suffer from a lack of community facilities
 - in addition it was highlighted that community/demographic groups (eg ethnic minorities) have particular needs and that often these smaller groups find it difficult to access facilities and meeting spaces. Those groups who aspire to grow cannot find adequate facilities within the immediate area
 - the need for community facilities to be located at the centre of communities and provide a wide range of uses was emphasised during consultation. There is a need to identify places and hubs where the community feels involved, and where activities and events are well advertised
 - in terms of existing provision, more activities are needed to sustain public attendance, and develop the community. For example, existing facilities on the Holbrook estate are good, but there is limited availability for hire.
 - the Council also highlighted the need to focus on providing general meeting spaces for the community, and develop wider community uses than just for sport. It is believed that the provision for sport in the borough is adequate (although participation levels are low), and the need for a wider variety of activities is more important

SECTION 15 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- the greatest level of satisfaction regarding adequacy of provision related to large hire community spaces in the borough (46% believe provision is adequate). In contrast, the lowest level of satisfaction related to the provision of indoor youth facilities (53% believe provision is not sufficient)
- consultation highlighted that a significant proportion of community facilities in the borough are located either in leisure centres or church halls
- there are a number of community facility related development projects ongoing in the borough. These include:
 - St Mary's in Cheshunt, there is a proposal to develop the facility for the community
 - St Joseph Church in Waltham Cross needs refurbishment to improve the quality of provision
 - plans to make Hertford College more available to the community
 - a new facility is opening in Holbrook in May 2008, to accommodate primarily community meetings, adult education and pre-school/after school activities
 - Development opportunities are being considered in partnership with Broxbourne Housing Association at Wormley Community Centre.
- the highest rated quality aspirations for community facilities, as derived from the household survey findings, are to:
 - be clean and well maintained
 - offer value for money
 - offer a range of activities.
- consultation with Council Officers highlighted that most community halls in the borough need work to improve the quality of provision and encourage/maximise public usage. It was emphasised that redesigning existing community spaces to make them more efficient and flexible would support increased usage, particularly during off peak hours. The perception is that the borough is lacking in terms of both quality and quantity of provision when compared to other local authorities in Hertfordshire
- the majority of respondents to the household survey indicated that they expect to drive to community facilities, with the exception of indoor youth clubs and playgroup spaces where the preferred method of travel was walking. Respondents indicated 15 minutes would be the expected travel time to such facilities.

15.10 A review of community facilities has been undertaken to guide future planning across Broxbourne. Provision of community facilities has been considered in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility.

Quantity of existing provision

15.11 There are 48 community facilities distributed across the borough. Almost all facilities are multi functional, providing local space for public meetings, private functions and community activities. Some of the larger facilities also offer sport and recreation opportunities.

15.12 For the purposes of this study, community facilities that are less than three badminton courts in size have been audited. Community facilities in the borough have been categorised as follows:

- large hire space ie for functions, parties, weddings, dances, church gatherings
- medium hire space ie for meetings, lectures/, presentations, discussion groups, training and small parties (under 80 people)
- small hire space ie for meetings, lectures, presentations, training courses (up to 20 people)
- community facilities such as scout huts have not been included nor have all church halls.

Table 15.1 Community facilities in Broxbourne borough

<i>Large hall/hire space</i>	<i>Medium hall/hire space</i>	<i>Small hall/hire space</i>
Broxbourne Civic Hall	Goffs Oak JMI	Woodside Primary School
John Warner Sports Centre	Goodman Centre	Broxbourne Primary School
Grundy Park Leisure Centre	Sheredes	Ukrainian Association of Great Britain
Wolsey Hall	Goffs Oak Sports Centre/Goffs School	The White House
Hoddesdon Methodist Church	Church Hall, Christ Church	Holy Trinity School
Rosedale Sports Club	HRC Sports Centre	Broxbourne United Reform Church
Goffs Oak Village Hall	St Mary's School	Highgrove Court
Hoddesdon Parish Church	Ridgeway Studios	Downfield JMI School
	Wormley 60+ Centre	St Joseph's Church Hall
	Broxbourne Sports Club	Flamstead End Infants
	Goffs Oak Methodist Hall	Stanborough Suite
	Turnford School	Waltham Cross Baptist Church
	Bishops College	St Cuthberts Church Hall
	Burleigh Primary School	St Clements Church
	Wormley Community Centre	St James Church
	Lee Valley Youth Hostel	Broxbourne Football Club

SECTION 15 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

<i>Large hall/hire space</i>	<i>Medium hall/hire space</i>	<i>Small hall/hire space</i>
	Broxbourne Parish Centre	Broxbourne Volunteer Centre
		Brooklands Infant School
		Bonneygrove Country Primary
		Fairley Cross Hall/Church
		Library Hoddesdon
		Isabella House
		Bollescroft

15.13 Respondents to the household survey indicated that there is an overriding perception that the overall provision of community facilities is about right in quantitative terms.

15.14 The level of supply is compared to an estimated demand for each type of facility. The foundations of all demand assessments are based on an analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population of the borough. The demand assessment is then used in the development of provision standards. The application of these provision standards will be critical in meeting the current and future needs of the local community.

Setting provision standards – quantity

15.15 The recommended local quantity standard for community facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation and the audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided in Appendix I.

15.16 Provision of community facilities in Broxbourne is currently above the Shaping Neighbourhoods guidance, although the guidance is unclear as to the definition of a community facility. However, consultation indicated that the majority of borough residents perceive the current levels of provision to be about right and that the focus should be on improving the quality as opposed to quantity of provision.

15.17 It is therefore recommended that the local quantity standard is set at the current level of provision to enable a focus on quality improvements.

15.18 The population of Broxbourne borough is (87,054), therefore based on the above Shaping Neighbourhoods definition, Broxbourne could sustain 21 community centres, which is equivalent to 0.25 centres per 1,000 population.

15.19 As detailed above, current supply is 48 community centres, although it should be noted that these are of differing size. This equates to 0.55 community facilities per 1,000 population.

Quantity standard (see Appendix I)

Community facilities	
Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.55 community facilities per 1,000 population	0.55 community facilities per 1,000 population
Justification	
Provision of community facilities in Broxbourne is currently above the Shaping Neighbourhoods guidance. However, consultation indicated that the majority of borough residents perceive the current levels of provision to be ‘about right’ and that the focus should be on improving the quality as opposed to quantity of provision. It is therefore recommended that the local quantity standard is set at the current level of provision to enable a focus on quality improvements.	

Quality of existing provision

15.20 Consultation feedback indicated that the highest rated quality aspirations for community facilities, as derived from the household survey findings, are to:

- be clean and well maintained
- offer value for money
- offer a range of activities
- provide welcoming staff.

15.21 Consultation with Council Officers highlighted that most community halls in the borough need work to improve the quality of provision and encourage/maximise public usage. It was emphasised that redesigning existing community spaces to make them more efficient and flexible would support increased usage, particularly during off peak hours.

15.22 Within the Council’s Residents Survey (2006), perceptions of public halls have improved. This is a significant change since 2003, and suggests that quality of provision has improved in line with borough residents expectations. However, it should be noted that this survey focused primarily on Council stock and therefore cannot be applied generically to all community facilities in the borough.

15.23 The majority of community facilities were visited and their quality assessed. An example of the site assessment matrix can be found in Appendix M.

15.24 The following facilities had the highest quality ratings:

- Broxbourne Civic Hall
- John Warner Sports Centre meeting rooms
- Isabella House
- the Hoddesdon Methodist Church.

SECTION 15 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

15.25 Facilities with the lowest quality ratings were:

- Bollescroft Centre
- Broxbourne Football Club
- Broxbourne Parish Centre.

15.26 The Bollescroft Centre is currently used for informal meetings, and theatre group rehearsals. The facility is a converted house, and not easily transformed into public space. The site visit identified that both internal and external access was poor and not DDA compliant. It is believed that maintenance would need greater investment. More storage space would be required to reduce clutter. The facility building however has a good character.

15.27 Broxbourne Football Club is available for member hire, and is used mainly on Saturday nights. The existing building has no flexibility, and the club is looking at different locations along the pitch side. The kitchen is not up to guidance standards and would need some refurbishment.

15.28 The Broxbourne Parish Centre is used mainly for church groups/discussions, and small informal clubs. Recent investments have considerably improved disability access, with a new path provided for wheelchairs. A disability toilet is also planned. However, the facility overall lacks a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. That could be off putting to new visitors. Usage of the centre is fair, but there is room for increase.

Setting provision standards – quality

15.29 The PPG17 Companion Guide reinforces that design and management are factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high quality sport and recreation, stating that:

“Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other.”

15.30 The recommended local quality standard for community facilities is summarised below. Full justification and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided in Appendix K.

Quality standard (see Appendix K)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features</p> <p>Clean and well maintained</p> <p>Affordable prices</p>	<p>Desirable features</p> <p>Offer range of community focused activities</p> <p>Reflect Sport England Village and Community Halls Design Guidance</p>
Justification	
<p>Improvements to the quality of existing community facilities in the borough were highlighted during consultation as being of greater importance than addressing quantity or accessibility issues. The recommended standard provides an overarching target for the future provision of community facilities and sets a benchmark for existing facilities based on the local aspirations identified through consultation.</p>	

In line with PPG17 recommendations, the recommended standard reflects community aspirations but consideration is also given to the achievement of national best practice standards and the compliance with recognised technical guidelines. The key objectives should include:

- to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the full range of usages
- to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality experience for all users
- to ensure that the condition of facilities meet modern standards, including DDA, and are fit for the purpose they are intended.

Accessibility of existing provision

15.31 The need for community facilities to be located at the hub of local communities was emphasised and therefore in this respect it is anticipated that provision should be easily accessible and provide a range of activities/usage that will encourage community cohesion.

Setting accessibility standards

15.32 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultation.

15.33 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:

- the majority of household survey respondents (c.50%) highlighted driving as the overall preferred method of travel to community facilities. This is followed by walking (c.30%)
- further analysis of preferred travel methods to the different types of community facilities, indicated that a greater proportion of respondents would prefer to walk to indoor youth clubs and playgroups. This is not surprising given the nature of these facilities and the age profile of the core group of users
- the overall view on travel methods is generally reflective across the six analysis areas. The main exceptions being in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area where respondents indicated that they would expect to walk to all indoor community facility types. In the other more urban analysis areas ie Cheshunt and Hoddesdon Town there was again a greater expectation of walking to community hire spaces
- in terms of how far respondents are willing to travel to access indoor community facilities, for the two types of provision for which there was an overall preference for walking (ie indoor youth clubs and playgroup spaces) the 75% threshold level was a 15-minute walk time
- for most of the remaining types of indoor facilities (ie those to which individuals would expect to drive), the 75% threshold level was a 15-minute drive, with the exceptions being medium and large hire facilities where the expected drive time duration would be 20 minutes.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix L)

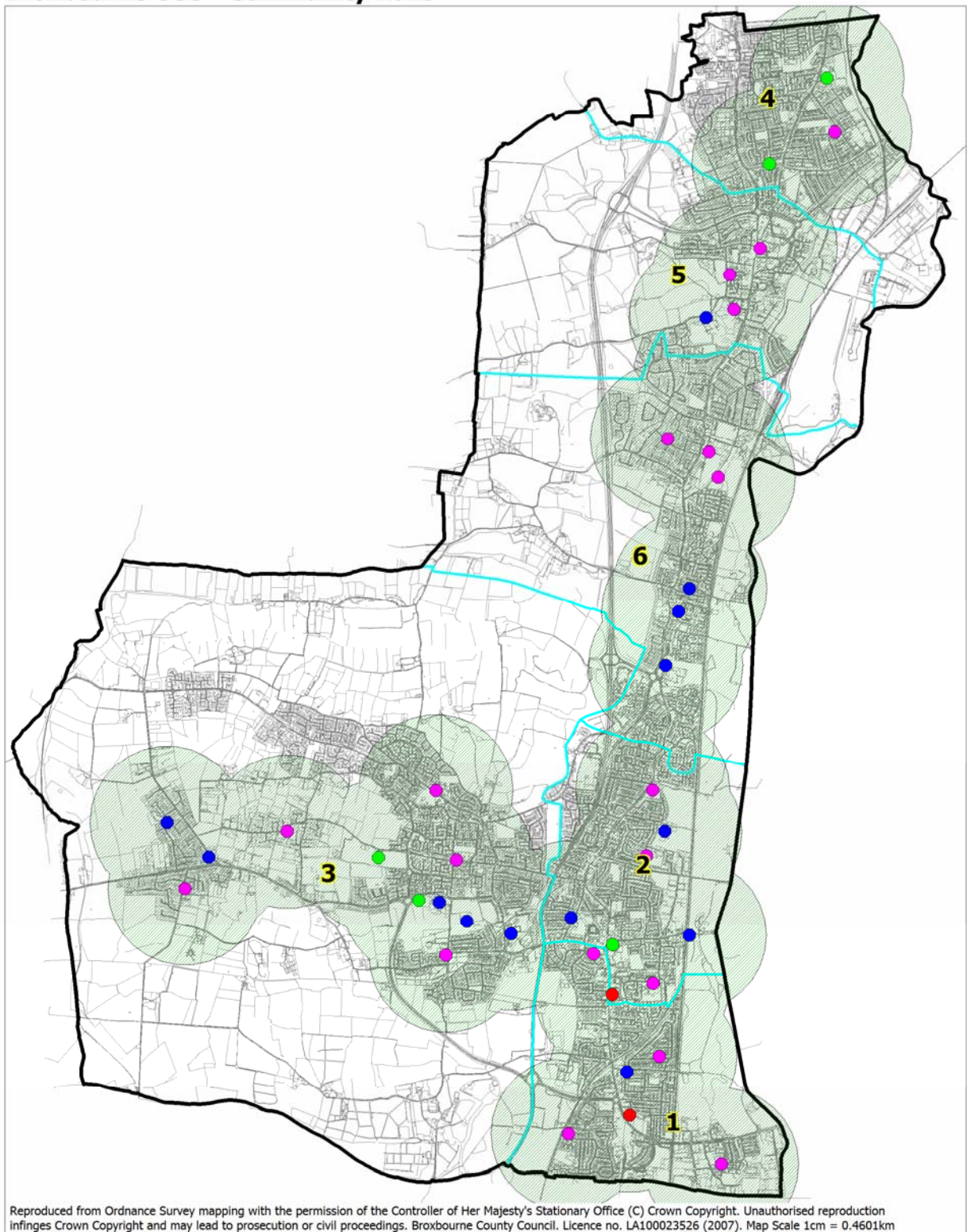
Community facilities
15 minute walk or 15 minute drive (dependent on facility type)
Justification
<p>Given the varying nature of the different types of community hall facilities, it is considered appropriate to set different accessibility standards for the larger and smaller facilities. Whilst a slightly higher proportion of respondents suggested that they expect to drive to the majority of community facilities it is also prudent to consider the need for local facilities. This aspect was highlighted by the Council as being particularly important where the value of facilities located at the centre of the community are recognised, especially in respect of improving social cohesion.</p> <p>In line with the 75th percentile threshold, both a 15-minute drive time and a 15-minute walk time are recommended for the differing community facility types.</p>

Applying provision standards

15.34 The geographical distribution of community facilities is illustrated overleaf in Figure 15.1.

Figure 15.1 Community facility sites in Broxbourne borough

Broxbourne OSS - Community Halls



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	Community Halls	Catchment - Community Halls (720m Buffer)	Analysis Areas	 strategy finance delivery
	● Indoor Youth Centre			
	● Large Halls		Landline	
	● Medium			
● Small				 Bringing data to life

SECTION 15 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 15.35 As evident from Figure 15.1, nearly all borough residents are able to access a community facility within the recommended distance threshold. The exceptions being in the far north of the borough in Hoddesdon and west of the borough in the Hammond Street area (Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area). It is also apparent that there is a spread of small and medium sized community facilities across the borough. In contrast, large community facilities and indoor youth centres are less well distributed, with the two indoor youth centres being located in one analysis area, Waltham Cross & Theobalds, and the five large community facilities being located in three out of the six analysis areas.
- 15.36 Given the number of overlapping catchments for small and medium sized community facilities, particularly in the Broxbourne, Wormley & Turnford analysis area, consideration should be given to whether these facilities are offering complementary activities or if there is duplication of resource, in which case rationalisation of facilities may prove a more sustainable option.
- 15.37 A 15-minute drivetime covers the entire borough. However, given the number of community facilities in the borough and the distribution of facilities, the majority of residents have sufficient access to meet their expectations in respect of the 15-minute walk time.
- 15.38 This means that the majority of local residents are therefore within the recommended distance threshold of a number of different types of community facilities, which is important in relation to the various activities that will be provided/usages of each. Some community facilities will be used just as a meeting place, whereas others will play a key role in offering local sporting opportunities. In relation to sporting usage, it is also important to consider that, as detailed in Section 14, all residents are within the appropriate drivetime catchment of larger scale formal indoor sports provision.
- 15.39 In addition to considering the location of community facilities across the borough, it is also important to ensure that sites meet the recommended quality visions and therefore meet expectations of local residents.

COMM 1	Where appropriate, support should be provided to owners of existing community facilities in order to enhance the quality and value of these amenities to local residents. Further investigation should be given to the value of the facilities perceived to be poorly used, and consideration to a strategy for increasing usage should be developed.
COMM 2	Strive to achieve the recommended local quality standard at community facility sites. For larger venues, consideration should be given to working towards a quality assurance award.
COMM 3	Work to address the current perceived deficiency of indoor youth centres in the borough, to ensure that community facilities are providing for all ages of the local community,

Summary

- 15.40 There are a large number of community facilities in Broxbourne, however provision is of varying size and the definition of a community facility for the purposes of setting a quantity standards for this study is unclear. For the purpose of this study has community facilities have been grouped in to three main categories - – small, medium and large.

SECTION 15 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 15.41 Consultation highlighted that the overall quantity of provision of community facilities pools was perceived to be sufficient, with only indoor youth centres highlighted as being inadequate. This overall view was reflected across all six analysis areas.
- 15.42 Community facilities complement larger, more formal sports halls provision. Many community facilities, such as village halls that are located within the smaller settlements, offer sporting opportunities in addition to facilities for private functions and public meetings.
- 15.43 Analysis of the quality of community facilities suggests that most of these facilities are of average quality. This is a priority area to address as it would encourage a greater level of usage. This is particularly important if the Council wish to reinforce the value of community facilities as being central to community cohesion.
- 15.44 Local standards have been set for the quantity of community facilities. This has been set at the existing level (reflecting the emphasis of consultation). Analysis of the distribution of community facilities in Broxbourne indicates that all borough residents are able to access facilities within the recommended distance threshold.

COMM 1	Where appropriate, support should be provided to owners of existing community facilities in order to enhance the quality and value of these amenities to local residents. Further investigation should be given to the value of the facilities perceived to be poorly used, and consideration to a strategy for increasing usage should be developed.
COMM 2	Strive to achieve the recommended local quality standard at community facility sites. For larger venues, consideration should be given to working towards a quality assurance award.
COMM 3	Work to address the current perceived deficiency of indoor youth centres in the borough, to ensure that community facilities are providing for all ages of the local community,

SECTION 16

OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Overall summary and conclusions

Introduction

- 16.1 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)p.
- 16.2 The three overall objectives of the study are to:
- deliver a robust technical study in line with PPG17 requirements, which evaluates the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreational land in Broxbourne and recommends appropriate strategy, policy, standards and specific provision required to meet the Borough’s future needs
 - deliver a ‘sub strategy’ for the Council’s priority/directly owned/managed parks and open spaces in the form of a deliverable, SMART Action Plan, informed by the technical study as well as qualitative/value and needs assessments in addition to identifying prioritised activities/tasks to improve local open space and better meet local needs – for the next five years
 - deliver a ‘sub strategy’ for the Council’s priority/directly owned/managed/key partner community facilities in the form of a deliverable, SMART Action Plan, informed by the technical study and qualitative/value and needs assessments and identifying prioritised activities/tasks to improve community facilities and better meet local needs – for the next five years.
- 16.3 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 relevant organisations may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Broxbourne Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.
- 16.4 The following table summarises the quantity, quality and accessibility standards set for each typology.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Table 16.1 Quality, quantity and accessibility standards

Typology	Quantity standard	Accessibility standard		Quality standards	
	Ha per 1,000 population	Method	Time	Essential	Desirable
Parks and Gardens	0.284	Walk	15mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Safe and secure • A welcoming place • Plants and trees • Dog mess bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement • Access to toilets • Natural features • Achieve Green Flag status
Natural and semi natural	1.26	Walk	15mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Nature features • Improve biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog mess bins • Footpaths
Amenity Greenspace	0.46	Walk	10mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Safe and secure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants and trees
Provision for Children	0.04	Walk	10mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Safe and secure • Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise range of play opportunities • Supervised sessions
Teenage Facilities	0.018	Walk	15mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Safe and secure • Apply FIT standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well lit • Supervised sessions
Outdoor Sports Facilities: Grass pitches, STPs, tennis courts and bowls	1.88	Walk	15mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and secure • Clean and well maintained • Apply relevant NGB specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking • Toilets • Changing facilities
Outdoor Sports Facilities: Golf courses, outdoor swimming pools	1.88	Drive	20mins		

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Typology	Quantity standard	Accessibility standard		Quality standards	
	Ha per 1,000 population	Method	Time	Essential	Desirable
Churchyards and Cemeteries	N/A	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and secure • Clean and well maintained • Well laid out • A welcoming place (cemeteries) • Seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets (cemeteries)
Allotments	0.2	Walk	15mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and secure • Clean and well maintained • Footpaths • Water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking
Civic spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Safe and secure • Seating • Access to toilets • Plants and trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events • Access to refreshments
Green Corridors	N/A	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and well maintained • Improve biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle tracks • Footpaths

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 16.5 Standards for indoor sports facilities and community halls are detailed in Appendices I, K and L.
- 16.6 The following table summarises the key findings of the study, under the headings of each typology.

Table 16.12 Recommendations

PARKS AND GARDENS	
P&G 1	Maximise the role that parks and garden sites can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the borough by effectively promoting these opportunities. Consider and develop the provision of alternative means of exercise such as walks, fitness and walk trails, outdoor gyms and 'play' activities and facilities.
P&G 2	Given the low number of sites within the borough, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection.
P&G 3	Strive to achieve Green Flag quality criteria at all sites across the borough and target improvements at all sites where quality standards fall short through the development of appropriate management plans.
P&G 4	Continue to develop and enhance Cheshunt Park to ensure that it meets both local and regional needs. Promote the park as a resource for local people and an example of good practice. The Council should seek Green Flag accreditation at key strategic sites such as Cedars Park.
P&G 5	Access to Lee Valley Regional Park should be facilitated and promoted through partnership working between the Council and the Lee Valley Park Authority.
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL	
NSN 1	In light of the wider benefits of natural and semi natural open spaces and the expressed importance of these sites by local residents, the Council should protect all natural and semi natural sites from development.
NSN 2	Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes.
NSN 3	Maximise the access and promotion of natural and semi natural areas (including the Lee Valley Regional Park) through communication and effective site and directional signage.
NSN 4	Work to establish a network of accessible green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of local open space and also to wider strategic sites.
NSN 5	If appropriate, consider the opportunity to address access deficiencies to natural and semi natural open space within all areas and promote access to Lee Valley Regional Park to all borough residents.
AMENITY GREENSPACE	
AGS 1	Strive to improve the quality of all existing amenity greenspace sites in the borough so that there is a consistently high quality standard of provision for borough residents. In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity greenspace.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

AGS 2	Investigate opportunities of formalising natural and semi-natural amenity greenspace in the Goffs Oak Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area.
AGS 3	Consider the appropriateness for disposal of sites. Capital received through the release of any land should be reinvested in qualitative improvements in the area.
AGS 4	Use the findings of the site assessment to prioritise sites for qualitative improvement within the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas.
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
CYP1	There is a need for additional play provision within the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. The preferred site should be easily accessible to all residents within the area.
CYP2	The Council to address the significant undersupply in Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area by providing a large play facility south of Waltham Cross. Other gaps in provision also need addressing with the priorities currently being west and central Broxbourne and south west of Turnford.
CYP3	Quality of sites needs to be enhanced, primarily in the Cheshunt analysis area. Other sites falling significantly below the benchmark should be addressed with the focus being on achieving maintenance and safety criteria.
OUTDOOR TEENAGE FACILITIES	
OTF1	The Council should address the significant gaps in quantity and accessibility. In the first instance the seven additional teenage facilities that have already been proposed should be delivered as soon as possible. Following which, additional outdoor teenage facility provision should be built in to any new housing developments in the borough.
OTF2	The Council should quality benchmark to ensure existing provision is brought up to an acceptable standard and that any new provision reflects the agreed local quality standard. Sites should therefore conform to FIT standards and consideration should also been given to quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety.
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
OSF 1	Strive to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve the quality standard. This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.
OSF 2	In locations where there is expressed demand for further sporting provision, and where school facilities could be made available to the public but are not currently, the Council should consider the feasibility of formalising community-use agreements at school sites prior to seeking delivery of new outdoor sport facilities.
OSF 3	Investigate the demand for and the potential to deliver further provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area.
ALLOTMENTS	
ALLOT 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the borough, with reference to current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

	deficiency. Following this, where appropriate, seek to provide additional plots to meet future demand.
ALLOT 2	Identify specific sites, which are lower quality and may therefore be a suitable location for redevelopment, and investigate the potential for these sites to be redeveloped with the allotment provision relocated to the Green Belt.
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the historic and nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard and ensure provision reflects best practice.
CC 3	The Council should produce management plans 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 for all.
CIVIC SPACES	
CIV 1	The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of civic spaces across the borough in line with the quality standard and to ensure civic spaces provide a value community resource.
GREEN CORRIDORS	
GC 1	Existing green corridors should be linked to open spaces in the Borough, including the Lee Valley Regional Park and Broxbourne Woods. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces.
GC 2	Those responsible for the green corridors in Broxbourne should aspire to the essential and desirable quality features. The Council should also work in tandem with all delivery partners, such as Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, in order to maximise the use of green corridors.
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
ISF 1	Work in partnership with sports hall providers in the borough to facilitate community access to these sites, to help alleviate any programming conflicts at key sites and address public accessibility deficiencies across the borough.
ISF 2	Work in partnership with education providers in the borough to facilitate community access to sports hall provision on school sites and maximise opportunities through the BSF and extended schools programme.
ISF 3	Strive to achieve a high quality of sports hall provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
ISF 4	Work in partnership with Sheredes School and Turnford School to facilitate community access to swimming pool provision on site.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

ISF 5	Strive to achieve a high quality of swimming pool provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.
ISF 6	Investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor tennis facility in the borough in order to address the current deficiency in provision.
ISF 7	Strive to improve the quality of indoor sports facilities in the borough to meet the recommended quality standard.
COMMUNITY HALLS	
COMM 1	<p>Where appropriate, support should be provided to owners of existing community facilities in order to enhance the quality and value of these amenities to local residents.</p> <p>Further investigation should be given to the value of the facilities perceived to be poorly used, and consideration to a strategy for increasing usage should be developed.</p>
COMM 2	Strive to achieve the recommended local quality standard at community facility sites. For larger venues, consideration should be given to working towards a quality assurance award.
COMM 3	Work to address the current perceived deficiency of indoor youth centres in the borough, to ensure that community facilities are providing for all ages of the local community,

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PPG17 TECHNICAL STUDY - APPENDICES



A

DRAFT REPORT

BY

PMP

MAY 2008

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Benefits of open space
Appendix B	Open space typology definitions
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Benefits of open space

<p>Social</p>	<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.
<p>Recreational</p>	<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.
<p>Environmental</p>	<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.
<p>Educational</p>	<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.
<p>Economic</p>	<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 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.
Beaches and Coastal Areas	Includes both public and private beaches, estuaries and coastal areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leisure purposes walking.
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.
Indoor Sport and Recreation	Opportunities for participation in indoor sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sports halls swimming pools health and fitness facilities indoor tennis indoor 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)

APPENDIX B – OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

- 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



What do you think of parks, play areas, sport and indoor recreation facilities and community halls in the Borough of Broxbourne?



Dear Resident

Broxbourne Borough Council has appointed PMP to assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, indoor sports and recreation facilities and community halls in the Borough. The study is a statutory planning requirement, and will investigate whether the current level of open space, sports and community provision is sufficient to meet residents' needs now and in the future. All answers you give will be treated as confidential, and by entering your details, you will get **a chance to win a £50 shopping voucher!**

We really hope you can help. **Filling in the attached survey should only take you about 10 minutes.** It will be used to help us form a strategy to improve existing open spaces, indoor sports facilities and community halls and make sure future provision is based on your needs and views. Your household is one of 5,000 randomly selected to provide us with an insight into residents' opinions on open space within the Borough. This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about Broxbourne's open spaces, indoor sports facilities and community halls and what improvements you would like to see. We need your feedback, even if you do not use open spaces or indoor facilities we would really like to hear your views.



The survey is quick and easy to answer! Please try to answer as many questions as possible by placing a tick in the boxes or writing your answer in the space provided. Please return your questionnaire even if you are unable to answer all of the questions – any information you can give will be really useful for us.

You will notice that the survey has not been addressed to any particular individual in your household. This is because we would like to hear the views of the widest possible range of people, so **please ask the person in your household who will next have their birthday to complete the survey.**



If you have any questions or need any help completing the survey please phone me at PMP on 020 7534 3957. Alternatively, email your views to Broxbourneopenspaces@pmpconsult.com.

Please return your completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided, by **Friday 7 September 2007**. We are really looking forward to hearing back from you! Thanks for your help with this important survey.

Yours sincerely

Marj Lawson

**Marj Lawson
Research Consultant, PMP**

TO ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BELOW AND INCLUDE WITH YOUR SURVEY RETURN

Name

Address:.....



Broxbourne Borough Council Open Space, Sport, Recreation Facilities and Community Halls Survey



Definitions of Open Space

- Parks and gardens** - from large country parks to urban parks and small public gardens
- Natural areas** - woods, nature reserves and unmanaged greenspaces such as scrubland
- Amenity areas** - small or large greenspaces often found in housing estates (eg village greens)
- Play areas for children** - equipped (eg swings, slides and climbing frames) play areas for children
- Outdoor teenage facilities** - from youth shelters, to skate parks and multi-use-games-areas
- Outdoor sports facilities** - grass 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 (eg market square)
- Cemeteries and churchyards** - open and closed burial grounds and cemeteries
- Green corridors** - footpaths, canal towpaths, bridleways and cycleways

SECTION ONE – OPEN SPACE

Q1 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of open space 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>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Outdoor teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				

Travel time

Q2 Please write the length of **TIME** that you would expect to travel, and the type of transport you would expect to use, when travelling to open spaces in the Borough (Please state **ONE TIME AND TRAVEL MODE FOR EACH OPEN SPACE TYPE ONLY**)

	Walk	Cycle	Public transport	Car
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
Outdoor 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? (Please tick one box only for each type of open space)

	More than once a month	Less than once a month	Don't use
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"/>
Outdoor 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 say why you are not an allotment user already

Quality

Q6 How would you rate the quality of the following types of open space in the Borough? (If you are unsure please leave blank)

	Good	Average	Poor
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"/>
Outdoor 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"/>

If you have any general or site specific quality issues, please detail here:

SECTION TWO - SPECIFIC TO THE TYPE OF OPEN SPACE YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE

- Q7** Please indicate which open space TYPE you use MOST FREQUENTLY in the Borough? (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE)
- Parks and/or gardens Amenity areas..... Outdoor sports facilities
 Natural areas Play areas for children Allotments.....
 Green corridors Outdoor teenage facilities..... Cemeteries and churchyards
 Civic spaces.....

Type most frequently used

- Q8** Please name the open space SITE you use MOST FREQUENTLY and where it is located (eg neighbourhood/town)
- Site Name _____
- Location _____
- _____
- _____

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE OPEN SPACE TYPE YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE AS INDICATED IN QUESTION 7

Travel

- Q9** How do you normally TRAVEL there? (please tick one box only)
- Walk..... Public transport..... Car Cycle.....
- Q10** How LONG does it take you to reach this type of open space? (please tick one box only)
- Less than 5 minutes..... Between 10-14 minutes..... Between 20-24 minutes
 Between 5-9 minutes Between 15-19 minutes..... 25 minutes or more

Aspirations

- Q11** 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)
- Well kept grass Footpaths Nature features (eg wildlife) On site security (eg warden/CCTV)
 Clean/litter free Events eg music..... Pond/lake/water features Level surface/ good drainage.....
 Flowers/trees and shrubs Toilets Heritage interpretation/information Information boards/signage.....
 Changing facilities Cafe..... Dog free area Good access to site.....
 Car parking facilities Seating Litter bins..... Dog mess bins
 Cycle parking facilities... Picnic area Facilities for children Dog walking facilities
 Informal play area (eg ball games etc.) Facilities for teenagers... Well lit.....
- Q12** Would any of the following factors improve the SAFETY of using this type of open space (please tick a maximum of three)
- Adequate lighting Staff on site (eg park rangers) Overlooked by housing
 Clear route to open space..... Reputation of area/space Other users
 CCTV Clear boundaries Density of vegetation

Quality

- Q13** Please indicate whether you experience any of the following PROBLEMS at the open space type you visit most frequently (as indicated in Q7) 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"/> |
| Personal safety | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Old/poor 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"/> |
| Lack of facilities for children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of facilities for young people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Antisocial behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor access | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog fouling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have any general or site specific quality issues, _____
 please detail here:

Q14 Please rate the following quality factors for the type of open space in the Borough you visit most frequently (as stated in Q7)

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied	Not applicable
Play equipment for children	<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"/>
Access/Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycle parking/paths	<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"/>
Teenage equipment	<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"/>

If you have any general or site specific quality issues, please detail here: _____

SECTION THREE - OUTDOOR SPORTS

Q15 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"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Synthetic turf pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Bowling greens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Golf courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			

Q16 Please write the length of TIME that you would expect to travel below the type of transport you would expect to use when travelling to outdoor sports facilities in the Borough (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only)

	Walk	Cycle	Public transport	Car
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
Outdoor swimming pool	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

SECTION FOUR - INDOOR SPORTS AND COMMUNITY HALLS

Q17 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of indoor sport and community hall 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>	<hr/>			
Sports halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Health and fitness (Gyms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Indoor tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Indoor bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Small hire space for meetings, lectures, presentations, training courses (up to 20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Medium hire space for meetings, lectures/, presentations, discussion groups, training and small parties (under 80)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Large hire space for functions, parties, weddings, dances, church gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Community halls for use for sport/events keep fit, badminton, table tennis, stage shows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Flexible community halls for more than one activity at a time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Indoor youth clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			
Playground/nursery space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<hr/>			

Q18 If you were describing your ideal features within indoor sports facilities and community halls, what would be the TOP FEATURES you think should be provided? (please only tick up to FIVE)

Accessible routes to facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcoming staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ease of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Range of activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of facilities .	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ease / security of parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information available.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refreshments / vending services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social facilities (bar, community events, etc.)..	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Value for money.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexible spaces hire	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Q19 Please write the length of **TIME** you would expect to travel below the type of transport you would expect 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
Small hire space for meetings, lectures, presentations, training courses (up to 20)	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Medium hire space for meetings, lectures/, presentations, discussion groups, training and small parties (under 80)	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Large hire space for functions, parties, weddings, dances, church gatherings	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Community halls for use for sport/events keep fit, badminton, table tennis, stage shows	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Flexible community halls for more than one activity at a time	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Indoor youth clubs	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Playgroup/nursery space	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Other (please state)	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

General

Q20 If you have any other **COMMENTS** that you would like to make regarding open spaces, outdoor and indoor sports facilities and community halls in the Borough, please write them in the box below.

SECTION FIVE - SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOU

- Q21** Are you:
Male *Female*
- Q22** How old are you?
Under 16 *25-39* *60-75*
16-24 *40-59* *75+*
- Q23** Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?
White British *Black Other* *Mixed White and Black Caribbean* .
White Irish *Asian British* *Mixed White and Black African*
White Other *Asian Pakistani* *Mixed White and Asian*
Black British *Asian Indian* *Mixed Other*
Black African *Asian Bangladeshi* *Chinese*
Black Caribbean *Asian Other*
Other (please specify)
- Q24** Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?
Yes *No*
- Q25** Are there any children under 16 years old in your household?
Yes *No*

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it in the prepaid envelope provided by Friday 7 September 2007.

APPENDIX D
SCHOOL SURVEY



Open spaces, sport, recreation and community facilities in Broxbourne

This is ***your*** opportunity to tell us what ***you*** think of open spaces, sport, recreation and community facilities in your area and how they can be improved for you, your friends, and the people of Broxbourne.

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 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"/> |

Q3 Are you a...

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Boy | <input type="radio"/> | Girl | <input type="radio"/> |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|

Q4 Which of the following is your favourite thing to do in your free time? (please only tick one)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Indoor activities like playing computer 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):

Q5 Is there a specific place (eg shelter, park) near your house or school where you can play or hang out with your friends?

- Yes Don't know
No

Q6 Have you been to any of the following types of places in the last year?

- Grassy area within a housing development, or a village green **Grass** pitch with posts or markings (eg Football, Cricket and Rugby)
Woodland or overgrown wild area Teenage facility eg youth shelter or skate park
Play area Park
Multi-use games area Allotment
Outdoor sports facilities (like basketball courts or tennis courts) Other
Other (please write in the box):

Q7 What are your main reasons for not using open spaces?

- I don't have enough time Getting there is not safe
They are not very good Buses do not go at the right times
It is a difficult route to get there I do not feel safe there
I am not interested I can't get there by bus
There aren't things there I want to use or do I do not like the people there
They are too far from my home They are too close to a busy road/railway
I am not allowed I play at home in my garden
It costs too much to get there I use other parks/open spaces that are outside the Borough

Q8 What is the name of your favourite outdoor open space or the road it is on

Section 1 - Questions 9 to 17 apply to the outdoor open space you use most often

Q9 What is the name of the outdoor open space you go to most often

Q10 What type of open space is it?

- Grassy area within a housing development, or a village green **Grass** pitch with posts or markings (eg Football, Cricket and Rugby)
Woodland or overgrown wild area Teenage facility eg youth shelter or skate park
Play area Park
Multi-use games area Allotment
Outdoor sports facilities (like basketball courts or tennis courts) Other
Other (please write in the box):

Q11 How often do you visit the site?

- More than once a week More than once a month More than once a year
Once a week Once a month Once a year

Q12 How do you normally get there?

- Walk Skate Car
Cycle Bus Other

Other (please write in the box):

Q13 How would you prefer to get there?

- Walk Skate Car
Cycle Bus Other

Other (please write in the box):

Q14 How long does it take you to get there?

- 0 to 5 minutes 10 to 15 minutes More than 20 minutes
5 to 10 minutes 15 to 20 minutes

Q15 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 is just somewhere to go | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To play on sports pitches/courts with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is 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 write in the box):

Q16 What are the top TWO things you like MOST about this place?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| It is close to my home | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is 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 is a good place to meet friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is good for playing sport | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other, please specify

Q17 What are the TWO things you like LEAST about this place?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| It is too far away from my home | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other (please write in the box):

Section 2 - Questions 18 to 23 are about all open spaces in your local area

Q18 Are there any open spaces where you feel unsafe?

Yes

No

Go to Q20

If Yes, please say which ones:

What is it that makes you feel unsafe?

Q19 What would make you feel safer?

Lighting

Houses nearby

Travelling there with adults

Cameras/CCTV

Organised activities on-site

Other

Staff on-site

Travelling there with friends

Other (please write in the box):

Q20 What do you think about the amount of open spaces near you?

More than enough

OK

Not enough

Don't know

Q21 Do you like the open spaces near you?

Yes

No

Q22 If you could make ONE improvement to an existing open space or have ONE new place to go what would it be?

More interesting play equipment

Skate park

Indoor non-sports place (eg somewhere to hang out with friends)

BMX park

Multi-use games area / Kickabout area

Planned organised activities

Outdoor sports equipment (eg tennis, football)

Shelters

Indoor sports (eg badminton)

Nature areas

Other (please write in the box):

Q23 How long would you be willing to take getting there?

0 to 5 minutes

15 to 20 minutes

5 to 10 minutes

More than 20 minutes

10 to 15 minutes

Section 3 - Questions 24 to 28 are about indoor sports and recreation facilities in your area

Q24 Do you play any indoor sports outside of school? If yes, please let us know which sports

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Badminton</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Indoor bowls</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Swimming</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Martial arts (eg judo, karate)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Squash</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Indoor basketball</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Indoor tennis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Indoor netball</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Indoor football</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Other</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Table tennis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other (please write in the box):

Q25 Have you been to any of the following sports locations in the last year?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Swimming pool</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Sports hall (eg where you play badminton or basketball or martial arts)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Indoor tennis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Indoor bowls</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Squash court</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Community hall</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q26 How often do you visit an indoor sports and recreation location?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>More than once a week</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <i>Once a month</i> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>Once a week</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <i>Once a year</i> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q27 How do you normally get there?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Walk</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Cycle</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Car</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Skate</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Other</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q28 How would you prefer to get there?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Walk</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Cycle</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Car</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Skate</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Other</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

And finally...

Q29 If you have any other comments on open spaces or sport, recreation and community facilities you use, or on improvements you would like to see in Broxbourne please write them in the box below:

Q30 What is your postcode? If you don't know just write the name of the road you live on

Q31 Do you have an illness or disability? Does this stop you doing things?

Yes

Go to Q32

Don't know

No

Q32 If you answered yes to question 31:

Yes

No

Don't know

Does it stop you moving about easily?

Do you have problems using your hands?

Do you have problems seeing things?

Do you have problems hearing things?

Do you have asthma or breathing problems?

Do you have arthritis?

Do you have other problems?

If you have other problems, what are they?

Thanks for your time - now back to school work!

APPENDIX E

SPORTS CLUB SURVEY

Sports Club Survey

Please spare a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire on behalf of your club/organisation. Please tick boxes or fill in 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) If you represent a club offering more than one activity, please feel free to complete separate forms for each activity:

Football

Cycling

Basketball

Cricket

Tennis

Martial Arts

Rugby

Swimming

Dance

Hockey

Athletics

Squash

Netball

Badminton

Other

If other please specify:

Q3 How many members do you currently have?

Q4 Is this number increasing, decreasing, or stable?

Increasing

Decreasing

Stable

Q5 Do you have a waiting list and if so, how many people are on it?

Q6 Which of the following groups does your club cater for? (You may tick more than one box)

Primary age children

Older people (60+)

Young people / Teenagers

Special needs

Adults

Other

Families

Q7 In which areas do most of your members live?

Waltham Cross

Cheshunt

Bury Green / Flamstead End / Goffs Oak /
Rosedale

Hoddesdon North / Rye Park

Hoddesdon Town

Broxbourne / Wormley / Turnford

Outside the Borough

Other (Please specify)

Usage of sport & recreation facilities in Broxbourne

Q8 What type of facility does your club primarily use?

Synthetic Turf Pitch

Indoor tennis court

Outdoor tennis court

Leisure centre sports hall

School sports hall

Grass pitch (inc. Football,
Rugby, Cricket)

Outdoor bowling green

Indoor bowling rink

Swimming pool

Community hall

Multi-use games area

Athletics track

Squash court

Youth facilities

Other (Please specify)

Q9 Of your chosen facility type (Q8), please indicate whether you feel there is enough or not enough provision in the Borough?

More than enough

About right

Nearly enough

Not enough

Q10 Please name the facility that you use most often? (provide site name and location)

Goffs Sports Centre

Grundy Park Leisure Centre

The John Warner Sports Centre

Civic Hall

Wolsey Hall

Bollescroft

Other (please provide name and postcode)

Q11 If there is a second facility that you use on a regular basis please state it here: (provide site name and location)

Q12 What mode of transport do the majority of your members use to travel to the above facility (Q10)?

Walk

Taxi

Cycle

Train

Bus

Motorcycle

Car

Other (Please specify)

Q13 How long do you think is reasonable for members to have to travel to participate in their chosen activity at the facility referred to in Q10 (e.g. ten minutes to the local playing pitch for a pub football team) ?

0-5 minutes

15-20 minutes

30+ minutes

5-10 minutes

20-25 minutes

10-15 minutes

25-30 minutes

Meeting your needs

Q14 Do the existing sport & recreation facilities you use meet all the needs of your club/organisation?

Yes

No

Q15 If NO, please explain the main reasons why not (please state facility name):

Q16 What types of sport & recreation 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)

Multi-use games areas

Indoor tennis courts

Synthetic turf /All weather pitches

Indoor bowls

Outdoor tennis courts

Youth facilities

Outdoor bowls

Health & Fitness gym

Leisure pools

Sports halls

Squash courts

Grass pitches

Other (Please specify)

Q17 If you selected grass pitches in Q16, please specify what type you would like to see more of:

	Adult	Junior	Mini
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rugby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q18 If new sports facilities were developed in the Borough, what would you like to see provided and where would you prefer to see them located?

Q19 How would you rate the overall provision of sport & recreation facilities in terms of **QUALITY** within your local area?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | |

Please explain the reason for this choice:

Q20 What top 3 features would you prioritise within the provision of new/improved sport & recreation facilities?

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Well maintained grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Level surfaces/
good drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> Changing facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ease of booking | <input type="checkbox"/> Range of activities
on offer | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease/security of
parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease/security of
cycle storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convenient
opening hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Town centre
location | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping prices
low |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social facilities | | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshment
facilities | |

Q21 If **ONE** thing could be done to improve the provision of sport & recreation facilities in Broxbourne, what would it be?

Q22 If you have any general comments that you would like to make us aware of regarding the provision of sport & recreation facilities please use the space provided below and specify the area you are commenting on:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it in the freepost envelope provided by 7 September 2007.

PMP are registered under the Data Protection Act (1998) and all your responses will remain confidential. The results of this survey will only be used in aggregated form, and you will not be contacted about your responses, nor will they be used for any purpose other than those stated in the cover letter, unless you give your explicit consent.

APPENDIX F

LIST OF EXTERNAL CONSULTEES

List of external consultees

- Natural England
- British waterways
- Lee Valley Regional Park
- Groundwork
- Wildlife Trust (did not respond)
- Forestry Commission (did not respond)

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	Play areas for children
6	Outdoor Sports Facilities
7	Allotments
8	Cemeteries and Churchyards

9	Civic Spaces
10	Outdoor teenager facilities

PMP Audit Codes:

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

Cleanliness and Maintenance					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Vandalism and Graffiti Equipment Litter problems Maintenance Dog Fouling Noise									

x3

Security and Safety					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Lighting Equipment Boundaries (e.g. fencing)									

x2

Vegetation					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Planted areas Grass areas									

x2

Ancillary Accommodation					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Toilets Parking Provision of bins for rubbish/litter Pathways (within the open space sites) Seats / Benches									

x2

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID:

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Weighting
-----------	------	---------	------	-----------	-----------

Assessor's Comments

General								
Includes:	Entrance to site	Roads, paths and cycleway access	Disabled Access	5	4	3	2	1

x3

Transport								
Includes:	Accessible by public transport	Accessible by cycleways	Accessible by walking	5	4	3	2	1

x2

Information & Signage					
Is the information & signage to the open space appropriate where required and is it clear?	5	4	3	2	1

x1

WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID:

Wider Benefits

Assessor's Comments

Structural and landscape benefits	Yes	No
Ecological benefits	Yes	No
Education benefits	Yes	No
Social inclusion and health benefits	Yes	No
Cultural and heritage benefits	Yes	No
Amenity benefits and a "sense of place"	Yes	No
Economic benefits	Yes	No

APPENDIX H

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.

1.11 **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.

1.12 **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)

1.13 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)

1.14 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

- 1.15 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.”

- 1.16 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.

- 1.17 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)

- 1.18 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 a consultation draft and final strategy drawing on consultation responses



- 1.19 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)

- 1.20 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.
- 1.21 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!

- 1.22 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)

1.23 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 or 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)

1.24 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.



1.25 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)

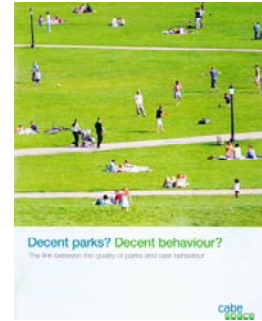
1.26 A primary intention of the guide is to encourage wider use of management plans by dispelling the myth that the creation of a site management plan is an exceptionally difficult task that can be undertaken only by an expert.

1.27 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)



- 1.28 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.
- 1.29 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
- 1.30 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.

APPENDIX I
QUANTITY STANDARDS

Setting quantity standards – Broxbourne Borough Council

Field	Comment
National standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations, such as National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) for playing pitches.
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	This is the current provision in hectares per 1,000 population within the Local Authority area.
Existing local standards and strategic context	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards. The strategic context is also considered.
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards	These are figures detailing actual provision and local standards within other PPG17/ open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for Broxbourne. Where available, local standards set by local authorities within the relevant CIPFA family for Broxbourne have been included. Further benchmarking information is provided as a separate sheet.
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire and needs to be applied and reported per analysis area to provide some detailed local analysis. This information is about current levels of provision in terms of too much/ about right / not enough.
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	A summary of reasons behind respondents’ choices on adequacy of existing levels of provision. PPG17 indicates that where local provision is regarded as inadequate it is important to establish why this is the case. The feeling of deficiency can sometimes be due to qualitative issues of existing open space sites rather than actual quantity issues. Any other qualitative consultation/ information that has been extracted on local needs in terms of quantity of provision, for example from neighbourhood drop-in sessions and local strategic documents is also included.
PMP recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in hectares per 1,000 population.
PMP justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended.
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis.

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

Field	Comment
LOCAL QUANTITY STANDARD	Final local standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in hectares per 1,000 population.

NB The PPG17 Companion Guide specifies that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for Green Corridors, Civic Spaces, or Churches & Cemeteries due to the planning issues associated with these typologies.

Summary of perceived quantity levels – household surveys

Typology	Perceptions of levels of provision quantity						
	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion	Total* 'more than enough' and 'about right'	Moderated total percentage satisfied#	Moderated total percentage dissatisfied~
Parks and gardens	5%	66%	26%	3%	71%	74%	26%
Natural and semi-natural	8%	62%	28%	2%	70%	71%	29%
Amenity greenspace	2%	43%	43%	12%	45%	52%	48%
Play provision for children	2%	36%	49%	13%	38%	43%	57%
Teenage facilities	2%	12%	69%	16%	14%	17%	83%
Outdoor sports facilities	2%	38%	45%	15%	40%	47%	53%
Allotments	3%	36%	24%	37%	39%	62%	38%
Cemeteries and churchyards	3%	47%	21%	29%	50%	76%	24%
Green corridors	6%	52%	28%	13%	58%	71%	29%
Civic spaces	3%	59%	20%	18%	62%	67%	33%
Community facilities**	3%	30%	26%	41%	5%	52%	43%
Indoor sports facilities**	4 %	41%	25%	30%	5%	56%	39%

* Ordered by moderated satisfaction levels, excluding 'no opinion' responses

** Average scores for all types of facilities within that typology

Total percentage answering 'more than enough' and 'about right', excluding responses offering 'no opinion' from the calculation

~ Total percentage answering 'not enough', excluding responses offering 'no opinion' from the calculation

Setting quantity standards – Parks and gardens

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS					
National standards	No national standards				
Current level of provision (ha per 1,000 population)	0.284 ha per 1,000 population				
Existing local standards and strategic context	There are no specific standards relating to quantity of parks and gardens in the borough. As detailed in the Broxbourne Residents Survey Report 2006, priorities for Broxbourne include crime/community safety; problems with young people and anti-social behaviour. Following this is development pressures/ overbuilding but this is no longer the top priority as in 2001.				
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC – No standard set	East Herts DC – 0.53	Brentwood BC – 0.74		
	Castle Point BC – 0.103	Chelmsford BC – 0.84	Maidstone BC – 2.27		
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	5%	66%	26%	3%
	Cheshunt	5%	71%	21%	3%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	1%	65%	32%	1%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	78%	22%	0%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	11%	55%	31%	3%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	5%	69%	22%	5%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	6%	72%	22%	0%

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS	
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Respondents to the household survey were asked about the current level of provision of parks and gardens in the borough and whether they perceive that quantity of provision fulfils local need. In total, 71% of respondents stated that there is ‘more than enough’ or an ‘about right’ level of park provision. However, 26% of respondents did indicate that there are ‘not enough’ parks in the borough. Only 3% stated that they had ‘no opinion’.</p> <p>As detailed in the table above, this overall view is reflected across all analysis areas with over 66% of respondents satisfied with existing levels of park provision in all areas. The highest levels of satisfaction were in the Hoddesdon Town and the Hoddesdon North/ Rye Park analysis areas (78% of respondents viewed provision levels as ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’). Lowest levels of satisfaction in the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne and the Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area (66% of respondents rating quantity as ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’).</p> <p>Parks are the most popular typology among young people, with 23% of respondents to the school survey stating that it was the typology they visited most often.</p> <p>Comments from the various consultation methods outline Cedars Park as one of the most frequented parks in the borough and of high value to the local community.</p>
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.284 ha per 1,000 population
PMP justification	<p>The current level of provision in Broxbourne borough is 0.284 ha per 1,000 population. There are a number of large park and garden sites distributed across the borough, including Cedars Park and Barclay Park, as a result of these larger more strategic sites there are significant pockets of deficiency in terms of being outside of the recommended distance threshold. However, feedback from the majority of respondents to the household survey is that the current level of provision of parks and gardens across the borough is adequate. This view is reflective of respondents from all analysis areas.</p> <p>The household survey findings indicate that there is a general level of satisfaction amongst borough residents as to the provision of formal park space in Broxbourne borough. This suggests that the major parks, such as Cheshunt Park and Cedars Park, are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them to use the full range of facilities and activities on offer. It is therefore recommended that the Council adopt a local quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Broxbourne borough (ie 0.284 ha per 1,000 population). This will enable the Council</p>

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens, which will increase levels of usage and facilitate the pursuit of quality standards, such as Green Flag status. In addition, this will allow locational deficiencies in provision to be addressed in areas that do not meet the borough wide local accessibility standard. The application of the accessibility standards should be undertaken alongside the amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace provision, as this will support the prioritisation of quantitative increases.</p> <p>Given the population growth 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>
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	0.284 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Natural and Semi-Natural

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL					
National standards	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accessible natural greenspace less than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home; • statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population; • at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home. <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>				
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	1.26 ha per 1,000 population				
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>There are no existing local standards.</p> <p>The Green Belt area is of great importance to the Borough. Chapter 2 of the Broxbourne Borough Local Plan focuses on Green Belt and the Countryside and states that loss of open space on the Green Belt around Broxbourne will only be approved if specific criteria are met. These criteria include enhancing sport and outdoor recreation facilities, and protecting the existing wildlife.</p>				
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC – 2.16	East Herts DC – 7.76	Brentwood BC – 5.61		
	Castle Point BC – 2.377	Chelmsford BC – 3.12	Maidstone BC – No standard set		
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	8%	62%	28%	2%
	Cheshunt	6%	64%	26%	4%
	Wormley, Turnford and	14%	62%	24%	0%

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL					
	Broxbourne				
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	74%	26%	0%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	11%	60%	24%	5%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	4%	60%	35%	1%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	6%	63%	31%	0%
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Across the borough, 70% of the household survey respondents stated that the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace is 'about right' or 'more than enough'. 28% of respondents indicated that existing provision of this type of open space as 'not enough'. This could be reflective of feedback during the various drop-in sessions, where a recurring theme was concerns over the increasing amount of housing development within the borough, particularly potential developments on the Green Belt.</p> <p>The overall view of adequate provision is reflected across the six analysis areas. Levels of satisfaction are highest within the Hoddesdon Town area, where 74% of respondents believe provision is 'about right'. In contrast, the lowest levels of satisfaction are found in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area where 35% of respondents believe current levels of provision to be insufficient.</p> <p>Both Broxbourne Woods and the Lee Valley Regional Park, although situated outside of the borough's local authority boundary, attracts many residents of Broxbourne. The informal part of Cheshunt Park is also of great value to local residents.</p>				
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	1.26 ha per 1,000 population				
PMP justification	The current level of provision is equivalent to 1.26 ha per 1,000 population. Provision is across the borough but with the greatest proportion being in the Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End due to Cheshunt Park site. This is also the more rural area of the borough and the spread of natural and semi-natural provision across the borough's more urban areas, such as Cheshunt and Waltham Cross is more limited. This is to be expected, as the geography of the				

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
	<p>more urban area does not lend itself to this type of provision and relies on other open space types to fulfil an open space function.</p> <p>Feedback from the majority of respondents to the household survey is that the current level of provision of natural and semi-natural green space across the borough is adequate but circa 25% did indicate that current levels of provision are 'not enough'. Although this reflects the concerns highlighted during consultation of building on Green Belt and the need to protect greenspace in the borough, given that a greater proportion respondents are satisfied with provision it is recommended that the Council adopt a standard equivalent to the current level of provision. This will emphasise the need to retain the existing level of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the borough, particularly in the Green Belt area, without placing onerous demands for new provision to meet future need. This will also enable the Council to focus on either maintaining or improving the quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites.</p>
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	1.26 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Amenity Greenspace

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE			
National standards	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.		
	English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population.		
	Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation.		
Current provision (per 1,000 population)	0.45 ha per 1,000 population		
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>Broxbourne Borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance (August 2004) highlights that in addition to the provision of recreational open space, all new housing developments must also include adequate amenity landscape areas to ensure a good environment in accordance with the principles set out in DETR document 'By Design'.</p> <p>The Council will insist that a landscaping scheme on a scale appropriate to each new development will be provided.</p> <p>The Council will seek financial contributions towards the provision or improvement of such facilities from all new residential development. Contributions will be assessed in accordance with the identified needs of the local community and will be linked to the additional demand likely to be placed upon local facilities or facilities, either existing or future.</p>		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC – 1.46	East Herts DC – 0.55	Brentwood BC – 0.48
	Castle Point BC – 0.584	Chelmsford BC – 0.8	Maidstone BC – 0.75

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE					
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	2%	43%	43%	12%
	Cheshunt	1%	44%	42%	13%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	1%	44%	41%	13%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	32%	50%	18%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	4%	35%	43%	18%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	1%	48%	41%	11%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	6%	47%	45%	2%
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>On a borough-wide level, results of the household survey indicate that overall respondents' views on current levels of provision of amenity greenspace are equally divided with 43% stating provision is either 'not enough' or 'about right'. 12% of respondents had no opinion.</p> <p>Opinion is also divided across the six individual analysis areas, with a higher percentage of respondents within both the Hoddesdon Town and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas indicating dissatisfaction with the level of provision of amenity greenspace. Only within the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area are the majority of respondents more satisfied than dissatisfied with existing levels of amenity greenspace provision.</p>				
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.46 ha per 1,000 population				
PMP justification	The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.45 ha per 1,000 population. The public opinion				

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE	
	<p>within the borough regarding the borough wide level of provision of amenity greenspace is fairly evenly split, with 43% stating provision to be inadequate and 45% adequate.</p> <p>The recommended standard has been set at 0.46 ha per 1,000 population. This is to reflect the perceived inadequacy of current provision and support the need for additional provision to meet population growth to 2021. Consultation revealed that borough residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity greenspace local quantity standard is required to address this perception.</p> <p>Consultation also highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in breaking up the urban texture and providing greenspace in what would otherwise be a built up area. This will enable to 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 greenspace network.</p>
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	0.46 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Play provision for children

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
National standards	<p>NPFA – Six Acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of two acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's 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 LAs have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments:</p> <p>(1) LAPs aged 4-6; 1 minute walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); minimum area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>(2) LEAPs aged minimum 5; minimum area size 400msq; should be located 400m or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240m in a straight line).</p>
Current provision (per 1,000 population)	0.03 ha per 1,000 population
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>Broxbourne Borough Council's Local Plan (2001-2011) highlights that children's play areas are less well provided across the borough than other types of recreational space. As a consequence the Council states that new development must be in line with national standards, which is reinforced within the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy. In addition, the Council's borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance (August 2004) indicates that <i>"all new developments with 15 houses or more will be expected to contribute to the provision of a play area or include one in the development"</i>.</p> <p>The Council's Play and Free Time Strategy 2007 includes a SWOT analysis that has identified key issues in relation to play provision within the borough. Those that are most applicable to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short-term prioritisation of specific age groups threatening long-term provision for all ages • lack of specialist play provision for disabled children

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high density housing areas with limited open spaces/play provision specific geographical gaps in provision of play facilities were identified in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Wormley/Turnford, between Cheshunt and Waltham Cross and within Waltham Cross. 				
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC – no standard set	East Herts DC – 0.2	Brentwood BC – 0.13		
	Castle Point BC – 0.25	Chelmsford BC – 0.09	Maidstone BC – 0.12		
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	2%	36%	49%	13%
	Cheshunt	1%	32%	53%	14%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	1%	37%	53%	9%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	27%	64%	9%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	0%	26%	59%	15%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	1%	42%	40%	17%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	6%	47%	37%	10%
	Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Feedback from the household survey indicates an overall level of dissatisfaction with the quantity of play provision for children. 49% of respondents believe that current levels of provision are not enough, as opposed to 38% who believe existing levels of provision to be either 'more than			

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
	<p>enough’ or ‘about right’. 13% of respondents had no opinion.</p> <p>This overall view is reflective across the analysis areas, with only respondents in the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area showing a majority (53% rather than 37%) satisfied with levels of play provision. In contrast, the lowest level of satisfaction can be found in Hoddesdon Town where 64% of respondents indicating there is not enough provision.</p> <p>The findings from the household survey are reflective of wider consultation, such as the drop-in sessions, during which a common theme raised by borough residents was a lack of play areas for children. This is also in line with Council strategic documents such as the Local Plan and Play and Free Time Strategy that recognise a lack of play provision across the borough, particularly in Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross. As a result, the Council is already planning a new play area in Waltham Cross to address the needs of local residents. Other projects are also being considered, with precise locations and size to be determined. This illustrates that the Council are already working towards increasing the level of play provision within the borough.</p> <p>Respondents to the school survey who stated that they used play areas most often said the main reasons were that it was close to their home, and a good place to meet with friends. On the other hand, most said that it was the only place they could go, and the play facilities were boring.</p>
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.04 ha per 1,000 population
PMP justification	<p>The current level of provision of children’s play areas in the borough is 0.03 ha per 1,000 population. There are 36 play areas distributed across all parts of the borough, although provision is more limited in the more urban areas, such as Cheshunt, Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross. Waltham Cross in particular is deficient in provision. Feedback from borough residents is that current provision is not adequate to meet demand and that additional play provision is required – this was the view of nearly half of household survey respondents. The Council recognise the value and importance of adequate play provision, as detailed in the new Play and Free Time Strategy, and are already responding to the lack of provision within the borough, with additional sites planned in Waltham Cross and elsewhere in the borough.</p> <p>Given the findings from the local needs assessment of a lack of provision and the Council’s strategic aim to improve and provide additional play provision within the borough, it is recommended that the Council set the local quantity standard above the current level of provision at 0.04 ha per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 0.01 ha per 1,000 population, which is</p>

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
	equates to additional provision of circa 0.7 ha – the equivalent of 10 LEAPs (400sqm in size each). This standard reinforces the Council’s commitment to increase levels of provision to meet the needs of the younger borough residents, while remaining realistic and achievable in the level of additional future play provision that can be provided. Also new provision should meet the local quality standard and the quality of existing sites should be improved, where appropriate as this will increase usage and further ensure that borough wide play provision meets the needs of Broxbourne residents.
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	0.04 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Teenage facilities

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES			
National standards	<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 children's 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 LAs have added one acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments.</p> <p>NEAPS: These facilities should have a minimum of 8 types of play equipment, a minimum activity area of 1,000 square metres, with a kickabout area, wheeled play opportunities, seating, and a minimum 30 metre buffer zone between the activity area and the boundary of the nearest residential property.</p>		
Current provision (per 1,000 population)	0.010 ha per 1,000 population		
Existing local standards and strategic context	The Council's Play and Free Time Strategy 2007 identifies a perceived lack of free time activities and facilities for young people. Teenagers are a priority target group for the Council, and therefore delivery of teenage facilities is a key concern for the Council and considered integral to community development.		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	South Northamptonshire– 0.02	Elmbridge– 0.32	South Ribble– 0.13

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES					
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	2%	12%	69%	16%
	Cheshunt	0%	12%	70%	18%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	6%	14%	65%	15%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	9%	73%	18%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	0%	6%	75%	19%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	4%	10%	71%	15%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	4%	27%	57%	12%
	<p>Household survey respondents viewed the existing level of provision of teenage facilities negatively, with the majority of respondents (69%) indicating current provision is ‘not enough’ and only 14% believing that provision levels are ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’. 16% of respondents did not have an opinion.</p> <p>Opinion on the quantity of provision was largely consistent across the six analysis areas, with the majority of respondents indicating dissatisfaction with levels of provision in all cases. This was highest in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area where 75% of respondents felt that there were ‘not enough’ teenage facilities and only 6% believed provision to be ‘about right’. Respondents within the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park and Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis areas indicated the highest levels of satisfaction with regard to teenage facilities with 31% and 20% respectively believing provision to be either ‘more than enough’ or ‘about right’.</p>				

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES	
	<p>The household survey findings reflect an overall consensus during consultation that there is not enough for teenagers to do within the borough and that there is a perceived lack of provision for this particular age group, which in turn is believed to be a factor contributing to occasions of anti-social behaviour in the borough.</p> <p>The Council has already committed to build seven new teenage facilities in Broxbourne, Canada Fields, Wormley, Holmsbrook, Pound Close, Flamstead End and North Hoddesdon. This will significantly increase the level of provision and address the needs of residents more adequately.</p>
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.018 ha per 1,000 population
PMP justification	<p>The current level of provision of teenage facilities in the borough is 0.010 ha per 1,000 population, which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. There are only eight dedicated teenage facility sites across the borough, which are spread across five of the six analysis areas. Only the Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne analysis area does not have any outdoor provision for teenagers. This means that across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision (in ha per 1,000 population) ranges from 0 through to 0.05 in Waltham Cross & Theobalds (where there are three sites) – a significant variation across the borough. 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 the relevant accessibility buffer).</p> <p>The overwhelming feedback from borough residents is that there is not enough dedicated provision for teenagers. Nearly 70% of household survey respondents indicated that current levels of provision are not adequate, and this view was echoed by adults and young people during the drop-in sessions, as well as by the Council. As with children’s play provision, the Council have already recognised the need for additional teenage facilities in the borough to address the existing lack of provision and seven new sites are planned across the borough.</p> <p>In light of the feedback from borough residents on the lack of teenage facilities, it is recommended that the Council set the local quantity standard above the existing level of provision at 0.18 ha per 1,000 population. This will facilitate new provision in all areas, something that the household survey results concurred with and reflects the Council’s current plans to increase provision through the seven new sites. The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in five of the six analysis areas (the exception being Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne). In order to meet the recommended local quantity standard, additional provision of circa 0.7 ha of</p>

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES	
	teenage facilities would currently be required. This standard reinforces the Council's commitment to increase levels of provision to meet the needs of the younger borough residents, while remaining realistic and achievable in the level of additional future provision that can be provided.
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	0.018 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Outdoor sports facilities

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
National standards	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (i.e. 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquet lawns.</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 is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments.</p>
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	<p>3.07 ha per 1,000 population including golf courses</p> <p>1.88 ha per 1,000 population excluding golf courses</p>
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>The Broxbourne Borough Council Local Plan refers to Sport England’s view of there being no substantial deficiencies in outdoor sports pitch provision in the borough but with some expansion being desirable to keep pace with the development of the borough (paragraph 7.1.3).</p> <p>The Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) (2005) analysed supply and demand of outdoor grass pitch provision across the borough. Key findings outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an oversupply of mini-soccer pitches and adult football pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches • an optimum number of hockey pitches • an oversupply of adult rugby pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches • an undersupply of cricket pitches. <p>Recommendations included the following:</p> <p><i>‘The Council should re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for sports with an identified shortfall (eg mini soccer), where another solution has not been identified’</i></p> <p><i>‘The Council should try to secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quality of existing playing fields in the borough and provide new facilities (including re-designation of pitches) where a shortfall is identified’</i></p>

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES					
	<p><i>The Council should continue to focus upon improving pitch quality standards'</i></p> <p>The PPS updated the Playing Pitch standard to 0.76 ha per 1,000 population.</p>				
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC – 2.37	East Herts DC – 3.4	Brentwood BC – 3.18		
	Castle Point – 3.217	Chelmsford BC – 1.75	Maidstone BC – 2.7		
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	2%	38%	45%	15%
	Cheshunt	1%	40%	42%	17%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	3%	39%	48%	10%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	48%	43%	9%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	0%	21%	55%	24%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	3%	39%	45%	13%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	0%	59%	33%	8%
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Overall 45% of respondents to the household survey believe there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities, with 40% perceiving current levels of provision to be either 'more than enough' or 'about right'. This divided opinion is reflective across most analysis areas, where there</p>				

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
	<p>is little variation in terms of numbers believing provision to be either adequate or not. Only in the Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area do the majority of respondents (59%) feel that provision is 'about right', in each of the other five analysis areas less than 50% of respondents were satisfied with current levels of provision.</p> <p>The feedback from the household survey is reflective of the additional consultation that was undertaken. Headline findings from the sports club survey are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47% of clubs surveys believe that facility provision in the borough is insufficient, although tennis and athletics clubs responded positively, indicating there was an adequate or more than adequate level of provision for their sports in the borough • 36% of respondents from various types of clubs identified a need for more youth sporting facilities in the borough. This supports the findings of Broxbourne Borough Council's Play and Free Time Strategy which identified a need for increased provision of leisure and recreational facilities for children and young people in the borough • there was also some demand for an increased provision of grass pitches (22% of respondents), which reflects the PPS findings. <p>Drop in session consultation highlighted the need for more out of hours use of school outdoor sports facilities. In addition, consultation identified that a number of sporting facilities, such as the synthetic turf pitches at Grundy Park, are of poor quality, which has led to a decline in usage and therefore a perception of inadequacy of provision. This supports the concept that improvements in terms of quality will help compensate for any perceived undersupply of sports facilities in the borough.</p>
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	1.88 ha per 1,000 population (excluding golf courses)
PMP justification	The current level of outdoor sports provision is equivalent to 1.88 ha per 1,000 population. Golf courses have been removed from all calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. 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 and therefore have been included in the calculations. As per a recommendation in the PPS it is therefore important that the Council facilitate secured community access at these sites so that all outdoor sports provision is accessible. The extended schools programmes may

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
	<p>offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, 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 planning need only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the perception on the adequacy of the overall level of outdoor sports facility provision is divided, to a certain extent provision of this type of open space is demand led, and only sport specific strategies will provide a clear picture of supply and demand. The Playing Pitch Strategy that was undertaken in 2005 provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of pitches locally. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports 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 at the current level of provision of 1.88ha per 1,000 population. This means that the Council will still have to address the recommendations outlined in the PPS and provide additional outdoor sporting facilities to meet future needs in 2021. As such, the local quantity standard will support the Council’s aspirations to increase participation and to provide sufficient outdoor sports facilities for the growing population of the borough.</p>
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	1.88 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Allotments and community gardens

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS			
National standards	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. With an average allotment plot of 250 sq/m this equates to 0.125 ha per 1,000 population. 1970 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population.		
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	0.2 ha per 1,000 population		
Existing local standards and strategic context	No existing local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP) (ha per 1,000 population)	Spelthorne BC– No standards set	East Herts DC – 0.22	Brentwood BC – 0.18
	Castle Point BC – 0.058	Chelmsford BC – 0.3	Maidstone BC – 0.21

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS					
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Analysis area	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
	All areas	3%	36%	24%	37%
	Cheshunt	1%	44%	21%	34%
	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	4%	34%	18%	44%
	Hoddesdon Town	0%	30%	48%	22%
	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	2%	35%	24%	39%
	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	7%	29%	25%	39%
	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	2%	42%	23%	33%
	Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Household survey respondents indicated that overall provision of allotments across the borough is adequate, with 39% stating current provision being ‘about right’ or ‘more than enough’. However, 37% of respondents offered no opinion. This can be explained by the fact that less than 10% of respondents actually rent an allotment.</p> <p>When asked if residents would be interested in renting an allotment, 85% indicated that they would not be interested. This suggests that there is no significant demand for allotment provision in the borough, which contradicts feedback from some borough residents through the drop-in sessions who indicated that they are on allotment rental waiting lists but are aware of abandoned plots. Reasons for people not wanting to use an allotment highlighted that there is a lack of awareness, with many respondents claiming they did not know where allotments were located or how to become involved. A number of respondents also claimed there was a long waiting list for the use of allotments.</p>			

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS	
	Feedback from Council officers is that at the majority of sites there is not 100% occupancy. For example, Cadmore Lane in Cheshunt currently has only 75% occupancy. This suggests that there is a need for a more efficient system for the allocation of plots rather than additional allotment provision in the borough.
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.2 ha per 1,000 population
PMP justification	<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.2 ha per 1,000 population, which is in line with the national standard and those set by neighbouring local authorities. There are 15 allotment sites in the borough, spread across all analysis areas. The quantity of provision (in ha per 1,000 population) is therefore relatively balanced across the six analysis areas, and in line with the overall level of provision, with the exception of Hoddesdon Town where provision is only 0.01 ha per 1,000 population. The greatest level of provision is in Wormley, Turnford & Broxbourne at 0.38 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Consultation suggests that the current level of allotment provision is adequate, and that there is only very limited demand for allotment sites. Provision of allotments is demand driven and not all sites are at maximum levels of occupancy. However, in light of the wider health agenda it is important that allotment provision in the borough is promoted and usage maximised. This is in line with the Council's aim, as detailed in the Local Plan, to promote leisure gardens in the borough.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council adopt a local quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision. This will emphasise the need to retain the existing level of allotment gardens in the Borough, and strengthen to need to maintain and improve the quality of the existing sites.</p>
Client approval	Local quantity standard
	0.2 ha per 1,000 population

Setting quantity standards – Cemeteries and churchyards

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard
	<p>No Quantity Standards are set for Cemeteries and Churchyards.</p> <p>PPG 17 Annex states:</p> <p><i>"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."</i></p> <p>For Cemeteries, PPG 17 Annex states:</p> <p><i>"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."</i></p> <p>This does not relate to a quantitative hectare per 1,000 population requirement.</p>

Setting quantity standards – Green corridors

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – GREEN CORRIDORS	
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard
	<p>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 land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that no provision standard should be set.</p>

Setting quantity standards – Civic spaces

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – CIVIC SPACES	
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard
	<p>It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces across the local authority area 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. Therefore from the analysis we recommend that no quantity provision standard be set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres.</p>

Setting quantity standards – Indoor sports facilities

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES																													
National standards	NGB/ Sport England recommendations.																												
Current provision (per 1,000 population)	Sports halls: 0.15 courts Swimming pools: 13.64sqm of water space No existing indoor tennis and indoor bowls provision.																												
Existing local standards and strategic context	No existing local quality standards for the quality of indoor leisure facilities.																												
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Sheffield City Council: 37.1sqm per 1,000 population for sports halls 10.6sqm of water space per 1,000 population for swimming pools 0.03 courts per 1,000 population for indoor tennis 0.02 rinks per 1,000 population for indoor bowls																												
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of facility</th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About right</th> <th>Not enough</th> <th>No opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Swimming Pools</td> <td>6%</td> <td>58%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sports Halls</td> <td>5%</td> <td>61%</td> <td>22%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indoor Tennis</td> <td>3%</td> <td>24%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indoor Bowls</td> <td>1%</td> <td>20.5%</td> <td>23%</td> <td>55.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Type of facility	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion	Swimming Pools	6%	58%	25%	11%	Sports Halls	5%	61%	22%	12%	Indoor Tennis	3%	24%	30%	43%	Indoor Bowls	1%	20.5%	23%	55.5%
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Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Consultation specific to indoor sports provision in Broxbourne borough provides an indication of public opinion whilst providing some meaningful statistics. Key findings from consultation provide																												

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
	<p>a justification for setting local standards against local needs and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the majority of household survey respondents indicated that they perceive provision of indoor sports facilities in the borough to be ‘about right’ • the greatest levels of satisfaction are on the level of provision of sports halls and swimming pools in the borough, where respectively 66% and 64% of household survey respondents indicated provision to be adequate. <p>there was a more balanced view on the adequacy of provision of indoor tennis and indoor bowls facilities in the borough, with approximately the same percentage of household survey respondents indicating provision is either adequate or not enough. Significantly in both cases, over 40% of respondents indicated no opinion</p> <p>The sports club survey responses differed from the household survey responses, outlining that there was some demand for an increased provision of sports halls (19.4% of respondents).</p>
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	<p>Sports halls: 0.29 courts Swimming pools: 13.64sqm water space Indoor tennis: 0.01 courts Indoor bowls: 0.06 rinks</p>
PMP justification	As detailed in Section 14.

Setting quantity standards – Community halls

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS																																													
National standards	<i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality</i> suggests that the catchment population required to sustain 1 community centre is circa 4,000																																												
Current provision (per 1,000 population)	0.55 community facilities per 1,000 population																																												
Existing local standards and strategic context	No existing local standards																																												
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Sheffield City Council: 0.06 community centres per 1,000 population																																												
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Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Consultation findings highlighted that the Borough compares rather unfavourably to other boroughs in Hertfordshire. Most provision in terms of meeting spaces is located either in leisure centres or church halls, with nothing in the middle ground. It has been noted by Council officers that Waltham Cross and Cheshunt are particularly suffering from the lack of facilities, and the																																												

SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS	
	<p>general quality of facilities is poor.</p> <p>There are a few development projects ongoing, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary’s is currently being developed for the community in Cheshunt. • St Joseph Church in Waltham Cross needs refurbishing to improve the quality. • plans to make Hertford College more available to the community • a new facility is planned in Holbrook for January 2008, to accommodate a large hall, smaller meeting rooms, adult education and a pre-school playground • community facilities will be provided on the new development at Canada Fields.
PMP recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.55 community facilities per 1,000 population
PMP justification	Provision of community facilities in Broxbourne is currently above the Shaping Neighbourhoods guidance. However, consultation indicated that the majority of borough residents perceive the current levels of provision to be ‘about right’ and that the focus should be on improving the quality as opposed to quantity of provision. It is therefore recommended that the local quantity standard is set at the current level of provision to enable a focus on quality improvements.

APPENDIX J

QUANTITY STANDARDS WORKSHEET

Broxbourne 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 Young People (hectares)	Allotments (in hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (in hectares)	
Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)									without golf courses
Waltham Cross and Theobalds (AA1)	13,171	9.02	1.05	3.82	0.18	0.68	2.65	16.24	16.24
Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North (AA2)	14,616	0.00	0.00	4.46	0.37	0.11	3.04	22.77	22.77
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (AA3)	24,981	4.00	81.73	14.91	1.04	0.01	3.43	101.08	56.48
Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (AA4)	13,741	2.20	2.09	5.64	0.75	0.06	2.45	12.95	12.95
Hoddesdon Town (AA5)	6,276	9.47	7.42	5.32	0.13	0.02	0.62	12.64	12.64
Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (AA6)	14,269	0.00	17.52	4.69	0.35	0.00	5.38	102.39	42.76
OVERALL	87,054	24.69	109.81	38.84	2.82	0.88	17.57	268.07	163.84
Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)									
Waltham Cross and Theobalds (AA1)	13,171	0.6848	0.0797	0.2900	0.0137	0.0516	0.2012	1.2330	1.2330
Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North (AA2)	14,616	0.0000	0.0000	0.3051	0.0253	0.0075	0.2080	1.5579	1.5579
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (AA3)	24,981	0.1601	3.2717	0.5969	0.0416	0.0004	0.1373	4.0463	2.2609
Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (AA4)	13,741	0.1601	0.1521	0.4105	0.0546	0.0044	0.1783	0.9424	0.9424
Hoddesdon Town (AA5)	6,276	1.5089	1.1823	0.8477	0.0207	0.0032	0.0988	2.0140	2.0140
Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (AA6)	14,269	0.0000	1.2278	0.3287	0.0245	0.0000	0.3770	7.1757	2.9967
OVERALL	87,054	0.2836	1.2614	0.4462	0.0324	0.0101	0.2018	3.0794	1.8821
Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2021									
Waltham Cross and Theobalds (AA1)	14,418	0.6256	0.0728	0.2649	0.0125	0.05	0.1838	1.1263	1.1263
Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North (AA2)	16,000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2787	0.0231	0.01	0.1900	1.4231	1.4231
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (AA3)	27,347	0.1463	2.9887	0.5452	0.0380	0.00	0.1254	3.6962	2.0653
Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (AA4)	15,042	0.1463	0.1389	0.3749	0.0499	0.00	0.1629	0.8609	0.8609
Hoddesdon Town (AA5)	6,870	1.3784	0.4933	0.7743	0.0189	0.00	0.0902	1.8398	1.8398
Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (AA6)	15,620	0.0000	1.1216	0.3003	0.0224	0.00	0.3444	6.5549	2.7375
OVERALL	95,298	0.2591	1.1523	0.4076	0.0296	0.01	0.1844	2.8130	1.7192
Consultation (%)									
More than Enough		5	8	2	2	2	3	2	
About Right		66	62	43	36	12	36	38	
Not Enough		26	28	43	49	69	24	45	
No Opinion		3	2	12	13	16	37	15	
RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD		0.280	1.260	0.460	0.040	0.018	0.200	1.880	
Balance									
Waltham Cross and Theobalds (AA1)		5.33	-15.55	-2.24	-0.35	0.44	0.02		-8.52
Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North (AA2)		-4.09	-18.42	-2.26	-0.21	-0.15	0.12		-4.71
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (AA3)		-2.99	50.25	3.42	0.04	-0.44	-1.57		9.52
Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (AA4)		-1.65	-15.22	-0.68	0.20	-0.19	-0.30		-12.88
Hoddesdon Town (AA5)		7.71	-0.49	2.43	-0.12	-0.09	-0.64		0.84
Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (AA6)		-4.00	-0.46	-1.87	-0.22	-0.26	2.53		15.93
OVERALL	0	0.31	0.12	-1.20	-0.66	-0.69	0.16		0.18
Future Balance 2021									
Waltham Cross and Theobalds (AA1)		4.98	-17.12	-2.81	-0.40	0.42	-0.23		-10.87
Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North (AA2)		-4.48	-20.16	-2.90	-0.27	-0.18	-0.16		-7.31
Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End (AA3)		-3.66	47.27	2.33	-0.05	-0.48	-2.04		5.07
Hoddesdon North and Rye Park (AA4)		-2.01	-16.86	-1.28	0.15	-0.21	-0.56		-15.33
Hoddesdon Town (AA5)		7.55	-1.24	2.16	-0.14	-0.10	-0.75		-0.28
Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne (AA6)		-4.37	-2.16	-2.50	-0.27	-0.28	2.26		13.39
OVERALL	0	-1.99	-10.27	-5.00	-0.99	-0.84	-1.49		-15.32

Quantity Calculations

Broxbourne Borough Council - Quantity v Local Needs (by area and typology)

AREA	Area Name	Parks & Gardens				Natural & Semi Natural				Amenity Greenspace				Provision for Children & Young People up to 6 years				Provision for Children & Young People 7 years +				Outdoor Sports Facilities <i>(without golf courses)</i>				Allotments			
		More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion	More than Enough	About Right	Not Enough	No Opinion
1	Waltham Cross and Theobalds	11%	55%	31%	3%	11%	60%	24%	5%	4%	35%	43%	18%	0%	26%	59%	15%	0%	6%	75%	19%	0%	21%	55%	24%	2%	35%	24%	39%
2	Cheshunt Central and Cheshunt North	5%	71%	21%	3%	6%	64%	26%	4%	1%	44%	42%	13%	1%	32%	53%	14%	0%	12%	68%	18%	1%	40%	42%	17%	1%	49%	31%	18%
3	Wormley, Turnford and Broxbourne	1%	65%	32%	1%	14%	61%	24%	0%	1%	44%	41%	13%	1%	37%	53%	9%	6%	14%	65%	15%	3%	39%	48%	10%	4%	34%	18%	44%
4	Hoddesdon Town	0%	78%	22%	0%	0%	74%	26%	0%	0%	32%	50%	18%	0%	27%	64%	9%	0%	9%	73%	18%	0%	48%	43%	9%	0%	30%	48%	22%
5	Hoddesdon North and Rye Park	6%	72%	22%	0%	6%	63%	31%	0%	6%	47%	45%	2%	6%	47%	37%	10%	4%	28%	57%	12%	0%	59%	33%	8%	2%	42%	23%	33%
6	Goffs Oak, Bury Green, Rosedale and Flamstead End	5%	69%	22%	5%	4%	60%	36%	1%	1%	48%	41%	11%	1%	42%	40%	18%	4%	10%	71%	15%	3%	39%	45%	13%	7%	30%	25%	39%
ALL	ALL AREAS	5%	66%	26%	3%	8%	62%	28%	2%	2%	43%	43%	12%	2%	36%	49%	13%	2%	12%	69%	16%	2%	38%	45%	15%	3%	36%	24%	37%

APPENDIX K
QUALITY STANDARDS

Setting quality standards – Broxbourne Borough Council

Field	Comment
National standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations, such as Green Flag criteria for parks produced by Civic Trust
Existing local standards and strategic context	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	These are figures detailing satisfaction levels of other authorities to the quality of their open space
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	Results from the household survey with regards to users of each typology in relation to their aspirations and needs and existing quality experiences
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Results from all the consultations undertaken with regards the quality issues for each typology
PMP recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local quality standard for discussion and approval by the client
PMP justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the locals standard that has been recommended
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken
LOCAL QUALITY STANDARD	Final local standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report

Explanation and justification of the recommended approach

For each typology, the recommended quality standards have been derived directly from local consultation, where residents were asked to consider their opinions on the quality of sites in their local area and also to highlight the key features of a good quality site for each typology.

For each typology, these key features have been divided into those that are deemed essential, and those that are desirable, for attainment in Broxbourne now and in the future. National standards for provision and good practice examples for the rest of the country have also been taken into account as part of these recommendations.

These lists therefore set out the quality vision (as required by PPG17) which should be applied to all new sites and should inform the enhancement of existing sites, and deliver a more applicable, measurable target moving forward.

For each typology, two lists are therefore provided. An example is set out below:

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and litter free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of seats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An information board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even footpaths 	

The key quality issues with for open spaces considered within the site assessments have been categorised into the four overarching categories, specifically:

- cleanliness and maintenance
- vegetation
- ancillary accommodation
- security and safety.

These classifications are set out below:

Cleanliness and maintenance	Vegetation	Ancillary accommodation	Security and safety
Well kept grass	Flowers/trees	Changing facilities	Well lit
Clean/litter free	Nature features	Car parking	On-site security
Informal play area	Water features	Cycle parking	Good site access
Picnic area		Footpaths	
Dog free area		Events	
Dog walking area		Toilets	
Facilities for children		Café	
Level surface		Seating	
		Heritage information	

APPENDIX K – QUALITY STANDARDS

Cleanliness and maintenance	Vegetation	Ancillary accommodation	Security and safety
		Information boards	
		Litter bins	
		Dog mess bins	

Setting quality standards – Parks and Gardens

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS							
National standards	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA: Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management						
Existing local standards and strategic context	Local standards currently aligned on Green Flag Criteria						
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Broxbourne: 58% good</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Ipswich: 65% good</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Brighton: 68% good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crawley: 75% good</td> <td>Colchester: 73% good</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Broxbourne: 58% good	Ipswich: 65% good	Brighton: 68% good	Crawley: 75% good	Colchester: 73% good	
	Broxbourne: 58% good	Ipswich: 65% good	Brighton: 68% good				
Crawley: 75% good	Colchester: 73% good						
Consultation (Household survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated parks as their most frequently used open space – 39%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for park and garden sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean and litter free (70%) • well-kept grass (49%) • toilets (38%) • flowers and trees (36%) • nature features (33%). <p>Respondents to the household survey also highlighted staff on site (62%) and adequate lighting (40%) as being key to providing safe park and garden open spaces.</p> <p>When asked about the quality of parks and gardens sites, dog fouling (36%), vandalism and graffiti (35%) and litter problems (33%) were all rated as only minor problems. Poor maintenance (47%) and personal safety (42%) were rated as no problem.</p> <p>Cheshunt Park and Rye Park Gatehouse currently have Green Flag status. The Council should aim at maintaining these standards, and expand the number of parks achieving this status.</p>						
	Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Parks are considered to be of good quality by 58% of respondents and there is a similar level of satisfaction across all geographical areas of the borough. The highest levels of satisfaction are					

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS													
	<p>found in Cheshunt where 73% of respondents feel that the quality of provision is good.</p> <p>The high level of satisfaction with the quality of parks reflects their popularity, with only 8% of respondents stating they do not use this type of open space. Parks are one of the most frequently used open spaces across the borough, with Barclay Park the most frequently visited.</p> <p>This overall level of satisfaction with the quality of parks was reinforced through the drop-in sessions and further consultation. However, there were various comments from consultees relating to quality, such as vandalism and anti-social behaviour was highlighted as an issue, especially in Grundy Park.</p> <p>Respondents to the school survey indicated that the things they liked least about the park sites that they visited in the borough were “not enough space to play sport”, “it is too dirty” and “dog muck”. In contrast, the things they liked the most about them were the fact that “it is close to their home” and it is “a good place to meet friends.”</p>												
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Essential</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Community involvement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safe and secure</td> <td>Access to toilets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A welcoming place</td> <td>Natural features</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plants and trees</td> <td>Achieve Green Flag status</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog mess bins</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Community involvement	Safe and secure	Access to toilets	A welcoming place	Natural features	Plants and trees	Achieve Green Flag status	Dog mess bins	
Essential	Desirable												
Clean and well maintained	Community involvement												
Safe and secure	Access to toilets												
A welcoming place	Natural features												
Plants and trees	Achieve Green Flag status												
Dog mess bins													
PMP 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>												

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<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 and meets the needs/aspirations of borough residents. The improvement of quality parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Cedars Park and Cheshunt Park should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks.</p>

Setting quality standards – Natural and Semi-Natural

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL							
National standards	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Natural England highlights the need to conserve and protect the natural environment and promotes local community involvement and consultation. They also have a commitment to work with local authorities in developing Local Area Agreements (LAA) for improved community infrastructure to enhance access to high quality natural environments</p>						
Existing local standards and strategic context	No local standards						
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Broxbourne: 66%</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Ipswich: 39%</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Brighton: 50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Crawley: 61% good</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Colchester: 60% good</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Broxbourne: 66%	Ipswich: 39%	Brighton: 50%	Crawley: 61% good	Colchester: 60% good	
Broxbourne: 66%	Ipswich: 39%	Brighton: 50%					
Crawley: 61% good	Colchester: 60% good						
(Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated natural and semi-natural sites as their most frequently used open space – 22%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for natural and semi-natural sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature features (67%) • clean/litter free (65%) • footpaths (48%). <p>The major problems experienced by respondents who visited this type of open space were dog fouling and litter problems.</p> <p>Although outside of the borough boundary, based on household survey responses, Lee Valley Regional Park is the most frequented site in this typology.</p>						
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Natural and semi-natural open space is the second most popular typology for residents in Broxbourne, with 64% of residents stating they visit this typology more than once a month.</p> <p>The majority of respondents rate the quality of these open spaces as good (66%). 27% rate the quality as average, with only 7% of respondents perceiving quality of this typology to be poor.</p>						

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL									
	Across the six analysis areas, this type of open space is predominately perceived as good quality. The highest satisfaction rate is found in Waltham Cross & Theobalds, where 73% of respondents claimed the quality of this type of open space was very good/good.								
PMP recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:								
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Essential</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Dog mess bins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nature features</td> <td>Footpaths</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improve biodiversity</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Dog mess bins	Nature features	Footpaths	Improve biodiversity	
	Essential	Desirable							
	Clean and well maintained	Dog mess bins							
Nature features	Footpaths								
Improve biodiversity									
PMP justification	<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural and semi-natural open space believe that these areas are of good quality and are generally well maintained. These sites are well used and it is clear that people value natural and semi-natural sites for both their recreational value (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) and conservation value. As a result it is important that these sites are maintained in their natural form, whilst also being accessible (both to and within the site) to meet recreational needs. 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 that is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free.</p>								

Setting quality standards – Amenity greenspace

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE			
National standards	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management		
Existing local standards and strategic context	Broxbourne Borough Council’s Local Plan outlines a strategy to ensure the maintenance of open spaces on new developments, either through the land being directly adopted by the council or legal agreements/conditions attached to the original planning permission.		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Broxbourne: 23% good, 47% average	Ipswich: 21% good, 46% average	Brighton: 28% good, 58% average
	Crawley: 34% good, 53% average	Colchester: 28% good, 59% average	
(Household survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated amenity greenspace sites as their most frequently used open space – 3%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for amenity greenspace sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean and litter free (80%) • well-kept grass (60%) <p>As highlighted through the household survey, users of amenity greenspace view vandalism, graffiti and mis-use of amenity greenspace sites as major problems impacting on the quality of sites.</p>		
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>47% perceive the quality of amenity greenspace to be average, while 23% state that the quality of this open space is good and 23% poor. This overall view, of sites being of average quality, is reflected across the six analysis areas.</p> <p>As with other types of open space, respondents to the household survey indicated that safety concerns are an issue and impact on the overall level of use. There is a concern of groups of young people engaging in anti-social behaviour, such as drinking and vandalism, at amenity greenspace sites across the borough.</p>		
PMP recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE		
	Essential	Desirable
	Clean and well maintained	Plants and trees
	Safe and secure	
PMP justification	<p>Local consultation reveals that amenity greenspaces are one of the least used types of open spaces in the area. This suggests that whilst areas serve an important visual purpose, they provide little recreational and usable functions for local areas. Amenity greenspaces can in particular, serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. The importance of their visual amenity function further emphasises the need to ensure the quality of these sites.</p> <p>Provision of amenity greenspace needs to be considered in the context of parks and gardens and other open space types, to ensure that they are complementary 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 an important visual amenity function and promote a sense of ownership. In all cases, it is essential that sites are safe, as well as clean and well maintained as this will maximise usage and benefit of the site.</p> <p>The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice and link in with the Green Flag criteria where appropriate.</p>	

Setting quality standards – Play provision for children

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
National standards	<p>Criteria set out by the NPFA in relation to LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs provide some quality aspirations in terms of seating for adults, a varied range of equipment and meeting places for teenagers.</p> <p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA are also relevant to play areas and include the following: Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Evidence from CABA Space (<i>CABA Space Policy Note: Preventing anti-social behavior in public spaces</i>) shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behavior, and result in long term cost savings.</p>
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>The Council’s Play and Free Time Strategy (2007) prioritised the introduction of ‘Play Rangers’ in the borough’s parks to make children and young people feel safer and to increase use of existing play areas and opportunities. It also makes recommendations for the increase in inclusive equipment in play areas to provide accessible play for the borough’s disabled children.</p> <p>Safety was identified as a key concern in the strategy. Children/young people want to be able to play and congregate in areas where they feel safe and while access to play sites is good in the borough, the perceived lack of safety impinges on usage and acts as a barrier to access.</p> <p>The strategy identifies a number of factors that may stop children and young people using the available play facilities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-social behaviour involving older children • low lighting levels • feeling isolated • proximity of shops etc • inadequate facilities • vandalism/litter • over-crowding

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of facilities • dog mess. <p>The SWOT analysis in the Play and Free Time Strategy highlighted the following quality related issues :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor standard of play facilities, particularly for young people, delivered in recent new housing developments • poor track record in achieving NEAP standard play facilities in new housing developments • concern for the sustainability of the play projects and play strategy after 2012 • concern for the cost of maintenance of existing and new play provision. <p>The Council’s Local Plan indicates developers will be expected to contribute towards future development and maintenance of facilities.</p>							
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Broxbourne: 45% average</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Ipswich: 37% good</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Brighton: 44% average</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crawley: 46% average</td> <td>Colchester: 50% average</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Broxbourne: 45% average	Ipswich: 37% good	Brighton: 44% average	Crawley: 46% average	Colchester: 50% average	
Broxbourne: 45% average	Ipswich: 37% good	Brighton: 44% average						
Crawley: 46% average	Colchester: 50% average							
<p>Consultation (Household survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated play areas for children sites as their most frequently used open space – 12%)</p>	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for children’s play sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean/litter free (77%) • facilities for children (70%) • toilets (35%) • informal play areas (35%). <p>Respondents to the household survey highlighted the lack of provision for young children, vandalism/graffiti, safety/age of equipment and poor maintenance as the major problems associated with using this open space typology.</p>							

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN									
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>45% of household survey respondents feel that the quality of children’s play provision in the borough is average, and a significant proportion, 34% perceive provision to be poor. This is again reflective of the perception within the six individual analysis areas. In four of the analysis areas the majority opinion was that quality of play provision is average. In the remaining two (ie Cheshunt and Waltham Cross & Theobalds), the majority opinion was poor.</p> <p>The findings of the household survey reveal that play areas for children in Broxbourne are thought to be lacking in terms of range of equipment and quality of facilities. General comments from household survey respondents highlighted a number of quality issues for this typology. Safety concerns, vandalism and anti-social behaviour are all recurring themes; although it should be noted that these themes have also been raised in relation to other types of open space across Broxbourne. There is particular reference to lack of play equipment maintenance at all sites and a general consensus that Grundy Park play area is of particularly poor quality and has a major problem with vandalism.</p> <p>Facilities for children were a key theme at drop in sessions, with a focus on quality and quantity of play areas. Feedback from borough residents related to the poor quality of play areas, with vandalism, damaged equipment and safety all again emphasised. Although some residents also commented on the improvements that have been in a number of play areas within parks.</p> <p>Respondents to the school survey who stated that they used play areas most often said the main reasons were that it was close to their home, and a good place to meet with friends. On the other hand, most said that it was the only place they could go, and the play facilities were boring. No issues on quality were noted.</p>								
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Essential</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Clean and well maintained</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Maximise range of play opportunities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Safe and secure</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Supervised sessions</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Maximise range of play opportunities	Safe and secure	Supervised sessions	Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards	
Essential	Desirable								
Clean and well maintained	Maximise range of play opportunities								
Safe and secure	Supervised sessions								
Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards									
PMP justification	Following feedback from consultations, recognition of the need for places for children to both play								

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
	<p>and go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for the provision of facilities which provide a range of play opportunities in a safe environment that adhere to FIT standards. This reflects concerns highlighted in the Council's Play and Free Time Strategy and support delivery of the strategy's aim and objectives.</p> <p>The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are also reflected in the quality standard.</p>

Setting quality standards – Teenage facilities

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES	
National standards	<p>NPFA guidance relating to LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs provide some quality aspirations in terms of seating for adults, varied range of equipment and meeting places for teenagers.</p> <p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Evidence from CABE Space’s study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behavior, and result in long term cost savings.’ <i>CABE Space Policy Note: preventing anti-social behavior in public spaces</i></p>
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>The Council’s Play and Free Time Strategy (2007) prioritised the introduction of ‘Play Rangers’ in the borough’s parks to make children and young people feel safer and to increase use of existing play areas and opportunities. It also makes recommendations for the increase in inclusive equipment in play areas to provide accessible play for the borough’s disabled children.</p> <p>Safety was identified as a key concern in the strategy. Children/young people want to be able to play and congregate in areas where they feel safe and while access to play sites is good in the borough, the perceived lack of safety impinges on usage and acts as a barrier to access.</p> <p>The strategy identifies a number of factors that may stop children and young people using the available play facilities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-social behaviour involving older children • low lighting levels • feeling isolated • proximity of shops etc • inadequate facilities • vandalism/litter • over-crowding • lack of facilities

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dog mess. <p>The SWOT analysis in the Play and Free Time Strategy highlighted the following quality related issues :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor standard of play facilities, particularly for young people, delivered in recent new housing developments • poor track record in achieving NEAP standard play facilities in new housing developments • concern for the sustainability of the play projects and play strategy after 2012 • concern for the cost of maintenance of existing and new play provision. <p>The Council’s Local Plan indicates developers will be expected to contribute towards future development and maintenance of facilities.</p>							
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Broxbourne: 58% poor</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Ipswich: 45% poor</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Brighton: 52% poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Crawley: 60% poor</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Colchester: 58% poor</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Broxbourne: 58% poor	Ipswich: 45% poor	Brighton: 52% poor	Crawley: 60% poor	Colchester: 58% poor	
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Crawley: 60% poor	Colchester: 58% poor							
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated teenage facilities as their most frequently used open space – 0.5%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for teenage facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well lit • on-site security • clean/litter free • good access. <p>Of those household respondents who use outdoor teenage facilities most frequently, dog fouling, vandalism/graffiti and misuse of equipment were all identified as the major problems impacting in the quality of provision.</p>							
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Results from the household survey show that the majority of respondents (58%) think that the quality of teenage provision in Broxbourne is poor. Only 10% perceived the quality of teenage facilities to be good. This overall view is again reflected across the six analysis areas.</p>							

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE FACILITIES									
	<p>The lack of and quality of teenage facilities were the most common issues identified during consultation. The main reasons given for the perceived poor quality of teenage facilities were the lack of maintenance and vandalism. Significant issues were also identified with the quantity of provision, for example comments from the drop-in sessions identified a clear lack of places for teenagers to hang out. This quantitative deficiency may overlap with perceptions on the quality.</p> <p>Unfortunately, not enough respondents from the school survey commented on teenage facilities to draw conclusions. This can be explained by the age of many respondents, who were mainly in Years 4 and 5.</p>								
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Essential</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Well lit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safe and secure</td> <td>Supervised sessions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apply FIT standards</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Well lit	Safe and secure	Supervised sessions	Apply FIT standards	
Essential	Desirable								
Clean and well maintained	Well lit								
Safe and secure	Supervised sessions								
Apply FIT standards									
PMP justification	<p>Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of teenage facilities to ‘meet friends’, as somewhere to go and not specifically to always use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure. This was a key element emerging from local consultation and is therefore reflected within this standard, including the desirable features of being well lit and with supervised sessions. It is important that sites continue to improve and comply with FIT standards and the Council works towards achievement of the quality vision for both existing and new sites. This will in turn help to support the Council achieve its objectives as outlined in the Play and Free Time Strategy.</p> <p>A recent CABA Space study shows that well designed, well-maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour and result in long term cost savings and this is reflected in the quality vision.</p>								

Setting quality standards – Outdoor sports facilities

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
National standards	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>NPFA suggests that in order to provide good quality sports facilities, which are fit for purpose, consideration should be given to the quality of provision including gradients, orientation, ancillary accommodation, planting and community safety.</p> <p>The Green Flag award is recognised on the approved list of quality assurance schemes listed by Sport England. CPA choice and opportunity indicators stipulate that residents should be within three different sport and recreation facilities one of which is quality assured. Parks containing pitches which have achieved the Green Flag award can therefore contribute to the achievement of this indicator, reinforcing the importance of the Green Flag Criteria on the national stage. Sport England’s December 2006 Choice and Opportunity Scores reveal that 63% of the population of Broxbourne have access to three types of sport and recreation facility of which one is quality assured.</p>
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>Playing Pitch Strategy for Broxbourne Borough Council (2005)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilise a number of previously identified surplus pitches to use as a strategic reserve and to improve quality through a quality maintenance routine • all pitches which host league matches should meet the minimum quality standards for facilities set out by the relevant governing body, the NPFA and Sport England • all provision should comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). <p>The following pitches were identified in the PPS as being poor quality and should be seen as priorities for funding by the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goffs Park (drainage issue) • Grundy Park (ancillary facility issues).

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Broxbourne: 21% good, 48% average	Ipswich: 21% good, 42% average	Brighton: 23% good, 55% average
	Crawley: 35% good, 50% average	Colchester: 26% good, 51% average	
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated outdoor sports facility sites as their most frequently used open space – 5%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for outdoor sports facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well kept grass (68%) • clean/litter free (41%) • on-site security (41%). <p>As identified through the household survey, the major problems experienced by frequent users of this typology were vandalism/graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Dog fouling and personal safety were not viewed as problems.</p>		
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Responses from the household survey show a mixed opinion regarding the quality of the borough’s outdoor sports facilities. While the majority of respondents to the household survey thought the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average (48%), 21% indicated quality to be good and 31% poor.</p> <p>Responses across the individual analysis areas show little variation in opinion; although the greatest variation is in the Hoddesdon Town analysis area, where the proportion of respondents that believe the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be good is equal to those who believe provision to be poor (36%).</p> <p>With regards to specific comments on quality, reference was made to the poor maintenance of some outdoor sports facilities, such as Goffs Park.</p> <p>The household survey findings reflect that of the sports club survey. 53% of respondents to the sports club survey indicated that the quality of outdoor sports facilities in the borough to be average, while 32% stated provision to be good or very good quality. Only 15% thought that facilities were either of poor or very poor quality.</p>		

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES									
	<p>Respondents to the school survey who use outdoor sports facilities most often stated that the main issue was regarding accessing evening use of sites and location too close to people's homes.</p>								
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p>								
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	Essential	Desirable							
	Safe and secure	Car parking							
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Apply relevant NGB specifications	Changing facilities								
PMP justification	<p>Household consultation highlighted that the key issues for users of existing sites are for well-kept grass and to be clean and well maintained. In addition, national governing body guidance for sporting sites should be used to ensure that appropriate playing area dimensions, maintenance and safety guidelines are followed where appropriate. This will help to ensure that the quality of outdoor sports facility sites across the borough is improved to address the current perception by borough residents that sites are typically of only average quality. Ensuring that there is adequate ancillary provision, such as car parking, toilets and changing will help to support an increase in levels of satisfaction for borough residents.</p> <p>It is also important to consider that many quality grievances may have arisen out of quantity deficiencies and subsequent pressure on site maintenance.</p>								

Setting quality standards – Allotments and community gardens

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS			
National standards	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.		
Existing local standards and strategic context	The Council’s Local Plan detailed that the Council will seek to introduce the concept of ‘leisure gardens’, <i>“principally an area of allotments provided with central facilities (club room, storage etc) and children’s play areas, making allotment gardening a pursuit more attractive as a family activity.”</i>		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Broxbourne: 28% good, 59% average	Ipswich: 19% good, 30% average	Brighton: 26% good, 55% average
	Crawley: 20% good, 57% average	Colchester: 23% good, 55% average	
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated allotment sites as their most frequently used open space – 2%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for natural and semi-natural sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well kept grass (57%) • footpaths (43%) • good site access (43%). <p>Household survey responses showed that regular allotment users highlighted vandalism/graffiti and poor maintenance and lighting as the major quality issues associated with allotments.</p>		
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Results from the household survey show that 59% of respondents believe the quality of allotments to be average. 25% stated the quality of allotments to be good. This overall view was reflected across the six analysis areas where the majority opinion in each was the quality of allotment sites in the borough are average. The highest satisfaction level is found in the Hoddesdon Town analysis area where 39% of respondents felt the quality of allotments to be good.		
PMP recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS		
	Essential	Desirable
	Safe and secure	Car parking
	Clean and well maintained	
	Footpaths	
	Water supply	
PMP justification	The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to encourage use of allotment sites and raise the existing standard of provision. Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community.	

Setting quality standards – Green corridors

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – GREEN CORRIDORS							
National standards	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Countryside Agency (now a key partner in Natural England) - what the user should expect to find is i) a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation; ii) ground not soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink into it; iii) a path on unvegetated natural surfaces.</p> <p>Natural England, the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation advocate providing a network of local health walks to promote the 'Walking the Way to Health Initiative', something that can easily be enhanced through the provision of quality green corridors and natural linkages with other open spaces.</p>						
Existing local standards and strategic context	No local standards						
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Broxbourne: 46% good; 44% average</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Ipswich: 17% good, 40% average (24% no opinion)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Brighton: 33% good, 49% average</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Crawley: 33% good, 53% average</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Colchester: 29% good, 55% average</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Broxbourne: 46% good; 44% average	Ipswich: 17% good, 40% average (24% no opinion)	Brighton: 33% good, 49% average	Crawley: 33% good, 53% average	Colchester: 29% good, 55% average	
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Crawley: 33% good, 53% average	Colchester: 29% good, 55% average						
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space – 9%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for green corridor sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean and litter free (69%) • nature features (42%) • footpaths (42%) • toilets (33%). <p>The two main issues found by users of these sites were litter problems and personal safety.</p>						

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – GREEN CORRIDORS							
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>Findings from the household survey illustrates that 46% of respondents believe the quality of green corridors in the borough to be good and only 10% think that quality is poor. This view is reflected in the majority of the individual analysis areas with the exceptions being in the Cheshunt and Hoddesdon Town analysis areas, where in both cases the majority of respondents are more negative in terms of their quality perceptions and regard the quality of green corridors to be average (50%).</p> <p>From the more general comments made during consultation, borough residents raised concerns regarding safety along green corridors. If adequate safety measures were installed, such as lighting, safety concerns would be addressed and the use of this typology may increase.</p> <p>Cycle tracks were considered to be good quality by a significant number of residents at drop in sessions, but there was a general feeling that there could be more of them. Cycle paths are also important in developing high quality links between different open spaces in the borough. Analysis of the school survey also outlines that young people would rather cycle to most types of open space.</p>						
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Essential</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Clean and well maintained</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Cycle tracks</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Improve biodiversity</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Footpaths</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Cycle tracks	Improve biodiversity	Footpaths
Essential	Desirable						
Clean and well maintained	Cycle tracks						
Improve biodiversity	Footpaths						
PMP justification	<p>Consultation with borough residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe and well maintained to encourage usage. Cycle tracks and footpaths should be provided where appropriate.</p> <p>While green corridors have a key recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play.</p>						

Setting quality standards – Cemeteries and churchyards

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS			
National standards	None		
Existing local standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Broxbourne: 42% good, 54% average	Ipswich: 30% good, 37% average (26% no opinion)	Brighton: 35% good, 57% average
	Crawley: 40% good, 54% average	Colchester: 38% good, 54% average	
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated cemeteries and churchyards as their most frequently used open space – 4%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for cemeteries and churchyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well kept grass (75%) • clean/litter free (56%) • flowers/trees (56%). <p>The major problems experienced by frequent users of cemeteries and churchyards were litter problems, vandalism and graffiti and miss use of site.</p>		
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Based on the findings of the household survey, 54% of respondents stated the quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough to be average, with 42% stating the quality to be good. This overall perception is mirrored across the six individual analysis areas. The highest levels of satisfaction are shown in the Hoddesdon Town analysis area, where 56% of respondents feel the quality of cemeteries and churchyards to be good.		
PMP recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential	Desirable	
	Safe and secure	Toilets (cemeteries)	
	Clean and well maintained		

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS		
	Well laid out	
	A welcoming place (cemeteries)	
	Seating	
PMP justification	<p>Consultation with residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. Seating should be available for visitors. Access to toilets is also a desirable feature at cemeteries.</p>	

Setting quality standards – Civic spaces

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – CIVIC SPACES									
National standards	None								
Existing local standards and strategic context	No local standards								
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Broxbourne: 25% good, 65% average</td> <td>Ipswich: 12% good, 43% average (33% no opinion)</td> <td>Brighton: 28% good, 62% average</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crawley: 22% good, 65% average</td> <td>Colchester: 19% good, 66% average</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Broxbourne: 25% good, 65% average	Ipswich: 12% good, 43% average (33% no opinion)	Brighton: 28% good, 62% average	Crawley: 22% good, 65% average	Colchester: 19% good, 66% average			
	Broxbourne: 25% good, 65% average	Ipswich: 12% good, 43% average (33% no opinion)	Brighton: 28% good, 62% average						
Crawley: 22% good, 65% average	Colchester: 19% good, 66% average								
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated cemeteries and churchyards as their most frequently used open space – 5%)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for civic spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean/litter free (74%) • toilets (53%) • seating (47%). <p>Anti-social behaviour, vandalism and litter were the main quality problems identified in the household survey as being associated with civic spaces. Hoddesdon Town Centre was cited as the most frequented civic space by household survey respondents.</p>								
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	65% of respondents to the household survey stated the quality of civic spaces to be average. This perception is further reflected in the six individual analysis areas, where in all cases the majority of respondents stated the quality of civic spaces in the borough to be average.								
PMP recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Essential</th> <th>Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Events</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safe and secure</td> <td>Access to refreshments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seating</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Events	Safe and secure	Access to refreshments	Seating	
Essential	Desirable								
Clean and well maintained	Events								
Safe and secure	Access to refreshments								
Seating									

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – CIVIC SPACES		
	Access to toilets	
	Plants and trees	
PMP justification	<p>Consultation with residents, key stakeholders and council officers resulted in the recommendation of the above standards. It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe and well maintained to encourage usage. In addition, where appropriate, the hosting of events at civic space sites, as well as the provision of seating and access to refreshments will promote usage.</p>	

Setting quality standards – Indoor sports facilities

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
National standards	<p>The PPG17 Companion Guide reinforces that design and management are factors integral to the successful delivery of a network of high quality sport and recreation, stating that: “Quality depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other.”</p> <p>The Sport England Technical Design Guidance Notes and Quest Best Practice Standards key objectives underpinning this quality standard are:</p> <p><i>QS1: All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities.</i></p> <p><i>QS2: All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review. The detail of the internal systems, policies and practices underpinning implementation of these principles will correlate directly to the scale of facility, varying according to the position of the facility within the levels of the established hierarchy.</i></p> <p>Sport England CPA accessibility indicator reinforces the importance of quality through the standard:</p> <p>% of population that are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of 3 different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quest • Green Flag • ISO 9001:2000 • Investors in Excellence • Chartermark

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES										
Existing local standards and strategic context	<p>The Active Hertfordshire sports Facilities Strategy sets out the vision: ‘ <i>To develop a network of quality and accessible community and specialist sports facilities, with appropriate support services, within Hertfordshire that will facilitate increased participation and achievement of potential, enhance quality of life and improve the health and well-being of local communities</i>’.</p>									
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<p>“A clean and well maintained indoor sport facility providing a wide range of activities and good value for money. They should encompass adequate changing facilities, cycle and car parking and be easily accessible by public transport and by all sectors of the community.”</p>									
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for indoor sports facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleanliness of changing rooms (17%) • value for money (16%) • range of activities (14%) • well maintained (12%) 									
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	<p>The sports club survey indicates that 58% of sports club respondents identified ‘affordable prices’ as a priority for sport and leisure provision in Broxbourne. This is supported by comments made by numerous clubs at the end of the survey.</p> <p>Consultation with Council officers highlighted that the priority should be on improving the quality of existing facilities, as the level of provision is believed to be adequate.</p>									
PMP recommendation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Essential</th> <th>Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Affordable prices</td> <td>Car parking</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Easy access</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ease of booking</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Affordable prices	Car parking	Clean and well maintained	Easy access	Ease of booking		
Essential	Desirable									
Affordable prices	Car parking									
Clean and well maintained	Easy access									
Ease of booking										

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
PMP justification	The quality standard for indoor facilities should reflect these views and aspirations of the local community and should also be linked to national benchmark and design criteria. The aspirations identified through the household survey, and as listed above, have been combined with good practice guidance to identify the above essential and desirable features of indoor sports facilities in Broxbourne borough.

Setting quality standards – Community halls

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS							
National standards	National standards based on Sport England Guidance Notes.						
Existing local standards and strategic context	No existing local standards						
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Sheffield City Council has set a quality standard for community facilities in line with the Sport England Technical Design Guidance Notes and Quest Best Practice Standards. No specific essential and desirable features were established.						
Step 1 consultation findings (quantitative analysis)	<p>Highest rated quality aspirations for community facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleanliness of changing rooms (17%) • value for money (16%) • range of activities (14%) • well maintained (12%) 						
Step 1 consultation findings (qualitative analysis)	Consultation with Council Officers has highlighted that all community halls in the borough would need some major work to improve the quality and be more welcoming for the public. Redesigning existing spaces to make them more efficient and flexible would enable to increase usage, particularly during off peak hours.						
PMP recommendation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Essential</th> <th>Desirable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean and well maintained</td> <td>Offer range of community focused activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affordable prices</td> <td>Reflect Sport England Village and Community Halls Design Guidance</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean and well maintained	Offer range of community focused activities	Affordable prices	Reflect Sport England Village and Community Halls Design Guidance
Essential	Desirable						
Clean and well maintained	Offer range of community focused activities						
Affordable prices	Reflect Sport England Village and Community Halls Design Guidance						

SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS	
PMP justification	<p>Improvements to the quality of existing community facilities in the borough were highlighted during consultation as being of greater importance than addressing quantity or accessibility issues. The recommended standard provides an overarching target for the future provision of community facilities and sets a benchmark for existing facilities based on the local aspirations identified through consultation.</p> <p>In line with PPG17 recommendations, the recommended standard reflects community aspirations but consideration is also given to the achievement of national best practice standards and the compliance with recognised technical guidelines. The key objectives should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the full range of usages • to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality experience for all users <p>to ensure that the condition of facilities meet modern standards, including DDA, and are fit for the purpose they are intended.</p>

APPENDIX L

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Setting accessibility standards – Broxbourne Borough Council

Field	Comment
National standards	Includes details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations. For example, Natural England makes recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'.
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	There maybe some existing local standards or policies that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards.
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other PPG17/ open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other local authorities. Where possible, benchmark data for nearest neighbour local authorities have been included.
Step 1 consultation findings	Comprises statistical information derived from the household questionnaire (based on determining the duration that the 75 th percentile of respondents are willing to travel, as recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide).
PMP recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client. The standard will be in time and/or distance.
PMP justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended.
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before any analysis is undertaken. As the standards drive the analysis, any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and the report.
LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD	The final local standard agreed and approved, which will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes. The standard will be in time and/or distance.

APPENDIX L – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Accessibility standards assumptions

- average walking speed of 3 mph
- national guidelines reduce actual distances into straight-line distances by a 40% reduction. This is to allow for the fact that routes to open spaces are not straight-line distances. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes.

Walking distance conversion

Time (mins)	Miles	Metres	Factor reduction	Metres (straight line to be mapped)
5	0.25	400	40%	240
10	0.50	800	40%	480
15	0.75	1200	40%	720
20	1.00	1600	40%	960
25	1.25	2000	40%	1200
30	1.50	2400	40%	1440

Setting accessibility standards – Parks and Gardens

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS			
National standards	No national standards		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne BC – 5 minute walk	East Hertfordshire – 10 minute walk	Brentwood – 10 minute drive, 15 minute walk
	Castle Point – 15 minute walk	Chelmsford – 10 minute drive	Maidstone – 15-20 minute walk
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>66% of respondents use park and garden sites more than once a month. 39% of respondents to the household survey use parks and gardens more frequently than any other typology – making it the most popular type of open space across Broxbourne. Of this group of respondents, the majority (68%) walk to parks and garden open space sites. The next preferred mode of travel to parks and garden sites was public transport (23%).</p> <p>Of those respondents who use park and garden open space sites most frequently, 34% responded that their current duration of travel is between 10 and 15 minutes, 28% take less than 5 minutes and 25% between 5 to 10 minutes.</p>		
	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to parks and garden open space sites highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 68%. A further 20% of respondents stated travelling by car as a preferred option.</p> <p>Analysis of the breakdown across the six analysis areas reflects the overall findings, indicating that the majority of respondents in all areas would expect to walk to parks, particularly those residing in the Hoddesdon Town area (85%), the Waltham Cross and Theobalds area (80%) and the Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford area (70%). A higher percentage of people living in the Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale area (30%) and the Hoddesdon North and Rye Park area (21%) expect to travel by car.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>45% of respondents to the school survey stated that they usually walk to parks, with a journey of less than 10 minutes for more than 80% of respondents.</p> <p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>In terms of the length of time respondents would expect to travel to parks and gardens, 80% indicated a walk time of less than 10 minutes and 92% less than 15 minutes. Analysis across each of the six areas, indicates that the modal response was 10 minutes for four of the six analysis areas (Cheshunt; Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford; Hoddesdon Town and Waltham Cross and Theobalds) but 15 minutes for the remaining two (ie Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale and Hoddesdon North and Rye Park).</p> <p>As recommended in the PPG17 Companion Guide, in terms of how far respondents are willing to walk to parks and garden sites, the 75th percentile is 15 minutes. If assessed at each analysis area level the 75th percentile is 15 minutes in Bury Green/Flamstead End/Goffs Oak/Rosedale and Hoddesdon North/Rye Park but 10 minutes in the remaining 4 analysis areas – this reflects the modal response.</p>
PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720m)
PMP justification	<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of walking to parks and gardens. Current usage patterns show that 68% of users walk and also 68% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to this typology.</p> <p>In terms of the duration of travel, of the respondents that currently use parks and gardens 34% take between 10 to 15 minutes walk to reach their preferred park and garden site. The modal response on the expected duration to walk to a park and garden site was 10 minutes (68%) with 12% indicating a 15-minute walk time. These results are reflective across all analysis areas, with the modal response between 10 to 15 minutes for all. The 75th percentile level, as per the PPG17 Companion Guide, is a 15-minute walk time. Again, this is reflective across all analysis areas where the 75th percentile is 15-minute walk time for two of the analysis areas (AA5 and 6) and a 10-minute walk time for all other analysis areas.</p>

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>It is recommended that a 15-minute walk time is set as the local standard, reflecting the 75th percentile level in the household survey responses (as recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide). Although this represents a slightly higher response than the modal response in the household survey (10 minute walk), it will ensure that parks are equitably distributed across the borough and help to ensure that parks are viewed as the focal point of the community. Setting a lesser accessibility catchment could also provide unrealistic expectations in terms of delivering further provision in areas outside of the distance threshold – however given that 71% think that the current level of provision is adequate it is unlikely that increased provision will be required. In addition, the shorter distance threshold for amenity greenspace will ensure that all residents have access to more local informal open space.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Natural and Semi-Natural

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL			
National standards	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300m from the nearest natural greenspace • 2km from a site of 20ha • 5km from a site of 100ha • and 10km from a site of 500ha. <p>Woodland Trust Access Standards recommend that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people’s homes.</p> <p>Natural England have a commitment to champion preventative health solutions in the natural environment and have adopted an objective of providing accessible natural space within 300m (or 5 minutes walk) of every home in England for exercise, relaxation and wellbeing. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/pdf/campaigns/Health_card.pdf</p>		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne BC – 10 minute drive	East Hertfordshire DC – 10 minute walk	Brentwood BC – 15 minute walk
	Castle Point – 15 minute walk	Chelmsford – 20 minute walk	Maidstone BC – 10-15 minute walk
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>64% of household survey respondents use natural and semi-natural sites more than once a month. 22% of respondents stated that natural and semi-natural is the open space typology that they use most frequently. Of these respondents, walking is the most common mode of travel used to access sites (59%), followed by public transport with 29%.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
	<p>Of those respondents who use natural and semi-natural open space sites most frequently, 56% indicated that their current duration of travel is less than 10 minutes with a further 22% indicating that they currently travel between 10 and 15 minutes.</p>
	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Analysis of household survey responses indicates that walking is the preferred method of travel for the majority of respondents (58%) to natural and semi-natural open spaces, followed by travel by car at 27%. A review across the six analysis areas gives a similar pattern with all but the Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale analysis area showing between 52% and 68% of respondents indicating walking as the preferred method of travel.</p> <p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>In terms of the length of time respondents indicated that they would expect to walk to natural and semi-natural open space sites, 57% stated between 5 and 10 minutes, with 12% indicating between 10 and 15 minutes. Analysis across each of the six areas indicates a modal response of 10 minutes within four of the analysis areas. However, in Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale the modal response was 20 minutes and 30 minutes in Hoddesdon North and Rye Park. For those respondents who stated that they would expect to drive to a natural and semi-natural open space site, 48% of respondents indicated that they would expect to travel between 5 and 10 minutes (48%) with 29% indicating a travel time of between 10 and 15 minutes.</p> <p>Calculation of the 75th percentile overall indicates that respondents would be willing to walk 15 minutes to a natural and semi-natural open space site. Calculation of the 75th percentile for individual analysis areas indicates longer walk time durations of 20 minutes for Cheshunt; Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford; Hoddesdon Town and Hoddesdon North and Rye Park and 30 minutes for Waltham Cross and Theobalds and Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale analysis area.</p>
PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720m)
PMP justification	<p>Consultation indicates that the majority of respondents expect to walk to this typology, which is reflective of current usage patterns and consistent across all of the analysis areas. Natural and semi-natural open spaces were amongst the most frequently used of all types of open space and therefore given the importance of this typology it is recommended that the standard should be</p>

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
	<p>based on a walk time across the local authority.</p> <p>The 75th percentile is 15 minutes, with the modal response for expected walk time duration to a natural or semi-natural site being 10 minutes. However, further scrutiny by each of the six analysis areas indicates that the 75th percentile is a minimum of 20 minutes in all areas. In terms of current usage patterns, 56% indicated existing travel time of 10 minutes with a further 22% stating current travel between 10 and 15 minutes.</p> <p>Based on the above, a 15-minute walk time is recommended in line with overall user expectations and current user patterns. It is also important to recognise the value of natural and semi-natural open space sites, particularly those larger sites, such as Lee Valley Regional Park and Broxbourne Woods, which fall just outside of the local authority boundary.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Amenity Greenspace

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE			
National standards	No national standards		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne BC – 5 minute walk	East Hertfordshire DC – 5 minute walk	Brentwood BC – 5 minute walk
	Caste Point BC – 10 minute walk	Chelmsford BC – 10 minute walk	Maidstone BC – 5-10 minute walk
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>34% of respondents use amenity greenspace sites more than once a month, with 29% indicating usage less than once a month and the remaining 37% of respondents stating that they do not use amenity greenspaces. Only 2% of respondents to the household survey stated that amenity greenspace is the type of open space that they use most frequently. It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents.</p>		
	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel to amenity greenspace sites highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 68%. A further 18% of respondents stated travelling by car as their preferred option. An analysis of the breakdown across the six analysis areas reflects the same trend with at least 60% in all analysis areas indicating a preferred option to walk to amenity greenspace sites.</p> <p>88% of respondents to the school survey indicated that cycling was their preferred method of travel to reach this type of open space. In terms of current usage patterns, 38% of respondents to the school survey stated that they cycled to amenity greenspace. A further 38% said they travelled by car.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – AMENITY GREENSPACE	
	<p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>In terms of the length of time respondents would expect to travel to amenity greenspaces, 66% indicated a walk time of between 5 and 10 minutes, with only 14% indicating an expected walk time of 10 to 15 minutes. A breakdown across each of the six analysis areas indicates that the modal response for expected walk time as 10 minutes in four of the analysis areas (ie Cheshunt; Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford; Hoddesdon Town and Waltham Cross and Theobalds, but 5 minutes in Bury Green, Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale and Hoddesdon North and Rye Park.</p> <p>Using the borough wide results, it can be calculated that 75% of the total population would be willing to walk 10 minutes to an amenity greenspace site. This is reflected across three of the six analysis areas (Waltham Cross and Theobalds; Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford and Cheshunt). For the remaining three analysis areas the 75th percentile is calculated at willingness by respondents to walk up to 15 minutes to an amenity greenspace site.</p>
PMP recommendation	10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480m)
PMP justification	<p>Consultation indicates that the majority of respondents expect to walk to this typology, which is in line with the function that an amenity greenspace site should serve (ie offering localised recreational opportunities as well as landscape benefits). It is therefore recommended that the local standard be based on a walk time.</p> <p>The 75th percentile indicates that respondents would be willing to travel 10 minutes to an amenity greenspace site, which is consistent with the modal response for expected walk time duration and reflective across the majority of the analysis areas. 15 minutes was the 75th percentile for two of the analysis areas, however given the value of localised amenity greenspace provision it is considered important to set a lower distance threshold as this will highlight priority areas of deficiency.</p> <p>Based on the above, a 10-minute walk time is recommended in line with overall user expectations. The importance of the provision of local open space and the protection of existing provision from further development was an overriding theme of consultation, which reinforces the importance of setting a local standard that will ensure that amenity greenspace is within close proximity to residential housing.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Play provision for children

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
National standards	<p>NPFA</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>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)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	<p>No local standards.</p> <p>A number of issues of relevance are highlighted in the Broxbourne Play and Free Time Strategy (2007), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most children in the 5-9 age group were able to access a park relatively near to them • there were perceived public transport barriers to access play and free time activities • key gaps in outdoor play provision where children and young people have to travel long distances to play provision • there exists resistance by residents to having play provision near their homes. <p>The strategy identified the following accessibility priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide more play and free time activities ‘close to home’ for all age groups • to increase information about play and free-time activities for residents, young people and children • to increase access to children’s play activities and opportunities including natural play in parks, and develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical ‘hands on’ activities for children and young people.

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN			
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne – 5 minute walk	East Hertfordshire – 5 minute walk	Brentwood – 10 minute walk
	Castle Point – 10 minute walk	Chelmsford – 10 minute walk	Maidstone – 5-10 minute walk
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>36% of respondents use children’s play more than once a month, however 51% of respondents stated that they do not use this typology. As a result, only 13% of respondents to the household survey indicated that they use children’s play sites more frequently than any other typology – this is not surprising given usage of this typology is very specific to its function. Of this group of respondents, the majority (81%) stated that they currently walk to children’s play sites and in terms of current duration of travel 43% indicated a travel time of less than 5 minutes, with a further 24% indicating 5 to 10 minutes and 20% 10 to 15 minutes. This shows flexibility as to how far users currently travel to this type of open site, which may be influenced by the location of existing facilities.</p>		
	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to children’s play sites highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 78%. Only 12% of respondents stated travelling by car as a preferred option.</p> <p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>Feedback in terms of travel time to children’s play sites indicate that 69% of respondents expect a walk of between 5 to 10 minutes duration, with 11% less than 5 minutes and 12% between 10 to 15 minutes. An analysis of the breakdown of travel expectations across the six analysis areas reflects those at the borough-wide level. For example, 69% of respondents in the Waltham Cross and Theobalds area believe that a 10 minute walk is appropriate to reach this type of facility.</p> <p>Using the borough-wide findings in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to walk to a children’s play site, the 75th percentile can be calculated at 10 minutes. This is consistent with the modal response of 10 minutes as detailed above. In addition, when scrutinised on an analysis area basis, the 75th percentile was 10 minutes for all analysis areas with the exception of Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford area, residents of which indicated a willingness to travel slightly further (ie up to 15 minutes) to access a children’s play space.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Consultation with the public during drop-in sessions resulted in a number of comments regarding the lack of local play areas for young children, within residential developments and easily accessible from their homes.</p> <p>64% of the school survey respondents stated that they walked to play areas, 45% said this was their preferred method of travel, while a further 27% said they would rather cycle. The vast majority travel for less than 10 minutes to a play area (91%).</p>
PMP recommendation	10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480m)
PMP justification	<p>Circa 80% of respondents to the household survey stated that they would expect to walk to children’s play sites. This is in line with current user patterns, as evident through both the household and the school survey, and therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set as the local standard.</p> <p>A 10-minute walk time is recommended in line with the 75th percentile calculation of 10 minutes. This is reflected across all but one of the analysis areas and is in line with the modal response. In addition, over 90% of school survey respondents indicated a current travel time of 10 minutes. A local standard of 10 minutes walk time will ensure that residents have access to local facilities in line with local expectations, whilst simultaneously providing a realistic and achievable challenge which will ensure that adequate levels of accessible provision is balanced with quality. This will support the Council’s aim as detailed in the Play and Freetime Strategy to provide more play facilities ‘closer to home’ and identify the gaps in accessible provision to address existing concerns by residents over the adequacy of current provision.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Teenage provision

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE PROVISION			
National standards	<p>NPFA</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>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)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	<p>No local standards.</p> <p>A number of issues of relevance are highlighted in the Broxbourne Play and Free Time Strategy (2007), including the importance of proximity to play areas to the quality of life of parents, children and young people, noting its particular relevance to older children and young people. <i>“The things I want to do are too far away from where I live”</i>, was the most frequently cited barrier to play or free time activities.</p> <p>The strategy identified the following accessibility priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide more play and free time activities ‘close to home’ for all age groups • to increase information about play and free-time activities for residents, young people and children • to increase access to children’s play activities and opportunities including natural play in parks, and develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical ‘hands on’ activities for children and young people. 		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne – 5 minute walk	East Hertfordshire – 5 minute walk	Brentwood – 10 minute walk
	Castle Point – 10 minute walk	Chelmsford – 10 minute walk	Maidstone – 5-10 minute walk

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE PROVISION	
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology. The total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was less than 1%. It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided; a more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time.</p>
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to teenage facilities sites highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 65%. Only 17% of respondents stated travelling by car as a preferred option.</p> <p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>Feedback in terms of travel time to teenage facilities sites indicate that 60% of respondents expect a walk of between 5 to 10 minutes duration, and 18% between 10 to 15 minutes. An analysis of the breakdown of travel expectations across the six analysis areas reflects those at the borough-wide level. For example, 60% of respondents in the Flamstead End/Bury Green/Rosedale/Goffs Oak area believe that a 10 minute walk is appropriate to reach this type of facility.</p> <p>Using the borough-wide findings in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to walk to a teenage facility, the 75th percentile can be calculated at 15 minutes. In addition, when scrutinised on an analysis area basis, the 75th percentile was 15 minutes for most analysis areas with a slight variation for Cheshunt (12.5 minutes) and Hoddesdon Town (17.5 minutes).</p>
PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720m)
PMP justification	<p>Whilst there is limited local feedback from the household survey specific to outdoor teenage facilities, consultation indicates that walking is the most preferred method of travel to this typology. This reflects the nature of the typology and specific user age group, who do not always have access to a motorised vehicle. It is therefore recommended that a walk time standard be adopted, which is in line with other local authorities and national (NPFA) standards and will enable access for all ages and users.</p>

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – TEENAGE PROVISION	
	<p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes is in line with the 75th percentile threshold. This threshold is higher than that for children’s play because of the more specialised nature of provision and also the fact that there are reduced safety concerns as to how far teenagers, as opposed to children, can travel from home to an open space site. Setting a higher travel time threshold also provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights priority areas for new provision. The standard is also in-line with the recommended accessibility standard for parks and gardens, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for teenagers at these sites, as suggested within the Council’s Play and Free Time Strategy.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Outdoor sports facilities

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National standards	No national standards, although the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) highlights the “% of the population within 20 minutes of a range of 3 different sports facility types, one of which much be quality assured” as one of their key performance indicators. Sport England’s Interim scores for June 2007 Choice and Opportunity Scores reveal the current figure for Broxbourne borough as 63%.		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	<p>No local standards. A Playing Pitch Strategy was undertaken by the Council in 2005, this document highlighted the following issues relating to accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council should seek to secure formal community use agreements where possible with local schools where the community already has access to facilities and seek to identify further opportunities for the community to use school facilities • of particular concern are the junior football and rugby pitches that are currently used by the community. Securing the future usage of these facilities could help rescue the identified current/future shortfall of each facility type in the borough. 		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne – 10 minute drive	East Hertfordshire – 10 minute walk	Brentwood – 15 minute drive
	Castle Point – 20 minute walk	Chelmsford – 10 minute drive	Maidstone – 10-15 minute walk
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology. The total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was minimal (5%). However, findings from the sports club survey indicated that over 90% of club members primarily use their cars to travel to the facilities, with the John Warner Sports Centre being the most frequently visited site; whilst school survey respondents who use outdoor sports facilities most frequently indicated that they usually walk or cycle there, and that the journey takes them less than 10 minutes.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES																																												
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	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Responses from the household survey regarding preferred travel method for the different types of open space highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="4">Method of travel (% household survey responses)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Facility</th> <th>Walk</th> <th>Car</th> <th>Cycle</th> <th>Bus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grass Pitches</td> <td>62</td> <td>24</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)</td> <td>47</td> <td>36</td> <td>10</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tennis Courts</td> <td>48</td> <td>35</td> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bowling Greens</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf Courses</td> <td>30</td> <td>53</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outdoor Swimming Pool</td> <td>30</td> <td>53</td> <td>7</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This highlights how there are differing expectations in Broxbourne regarding access and preferred modes of travel to the various types of outdoor sport facilities. A higher percentage of household survey respondents expect to walk to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of golf courses, bowling greens and outdoor swimming pools (the only one in the borough being Hoddesdon Open Air Swimming Pool). A review across the six analysis areas indicates that mode of travel expectations follow a similar pattern to the results given at a borough-wide level. However, there are a few exceptions, for example in Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford, 55% of respondents indicated that they would expect to drive to bowling greens, and in the Hoddesdon Town area, 25% of respondents stated that they would prefer to cycle to tennis court provision which is significantly higher than anywhere else in the borough.</p>					Method of travel (% household survey responses)				Facility	Walk	Car	Cycle	Bus	Grass Pitches	62	24	8	6	Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)	47	36	10	7	Tennis Courts	48	35	11	6	Bowling Greens	40	40	11	9	Golf Courses	30	53	8	9	Outdoor Swimming Pool	30	53	7	10
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SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
	<p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>The three types of outdoor sports pitch provision for which there was an overall preference for walking (ie grass pitches, STPs and tennis courts) the 75th percentile calculation was a 10 minute walk time for grass pitches and a 15 minute walk time for both STPs and tennis courts. For the remaining types of outdoor sport facilities, to which respondents indicated that they would expect to drive (ie golf courses and outdoor swimming provision) the 75th percentile calculation was a 20-minute drive time. For bowling greens, where there was a balance between walking and driving the 75th percentile also indicated a 20 minute walk time or a 15 minute drive time.</p> <p>Respondents to the sports club survey indicated a 15 to 25 minute travel time as reasonable, but this was not broken down by type of outdoor sports facility.</p>
PMP recommendation	<p>15 MINUTE WALK (720m) TO GRASS PITCHES, STPs, BOWLING GREENS AND TENNIS COURTS</p> <p>20 MINUTE DRIVE TO GOLF COURSES, OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS</p>
PMP justification	<p>There are a number of factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities; most pertinent is the extensive range of facilities that comprise this typology, which makes it difficult to make a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have differing expectations in relation to outdoor swimming provision (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches, for which there is an assumption of more localised provision. Given the findings from the local consultation, it is suggested that two standards are set. One for grass pitches, STPs, bowling greens and tennis courts; and a separate standard for golf courses and outdoor swimming provision. This is to reflect local expectations regarding driving and walking to outdoor sport facilities.</p> <p>The 75th percentile threshold for those who expect to walk to the specific outdoor sports facilities ranges from 10 to 20 minutes. As a consequence, a 15-minute walk time to these facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements, where appropriate, whilst also focusing on improving the quality of exiting provision.</p>

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
	<p>This is in line with ensuring sustainable transport choices to account for the wide mix of facility types within the standard to meet all expectations.</p> <p>The 75th threshold for those who expect to drive to outdoor swimming pools and golf courses are both 20 minutes. Given the more specialised nature of these facilities, and the fact that they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 20 minutes drive time standard is recommended.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Allotments and community gardens

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS			
National standards	No national standards		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Spelthorne – 5 minute walk	East Hertfordshire – 10 minute drive	Brentwood – 15 minute walk
	Castle Point – 10 minute drive	Chelmsford – 10 minute drive	Maidstone – No benchmark.
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>Over 90% of respondents to the household survey stated that they do not use allotment sites, of those that do, only 2% of respondents indicated that they use allotment sites more frequently than any other typology. None of the school survey respondents indicated that they visited an allotment in the past 12 months. It is difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents.</p>		
	<p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Respondents to the household survey indicated that walking would be the most popular method of travel to an allotment site with 61%, followed by 26% stating that travel by car as a preferred option. This is reflected throughout all analysis areas with walking the most popular method of travel in all.</p> <p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>The majority of household survey respondents would expect to travel up to 10 minutes to reach an allotment site (68%). A review across the six analysis areas reinforces these overall results, with findings closely matching that borough-wide.</p> <p>Calculation of the 75th percentile to determine how far borough residents are willing to travel to reach an allotment site indicates 15 minutes duration. More detailed examination by analysis area reflects the borough-wide findings although with a greater degree of variation ranging from 10 (in AA3 and AA6) to 20 minutes in AA4.</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS	
PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720m)
PMP justification	<p>The provision of allotments is a demand led typology, which should be reflected in the application of the accessibility and quantity standards. As such any deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p>However, the local standard has been set as a 15-minute walk time in line with the 75% threshold level in the household survey and to reflect consultation with existing allotment users.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Cemeteries and churchyards

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
PMP recommendation	With regards to accessibility there are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards. There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typologies as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Setting accessibility standards – Green corridors

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – GREEN CORRIDORS	
PMP recommendation	There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led.

Setting accessibility standards – Civic spaces

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – CIVIC SPACES	
PMP recommendation	As per PPG17, there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Setting accessibility standards – Indoor sports facilities

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National standards	<p>CPA targets measure the number of residents that are within a range of three different sports facility types.</p> <p>Sport England accessibility targets reinforce those measured within the CPA.</p> <p>Sport England research indicates that all residents should be within a 15-minute drive time of a sports hall.</p>		
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	No local standards		
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Wolverhampton City Council :</p> <p>20 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>20 min (walk) for swimming pools</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Sheffield City Council:</p> <p>15 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>15 min (walk) for swimming pools</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor tennis</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor bowls</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Wolverhampton City Council :</p> <p>20 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>20 min (walk) for swimming pools</p>	<p>Sheffield City Council:</p> <p>15 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>15 min (walk) for swimming pools</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor tennis</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor bowls</p>
<p>Wolverhampton City Council :</p> <p>20 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>20 min (walk) for swimming pools</p>	<p>Sheffield City Council:</p> <p>15 min (walk) for sports halls</p> <p>15 min (walk) for swimming pools</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor tennis</p> <p>20 min (drive) for indoor bowls</p>		
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>As with other typologies, it is difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents.</p> <p>Preferred method of travel</p> <p>Responses from the household survey regarding overall preferred travel method for the different types of indoor facilities are as follows:</p>		

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES				
Facility	Method of travel (% household survey responses)			
	Walk	Car	Cycle	Bus
Swimming Pools	42	45	7	6
Sports Halls	41	46	7	6
Indoor Tennis	37	50	7	5

As evident in the table above, the majority of respondents overall expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. However, analysis across the six different analysis areas, indicates that the travel expectations vary slightly from one area to another. For example, in the Cheshunt analysis area, as well as Waltham Cross and Theobalds, respondents indicated that they generally expect to walk to indoor sports facilities. This is more likely to be due to the more urban nature of these analysis areas. In contrast there was a preference for driving in the remaining four analysis areas. A preference for driving is supported by the sports club survey consultation, whereby the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they travel by car to indoor sports facilities.

Preferred duration of travel

For the various types of indoor facilities, of those that would expect to drive, the 75th percentile threshold level was a 15-minute drive. The sports club survey results indicated slightly longer expected drive times with 48% stating between 15-25 minutes as appropriate, a further 19% indicating 30 minutes and only 13% believing between 5-10 minutes to be more appropriate.

There are some variations when looking at the various analysis areas. Residents in cheshunt will expect to walk to swimming pools (69%), sports halls (62%) and indoor bowls facilities (46%), and respondents from the Waltham Cross/Theobalds area will expect to walk to all types of indoor facilities. Residents from the Hoddesdon North/Rye Park area will expect to walk to swimming pools (59%) and sports halls (54%).

PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE DRIVETIME/ 20 MINUTE WALKTIME
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SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
PMP justification	<p>Local consultation indicates an expectation of driving to indoor sports facilities, which is reflective of current usage patterns. As a result a drivetime standard has been set at the 15-minute distance threshold, which is in line with the 75th percentile calculation.</p> <p>However, it is important to consider the need for local facilities and in this respect a local accessibility standard of a 20 minute walktime may be more appropriate. This would be in line with the CPA criteria for an urban area, which applies for the majority of Broxbourne borough. Sport England guidance on the implementation of the CPA standards suggests that the range of facilities is essential in giving people a choice. Greater choice in the different types of facilities, which people have access to and the proximity of these facilities to where they live will increase the likelihood that people will visit and become more active.</p>

Setting accessibility standards – Community halls

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS	
National standards	No national standards
Existing local accessibility standards and strategic context	<p>There is no specific reference to local accessibility standards; however, the Asset Management Plan (2003) outlines specific objectives that relate to community facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver a balanced programme of recreational and sporting opportunities that appeal to a wide range of residents and other users, offering opportunities to improve their health, quality of life and lifelong learning • ensure the portfolio of Council owned/leased facilities and properties meets the needs of the community and delivers efficient asset management • provide an entertainment, events bar and catering service to the community that is continually improving, balanced and of high quality.
Benchmarking against other local authorities standards (by PMP)	Sheffield City Council: 15 min (walk) for community centres.
Step 1 consultation findings	<p>Current usage patterns</p> <p>As above, it is difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents.</p>

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS				
Preferred method of travel				
Responses from the household survey regarding overall preferred travel method for the different types of community facilities are as follows:				
	Method of travel (% household survey responses)			
Facility type	Walk	Car	Cycle	Bus
Small hire space	30	53	8	9
Medium hire space	35	54	5	6
Large hire space	33	55	5	8
Community halls	39	49	6	7
Flexible community halls	41	45	6	8
Indoor youth clubs	57	28	8	7
Playgroup space	60	29	5	6
As illustrated in the table above, the majority of respondents indicated that they expect to drive to community facilities, with the exception of indoor youth clubs and playgroup spaces. This overall view is generally reflective across the six analysis areas. The main exceptions being in the Waltham Cross and Theobalds analysis area where respondents indicated that they would expect to walk to all indoor community facility types. In the other more urban analysis areas ie Cheshunt and Hoddesdon Town there was again a greater expectation of walking to community hire spaces.				

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – COMMUNITY HALLS	
	<p>Preferred duration of travel</p> <p>In terms of how far respondents are willing to travel to access indoor community facilities, for the two types of provision for which there was an overall preference for walking (ie indoor youth clubs and playgroup spaces) the 75% threshold level was a 15-minute walk time. For most of the remaining types of indoor facilities (ie those to which individuals would expect to drive), the 75% threshold level was a 15-minute drive, with the exceptions being medium and large hire facilities where the expected drive time duration would be 20 minutes.</p>
PMP recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK OR 15 MINUTE DRIVE (DEPENDENT ON FACILITY TYPE)
PMP justification	<p>Given the varying nature of the different types of community hall facilities, it is considered appropriate to set different accessibility standards for the larger and smaller facilities. Whilst a slightly higher proportion of respondents suggested that they expect to drive to the majority of community facilities it is also prudent to consider the need for local facilities. This aspect was highlighted by the Council as being particularly important where the value of facilities located at the centre of the community are recognised especially in respect of improving social cohesion.</p> <p>In line with the 75th percentile threshold, both a 15-minute drivetime and a 15-minute walktime are recommended for the differing community facility types.</p>

APPENDIX M

COMMUNITY HALLS ASSESSMENT MATRIX

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Name of Community hall

Date of visit

Address

Type of community hall facility

1	Small hire space for meetings, lectures, presentations, training courses (up to 20)
2	Medium hire space for meetings, lectures/, presentations, discussion groups, training and small parties (under 80)
3	Large hire space for functions, parties, weddings, dances, church gatherings

INDOOR features available (tick as appropriate)

Main hall (approx. size)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass pitch changing provision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entrance foyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fitness training room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equipment & furniture store	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changing provision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Billiards & snooker room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensed bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community health facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stage (permanent or temporary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daytime centre for the elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting or club rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleaner's store	<input type="checkbox"/>	Village shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post office	<input type="checkbox"/>

OUTDOOR features available (tick as appropriate)

Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	MUGA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass pitches (specify nos.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>				

USAGE activities available (tick as appropriate)

Badminton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playgroups	<input type="checkbox"/>	Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short mat bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Table tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conferences/ meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gymnastics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Five-a-side	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance classes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerobics/keep fit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Short tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drama/ films	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martial arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Receptions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yoga	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clubs/societies meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private functions	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
On-site car parking arrangements (Are there enough car parking spaces, clearly marked, adequate lighting etc.)	5	4	3	2	1		
Public transport	5	4	3	2	1		
On foot/pedestrian routes	5	4	3	2	1		
Bicycle (Are there cycle routes, lock up parking, clearly marked etc)	5	4	3	2	1		
Disabled access (Is there a viable route, disabled car parking spaces etc)	5	4	3	2	1		
Road signage	5	4	3	2	1		
Footpaths to reception (Is there a clear, even walkway)	5	4	3	2	1		

Cleanliness of provision

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
Toilets	5	4	3	2	1		
Showers	5	4	3	2	1		
Changing rooms	5	4	3	2	1		
Reception	5	4	3	2	1		
Circulation areas	5	4	3	2	1		
Café/vending	5	4	3	2	1		
Main hall	5	4	3	2	1		
External areas/car park (Any graffiti, litter etc)	5	4	3	2	1		

Housekeeping/presentation

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
External/directional signage (Is there clear visible signage from the car park)	5	4	3	2	1		
Internal/directional signage (Is there clear, logical signage)	5	4	3	2	1		
Tidy and safe presentation (Is the facility generally presented in a tidy and safe fashion)	5	4	3	2	1		
Litter collection/bins	5	4	3	2	1		
Dedicated storage area	5	4	3	2	1		

Maintenance

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
Décor (Is the facility well decorated and maintained)	5	4	3	2	1		
Floor (Is the flooring surface appropriate, in good condition)	5	4	3	2	1		
Lighting (Is there sufficient lighting for purposes)	5	4	3	2	1		
Equipment (Does the equipment appear to be well maintained)	5	4	3	2	1		
Roof (Is it in good condition, any leaks)	5	4	3	2	1		
Windows (Is it in good condition, any broken)	5	4	3	2	1		
Building in general (Does it appear to be well maintained)	5	4	3	2	1		

Information

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
Display leaflets (leaflets available)	5	4	3	2	1		
Notice boards (showing contact details)	5	4	3	2	1		

Main hall

	Yes/No	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
High enough for badminton clearance		5	4	3	2	1		
Impact/energy absorbing floor		5	4	3	2	1		
Court markings eg badminton		5	4	3	2	1		
Flush-faced walls		5	4	3	2	1		
Appropriate lighting		5	4	3	2	1		
Storage		5	4	3	2	1		

Changing area

	Yes/No	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	n/a	Comments
Changing room capacity		5	4	3	2	1		
Showers		5	4	3	2	1		

Overall impression

APPENDIX N
INDOOR FACILITY AUDIT

NAME	POSTCODE	TELEPHONE	COURTS	ACCESS
GOFFS SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	EN7 5QW	01992 629688	4	Club Use
GRUNDY PARK LEISURE CENTRE	EN8 9A	01992 623345	6	Public
HERTFORD REGIONAL COLLEGE	EN10 6AE	01992 411400	4	Private/club use
JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE	EN11 0QF	01992 445375	4	Public
LESS THAN 4 COURTS				
CHESHUNT SCHOOL	EN8 9LY	01992 624375	1	Private/club use
ST MARYS VA HIGH SCHOOL	EN8 9ED	01992 629124	1	Private/club use
TURNFORD SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES	EN8 0JU	01992 308104	2	Private/club use
THE BROXBORNE SCHOOL	EN10 7DD	01992 411060	1	Private/club use
OUTSIDE BOROUGH				
LEA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	EN3 6TW	01992 704671	5	Private/club use
HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX	SG13 7NU	01992 706299	8	Private/club use

NAME	POSTCODE	TELEPHONE	AREA	ACCESS
GRUNDY PARK LEISURE CENTRE	EN8 9A	01992 623345	25x12.5	Public
HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	EN10 7PY	01992 466666	17x7	Private
JOHN WARNER SPORTS CENTRE	EN11 0QF	01992 445375	25x13	Public
LEE VALLEY LEISURE POOL	EN10 6QS	01992 467899	25x22	Public
MARRIOTT HEALTH CLUB (CHESHUNT)	EN10 6NG	01992 451245	11x3.7	Private
SHEREDES SCHOOL	EN11 8JY	01992 410800	20x8	Private/club use
TURNFORD SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES	EN8 0JU	01992 308104	20x8	Private/club use
OUTDOOR POOL				
HODDESDON OPEN AIR POOL	EN11 8BP	01992 461592	22.7x9	Public
OUTSIDE BOROUGH				
WALTHAM ABBEY SWIMMING POOL	EN9 1UP	01992 716733	25x9	Dual Use
HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX	SG13 7NU	01992 706299	25x15	Private/Club use
ALBANY LEISURE CENTRE	EN3 5XH	020 8804 4255	25x18	Dual use
HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRE	SG14 1QR	01992 584000	23x13	Public

NAME	POSTCODE	TELEPHONE	COURTS	ACCESS	QUALITY
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HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	EN10 7PY	01992 466666	4 x Textile	Private	
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NAME	POSTCODE	TELEPHONE	LANES	ACCESS
CHESHUNT CLUB	EN8 8XG	01992 623920		6 Private