

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY



A

FINAL REPORT

BY

PMP

JUNE 2008

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Background

- i. During November 2006, City of York Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment of the City's open space, sport and recreation facilities. This study highlights priorities for the future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities across City of York based on an assessment of local needs.
- ii. In addition to forming a key part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, the report will also inform the preparation of a green spaces strategy outlining priorities for the management and maintenance of open spaces across the City.
- iii. The study was 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 (September 2002).
- iv. The Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, many stages were undertaken in parallel.
- v. The five step process is as follows:
 - Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
 - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
 - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5 – Drafting Policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.
- vi. The study considers ten typologies of open space, namely:
 - parks and gardens
 - natural and semi natural open space
 - amenity greenspace
 - provision for children
 - provision for teenagers
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - allotments and community gardens
 - green corridors
 - churchyards and cemeteries
 - accessible countryside.

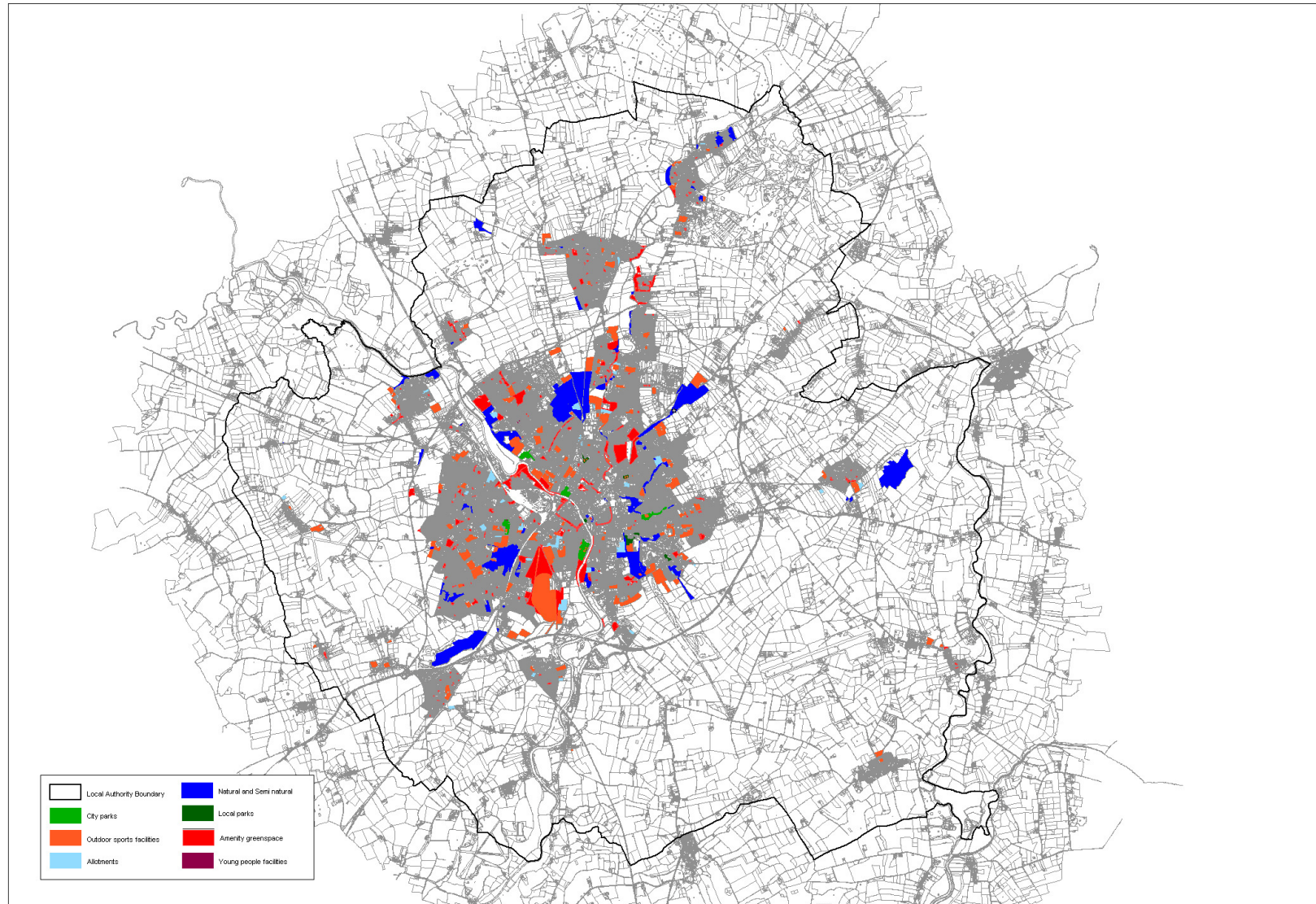
- vii. The key outputs of the study include:
- a full audit of all accessible open spaces across the City categorised according to the primary purpose of the site (in line with the typologies highlighted previously). This audit is stored on a GIS layer and linked Access database
 - an assessment of the open space, sport and recreational needs of people living, working and visiting the City of York derived from a series of consultations
 - production of local provision standards (quantity, quality and accessibility) for each type of open space where appropriate, in accordance with local needs
 - application of local standards to the existing open space provision, enabling the identification of surpluses and deficiencies based on the quantity, quality and accessibility
 - recommendations to address the key findings and drive future policy.
- viii. Full details of the methodology can be found in Section 2 of the report and the standard setting process can be found in appendices F, G and H. A full programme of consultation and site assessments were carried out and the findings of this work feeds directly into the local standards. The key issues arising from this phase of work are summarised below:

Current position

- ix. Consultation and site visits regarding the quantity of different types of open space in York highlights that:
- there is a general perception that the quantity of City parks is about right. Residents in the more urban areas of the City have higher expectations in terms of provision and are more likely to suggest that there are insufficient parks in their locality. The quality of parks is perceived to have improved over recent years, reinforced by the achievement of several green flag awards across the City. Residents highlighted that improvements to the ancillary provision within parks would further enhance their quality. Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the parks was of greater importance than increasing the overall quantity of facilities
 - there are variations in the perceptions of the quantity of natural and semi natural open space across the City. The quality of natural sites is important to residents and the wider benefits of these sites were recognised. Natural sites were perceived to have a particularly important role in enhancing biodiversity and developing habitats
 - Amenity green spaces were perceived to be particularly important for the qualities that they bring to the landscape and character of the local area. The quality of provision was perceived to be as important as the quantity and there is a greater variation in the current quality of these open spaces than in any other type

- the quantity of provision for children and young people was the overriding theme of the consultation with the majority of residents highlighting that the quantity of provision is poor. Several issues regarding the quality of existing provision also emerged. The majority of comments focused around the need for provision to be more challenging and innovative
 - analysis of demand for allotments highlights that some sites are nearing capacity and that there are waiting lists at some existing facilities. The quality of allotments is also varying
 - there is high demand for outdoor sports facilities across York and the existing facilities are perceived to be of varying quality. An increase in the level of provision will be required over the LDF period to 2029 to facilitate higher levels of participation in sports. There is potential for this to be delivered to an extent through community use at school sites.
- x. The distribution of sites in York is illustrated in Map 1 overleaf.

Map 1 – Distribution of all open space sites across York (a larger scale map is available in Appendix L of the main report)



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Setting local standards

- xi. In line with PPG17 guidance, local standards were set for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. The standards set are summarised in Table 1 below. The application of these standards highlights the key issues across the City. While the analysis in this document provides an overview of provision and highlights the implications of natural barriers on access to sites, site specific analysis and interpretation should consider the analysis of natural barriers in detail.

Table 1 – Locally derived standards

Typology	Quantity standard (ha per 1000)	Accessibility standard	% Score achieved
Parks and Gardens	0.18	20 minute walk (960m) (City Park) 15 minute walk (720m) (Local Park)	84%
Natural and Semi Natural	2.11	15 minutes walk (720m)	66%
Amenity Green Space	1.14	5 minutes walk (240m)	74%
Provision for Children	0.48 facilities per 1000	10 minutes walk (480m)	72%
Provision for Teenagers	0.2 facilities per 1000	15 minutes walk (720m)	69.95%
Outdoor Sports	2.05	15 minutes walk (720m) – local facilities (pitches / tennis / bowls) 20 minute drive time – synthetic pitches and golf courses	70%
Allotments	0.29	15 minutes walk (720m)	72%

- xii. The key findings emerging from the application of the local standards in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility are summarised below.

Access

- xiii. The accessibility of all open space sites is discussed throughout the report. In summary the application of the accessibility standards highlights that:
- on the whole there is a good level of access to the parks within the urban areas of the City, with City and local parks equitably distributed. There are greater access issues for residents in the outlying settlements, with many unable to reach a park on foot
 - access to natural and semi natural open space is high across both the urban area and the rural settlements. In addition to smaller sites, there are numerous larger sites such as Bootham Stray in close proximity to residential areas
 - areas. The urban area is surrounded by smaller settlements and green belt, ensuring access for residents to areas of nearby countryside
 - the distribution of amenity space is uneven across the City, although many residents devoid of amenity green space have access to a park
 - despite the emphasis placed on the lack of local facilities for children, the distribution of sites is even across the City although some deficiencies were identified. While play areas are more sporadically distributed in the rural settlements, many residents have access to facilities
 - analysis of access to facilities for young people highlights that there are few residents within the recommended catchment of a facility. This is unsurprising, given that there only four facilities across the City. The achievement of the recommended standard will represent a significant challenge for the Council
 - while the distribution of both local and strategic sports facilities is good, access to facilities at school sites presents the greatest issues to residents, with many schools permitting no community use at the current time. Enhanced access to existing facilities would reduce pressure on existing sites and ensure that all residents have genuine access to local facilities
 - the distribution of allotments is sporadic and there are many residents outside of the catchment area for facilities. This is compounded by the waiting lists that are evident at existing sites.

Quantity

- xiv. Consultation regarding the quantity of different types of open space in York highlights that:
- there is a general perception that the quantity of City parks is about right. Residents in the more urban areas of the City have higher expectations in terms of provision and are more likely to suggest that there are insufficient parks in their locality. Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the parks is perceived to be of greater importance than increasing the overall quantity of facilities although there are opportunities to increase access to parks in the rural settlements through the promotion of pocket parks

- there are variations in the perceptions of the quantity of natural and semi natural open space across the City and this is mirrored by the uneven distribution of these sites. A standard marginally above the existing level of provision was set. It is essential to consider the role of accessible countryside when evaluating the quantity of natural and semi natural open space
 - perceptions regarding the quantity of amenity green space were varied and a standard was set marginally above the existing level of provision in order to enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as placing an emphasis on opportunities to enhance the quality of provision. Amenity spaces were perceived to be particularly important for the qualities that they bring to the landscape and character of the local area as well as for their role in meeting the needs of children and teenagers
 - the quantity of provision for children and teenagers was the overriding themes of the consultation with the majority of residents highlighting that the quantity of provision is poor. This was consistent across the whole authority and the recommended local standards reflect this, facilitating the delivery of additional facilities
 - analysis of demand for allotments highlights that some sites are nearing capacity and that there are waiting lists at some existing facilities, highlighting locational variation in demand. The standard has been set above the existing level of provision to highlight areas of deficiency where new provision may be required
 - there is a high level of demand for outdoor sports facilities across York and the existing facilities are of varying quality. An increase in the level of provision will be required over the LDF period to 2029 to facilitate higher levels of participation in sports. There is potential for this to be delivered to an extent through community use at school sites and the expansion of existing sites however new facilities will be required.
- xv. Application of the quantity standards demonstrates that:
- across all typologies, the greatest quantitative shortfall is in provision for young people. In order to meet the standard, an increase of over 100% of current provision will be required
 - overall the City has a slight shortfall of open space, sport and recreation provision in quantitative terms and there particular quantitative shortfalls relating to provision for young people, children, outdoor sports facilities, natural open space and amenity green space. As specified throughout the report, the quantity standards need to be applied in conjunction with the accessibility standards in order to identify the location of any deficiencies.

Quality

- xvi. Analysis of the quality of sites illustrates that in general, the quality of open spaces is good. However, there are concentrations of poor and average quality sites dispersed across the City. Issues arising from the assessment of the quality of provision include:

- the quality of parks is perceived to have improved over recent years, reinforced by the achievement of several green flag awards across the City. Residents highlighted that improvements to the ancillary provision with parks would further enhance their quality. Drainage at parks was also of particular concern
 - the quality of natural sites was perceived to be important to residents and the wider benefits of these sites were recognised. Natural sites were perceived to have a particularly important role in enhancing biodiversity and developing habitats
 - there is a greater variation in the quality of amenity green spaces than any other type of open space with analysis of the quality scores indicating that sites range from 30% to 90%. This was also reflected through the consultation
 - although there were numerous concerns relating to the quantity of provision for children and young people several issues regarding the quality of existing provision also emerged. The majority of comments focused around the need for provision to be more challenging and innovative
 - the quality of allotments is varying with site scores ranging from 44% to 86%.
- xvii. The actions that are required to enhance the overall provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the City of York are set out below. Full rationale is provided within the main report.

Parks and gardens

- mirror the high standard of Rowntree Park and Museum Gardens at parks across the City through a programme of ongoing investment. Sites should be enhanced in line with the quality visions, taking into account the needs of both humans and wildlife
- continue to promote partnership working and management across the parks in York
- maximise links to, between and within parks through the effective development of footpaths, cycle routes and public transport
- protect all City parks and where possible, investment should be directed into sites to enhance their quality. If a new City park was to be developed, this should be located in the north east of the City
- ensure that local parks are protected and enhanced in quantitative and qualitative terms where appropriate
- consider the provision of small local parks in urban areas currently devoid of parks. This may be delivered by upgrading amenity green spaces. The Acomb and Woodthorpe area of the City is a particular example
- consider opportunities to facilitate the development of small local parks (e.g. Pocket Parks) in the smaller settlements. In particular consideration should be given to the provision of parks in some of the larger rural settlements such as Wigginton, Strensall, Huntington, Nether and Upper Poppleton and Wheldrake

- identify opportunities to meet current deficiencies as well as meeting future needs when planning major residential areas to meet housing needs to 2029, as part of the Local Development Framework.

Natural and semi natural open spaces

- ensure the large strategic sites of importance across the City are protected from development and facilitate ongoing access to these sites for residents
- continue to promote partnership working and management across the natural and semi natural sites in York
- ensure that recreational usage within natural and semi natural sites is balanced with biodiversity. Consider any future possibilities to enhance both the recreational and biodiversity value
- increase accessibility by providing a network of green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of open space and wider strategic sites. This network should provide a link for those residents within the urban areas to sites located on the urban periphery and beyond
- maximise access opportunities by providing appropriate signage and clearly visible entrances where possible
- consider opportunities to address deficiencies within Osbaldwick, Clifton, Holgate and the central areas of the City
- investigate the possibility of addressing deficiencies by incorporating natural and semi natural open spaces into other types of open space. Seek opportunities to provide new natural and semi natural open space as part of new development.

Amenity green space

- seek to improve the quality of amenity green space sites
- maintain an appropriate level of amenity green space provision within the City centre. Future improvements should focus on the quality of sites
- investigate opportunities to improve and change the functionality of sites to the west of the City that are of poorer quality and serve overlapping catchments
- consider opportunities to provide local amenity green spaces / pocket parks in areas where residents are outside of a 5 minute catchment area for both parks and amenity spaces. Examples include areas of Heworth, Osbaldwick, northern Hull Road, Acomb and Westfield, Wheldrake, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Haxby
- protect amenity green space provision in areas where they provide the only opportunity for informal recreation
- ensure that residents in settlements with a population in excess of 200 have access to at least one amenity green space. Consideration should also be given to providing amenity green space in settlements devoid of any other open space.

Provision for children

- incorporate the findings from the quality assessments to inform decisions on sites requiring investment. Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard which integrates effective maintenance with appropriate location
- identify opportunities to provide new sites in areas where residents are unable to access play facilities within the recommended catchment. Key priorities for new provision therefore include Heworth Without, Heslington, Huntington and New Earswick, Westfield, Dringhouses and Acomb
- consider the value of play facilities serving similar catchments, particularly those which are of poor quality, seek opportunities to rationalise sites in close proximity to each other in order to enhance the quality of the remaining site. The Dringhouses area is a particular example of where rationalisation should be appropriate
- protect all rural play facilities and support the ongoing maintenance programmes undertaken by the Parish Councils
- identify opportunities to provide new facilities in the larger rural settlements where local demand is expressed. As a minimum, consideration should be given to the provision of facilities in all settlements where the population exceeds 2000. Priorities may include Bishopthorpe village, the east of Copmanthorpe and South Wigginton to the south of the City and a small area of Strensall, East Nether Poppleton and Skelton to the north of the City
- consider the appropriateness of collocation of facilities at school sites in order to address current deficiencies.

Provision for teenagers

- ensure facilities are fit for purpose by involving local teenagers
- provide new facilities which meet the recommended quality standard
- develop a strategic network of facilities for teenagers through the provision of facilities in City and Local Parks
- as well as addressing deficiencies through the placement of facilities in parks, pursue opportunities in areas where there is a shortage of parks, amenity green spaces and facilities' for teenagers, for example Acomb and Heworth
- maximise the access to facilities for teenagers in the smaller settlements across York by effective development of the public transport/footpath and cycle route networks.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- ensure all outdoor sports facilities are fit for purpose through a structured improvement programme
- identify opportunities to formalise community use agreements at school sites where there is an expressed demand for further sporting provision

- maximise the quality of public transport links, cycle routes and public footpaths to facilitate access to sports facilities
- identify opportunities to meet demand for pitches where demand has been expressed, specifically Bishopthorpe, Fulford, Heslington, Skelton, Strensall, New Earswick, Copmanthorpe and Dringhouses
- seek opportunities to provide publicly accessible tennis facilities in the larger rural settlements. Examples may include Wigginton, Strensall, Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe
- monitor the demand for sports facilities on an ongoing basis and address these issues where possible
- consider undertaking detailed sport specific evaluations of demand in order to inform decisions regarding the most appropriate type of facility.

Allotments

- monitor and regularly review demand for allotment provision
- take opportunities to provide new allotments in areas where demand is increasing in light of planning applications for new development, for example in the Guildhall, Micklegate and Acomb wards
- investigate and address any potential demand for additional allotments in Wheldrake (and other larger rural settlements where there are currently no facilities), Osbaldwick, Dringhouses, Acomb and Westfield
- closely monitor the demand for allotment provision within the City centre as the population increases given the current barriers to allotments sites outside of this area
- protect existing allotment sites from any future developments
- strive to achieve the quality standard at all allotment sites across York
- identify sites which may benefit from future investment using the quality assessments as a baseline of information
- promote the value of allotments to local residents
- build upon the current partnership and provide support and advice to providers of allotments and volunteers.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards
- increase awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards
- prioritise qualitative improvements in areas where cemeteries are the only type of open space.

Green corridors

- maximise linkages between open spaces through the development of green corridors and create a network of multifunctional open spaces
- work in tandem with key partners to maximise the use of green corridors
- aspire to achieve the quality vision at all green corridor sites.

Accessible countryside

- consider opportunities to offset deficiencies of open space by enhancing access to nearby countryside
 - protect nearby countryside and ensuring that any development is sensitive to the surroundings
 - evaluate the role of the countryside in detail as part of a wider green infrastructure study.
- xviii. Enhancement of the links between open space will be instrumental in both maximising the benefits of the network of open space and also in achieving the wider sustainable transport objectives.
- xix. As well as considering the provision of open space within settlement boundaries, it is essential to also acknowledge the role of the wider countryside and the importance of this asset to local residents. The presence of accessible countryside can alleviate deficiencies of other types of open space and provide an important natural resource.
- xx. The open space, sport and recreation study is also an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.
- xxi. The study provides the tools in which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development and for pre-empting growth implications as part of the LDF.

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

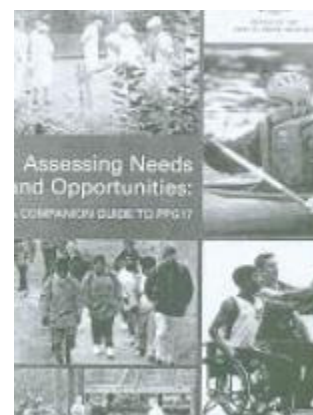
Introduction and background

The study

- 1.1 During November 2006, City of York Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment of the City's open space, sport and recreation facilities. This report sets out the findings of the assessment and highlights priorities for the future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- 1.2 The study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will help to shape the strategic direction of the core strategy for the City of York and will also inform the Allocations DPD. The report will also inform the preparation of a green spaces strategy outlining priorities for the management and maintenance of open spaces across the City.
- 1.3 This assessment will ensure that priorities for the future and resource allocation are based on local need and aspirations and that a strategic approach to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities is adopted.
- 1.4 The study is underpinned by several key objectives, specifically:
 - to enable the establishment of an effective approach to planning open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - to set robust local standards based on assessments of local needs
 - to facilitate improved decision making as part of the Development Control process
 - to guide/steer/influence S106 negotiations.
- 1.5 The study is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the updated PPG17, and its Companion Guide published in September 2002.

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

- 1.6 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities (paragraph 1).
- 1.7 The document also states that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities. The information gained from the assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities in their areas" (paragraph 7). The Government believes that national standards are inappropriate, as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development.



SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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 varying types of open space.
- 1.10 PMP and the Council have followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study and the full methodology used is set out in Section 2.

Why public open space?

- 1.11 PPG 17 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.



- 1.12 Open space, sport and recreation provision in City of York has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of these objectives.

Function and benefits of open space

- 1.13 Open spaces provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of cities, 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.
- 1.14 Each type of open space has different benefits, which depend on the type of open space, for example allotments for the growing of own produce, play areas for children's play and playing pitches for formal sports events. Open space can additionally perform a secondary function, for example outdoor sports facilities have an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.15 There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local aspirations. An understanding of local expectations and aspirations is therefore central to the effective provision of open space.
- 1.16 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. Open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector. The provision of open spaces and recreation provision is key to an ideal, sustainable and thriving community.
- 1.17 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 wider benefits are highlighted in Appendix A.

Local features and demographics

- 1.18 The City of York is one of 21 authorities making up the Yorkshire and Humber region. While the majority of the population reside within the urban area surrounding the historic City centre, there are many small rural and semi rural settlements providing a diverse variety of green space.
- 1.19 The City is a central destination for residents living in outlying villages as well as for people living in surrounding districts. As one of the UK’s most frequently visited tourist destinations, provision of green space is important not only to local residents, but to the many visitors that flock to the City.
- 1.20 As a consequence of the location of York in close proximity to Leeds, the pressures on land for development, traffic and other activity are high. Protection of greenspace (to ensure there is sufficient to meet local needs) is consequently of high importance.
- 1.21 The changing demographics of the City of York will further enhance the development pressures on land, with the current population of almost 183,000 expected to increase by 21% by 2029. This additional population will not only increase the pressure on land for development, but will also ensure that demand for various open space, sport and recreation facilities increases. This population increase is significantly higher than the anticipated national average.
- 1.22 Analysis of the profile of the population in York highlights a greater proportion of residents over 65, and lower proportions of residents under 14 than the national average. There is also a higher proportion of young adults aged 20 – 24, reflective of the student population and a lower proportion of households with children in comparison to the national average. This suggests that local aspirations may differ from other areas, and it is essential to ensure that the open space, sport and recreation facility stock meets the needs of residents across the age spectrum.
- 1.23 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (ODPM, 2004) is a measure of multiple deprivation and enables the comparison of deprivation from authority to authority. When looking at the overall rank of each Local Authority in the country, the City of York is ranked 219th out of 354 areas where a rank of 1 is the most deprived in the country and a rank of 354 is the least deprived.

Structure of the report

- 1.24 This report is split into 13 sections. Section 2 sets out the methodology for undertaking the study and Section 3 sets out the strategic context to provide the background and context to the study.
- 1.25 Sections 4 -12 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, key issues emerging from consultations relating to that particular typology and the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards. These standards are then applied to determine the priorities for that type of open space across the different geographical areas of the City.
- 1.26 Section 13 summarises the key issues for each type of open space and identifies the strategic priorities across the City. An overview outlining the planning policy context and the future application of the study is also provided.
- 1.27 A number of appendices are referenced throughout the report. These appendices supplement the information provided within the main body of the text and provide further detail of work undertaken.

SECTION 2
UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 As highlighted in Section one, this study was undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. This companion guide suggests ways and means of undertaking such a study and emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to following national trends and guidelines. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics.
- 2.3 The findings of this report and the methodology used to reach these conclusions are therefore specific to the aspirations and expectations of residents of City of York Council.

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 of open space including nine types of open space and one category of urban open space. It states that assessments of needs and audits of existing open space and recreation facilities should include all of these typologies, or variations of it.
- 2.6 Table 2.1 overleaf sets out the types of open space that have been included within this study and provides a brief definition of each typology.
- 2.7 In line with guidance set out in PPG17, all accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities across the City have been included within the study, regardless of their ownership or specific management arrangements. To the effect that open space is provided by a variety of parties, investment to raise standards will have to come from various sources and not just the City of York Council.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

- 2.8 The typologies set out in PPG17 (and therefore used in this study) primarily focus on open spaces used for recreational purposes. There are many other sites across the City that do not directly fit within these typologies but are of high significance and importance in terms of biodiversity and conservation of habitats. Although not directly included or referenced within this study the importance of these sites should not be ignored.
- 2.9 Within the City of York boundaries, there are four large areas of land amounting to over 320 hectares in total, which are today known as the ‘Strays’. The Strays are the remains of much greater areas of common land which the hereditary Freemen of the City had, since time immemorial, the right to graze cattle. Originally, each Stray was controlled and managed for the exclusive benefit of the Freemen resident in their Ward. However, by 1858, the Freemen of all the Strays agreed that, in exchange for a small annual payment to them, the City should in future administer their Stray ‘as an open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of York for all time’. For the purposes of this study, the strays have been classified into the typology of open space into which they most appropriately fit according to their primary purpose. The importance of these sites and the restrictions placed on their use will however be considered specifically during the application and interpretation of the local standards.

Table 2.1 – Typologies of Open Space

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
City Parks	<p>Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. PPG17 states that large or high quality spaces or facilities tend to attract users from a wider area than small or poor quality ones and tend to have a higher local profile. This gives rise to the concept of a hierarchy of provision. For this reason parks and gardens in York have been split into “City Parks” and “Local Parks” in order to discover whether there are different local aspirations in relation to higher and lower tier parks.</p> <p>City Parks are therefore defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategically significant • large effective catchment • accessed by public transport or car • large and more expensive • planning using national data and strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
Local Parks	<p>As with City Parks, the local parks category includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. In comparison to City parks, local parks are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> locally significant smaller effective catchment accessed on foot or bicycle smaller/cheaper planned using local data/views local objectives voluntarily managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	<p>Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation, biodiversity environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Greenspace	<p>Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work children's play enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below aged 12. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for children exist (including play schemes and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed as equipped play facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's play.
Provision for young people	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for young people exist (including youth clubs and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose, as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people eg:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities or meeting places for young people.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teenage shelters • skateboard Parks • BMX tracks • Multi Use Games Areas. 	
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<p>Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities for formal sports participation.
Allotments	<p>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. This typology does not include private gardens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growing vegetable, fruit and flowers (drop root crops).
Cemeteries & Churchyards	<p>Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • burial of the dead • quiet contemplation.
Green Corridors	<p>Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking, cycling or horse riding • leisure purposes or travel • opportunities for wildlife migration.
Accessible Countryside	<p>Includes large areas of countryside which are accessible to the public but their primary purpose is not recreational. Located primarily in the urban fringe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture / crops / grazing • Recreational access.

PPG 17 – 5 step process

- 2.10 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed throughout this study and the findings are therefore compliant with the guidance set out within PPG17.
- 2.11 Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, steps 1 and 2 were undertaken in parallel.
- 2.12 The 5 step process is as follows:
- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
 - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
 - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5 – Drafting Policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.

Our process

- 2.13 The following steps detail how the study has been undertaken in accordance with PPG17.

Step 1 - Identifying local needs

- 2.14 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out including:
- household questionnaires
 - ward committee meetings
 - neighbourhood drop in sessions
 - interest group workshops
 - IT Young People Survey
 - consultation with external agencies
 - internal one-to-one consultations with Council officers.
- 2.15 Background is provided on each of the key elements of the consultation in the paragraphs that follow.

Household survey

- 2.16 The household survey provides an opportunity for a number of randomly selected households to comment on provision, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities as well as being given the opportunity to comment on any site-specific issues.
- 2.17 5000 questionnaires were distributed to households across City of York to capture the views of both users and non-users of open spaces. Officers at the Council provided a database of addresses from the electoral register and PMP then randomly selected 5,000 addresses across the five analysis areas. Residents who responded were included in a prize draw.

- 2.18 Random distribution of questionnaires to a geographically representative sample of households across the authority ensures that representatives from all age groups, ethnic groups and gender 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. A copy of the household survey and accompanying covering letter can be found in Appendix B.
- 2.19 735 postal surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to assume responses for the remaining population within City of York. Obtaining more than 400 responses means that the results are accurate to +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if 70% of the survey sample said that they think that the quality of parks and gardens is good, we can be 95% confident that had we interviewed the entire population of City of York the results would have been between 65% and 75%.
- 2.20 Specific questions in the household questionnaire directly input into the standard setting process, for example, whether residents consider there to be sufficient provision of each typology of open space and the reason for their views. The responses therefore provide a statistically sound basis for the setting standards process, enabling full justification and robust evidence to reinforce decisions taken.

Ward Committee Meetings

- 2.21 A poster display and information leaflet was provided at all ward committee meetings during February 2007. The leaflet provided information regarding the project and included contact details for attendees at sessions to provide feedback. Several questionnaires were returned from attendees at ward committees and many residents provided feedback via email, postal letter or telephone call.
- 2.22 Some ward committee meetings were attended by a Council Officer who provided more detailed background on the study verbally.

Neighbourhood drop in sessions

- 2.23 Neighbourhood drop in sessions were held in three locations across City of York, specifically:
- Mobile Exhibition Unit, Parliament Street, City Centre
 - Tesco, Stirling Road, Clifton Moor Centre
 - Tesco, Tadcaster Road, Askham Bar.
- 2.24 These sessions were advertised to the public via the local press and intended to provide an informal opportunity to residents of the local area to give their views on open space, sport and recreation issues across the City. Local interest groups were also formally invited to the sessions. The drop in sessions were well attended by both residents and tourists and the key issues arising from discussions feed directly into the recommended local standards.

Workshops

- 2.25 Workshops provide key stakeholders with the opportunity to become involved in the study, resulting in information and views on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities from an informed viewpoint.

2.26 Three workshop sessions/discussion forums were held with key stakeholders identified by the Council in the Statement of Community Involvement. All workshops involved a variety of stakeholders. Following an introduction and presentation from PMP, these sessions were interactive, enabling and encouraging people to give their opinions on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space sites across the City. Groups invited to the workshops included:

- Friends Groups
- Sports Clubs
- External Agencies
- Allotment Society Secretaries
- Providers of existing open spaces
- Representatives of older residents of York.

2.27 A full list of invited groups can be found within Appendix C. The key findings and themes emerging from the workshops contribute both to the recommended local standards and provide an overview and understanding of community views and perceptions.

IT Young People Survey

2.28 Consultation with young people and children is traditionally difficult; however it is important to understand the views of this large sector of the community.

2.29 Two questionnaires were therefore posted on the internet and all schools within the City of York boundaries were notified of the website address and asked to encourage their pupils to complete the questionnaires. One questionnaire was intended for pupils of a primary school age and one was designed for young people of secondary school age.

2.30 The level of response to the surveys was pleasing; with 300 responses received from primary school aged children and 239 from young people attending secondary schools.

2.31 The information obtained through the distribution of these questionnaires is instrumental in the development of the local standards.

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.

2.33 Many external agencies also attended the workshops, which provided further opportunities for discussion.

Internal officers

2.34 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

- 2.35 A comprehensive audit of local provision was undertaken, building on information already held by the Council and using a variety of other sources including:
- existing GIS information
 - local plan maps and proposals maps
 - existing documents, strategies and reviews
 - aerial photography
 - landline/Mastermap data
 - local knowledge
 - site visits.
- 2.36 A total of 657 sites were identified across the City of York during the audit process. Each site was classified into the relevant typology according to its primary purpose. Additionally, some areas of accessible countryside were identified and digitised.
- 2.37 Site assessments were then carried out to all sites identified at this stage. Site assessments provided an opportunity to cross check the audit database and the classifications of sites, as well as enabling an assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of each site.
- 2.38 A meeting was held with Council officers to discuss the audit and ensure that it was complete and accurate.
- 2.39 Site assessments were undertaken using a matrix 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:
- (i) accessibility
 - (ii) quality
 - (iii) wider benefits.
- 2.40 The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site in addition to ratings for each individual factor. A full list of sites can be found in Appendix D. The site assessment matrix can be found in Appendix E.

Step 3 - Setting provision standards

- 2.41 PPG17 advocates that planning policies for open space, sport and recreation facilities should be based upon local standards derived from a robust assessment of local need.
- 2.42 Key themes emerging from consultations in addition to the findings of the open space audit and site assessments were therefore used as a basis to determine provision standards for each type of open space in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. The local standards therefore directly represent the local needs and aspirations of residents of City of York Council.

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- 2.43 The methods used to determine standards are outlined in brief below. The full justification for each recommended standard for City of York Council, following this process can be found in Appendices F and G and H.
- 2.44 The application of these robust local standards based on assessments of need and existing provision will form the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative needs through the planning process.
- 2.45 The application of local standards should consider the future requirement for open space (based on future population projections) as well as the current level of provision. Population projections have been taken from the revised 2004 sub national population projections (It has however been noted that the 2004 household projections may exceed current proposed build rates as identified in the latest Regional Spatial Strategy). Future demand is projected up to 2029 in line with the core strategy and population projects have been derived from the Regional Spatial Strategy. Future provision for different types of open space will be guided by areas of deficiency identified in this Study (quantity and accessibility), and where significant new housing will be located as determined by the LDF Core Strategy and subsequent Allocations DPD and/or Area Action Plans.

Quantity

- 2.46 The open space audit enables an understanding of the quantity of provision of each type of open space in each area of the City. The collection of this level of detail enables the calculation of the provision of each type of open space per 1000 population. This information is provided within typology specific Sections 4 –11, and is also summarised within Appendix I.
- 2.47 In order to ensure that any standards set are reflective of local community needs and opinions, key themes emerging from consultations in each geographical area relating to the quantity of each type are analysed. The key issues for each type of open space are summarised within Sections 4 – 11 and further detail is provided within Appendices F, G and H. Local standards are subsequently set taking into account the current level of provision compared to the communities perceived need.
- 2.48 In order to ensure transparency, the local quantity standards have been derived directly from levels of satisfaction in the household survey. The percentage increase applied depends upon the proportion of residents who view the existing provision as being sufficient. The greater the dissatisfaction, the higher the percentage increase on existing provision. The percentage increases applied have been chosen to ensure that the required increase is realistic and achievable but is reflective of local need. The required increases are drawn from similar studies undertaken in authorities across the country and are therefore based on good practice. The use of a specific percentage increase ensures that the calculation of the standard is transparent. The percentage increases applied are:
- about right / more than enough - 50%+ - standard set at current level of provision
 - about right - 40-50% - increase current level of provision by 2%
 - about right - 30-40% - increase current level of provision by 5%
 - about right - 20-30% - increase current level of provision by 10%
 - about right - 10-20% - increase current level of provision by 15%.

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- 2.49 The local standard is recorded as a figure in hectares per 1000 population.
- 2.50 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
- provide an understanding of the adequacy of existing provision for each type of open space
 - establish areas suffering from deficiency of provision of each type of open space; and
 - provide a guide to developers as to the amount of open space expected in conjunction with new development.
- 2.51 Provision standards are then applied, in conjunction with accessibility and quality standards to determine shortfalls, surpluses and priority areas for investment and improvement.
- 2.52 Table 2.2 overleaf summarises the process undertaken to set local quantity standards.

Table 2.2 – The key stages of setting local quantity standards

Process Stage	Methodology
National Standards	Analysis of any existing national standards for each typology. These are usually provided by national organisations eg 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 City of York Council. These include standards set out in the Local Plan and in other strategies and documents.
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	Assessment of the current quantity of provision.
Benchmarking	Figures detailing actual provision and subsequent local standards set by PMP within other green space and 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 an authority 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 more subjective consultations including workshops, IT young people survey and neighbourhood drop in sessions 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 perceptions of the adequacy of existing levels of provision.
PMP Justification	Full justification for the recommended local standard based on qualitative and quantitative consultations are provided for each typology.

Accessibility

- 2.53 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value. The overall aim of accessibility standards should be to identify:
- how accessible sites are
 - how far people are willing to travel to reach open space; and
 - areas that are deficient in provision (identified through the application of local standards).
- 2.54 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.
- 2.55 Distance thresholds (ie the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). 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.
- 2.56 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. Accessibility standards do not take into account the physical access to the site. This is considered as part of the site assessments.
- 2.57 Table 2.3 overleaf outlines the key stages in setting local accessibility standards.
- 2.58 The site assessments also provide an indication of accessibility at each specific site, taking into account the entrance to the site, transport to the site and information and signage.

Table 2.3 – Key stages in setting accessibility standards

Process Stage	Methodology
National Standards	Analysis of any existing accessibility standards for each typology.
Existing Local Standards	Consideration of existing local standards for each typology that are currently applied. These include standards set out in the Local Plan and in other strategies and documents.
Benchmarking	Figures detailing local standards set by PMP within other green space and 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 distance expected to travel to each type of open space and the 75% threshold level. The use of the 75% threshold level is consistent with recommendations in PPG17– it represents the distance that 75% of the population is willing to travel and is used to ensure that extreme responses are discounted.
Consultation Comments (Accessibility)	Findings of qualitative consultations regarding access to open space sites and the distances people expect to travel to reach open space sites.
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation for a local accessibility standard. The standard is based on an assessment of the local community need and perceptions of the adequacy of existing levels of provision.
PMP Justification	Full justification for the recommended local standard based on consultations and local expectations are provided for each typology.

Quality

- 2.59 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.
- 2.60 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:
- the geographical areas of the City
 - specific types of open space.

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- 2.61 All sites assessed were given a score for a range of factors including:
- cleanliness and maintenance
 - security and safety
 - vegetation
 - ancillary accommodation.
- 2.62 These scores are then weighted (multiplied either by 3, 2 or 1) to reflect the perceived importance of the factors. Factors which are given higher weightings (eg cleanliness and maintenance – 3) are perceived to be the most important and to have the largest impact on the quality of the site. Factors with a higher weighting will therefore influence the total score more than factors with lower weightings.
- 2.63 Scores for each factor, taking into account the weighting, can then be translated into a percentage or quality index. Where the site assessor considered a particular factor to be “not applicable”, the percentage does not take account of this factor and the overall score is therefore not biased by these factors.
- 2.64 The quality standards set as part of the study are intended as an aspirational vision that reflects what the community want. The vision should be applied to existing open spaces in addition to providing a benchmark when designing and creating new areas of open space. These visions are reflective of the aspirations and expectations of the community derived from local consultations.
- 2.65 The key steps to setting a quality vision are set out in Table 2.4 below:

Table 2.4 – Setting a quality vision

Process Stage	Methodology
National Standards	Analysis of any existing qualitative standards for each typology.
Existing Local Standards	Consideration of existing local standards for each typology that are currently applied. These include standards set out in the Local Plan and in other strategies and documents.
Consultation (household survey)	Consideration of the findings of the household survey with regards the key quality features expected in each type of open space and consideration of the key issues experienced at existing open space sites
Consultation Comments (Quality)	Findings of qualitative consultations regarding the importance of different quality features at each site, in addition to problems experienced at current sites used
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation for a local quality vision. The standard is based on an assessment of the local community need and the key features that people like to see for each different type of open space.
PMP Justification	Full justification for the recommended local standard based on consultations and local expectations are provided for each typology.

- 2.66 The site assessment matrices (which can be found in Appendix E) completed for the open spaces across the City provide a score for quality, site access and an assessment of any wider benefits such as educational benefits.
- 2.67 PPG17 states that it is inappropriate to set standards for green corridors due to the linear nature of sites of this typology. The role of green corridors in linking sites together and promoting sustainable transport will be discussed during the application of local standards.

Steps 4 and 5 – Applying local standards and identifying priorities

- 2.68 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. Application of the recommended local standards enables:

1) the identification of areas deficient in accessibility

- deficiencies in accessibility are defined by applying the local derived accessibility standards to give an indication of those areas served and not served by existing provision. Those areas that are outside the distance threshold of existing open spaces or sport and recreation facilities will be prioritised for new provision.

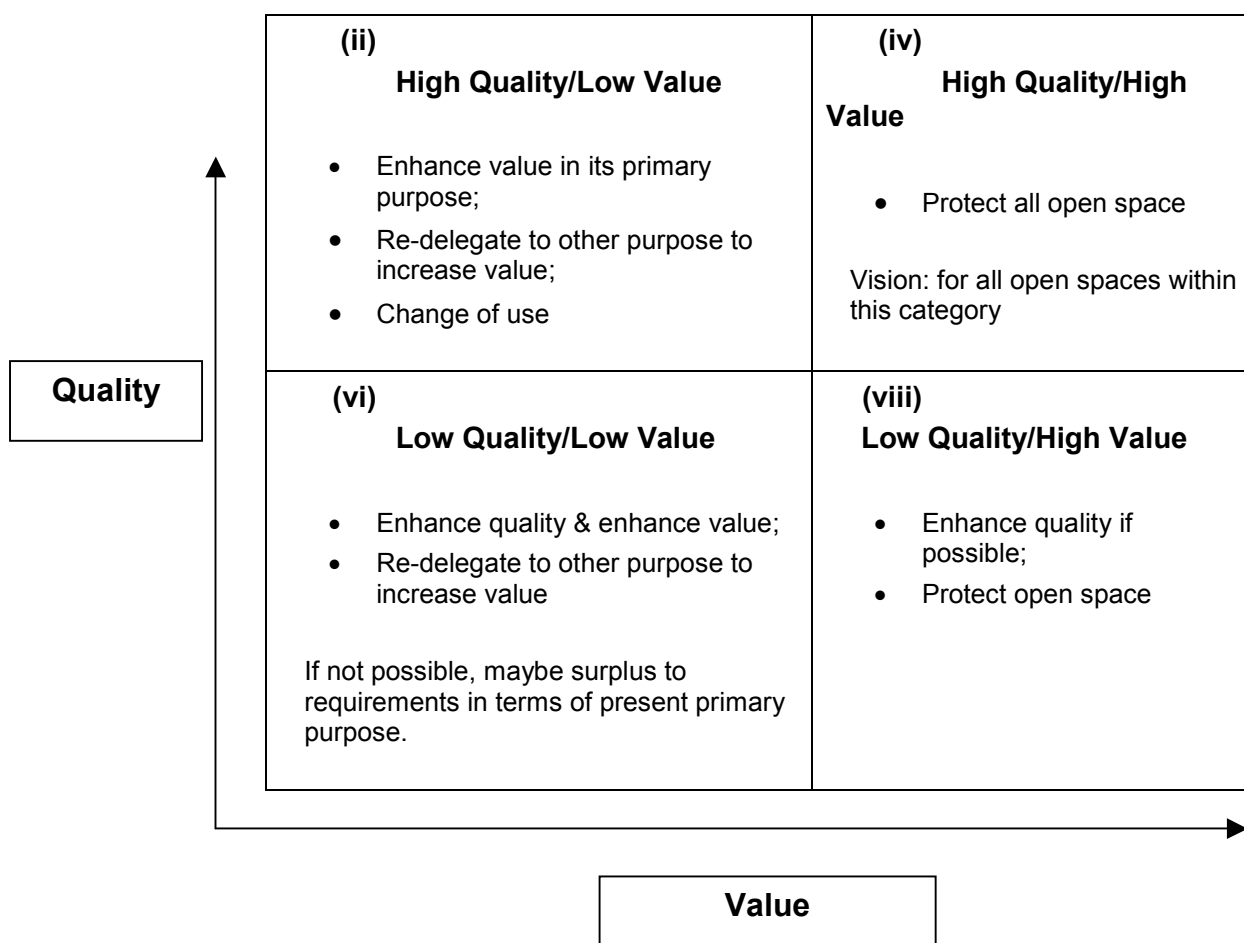
2) identify areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus

- areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus can be identified through the application of the quantity standard, either to a large geographical area, or more specifically to the population within the effective catchment of each different type of open space or sport or recreation facility for each form of provision.

3) identify quality deficiencies and value of site

- the site assessment data produced as part of stage 3 will be plotted on the same maps as the accessibility assessment by coding spaces or facilities in terms of their quality and **value**. This will spatially identify those open spaces or sport and recreation facilities most in need of enhancement and also put them in the context of overall accessibility
- when taking decisions about specific sites, consideration should be given to both the value of the individual site and the quality of the site. Without combining these two factors, it is impossible to identify those spaces or facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. Figure 2.2 overleaf below illustrates the various outcomes of combining value and quality and their implications that will be investigated as part of the development of open space strategy.

Figure 2.2 – Assessing the value of open space sites



4) identify the spatial distribution of unmet needs

- unmet need can be summarised as:
 - areas outside the distance threshold of existing facilities or spaces
 - areas within the distance threshold of existing provision where there is a quantitative deficiency in provision
 - existing facilities or spaces that do not meet the relevant quality standard
- it is important however that the appropriate weight is afforded to identified deficiencies. For example, where a significant quantitative and accessibility deficiency is identified, it is a priority to identify sites to meet this deficiency. However, where there is a lower level of deficiency or there is either a quantitative or accessibility deficiency but not both, if sites can be identified to meet this deficiency, they should be considered, but not prioritised to the same degree.

2.69 The analysis of the distribution of sites takes into account the impact of natural barriers. In more detailed analysis on a site by site basis, the accessibility catchments should consider the impact of these natural barriers including roads and railways.

5) forecast future needs

- some assumptions have been made regarding the future population in order to estimate the amount of future provision required over the new plan period (up to 2029). This is essential to ensure proactive planning.

Step 5 - drafting policies

2.70 In accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide, a strategic framework for the planning, delivery, management and monitoring of open space, sport and recreation facilities should have four basic components, specifically:

- existing provision to be protected
 - where the existing level of provision is below or the same as the recommended quantity standard sites should be protected to ensure that the situation is not made worse over time whilst remedial action is planned
- existing provision to be enhanced
 - there are two discrete instances where existing provision may be in need of enhancement. In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues the Council may wish to increase the capacity of existing provision. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, enhancements will be required. Site assessments will inform qualitative improvements
- existing provision to be relocated
 - in order to meet local needs more effectively or make better overall use of land it may be necessary to relocate existing sites
- areas where new provision should be considered
 - new sites should be located either in areas within the accessibility catchments of existing provision but where there is a quantitative deficiency or in areas outside of catchments. More generally, the Council should deliver a plan led approach to significant housing growth and open space and test potential housing locations against the findings of the open space, sport and recreation study.

2.71 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology. These recommendations highlight key issues for consideration by the Council. An example is provided below:

P&G1	Given the low number of sites within the City, all park and gardens should be afforded protection.
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SECTION 3
STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strategic context

- 3.1 This strategic review summarises the strategic context for open space, sport and recreation facilities on a national, regional and local scale.
- 3.2 As indicated, Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities are the key overarching documents (see Section 1) to shape this study. They reflect a recognition from the Government of the wider benefits derived from the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities, including;
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - health and well being
 - promoting sustainable development.
- 3.3 In addition to PPG17, there are numerous other national documents and agencies that shape the strategic context to open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the country and as such influence the provision of facilities and the findings of this report.
- 3.4 Appendix J sets out the national strategic context, including Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer Greener which was produced by the ODPM in 2002 and led to the creation of CABI Space, a national government agency which has the overall aim *“to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities”*.
- 3.5 The following sets out the regional and local strategic context for City of York considering overarching documents and their relationship to this study only. Documents specific to one type of open space will be reviewed within typology specific Sections 4 – 12.

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<p><i>The Yorkshire and Humber Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026)</i></p>	<p>The RSS sets out a vision for the future of the Yorkshire and Humber Region, the key objectives to aim for and strategic themes to indicate how the objectives will be achieved.</p> <p>The importance of open spaces is identified within the core approach of the strategy. Specific references include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “open spaces have a vital role to play. Parks, squares, greens and wildlife areas can all help create a stronger and more attractive identity – with more opportunities for leisure and recreation, increased biodiversity and healthier lifestyles” • “open spaces within settlements all have a strong influence on the character and distinctiveness of many of the Region’s towns” and • “it is important that valuable habitats and open spaces are retained within settlements and that a vibrant mix of land uses is maintained”. <p>Policy ENV6 states that the Region will safeguard, manage and enhance its existing tree and woodland resource in line with the Regional Forestry Strategy, and in particular increase the area of woodland under active management and increase the total woodland area by approximately 500 Ha per year. The strategy also documents the importance of maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the region.</p> <p>Policy ENV10 considers the landscape of the region and states that landscape that contributes to the distinctive character of the region will be safeguarded. One of the key outcomes of the policy is high quality accessible open space. High quality parks and public access to the countryside will be key indicators in the achievement of the policy.</p> <p>Policy ENV11 within the RSS focuses on Health and Recreation and further supports the importance of sport and recreation with references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing, safeguarding and enhancing facilities for sports and recreation • increasing activity rates and opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. Measured 	<p>The City of York LDF must be in general conformity with the RSS – and must also help to deliver the regional strategy.</p> <p>This open space, sport and recreation study will provide strategic direction for the City of York Council in the delivery of improvements in the greenspace infrastructure, linking with both the aims and objectives of the LDF and the RSS.</p> <p>Policies relating to green space in the City of York LDF will be supported by this Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
	by increasing participation by 1% per year.	

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<p><i>Our Region, Our Health (2004)</i></p>	<p>The report aims to support the Yorkshire and Humber regional framework for health, providing recommendations and suggestions for action both to improve health and to reduce inequalities.</p> <p>The report highlights the comparatively poor quality of health of people living within the Yorkshire and Humber region, noting particularly the high levels of preventable ill health, long term illness and premature deaths.</p> <p>Key areas contributing to this poor health including alcohol abuse, smoking, poor diet, sedentary lifestyle and stress are highlighted, and specific recommendations relating to each area are discussed. Links between housing, education, community safety, economic generation and health are also explored.</p> <p>The report and associated recommendations reinforce the importance of physical activity. Recommendations of particular relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the benefits of physical activity on a regional basis • create a regional strategic partnership to ensure a co-ordinated approach to attract and retain more public and private sector investment in physical activity • implement regular monitoring including levels of smoking, diet and physical activity • focus investment on increasing physical activity in the region • develop a coordinated approach to attract and retain more public and private investment in physical activity. 	<p>Priorities emerging from this open space report, and subsequent improvements to the quality and quantity of facilities may have a significant impact on levels of activity, and therefore consequently on demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities in future years.</p>
<p><i>Yorkshire Plan for Sport</i></p>	<p>The Yorkshire Plan for Sport sets out the regional context based on the key objectives formulated through Game Plan. The main regional priorities outlined in the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve health and wellbeing • increase participation • improve levels of performance • widen access • create stronger and safer communities • improve education. <p>As a consequence of this adopted plan, the Council has the responsibility of becoming a partner agency in the delivery of these priorities ensuring that the framework of the Yorkshire Plan for Sport filters through into local sport and leisure strategy planning.</p>	<p>The Open space, Sport and Recreation Study will provide a detailed understanding of existing provision and the needs and aspirations of local residents.</p> <p>This understanding, alongside the development of key priorities will help the Council to deliver improved sporting</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
	Good quality pitch provision will be essential in implementing the plan. The apparent national and regional 'bottom up' approach to sports development requires a general improvement in grass roots and community facilities. It helps young people to succeed in life and develop close links between schools and sports clubs, creating a better and more positive local community.	infrastructure and meet the aims and objectives of the Yorkshire Plan for sport locally.

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<p>City of York Development Control Local Plan (2005)</p>	<p>The Local Plan provides a clear local framework to guide and promote development where it is needed, and protect the quality of York's unique historic, natural and built environment.</p> <p>The Local Plan aims to ensure there is a balance between development, conservation and other concerns such as sustainability and the environment. Achieving sustainable development is at the forefront of the planning agenda and is the key vision of the Plan.</p> <p>Although the Local Plan will be superseded by the Local Development Framework, it remains the document against which all developments will be assessed at the current time.</p> <p>Several policies relate specifically to open space, sport and recreation within the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies NE1 to NE7 consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the City and ensure that there is balanced consideration given to nature conservation against the need for development. The plan states that considerable weight will be given to the protection of designated sites • policy NE2 prevents development where it is deemed that it would be harmful to river corridors or wetlands. Likewise, policy NE5a prevents development which would be harmful to designated local nature reserves. Policy NE8 specifically protects green corridors from development • policies L1 to L4 consider the provision and protection of leisure and recreation facilities within the City, with policy L1a setting out sites allocated for new leisure provision and policy L1d allocating new sites for parks. Existing sites are protected from development through policy L1b • policy L1c considers that the provision of open space in all housing sites, and commercial developments above 2500m² will be expected to include contributions towards open spaces in line with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.9ha per 1000 population amenity greenspace - 1.7ha per 1000 population sports pitches - 0.7ha per 1000 population provision for children. • policy L2 prevents against the loss of allotment sites unless it can be proven that they are surplus to requirements. 	<p>The Local Plan guides and controls development of the City of York and the local area as whole. The protection of existing open spaces, and the designation of sites as potential new open space sites highlights the importance of green spaces within York.</p> <p>This study will inform and support the revision of policies and the future policy direction for green spaces across the City.</p> <p>The study will also enable the prioritisation of areas where new open spaces are required and highlight open spaces which are of high value to the local community and/or wildlife and should be protected.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Local Development Framework	<p>Alongside the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Local Development Framework will form the “development plan” for the City of York and as highlighted, will supersede the policies in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is currently at the Issues and Options stage. Following this, preferred options will be identified and formulated into policies to guide future development.</p>	<p>In order for a Local Development Framework to be considered well founded, the strategies / policies / allocations must be based on a robust and credible evidence base. This study represents an up-to-date local audit and needs assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities on which to base associated planning policies in the LDF.</p>
Without Walls – York Community Strategy 2004 - 2024	<p>The City of York Community Strategy outlines how the quality of life can be improved across the City covering a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues.</p> <p>The strategy identifies seven key themes specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safer City – to be a safe City with a low crime rate, and to be perceived as such by residents and visitors • The Healthy City – to ensure that residents enjoy healthy lifestyles through the promotion of healthy living and easy access to health care services • A City of Culture – to build a culture that welcomes and inspires visitors and presents opportunities for all • The Thriving City – to support the progress of existing businesses and encourage development of new business to ensure a flourishing economy and low unemployment rate • The inclusive City – to ensure that all residents and visitors can take part in life in the City • The Learning City – to ensure that all those that live and work in the City have the skills to play an active role in society 	<p>Open space, sport and recreation facilities will be essential in the delivery of several of the key objectives and actions within this strategy, in particular with regards to the creation of a safer, healthy and sustainable City. This study will ensure that facilities of the right type, quality and in the right location will be provided.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sustainable City – ensure that the City has a quality built and natural environment with a modern and integrated transport scheme. <p>The strategy outlines a range of actions required to achieve each of the above objectives. Those of particular relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing alternative social and recreational activities for young people to enjoy• develop a healthy lifestyle strategy• increase participation in sport, play and active lifestyles• maximise the opportunities created by the presence of the river through the inauguration of the annual Festival of the Rivers• ensure the appraisal of open space informs future priorities for the development of green spaces and the policies set out within the Local Development Framework.	

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<p>Corporate Strategy – 2006 - 2009</p>	<p>The Corporate Strategy sets out 13 priorities, which will be delivered between 2006 and 2009. The priorities focus on key areas which are important locally and nationally and link with those priorities set out in the Community Strategy.</p> <p>Priorities which are particularly relevant to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving the actual and perceived condition of the cities' streets and open spaces • improving the health and lifestyles of residents in York. 	<p>The open space, sport and recreation study will be essential in the delivery of several of the key objectives and actions within this strategy.</p> <p>The study will provide detailed baseline information regarding open spaces which should be prioritised for quality improvement and will also analyse the adequacy of the existing provision of sport and recreation facilities as well as informal recreation opportunities, identifying areas for improvement.</p>
<p>Local Transport Plan 2006 - 2011</p>	<p>The Local Transport Plan targets reduced congestion and improved accessibility, air quality and safety. The plan highlights that if no action is taken to address these issues, traffic levels in the City will increase by 27 per cent in the next 15 years alone. The strategy reflects the direction of, and is integrated with, the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy (RES).</p> <p>The delivery of a revolutionary public transport service is central to the aims and objectives of the plan. Increasing the levels of walking and cycling is also one of the key targets of the plan, and the provision of new off road cycling and walking routes is designated as a priority for funding during the first five years of implementation of the plan.</p> <p>The plan builds upon the key successes of the previous plan, which include achieving the status of the UK's top cycling City in 2004 and achieving walking targets four years ahead of schedule. The promotion of healthy living and a reduction on the reliance of cars are key themes throughout the transport plan.</p> <p>The overriding themes of the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling congestion • improving accessibility for all 	<p>The Local Transport Plan highlights the key priorities for improvement of transport and travel within York over the next 5 years. It is essential that open space, sport and recreation facilities are accessible to the local community by public transport, cycleway and foot in order to ensure the effective delivery of the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Provision of an effective green corridor network should help to reduce the reliance on cars and ensure more residents travel on foot.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safer roads • improving air quality • improving culture, health and well-being • enhancing education and the local economy. <p>The plan sets out a series of key actions intended to deliver these themes. Those of particular relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of new cycle and pedestrian routes which link to the local public transport network • improvements to the perceived and actual safety of cycle and pedestrian routes • improving public spaces through better maintenance of physical and cultural assets, such as footpaths, cycle routes, and public transport infrastructure • encouraging more physical activity by improving the walking and cycling networks • the plan targets a 15% increase on the number of residents walking into the City centre, and a 1% increase in those cycling to work and 3% on those cycling into the City for recreation. 	<p>This study will provide detailed information regarding the current accessibility of open spaces, and identify areas where residents are outside of an appropriate distance threshold.</p>

Summary and conclusions

- 3.6 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting a healthy and enjoyable life.
- 3.7 Many organisations are willing to work in partnership together to manage and develop existing open spaces and share similar aims and objectives eg protecting, enhancing and maximising usage and nature conservation value of open spaces.
- 3.8 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this green space assessment in York include:
- increasing participation in sport and active recreation is a key component of national policies. This is highlighted through the regional delivery plan and is also a focal point of the community plan and corporate strategy. This assessment will enable future priorities to achieve this objective
 - improvements to the perception of the safety and quality of open spaces will ensure that the community continue to value the spaces provided and that they contribute positively to the culture of the City of York as a whole. This study will guide future improvements and ensure that open space sites effectively meet local need
 - increasing access to local open space, sport and recreation sites is inherent in the achievement of the objectives of the local transport plan where there is a focus on increasing walking and cycling. Increased access will also ensure that residents are able to lead healthier lifestyles. This study will provide a detailed insight into areas outside of acceptable distance thresholds to different open space types.
- 3.9 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the regional and local importance of open space within York and how the delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities can meet wider aims and objectives. This local needs study and resulting strategy will also contribute to the delivery of aims and objectives of national and regional agencies.
- 3.10 The context of specific local documents, policies and strategies will be highlighted within the individual typology sections where the relevant policies apply.

SECTION 4
PARKS AND GARDENS

Parks and gardens

Definition

- 4.1 This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events, within settlement boundaries.
- 4.2 Parks are often a mix of facilities with different types of open space, eg children's play facilities, sport pitches and wildlife areas. For classification purposes and within the scope of this study, the different open spaces have been separated by the PPG17 typology. 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.
- 4.3 Parks provide a sense of place for the local community, help to address social inclusion issues within wider society and also provide some form of structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding local area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas. Many parks also provide local pitches and facilities providing a further opportunity to increase participation
- 4.4 The provision of high quality Local Parks can be instrumental in the achievement of increased participation targets, ensuring that all residents are able to access local facilities for informal recreation – particularly walking. The Survey reveals that walking is the most popular recreational activity for people in England. Over 8 million adults aged 16 and over (20%) did a recreational walk for at least 30 minutes in the last 4 weeks. Local Park facilities provide key opportunities for residents to participate in informal physical activity.
- 4.5 Larger facilities tend to attract users from a wider catchment than the smaller parks and tend to have a higher local profile. The main strategic and publicly free to access park within York is Rowntree Park located in the centre of York. The household survey reveals that this park is extremely well used.

Figure 4.1 – Rowntree Park



Strategic context and consultation

Strategic context - national

- 4.6 A national survey commissioned by Sport England, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage was undertaken during 2003, studying the provision of parks within England. The aims of the survey were to establish:
- how many adults in England use parks?
 - what activities people take part in when visiting parks?
 - the reasons why people visit particular parks
 - the levels of satisfaction with the amenities on offer
 - why non-users do not use parks?
- 4.7 The definition of a park used in the survey was very broad and included both formal provision such as town parks, country parks, recreation grounds and also less formal provision such as village greens and common land.
- 4.8 The findings of the study were:
- just under two thirds of adults in England had visited a public park during the previous 12 months
 - there is a distinct bias in the use of parks by social groups, with almost three quarters of adults from the higher social group visiting a park compared with only half of those from the lower social group
 - people from black and ethnic minority communities also have relatively low participation as well as those adults with a disability
 - over 8 in 10 adults who had used a park in the previous 12 months did so at least once a month during the spring and summer with almost two thirds visiting a park at least once a week, and women tended to visit parks more often than men
 - it is estimated that the 24.3 million adults who use parks make approximately 1.2 billion visits to parks during the spring and summer months and 600 million visits during the autumn and winter months – a total of 1.8 billion visits a year
 - the most popular type of park visited was an urban or City Park.
- 4.9 There are a number of regional and local documents that refer to the importance of parks and garden – see Table 4.1 overleaf.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Table 4.1 –Strategic context – regional and local

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy May 2008</p>	<p>Given the planning background to this study, of utmost importance is the Yorkshire and Humber Plan. Policy ENV10 states that development plans will maintain and enhance a range of landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance including historic landscapes, parks and gardens. The achievement of this objective will be monitored against the quality of parks and open spaces areas. This may take into account the number of green flag awards achieved.</p> <p>The City of York currently has three awards for Glen Gardens, Rowntree Park and West Bank Park.</p>	<p>The site assessments undertaken as part of this Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment should be used by the Council when targeting further improvements to existing parks and gardens.</p>
<p>City of York Council – Development Control Local Plan</p>	<p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p>	<p>This study will form an important evidence base for emerging development plan policies in the LDF. Areas for new provision should be identified through the application of the local quantity and accessibility standards together.</p>

Consultation

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

- the responses from the household questionnaire suggest people believe provision of parks and gardens is about right or more than enough (62.6%), however 33.3% believe there is nearly or not enough
- the highest level of satisfaction can be found to the south – where 67% of residents feel that the overall level of provision is about right. Residents living in this area have good access to Rowntree Park and hence this level of satisfaction is perhaps unsurprising. Consultations across the City indicated that Rowntree Park is the most highly regarded of all the parks in York
- 38.7% of residents living to the West of the City centre feel that the provision of parks is insufficient (nearly enough or not enough). There are also fewer parks in this areas of the City
- 54% of respondents to the household survey think that the quality of parks and gardens in York is good, as opposed to only 8% who feel the quality is poor – these perceptions are common across the City
- the household survey reveals that 56% of people would **expect** to walk to parks and gardens in York, as opposed to 23% who would expect to drive and 10% who would expect to cycle. Of those users (who visit parks and gardens more often than any other typology in the study) 57% **currently** walk and 30% use cars.
- other consultations indicated that parks and gardens are particularly highly valued, with residents and visitors to the City alike using them frequently. There was a particular emphasis on a desire for the provision of Local Parks and gardens. The IT young people survey revealed that parks and gardens are particularly valued by young people and children.

Setting provision standards

4.11 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

4.12 The recommended local accessibility standard for parks and gardens has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standard – CITY PARKS
20 MINUTE WALK TIME (960 metres)
Justification
<p>Setting separate accessibility standards for City Parks and Local Parks is consistent with PPG17 which makes reference to hierarchies of provision. This is in recognition of the fact that large facilities tend to attract users from a wider area and have a higher local profile. Residents are less likely to travel the same distances to Local Parks. In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed City Park standard should not be considered in isolation but rather in the context of Local Parks. Those living within the Local Park distance threshold of a City Park will have no need of a Local Park as well. It will be important to provide an overall network of provision. The wide catchment of City Parks was further highlighted at drop-in sessions with many visitors to York having used these facilities.</p> <p>Linking in with the health agenda, it is important to consider sustainable methods of transport and encouraging walking and cycling to and within open spaces. There is a clear expectation from residents in the urban areas that a walk time is required. A 20-minute walk time is recommended, as this is also consistent with the 75% threshold level as advocated in the PPG17 Companion Guide. Setting smaller accessibility catchments could provide unrealistic expectations in terms of delivering further provision in areas outside of the distance threshold – however given that 60% think that the current level of provision is about right it is unlikely that increased provision will be required. Emphasis should be on enhancing the quality of provision and using the opportunity to improve Local Parks into more formalised provision like City Parks. It is important to seek to enhance the accessibility of all existing City Parks – for example by promoting new entrance points or better routes to them and/or information and signage.</p>

Recommended standard – LOCAL PARKS
15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 metres)
Justification
<p>There is a clear emphasis in favour of walking in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. 74% of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk to a local park, and 75% of regular users do walk. Moreover, given the more local nature of these facilities compared to the City Parks, it is considered appropriate to focus on access these sites on foot. This was further reflected in the IT for young people survey, where the location of facilities emerged as the key determinant of whether people use facilities.</p> <p>The standard has been set at a 15-minute walk time as this is the distance that 75% of respondents would be willing to walk up to. A lower accessibility standard could be justified on the basis of current users travel patterns – with most users travelling less than 10 minutes to access a Local Park. However, PPG17 states that lower thresholds are only needed where there is clear evidence that a significant proportion of local people do not use existing provision because they regard it as inaccessible. Given the findings of the local consultation (which highlight the high levels of use at Local Parks) this could not be substantiated.</p> <p>Therefore a 15-minute walk time is recommended – albeit alongside measures designed to improve accessibility, such as improved public transport or cycling routes. This will be particularly important if targets to increase participation in physical activity are realised. Local Parks will play a key role in ensuring all sectors of the community have access to parks.</p>

Current provision - accessibility

- 4.13 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a detailed pro forma. The assessment takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of roads, paths and cycleways, whether there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.
- 4.14 The accessibility of existing parks and gardens in the City is summarised in Table 4.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted at a snapshot in time and may not always be reflective of the accessibility of the site throughout the year.

Table 4.2– Parks and gardens accessibility scores

Above upper quartile	80+	(90%) – Rowntree Park– Site ID 80 (80%) – Glen Gardens –Site ID 187 (80%) – Museum Gardens –Site ID 282
Median – Upper quartile	73.3%-79%	(76%) – Hull Road Park– Site ID 229 (73.3%) – Heslington Hall – Site ID 81 (73.3%) – West Bank Park –Site ID 277
Lower quartile – median	70%-73.2%	(70%) – St Georges Field – Site ID 402
Less than lower quartile	Below 70	(65%) – Clarence Gardens – Site ID 216 (53%) – Grounds of the Retreat – Site ID 835

4.15 The key issues emerging from Table 4.2 include:

- the median score achieved was 73.3%. Those sites scoring below the median accessibility score should be prioritised for improvement in order to achieve the standards set by those within the upper quartile
- the upper quartile score was 80%. The aspiration should be for providers of parks and gardens to deliver sites that achieve the upper quartile accessibility benchmark
- the lower quartile score was 70%.

Setting provision standards – quantity

4.16 The recommended local quantity standard for parks and gardens has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F.

Quantity Standard (see Appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard – City and Local Parks
35.40 hectares, equivalent to 0.18 ha per 1000 population	0.18 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Parks are very important to residents in York, with a large number of respondents to the household survey using them more than once a month (City Parks 31%, Local Parks 37%). Whilst the consultation has split parks and gardens into two separate tiers, it is recommended that the Council adopt a quantity standard based on the overall level of provision. This will provide a greater degree of flexibility in terms of providing parks that are suitable for that locality rather than strict adherence to separate standards for City and Local Parks.</p> <p>The current level of provision of parks and gardens is equivalent to 0.18 ha per 1,000 population in York. The clear message from respondents to the household survey is that the level of provision is currently about right (60% for City Parks and 46% for Local Parks). This suggests that there are limited expectations in terms of further provision. As a consequence, it is recommended that the Council adopt a standard equivalent to the current level of provision in York. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens but also address locational deficiencies in provision. The application of the quantity and accessibility standards should be undertaken alongside natural and semi natural provision and amenity green space (given their similar “informal open space function”). This will help with the prioritisation of quantitative increases.</p> <p>Moreover, given the population growth that will be experienced up to 2029, in addition to the provision of additional parks, it is important for the local authority to seek to enhance accessibility to existing parks – for example by improving routes to them.</p>	

Current quantity of provision

4.17 The provision of parks and gardens in the City is summarised in Table 4.3 overleaf.

Table 4.3 – Provision of parks and gardens in York

Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (0.18 hectares per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (0.18 hectares per 1000 population)
193,599	35.40	0.18	0.27	225,600	0.16	-5.57

4.18 The key issues emerging from Table 4.3 include:

- the local quantity standard has been set at the existing level of provision, meaning that when taking into account the amount of parks and gardens and the population, the level of provision is sufficient at the current time
- leading into 2029, as population figures rise, the overall position moves to an undersupply of -5.57 hectares, unless there is further provision made to meet to local standard of 0.18 hectares per 1000 population.

Setting provision standards – quality

4.19 The recommended local quality vision for parks and gardens has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.

4.20 Given the distinctly different nature of City Parks and Local Parks it is recommended that separate quality visions be supported.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – CITY PARKS
<p><i>“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility which is safe and accessible to all and has a range of facilities and other types of open space within it. City Parks should be attractive, well designed and maintained, providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees, adequate lighting and other appropriate safety features, as well as suitable ancillary accommodation (including seating, toilets, litter bins and play facilities). Sites should promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage and provide links to the surrounding green infrastructure”</i></p>
<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). The quality vision makes reference to other types of open space within it, recognising the multifunctionality of parks.</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of parks across the City it is important that the Council implement and strive to achieve a quality standard that will ensure consistency and high quality provision. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained parks are key elements of good urban design and are fundamentally important in delivering places in which people want to live. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Museum Gardens should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks. Many consultees highlighted the importance of good quality park provision in encouraging residents and visitors to use parks in the City.</p> <p>One of the most significant issues regarding the quality of City Parks appears to be the mis-use of sites, with 25% of respondents to the household survey stating it was a “significant problem”. Therefore the achievement of the quality vision will be galvanised by the provision of bespoke sites for children and young people.</p>

Recommended standard – LOCAL PARKS
<p><i>"All Local Parks should be a facility serving the immediate needs of local people for active recreation. They should provide a welcoming, clean and litter free environment. Maintenance should focus on providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees and encourage wildlife to flourish with the use of varied vegetation through appropriate management. Community Leisure Officers should work with other organisations and the community to provide a hub of interest, activities and local events. Good quality and appropriate ancillary facilities (play areas, litter-bins, dog-bins and benches) should be provided to encourage greater use. "</i></p>
<p>A commonly expressed view of residents through the local consultation is that the quality of Local Parks across York is average (44%). A quality standard has been devised which reflects both concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG17) and also the Green Flag Award criteria. Particularly important factors to arise from the local consultation that are included within the quality vision are well kept grass, clean and litter free, litter bins, flowers and trees and toilets. Explicit reference is not made to specific play opportunities to be included within the site (such as LEAPs, playing pitches and ball games area) as it is considered that the nature of provision is dependent on the size of the site and other facilities available in the area – therefore reference to active recreation is intended to provide a greater degree of flexibility.</p> <p>The importance of Local Parks is highlighted by the fact that they are one of the most frequently used typologies of open space. Therefore the achievement of a quality standard should be considered as one of the highest priorities for the Council. This focus on the achievement of the quality vision should be given more weight in light of the fact that it is widely felt (by 49%) that the level of provision of Local Park sites across York is about right/more than enough, suggesting that the emphasis should be on improving existing sites. Residents' perception of quality and quantity are interlinked with quality improvements often mitigating the need for new provision.</p>

Quality benchmarking

- 4.21 The calculation of the upper quartile quality score (84% on the site assessment for parks and gardens) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City (set out in Table 4.4). It highlights sites that currently meet the visionary standard and those sites falling below and consequently where improvement is required. A full list of site scores can be found in Appendix D.

Table 4.4 – Parks and gardens quality scores

Above upper quartile	85+	(90%) – Rowntree Park –Site ID 80 (86%) – Glen Gardens – Site ID 187
Median – Upper quartile	80%-84%	(84%) – Museum Gardens– Site ID 282 (82%) – West Bank Park - Site ID 277 (80%) – Heslington Hall – Site ID 81
Lower quartile – median	70%-79%	(78%) – Grounds of “The Retreat” –Site 835 (70%) - Clarence Gardens– Site ID 216
Less than lower quartile	Below 70	(64%) – Hull Road Park –Site ID 229 (62%) - St Georges Field –Site ID 402

4.22 The key issues emerging from Table 4.4 include:

- the average score of parks and gardens within York is 77%, showing that generally the quality of parks and gardens within the City is good. Rowntree Park and Glen Gardens achieved scores within the upper quartile or top 25th percentile. Both of these sites currently have Green Flag Awards
- with a score of 90%, Rowntree Park is considered to be a good/very good and should be considered to be an example of good practice
- high quality sites, especially sites achieving the upper quartile score of 86% should be protected, specifically if they have high/significant usage. The aspiration should be for all parks and gardens to fall within this category and achieve the quality vision.

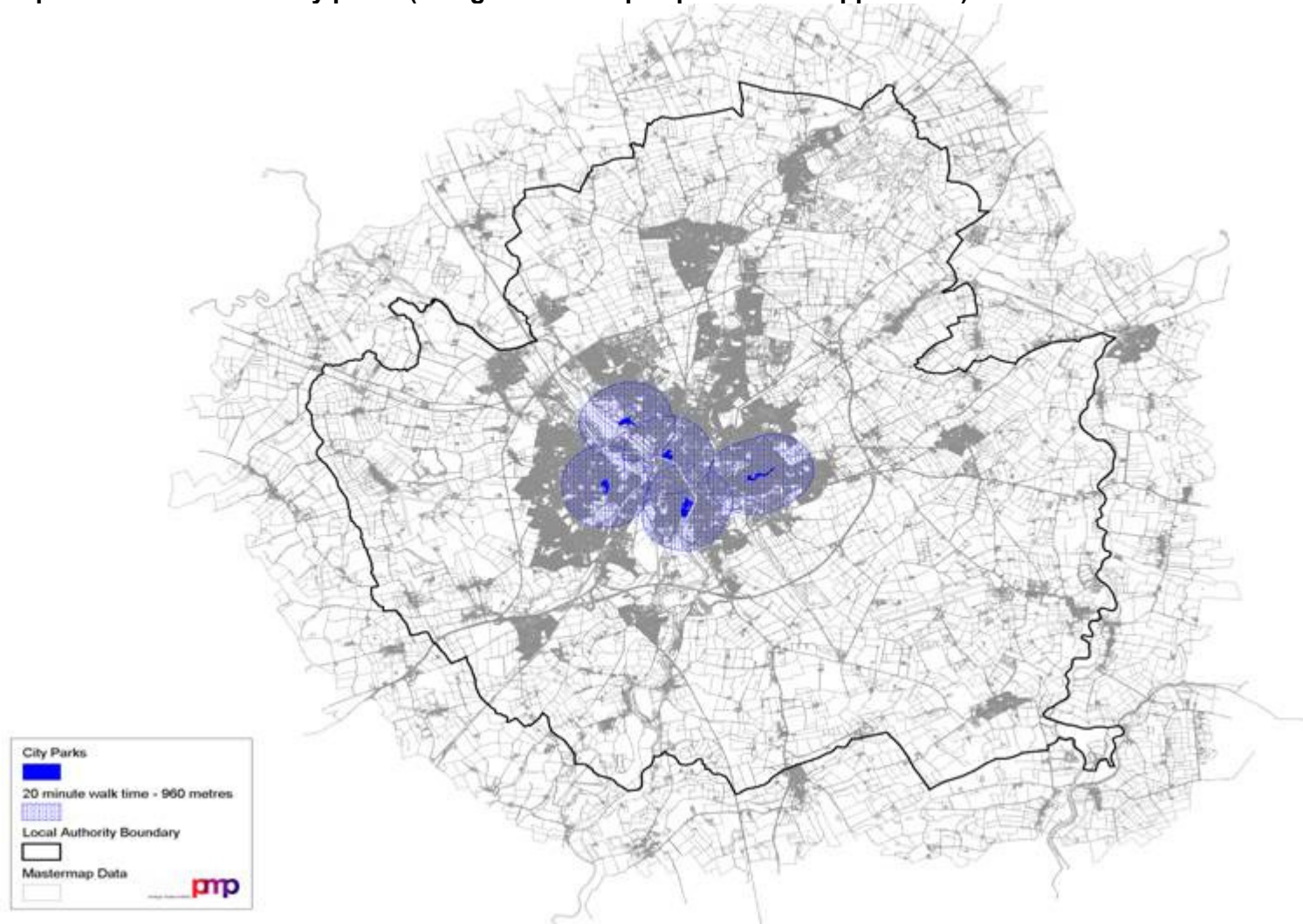
Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

4.23 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision of parks and gardens in York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

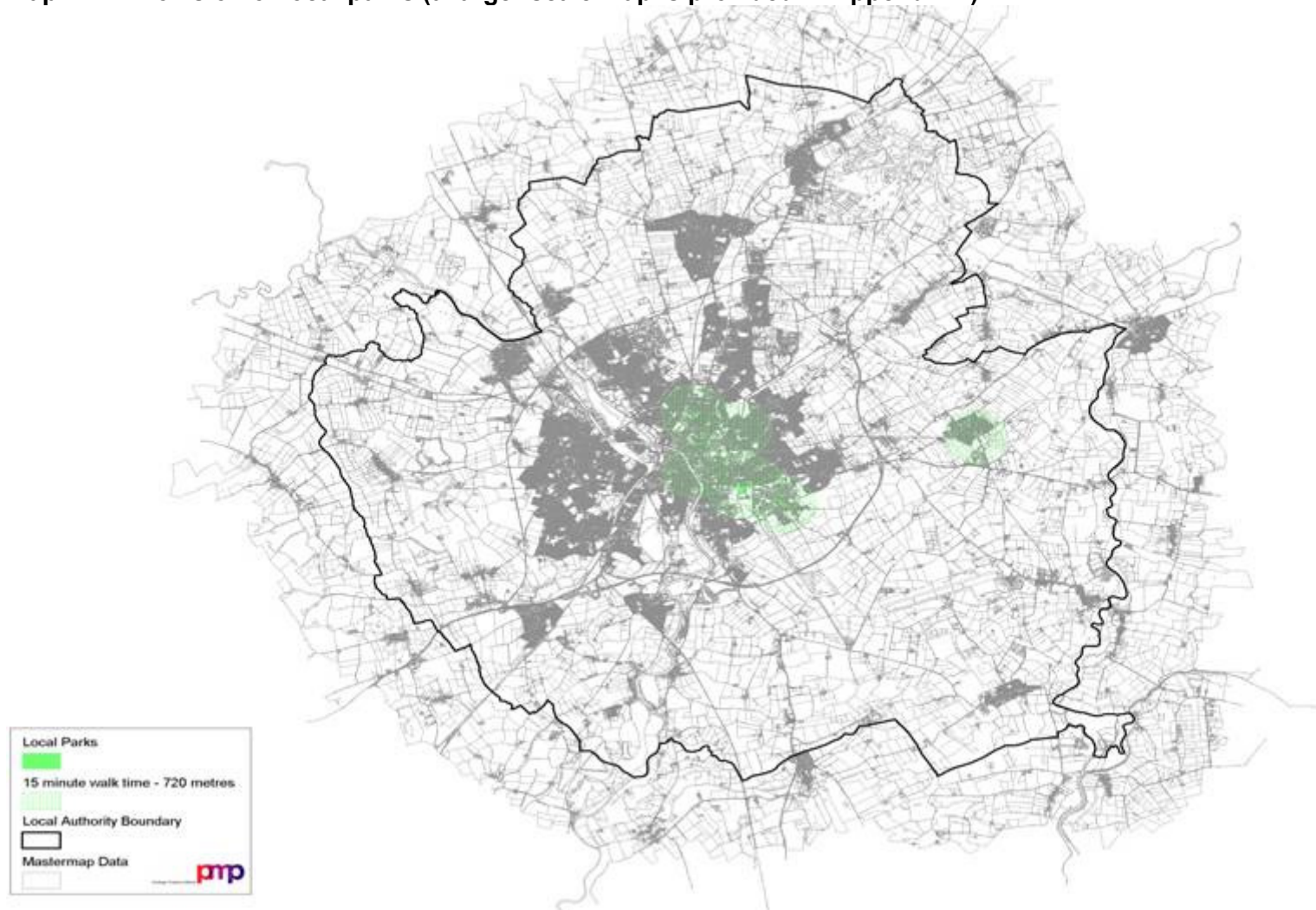
- 4.24 As highlighted, the local quantity standard has been set at the existing level of provision. While the overall quantity of parks and gardens therefore meets the existing quantity standard, population increases in future years will see this transformed into a shortfall. The application of the accessibility standards will guide where in the City deficiencies of parks exist.
- 4.25 As Map 4.1 (overleaf) illustrates, the provision of City Parks are focused around the urban area and there are no sites located within the outlying settlements. When applying the local accessibility standard it can be seen that there is a reasonably good distribution, with only a marginal overlap. The outer parts of the York urban area are not well served. However, it is important to also consider the role that amenity and natural and semi natural green spaces may play in fulfilling the roles of parks in areas not within the accessibility standards set.
- 4.26 Map 4.2 (overleaf) provides information relating to local parks, from this it can be seen that there is an even distribution when applying the local accessibility standard. However, it is clear that local parks are predominantly concentrated centrally and to the south east of the City.
- 4.27 While this overview assessment considers the distribution of sites and the catchment areas that they serve, more detailed site specific analysis should also consider the impact of natural boundaries in more detail. The text that follows references these natural boundaries where appropriate and considers where new parks may be required.

Map 4.1 – Provision of City parks (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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Map 4.2 – Provision of local parks (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.28 While consultation highlighted the importance of the provision of parks, it was clear that the emphasis was placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites. Rowntree Park and Museum Gardens were perceived to be examples of good practice.
- 4.29 The recommended local standard highlights the importance of attractive, well designed and well maintained parks, which are in keeping with the local area and meet the needs of local residents.

PG1	Strive to mirror the high standard of Rowntree Park and Museum Gardens at parks across the City through a programme of ongoing investment. Sites should be enhanced in line with the quality visions, taking into account the needs of both humans and wildlife.
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- 4.30 It is evident that there is significant interest and community involvement across the City of York, particularly in the provision of parks and natural and semi natural open spaces. Partnership working with such groups offers the opportunity to capitalise upon a variety of skills and ensure that parks are a hub of interest, activities and local events. Misuse of facilities within parks was also highlighted as a significant issue within the household survey. Community involvement (alongside the appropriate provision of facilities for young people to be addressed in Section 8) can help to create a culture of respect.

PG2	Continue to promote partnership working and management across the parks in York.
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- 4.31 Alongside the quality of provision, access to parks is also an extremely important feature. As highlighted during the consultation, parks are perceived to be a key point of the green infrastructure of the City and they are predominantly located within the urban area. As such, safe and effective sustainable transport routes will be essential in both increasing usage of parks and creating linkages between different open space types. Effective linkages between parks and local residents will be particularly important where there are natural barriers restricting localised access.

PG3	Maximise links to, between and within parks through the effective development of footpaths, cycle routes and public transport.
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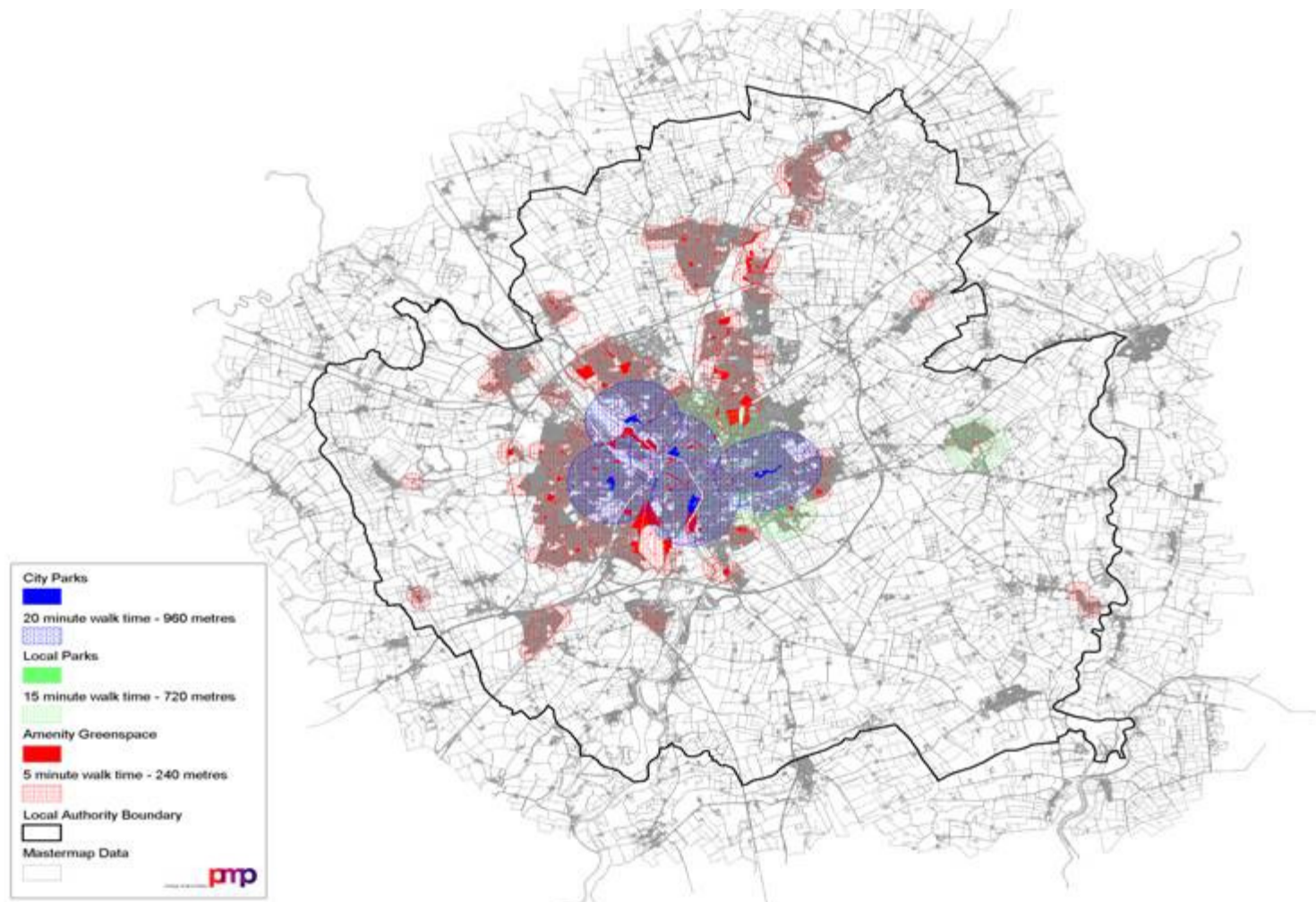
- 4.32 While enhancing quality and access to parks remains the key priority across York, the importance of local provision was emphasised throughout the consultation process. Consideration has therefore been given to the location of existing facilities and gaps within the current infrastructure.
- 4.33 Any new facilities should be targeted in locations that are currently lacking in provision. Moreover, in order to ensure that the maximum number of residents are within the accessibility catchment of parks and gardens, any new site should preferably be located where there is no overlap with the catchment of existing parks.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.34 Map 4.3 overleaf illustrates the provision of parks in the context of amenity green space in the area. The presence of amenity green space in areas deficient of parks provides an opportunity to formalise these spaces and therefore better meet the needs of local residents. As parks are a higher order facility, the provision of parks (and access to parks for local residents) is more important than amenity green space.
- 4.35 Where parks are provided within a 5 minute catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity green space – set in Section 6) they may negate the need for further provision of amenity green space (as a higher order facility they provide a greater range of facilities). This is discussed in greater detail within Section 6.
- 4.36 Similar to amenity green spaces, natural and semi natural open spaces may help fulfil the role of a park in areas where there is no formal park provision. There is a good spread of natural and semi natural open space across the City, with all residents within the catchment area of at least one site. The presence of natural and semi natural open space does not negate the need for a park, but areas without any type of provision should be a higher priority for new provision.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Map 4.3 - Provision of parks in the context of amenity green space (larger scale map provided in Appendix L)

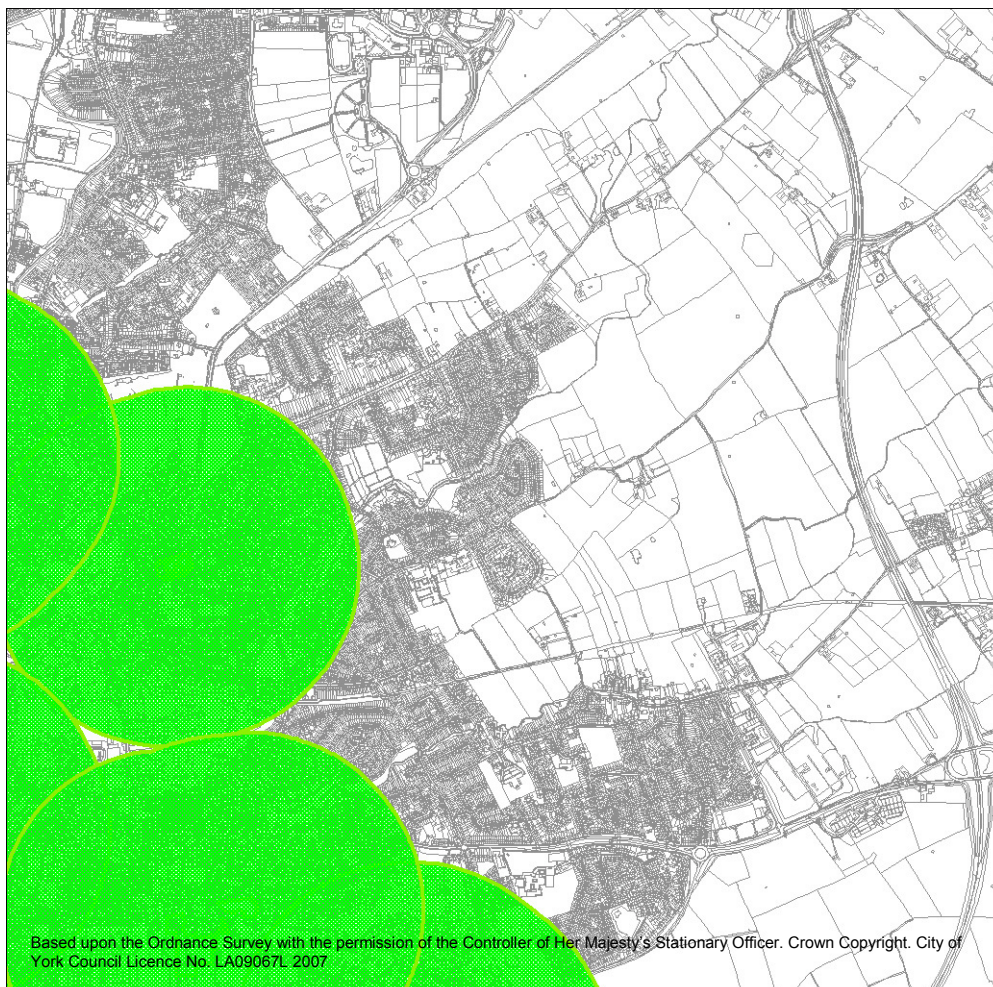


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SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.37 As illustrated on Map 4.1, City Parks are evenly distributed across the central urban area of the City. This means that a large proportion of residents are within the recommended catchment area of a City Park.
- 4.38 Museum Gardens is centrally located, meeting the needs of both residents in the City centre and visitors. Rowntree Park is also located on the periphery of the City Centre analysis area and therefore serves City centre residents and visitors as well as those living to the South of the urban area. Rowntree Park is accessible along the River or across the Millenium Bridge from the City centre. There are few natural barriers inhibiting access for residents to the south of the urban area although residents immediately to the East of the park will need to cross the River Ouse to reach the site. These residents are also near to Walmgate Stray.
- 4.39 Residents to the east and west of the City centre have good access to City parks, with Hull Road Park located in the east and West Bank Park in the west. Main roads may mean
- 4.40 Access to City parks is more limited to the north of the central area. The Homestead (which has more limited accessibility) is located in the north west and there is no City park to the north east. Glen Gardens, a local park meets this deficiency to some extent (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2 - Provision of local parks to the north east of the City



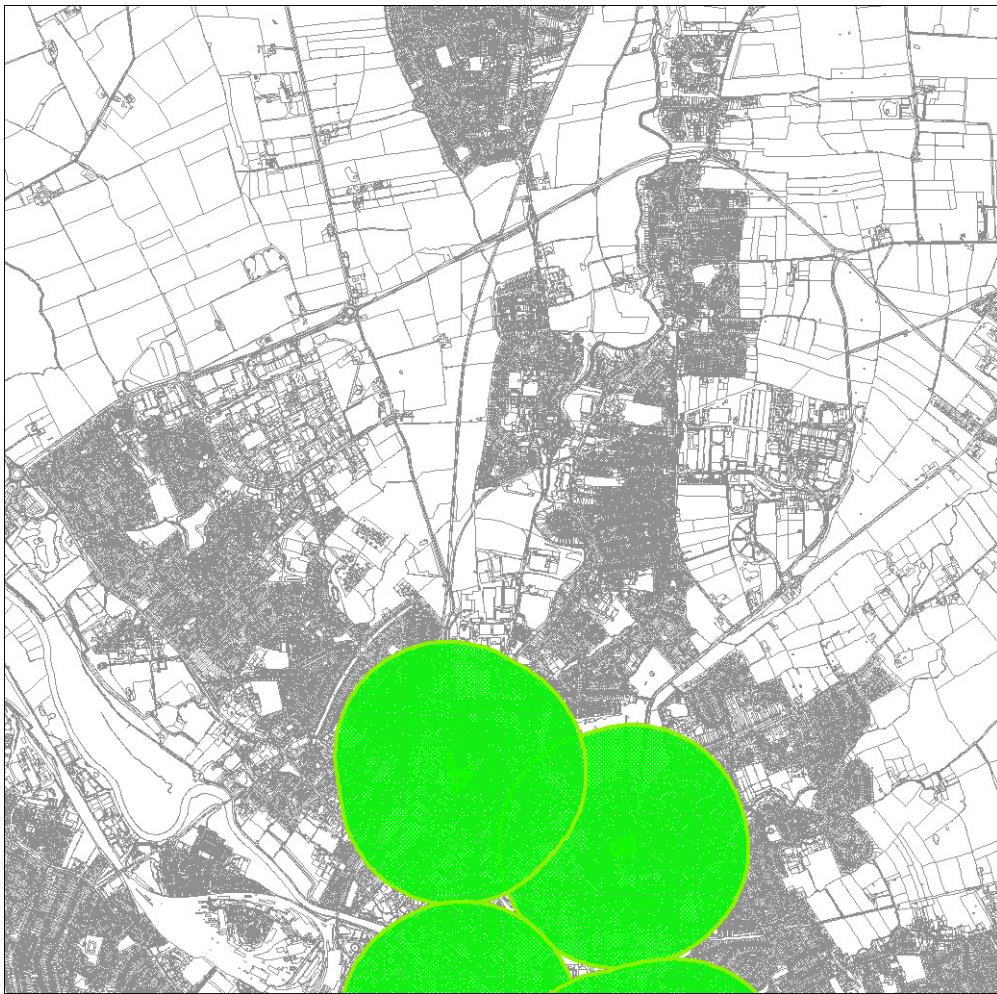
PG4	In light of the even distribution of City parks, all sites should be protected and where possible, investment should be directed into sites to enhance their quality. If a new City park was to be developed, this should be located in the north east of the City as a result of the particular lack of provision in this area.
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- 4.41 As displayed on Map 4.2, with the exception of Glen Gardens and Common Road Local Park (a small site located to the far east of the City), local parks primarily serve residents in the south east and are located in the vicinity of Hull Road Park. Consultations highlighted that these local parks provide an important resource ensuring that local facilities are available in close proximity to the home.

PG5	Ensure that local parks are protected and enhanced in quantitative and qualitative terms where appropriate.
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- 4.42 In addition to access to formal parks and gardens, small amenity areas and larger natural and semi natural open spaces provide other opportunities to residents within the urban area.
- 4.43 Despite an even provision of parks in the City centre and central urban areas it is clear that people living on the outskirts of the urban area have limited access to parks. These areas are illustrated in Figures 4.3 and 4.4. The quantity of parks in these areas is not sufficient to meet the needs of the resident population. Map 4.3 clearly demonstrates the role of amenity green space in areas (particularly around the Clifton, Acombe and Woodthorpe areas of the City) where residents do not have access to formal parks and gardens. As well as reinforcing the role of amenity space, this also further emphasises the importance of maintaining access to the lngs and the strays, which provide opportunities for informal recreation in lieu of parks. The presence of these sites does not necessarily negate the need for parks. Local provision in the outlying urban areas is particularly important in light of the number of residents that live there and the type of housing provided.

Figure 4.3 - Residents in the to the east of the urban area outside the catchment of a park



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Figure 4.4 - Residents to the West of the urban area outside the catchment of a park



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PG6	Consider the provision of small local parks in urban areas currently devoid of parks. This may be delivered by upgrading amenity green spaces.
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- 4.44 Further comments surrounding this can also be found within the amenity green space chapter and recommendations AGS5 and AGS6.
- 4.45 While provision of local parks in smaller settlements would be impractical, where possible efforts should be made to ensure that residents have access to a form of park. With the exception of Common Road Local Park situated in Dunnington, parks are located solely within the urban area, therefore residents living within smaller settlements are outside of the catchment of a local facility and there is limited provision in quantitative terms.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.46 As a result, development of small local parks should be considered in some of the larger settlements where access to parks in the area is more limited and there are sufficient residents to sustain a park. Larger settlements include Wigginton, Huntington, Nether and Upper Poppleton and Wheldrake.
- 4.47 Consideration could be given to the provision of pocket parks in these areas. Pocket parks are open spaces managed and run by local people. They provide a formal space dedicated to informal recreation as well as the protection of wildlife and landscape. Many pocket parks are informal natural areas and there are therefore strong links with the natural open space typology. Provision of a pocket park may be of particular value in settlements to the south of the urban area, where there is currently a shortfall of provision of natural and semi natural open space.

PG7	Consider opportunities to facilitate the development of small local parks (eg Pocket Parks) in the smaller settlements. In particular consideration should be given to the provision of parks in larger settlements, including Wigginton, Huntington, Nether and Upper Poppleton and Wheldrake.
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Summary

- 4.48 Parks and gardens were perceived to be particularly important to local residents across York and were one of the most frequently used types of open space by both residents and visitors. Visitors commented how the parks in the central area add to the character and heritage of the City.
- 4.49 The quality of parks and gardens is consistently high and Museum Gardens and Rowntree Park were highlighted as examples of good practice.
- 4.50 Consultations highlight the importance of maintaining and enhancing the quality and accessibility of parks, and the recommended standards prioritise these elements over additional provision.
- 4.51 Despite this, application of the accessibility standards highlight that parks are predominantly focused in the central urban area. There are therefore some residents on the edge of the urban areas (both to the east and west who do not have local access to parks. In light of the expectations expressed by residents that parks should be in close proximity to the home, consideration has been given to areas where opportunities for new provision should be considered. This may involve the creation of pocket parks in the more rural settlements of the City.
- 4.52 In planning for the growth of York to 2029, opportunities should be considered to provide new parks and amenity green spaces as part of major new residential area, particularly where a deficiency in either quantity, accessibility, or both has been identified in this study.

PG8	Consider opportunities to meet current deficiencies as well as meeting future needs when planning major residential areas to meet housing needs to 2029, as part of the Local Development Framework.
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4.53 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of parks and gardens in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:

- mirror the high standard of Rowntree Park and Museum Gardens at parks across the City through a programme of ongoing investment. Sites should be enhanced in line with the quality visions, taking into account the needs of both humans and wildlife
- continue to promote partnership working and management across the parks in York
- maximise links to, between and within parks through the effective development of footpaths, cycle routes and public transport. The impact of natural boundaries should also be considered when planning new routes
- protect all City parks and where possible, investment should be directed into sites to enhance their quality. If a new City park was to be developed, this should be located in the north east of the City
- ensure that local parks are protected and enhanced in quantitative and qualitative terms where appropriate
- consider the provision of small local parks in urban areas currently devoid of parks. This may be delivered by upgrading amenity green spaces. The Acomb and Woodthorpe area of the City is a particular example
- consider opportunities to facilitate the development of small local parks (e.g. Pocket Parks) in the smaller settlements. In particular consideration should be given to the provision of parks within Wigginton, Huntington, Nether and Upper Poppleton and Wheldrake
- identify opportunities to meet current deficiencies as well as meeting future needs when planning major residential areas to meet housing needs to 2029, as part of the Local Development Framework.

SECTION 5

NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL PROVISION

Natural and semi natural provision

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 biodiversity within the settlement boundaries. In some instances there may be some sites classified as amenity green space that also provide a natural and semi natural type of provision. This is a reflection of the overlap between typologies.
- 5.2 Larger sites that sit outside of settlement boundaries have not been audited and considered within the quality of provision, however they are important sites and this has been recognised within the report, particularly sites that can alleviate natural and semi natural deficiencies. In addition, section 12 considers the role that accessible countryside plays in meeting the needs of residents. The presence of accessible countryside may also alleviate deficiencies in natural and semi natural open spaces.
- 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 have a similar function to that of amenity green space and parks and gardens.
- 5.4 This section outlines the strategic context and key consultation findings relating to natural and semi natural open space and summarises the recommended local standards, along with the key findings emerging from the application of the local standards.

Figure 5.1 – Land at Lords Moor Lane, Strensall



Table 5.1 – Regional and local strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy May 2008</p>	<p>Policy ENV8 “Biodiversity” is particularly relevant to this study. It states that the region will safeguard and enhance the historic environment, and ensure that historical context informs future development and regeneration.</p> <p>All development strategies, plans, programmes and decisions in the Region will conserve distinctive elements of the historic environment and enhance local character and distinctiveness in line with heritage priority areas of regional, sub regional and local cultural and historical importance.</p>	<p>The application of the local standards for natural and semi natural provision contained within the study will ensure an appropriate balance between further provision and enhancement of existing provision.</p>
<p>City of York Development Control Local Plan</p>	<p>Policies NE1 to NE7 consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the City and ensure that there is balanced consideration given to nature conservation against the need for development. The plan states that considerable weight will be given to the protection of designated sites.</p> <p>Policy NE2 prevents development where it is deemed that it would be harmful to river corridors or wetlands. Likewise, policy NE5a prevents development which may be harmful to designated local nature reserves. Policy NE8 specifically protects green corridors from development.</p>	<p>The Council’s commitment to providing these types of spaces is evident through the policies contained within the Local Plan.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to utilising other spaces, such as parks to provide wildlife and natural areas. This will be considered within the individual typology sections for parks and amenity greenspaces.</p>

Consultation

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

- natural and semi natural open space is very popular with residents of York with 54% of respondents stating that they visit this typology more than once a month
- based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of natural and semi natural provision in York. In total, 50% of the population stated that there is more than enough/about the right amount of natural and semi natural areas within the City while 43.4% stated that there was nearly enough/not enough
- while many attendees at the workshops expressed opinions about the value of natural and semi natural sites, the underlying theme of these discussions related to a desire for increased emphasis on the quality and value of existing sites, rather than on the development of new areas
- 43% of respondents to the household survey felt that the quality of sites was good, 44% indicated these open spaces were average and the remaining 12% felt that the quality of sites was poor
- Askham Bog was perceived to be high quality and well valued by local residents. Hob Moor was also reported to be well used and contains good quality paths
- the household survey reveals that 62% of people would **expect** to walk to natural and semi natural areas in York, as opposed to only 20% who would expect to drive. Of those users who visit natural and semi natural open spaces more often than any other typology in the study, 72% **currently** walk and only 20% use cars
- there was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that enough is done to advertise the available opportunities – particularly in relation to biodiversity and play provision. Other views expressed include a lack of access to river corridors, which are considered to be under used and under developed. Ensuring continued access to these sites was very important – even in situations where river development was permitted.

Setting provision standards

5.6 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 5.7 The recommended local accessibility standard for natural and semi natural open space has been summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standard
15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 metres)
Justification
<p>The local consultation serves to highlight the split in opinion regarding whether natural and semi natural sites should be accessed by walking or driving. (20% of respondents would travel by car, whilst 62% of people stated that they would travel by foot). To a certain extent, this will relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality.</p> <p>A drive time standard would produce a significantly larger distance threshold than a walk time standard. PPG17 states that higher thresholds may be appropriate if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to allow lower thresholds to be achievable, but can result in levels of provision that are too low and may not meet some local needs. In the context of the local consultation findings regarding the quantity of provision (28% think that there is not enough as opposed to only 6% who think there is more than enough) and given the importance of facilitating everyday contact with nature, a standard based on a walk time is recommended as this will help to improve access to local natural and semi natural spaces.</p> <p>An assessment of the 75% threshold level Citywide suggests that residents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to a natural and semi natural open space. Given the high levels of agreement from respondents to the household survey regarding the appropriateness of a 15-minute walk time, it is recommended that the standard is set at this level.</p>

Current provision - accessibility

- 5.8 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a detailed pro forma. The assessment takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of roads, paths and cycleways, whether there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.
- 5.9 The accessibility of existing natural and semi natural open space in the City is summarised in Table 5.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted at a snapshot in time and may not always be reflective of the accessibility of the site throughout the year.
- 5.10 Based on the accessibility scores obtained, the upper quartile score was 60%. The mean was 53.3%, and the low quartile was 43.3%.

Table 5.2 – Selection of accessibility assessments results for natural and semi natural areas

Above upper quartile	60+	(70%) - Nether Poppleton Markfields - Site ID 652 (63%) - Burnholme Drive Natural and Semi Natural– Site ID 184
Median – Upper quartile	53%-59%	(53%) – Walmgate Stray– Site ID 552 (53%) – Lakeside Gardens Natural and Semi Natural –Site ID 806
Lower quartile - median	43%-52%	(50%) – Ash Walk Natural and Semi Natural –Site ID 744 (43%) - NSN to east of Strensall – Site ID 903
Less than lower quartile	Below 43	(40%) - Land opposite the Tannery –Site ID 144 (37%) – Natural and Semi Natural by River Foss –Site ID 811

5.11 The key issues emerging from Table 5.5 and the site assessments include:

- Bootham Stray obtained the highest accessibility score of all the sites assessed (80%), and can be considered to be an example of good practice
- two sites scored below 40%. A space that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore may be of little value, irrespective of its quality. For example the natural and semi natural open space next to the River Foss achieved a quality score of 88% (the highest of all sites), but scored very low in terms of accessibility.

Setting provision standards – quantity

5.12 The recommended local quantity standard for natural and semi natural spaces has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F.

Quantity Standard (see Appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
2.11 hectares per 1000.	2.11 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Current provision across York is equivalent to 2.11 hectares per 1000 population. The spread of natural and semi natural provision about the City varies and it can be seen that provision is significantly higher outside of the main urban areas. In light of the emphasis on improving the quality of existing provision, the standard is set at the existing level of provision.</p> <p>The overall split in opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is perhaps representative of the uneven distribution of natural and semi natural open space. The recommended standard takes into account the differences in the current level of provision across the City and the different expectations of residents.</p> <p>The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard (where there is a localised surplus of that typology). This standard should be considered a minimum level of provision.</p>	

Current quantity of provision

5.13 The provision of natural and semi natural green space in the City is summarised in Table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3 – Provision of natural and semi natural open space in York

Current Provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (Hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (2.11 hectares per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (2.10 hectares per 1000 population)
408.96	74	0.07	43.36	2.11	0.47	225,600	1.80	-67.06

5.14 The key issues emerging from Table 5.3 include:

- there are currently 74 natural and semi natural open spaces in York. The overall level of provision equals 408.96 hectares, producing an average size of 5.58 hectares per open space. The size of sites ranges significantly – with some sites equivalent to 0.07 hectares whilst others are far larger pieces of land, up to 43.36 hectares. To a large extent this can be explained by the broad nature of this typology

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- while the current level of provision is sufficient to meet the minimum local standard, by 2029, additional natural and semi natural open space will be required.
- 5.15 The provision of additional natural and semi natural open space (as defined in paragraph 5.1) may not be possible in densely developed or very urban Wards and in this case attention should be given to improving accessibility to this type of open space further afield. This will be returned to later.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 5.16 The recommended local quality vision for natural and semi natural open space has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE
<i>“A clean and litter free site with clear and obvious pathways that provide opportunities to link other open spaces together and where appropriate link to the outlying countryside. Sites should encourage wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness and contain appropriate natural features. Litterbins, dog bins, benches and picnic areas should be provided where possible and there should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, whilst ensuring public access. Community involvement through management, maintenance and promotion of these sites should be maximised.”</i>
<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural areas value these sites for their recreational value, (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) indicating that ancillary facilities will be an important quality feature of this type of open space. Clear footpaths and appropriate management of vegetation are specific issues to be addressed at these sites and this has been reflected in the quality vision.</p> <p>The main issues identified through local consultations centre around litter and dog fouling and this is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free. Natural and semi natural green spaces are one of the more commonly used green space typologies of residents in York (as indicated in the household survey). As a consequence, the need to balance recreation and wildlife needs is reflected within the vision ensuring that quality is maintained while providing access. There is also a need to maintain and improve the biodiversity and wildlife value of all open space sites. This was a key finding of the workshops.</p> <p>The standard also incorporates aspirations for safe, clean and functional natural open spaces that are well used and promoted for their conservation and educational benefits. To facilitate the management of sites the vision suggests the involvement of and consultation with the local community. The Green Flag Criteria represent a key national benchmark of quality for natural sites and the key elements of this standard are therefore also included within the proposed vision.</p>

Current provision - quality

- 5.17 The quality of existing natural and semi natural open space in the City is summarised in Table 5.5. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted at a snap shot in time and may not always be reflective of the quality of the site.
- 5.18 The application of the 25th percentile standard (set at a score of 66% on the site assessment for natural and semi natural open space) provides an indication of the desired level of quality suggested at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City. Those sites falling below are consequently where improvement is required. The median score obtained was 60%, and the lower quartile was 54%. A full list of site scores can be found in the natural and semi natural section of Appendix D.

Table 5.5 – Selection of quality assessment results for natural and semi-natural provision

Above upper quartile	66+	(88%) – Natural area by River Foss –Site ID 811 (80%) – Askham Bog Nature Reserve – Site ID 124
Median – Upper quartile	60%-65%	(64%) - Land Off Beech Grove –Site ID 267 (60%) - Burnholme Drive Natural area – Site ID 184
Lower quartile - median	55%-59%	(56%) - Tang Hall Beck –Site ID 183 (56%) – Caroline Close Natural area –Site ID 693
Less than lower quartile	Below 54	(50%) – Natural area to East of Strensall – Site ID 903 (50%) – Natural area off Westfield Place – Site ID 837

- 5.19 The key issues emerging from Table 5.5 and the site assessments include:
- several sites scored extremely highly (including Askham Bog – Site ID 124) and can be considered to be examples of good practice
 - the aspiration should be for all natural and semi natural areas to achieve the score required currently to fall within the upper quartile category and achieve the quality vision
 - sites considered to be of high quality but with no or low/insignificant usage should be investigated further. Three sites achieved a score of below 50%.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

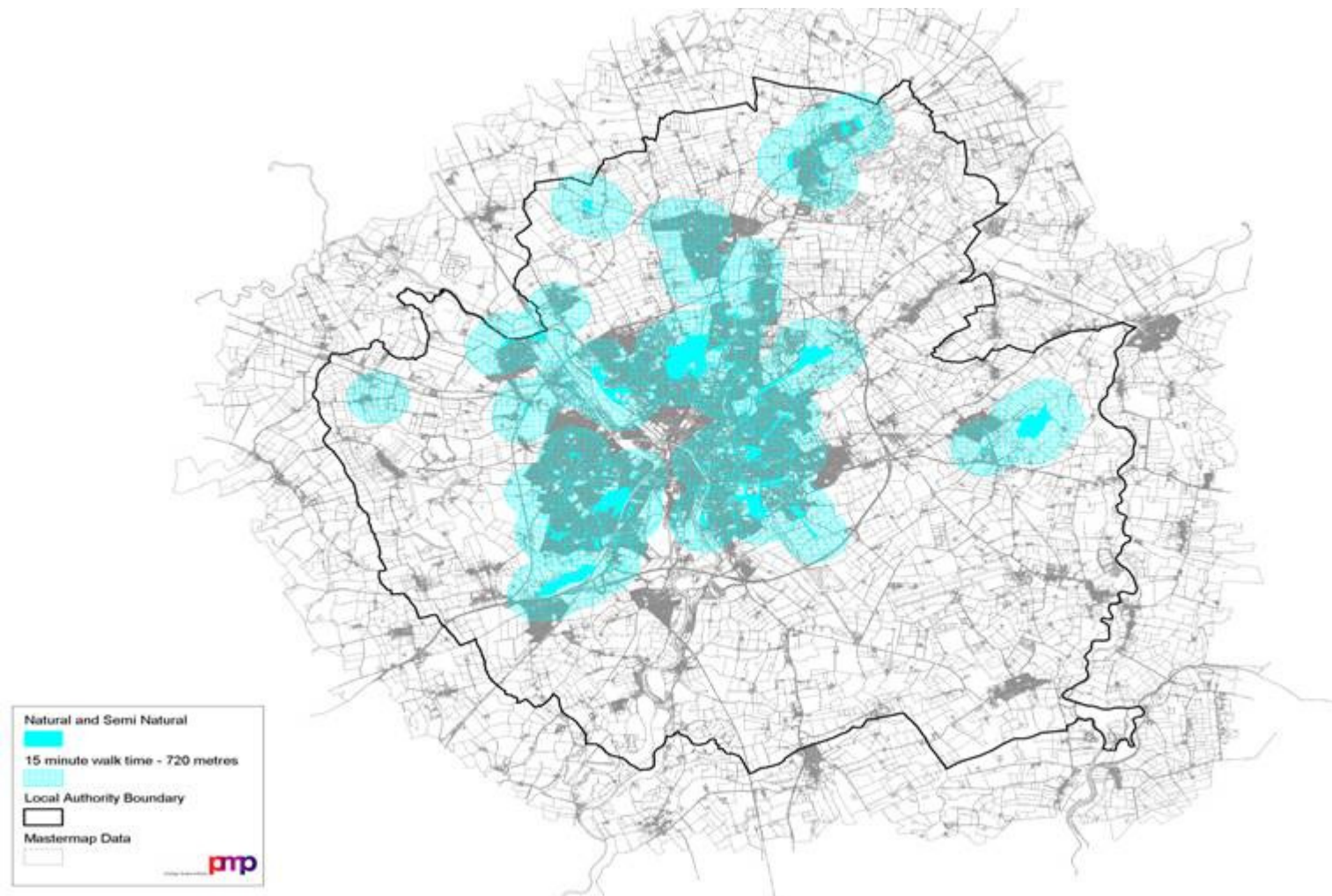
- 5.20 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with unmet demand the quantitative provision of natural and semi natural open spaces in York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. The quantity standards enable the identification of 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.
- 5.21 Application of the local quantity standards highlights significant variations in the amount of provision across the City. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the level of provision in the urban areas compares unfavourably to that in the more rural settlements. Moreover, residents in the rural settlements are also in close proximity to the natural countryside. Many residents in these areas highlighted the importance of the nearby countryside and the recreational opportunities that these sites offer.
- 5.22 Map 5.1 overleaf illustrates the distribution of natural and semi natural open spaces across York. Although only sites falling within or adjacent to settlement boundaries are considered, it is important to also consider the role of larger strategic sites located in the green belt. Sites categorised into other typologies may also contain some element of natural and semi natural open space.
- 5.23 In addition to local natural and semi natural open spaces there is also an array of larger strategic sites across the City. While these sites may not necessarily serve local needs within the walk time catchment, they complement the provision within settlements and ensure that residents have choice and opportunity. Larger sites can be of particular strategic significance and may attract visitors from a wider catchment area. Such sites include the strays. In many instances, these sites fulfil a wider strategic role, meeting informal recreational needs across all areas of the City. Areas of accessible countryside located on the urban fringe also have a similar role.

NSN1	Protect sites of strategic importance across the City and ensure ongoing access to these sites for residents.
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- 5.24 It is evident that there is significant interest and community involvement across the City of York, particularly in the provision of parks and natural and semi natural open spaces. Wheatlands Educational and Community woodland is an excellent example of a successful natural and semi natural open space. Partnership working with such groups offers the opportunity to capitalise upon a variety of skills. The Wheatlands Community and Education Centre also educates residents on biodiversity and wider conservation issues.

NSN 2	Continue to promote partnership working and management across the natural and semi natural open spaces in York.
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Map 5.1- Provision of natural and semi natural open space (a large scale map is provided in Appendix L).



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SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 5.25 Map 5.1 indicates that there is an even distribution of natural and semi natural open spaces across the City, and the majority of residents are able to access at least one site. This was reflected in the consultation, where the key emphasis was on the enhancement of the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces.
- 5.26 Improvements to 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. Many participants in consultations considered this to be imperative. The typologies set out in PPG17 (and therefore used in this study) primarily focus on open spaces used for recreational purposes. There are many other sites across the City that do not directly fit within these typologies but are of high significance and importance in terms of biodiversity and conservation of habitats. Although not directly included or referenced within this study the importance of these sites should not be ignored.

NSN3	Monitor the impact of recreational use on natural and semi natural open space sites and ensure that recreational opportunity is balanced with biodiversity.
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- 5.27 The importance of qualitative enhancements is reinforced by the findings of the site assessments, which suggest that the quality of natural areas across the City was wide ranging. Three sites achieved scores of below 50% and the range of site scores was between 50% and 88%.
- 5.28 The local quantity standard highlights the need for additional provision of natural and semi natural in areas that are currently deficient, but advocates a focus on the enhancement of the quality of sites in all other areas. In areas where there is already sufficient natural and semi natural open spaces, future efforts should therefore be concentrated into improvements to the quality of sites. The key areas of quantitative deficiency are located in the urban area.
- 5.29 While it is not expected that natural and semi natural open spaces will be managed in the same way as formal parks/amenity green spaces, they should be inviting and controlled. Site assessments highlighted that the quality of ancillary accommodation, alongside the cleanliness and maintenance of some sites were key areas for improvement.

NSN4	Consider opportunities for the enhancement of natural and semi natural open spaces both in terms of their recreational opportunities and maximising biodiversity as highlighted in NSN 3.
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- 5.30 Although 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. These deficiencies will grow over the Local Development Framework period (as population increases and new housing is required) and this should be considered as part of a Green Infrastructure and Green Spaces Strategy for the City. It is therefore essential to ensure adequate access to these sites in order to effectively meet local need. Site visits highlight that signage to natural sites is particularly poor. The entrance to sites is also frequently hidden.

NSN5	Maximise access to natural and semi natural open space sites by ensuring that entrances to sites are visible and that appropriate signage is provided.
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5.31 Within the rural areas of the City, accessible countryside provides much of the natural provision for residents. There are many residents living in rural villages outside of the recommended catchment area for natural and semi natural open space within their village and it is therefore essential to maximise the access to the countryside. Application of the quantity standards highlights that there is sufficient natural and semi natural open space to meet the needs of residents in quantitative terms due to the dispersed population. Access to the countryside therefore takes on greater importance in these areas.

5.32 New natural and semi natural open spaces can be particularly difficult to create. Maximising the positive value of Green Belt land (including better public access) in accordance with PPG2 could provide significant opportunities to maximise this type of provision to serve the outer urban areas of York and the villages beyond.

NSN6	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. This network should also link the City with smaller settlements.
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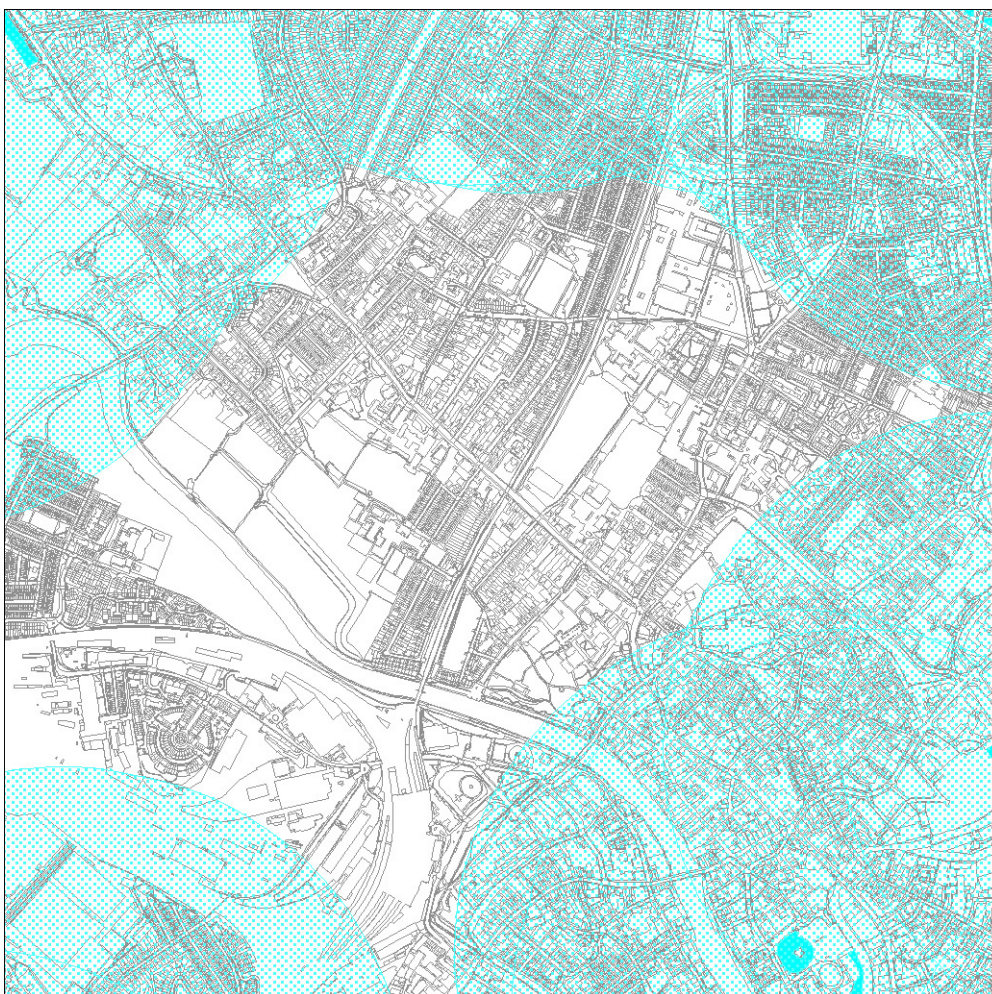
5.33 Provision of natural and semi natural open space in the urban areas of the City is a particular challenge. New provision should be targeted in localities that are currently devoid of natural and semi natural open space or areas where major new growth is concentrated through the LDF Core Strategy. In terms of the current breakdown in provision, there are shortfalls of natural open space in the City centre and in the urban areas surrounding the City centre. In some instances, these shortfalls may be addressed by providing access to existing natural resources.

5.34 Application of the quantity standard highlights high levels of deficiency to the east of the City based on the existing population, however analysis of the accessibility standard provides little evidence of this, highlighting few deficiencies. This suggests that sites are evenly distributed but small in size. Similarly there are quantitative deficiencies to the west of the City centre.

5.35 The largest areas of accessibility deficiency in the urban area are illustrated in Figures 5.2 and 5.3 overleaf. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a key area of deficiency is on the periphery of the City centre (see Figure 5.2). However, these residents are in close proximity to an area of accessible countryside site, Clifton Ings (see Section 12), which is of high recreational value to the local residents. Enhancing the access to this site may offset the need for additional provision of natural and semi natural open space. Ongoing development in these areas may provide the opportunity to deliver some areas of natural and semi natural open space.

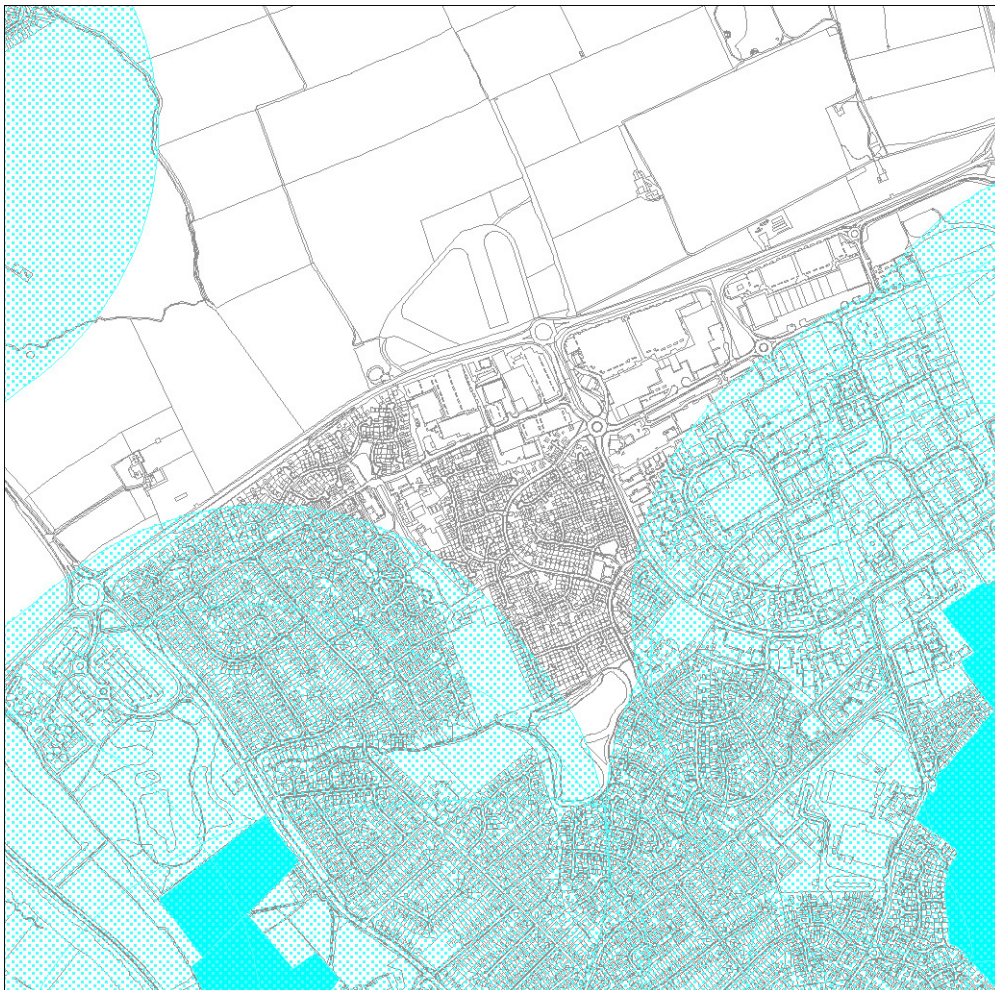
5.36 Similarly, residents in the Clifton area of the City (Figure 5.3) are outside of the catchment for natural and semi natural open space but are close to open countryside to the north and the amenity space at Clifton Backies. There is also a small area of accessibility deficiency in the Holgate area of the City (Figure 5.4) as well as in the Osbaldwick area on the eastern side of the City.

Figure 5.2 - Accessibility deficiency on the periphery of the City centre



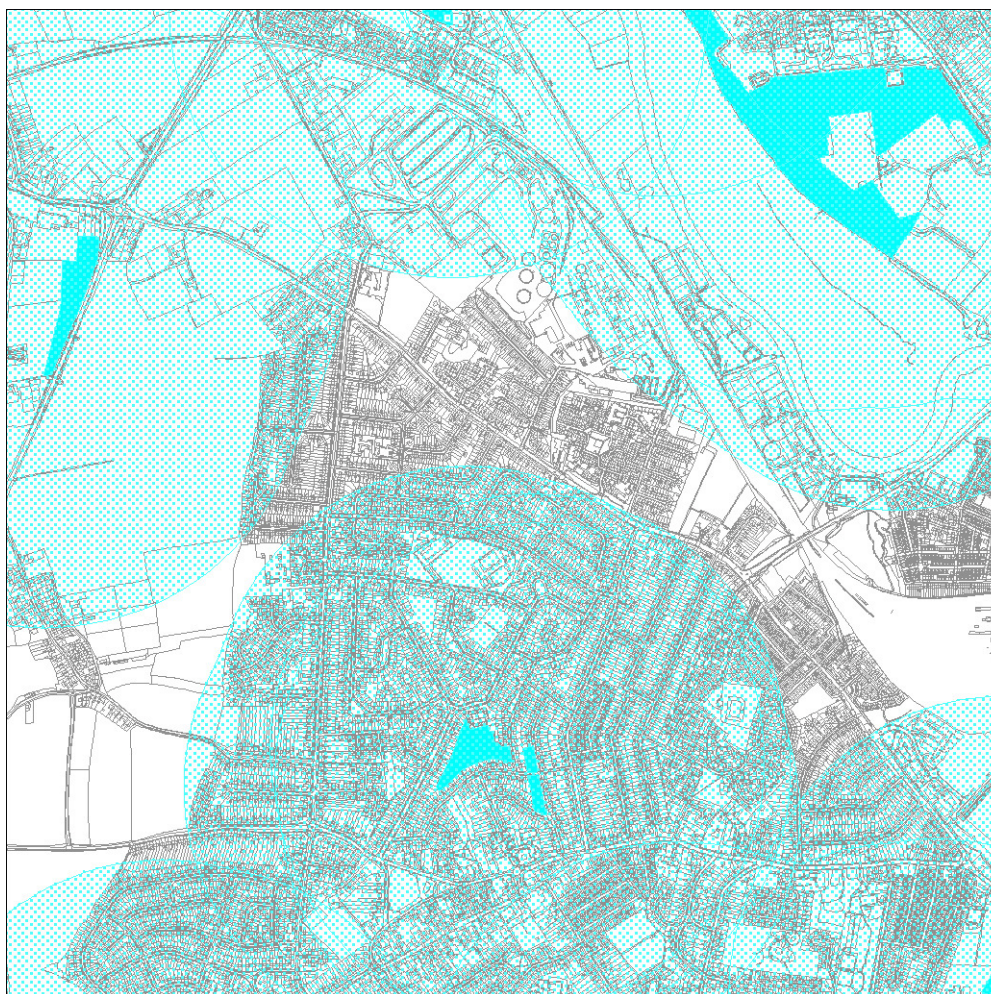
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Figure 5.3 - Accessibility deficiency within the Clifton area



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Figure 5.4 - Accessibility deficiency to the west of the City



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NSN7	<p>Consider opportunities to address the quantitative and access deficiencies to natural and semi natural open space within Osbaldwick, Clifton and central areas of the City. It is in these areas where the largest deficiencies are evident. This may involve new provision as well as increasing access to existing sites. New developments may generate the opportunity to feature natural and semi natural spaces within larger open spaces in order to provide residents with choice and opportunity.</p>
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- 5.37 Although there is a shortfall of natural and semi natural open spaces in the City centre (particularly within the Guildhall ward), almost all residents are able to access at least one site. Additionally, the River Ouse Corridor provides a further natural recreational opportunity. Furthermore, there is limited opportunity for new provision in this area. All residents in this area have access to parks, amenity green spaces, river corridors and accessible countryside. Incorporation of natural and semi natural open space within sites of other typologies should therefore be considered in order to ensure that the local standard is met. This approach can be adopted at sites across the City, ensuring that residents have access to a variety of natural and semi natural open space.

NSN8	Incorporate natural and semi natural open space within sites of other typologies in order to ensure that local needs for natural and semi natural open space are met.
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Summary

- 5.38 Natural and semi natural open space is one of the most popular of all types of open space across York, with 54% of respondents indicating that they visit this type of open space at least once per month.
- 5.39 In addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation. The importance of achieving a balance between recreational opportunities and biodiversity was central to discussions throughout consultations.
- 5.40 Larger strategic sites and areas of countryside were perceived to be as important to local residents as smaller localised natural open spaces. Sites of key importance include the Strays and Askham Bog. Facilitating access to these sites is as important as providing local natural and semi natural open spaces. Residents identified further opportunities to maximise use of existing resources through increased access to larger strategic sites.
- 5.41 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.
- 5.42 Opportunities should also be taken to address locational deficiencies, particularly across the urban areas of the City and opportunities to link this to areas for new development required to meet the housing need should be explored through the LDF Core Strategy.
- 5.43 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of natural and semi natural provision in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:
- ensure the large strategic sites of importance across the City are protected from development and facilitate ongoing access to these sites for residents
 - continue to promote partnership working and management across the natural and semi natural sites in York
 - ensure that recreational usage within natural and semi natural sites is balanced with biodiversity. Consider any future possibilities to enhance both the recreational and biodiversity value
 - increase accessibility by providing a network of green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of open space and wider strategic sites. This network should provide a link for those residents within the urban areas to sites located on the urban periphery and beyond
 - maximise access opportunities by providing appropriate signage and clearly visible entrances where possible

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- consider opportunities to address deficiencies within Osbaldwick, Clifton, Holgate and the central areas of the City
- Investigate the possibility of addressing deficiencies by incorporating natural and semi natural open spaces into other types of open space. Seek opportunities to provide new natural and semi natural open space as part of new development.

SECTION 6
AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Amenity green space

Definition

- 6.1 Amenity green space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity green space provides more of a visual amenity for older residents and a meeting place for young people.
- 6.2 There are a number of benefits of 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 green space, in particular the visual benefits.
- 6.3 Amenity spaces can play an integral role in increasing participation in physical activity across the City, providing local opportunities to participate in activity and informal sport.

Figure 6.1 – Amenity green space in Clifton/Water End



Strategic context and consultation

- 6.4 There are a number of regional and local documents that refer to the importance of the provision of amenity green spaces within City of York. These key documents are set out in Table 6.1 overleaf:

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Table 6.1 – Local strategic context – amenity green space

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy May 2008	Policy ENV10 states that development plans will maintain and enhance a range of landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance including historic landscapes, parks and gardens.	The audit undertaken as part of this study will provide a detailed understanding of existing provision. The subsequent analysis and application of local standards will guide the protection and enhancement of future open spaces.
City of York Development Control Local Plan	<p>On a local level, the local plan further emphasises the importance of amenity green space in York, particularly in new developments. Policy L1c seeks to ensure that all new housing developments, and commercial proposals over 2500m² gross, contribute to the provision of amenity space to ensure that the needs of future occupiers are met. Commuted sums towards off site provision will be required in developments of less than 10 dwellings.</p> <p>For sites of 10 or more dwellings, an assessment of existing open space provision accessible to the proposed development site including its capacity to absorb additional usage will be undertaken. This is to ascertain the type of open space required and whether on-site or a commuted sum payment for off-site provision is more appropriate (this will include the cost of land purchase), based on individual site circumstances.</p> <p>The policy states that 0.9ha per 1000 population will be required.</p> <p>Policy 1d identifies a number of locations as potential areas for recreation opportunity and development of new amenity green space.</p>	This open space study will provide a detailed understanding of the quality and quantity of existing provision. The study will also provide new local standards specific to the provision of amenity green space within the City of York. This should be used to guide the provision in new developments.

Consultation

- 6.5 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues:
- the findings of the household survey indicate that there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space in York. In total, 43.6% of the population stated that there is more than enough/about right amount of amenity green space areas while in contrast 43% indicated that there was insufficient
 - consultation suggested that the quality of amenity areas is perceived to be average by 59% of household respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were good (26%) as opposed to poor (16%). Other consultations highlighted that safety concerns are a particular barrier to usage of amenity spaces
 - the most common response in the household survey was that the quality of amenity spaces was average. Discussions at the workshops indicated that there remain concerns over the quality of sites, with some attendees highlighting that there remains significant potential for the enhancement of these sites
 - the household survey reveals that 82% of people would **expect** to walk to amenity green spaces in York, with 72% of respondents stating a journey should take between 5-10 minutes – this highlights the expectation that these open spaces will be provided locally
 - the IT young people survey illustrates the value of amenity green spaces, particularly to children under the age of 11, who use these spaces as an opportunity to meet with friends, particularly due to their locality to residential areas.

Setting provision standards

- 6.6 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 6.7 The recommended local accessibility standard for amenity green space has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standard
5 minute walk time (240 metres)
Justification
<p>Given the emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is suggested that a walking standard is set. The expressed desire for local amenity space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot is most appropriate.</p> <p>At a Citywide level, the 75% threshold level (from the household survey) of a 10 minute walk is higher than the modal response (5 minutes). Whilst setting a standard based on the 75% threshold level of a 10 minute walk time has been considered, this has to be rationalised against the local nature of amenity green spaces and the aspiration of residents for these open spaces. In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision within close proximity of residents, the value of localised amenity green spaces is particularly important.</p> <p>Applying a shorter walk time will highlight real priority areas of deficiency. Furthermore, whilst having a smaller distance threshold will reveal a larger number of accessibility deficiencies, within these areas the provision of alternative forms of open space can often substitute the provision of informal amenity green spaces and new amenity green spaces may not also be a priority. A smaller accessibility catchment will ensure all residents have access to some type of local open space, facilitating participation in sport and physical activity. The importance of local provision to break up the urban landscape should also not be underestimated.</p>

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 6.8 The recommended local quantity standard for amenity green space has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F.

Quantity Standard (see Appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.11 ha per 1000 population	1.14 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 1.11 hectares per 1000 population. Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in providing green space in what would otherwise be a built up area. Furthermore, of those residents who expressed an opinion (household survey) 29% think that the level of provision is insufficient, whilst only 39% think that the level of provision is about right. Therefore a standard above the existing level of provision is recommended (the recommended standard should be viewed as a minimum standard). This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites to ensure that each area fulfils a role that is complementary to the surrounding green space network but also deliver new sites in areas of quantitative deficiency. This is particularly important in light of the emphasis on these spaces for landscape benefits as well as localised recreational resources.</p> <p>It is important to consider the provision of amenity green spaces alongside the provision of parks and gardens and provision for children as they have similar functions. Amenity green spaces are smaller facilities that tend to attract only local users. As highlighted in the consultations, amenity spaces are particularly important in the provision of local informal play opportunities for children and young people. Those residents living within close proximity to a park may have no need for local amenity green space as well although this type of open space will still be important in the context of visual amenity.</p>	

- 6.9 Amenity green spaces provide an important urban function, visually breaking up the urban area and providing informal recreational opportunities. They also provide important recreational spaces within villages, perhaps as a village green or as part of a local recreation ground. This may be the only open space available within a village.
- 6.10 It is also important to recognise the secondary functions of amenity green space, specifically the visual benefits. Amenity green space sites may also provide a resource to meet deficiencies in other typologies eg play provision or outdoor sports facilities. This will be considered during the application of the local quality, quantity and accessibility standards.
- 6.11 The provision of amenity green space across City of York is set out in Table 6.2 overleaf.

Table 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space in York

Current Population	Current Provision	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (1.14hectares per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (1.17 hectares per 1000 population)
193,599	216.20	1.11	-4.50	225,600	0.96	-40.98

6.12 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 include:

- the overall level of provision in York equals 216.20 hectares, which equates to a deficiency of -4.50 against the local standard (1.14 hectares per 1000 population)
- the application of the local standard to the future population shows a significant increase in the level of undersupply across the City (-40.98 hectares against the local standard of 1.14 per 1000 population).

Setting provision standards – quality

6.13 The recommended local quality vision for amenity green space has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – Amenity Green Space
<p><i>“A clean and well-maintained green space site that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate ancillary facilities (dog and litter bins etc), pathways and landscaping in the right places providing a safe secure site with a spacious outlook that enhances the appearance of the local environment and provides a safe area for young people to meet. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus, while smaller sites should at the least provide an important visual amenity function.”</i></p>
<p>The local consultation reveals that amenity green spaces are one of the least used types of open spaces in the area, although they provide an important meeting place for children and young people. The importance of these sites as a visual amenity was reinforced across consultations, highlighting the need for high quality amenity space provision.</p> <p>Provision of amenity green space needs to be considered in the context of park provision, to ensure that they are complimentary to the wider green space network and increase 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. The recommended quality vision addresses some of the key concerns at existing open space sites cited by residents and also considers aspirations. While a desire for lighting was a key feature of local consultations, inclusion of this element may provide unrealistic expectations.</p> <p>Amenity green spaces can serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. As a consequence, one of the important aspects in the vision is for a spacious outlook. This is also reflective of local consultation comments stating that sites are often confined to small cramped areas that aren't of sufficient size to enable informal play or more formalised play facilities. The standard incorporates both public and Council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice encouraging informal play where sites are large enough - it is also designed to link in with the Green Flag criteria where appropriate. The vision also recognises the need for amenity spaces to contribute positively to the overall landscape and environment.</p>

Current provision - quality

- 6.14 The calculation of the upper quartile quality score (74%) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City. It highlights sites that currently meet the visionary standard, and those sites which fall below.
- 6.15 The median score is 68% and the lower quartile score is 60%. A selection of assessment results have been included in the table overleaf to illustrate the distribution of scores. A full list of site scores can be found in the amenity green space section of Appendix D.

Table 6.4 – Selection of scores for amenity green space

Above upper quartile	74+	(86%) - Hunters Way AGS –Site ID 809 (86%) - Land along Hodgson Road –Site ID 287
Median – Upper quartile	68%-73%	(70%) Mayfield Grove AGS –Site ID 588 (70%) St Giles Way AGS –Site ID 771
Lower quartile - median	60%-67%	(65%) Rosecroft Way AGS –Site ID 637 (62%) Stratford Way AGS –Site ID 674
Less than lower quartile	Below 60	(44%) - Lynwood Close AGS - Site ID 742 (30%) - Land adjacent to Chapel Fields Road –Site ID 274

6.16 The key issues emerging from Table 6.4 and the site assessments include:

- 29% of sites scored above the upper quartile standard of 74%. This therefore indicates that a large number of sites require improvements to meet the quality standard
- the average score of amenity green space sites is 67% although there is a significant range in the quality of provision. This reinforces perceptions expressed in consultation that there is a significant variation in the quality of sites
- seven sites scored below 50%. The aspiration should be for all amenity green spaces to achieve the score currently required to fall within the upper quartile category and achieve the quality vision. Cleanliness and maintenance of amenity green spaces were perceived to be particularly important to residents.

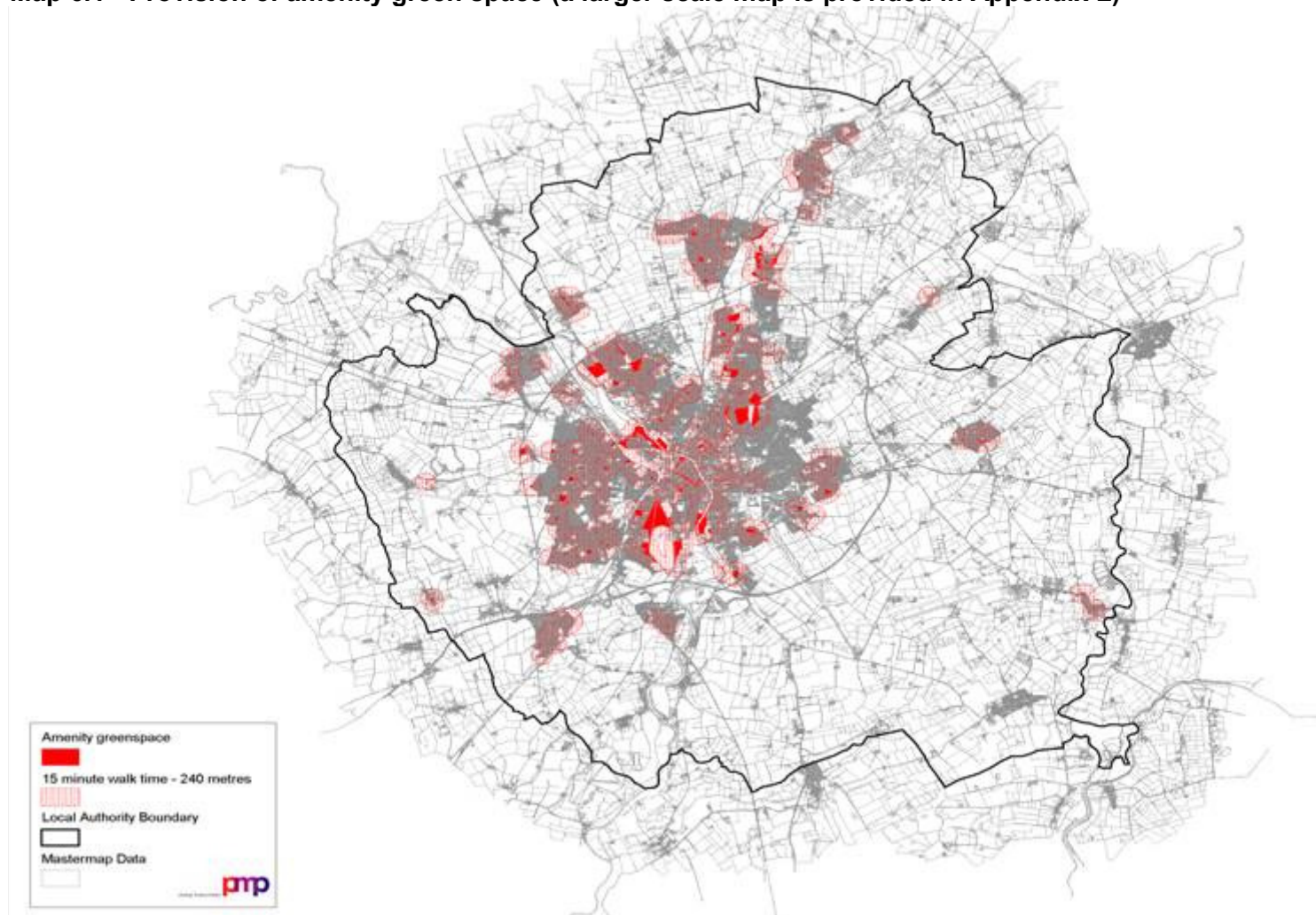
Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

6.17 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision of amenity green space in York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.18 In addition to considering the provision of amenity space in isolation, it is important to analyse the distribution of space in the context of parks. Parks are a higher order facility and as a consequence, where parks are provided within a 5 minute catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity green space) they may negate the need for amenity green space provision. As a consequence, areas deficient in both parks and amenity spaces will be considered a priority.
- 6.19 The application of the local accessibility standard for amenity space is set out on Map 6.1 (overleaf). Map 6.2 considers the distribution of amenity spaces in the context of the provision of Local and City parks.
- 6.20 While the City centre and rural areas of the City have sufficient amenity green spaces in quantitative terms to exceed the local standard, the urban areas in close proximity to the City centre do not have sufficient amenity space to meet the recommended standard. As demand will grow over the LDF period, shortfalls will increase.
- 6.21 As Map 6.1 (overleaf) illustrates, the distribution of amenity spaces is uneven, with many areas well supplied, contrasting with the Heworth and Osbaldwick areas where provision is more sparse. In many instances, the lack of amenity spaces is offset by the provision of parks, which provide a wider variety of functional amenities to local residents.
- 6.22 Map 6.2 overleaf illustrates the provision of amenity green space in the context of local and City parks within York. As illustrated, as a higher order facility (providing a greater range of facilities), where parks are provided within a 5 minute catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity green space) they may negate the need for amenity green space provision. This situation is evident in areas of the Hull Road and Clifton wards where although there are accessibility deficiencies in relation to amenity green space, residents are able to access a park within the 5 minute catchment.

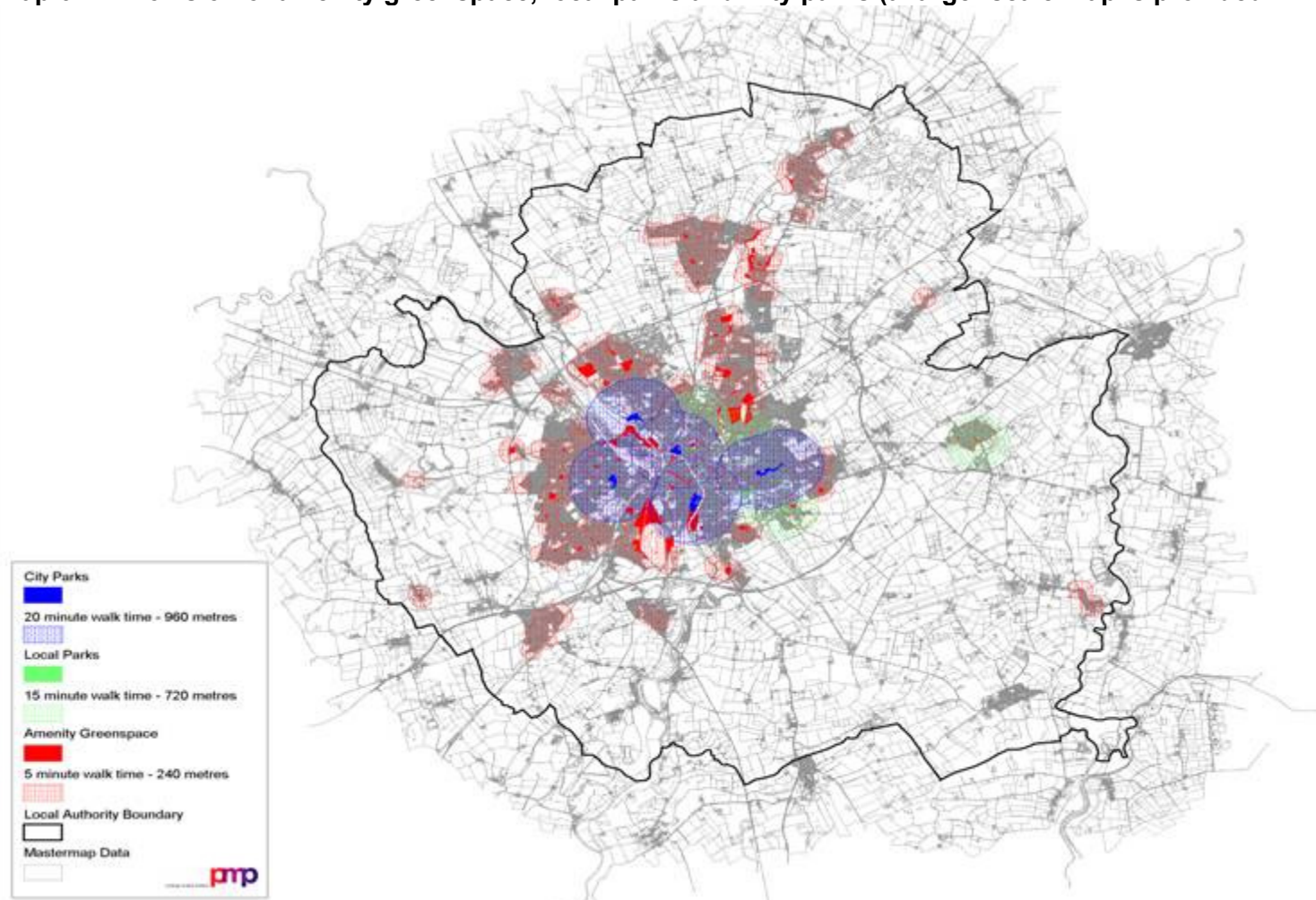
Map 6.1 - Provision of amenity green space (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Map 6.2 - Provision of amenity greenspace, local parks and City parks (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.23 As highlighted, application of the local quality, quantity and accessibility standards in parallel is much more meaningful than application of these standards in isolation.
- 6.24 Consultation highlights the importance of obtaining a balance between the quality and quantity of amenity green space. Analysis of existing provision suggests that there are significant variations in quality, with site assessment scores ranging from 30% to 90%. The quality of amenity green space is illustrated in Map 6.3 overleaf where it can be seen that there are clusters of poor quality sites within the Strensall and Holgate wards.
- 6.25 Given the value of amenity green spaces not just for informal recreation but also for the role that they play in enhancing the character and landscape of an area, improvements to the quality of sites are particularly important. Map 6.3 overleaf illustrates that poor quality facilities are scattered across the City, particularly in the central and northern areas. Similarly, high quality facilities are evenly distributed.

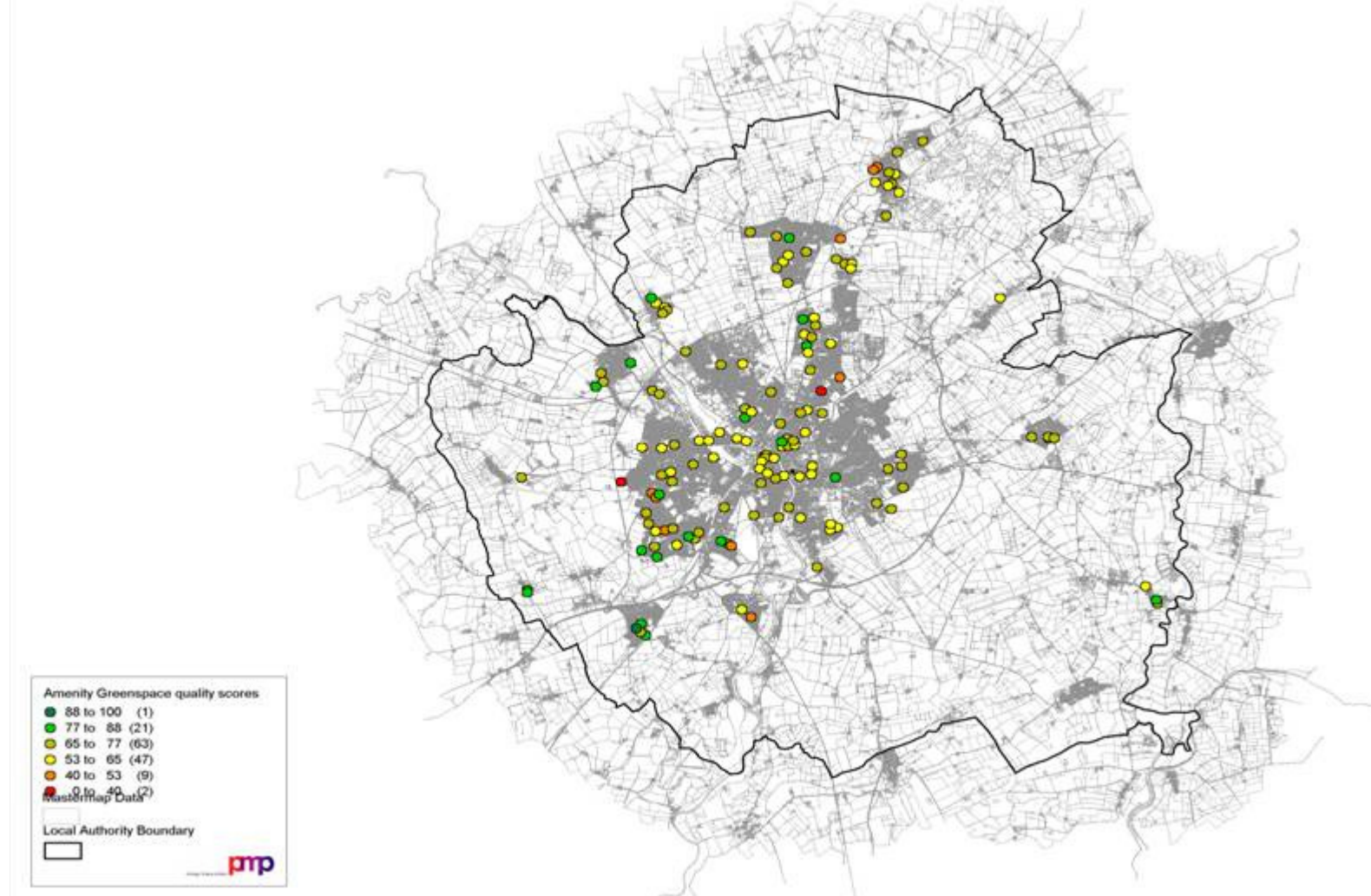
AGS1	Sites not achieving a quality score of 74% (the level required to fall within the top quartile) would benefit from investment in order to maximise the benefits they offer to local residents.
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- 6.26 In light of the variations in the quality of sites and the interrelationship between amenity spaces and other types of open space it is essential to consider the distribution of facilities. In some instances, poor quality facilities located in areas of overlapping catchment may be of limited value to residents. 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 as well as being costly in terms of maintenance to the provider.
- 6.27 In contrast to many other types of open space, the City centre is well served for amenity space in quantitative terms, with sufficient provision to meet anticipated needs over the LDF period. It will be essential however to ensure that the regeneration programme in this area ensures that appropriate provision of amenity space remains.
- 6.28 Current provision includes the riverside area alongside the Ouse and the amenity areas circling the City walls. There are also a substantial number of small grassed areas. These sites add character to the City area as well as providing informal space for residents, visitors and workers.

AGS2	Ensure that the regeneration programme within the City centre maintains an appropriate level of amenity space. Focus on qualitative improvements within this area.
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SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Map 6.3 - The quality percentage scores for amenity green spaces within York (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L).



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SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.29 The only identified deficiency within the City Centre is highlighted in Figure 6.2 below. Although this deficiency is supported by the application of the local standard at ward level this area (Guildhall) is in close proximity to Museum Gardens and additional provision is therefore not required. The primary focus should be on improving the quality of existing amenity spaces. Amenity spaces within the City centre were of significantly lower quality on average than in other areas.

Figure 6.2 - Accessibility deficiency within the City Centre



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- 6.30 In contrast to the even distribution of sites and quantitative provision within the City centre, the distribution of sites in the outer urban area is more sporadic. The larger areas of accessibility deficiency are discussed over the next few pages.
- 6.31 Further analysis of the application of the accessibility standard to the east shows specific deficiencies within the Hull Road, Osbaldwick, Heworth and Heworth (Without) areas which are outside of the catchment for amenity green spaces. These areas are illustrated in Figures 6.3 – 6.4.

Figure 6.3 - Accessibility deficiency within Hull Road ward



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Figure 6.4 - Accessibility deficiency within Osbaldwick ward



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Figure 6.5 - Accessibility deficiency within Heworth and Heworth (Without) wards



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- 6.32 Many of the amenity green space deficiencies discussed in relation to Heworth, Osbaldwick and Hull Road are offset by the good supply of parks in these areas, with Glen Gardens, Hull Road Park and the Museum Gardens offering local amenity to residents. Residents in Heworth also have access to Monk Stray. As a higher order facility (ie one with more facilities) the presence of a local park can negate the need for additional provision of amenity space for those within the catchment of the park that is recommended for amenity space (5 minutes). Priority should therefore be given to those residents who are able to access neither type of informal space.

AGS3	Seek opportunities to provide local amenity spaces within the Heworth, Osbaldwick and northern Hull Road areas prioritising areas where residents are outside of a 5 minute catchment area for both a park and amenity green space.
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- 6.33 A comparable situation exists to the west of the City where there is insufficient provision in quantitative terms and areas of accessibility deficiency when the local standards are applied.

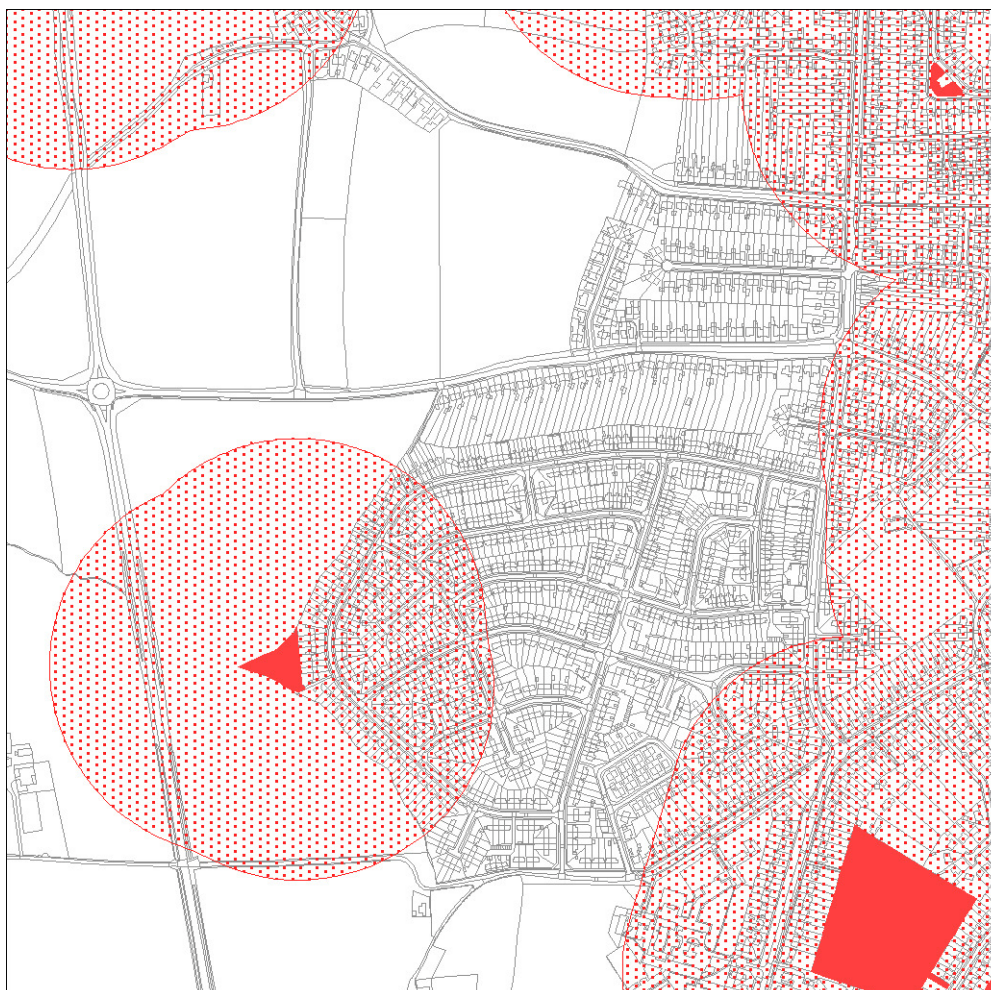
- 6.34 Map 6.2 highlights an area of Clifton and Holgate where there are accessibility deficiencies in terms of both amenity space and parks. These residents reside near an accessible countryside side in the form of Clifton Ings (see Section 12) which provides local residents with a large recreational space although in many instances this may be further than a 5 minute walk.
- 6.35 Map 6.1 highlights a further area of Clifton where local access to amenity space is limited. Despite this, these residents reside in close proximity to Bootham Stray (NSN) and have therefore have access to informal recreation. Where there are no deficiencies, priority should be given to the improvement of the quality of existing facilities.
- 6.36 Other than Clifton and Holgate, the areas of greatest deficiency are highlighted in Figures 6.6 and 6.7 below and overleaf, which show areas of Acomb and Westfield that are outside of the catchment for amenity green spaces. These areas are also deficient in other types of open space meaning that these deficiencies are of more importance than those in Clifton.

Figure 6.6 - Accessibility deficiency within Acomb



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Figure 6.7 - Accessibility deficiency within Westfield



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AGS4	Seek opportunities to provide local amenity spaces within the Acomb and Westfield areas where residents fall outside of a 5 minute catchment area of both a park and an amenity space.
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6.37 While the areas of accessibility deficiency to the west of the City may not be of great priority for the provision of further amenity space, it is important to highlight the value of amenity sites in this area, which is less well served in terms of parks than to the east. The amenity spaces on the periphery of the urban area (Woodthorpe) are of particular importance. In light of the deficiencies in parks in this area, and the emphasis placed on the importance of parks and the inclusion of a variety of facilities within sites, consideration should be given to upgrading an amenity site in this area to fulfil the function of a park.

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.38 Although there are small accessibility deficiencies within the Micklegate area, residents frequently use the Knavesmire as amenity space. Issues have however emerged regarding the conflict of use between recreational and formal sports functions and a segregation of pitches and recreational areas is likely.

AGS5	Protect amenity space in areas where it provides the only opportunity for informal recreation.
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- 6.39 Despite quantity deficiencies to the west of the City, it is evident that there are several sites serving overlapping catchments. There may therefore be some opportunities for the change of use for sites in this area. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

AGS6	Consider the value of poorer quality amenity sites serving overlapping catchments to the west of the City. These sites should be targeted for improvement and the potential for a change of use should be investigated.
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- 6.40 Analysis of amenity green spaces in the rural areas shows that although there are several villages where amenity green space is provided, there are some areas of deficiency. Of the larger settlements, the notable area is Wheldrake.
- 6.41 Some examples of deficiencies in provision within the larger rural settlements are highlighted in Figures 6.8 – 6.10 overleaf. Despite sufficient quantitative provision across the rural areas, some of the larger settlements including Wheldrake, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Haxby all contain shortfalls, echoing the findings of the accessibility assessment. There are also deficiencies in other smaller settlements.
- 6.42 Strensall is particularly well served in terms of the provision of amenity space, with a linear strip of green space to the west of the settlement and access to the common (categorised as accessible countryside) for residents residing to the east. Despite this, the quality of facilities is amongst the poorest of all areas (as illustrated on map 6.3) and enhancements to these sites should therefore be the future focus in this area.

Figure 6.8 - Accessibility deficiency within Bishopthorpe



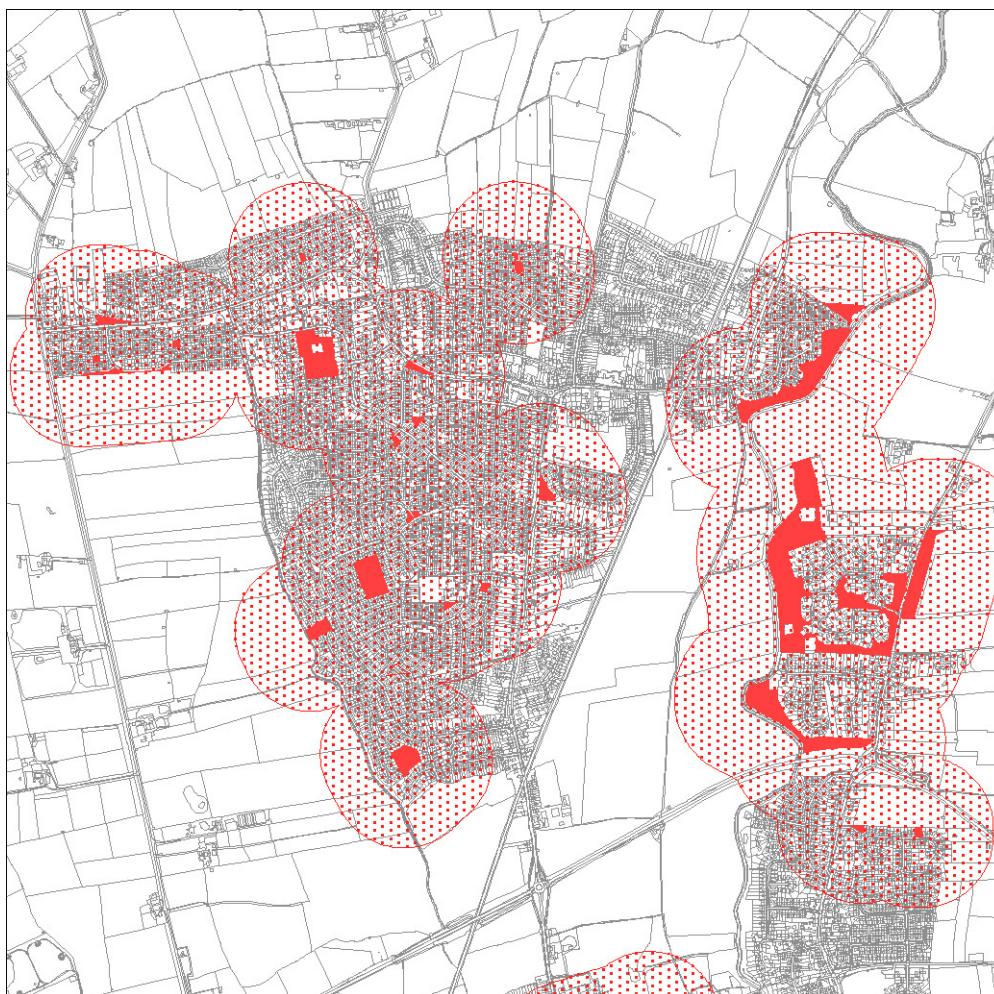
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Figure 6.9 - Accessibility deficiency within Copmanthorpe



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Figure 6.10 - Accessibility deficiency within Haxby



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AGS7	Consider opportunities to address the current deficiencies in larger rural settlements including Wheldrake, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Haxby.
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- 6.43 The application of local standards for parks (see Map 6.2) also highlighted shortfalls in the rural settlements, with residents travelling into the urban areas to reach facilities.
- 6.44 In light of the identified deficiencies of parks and gardens within the smaller settlements and deficiencies highlighted in the provision of amenity space above, consideration should be given to upgrading amenity space (where possible) or providing a new small local park. Provision of parks would reduce the need for amenity space and would ensure that residents are well served with a range of open space. This is particularly appropriate for the larger rural settlements.

AGS8	Address deficiencies in the provision of parks by upgrading suitable amenity spaces to local parks or pocket parks. Where there is no provision of amenity space, opportunities for new provision should be sought.
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SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.45 In addition to the larger rural settlements, many of the smaller settlements are also deficient in amenity space.
- 6.46 Given the importance of providing amenity space in every area, while priority should be given to larger settlements, it should be ensured that where possible residents of all settlements have access to informal space. High quality amenity green space can play an important role in village life.
- 6.47 Based on the local quantity standard and the minimum size of an amenity green space, suggested in PPG17 guidance (0.2ha) it could be suggested that amenity green space should be provided in settlements where the population exceeds 200 (the number of people that would be required before the application of the local standard would generate a need for over 0.2 ha amenity space). Those settlements without sufficient provision should therefore be prioritised for improvement. This links with the provision for children and teenagers where a larger population is required before an equipped facility is provided. In many instances, the presence of a suitable amenity space may reduce the demand for dedicated provision for children and teenagers.

AGS9	Ensure that all villages with over 200 residents contain an amenity green space. PPG17 guidance recommends a minimum site size of 0.2ha. Consideration should also be given to providing amenity space in settlements devoid of any other open space.
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- 6.48 While this may prove challenging in some smaller settlements, amenity space could be delivered by negotiating community access to school sites, or working in partnership with other providers and the local community.

Summary

- 6.49 For many residents amenity greenspace will be the most accessible form of open space provision. The value of amenity green spaces within close proximity to residents was noted through the local consultation although the varying quality of sites was highlighted. While amenity green space 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.
- 6.50 In particular, the role of amenity space in the provision for young people was highlighted as being significant in providing a local amenity.
- 6.51 Application of the local standards highlighted that while the overall quantity of provision is sufficient in the rural area to meet the local standard, there are localised deficiencies within some of the larger settlements. In contrast, large quantitative shortfalls in the urban areas were reinforced by an uneven distribution of existing sites. Despite this, few deficiencies of high importance have been identified as in the many residents outside of the recommended catchment for amenity space have access to a park, a higher order facility.
- 6.52 While the overall direction should remain on enhancing the quality of amenity spaces (particularly with regards cleanliness and maintenance and increasing the range of facilities provided), opportunities to address the identified deficiencies should also be taken.

6.53 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of parks and gardens in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:

- seek to improve the quality of amenity green space sites
- maintain an appropriate level of amenity green space provision within the City centre. Future improvements should focus on the quality of sites
- consider upgrading an amenity green space area within Woodthorpe to fulfil a local park function
- investigate opportunities to improve and change the functionality of sites to the west of the City that are of poorer quality and serve overlapping catchments
- consider opportunities to provide local amenity green spaces / pocket parks in areas where residents are currently outside of the catchment for both parks and amenity spaces, including Acomb and Westfield, Hull Road, Heworth and Osbaldwick and in larger rural settlements including Wheldrake, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Haxby areas
- protect amenity green space provision in areas where they provide the only opportunity for informal recreation
- ensure that residents in settlements with a population in excess of 200 have access to at least one amenity green space. Consideration should also be given to providing amenity green space in settlements devoid of any other open space.

SECTION 7
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Provision for children

Definition

- 7.1 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.
- 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 a 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 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 teenagers.
- 7.4 Provision for children is taken to include equipped children's play areas and adventure playgrounds. Provision for teenagers will be discussed separately in Section 8 of this report.
- 7.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for children in York. Local standards have been derived from the local consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs.

Figure 7.1 - Play area in Dunnington.



- 7.6 The Big Lottery Fund (<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index>) has recently allocated £155 million of funding for provision of children's play facilities. The play initiative is based on the recommendations of the 2004 play review Getting Serious About Play, which defines children's play as "what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas, in their own way and for their own reasons."
- 7.7 The initiative aims (selected few) to:
- create, improve and develop children and young people's free local play spaces and opportunities throughout England, according to need
 - ensure that local authorities work with other local stakeholders to develop children's play strategies and plans
 - ensure that good, inclusive and accessible children's play services and facilities are provided locally.
- 7.8 Local authorities applying for funding are required to consult with relevant stakeholders including children and young people, provide a detailed play strategy and include a portfolio of proposed projects. Examples of individual projects that can form part of the portfolio include:
- adventure playgrounds, BMX and skateboard parks
 - small public playgrounds and creating a play area
 - informal sports facilities
 - a mobile play team, play workers (either paid or volunteers) and holiday and after school play activities.
- 7.9 City of York Council, in conjunction with other partners have recently developed a play strategy, 'Taking Play Forward, A Strategy for York'. This is discussed further in Table 7.1 overleaf.

Table 7.1 – Regional and Local Strategic Context

Document reviewed	Summary	Relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study
City of York Development Control Local Plan	<p>Local Plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p>	<p>The contributions required towards children’s equipped playspaces in the Local Plan should be reviewed in light of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards contained within this report. Adopting these new standards in the Local Development Framework will help to ensure that new development plays its part in delivering an adequate level of open space, sport and recreation facilities for new communities.</p>
Taking Play Forward – A Play Strategy for York	<p>The Play Strategy targets the provision of sufficient appropriate play opportunities for both children and young people across all areas of the City. This relates to the provision of informal and formal opportunities for play and development, in addition to the provision of equipped play facilities.</p> <p>Taking Play Forward, A Play Strategy for York aims to (amongst others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the standards of play provision • encourage genuine communication and interactions between children and young people, individuals and services with interests in play • better manage play environments. <p>The strategy ensures that provision meets the needs of children, meets necessary legislative requirements and involves users in decision-making and consultation. The strategy targets an increase in the proportion of play areas meeting NBPFA criteria from 36% to 42%. While no formal quality standards are set, ensuring good quality play opportunities is a key target of this play strategy. Equipped play provision is just one component of provision for play in York.</p>	<p>The recommendations and consultation within the Play Strategy should link directly with the recommendations and standards within this study. It is important that the open space study provides sufficient detailed analysis on consultation with children and analysis of need in order to implement objectives within the Play Strategy.</p>

Consultation

- 7.10 Consultation specific to children was undertaken using a variety of research techniques and findings have been used to inform the local standards, ensuring that they are reflective of local needs. Key themes emerging from consultations include:
- responses from the household survey suggest that there is an overall dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision for children. 52.2% of the population believe that provision is insufficient (there is nearly enough/not enough) opposed to 32.8% who believe that provision meets local needs (there is more than enough/about right)
 - many residents at drop in sessions reiterated the viewpoint that there is a lack of provision for children. Integration of facilities for children with the provision of parks was perceived to be particularly important and Museum Gardens was highlighted as a key opportunity
 - the two most commonly mentioned types of facilities that children responding to the IT Survey wanted near to their homes would be play areas with interesting play equipment and kickabout areas
 - consultation indicated that the quality of children's play areas is rated average by 46% of household respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were poor (30%) than good (25%)
 - many residents at drop in sessions expressed concerns that older children use facilities intended for younger children and cause damage and vandalism. It was felt that this might be a consequence of a lack of provision for teenagers. Rowntree Park play area and Clarence Gardens play area were perceived to be of good quality while in contrast, Westthorpe play area was perceived to be particularly poor, as was West Park play area (which is considered to be damp and dark). Sites located in larger parks were perceived to be of higher quality
 - responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel to this type of open space highlighted that 86% of residents expected to walk. Expectations in terms of travel time show a clearer pattern than for those of regular users, with 77% of people expecting the journey to take 5-10 minutes
 - the IT for young people survey highlighted the importance of providing local facilities, with many local children indicating that the key determinant of which facilities they used was the location. Distance from home was perceived to be a far greater barrier to usage than cost or poor quality facility provision.

Setting provision standards

- 7.11 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other. The following sections detail the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards. These are then applied together.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 7.12 The recommended local accessibility standard for provision for children has been summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standards
10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480 METRE)
Justification
<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a children’s play facility. Furthermore, the distances that parents are willing to let their children travel unaccompanied from their homes to play facilities has reduced as concerns over safety have grown in recent years. However, PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel. The 75% threshold level for children using the responses from the household survey was a 10-minute walk time across the City. Furthermore the modal response was also a 10-minute walk time.</p> <p>Setting the standard in accordance with the 75% threshold level is advocated in PPG17. Moreover, a larger accessibility catchment is recommended in terms of providing the Council with greater flexibility striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative improvements in provision. A 5-minute catchment would place a greater requirement on new provision, however local consultation revealed the importance of high quality sites and not just new facilities. The Council should continually seek to promote measures designed to improve accessibility, such as better public transport or cycling routes.</p> <p>A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provides a realist target for implementation. Furthermore, this local standard encompasses all types of provision for children, including the larger, more strategic sites that people could be expected to travel further to visit. The provision of local facilities meets with the aspirations of children and young people and ensures that the use of these play facilities is maximised. It will be important to consider the provision of play facilities in the context of amenity open spaces, and other typologies providing more informal play opportunities for children.</p> <p>The standard of 10 minutes should also be considered in the context of other open space types, particularly amenity green space, which offer informal and unstructured opportunities for play.</p>

Current provision – accessibility

- 7.13 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a pro forma. This takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of the roads, paths and cycleways, whether there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.

7.14 The accessibility of existing provision for children is summarised in Table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2 - Accessibility of provision for children

Above upper quartile	70%+	(77%) - Play area off Burton Stone Lane – Site ID 14 (77%) – Esk Drive Play Area –Site ID 52
Median – Upper quartile	61%-70%	(70%) Howard Road Play Area –Site ID 13 (70%) Cemetery Road Play Area – Site ID 21
Lower quartile – median	53.5%-60%	(60%) – Rowntree Park Play Area – Site ID 3 (60%) – West Bank Park (u11s Playground) – Site ID 26)
Less than lower quartile	Below 53.5%	(50%) – Leaside Play Area –Site ID 22 (43%) - Hollis Crescent Play Area – Site ID 748

7.15 Key issues from the assessment of site specific accessibility in York include:

- the median score was 60%. The upper quartile score was 70%, and the lower quartile score was 53.5%
- the play area off Burton Stone Lane obtained the highest accessibility score of all the sites assessed (77%), and can be considered to be an excellent example of an accessible play area. Sites with high accessibility scores, especially sites achieving scores within the upper quartile percentile, can play an important role in community life
- four sites scored below 45%. A space that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore may be of little value, irrespective of its quality.

Setting provision standards - quantity

7.16 The recommended local quantity standards for children’s provision have been summarised overleaf. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendix F. Quantity Standard (see appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.44 facilities per 1000 population	0.48 facilities per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.05 hectares per 1000 population or 0.44 facilities per 1000.</p> <p>A key theme emerging from the consultation has been a shortage of provision for children (for example almost 48% of respondents to the household survey think that the level of provision is insufficient). This is supplemented by comments regarding the quality of existing sites. A standard has been recommended (derived from the local consultation) that seeks to encourage new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas. The recommended standard is equivalent to a 10% increase on existing provision.</p> <p>The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each facility (illustrated through the application of the relevant accessibility standard discussed in Appendix H).</p>	

Current quantity of provision

7.17 The provision of facilities for children in the City of York is summarised in Tables 7.3 and 7.4 below and overleaf.

Table 7.3 – Provision for children in York

Current Provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (Hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Current Population	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (0.48 facilities per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (0.48 facilities per 1000 population)
10.07	84	0.01	0.72	193,599	0.44	9	225,600	0.38	-25

7.18 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 include:

- there are currently 84 children’s play areas in York. The distribution of these facilities across the City is uneven and the size of sites ranges significantly. The total provision is equivalent to 0.05 ha per 1000 population or 0.44 facilities per 1000 (rounded up to the nearest facility)
- based on the local standard of 0.48 facilities per 1000, there is a current deficiency of 9 facilities
- this deficiency will increase to 25 facilities over the LDF period.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 7.19 The recommended local quality vision in terms of provision for children has been summarised below. Full justification is provided in Appendix G.

Quality Standard

Recommended standards
<p><i>“A well designed clean site of sufficient size to provide a mix of well-maintained and imaginative formal equipment and an enriched play environment in a safe and convenient location. Equipped play spaces should be fun and exciting and should have clear boundaries with dog free areas and include appropriate ancillary accommodation such as seating, litter bins and toilets in the locality of larger sites. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety and safeguard residential amenity of neighbouring land users. The site should also be accessible to all”.</i></p>
Justification
<p>The need to address the mis-use of some sites is reflected within the standard in the need to design the site well, to locate it in a safe and secure location and to have clear boundaries. This can also refer to clear boundaries from facilities for young people to try and deter young people using younger children facilities. As such, the standard reflects the need for the good design and planning of play areas.</p> <p>Recognition of the need for places to go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for an enriched play environment rather than a focus only on formal equipment, following suggestions from children that some equipment can be boring. Consultation highlighted the importance of these sites being of sufficient size for children to enjoy, and this is mentioned in the quality vision. It is also essential to ensure that the equipment provided is suitable for the age group for which it is intended.</p> <p>The standard aims to achieve a balance between locating play areas close to housing or footpaths as an additional level of security to be provided through natural policing e.g. overlooking houses where possible, but also ensuring that residential amenity and privacy is protected. The standard encompasses the need for play areas to be both sustainable in management terms but also promote a mix of facilities and provide an enriched play environment that is clean and safe to use. Wherever viable, the play equipment should be changed and developed over time (preferably in consultation with local children) to ensure that the facilities remain relevant to children and continue to be fit for purpose. The standard highlights the need for imaginative equipment, which emerged as a key issue throughout the consultation programme.</p> <p>The standard supports the principles of equipped play set out in the play strategy and encourages the design of interactive areas providing a range of play opportunities. It reflects the key principles outlined in the strategy, including the involvement of users and the desire for challenging, innovative and imaginative facilities. While this vision relates to equipped facilities only, these principles should be applied to all areas providing play opportunities for children.</p>

Current provision – quality

- 7.20 The quality of existing provision for children in the City is summarised in Table 7.5. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and may not always been reflective of the quality of the site throughout the year.
- 7.21 The calculation of the upper quartile quality score (72%) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City. It highlights sites that currently meet the visionary standard, and those sites where the quality falls below the recommended level.
- 7.22 The median score is 64.85% and the lower quartile score is 58%. A selection of assessment results have been included in Table 7.5 below to illustrate the distribution of scores. A full list of site scores can be found in the provision for children section of Appendix D.

Table 7.5 – Selection of quality assessments results for children’s play areas

Above upper quartile	72+	(84%) - Esk Drive Play Area –Site ID 52 (80%) - CYP at Harewood Close/Kensington Road –Site ID 817
Median – Upper quartile	64%-72%	(65.7%) – Hollis Crescent Play Area - Site ID 748 (70%) Clarence Gardens Play Area –Site ID 16
Lower quartile - median	58%-64%	(60%) Hull Road Park Play Area – Site ID 17 (58%) Woodthorpe Rec Play Ground – Site ID 34
Less than lower quartile	Below 58	(50%) – Gale Lane/Foxwood Lane Playground– Site ID 35 (49%) - Ashton Avenue Playground – Site ID 67

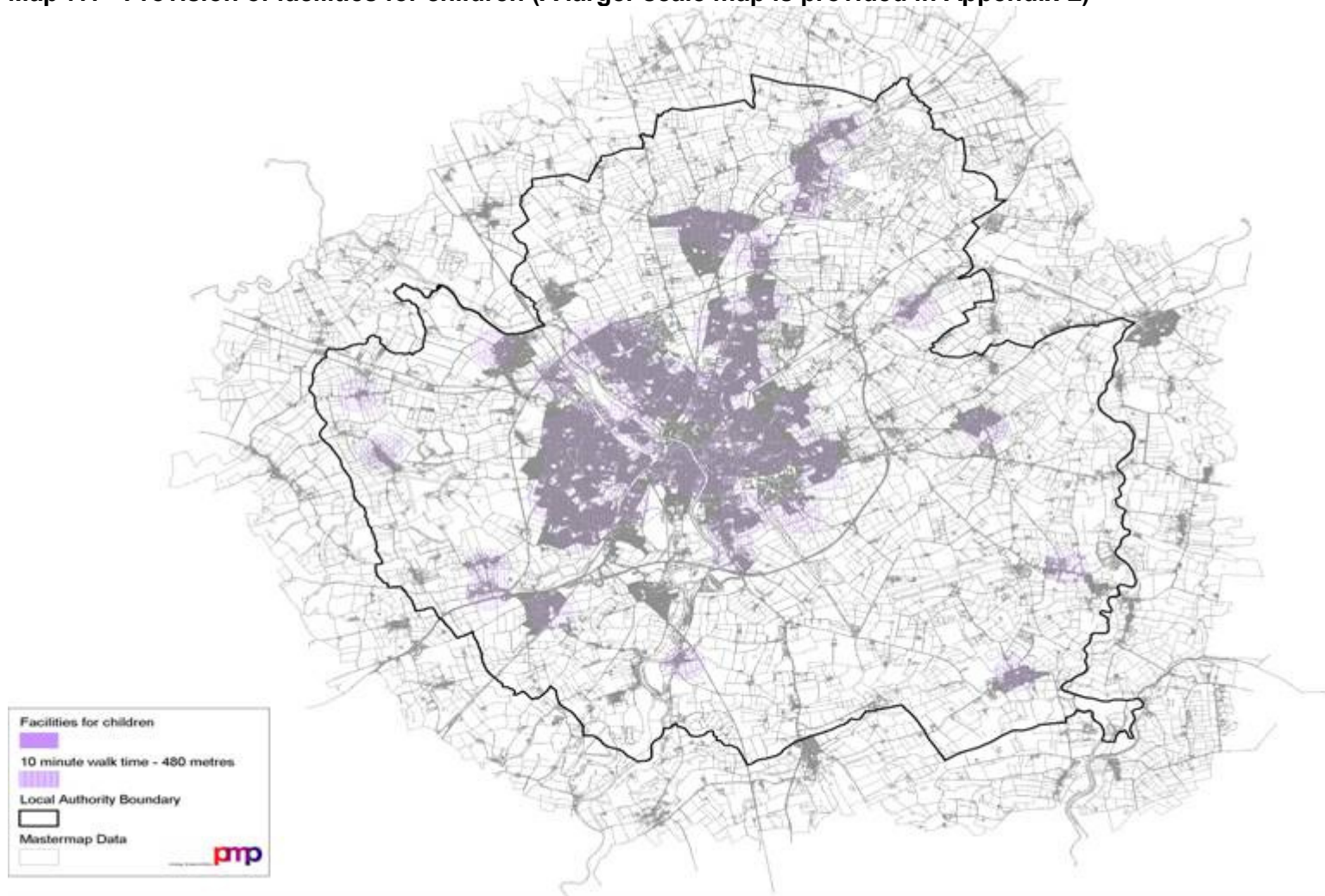
- 7.23 The key issues emerging from Table 7.5 and the site assessments include:
- 46% of respondents to the household survey felt that the quality of sites for children was average, and 30% think that the quality of provision is poor. This is reflected in the findings of the site assessments, with a median score of only 64.85%
 - despite this, 36% of sites scored over 70% or above, this suggests that a number of sites only require small improvements to achieve the quality vision. Furthermore, some play areas – such as the one located on land to the east of Common Road – scored very highly and could be thought of as examples of best practice

- Ashton Avenue playground (site ID 67), Salisbury Road play area (site ID 1) and the play area near Shipton AGS (site ID 818) scored very poorly (below 50%).

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 7.24 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision for children in York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.
- 7.25 The application of the local accessibility standards for children has been set out in Map 7.1. It can be seen that provision in many parts of the urban area and in the villages currently meets the accessibility standards.
- 7.26 While this section presents a strategic overview of provision, consideration should be given to natural barriers at a local level when evaluating site specific provision or provision in a local area. Natural barriers such as main roads and railways can inhibit use of facilities, particularly by children as parents may be unwilling to allow their children to travel or cross major roads.

Map 7.1 - Provision of facilities for children (A larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



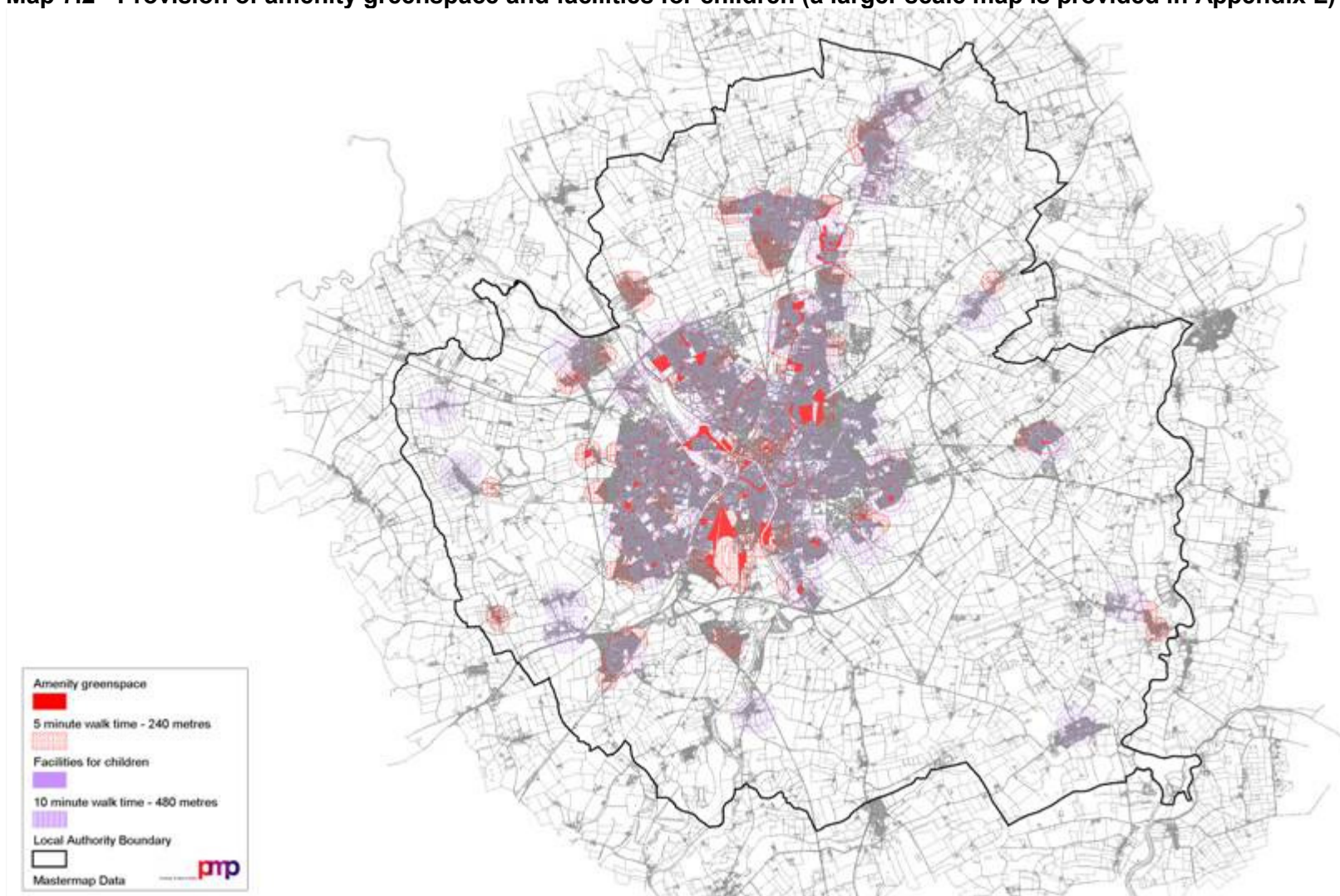
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SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- 7.27 The accessibility mapping indicates that facilities are equitably distributed across the urban area of the City, although there are some areas where residents have to travel further than a 10 minute walk time to reach a facility. Some of the largest deficiencies are evident in the Guildhall, Heworth Without and Hull Road areas of the City. Local provision is important to ensure that natural barriers do not inhibit participation and that all residents are within easy reach of their local facility.
- 7.28 Provision in the smaller settlements is more sparsely distributed, although there are clusters of facilities in the rural areas to the north of the City around Haxby, Wigginton and Strensall.
- 7.29 Consideration of natural barriers is particularly important when analysing provision for children, as main roads and rivers present safety issues and prevent usage of sites which would otherwise appear to be located in close proximity.
- 7.30 While this Section focuses primarily on equipped areas for children it is also essential to consider the role that amenity green spaces play in offsetting the need for the provision of facilities for children. Areas deficient in both amenity space and formal facilities for children should be a particular priority for new provision. The provision of amenity green space in relation to facilities for children is set out overleaf in Map 7.2. The importance of informal opportunities for play supporting equipped provision was also raised as a key strand of the City of York Play Strategy.
- 7.31 Map 7.2 shows some areas where there is limited access to both amenity green space and facilities for children. Future provision should be a priority in the areas that are currently not served by either type of open space, for example within Acomb and Hull Road.
- 7.32 Deficiencies identified above will be returned to later in this section.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Map 7.2 - Provision of amenity greenspace and facilities for children (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

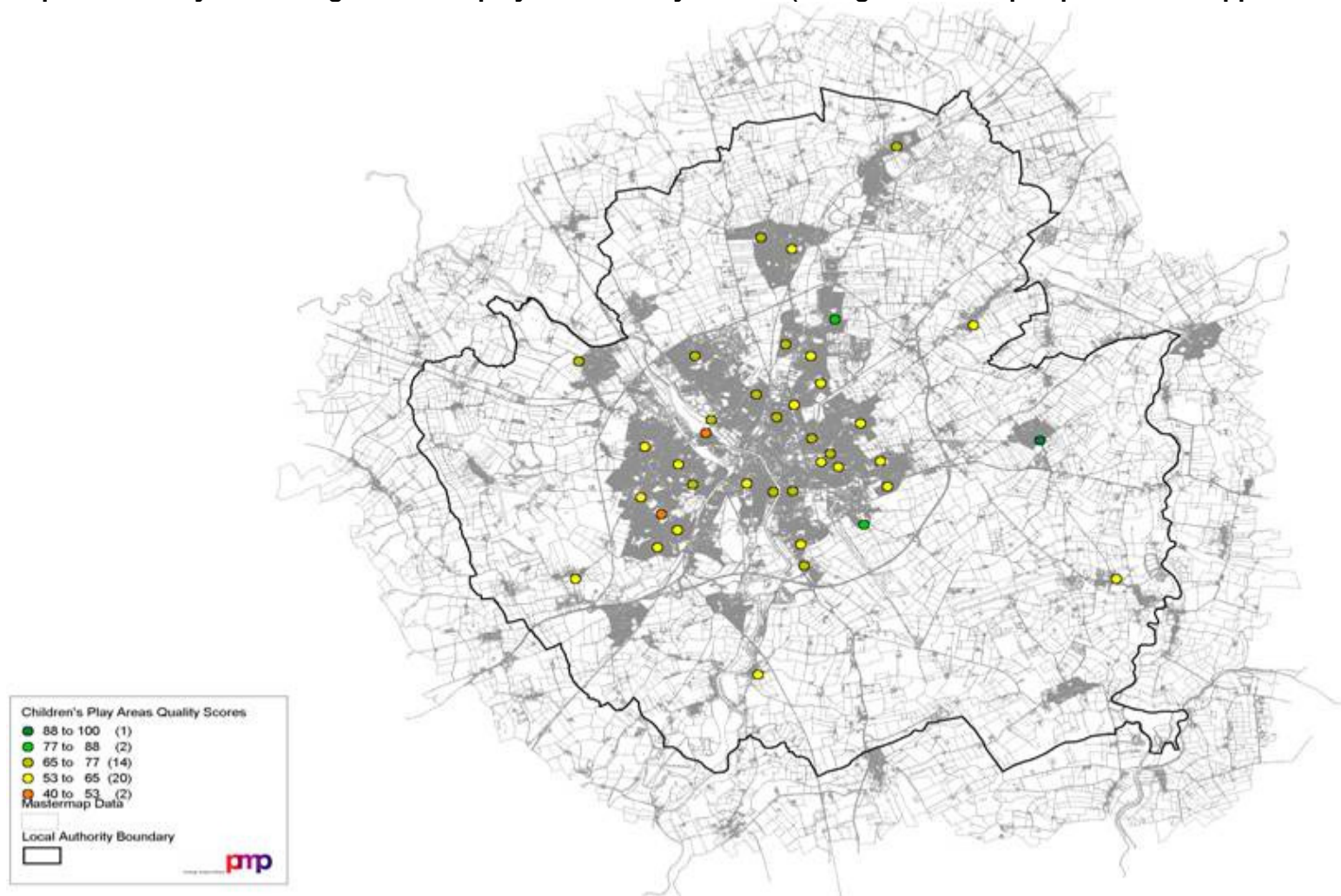
- 7.33 While the quantity of provision and access to facilities were the overriding themes of consultations, the quality of provision was also considered to be important, and many existing facilities were criticised for the lack of innovative and exciting play equipment that they offer.
- 7.34 The location of the site, providing a perception of safety and security, was highlighted as being of utmost importance and the importance of maintaining a balance between privacy and residential amenity and incidental supervision/proximity to footpaths was recognised.
- 7.35 Site assessments indicate that the quality of some existing play areas compares unfavourably to other types of open space, with site scores ranging from below 50% to 84%. A programme of improvements is therefore required to ensure that all sites continue to meet the aspirations and expectations of residents.

C1	Use the findings of the quality assessment to inform decisions on sites requiring investment. New sites should promote interactive, innovative and imaginative facilities in line with both user expectations and the strategic direction set out in the City of York Play Strategy.
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- 7.36 The quality of facilities (according to the site assessments) is illustrated overleaf on Map 7.3. This highlights that there are clusters of high quality and poorer quality facilities across the City. Of particular importance is those facilities considered to be of poor quality, which are located in small settlements and are the only facility in the settlement.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Map 7.3 - Quality of existing children's play areas in City of York (A larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- 7.37 As illustrated on Map 7.3, high quality facilities are evenly distributed across the City, although there are clusters of poorer quality facilities to both the east and west of the City Centre. Site visits highlight particular issues with the cleanliness and maintenance of facilities, much of which arises from the misuse of sites by children in the older age group. Appropriate design will be instrumental in the delivery of new facilities.
- 7.38 Provision of equipped play facilities places both capital and revenue pressures on the provider. Consultations have already emphasised the importance of ongoing maintenance to local residents. It will be important to ensure that the maintenance (both short and long term) of facilities provided as part of new development is considered and addressed at the outset. This is further discussed in the planning, priorities and implementation Section (13).

C2	Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard. Effective maintenance coupled with an appropriate location was perceived to be of paramount importance. Like provision for teenagers, opportunities to locate facilities for children within parks should be explored.
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- 7.39 As highlighted, while quality of facilities for children appeared to be a key issue for residents, the main concerns related to the quantity of facilities and access to these facilities.
- 7.40 As identified through the application of the quantity standard, there will be significant deficiencies across York up to 2029. Application of the quantity standard indicates that these deficiencies may reach 25 facilities. This is reinforced by the application of the accessibility standard which shows several areas of deficiency to the east of the City Centre (see Figure 7.2 overleaf).
- 7.41 In accessibility terms, some of the largest shortfalls are located in parts of the Osbaldwick, Heworth Without, Fulford and Huntington areas of the City. This suggests that there are insufficient facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents in this area.

Figure 7.2 - Deficiencies in the East of York



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7.42 The importance of effective provision for children takes on even greater importance in these areas, as amenity space is particularly sparse. While there is a good level of provision of parks (Glen Gardens, Hull Road Park) some residents are outside of the recommended catchment for amenity space as well as parks and play facilities.

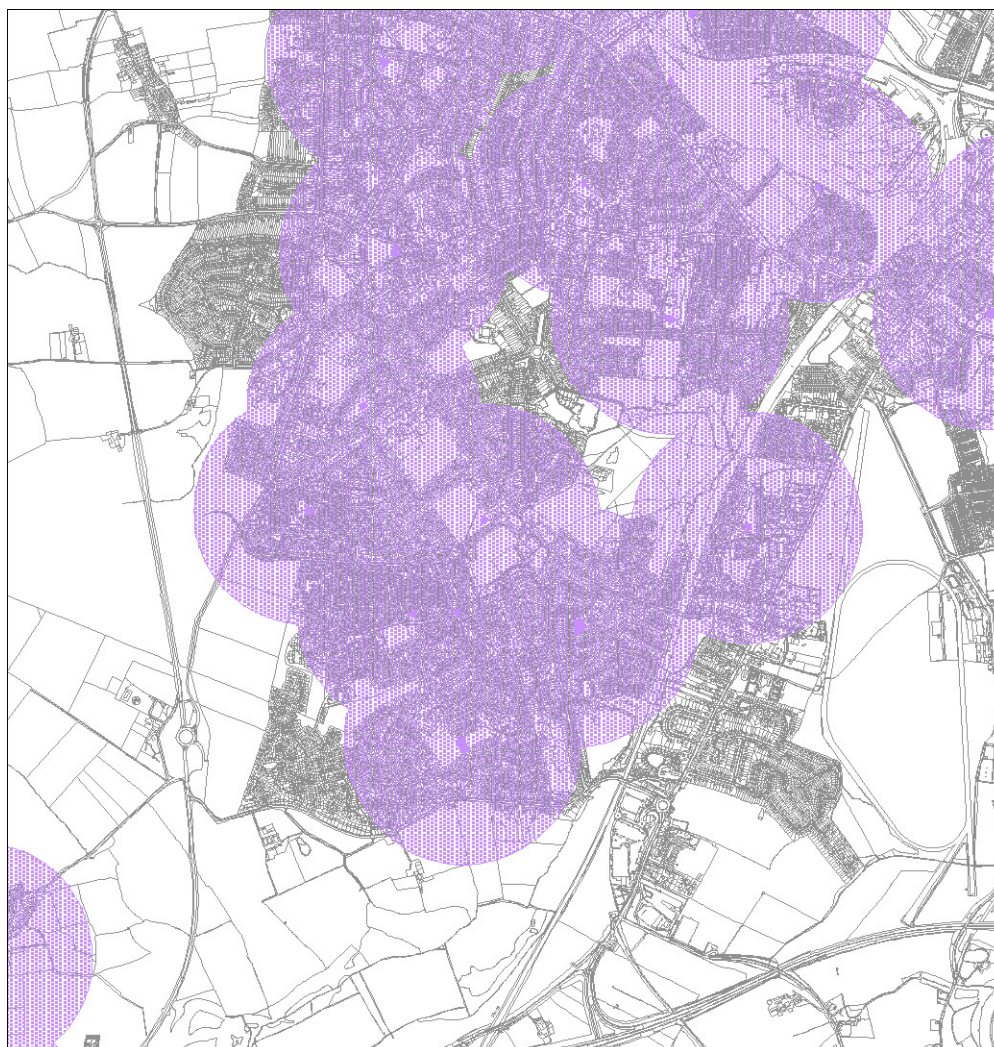
C3	Focus the development of new facilities in the identified areas of deficiency, specifically Heworth Without, Heslington and Huntington and New Earswick.
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7.43 Furthermore, in areas where the quantity of play areas is insufficient to meet local needs, the quality of existing sites takes on greater importance. Deramore Drive and Monkton Road Play areas were both considered to be poorer quality. Monkton Road Play area is the largest site in Heworth, an area of accessibility deficiency.

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- 7.44 Quantitative and accessibility deficiencies are less prominent to the west of the City. The largest areas of deficiency to the West of the City are within the Acomb and Westfield areas where there are issues from both a quantitative and accessibility perspective.
- 7.45 These areas are highlighted in Figure 7.3 below. These areas are also characterised by a lack of amenity green space, further emphasising the importance of new, localised provision for children. The regeneration of the British Sugar site in Acomb may provide some opportunities for additional provision.

Figure 7.3 - Deficiencies in the Acomb and Westfield areas



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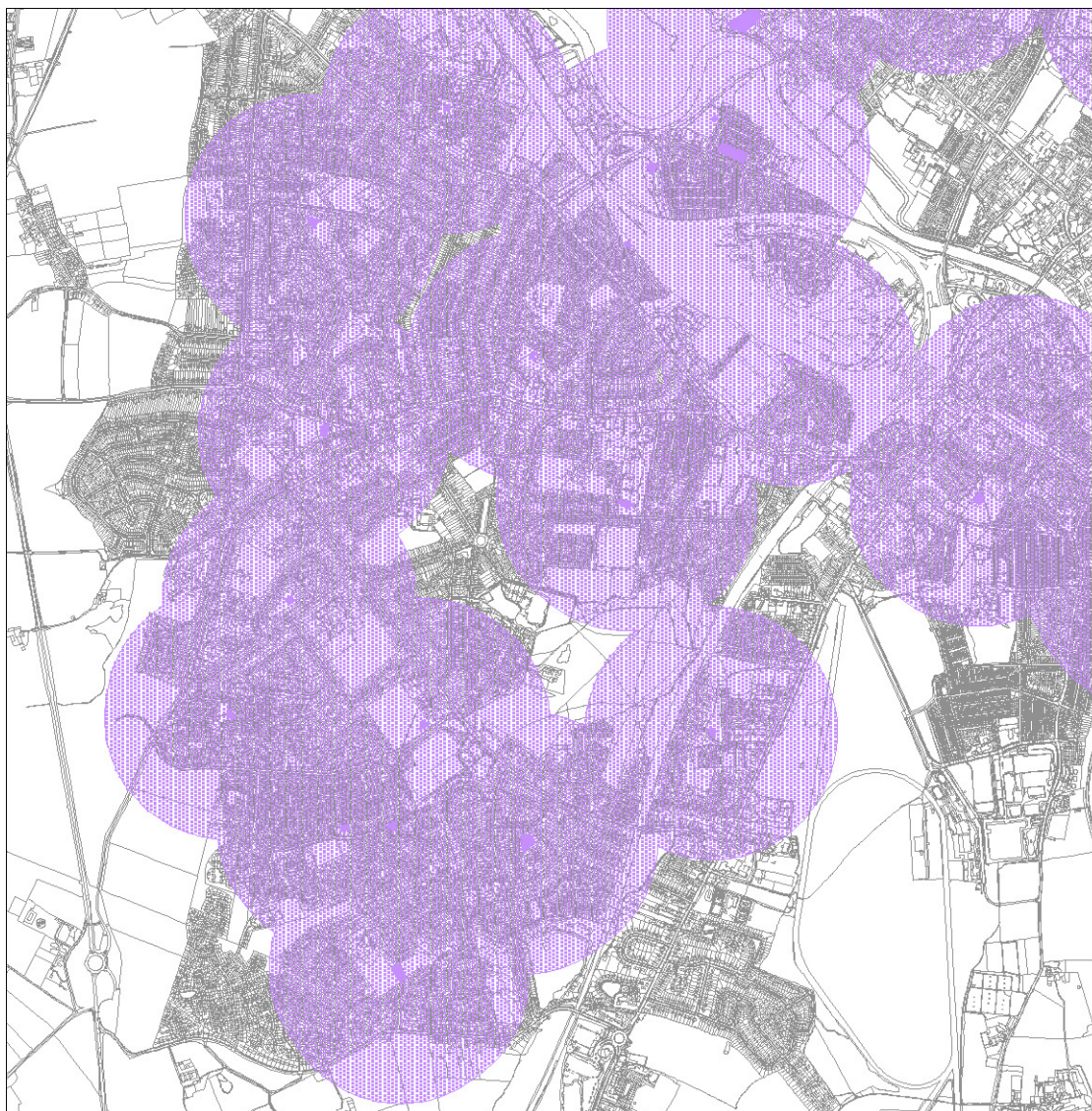
C4

Seek opportunities for new provision in the Westfield, and Acomb areas of the City that currently fall outside of the accessibility catchment.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- 7.46 There are several facilities across Dringhouses and Woodthorpe serving similar catchments (illustrated in Figure 7.4 below). Furthermore, as illustrated in Map 7.4, a number of these sites are considered to be of poor quality. Despite this, there are also shortfalls in accessible facilities in the Dringhouses area of the City, particularly to the south east where access to facilities is restricted due to the railway line and A1036.

Figure 7.4 - Facilities serving several catchments to the west of the City



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C5

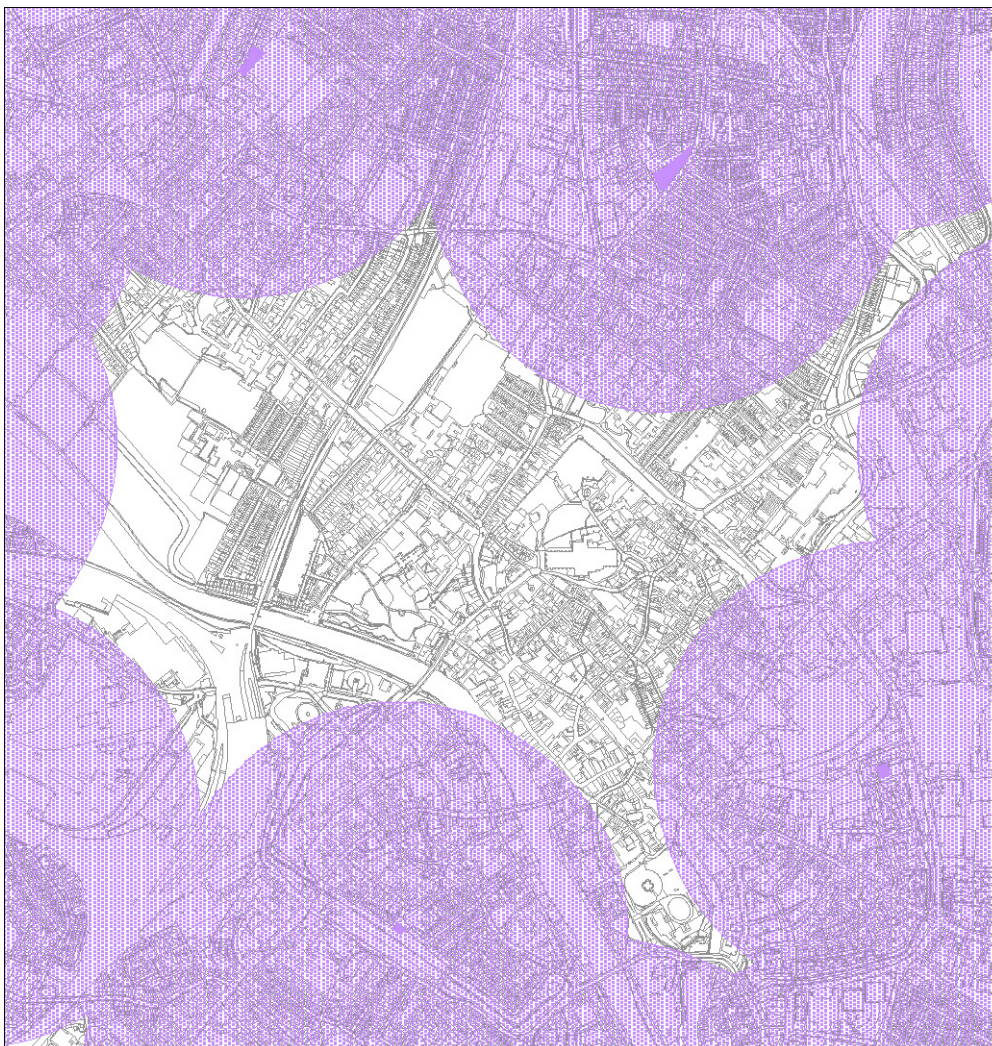
Consider the value of play areas serving similar catchments as illustrated in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe area and seek opportunities to rationalise sites in close proximity to each other in order to enhance the quality of the remaining site.

Address the area of deficiency in Dringhouses through the provision of new facilities.

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- 7.47 The deficiency within the Clifton area of the town is of lower importance as this primarily includes the industrial estate.
- 7.48 Provision for children within the City Centre area is minimal (as shown in Figure 7.5 below) with sites only located on the periphery, there are also several natural barriers, including the rivers and a network of busy roads impeding access.

Figure 7.5 - Deficiency within the City Centre



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- 7.49 Given the future growth in population in this area (although much of this is likely to be apartments and therefore the number of families within the area may be limited) new provision to cater for the resident population will be essential. Location of facilities at Museum Gardens (Site ID 282) and St Georges Fields (Site ID 402) could be considered. Opportunities at Museum Gardens were also frequently highlighted through consultation. In addition to serving residents of the City Centre, provision of facilities in this area would serve tourists and visitors to the City. In light of the ring roads and river corridors which encircle the City Centre, provision will be required within the central area in order to ensure that residents are within the appropriate catchment.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

C6	Provide additional facilities within the City Centre area. Consider the co – location of play areas within larger park or amenity areas, in particular Museum Gardens and St Georges Fields.
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- 7.50 Parish Councils are key providers of facilities for children within the more rural settlements of York. Provision for children is challenging within a rural area, as even residents living in small villages expect access to a facility. In order to effectively serve residents, it is therefore likely that the level of provision would exceed the recommended minimum standard as facilities are likely to serve small numbers of residents.
- 7.51 Application of the quantity standard would suggest that based on the average size of existing facilities within York, as a minimum a play area should be provided if the population of a village exceeds 2000. As highlighted above, in the majority of rural settlements it will be necessary to exceed the minimum standard in order to meet residents needs.
- 7.52 Analysis of the existing distribution of facilities suggests that residents in the majority of larger settlements have access to at least one facility although there are some gaps. Of the larger settlements, there are notably gaps in Bishopthorpe village, the east of Copmanthorpe and South Wigginton to the south of the City and a small area of Strensall, East Nether Poppleton and Skelton to the north of the City. Additionally, facilities in Wheldrake, Askham Bryan and Elvington are of poorer quality. In light of the importance of these sites in serving local residents qualitative enhancements should be considered.
- 7.53 Decisions regarding the provision of facilities in smaller settlements (where population is below the recommended level) should be based on demand from the local residents. There are frequently few opportunities to provide formal play facilities within villages, and any new development of facilities should take into account the demand from the local community.

C7	Protect rural play facilities and support parish councils in the ongoing provision and maintenance of these sites. Provide new facilities in areas where there is sufficient population and where local demand is expressed. Focus in particular in areas where the population exceeds 2000. Key areas of apparent deficiency include Bishopthorpe village, the east of Copmanthorpe and South Wigginton to the south of the City and a small area of Strensall, East Nether Poppleton and Skelton to the north of the City.
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- 7.54 In light of the limited opportunities to provide facilities in rural settlements and the high costs this entails, consideration could be given to the collocation of facilities at school sites, in order to maximise both use of the facility and resources available.

C8	Consider the appropriateness of collocation of facilities at school sites.
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Summary and recommendations

- 7.55 Equipped provision for children was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.
- 7.56 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 although sites are distributed relatively evenly across the City.
- 7.57 Application of the standards highlights several priorities for new provision across the City, particularly in the City Centre area, Huntington and New Earswick, Acomb, Heworth and Dringhouses. Shortfalls in these areas are further exacerbated by a lack of local amenity green space.
- 7.58 Any new facilities developed should meet the suggested quality criteria and should provide exciting play opportunities for children. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement.
- 7.59 Effectively providing facilities in the rural areas of the City is an important challenge and it will be essential to ensure that public transport links are maximised.
- 7.60 Consideration should be given to delivering facilities for children at school sites to maximise resources and ensure that all residents are able to access at least one facility. While provision in rural settlements is challenging, as a minimum facilities should be provided in areas where the population exceeds 2000.
- 7.61 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for children in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:
- incorporate the findings from the quality assessments to inform decisions on sites requiring investment. Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard which integrates effective maintenance with appropriate location
 - identify opportunities to provide new sites in areas where residents are unable to access play facilities within the recommended catchment. Areas where there are currently large accessibility deficiencies and therefore opportunities for new provision therefore include Heworth Without, Heslington, Huntington and New Earswick, Westfield, Dringhouses and Acomb
 - consider the value of play facilities serving similar catchments, particularly those which are of poor quality, seek opportunities to rationalise sites in close proximity to each other in order to enhance the quality of the remaining site. The Dringhouses area is a particular example of where rationalisation should be appropriate
 - protect all rural play facilities and support the ongoing maintenance programmes undertaken by the Parish Councils

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- identify opportunities to provide new facilities in the larger rural settlements where local demand is expressed. As a minimum, consideration should be given to the provision of facilities in all settlements where the population exceeds 2000. Priorities may include Bishopthorpe village, the east of Copmanthorpe and South Wigginton to the south of the City and a small area of Strensall, East Nether Poppleton and Skelton to the north of the City
- consider the appropriateness of collocation of facilities at school sites in order to address current deficiencies.

SECTION 8
PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS

Provision for teenagers

Definition

- 8.1 This type of open space includes areas such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for play and social interaction involving both children and teenagers.
- 8.2 It is important to re-iterate that play facilities designed for children have been assessed separately to those for teenagers (Section 7). Throughout this section emphasis will be on teenagers but we will also consider both in conjunction with each other to look at the overall picture for provision.
- 8.3 Although this assessment considers only facilities specifically designed for the purpose of entertaining teenagers, it is recognised that other types of open space also fulfil this purpose. This is considered as part of the application phase of the local standards.

Strategic context and consultation

Strategic context

- 8.4 The Big Lottery Fund (<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index>) has recently allocated £155 million of funding for provision of children's play facilities. The play initiative is based on the recommendations of the 2004 play review Getting Serious About Play, which defines children's play as "what children and teenagers do when they follow their own ideas, in their own way and for their own reasons."
- 8.5 The initiative aims (selected few) to:
- create, improve and develop children and teenagers' free local play spaces and opportunities throughout England, according to need
 - ensure that local authorities work with other local stakeholders to develop children's play strategies and plans
 - ensure that good, inclusive and accessible children's play services and facilities are provided locally.
- 8.6 Local authorities applying for funding are required to consult with relevant stakeholders including children and teenagers, provide a detailed play strategy and include a portfolio of proposed projects. Examples of individual projects that can form part of the portfolio include:
- adventure playgrounds, BMX and skateboard parks
 - small public playgrounds and creating a play area
 - informal sports facilities
 - a mobile play team, play workers (either paid or volunteers) and holiday and after school play activities.

8.7 Table 8.1 overleaf sets out the strategic context for the provision of facilities for teenagers within the City of York. Provision for children and teenagers is of particular importance within York and this is reinforced within the Local Area Agreement, which prioritises children and teenagers as one of the four building blocks. Key priorities for children and teenagers include:

- being healthy
- staying safe
- enjoying and achieving
- making a positive contribution
- achieving economic wellbeing.

SECTION 8 – PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS

Table 8.1 – Provision for teenagers - local strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary	Relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study
City of York Development Control Local Plan	<p>Local Plan policy L1C considers the provision of new open space (including provision for children and teenagers), stating specifically that:</p> <p>“developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.”</p>	<p>The contributions required towards provision for teenagers should be reviewed and specified in light of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards contained within this report. Adopting these new standards in the Local Development Framework will help to ensure that new development plays its part in delivering an adequate level of open space, sport and recreation facilities for new communities.</p>
Taking Play Forward – A Play Strategy for York	<p>The Play Strategy targets the provision of sufficient appropriate play opportunities for both children and teenagers across all areas of the City. This relates to the provision of informal and formal opportunities for play and development, in addition to the provision of equipped play facilities</p> <p>Taking Play Forward, A Play Strategy for York aims to (amongst others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the standards of play provision • encourage genuine communication and interactions between children and teenagers, individuals and services with interests in play • increase participation in play between children and teenagers • better manage play environments. <p>The strategy ensures that provision meets the needs of children, meets necessary legislative requirements and involves users in decision-making and consultation. Equipped play provision is just one component of provision for play in York.</p>	<p>The recommendations and consultation within the Play Strategy should link directly with the recommendations and standards within this study. It is important that the open space study provides sufficient detailed analysis on consultation with teenagers and analysis of need in order to implement objectives within the Play Strategy.</p>

Consultation

8.8 Consultation specific to teenagers was undertaken using a variety of research techniques and findings have been used to inform the local standards, ensuring they are reflective of local needs. Key themes emerging from consultations include:

- across York, the majority of residents (58.9%) stated that the level of provision for teenagers is insufficient. In contrast, only 1.9% think that there is more than enough provision. Provision for teenagers was a key theme throughout all consultations, with the majority of comments focusing on a lack of available activities across the City
- when considering also those residents who felt there to be nearly enough facilities for teenagers (8%), this position is further strengthened. The perception that there is insufficient provision is the most conclusive of all open space typologies. Other consultations highlighted the negative impact that a lack of provision for teenagers was perceived to have on the quality of other types of open space across the City
- consultation indicated that the quality of teenage facilities is rated as poor by 64% of household survey respondents. This is also significantly higher than for any of the other typologies. These issues surrounding the quality of existing provision are compounded by the dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision
- 68% of respondents stated that walking would be the preferred option when travelling to this type of open space. Of those respondents who would expect to walk to facilities for teenagers – the most commonly held expectation is that this journey should take 5-10 minutes (66%)
- the provision of local facilities was highlighted as particularly important. Many teenagers indicated that they most frequently visit parks and amenity spaces as a result of the close proximity of these facilities to their homes. This reinforces the importance of providing local facilities in order to ensure that they have sufficient opportunities for play and active recreation.

Setting provision standards

8.9 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other. The following sections detail the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards. These are then applied together.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

8.10 The recommended local accessibility standard for provision for teenagers has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standard
15 minutes walk (720 metres)
Justification
<p>The majority of people stated that walking is the most preferred method of travel to a facility for teenagers; therefore it is recommended that a walk time standard be adopted. A walk time is considered most appropriate as teenagers do not always have access to a motorised vehicle and consequently a walk time enables access for all ages and users. Provision of localised facilities meets the needs of teenagers as identified within the IT teenager’s survey.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time is in line with the 75% threshold level, however, it is important to note the implications in terms quantitative improvements. Setting a higher travel time threshold provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights areas in most need (priority for new provision). The standard also sits in line with the recommended accessibility standard for local parks, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for teenagers in these parks. This will be explored further through the application of the local standards.</p> <p>While the 75% threshold was marginally lower in the rural area, indicating that residents in this area expect more local facilities – the delivery of facilities for teenagers in each of the rural villages would be unduly onerous and inappropriate.</p>

Current provision – accessibility

- 8.11 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a pro forma. This takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of the roads, paths and cycleways, whether there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.
- 8.12 The accessibility of existing provision for teenagers is summarised in Table 8.2 overleaf.

Table 8.2 - Accessibility of provision for teenagers

Above upper quartile	61%+	(63%) - Skatepark in Rowntree Park –Site ID 827
Median – Upper quartile	60%-61%	(60%) - Vesper Walk –Site ID 66 (60%) - West Bank Park (Over 11s playground) –Site ID 25
Lower quartile - median	56%-60%	
Less than lower quartile	Below 56%	

Setting provision standards - quantity

- 8.13 The recommended local quantity standard for provision for teenagers is summarised overleaf. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendix F.

Quantity Standard (see appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.02 facilities per 1000 population	0.2 facilities per 1000
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.02 facilities per 1000 population, which is significantly lower than the level of provision for children and reflects the lack of provision that was a key theme across consultations. In light of the low number of dedicated facilities for teenagers, it is likely that large areas of deficiency will be identified. Provision for teenagers should also be considered in the context of the provision of parks and amenity space, which provide informal opportunities for teenagers.</p> <p>A similar proportion of respondents to the IT Teenagers Survey think that the level of provision is inadequate as was the case for children’s provision. Both adults and teenagers made similar comments at drop in sessions around the City and the lack of provision for teenagers was a key issue across all consultations. Furthermore, the lack of provision for teenagers was perceived to have a negative impact on the quality of other open spaces across the City boundaries. A standard has therefore been recommended that is above the existing level of provision.</p>	

Current quantity of provision

8.14 The quantity of facilities for teenagers across York is summarised below in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3 – Provision for teenagers in York

Current Population	Current Provision	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (0.2 facilities per 1000 population)
193,599	4 facilities	0.02	-34	225,600	0.017	-41

8.15 The key issues emerging from Table 8.3 include:

- the provision of facilities for teenagers equates to 0.001 ha per 1000 population or 0.02 facilities per 1000
- when measured against the recommended local standard of 0.2hectares per 1000, there is a shortfall equivalent to 34 facilities
- when projecting the likely adequacy of provision in light of population growth, there is an increase in the overall deficiency, further justifying the need to improve the level of provision for teenagers.

Setting provision standards – quality

8.16 The recommended local quality vision for provision for teenagers has been summarised below. Full justification is provided in Appendix G.

Quality Standard

Recommended standards
<i>“A well designed high quality site that provides a meeting place for teenagers, encompassing the needs of all users with varied formal and informal equipment/space. The site should be located in a safe environment that is accessible to all, without compromising neighbouring land users. The focus should be on providing a well maintained, clean and litter free area with appropriate lighting and shelter, promoting a sense of community ownership. Facilities should be developed through extensive consultation with the local community at all stages of the process”</i>
Justification
<p>Consultation with teenagers reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of such spaces to ‘meet friends’, as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership of sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism, as may the provision of more innovative and imaginative solutions. 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.</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. Consideration should also be given to the achievement of the Green Flag criteria inherent within this vision. It is important that facilities for teenagers meet the needs of users and teenagers should be involved throughout the consultation and development phase of the site in order to promote community involvement and respect. This is in line with priorities identified in the City of York Council Play Strategy.</p>

Current provision – quality

- 8.17 The quality of existing provision for teenagers in the City is summarised in Table 8.4 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and may not always been reflective of the quality of the site throughout the year.
- 8.18 The application of the 75th percentile score (calculated at 69.95% on the site assessment for teenagers) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City. It highlights sites that currently meet the visionary standard, and those sites falling below and consequently provides an indication of where improvement is required.
- 8.19 The quality scores achieved by sites designed to meet the needs of teenagers are set out overleaf in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 – Provision for teenagers - quality scores

Above upper quartile	69%+	(74%) - West Bank Park (Over 11s playground) –Site ID 25
Median – Upper quartile	67%-69%	(69%) - Skatepark in Rowntree Park –Site ID 827
Lower quartile – median	66%-67%	(66%) - Vesper Walk –Site ID 66
Less than lower quartile	Below 66%	

8.20 It can be seen that overall, the quality of provision for teenagers is relatively consistent across the City, with the scores achieved ranging from 66% to 74%. Rowntree Park skate park was perceived to be an example of good practice throughout consultations.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

8.21 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision of teenagers in York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.

8.22 The results of the application of the local quantity standard are striking. All areas of the City currently have a shortfall and this is anticipated to increase by 2029.

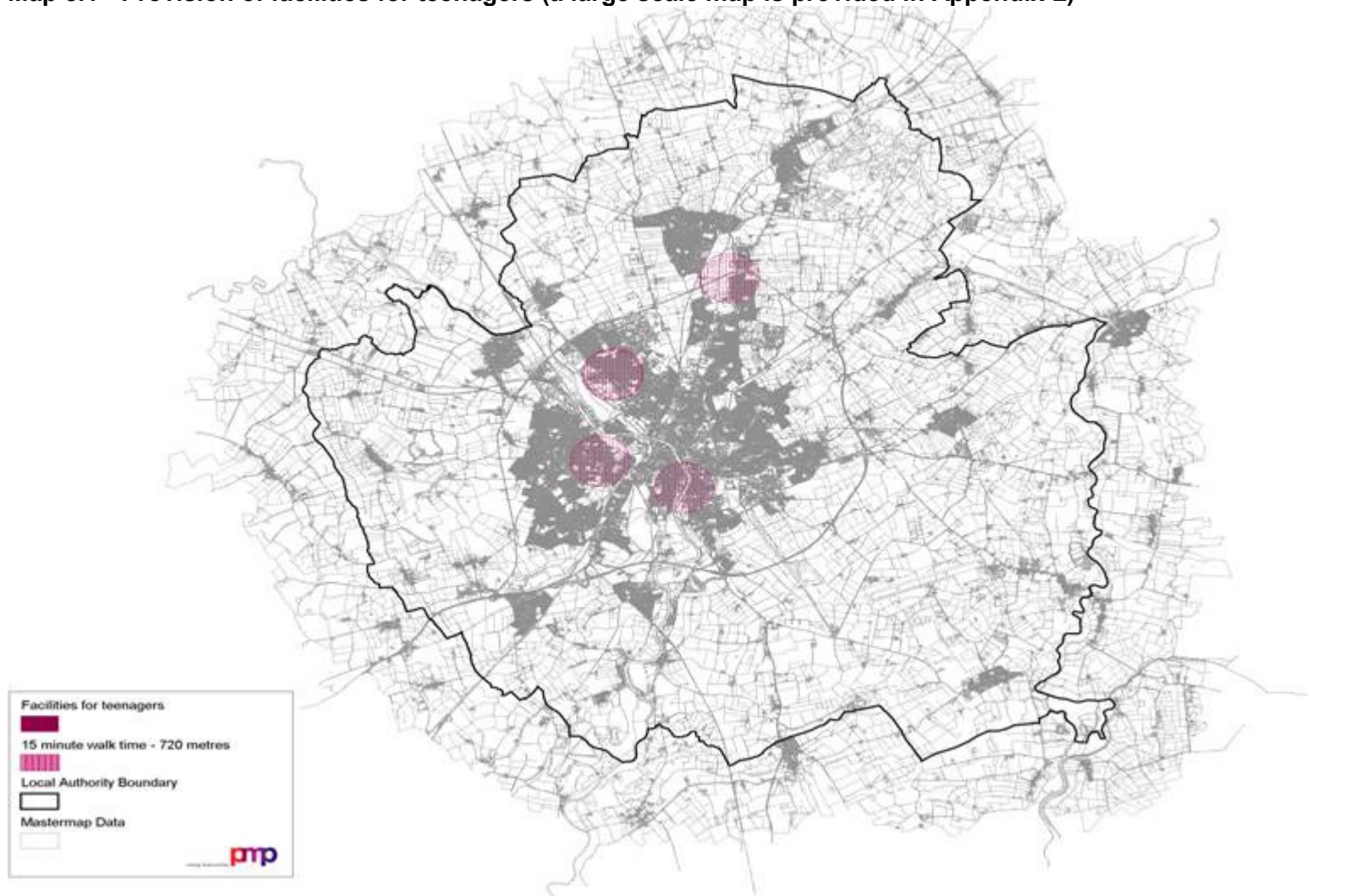
8.23 Map 8.1 overleaf illustrates the findings of the application of the accessibility standard for teenagers. As may be expected, in light of the limited quantity of existing provision, significant deficiencies can be identified. Provision is particularly lacking in to the east of the city and it is evident that there is very little for teenagers in the rural settlements.

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- 8.24 Similar to children, consideration of natural barriers is particularly important when analysing provision for teenagers, as main roads and rivers present safety issues and prevent usage of sites that may otherwise be used. Natural barriers are considered where appropriate within the text considering provision in each area. Cost of use also represents a further barrier to use of facilities by teenagers.
- 8.25 The role of informal provision for teenagers was highlighted as being of equal importance to the delivery of equipped facilities.

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Map 8.1 - Provision of facilities for teenagers (a large scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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- 8.26 While the quantity of provision was the overriding theme of consultations, the quality of provision was also considered to be important, and many existing facilities were criticised for the lack of innovative and exciting equipment. The location of the site was perceived to be important and the suitability of the site for the target user group was also highlighted as a key issue. Involvement in the decision making process of teenagers was highlighted as being instrumental in the development of a successful, well used and well respected site.
- 8.27 The quality of existing facilities is consistent across the City although it compares unfavourably to some other typologies, where significantly higher site scores were allocated.

TEEN1	Promote and encourage the involvement of local teenagers to ensure that facilities meet the needs of their target audience. Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard.
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- 8.28 As illustrated on Map 8.1, analysis of the distribution of facilities for teenagers highlights areas of deficiency. It is essential to consider the application of the quantity and accessibility standards in parallel.
- 8.29 In light of the extent of the identified deficiencies in both quantity and accessibility terms, it is clear that new provision will be required City wide over the LDF period.
- 8.30 In the first instance, it will be important to ensure an equitable distribution of sites across the City area to ensure that all residents are within a reasonable distance of a facility. As highlighted within the recommended accessibility standards, there are opportunities to provide facilities by locating sites within City and local parks. Provision of facilities in all of these sites would ensure a strategic distribution of sites across the City. Opportunities and specific areas of deficiency will be discussed in the text that follows.

TEEN2	Develop a strategic network of facilities for teenagers through the provision of facilities in City and Local Parks.
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- 8.31 Provision for teenagers will be particularly important where residents do not have access to informal open space, ie there are no informal opportunities for teenagers at all. Following the distribution of facilities in local and City parks, priority should therefore be given to larger areas of population where there are limited other opportunities.
- 8.32 Map 8.1 shows that teenagers living in the east of the City have particularly limited access to facilities and there area no facilities directly to the east of the City Centre. The sparse provision means that the quantity of teen facilities in this area is not sufficient to meet the needs of the resident population.
- 8.33 Not surprisingly, given that there are only two facilities to the East of the City, analysis of the accessibility catchments exhibits large clusters of residents outside of the area for provision for teenagers (see Figure 8.1 overleaf). These deficiencies are accentuated by the location of the two existing facilities at the far extremes of the urban fringe. Natural barriers (including the main roads) prevent easy access to these sites for residents living outside of the recommended catchment area.

SECTION 8 – PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS

- 8.34 The low level of provision and poor access to facilities in this area is further exacerbated by the fact that the two facilities on this side of the City (Vesper Walk and Rawcliffe Lane MUGA) were considered to be the two poorest quality facilities in the City.
- 8.35 In order to effectively meet the needs of residents in this area of the City, new provision is therefore required, as well as improvements to existing facilities. Examples to meet deficiencies in this area may include Hull Road Park, Glen Gardens (following the principle of locating facilities for teenagers within larger parks). Residents in North Fulford and Heworth do not have access to amenity space or parks and therefore provision for teenagers takes on greater importance.

Figure 8.1 - Areas of deficiency to the east of the City



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TEEN3	<p>Seek to address the current deficiencies to the east of the City; this should be in the form of new provision as well as improvements to the quality of the existing sites. As highlighted in TEEN 2, the initial focus should be on the provision of facilities within the City and local parks, Hull Road Park and Glen Gardens. Further opportunities for new provision may exist on amenity green space sites.</p> <p>Opportunities for new provision should be sought in North Fulford and Heworth in light of the lack of other types of open space.</p>
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- 8.36 It can be seen that there are similar levels of deficiency to the west of the City with the only provision in Rowntree Park and West Bank Park. Areas outside of the catchment are highlighted in Figure 8.2 overleaf. Deficiencies are of particular importance in Acomb where residents do not have access to parks or amenity spaces within the recommended distance threshold. This means that there are no opportunities for informal recreation in these areas.

Figure 8.2 - Areas of deficiency to the west of the City



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TEEN4	Seek to address deficiencies to the West of the City through new provision. Deficiencies in Acomb are of particular importance in light of the lack of other types of informal open space in this area.
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- 8.37 As highlighted, provision of facilities for teenagers is sparse across the City and there is no provision in the rural settlements. While a strategy of providing additional facilities for teenagers in City and Local Parks will ensure an even distribution across the more central areas of the City, the outlying edges of the City, along with the rural settlements would still remain undersupplied.
- 8.38 Providing cost effective provision for teenagers in more rural areas is challenging. Effective public transport links/footpath/cycle route network to sites for teenagers will therefore be instrumental in these areas.

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TEEN5	Enhance the quality of public transport/footpath and cycle route networks to maximise access to facilities for teenagers in smaller settlements.
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- 8.39 As illustrated in Section 6 (amenity green space) the overall provision of informal facilities within the rural areas is good and most settlements have at least one site of varying size and quality. When considering the larger rural settlements, the only notable exception to this would be Wheldrake. Access to at least one area of informal open space is essential for teenagers. Priority should therefore be given to the provision of either informal open space or a facility for teenagers in this area.
- 8.40 Application of the quantity standard would suggest that based on the average size of existing facilities within York, facilities for teenagers should be provided when the population of a village exceeds 2000. This excludes the majority of villages. The application of the local standard should be treated as a starting point only and facilities will only be required where there is expressed demand.
- 8.41 Consideration could be given to the collocation of facilities at school sites, in order to maximise both use of the facility and resources.

TEEN6	Investigate opportunities to provide facilities for teenagers in rural settlements where the population exceeds 2000 residents.
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- 8.42 In order to ensure appropriate access for all, the provision of a mobile facility that could be hired and transported to different settlements could also be considered. Provision for teenagers should also be considered in the context of wider services (such as youth clubs) that are discussed within the City of York Play Strategy.

Summary and recommendations

- 8.43 A lack of facilities for teenagers, and the negative impact that this can generate for other open spaces was one of the key areas discussed throughout consultations. As a result, the recommended local standards address these issues, setting challenging criteria that can be used to identify priority areas.
- 8.44 In light of the existing low levels of provision, the application of both quantity and accessibility standards highlight significant areas of deficiency. The quality of existing sites is reasonably consistent across York.
- 8.45 In light of the extent of deficiencies, it is clear that new provision is required. It is suggested that the location of facilities within larger parks is considered within the first instance and then priority is given to areas devoid of any informal open space.
- 8.46 Effectively providing facilities in the rural settlements is an important challenge and it will be essential to ensure that public transport links and footpath and cycle route networks are maximised.
- 8.47 Any new facilities should be developed in conjunction with their target user group.
- 8.48 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of facilities for teenagers in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:

SECTION 8 – PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS

- ensure facilities are fit for purpose by involving local teenagers
- provide new facilities which meet the recommended quality standard
- develop a strategic network of facilities for teenagers through the provision of facilities in City and Local Parks
- as well as addressing deficiencies through the placement of facilities in parks, pursue opportunities in areas where there is a shortage of parks, amenity green spaces and facilities' for teenagers, for example Acomb and Heworth
- maximise the access to facilities for teenagers in the smaller settlements across York by effective development of the public transport/footpath and cycle route networks.

SECTION 9
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Outdoor sports facilities

Definition

- 9.1 PPG17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. This study includes only outdoor sports facilities. Indoor facilities have been considered separately as part of the Councils' Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- 9.2 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space, which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are either publicly or privately owned. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- 9.3 Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point of a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of pitches, which often have a secondary function of a local dog walking and kickabout area. Likewise, amenity green space sites often provide informal sporting opportunities.

Figure 9.1 – Shipton Road Rugby and Cricket Club



Strategic context and consultation

- 9.4 Table 9.1 overleaf considers the strategic context for outdoor sports facilities across the City of York. Effective provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities will be essential if targets to increase participation at a rate of 1% per year are to be achieved. According to the Active People Survey 2007, 24.8% of residents of York participate in sport or active recreation three times per week or more. This is above the national average.

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Table 9.1 - Strategic context – outdoor sports facilities

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy May 2008	<p>Policy ENV10 states that development plans will maintain and enhance a range of landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance including historic landscapes, parks and gardens.</p> <p>Policy ENV11 within the RSS focuses on Health and Recreation and further supports the importance of sport and recreation with references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing, safeguarding and enhancing facilities for sports and recreation • increasing activity rates and opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. Measured by increasing participation by 1% per year. 	<p>The audit undertaken as part of this study will provide a detailed understanding of existing provision. The subsequent analysis and application of local standards will guide the protection and enhancement of future open spaces and outdoor sport and recreation facilities.</p>
City of York Development Control Local Plan	<p>On a local level, the Local Plan further emphasises the importance of amenity green space in York, particularly in new developments. Policy L1c seeks to ensure that all new housing developments and commercial proposals over 2500m² gross, contribute to the provision of amenity space to ensure that the needs of future occupiers are met. Commuted sums towards off site provision will be required in developments of less than 10 dwellings.</p> <p>For sites of 10 or more dwellings, an assessment of existing open space provision accessible to the proposed development site including its capacity to absorb additional usage will be undertaken. This is to ascertain the type of open space required and whether on-site or a commuted sum payment for</p>	<p>This open space study will provide a detailed understanding of the quality and quantity of existing provision. The study will also provide new local standards specific to the provision of outdoor sports facilities within the City of York.</p> <p>This standard will complement the work undertaken as part of the playing pitch strategy and should be used to guide the provision of outdoor sports facilities in new development as well as inform the provision of new or improved sport and recreation facilities across the City of York.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>off-site provision is more appropriate (this will include the cost of land purchase), based on individual site circumstances.</p> <p>The policy states that 1.7ha per 1000 population outdoor sports facilities will be required.</p> <p>Policy 1d identifies a number of locations as potential areas for recreation opportunity and development of new amenity green space.</p> <p>Policy L1b protects against the loss of leisure facilities, stating that development leading to the loss of leisure facilities will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a need for the leisure facility no longer exists; or b) appropriate alternative facilities exist within the catchment area. Policy 1e encourages proposals for the development of golf courses, and/or driving ranges on the assumption that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the landscape, the dominant features of which should be retained; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) new buildings are kept to the minimum in line with the operational requirements of the activity; and b) proposals would not lead to the loss of existing public rights of way and would exploit the opportunity to provide new public access to the countryside; and c) the proposal does not involve development on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as grades 1, 2, or 3a); and d) the proposal would not be visually intrusive due to the use of floodlighting or extensive fencing. 	

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>City of York Council Playing Pitch Strategy</p>	<p>The Playing Pitch Strategy considers the provision of pitches for football, cricket, rugby and hockey both on a local authority wide level and also within each of the four action zones.</p> <p>The study concluded that the City currently has a shortage of mini and junior soccer pitches (31 and 9 respectively) and junior rugby league pitches (16). In light of population growth, these deficiencies are expected to increase. The study also identified a number of other pitches in the City which are not currently available for community use, many of which are located on school sites.</p> <p>Statistical analysis indicates that the City has a surplus of cricket pitches and the bulk of these are at community accessible school sites.</p> <p>In addition to quantitative shortfalls, issues regarding the quality of both pitches and ancillary accommodation were also identified. The Playing Pitch Strategy also identifies a series of key actions within each of the four areas of the City.</p>	<p>This study will complement the Playing Pitch Strategy and provide a wider evidence base regarding other outdoor sports facilities.</p>

Consultation

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

- of the five facility types surveyed, residents were dissatisfied with two (synthetic turf pitches 28.1% and tennis courts 28.1%), stating there was not enough provision. The remaining three areas; grass pitches 51.5%, bowling greens 47.1% and golf courses 36.7% indicated that the levels of provision were about right. This contrasts with the findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy, which suggest that there are insufficient pitches. This reflects the demand led nature of outdoor sports provision
- the view that there are shortfalls of pitches was also reflected in workshops and drop in sessions, where it was suggested that there are particular shortages of facilities for junior teams and of training facilities. It was also felt that community use of school sites would significantly advance the level and quality of provision across the City
- consultation indicated that the quality of outdoor sports facilities in York is considered to be average by 50% of household survey respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were poor (28%) as opposed to being good (23%)
- the modal response relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities was average, although it was perceived that facilities were of higher quality outside of the urban area
- when asked what prevented respondents from using outdoor sports facilities, many residents commented on the poor quality of the facilities and also the limited size of the specific sites, both of which have contributed to poor quality ratings
- consultation highlighted that the quality of the Knavesmire was perceived to be particularly problematic. Many of the problems at the site stem from the dual function of the site as an amenity area for local residents. This highlights the conflict between formal sports provision and amenity areas
- the household survey reveals that York residents would expect to walk to grass pitches (66%), tennis courts (52%) and bowling greens (55%), whereas the majority of respondents would expect to drive to golf courses (69%). When questioned on expectations relating to the provision of synthetic turf pitches it can be seen that there is a split in expectations between those who wish to walk (32%), drive (38%) and cycle (23%).

Setting provision standards

9.6 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other. The following sections detail the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards. These are then applied together.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 9.7 The recommended local accessibility standards for the provision of outdoor sports facilities has been summarised below. Full justification for the local standards is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility standard

Recommended standard
15-minute walk (720m) to local outdoor sports (eg grass pitches, tennis courts or bowling greens)
20-minute drive (8km) to synthetic turf pitches (STPs) and golf courses – The use of public transport (as opposed to private car) should be promoted.
Justification
<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for STPs (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Given the findings from the local consultation, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, and a separate standard for STPs and golf courses to reflect local expectations regarding driving and walking to outdoor sport facilities. The 75% threshold level for those who expect to walk to grass pitches, tennis courts or bowling greens range is 15 minutes. As a consequence, a 15 minute walk time to these “local” outdoor sports facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements whilst also focusing on improving the quality of existing provision. This is in line with ensuring sustainable transport choices and accounts for the wide mix of facilities types within the standard to meet user expectations.</p> <p>The 75% threshold levels for those who expect to drive to STPs and Golf Courses are both 20 minutes. Given the more specialist nature of these facilities, and the fact they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 20-minute drive time standard is recommended. The use of public transport (as opposed to private car) should be promoted and sites should be easily accessed by public transport.</p> <p>The use of school facilities for community use will be particularly important in the rural areas if the recommended standard is to be delivered.</p>

Current provision - accessibility

- 9.8 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a pro forma that takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of the roads, paths and cycleways, where there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.

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9.9 The accessibility of existing outdoor sports facilities in the City is summarised in Table 9.2 below. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted at a snapshot in time and may not always be reflective of the accessibility of the site throughout the year.

9.10 Based on the accessibility scores obtained, the upper quartile score was 70%. The median was 67%, and the lower quartile score was 53%.

Table 9.2 – Selection of accessibility assessments results for outdoor sports facilities

Above upper quartile	70%+	(80%) - Lakeside Primary School –Site ID 484 (77%) - Upper Poppleton Sports Ground – Site ID 651
Median – Upper quartile	67%-69%	(67%) – Heworth Cricket Club –Site ID 88 (67%) – Bootham School –Site ID 462
Lower quartile – median	53%-66%	(60%) – Wigginton Playing Field – Site ID 93 (53%) – Strensall Park Playing Field –Site ID 752
Less than lower quartile	Below 53	(50%) – New Earswick Sports Club –Site ID 576 (37%) – Craven Sports Ground – Site ID 85

9.11 The key issues emerging from Table 9.2 include:

- there is a significant variation in the scores for accessibility to outdoor sports facilities
- seven sites scored below 45%. A space that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore may be of little value, irrespective of its quality.

Setting provision standards – quantity

9.12 The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been summarised overleaf. Full justifications are provided within Appendix F.

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Quantity Standard (see Appendices F and I – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.96 ha per 1000 population	2.05 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Golf courses have been removed from all figures due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Although many school sports sites are not accessible to the local community at the current time, they are identified as important resources throughout the consultations. School facilities have been included within the calculation, to ensure that they are protected. The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.</p> <p>In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that it is set marginally above the current level of provision (1.96ha) at 2.05ha per 1,000 population. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is most evident, however results from the local consultation suggest there are demands being placed on STPs, tennis courts and bowling greens.</p>	

Current quantity position

- 9.13 The provision of outdoor sports facilities across the City is summarised in Table 9.2 overleaf.

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Table 9.2– Provision of outdoor sports facilities in York (excluding golf courses)

Current Provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (Hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (2.05 hectares per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (2.05 hectares per 1000 population)
378.7	158	0.05	62.1	1.96	-18.8	225,600	1.64	-83.78

9.14 The key issues emerging from Table 9.2 above include:

- the current overall level of provision is equivalent to 378.7 hectares spread across 158 sites across the City, which equates to an average site size of 2.39 hectares
- when measured against the recommended local standard, it can be seen that there are shortfalls in provision (-18.8ha)
- in light of the population growth, by 2029, existing deficiencies will increase to -83.78ha against the local standard of 2.05 hectares per 1000 population.

Setting provision standards – quality

9.15 The recommended local quality vision for outdoor sport facilities has been summarised overleaf. Full justification is provided in Appendix G.

Quality Standard

Recommended standard
<i>“A well-planned, clean and litter free sports facility that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should be well maintained to an appropriate match play standard, with good grass coverage and well-drained quality surfaces. Appropriate ancillary facilities should be provided at sites with consideration given to providing toilets, changing rooms, car parking, and meeting places. The site should be managed appropriately ensuring community safety and provide a local amenity that is close to people’s homes, encouraging residents to participate in physical activity”</i>
Justification
<p>The key issues identified with existing sites, specifically vandalism and graffiti; poor maintenance (drainage) and poor quality changing facilities are reflected within the vision. Cleanliness and maintenance of facilities was perceived to be particularly important throughout consultations. The standard incorporates "appropriate management" to ensure that where required, management issues are addressed. Community safety is also incorporated to reflect NPFA design guidelines. It is also important that outdoor sport facilities are well drained, and are fit for purpose. Given that general satisfaction regarding outdoor sports facilities is fairly low, it is important that careful consideration is giving to delivering aspirations for outdoor sports facilities. Some quantitative issues can also be addressed through improved quality of pitches (and subsequently increases the capacity of pitches for the match play). This increases the importance of meeting this quality vision.</p> <p>Given that the majority of sites will be of substantial size, it is important that sites are designed with careful consideration to their context – this is reflected in the quality vision. The importance of ensuring that sports facilities are accessible to all was also highlighted as a key issue, with many young people enjoying informal use of outdoor sports facilities.</p>

Current provision – quality

- 9.16 The quality of existing provision for outdoor sports facilities in the City is summarised in Table 9.3 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as snapshot in time and may not always been reflective of the quality of the site.

Quality benchmarking

- 9.17 The application of the upper percentile score (70% on the site assessment for outdoor sports facilities) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each site and enables a comparison of sites across the City. It highlights sites, which currently meet the visionary standard, and those sites falling below and consequently where improvement is required. A full list of site scores can be found in the outdoor sports facilities section of Appendix D.
- 9.18 The median score is 65.7% and the lower quartile score is 58%. A selection of assessment results has been included in the table overleaf to illustrate the distribution of scores.

Table 9.3 – Selection of quality assessments results for outdoor sports facilities

Above upper quartile	70%+	(80%) - Upper Poppleton Sports Ground – Site ID 651 (78%) – Heslington Sportsfield – Site ID 555
Median – Upper quartile	65.7%-69%	(66%) – Huntington Sports Club – Site ID 171 (66%) – Glen Gardens Bowling Green – Site ID 89
Lower quartile - median	58%-65.7%	(60%) – Askham Lane Cricket Ground – Site ID 84 (64%) – Hopgrove Playing Fields – Site ID 87
Less than lower quartile	Below 58	(56%) – Howard Road Playing Field – Site ID 745 (54%) – Glen Gardens Tennis Courts – Site ID 91

9.19 The key issues emerging from Table 9.3 include:

- the range of quality of outdoor sports facilities is wide, with sites achieving contrasting high and low scores – this indicates that some residents may only be served by facilities of poor quality
- three sites scored extremely highly and can be considered to be examples of good practice
- the aspiration should be for all outdoor sports facilities to achieve the score required to fall within the upper quartile category and achieve the quality vision
- nine sites scored 50% or below. Sites considered to be of high quality but with no or low/insignificant usage should be investigated further.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

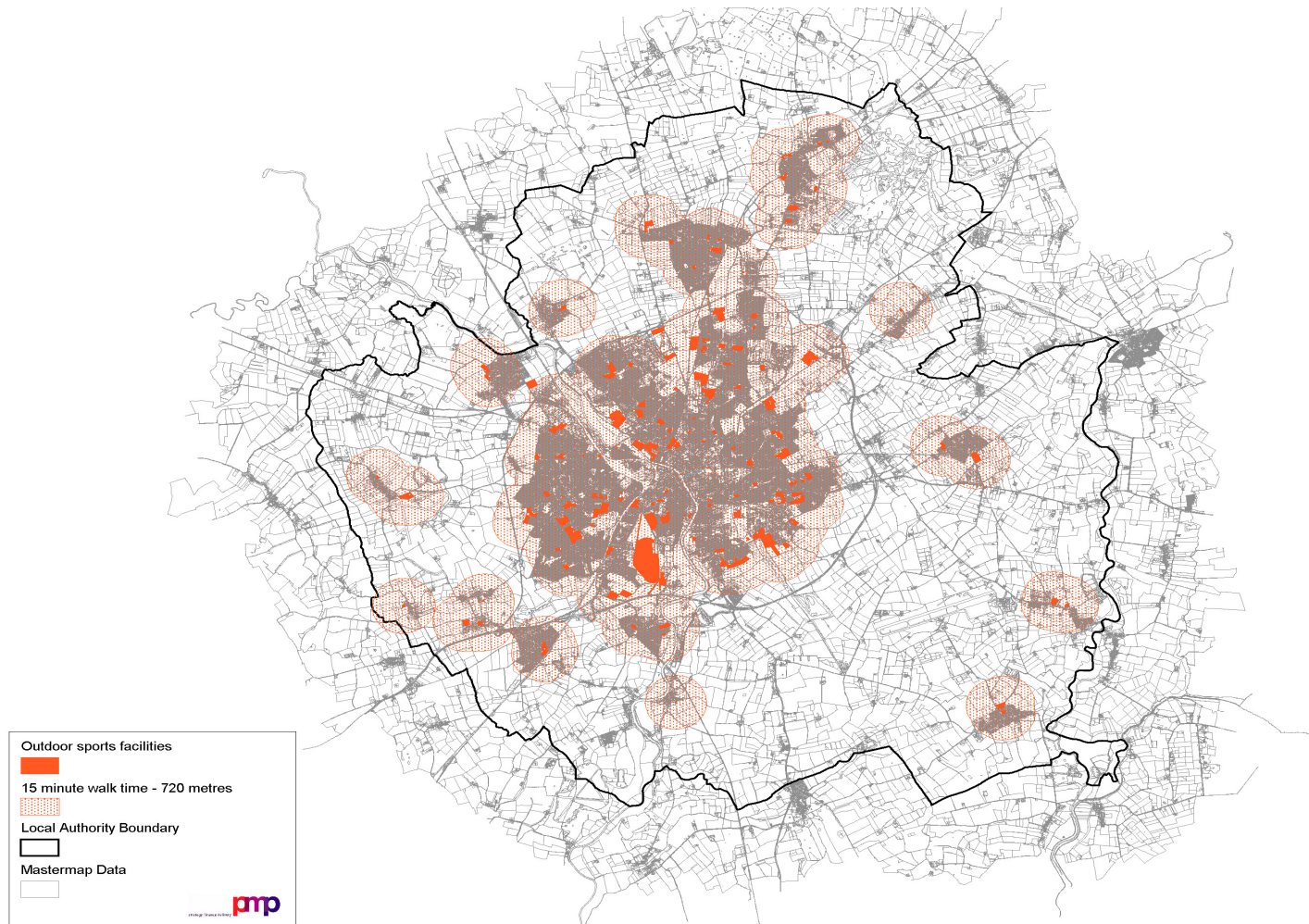
9.20 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision of outdoor sport facilities across the City of York should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.

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- 9.21 Overall, provision in York is insufficient to satisfy local need in quantitative terms based on both the existing provision and up to 2029, with a significant deficiency of -83ha against the local standard. The achievement of the national and local targets of increasing sports participation by 1% per annum may further impact on the demand for local sports facilities.
- 9.22 In light of the demand led nature of outdoor sports facilities and the wide variation in the type of facilities included within this typology, the application of standards should be considered only a starting point. The analysis provides a means of understanding the existing distribution of sports facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 9.23 The application of the local accessibility standards for outdoor sports facilities is set out in Map 9.1 overleaf. Map 9.2 breaks down the provision of different types of outdoor sports facility in more detail. When considering site specific issues relating to the provision of outdoor sports facilities, natural barriers should also be considered.

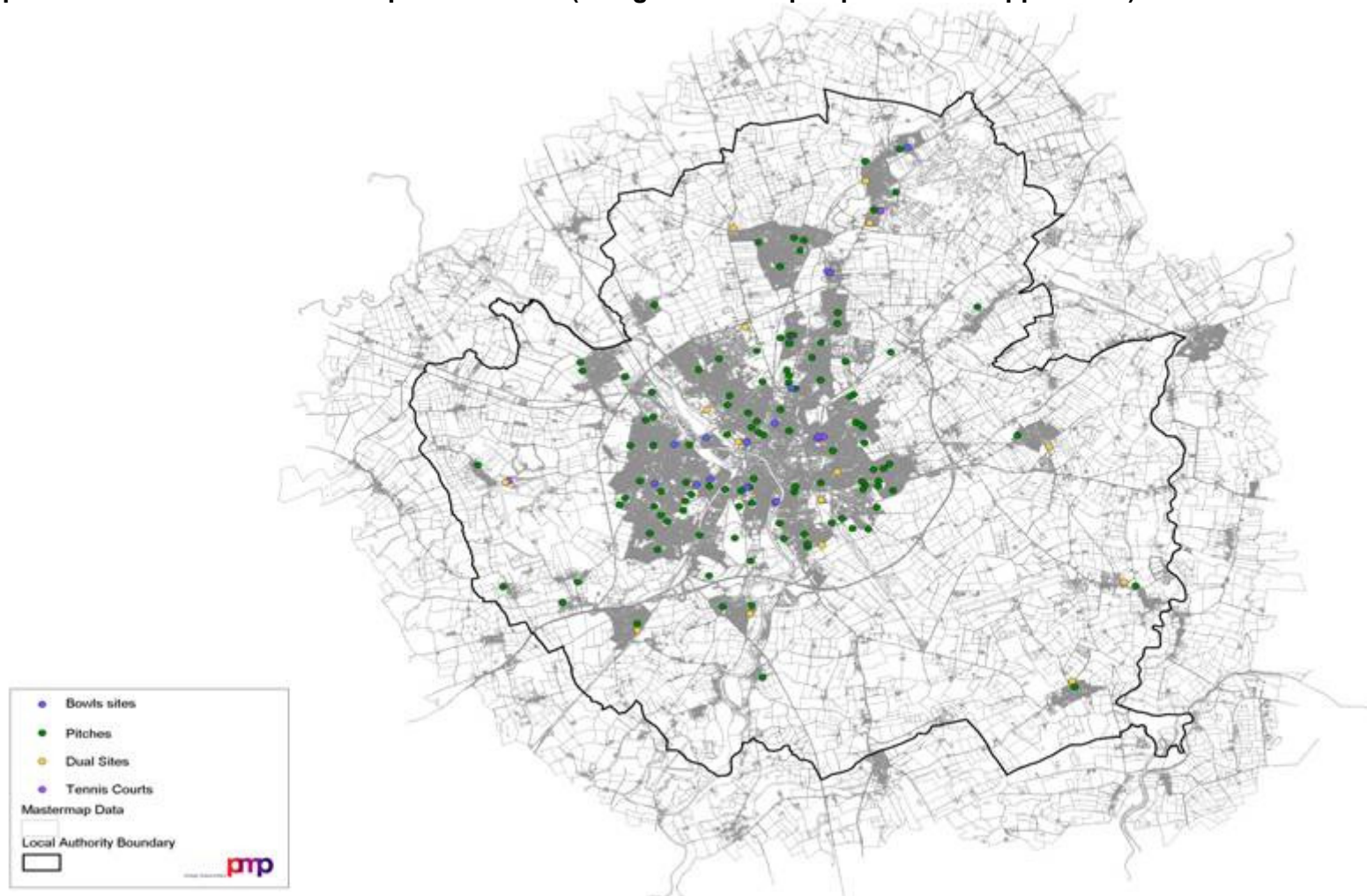
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Map 9.1 - Provision of outdoor sports facilities (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



Based upon the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Officer. Crown Copyright. City of York Council Licence No. LA09067L 2007

Map 9.2 - Distribution of outdoor sports facilities (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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- 9.24 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites include:
- the application of the accessibility catchment for all facility types shows that all key settlements within York are within the recommended threshold of at least one type of outdoor sports facility
 - there is an even distribution of local (tennis courts, grass pitches and bowling greens) outdoor sport facilities across all areas of the City. Indeed all residents within the urban area are able to access at least one local facility and the majority of those in the rural settlements are also within the recommended distance of a facility
 - all residents are also within the suggested 20 minute drivetime of a strategic site and it can be seen that these facilities are equitably distributed across the authority. Two synthetic facilities are located to the north and a further two in the south. Golf courses are also located sporadically within the green belt and on the periphery of the urban area
 - despite the equitable distribution of sites, school facilities have restricted access and in some instances are not accessible to the local community. While there appears to be an even distribution of facilities, those with limited or no community access do not effectively serve residents. The importance of enhancing access to school facilities was raised throughout consultations and is also a key theme of the playing pitch strategy
 - analysis of the spread of different outdoor sports facilities indicates that pitches and bowling greens are evenly distributed.
- 9.25 Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites.
- 9.26 The playing pitch strategy places an emphasis on improving the quality of existing facilities (in terms of both ancillary accommodation and pitch quality) and increasing access to existing facilities. It indicates that where possible, new facilities should be provided through the expansion of existing sites rather than the development of new sites. Consultation highlighted that there are perceived to be locational deficiencies of tennis and bowls sites.
- 9.27 It is therefore clear that while the quantity of facilities is problematic in some areas and for some types of facilities, 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, ranging from 44% - 80%.
- 9.28 As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities to ensure that all sites are fit for purpose.

OSF1	Strive to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve 70% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.
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- 9.29 In addition to the quality of outdoor sports facilities, consultation highlighted that the quantity of provision in some areas is problematic. In many cases, qualitative improvements will increase the capacity of sites and thus address quality issues.
- 9.30 The quantitative analysis has revealed a requirement for extensive provision up to 2029 across York. There are also shortfalls based on the current population, which links with the findings of the playing pitch strategy.
- 9.31 The even distribution of facilities illustrated on Map 9.1 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 stem from access to facilities (or to the specific type of facility required) rather than an overall shortfall.
- 9.32 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. This is particularly critical in the urban areas of the authority given that there are deficiencies in provision and limited availability of land to address this. The extended schools and Building Schools for the Future programme will facilitate the use of school sites for community activity.

OSF2	In locations where there is expressed demand for further sporting provision, and where school facilities could be made available to the public but aren't currently, the Council should consider the feasibility of formalising community-use agreements at school sites prior to seeking delivery of new outdoor sport facilities. Opportunities to increase provision through the negotiation of community use sites were highlighted in all areas of the City in the playing pitch strategy.
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- 9.33 In addition to maximising opportunities at school sites, it will be essential to ensure that residents are able to access sites through effective transport links, public rights of way and cycle routes. A linked network of sports facilities will be essential in the achievement of increased usage of sustainable means of transport. The presence of the river and road network further restricts easy access to facilities.

OSF3	Enhance the quality of public transport links, cycle routes and public footpaths to facilitate access to sports facilities.
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- 9.34 Although many of the solutions for the effective provision of outdoor sports facilities relate to the enhancement of the quality of facilities as well as improving access to existing sites, consideration is also given to the opportunities for new provision within the different areas of the City. In some instances, new provision will be the only alternative. New provision will also be required in order to meet the local standards.
- 9.35 In light of the specific nature of provision, new facilities for sport should be demand led. Specific demand for increased pitch provision (over and above that which can be gained through the negotiation of community use agreements) has been expressed in:
- Bishopthorpe
 - Fulford

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- Heslington
- Skelton
- Strensall
- New Earswick
- Copmanthorpe
- Dringhouses.

OSF4	In light of expressed demand, identify opportunities for new provision of pitches in the above areas.
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- 9.36 Consultation further highlighted that there is a perceived unmet demand for tennis facilities. Analysis of the current distribution of these sites across the local area indicates that only residents within the urban area of York have access to a facility. Residents located in the rural settlements do not currently have access to a tennis or bowls facility within the recommended catchment.

OSF5	In light of the perceived unmet demand and poor distribution, consider locating publicly accessible tennis facilities in the larger rural settlements, potentially Wigginton, Strensall, Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe.
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- 9.37 In light of the demand led nature of sports facilities, demand should be monitored on an ongoing basis.

OSF6	Monitor the demand for sports facilities on an ongoing basis and address these issues where possible.
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Summary

- 9.38 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 Town and Parish Councils, 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.
- 9.39 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. City of York'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.
- 9.40 Consultation highlights issues with both the quantity and quality of facilities. Analysis of the existing provision supports this. There is significant variation in the quality of facilities across the City, with site assessment scores ranging significantly. Quality issues included vandalism, drainage and poor ancillary accommodation.

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- 9.41 The distribution of outdoor sport facilities across the City is even. Despite this there is a large difference in the amount of land dedicated to these facilities, which is reflective of the type of facilities in each area. To some extent this determines the level of quantitative shortfall/surplus in an area. Analysis of the application of the accessibility standards highlights few deficiencies.
- 9.42 Improvements to the quality and accessibility of existing facilities should therefore be prioritised and new provision should be delivered through the expansion of existing sites and enhanced access to sites that do not currently permit community use.
- 9.43 Despite the prioritisation of enhancements to existing facilities, new provision will be required in some areas.
- 9.44 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of outdoor sports facilities in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:
- ensure all outdoor sports facilities are fit for purpose through a structured improvement programme
 - identify opportunities to formalise community use agreements at school sites where there is an expressed demand for further sporting provision
 - maximise the quality of public transport links, cycle routes and public footpaths to facilitate access to sports facilities
 - identify opportunities to meet demand for pitches in the following areas; Bishopthorpe, Fulford, Heslington, Skelton, Strensall, New Earswick, Copmanthorpe and Dringhouses
 - seek opportunities to provide publicly accessible tennis facilities in the larger rural settlements such as Wigginton, Strensall, Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe
 - monitor the demand for sports facilities on an ongoing basis and address these issues where possible
 - consider undertaking detailed sport specific evaluations of demand in order to inform decisions regarding the most appropriate type of facility.

SECTION 10
ALLOTMENTS

Allotments

Definition

- 10.1 This 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 as well as the primary use of growing produce. These include: -
- bringing together different cultural backgrounds
 - improving physical and mental health
 - providing a source of recreation
 - wider contribution to green and open space.

Figure 10.1 - Allotments West of Dunnington



- 10.3 The strategic context of allotments is set out in Table 10.1 overleaf.

SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

Table 10.1 – Strategic context - allotments

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
City of York Council Allotment Strategy	<p>The purpose of this strategy is to create an efficient, flexible, effective Allotments Service that reflects best practice in allotment management. This will enable Council allotment sites to be used to their full potential, whilst improving the service offered to allotment tenants.</p> <p>To deliver the Strategy, 10 aims have been identified. The aims have been drawn up in accordance with 'Growing in the Community - A Good Practice Guide for the Management of Allotments' and the Green Flag Park Award scheme. The intention is to use current best practices for green spaces and open areas and incorporate them in the management of allotment sites. The aims are in turn supported by a range of Objectives. How each objective will be delivered is then set out in the 5-year Action Plan through a series of actions and initiatives to be undertaken over the 5-year period.</p>	<p>The Allotment Strategy highlights the need to safeguard and improve existing provision of allotments. This follows through from community-needs and will be built on through the consultation within this study.</p>
City of York Development Control Local Plan	<p>The Local Plan states that allotments are an important resource within the community, especially for those people with small gardens, or who lack a garden altogether. In addition, they can have a significant amenity and nature conservation role.</p>	<p>The nature of this typology is very much demand led. Any enhancement to existing provision should be matched with sufficient demand in order to sustain a high quality site.</p>

Consultation

- 10.4 Consultation specific to allotments was undertaken using a variety of research techniques. Findings have been used to inform the local standards ensuring that they are directly reflective of local needs. Key themes emerging from consultations include:
- in total, 36% of the population felt that the level of provision of allotments was about right across York
 - attendees at the workshops felt that there was a distinct lack of provision across the City –with some sites containing waiting lists exceeding 2 – 3 years. Some plots have now been split into two in order to provide more residents with the opportunity to participate
 - 14% of people responding to the household survey would be interested in renting an allotment in York, indicating a demand for allotments
 - the majority of residents in York perceive the quality of allotments to be average (55%). 35% feel the sites are good while 10% would rate them as poor
 - residents attending drop in sessions felt that the quality of allotments was varying. It was considered that regular inspections were essential to ensure that sites were of a good quality. New Lane Allotments, off Hamilton Drive were mentioned as an example of a well-maintained allotment site. In contrast, there are perceived to be security concerns at Holgate and Glen Allotments, off Fourth Avenue. At the workshops it was indicated that the quality of fencing, security and ancillary facilities at allotment sites is considered to be poor
 - some attendees at workshops commented on the use of allotments at school sites and the positive messages that this conveys. Despite this, there was still perceived to be a lack of awareness of the facilities provided
 - it was suggested at workshops that each allotment site should include the development of a community garden area, where all residents of the local community can enjoy the benefits of allotments
 - 66% of respondents to the household survey stated that walking would be their preferred travel method when visiting allotments. The majority of respondents would expect to travel up to 10 minutes to reach an allotment site (67%).

Setting Provision Standards

- 10.5 As discussed in Section Two, PPG17 requires local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility for each type of open space. Although these standards are set in isolation from each other they are interrelated and when applied to the local area, quantity, quality and access should be considered in the context of each other. The following sections detail the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards. These are then applied together.

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 10.6 The recommended local accessibility standard for allotments has been summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard

Recommended standard
15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 metres)
Justification
<p>The provision of allotments is very much a demand led typology and this 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, as a guide, a standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time. Residents responding to the household survey indicated that they would expect to walk to allotments and a walk time has therefore been used to promote a healthy lifestyle and support targets to reduce the reliance on private transport. Given that the 75% threshold level is for a 15 minute walk, setting a standard at this level is in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide. This standard should be applied consistently across the City.</p>

Current provision – accessibility

- 10.7 Accessibility at each site was also assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a pro forma. This takes into account issues including whether the entrance to the site is easily accessible, the condition of the roads, paths and cycleways, whether there is disabled access, how accessible is the site by public transport, bicycle or walking, and whether there are clear and appropriate signs to the site.
- 10.8 The accessibility of existing provision is summarised in Table 10.2 overleaf.

Table 10.2 – Selection of accessibility scores of allotments in York

Above upper quartile	60%+	(76.7%) Bustardthorpe / Knavesmire Allotments – Site ID 692 (67.7%) Pit Lane Allotments – Site ID 759
Median – Upper quartile	56.7%-60%	(60%) Rufforth Allotments – Site ID 777 (60%) Hospital Fields (Albertamarte Road) Allotments – Site ID 705
Lower quartile - median	51.65%-56.7%	(53.3%) Huntington Road Allotments – Site ID 189 (53.3%) Low Lane Allotments – Site ID 726
Less than lower quartile	Below 51.65%	(46.7%) Cross Lane Allotments – Site ID 732 (43.3%) Wigginton Allotments – Site ID 695

10.9 Key issues from the assessment of site specific accessibility in York include:

- the median score was 56.7%. The upper quartile score was 60%, and the lower quartile score was 51.65%. This illustrates that the accessibility of allotments is relatively consistent across the 42 sites
- Knavesmire allotments obtained the highest accessibility score of all the sites assessed (76.7%), and can be considered to be an excellent example of an accessible allotment
- three sites scored below 45%. A space that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore may be of little value, irrespective of its quality.

Setting provision standards - quantity

10.10 The recommended local quantity standard for allotments has been summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standards is provided within Appendix F.

Quantity Standard

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.28 ha per 1000 population total	0.29 ha per 1000 population total
Justification	
<p>Allotment provision is unevenly spread across the City. More generally, consultation suggests that the current level of supply is becoming insufficient across York, with 14% of survey respondents interested in owning/managing an allotment and 18% of respondents thinking that the level of provision is insufficient. This is further exacerbated by waiting lists at a number of sites (at the current time, there are less than 50 available full plots on the 15 directly managed City of York sites and approximately 150 people on waiting lists. A similar number of people are waiting for plots at parish and independent sites). As a consequence, the local standard has been set marginally above the existing level of provision. When applied in the context of the accessibility standard and existing waiting lists, this will highlight further areas for investigation and enable locational deficiencies to be pinpointed.</p>	

Current quantity of provision

10.11 The provision of allotments in the City is summarised below in Table 10.3.

Table 10.3 – Provision of allotments in York

Analysis Areas	Number of sites	Smallest site	Largest site	Current Provision per 1000 population	Current Balance Against Local Standard (0.28 hectares per 1000 population)	LDF Population (2029)	Provision per 1000 population (2029)	Future Balanced Against Local Standard (0.28 hectares per 1000 population)
Overall	42	0.11	5.48	0.28	-0.60	225,600	0.24	-9.56

10.12 The key issues emerging from Table 10.3 include:

- there are currently 42 allotment sites across the City. These are distributed unevenly and also vary significantly in size
- when measuring the existing provision of allotments against the local standard of 0.28 hectares per 1,000 population, there is a shortfall equivalent to 0.60 hectares
- by 2029 this deficiency will have increased in light of population growth and shortfalls will amount to 9.56 hectares.

Setting provision standards - quality

10.13 The recommended local quality vision for allotments is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided in Appendix G.

Quality Standard

Recommended standard
<i>‘A well-kept, well managed and secure site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education with appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. provision of water and toilets) to meet local needs, clearly marked pathways and good quality soils. The site should be spacious providing appropriate access for all and should be promoted to ensure local community awareness’.</i>
Provision of allotments is demand driven. However, in times when the wider health agenda is important such sites need to be promoted. Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities that promote sustainable development will help attract more people to allotment sites.

Current provision – quality

- 10.14 The quality of existing allotments in the City is summarised in Table 10.4. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and may not always be reflective of the quality of the site throughout the year.
- 10.15 The application of the 25th percentile standard (set at a score of 72% on the site assessment of allotments) provides an indication of the desired level of quality suggested at each site and enables a comparison at sites across the City. Sites falling below and consequently where improvement is required. A full list of site scores can be found in the provision of allotments section of Appendix D.
- 10.16 The 5 highest and 5 lowest scoring sites are highlighted in Table 10.4 overleaf. The median value is 67% and the lower quartile score is 60%.

Table 10.4 – Selection of quality scores for allotments

Above upper quartile	72%+	(86%) Pit Lane Allotments –Site ID 759 (74%)– Clifton (Without) and Rawcliffe Allotments– Site ID 820
Median – Upper quartile	67%-72%	(70%) – Bustardthorpe Allotments– Site ID 692 (68%) – Rufforth Allotments - Site ID 777
Lower quartile - median	60%-67%	(66%) – Low Lane Allotments –Site ID 719 (66%) – Hempland Lane, Heworth Allotments –Site ID 711
Less than lower quartile	Below 60%	(48%)Cross Lane Allotments –Site ID 732 (44%) Wigginton Allotments –Site ID 695

10.17 The key issues arising from the table above are:

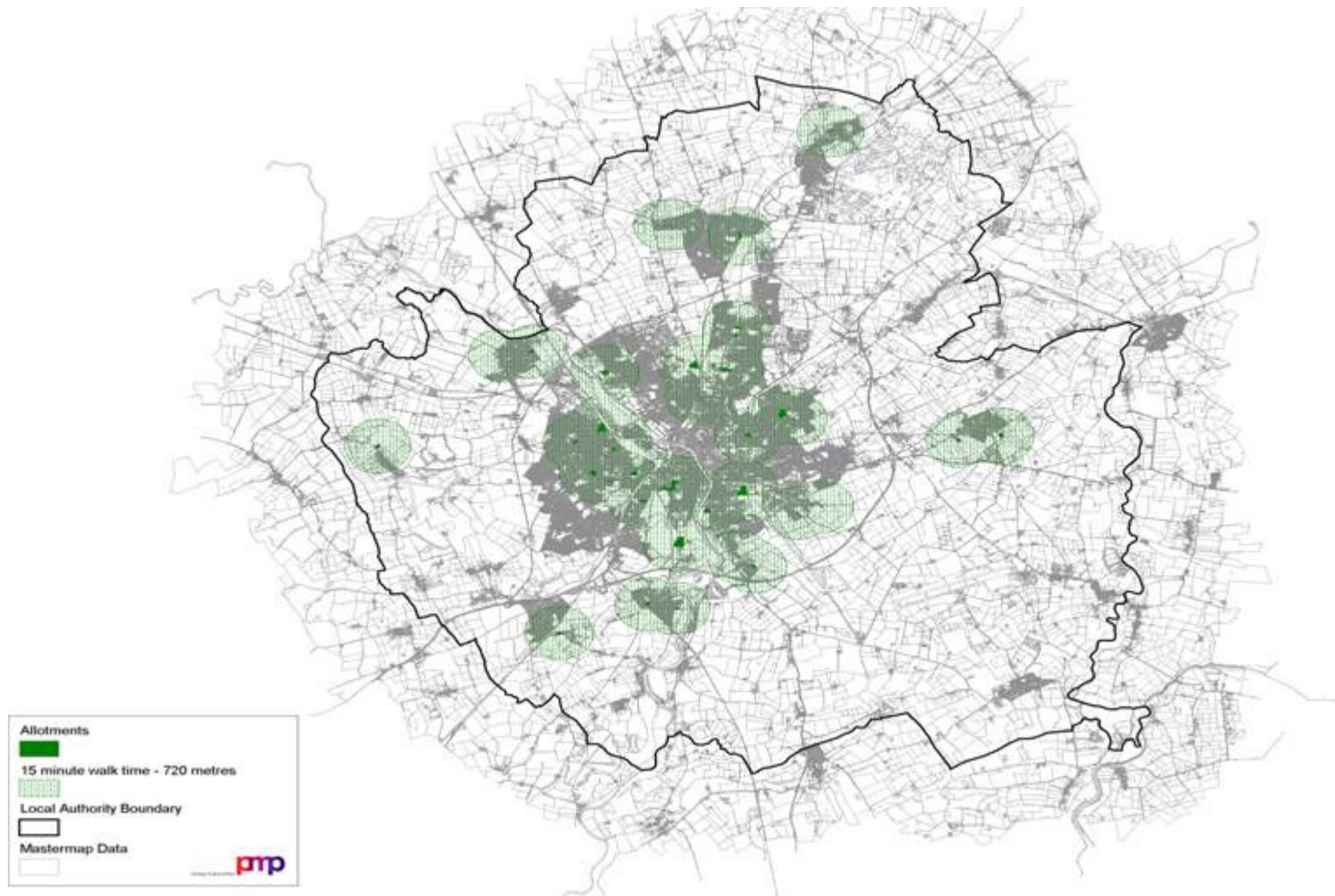
- there is a large variation in the quality of allotment sites across York – the scores achieved range from 44% to 86%
- Pit Lane allotments are the highest scoring site – achieving 86%. These allotments can therefore be considered to be an example of good practice.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

10.18 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs the quantitative provision of allotments should be considered alongside the recommended local standard for accessibility. 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 and therefore helps with the prioritisation of sites. Map 10.1 overleaf illustrates the distribution of allotments and the application of the accessibility standards.

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Map 10.1 - Provision of allotments (A larger scale map is provided in Appendix L)



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

- allotments are reasonably well distributed across the urban area of the City, although there remain some areas of deficiency
- although most allotments are located within the more urban areas of the City the majority of larger settlements in York have access to a site.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

10.20 In light of the demand led nature of allotments, application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards should be treated as a starting point only, with detailed research and monitoring undertaken prior to the development of new allotments.

ALL1	Regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities in areas where demand is increasing.
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10.21 The application of the local quantity standard has previously highlighted a shortfall in current and future provision. This indicates that there is likely to be insufficient capacity within the existing sites to adequately meet the needs of local residents over the LDF period. A breakdown of the level of provision in each ward, measured against the quantity standard can be found in the Technical Appendix.

10.22 The level of development in each area and the density of development that takes place will influence the likely future demand. Residents living in properties with no or limited garden space are potentially more likely to desire access to an allotment than those who have access to a vast array of garden space.

10.23 Consideration of demand will be particularly important where it is anticipated that there will be high population growth/new development, for example in the Guildhall, Micklegate and Acomb wards.

ALL2	Ensure that demand for allotments is routinely assessed when considering the implications of planning applications for new development
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10.24 In light of the increasing demand for allotment provision, there are greater pressures at existing sites reinforced by the presence of waiting lists at a number of sites. While there are some sites with partially overlapping catchments, given the high level of demand for new plots all sites can be considered to be valuable to local residents.

ALL3	Consider the inclusion of a policy protecting allotments from development within the Local Development Framework.
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10.25 Parish Councils and volunteers play a key role in the delivery of allotments across the City of York. While Parishes both provide facilities and organise the

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administration of allotments, volunteers are instrumental in their dedication to the day to day running of the site.

ALL4	Continue to work in partnership and provide support and advice to providers of allotments and volunteers and promote the value of allotments to local residents.
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- 10.26 Although the supply of allotments should be demand led, an analysis of the distribution of sites can provide an indication as to where additional provision may be required.
- 10.27 Analysis of the distribution of allotments in rural settlements indicates that many residents are within the recommended catchment area of a facility. In order to meet the recommended accessibility standards, in rural areas it is often necessary to significantly exceed the recommended minimum quantity standards. Wheldrake is the largest settlement to the south of the City where residents do not have access to allotments within the appropriate distance threshold. This is illustrated below in Figure 10.2.

Figure 10.2 - Deficiencies in Wheldrake

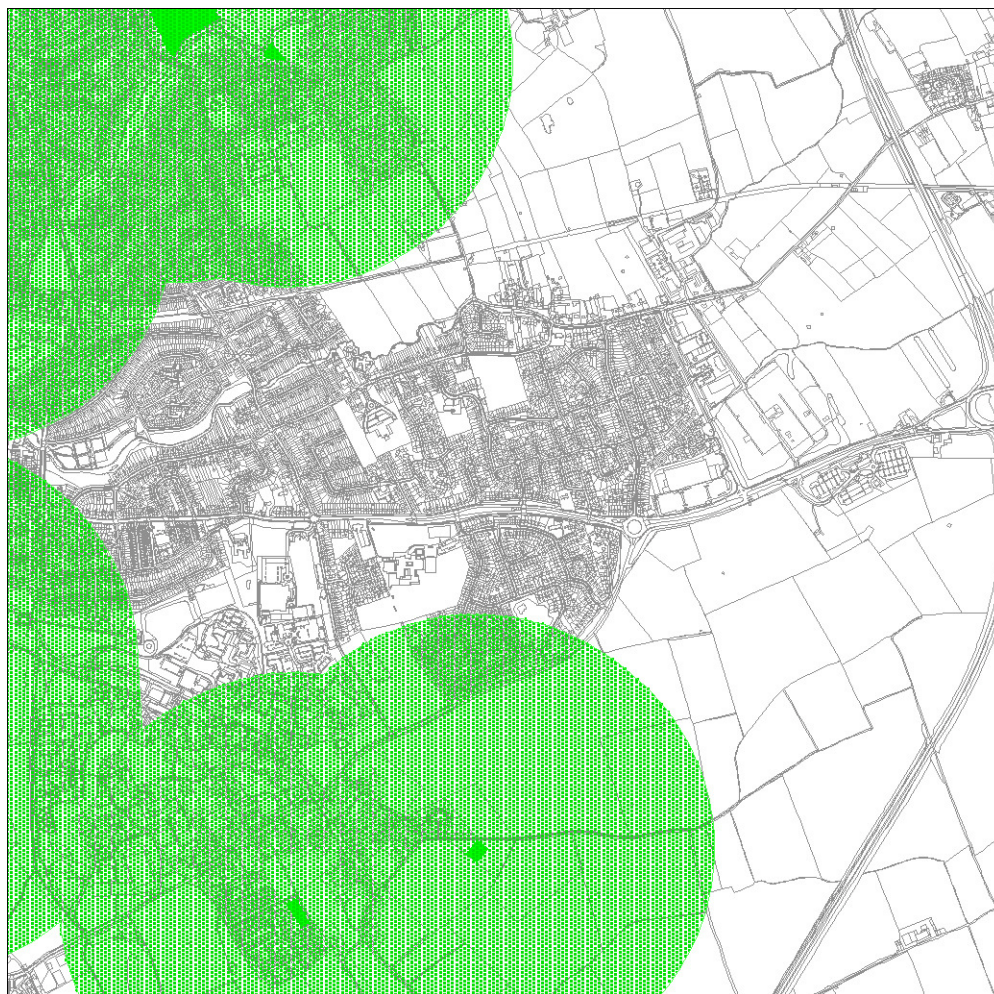


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ALL5	Investigate the potential demand for allotments in Wheldrake and other larger settlements where there are currently no facilities.
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- 10.28 When considering other larger rural settlements it can be seen that residents living to the west of Copmanthorpe are also outside of the recommended catchment of a site. This is due to the location of the only site in the vicinity (Temple Lane Allotments) to the far east of the village. Residents of Bishopthorpe are well served in terms of the provision for allotments, with two sites owned by Bishopthorpe Parish Council.
- 10.29 To the north of the central urban area Figure 10.1 illustrates that provision in the larger settlements is limited. This is also reflected through the application of the accessibility standards, although as with the rural settlements to the south of the City, it must be noted that the dispersed population means that it is untenable to ensure that all residents are within the appropriate catchment.
- 10.30 There is an even distribution of allotments within the urban area of the City. Despite this there remain pockets of residents outside of the recommended catchment area. Furthermore, the dense population means that there are also quantitative deficiencies evident in this area of the City. In light of the presence of a significant road and river network that restricts access on foot; localised provision is of particular importance in this area.
- 10.31 Figure 10.4 illustrates the area of deficiency in Osbaldwick.

Figure 10.4 - Deficiencies to the east of the City



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ALL6	Further investigate the potential demand for allotments in Osbaldwick.
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10.32 Similar to the east of the City, the quantity of provision in the west of the City is insufficient to serve the resident population when measured against the recommended local standard. Analysis of the existing distribution of sites highlights that in addition to the quantitative shortfalls there are large sectors of the community outside of the catchment area for local allotment provision, particularly in Dringhouses and the eastern edge of Westfield.

10.33 These deficiencies will be further exacerbated in light of the anticipated growth in this area. It will therefore be essential to review demand in Dringhouses, Acomb and Westfield.

10.34 While the growth provides challenges in terms of the likely influx of additional residents, regeneration schemes will provide an opportunity to locate new sites to meet local needs. There will be particular growth in the Acomb area as part of the York North West regeneration site. Development on The York College Tadcaster

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Road site is also likely to increase the population within the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe area. Furthermore, the A59 bisects this area, reducing the level of access to allotments for local residents.

ALL8	Investigate the demand for the provision of allotments to the west of York, focusing in Dringhouses, Acomb and Westfield.
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10.35 The City Centre will see significant growth in the number of residents over the coming years and will also be the focus of a regeneration scheme, to be outlined in the York Northwest AAP. The City is enclosed by the ring road and this barrier will therefore inhibit access to allotments outside of this area.

10.36 Figure 10.5 below highlights the current accessibility deficiencies across the City Centre. In light of the anticipated density of the housing in the City Centre, provision of allotments should be considered. However, it is recognised that issues such as land value, brownfield land and archaeological remains may preclude the use of land in this area for allotment use.

Figure 10.5 - Deficiencies of allotments across the City Centre area



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ALL9	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the City Centre as the population in the area increases. Local provision will be particularly important in light of the natural barriers which obstruct easy movement.
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10.37 In addition to considering the demand for new provision, some existing sites may benefit from investment. The allotment strategy targets the provision of well maintained, safe and secure sites. These features also emerged as central to the aspirations of current and future allotment holders.

ALL10	Use the quality assessment scores as a baseline for identifying sites that may benefit from future investment and strive to achieve the quality standard set. Toilets, security and good access were perceived to be key for high quality allotments and ancillary accommodation and safety.
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10.38 Allotments can play a key role in increasing levels of physical activity, providing an alternative to formal sporting activities. In light of the recognised need for additional provision of allotments across York, innovative approaches to the provision of allotments should be considered, including links and partnerships with schools. The value of allotments to local residents as a social opportunity and alternative option for exercise was emphasised through consultation.

Summary and recommendations

10.39 There are currently 42 allotment sites across York equating to 0.28 hectares per 1000 population. Several sites have waiting lists and it is evident that demand is increasing both nationally and locally.

10.40 Allotment users highlight increasing levels of demand and growing waiting lists. It was also indicated that existing provision is of varying quality. The work of Parish Councils, allotment associations and volunteers is of particular importance in the delivery of the allotment service in York.

10.41 The majority of residents indicated that they would expect to walk to an allotment and hence an accessibility standard equivalent to a 15 minute walk has been set. This reflects the expectation for local provision and highlights areas of deficiency.

10.42 Toilets, security and good access were perceived to be key for high quality allotments and ancillary accommodation and safety were perceived to be the key areas where sites could be improved.

10.43 Application of the recommended local standards highlights a number of deficiencies across York, most noticeably in areas of potential growth within the City Centre and to the west of the urban area.

10.44 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of allotments in York that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and / or other delivery mechanisms are:

- monitor and regularly review demand for allotment provision

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- take opportunities to provide new allotments in areas where demand is increasing in light of planning applications for new development, for example in the Guildhall, Micklegate and Acomb wards
- investigate and address any potential demand for additional allotments in Wheldrake and other larger settlements where there is currently no provision, Osbaldwick, Dringhouses, Acomb and Westfield
- closely monitor the demand for allotment provision within the City Centre as the population increases given the current barriers to allotments sites outside of this area
- protect existing allotment sites from any future developments
- strive to achieve the quality standard at all allotment sites across York
- identify sites which may benefit from future investment using the quality assessments as a baseline of information
- promote the value of allotments to local residents
- build upon the current partnership and provide support and advice to providers of allotments and volunteers.

SECTION 11

**CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND GREEN
CORRIDORS**

Cemeteries, churchyards and green corridors

- 11.1 Cemeteries and Churchyards and Green Corridors are all open space typologies recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide for inclusion within a local audit and needs assessment.
- 11.2 For each of these typologies, it is not possible to produce a full range of quantity, quality and accessibility standards and as a consequence they have been included within the same section of this report.
- 11.3 This section therefore considers the provision and role of cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors across York.

Cemeteries and churchyards - introduction

- 11.4 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 green spaces. 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 that will be required is a qualitative one.**
- 11.5 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."

Figure 11.1 - Church to west of River Foss



Cemeteries and churchyards - consultation

11.6 Consultation on the provision of churchyards and cemeteries in York was undertaken through a variety of methods. The emerging findings, which contribute to the formation of the local quality standard and value assessment include:

- 55% of respondents to the household survey do not use churchyards and cemeteries. However, 11% of respondents use them more than once a month and they are the most frequently used open space for 3% of residents
- 41% of respondents to the household survey believe that the quality of churchyards and cemeteries is good, with a further 51% thinking that the quality is average. This means that only 8% of respondents think that sites are poor
- for those residents who visit cemeteries and churchyards more regularly than any other typologies, the majority currently drive to facilities and travel between 5 and 10 minutes. The most commonly mentioned ideal features are well kept grass, clean/litter free and flowers/trees.

Cemeteries and churchyards – current position

11.7 There are currently 47 churchyards and cemeteries in York. These equate to a total of 42.7 hectares. The size of site varies from 0.08 hectares to 9.6 hectares. 73% of sites are located outside of boundaries of the urban area.

11.8 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a pro forma. 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 median score was 78%. The upper quartile level is equivalent to a score of 82.5%, and the lower quartile level is 70%.

11.9 The quality of cemeteries across the City is set out in Table 11.1 overleaf.

Table 11.1 – Selection of quality scores for cemeteries and churchyards in York

Above upper quartile	82.5%+	(92%) St Everilda’s Church, Nether Poppleton –Site ID 780 (92%) St Mary’s Church, Strensall Site ID 740
Median – Upper quartile	78%-82.5%	(80%) Fordlands Road Cemetery, Fulford – Site ID 731 (80%) All Saints Church, Rufforth – Site ID 775
Lower quartile – median	70%-78%	(70%) St Wilfreds Garrisons Church, Strensall– Site ID 749 (76%) Holy Trinity Church, Stockton On The Forest –Site ID 754
Less than lower quartile	Below 70%	(56%) York Cemetery, Fishergate –Site ID 718 (52%) Haxby and Wigginton Cemetery, Wigginton –Site ID 735

11.10 The key issues arises from the table above are:

- there is a large variation in the quality of cemeteries and churchyard sites across York that ranges from sites scoring 52% to 92%
- St Everilda’s Church, Nether Poppleton and St Mary’s Church, Strensall are the highest scoring sites – each achieving 92%.

Cemeteries and churchyards - setting provision standards

Quantity standard

11.11 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 green spaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."*

11.12 For cemeteries, PPG 17 Annex states *"every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard."* This does not relate to a quantitative hectare per 1,000 population requirement.

11.13 In setting local standards for churchyards and cemeteries, it is only appropriate to set a quality vision and take into account any national or local standards. Full indication of consultation and justifications for the recommended local standards are provided within Appendix G. The recommended local quality standard has been summarised below.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS
<i>“A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity, an area of quiet contemplation and a sanctuary for wildlife. Sites should have clear pathways, varied vegetation and landscaping and provide appropriate ancillary accommodation (eg facilities for flowers litter bins and seating.) Access to sites should be enhanced by parking facilities and by public transport routes where possible, particularly in urban areas”</i>
Cemeteries and churchyards can provide an important open space function - particularly in rural areas where they may be the only open space in the village. However, it is essential that sites are regularly maintained with clear footpaths so as to increase the ease of access and safety for those who visit the sites. The wildlife benefits of these sites were widely recognised across consultations.

Accessibility standards

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.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

11.15 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 or examine the spatial distribution of these sites.

11.16 It is however important to consider the quality of the provision of cemeteries and churchyards and the value of the current provision and to strive to achieve the quality criteria set for all churchyards and cemetery sites.

11.17 Sites scoring well in terms of quality should be considered examples of good practice.

CC1	Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and consider working towards developing more awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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11.18 In areas of limited open space provision (or where churchyards are the only open space type), 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 some of the more rural settlements of the City where the provision of other types of open space is limited.

CC2	In areas of limited open space provision, churchyard and cemetery sites are of particular importance. Enhancements to the accessibility and quality should be prioritised in these areas.
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Summary

- 11.19 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider, particularly in the more rural settlements of York. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land required, but are important for nature conservation.
- 11.20 Local standards for accessibility and quantity have not been set. Despite this, it remains important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision.
- 11.21 The quality vision set within the local standards should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the City. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the City is currently good. To an extent, this is reflected in the findings of the household survey, with 42% of respondents thinking that the quality of sites is good, however 51% of respondents also felt that the quality was average.
- 11.22 In some instances cemeteries and churchyards are the only type of open space within a village, making them a particularly valuable element of the rural green space network. The enhancement to the accessibility and quality should be prioritised in these areas.
- 11.23 The wider benefits of churchyards are key and it is wrong to place a value on churchyards and cemeteries focusing solely on quality and accessibility. In addition to offering a functional value, many cemeteries and churchyards have wider benefits including heritage, cultural and landscape values.

Green corridors – introduction

- 11.24 The Green Corridors typology encompasses towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. Green corridors have a primary purpose of providing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.
- 11.25 In addition to providing recreational routes in their own right, green corridors play an important role in linking open spaces together, providing a green infrastructure network across the City. Green corridors are an important resource linking the urban areas with accessible countryside.
- 11.26 Policy T5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy reinforces the role of green corridors, indicating that local strategies and plans should identify, protect and develop appropriate facilities for the development and improvement of walking, and cycling. Opportunities along canal towpaths and disused railway lines are highlighted as being of particular importance.

11.27 The Local Plan (2005) states in policy NE8 that planning permission will not be granted for development, which would destroy or impair the integrity of green corridors and stepping stones. Conversely, development that ensures the continuation and enhancement of green corridors for wildlife will be favoured.

Green corridors - consultation

11.28 Consultation on the provision of green corridors in York was undertaken through a variety of methods. The emerging findings, which contribute to the formation of the local quality standard and value assessment include:

- 69% of respondents to the household survey use green corridors more than once a month – illustrating their importance to local residents. Furthermore, 16% of respondents use green corridors more regularly than any other type of open space
- 37% of respondents to the household survey believe that the quality of green corridors is good, with a further 50% thinking that the quality is average. This means that only 13% of respondents think that sites are poor
- other consultation highlighted concerns that the sites are often frequented by young people, (relating back to a lack of provision for this age group), this can act as a barrier for people wanting to access green corridors who view their presence of young people as intimidating. Addressing this problem may further increase the current rate of usage. This point also relates to the problems experienced by residents who rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space
- for those residents who use green corridors more regularly than any other typologies, the majority currently walk to facilities and travel less than five minutes. The most commonly mentioned ideal features are clean and litter free, natural features and footpaths.

Green corridors - setting provision standards

Quantity standard

11.29 The linear nature of green corridors means it is inappropriate to measure the area and assess these spaces. Nevertheless their importance within the City should not be undermined as they provide an essential linkage between open spaces and increase the accessibility of other sites.

11.30 The Annex A of PPG17 – Open Space Typology states:

*“the need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that **there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard**, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads”.*

11.31 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”.

Accessibility standard

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

Quality standard

11.33 In setting local standards for green corridors, it is only appropriate to set a quality vision and take into account any national or local standards. Full indication of consultation and justifications for the recommended local standards are provided within Appendix G. The recommended local standard has been summarised below.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – GREEN CORRIDORS
<i>“Linear open spaces should be clean and litter-free, safe and convenient corridors with clear pathways, linking major residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas, that promote sustainable methods of transport. Appropriate ancillary facilities such as litter, dog bins and seating in appropriate places with signage to and within the sites should be featured to encourage access for all. The corridor should also seek to encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats, enabling the movement of both wildlife and people between open spaces, linking in specifically with natural areas of open space.”</i>
It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. While green corridors have an important recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play. This was recognised by local residents, particularly when considering the value of local linkages between natural and semi natural areas. It is important that green corridors are promoted, as a lack of awareness was raised as a key barrier to the usage of facilities. If sites are not maintained properly, it is likely to discourage people from using them.

Applying provision standards

11.34 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.

11.35 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 City.

Summary and recommendations

11.36 Green corridors provide opportunities close to peoples home’s for informal recreation, particularly walking and cycling, as part of every day activities, 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 recreation.

11.37 There are already a large number of footpaths and green corridor networks within the study area and consultation indicates that they are well used.

11.38 The City of York Transport Plan highlights the importance of increasing the use of sustainable forms of transport and gives priority to enhancing the provision of facilities for walking and cycling.

11.39 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.

11.40 A network of multi-functional green space 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.

GC1	Prepare a green infrastructure study to maximise the linkages of open spaces with green corridors and help create a network of multi-functional green space in York. This should serve as an extension to this PPG17 Study.
GC2	Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in the City should be a key priority for the Council. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces as reflected in the City of York transport plan.
GC3	City of York Council should work in tandem with the partners to maximise the use of green corridors in the City.
GC4	Providers of green corridors in York should aspire to achieve the quality vision.

SECTION 12
ACCESSIBLE COUNTRYSIDE

Accessible countryside

Introduction and background

- 12.1 In addition to the types of formal and informal open space identified within Section Two and discussed in detail in sections 4 – 11 of this report, PPG17 reinforces the role of accessible countryside in the urban fringe.
- 12.2 Countryside can provide important recreational opportunities for local residents as well as fulfilling other roles. In particular, countryside around towns and cities provides a valuable resource for the provision of sport and recreation, particularly in situations where there is an absence of land in urban areas. The protection of this type of open space is also integral to maintaining the character of the area.
- 12.3 In light of the character of accessible natural countryside it is inappropriate to audit this type of open space, or to set local standards. This will be returned to in greater detail later in this section.

Strategic context

- 12.4 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 extended the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It created a new statutory right of access and modernised the rights of way system as well as giving greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), providing better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and strengthening wildlife enforcement legislation.
- 12.5 While setting out measures intended to enable residents to enjoy more of the countryside, the CROW act will also help to conserve the rural environment, protect wildlife, and also ensure landowners can use the land to its best advantage.
- 12.6 The City of York Local Plan reinforces the importance placed on the countryside surrounding the main settlement of York. Chapter Five of the local plan considers the protection and development of open countryside and the green belt with the specific objectives of:
- preserving and setting the historic character of York
 - checking the unrestricted sprawl of York
 - safeguarding the countryside from further encroachment
 - preventing neighbouring settlements from merging into one another
 - assisting in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict or other urban land.
- 12.7 The plan recognises the importance of linking the surrounding areas of countryside with the urban areas. The strays and other green spaces included in earlier sections of this report play a key role in the success of this strategy.

Accessible countryside in York

12.8 For the purposes of this section, accessible countryside is defined as:

‘large areas of green space where the primary function is not recreation – many areas of countryside are used for agricultural purposes such as grazing or growing of crops. The recreational use of the site is incidental to it’s overall primary purpose.’

12.9 Accessible countryside in York is located in the urban fringe and may be in either public or private ownership. Some sites are also covered by the CROW act, meaning that residents have a statutory right of access.

12.10 For the purposes of this study, areas of accessible countryside in York include:

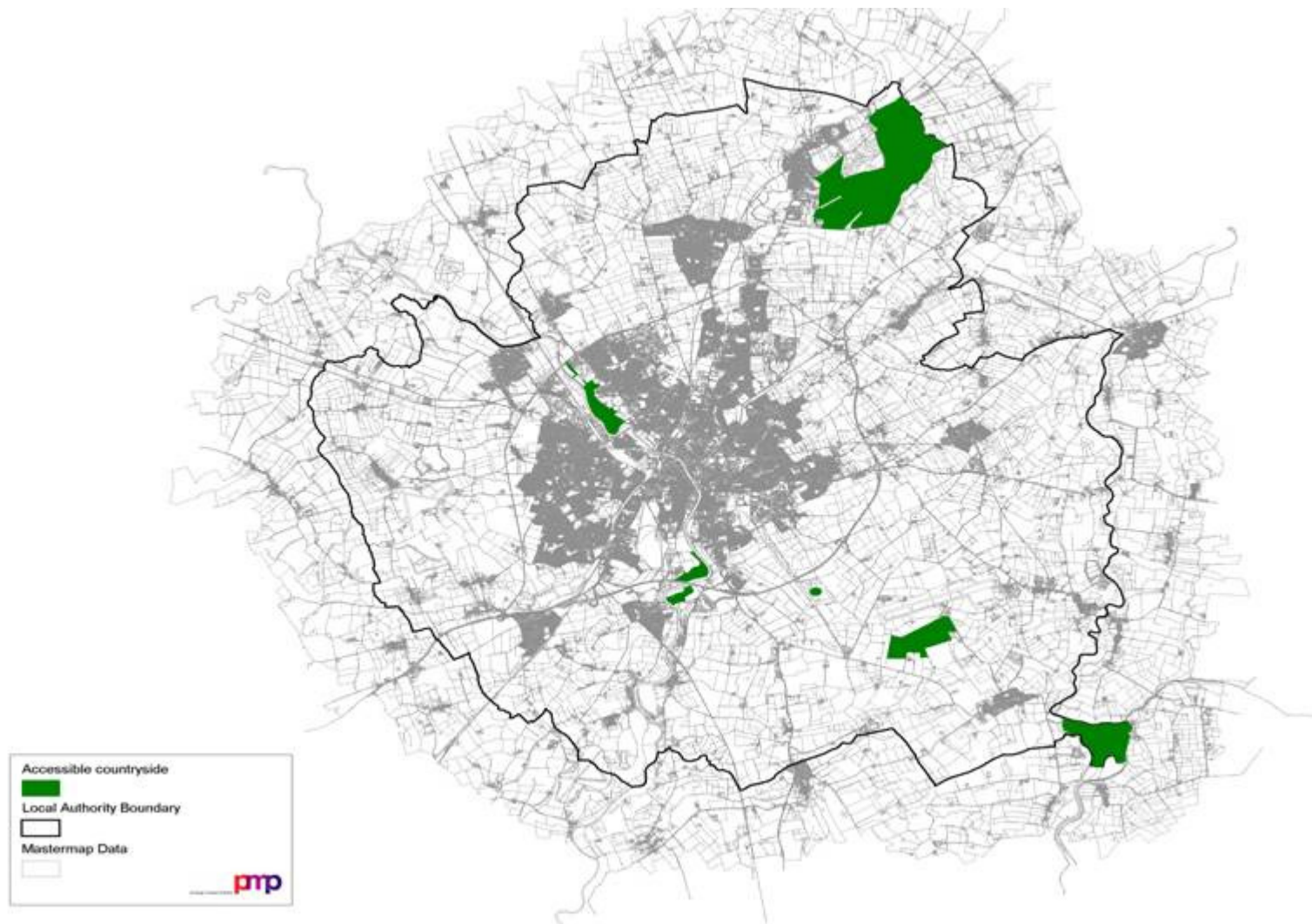
- Clifton Ings (CROW)
- Heslington Common / Tillmire (CROW)
- Rawcliffe Ings
- Nun & Middlethorpe Ings
- Fulford Ings
- Strensall Common
- Wheldrake Woods
- Wheldrake Ings
- other parts of the river Ouse and Foss Corridors, where there is public access.

12.11 It must be noted that the above sites do not form a definitive list and there may be more sites across the district which can be considered to fall under this category. The strays are not categorised as accessible countryside as their primary purpose is to benefit and provide recreation and enjoyment for the citizens of York.

12.12 Consultation highlighted the importance of the accessible countryside in York to local residents. It was perceived to be important to protect areas of natural countryside as well as promote public access where possible. Map 12. 1 overleaf illustrates the areas of natural countryside found across the City.

12.13 Heslington Common was highlighted as a particularly high quality site with well-defined paths and appropriate maintenance.

Map 12.1 - Areas of accessible countryside found across the City



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Setting provision standards

- 12.14 With regards to accessibility there are no definitive national or local standards for accessible countryside. There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typologies as it cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.
- 12.15 Likewise, the nature of accessible countryside means that setting quantity standards is also inappropriate.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 12.16 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 or examine the spatial distribution of these sites.
- 12.17 It is however important to consider the role that the accessible countryside plays in providing recreational opportunities across the City. In some instances, providing or enhancing access to areas of natural countryside may be an appropriate solution to offset other types of open space.

AC1	Consider opportunities to increase access to areas of countryside to offset existing and future deficiencies in access to open spaces.
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- 12.18 As highlighted by the existing local plan, linkages between the urban area and the open countryside are central to the character of York.

AC2	In light of the role of the countryside both in terms of the provision of recreational opportunities and wider functions (such as grazing) ensure that any permitted development is sensitive to the surroundings.
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- 12.19 The wider functions of the countryside and the linkages between different types of open space should be considered as part of a green infrastructure assessment.

AC3	Undertake a Green infrastructure Assessment evaluating the role of the open countryside within the green network.
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Summary

- 12.20 While not considered in detail as part of this study, it is important to acknowledge the role of areas of nearby countryside and their importance to the overall character of the City of York.
- 12.21 In light of the character of areas of countryside, local standards for quantity and accessibility have not been set and are outside the scope of this study.

SECTION 12 – ACCESSIBLE COUNTRYSIDE

12.22 Over the Local Development Framework period, it will be essential to consider and enhance the role of areas of countryside in York by:

- considering opportunities to offset deficiencies of open space by enhancing access to nearby countryside
- protecting nearby countryside and ensuring that any development is sensitive to the surroundings
- evaluating the role of the countryside in detail as part of a wider green infrastructure study.

SECTION 13

STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Strategy, key priorities and planning implementation

Introduction

- 13.1 This section sets out a vision for the future delivery of green space across City of York, summarising the key issues and priorities and ensuring that the wider benefits of open spaces are maximised.
- 13.2 The vision, issues and priorities are derived from an assessment of open space, outdoor sport and recreation facilities across the City and consultations considering local needs and aspirations.

Why are the green open spaces of York important?

- 13.3 There has been a national recognition in recent years of the continuing importance of parks and green spaces. Various policies and strategies have shown a commitment to renewal of this vital part of our heritage including Government Planning Policy Guidance and the CABE Green Space Report. The role that green spaces can have in meeting policy objectives linked to other agendas, such as education, diversity, health, safety, environment and regeneration is also recognised. The Improving Green Spaces Report (DTLR May 2002) highlighted that parks and open spaces:
- 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.
- 13.4 At the local level, the importance of parks is highlighted by a whole range of policies and initiatives to increase and enhance green space both within the City and the surrounding area. In particular, the effective provision of green spaces will contribute to wider corporate objectives of improving health and lifestyles, enhancing the local environment and the creation of sustainable, safe, healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods. These are key priorities of the community strategy, which looks to remove barriers and enhance the quality of life for residents of York. Furthermore, in climate change terms, green spaces play an important urban cooling role.

The City of York context

- 13.5 The City of York is made up of the densely populated urban area and surrounding rural settlements. The City is a central destination for residents living in the outlying villages as well as for people living in surrounding districts. As one of the UK's most frequently visited tourist destinations, provision of green space is important not only to local residents, but to the many visitors that flock to the City.
- 13.6 Pressures on land for development, traffic and other activity are high. Protection of greenspace (to ensure there is sufficient to meet local needs) is consequently of high importance in light of its identified importance to residents and visitors.

- 13.7 A population increase of 21% by 2029 is expected, a proportion significantly above the national average (as noted in 2.48, this figure may exceed current proposed build rates as identified in the latest Regional Spatial Strategy). In the light of the increasing pressure on land for development it is critical that demand for various open space, sport and recreation facilities is met.
- 13.8 Analysis of the profile of the current population in York highlights a greater proportion of residents over 65, and lower proportions of residents under 14 than the national average. There is also a higher proportion of young adults aged 20 – 24, reflective of the student population and a lower proportion of households with children in comparison to the national average. This suggests that local aspirations may differ from other areas, and it is essential to ensure that the open space, sport and recreation facility stock meets the needs of residents across the age spectrum.
- 13.9 Over the LDF period these demographic profiles are expected to change, with a proportional increase in residents over 65 and a decrease in the number of teenagers. This will potentially impact on the needs of local residents.

The importance of landscape character

- 13.10 The significance and value of areas of green and open space across the City extends well beyond that of merely providing an accessible recreational and amenity resource to the inhabitants. In particular, larger areas of green space can have a collective contribution to make towards defining the character of the local environment. Of the PPG 17 typologies natural and semi-natural spaces, amenity spaces and green corridors, in particular, can have a valuable wider contribution to make to the landscape. Their strategic contribution to the wider environment can include:
- contributing to defining the local landscape character
 - providing an appropriate context and setting for built development and infrastructure
 - helping to achieve a softer interface between urban and rural environments
 - emphasising the presence of particular natural features within the landscape such as river valleys, ridgelines etc
 - supporting habitats and local wildlife.
- 13.11 For the purposes of this study, consideration has been given to the different types of open space, sport and recreation facilities on a typology-by-typology basis as documented in the preceding sections of the report. Each typology section clearly identifies:
- an introduction and definition of the individual typologies
 - the context, based on the findings of the local needs assessment and strategic review
 - the current position in terms of the quantity, quality and accessibility, identified through the audit and site assessments
 - the setting of local quantity, quality and accessibility standards with supporting evidence and the justification of the standards recommended

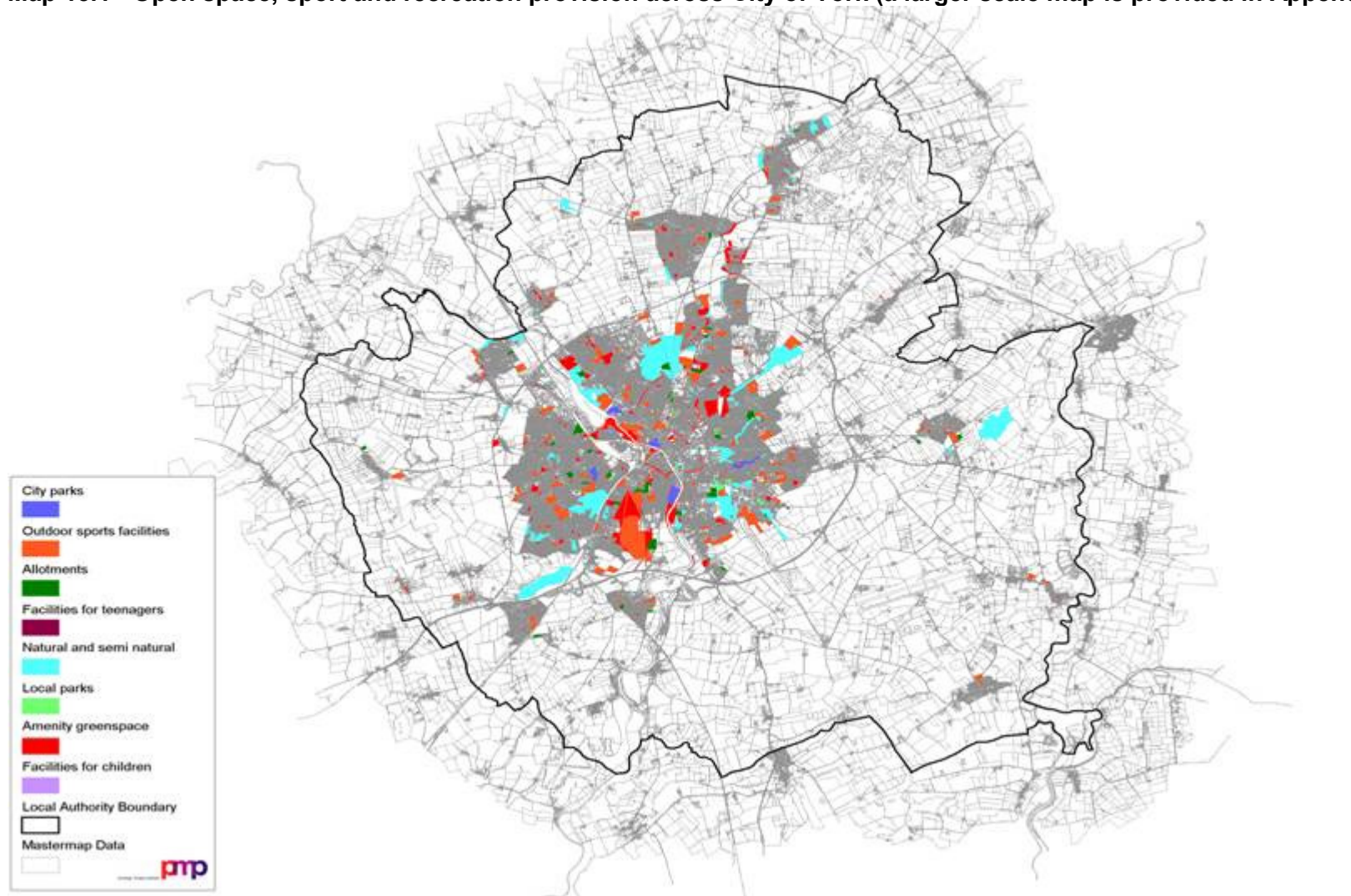
- the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards resulting in series of recommendations
 - a summary for the individual typologies based on the typology specific analysis both in terms of current position and that at 2029.
- 13.12 Prior to the application of local standards and the development of priorities, consultation was undertaken on the recommended local standards, the audit of provision and the analysis and interpretation of local need.
- 13.13 Supplementary to the typology specific analysis in the previous sections of the report, this section sets out the provision of all open space, sport and recreation provision across the City of York. The rationale for this is as follows:
- supporting an urban renaissance – local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe
 - promoting more sustainable development – by ensuring that open spaces sport and recreational facilities are easily accessible by walking and cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sport and recreation facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport. This is particularly important in urban areas. Analysis of all open spaces in York will allow for initial consideration of their relationship with public transport networks
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space, sports and recreation facilities – an overview of all types of open spaces provides an initial indication of priorities in different areas of the City
 - ensuring consistent quality of spaces – providing an indicative analysis of the open spaces and sport and recreation facilities most in need of enhancement.
- 13.14 Although areas of natural countryside fall outside of the scope of this study, and it is considered inappropriate to set accessibility and quantity standards for these types of open space it is important to consider the role of these spaces in the provision of recreational opportunities for residents. Increasing access to the countryside may also prove a viable solution to solve existing deficiencies in access to open spaces. Such sites are described in more detail in Section 12 and include Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Ings.

Current position

- 13.15 All open spaces in York are illustrated on Map 13.1 overleaf.
- 13.16 The analysis contained in this document provides an overview of provision of each type of open space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility and the interrelationship between different types of open space. The implications of natural barriers on access to sites are also considered. Site specific analysis and interpretation should consider the analysis of natural barriers in detail.

SECTION 13 – STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Map 13.1 - Open space, sport and recreation provision across City of York (a larger scale map is provided in Appendix L).



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13.17 The accessibility of all open space sites is discussed throughout the report. In summary this highlights that:

- on the whole there is a good level of access to the parks within the urban areas of the City, with City and local parks equitably distributed. There are greater access issues for residents in the outlying settlements, with many unable to reach a park on foot
- access to natural and semi natural open space is high across both the urban area and the rural settlements. In addition to smaller sites, there are numerous larger sites such as Bootham Stray in close proximity to residential areas
- areas. The urban area is surrounded by smaller settlements and green belt, ensuring access for residents to areas of nearby countryside
- the distribution of amenity space is uneven across the City, although many residents devoid of amenity green space have access to a park
- despite the emphasis placed on the lack of local facilities for children, the distribution of sites is even across the City although some deficiencies were identified. While play areas are more sporadically distributed in the rural settlements, many residents have access to facilities
- analysis of access to facilities for young people highlights that there are few residents within the recommended catchment of a facility. This is unsurprising, given that there only four facilities across the City. The achievement of the recommended standard will represent a significant challenge for the Council
- while the distribution of both local and strategic sports facilities is good, access to facilities at school sites presents the greatest issues to residents, with many schools permitting no community use at the current time. Enhanced access to existing facilities would reduce pressure on existing sites and ensure that all residents have genuine access to local facilities
- the distribution of allotments is sporadic and there are many residents outside of the catchment area for facilities. This is compounded by the waiting lists that are evident at existing sites.

13.18 Consultation regarding the quantity of different types of open space in York highlights that:

- there is a general perception that the quantity of City parks is about right. Residents in the more urban areas of the City have higher expectations in terms of provision and are more likely to suggest that there are insufficient parks in their locality. Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the parks is perceived to be of greater importance than increasing the overall quantity of facilities although there are opportunities to increase access to parks in the rural settlements through the promotion of pocket parks
- there are variations in the perceptions of the quantity of natural and semi natural open space across the City and this is mirrored by the uneven distribution of these sites. A standard marginally above the existing level of provision was set. It is essential to consider the role of accessible countryside when evaluating the quantity of natural and semi natural open space

- perceptions regarding the quantity of amenity green space were varied and a standard was set marginally above the existing level of provision in order to enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as placing an emphasis on opportunities to enhance the quality of provision. Amenity spaces were perceived to be particularly important for the qualities that they bring to the landscape and character of the local area as well as for their role in meeting the needs of children and teenagers
- the quantity of provision for children and teenagers was the overriding themes of the consultation with the majority of residents highlighting that the quantity of provision is poor. This was consistent across the whole authority and the recommended local standards reflect this, facilitating the delivery of additional facilities
- analysis of demand for allotments highlights that some sites are nearing capacity and that there are waiting lists at some existing facilities, highlighting locational variation in demand. The standard has been set above the existing level of provision to highlight areas of deficiency where new provision may be required
- there is a high level of demand for outdoor sports facilities across York and the existing facilities are of varying quality. An increase in the level of provision will be required over the LDF period to 2029 to facilitate higher levels of participation in sports. There is potential for this to be delivered to an extent through community use at school sites and the expansion of existing sites however new facilities will be required.

13.19 Application of the quantity standards demonstrates that:

- across all typologies, the greatest quantitative shortfall is in provision for young people. In order to meet the standard, an increase of over 100% of current provision will be required
- overall the City has a slight shortfall of open space, sport and recreation provision in quantitative terms and there particular quantitative shortfalls relating to provision for young people, children, outdoor sports facilities, natural open space and amenity green space. As specified throughout the report, the quantity standards need to be applied in conjunction with the accessibility standards in order to identify the location of any deficiencies.

Current provision – quality

13.20 The quality of all open space sites is discussed throughout this report. It can be seen that in general the quality of open spaces across the City is good. However, there are concentrations of poor and average quality sites dispersed across the City. Issues arising from the assessment of the quality of provision include:

- the quality of parks is perceived to have improved over recent years, reinforced the by the achievement of several green flag awards across the City. Residents highlighted that improvements to the ancillary provision with parks would further enhance their quality. Drainage at parks was also of particular concern

- the quality of natural sites was perceived to be important to residents and the wider benefits of these sites were recognised. Natural sites were perceived to have a particularly important role in enhancing biodiversity and developing habitats
- there is a greater variation in the quality of amenity green spaces than any other type of open space with analysis of the quality scores indicating that sites range from 30% to 90%. This was also reflected through the consultation
- although there were numerous concerns relating to the quantity of provision for children and young people several issues regarding the quality of existing provision also emerged. The majority of comments focused around the need for provision to be more challenging and innovative
- the quality of allotments is varying with site scores ranging from 44% to 86%.

13.21 The technical appendix provides more detail on the key issues within different geographical areas of the City.

13.22 The actions that are required to enhance the overall provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the City of York are summarised at the end of this section.

The wider benefits of open space

13.23 The wider benefits of open space, sport and recreation facilities are well documented and include social, educational, recreational and cultural and heritage benefits. Open space also promotes a series of significant environmental benefits including combating climate change, providing habitats and promoting and increasing biodiversity.

13.24 The remainder of this section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of green space arising from consultation and the findings of the local needs assessment and outlines some key priorities for the delivery of open spaces across York.

13.25 The City of York Council community strategy sets out a series of aims and objectives designed to shape the future of York. The vision for York over the next 20 years is defined as:

York – A City Making History

Making our mark by:

- Building confident, creative and inclusive communities
- Being a leading environmentally-friendly City
- Being at the forefront of innovation and change with a prosperous and thriving economy
- Being a world class centre for education and learning for all
- Celebrating our historic past whilst creating a successful and thriving future

13.26 The York Local Area Agreement (LAA) identifies four building blocks that are instrumental in the achievement of this vision and represent the priority areas for change in York. These four building blocks are:

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

- Children and Young People
- Stronger and Safer Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise.

13.27 The effective provision of green space can play a key role in the delivery of targets within these four areas. Table 13. 2 below and overleaf summarises the contributions that achievement of some of the key objectives arising from the assessment of local needs and existing provision.

Table 13.2 - Achievement of wider City of York Council objectives through the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Children and young people	Stronger and safer communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing identified deficiencies in the provision for children and young people in quantitative terms. The recommended increase in the provision of amenity space will also provide more informal opportunities for children and young people • ensuring that the quality of facilities and the type of facilities meet the needs of local young people • maximising the involvement of children and young people in the day to design and planning of facilities for children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting and encouraging community involvement in the provision, maintenance and management of open spaces • enhancing the safety of open spaces and the perception of safety of open space sites through the promotion of good quality design and planning • addressing identified deficiencies to ensure that all residents have access to high quality open spaces.
Economic development and enterprise	Healthier communities and older people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering attractive places and enhancing local identity and image through investment in the quality of facilities • maximising opportunities through regeneration to enhance the quality of open spaces and provide open spaces of the right type and in the right place • ensuring that new development results in positive change in the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximising use of open spaces and sports facilities for physical activity • investing in the quality of sports facilities to increase access to local residents and ensuring that all residents have access to local facilities • promoting the wider benefits of open space on physical and mental health • ensuring that open spaces meet the needs of all sectors of the community.

Linking green spaces

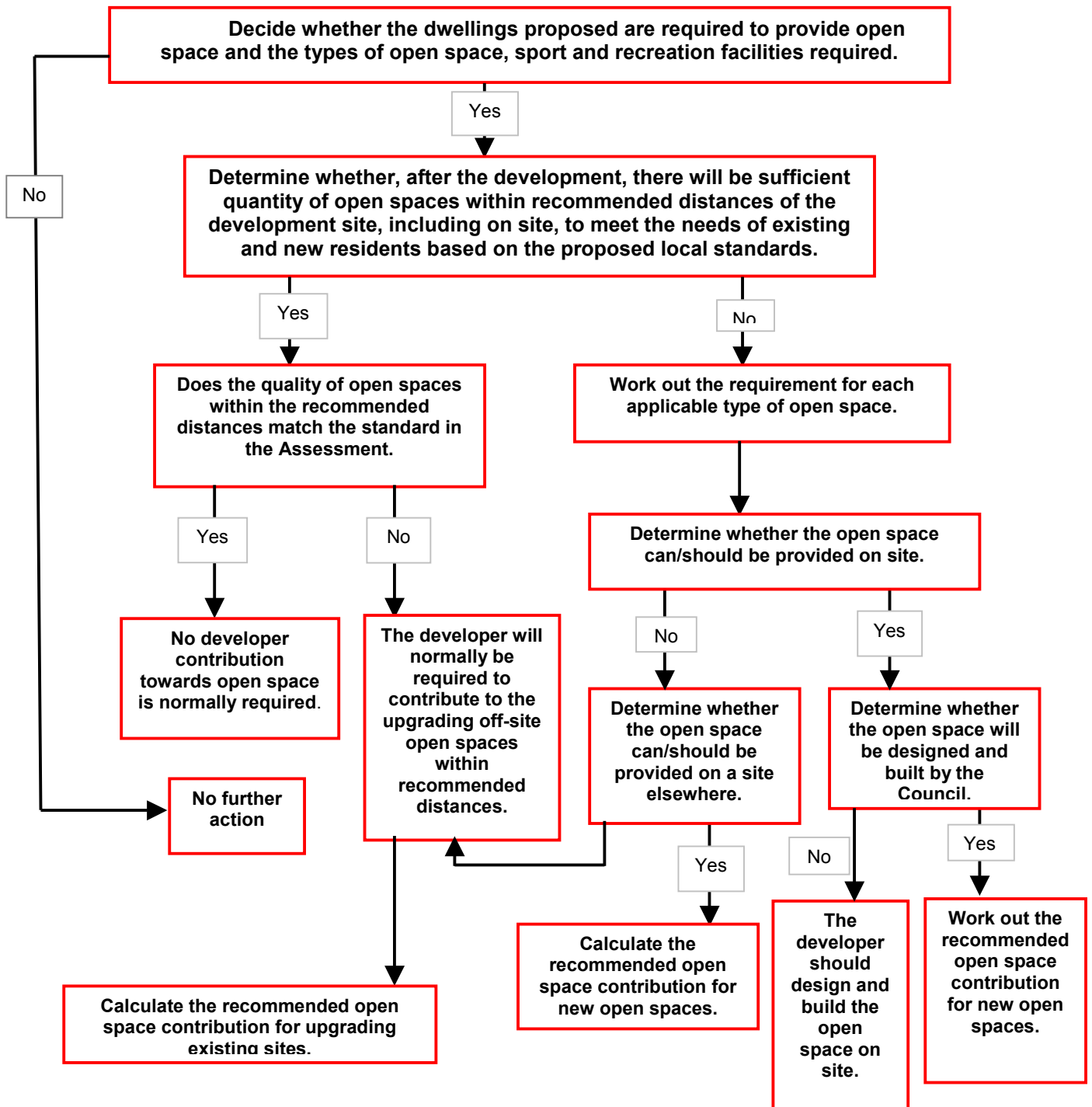
- 13.28 As highlighted, the provision of appropriate high quality green space results in an array of benefits that far exceed the recreational value that these sites offer to residents. Linkages between green spaces further enhance the benefits that can be achieved.
- 13.29 Green Infrastructure (GI) comprises a network of multi-functional greenspace set within, and contributing to a high quality natural and built environment. Green Infrastructure is widely considered to be an essential requirement for the enhancement of quality of life, for existing and future generations, and to be an integral element in the delivery of 'liveability' for sustainable communities. Its provision, and importantly, its connectivity, is relevant at every level from county wide rural landscapes down to a local level both within larger urban areas as well as small rural settlements. It also provides the framework for supporting a wide range of 'environmental processes'.
- 13.30 This PPG17 study provides a starting point for understanding the wider green infrastructure across York and the benefits that this can bring to the local community.
- 13.31 The audit illustrates that access to green spaces on foot is generally satisfactory for most typologies across the City. As perhaps might be expected, parks and gardens, children's' play areas, and cemeteries are amongst the most accessible types of open space, whereas the natural and semi-natural open space typology, received much lower ratings. Analysis of the distribution of open spaces highlights that the majority of residents are within close proximity to at least one open space across the City.
- 13.32 A number of man-made and natural barriers cross the City can impede accessibility. Most notably amongst these is the ring road network, which surrounds the central urban network and the River Ouse and Foss.
- 13.33 City of York prides itself on being a cycling friendly City, and there are a variety of off road cycling paths. These routes enhance the connectivity of open spaces. The LTP2 highlights the importance of increasing the use of sustainable forms of transport and gives priority to enhancing the provision of facilities for walking and cycling.
- 13.34 An effective green infrastructure considers not just the linkages for humans but also takes into account opportunities for maximising biodiversity and wildlife. Linked open spaces provide opportunities for the creation of wildlife corridors. Although not considered within this study, private gardens are also important in the overall green infrastructure of the local area.
- 13.35 As highlighted in Section 12, a green infrastructure will be essential in understanding the overall network of green spaces in York and the role of the countryside, as well as private gardens within this infrastructure.

Delivering and enhancing green spaces through the planning system

The plan led system

- 13.36 The plan led system ensures that local planning authorities clearly define requirements for contributions and the type of development that will be permissible.
- 13.37 This PPG17 study should be used as a supporting evidence base for Local Development Documents and the policies within them. The key findings from the local consultation and audit of provision have been used to inform the Core Strategy and Allocations DPD's.
- 13.38 Development Plan Documents (DPDs), open space designations and allocations should include general policies on open space, sport and recreation facilities that are supported by the findings of this study and other relevant documents.
- 13.39 DPDs should also consider the principles and use of planning obligations. For example, matters to be covered by planning obligations and factors to take into account when considering the scale and form of contributions. This will be particularly important in the planned Development Control DPD, which will take into account the protection of open space and the collection of developer contributions.
- 13.40 Planning obligations can be in kind or in the form of financial contributions. Policies on the types of payment, including pooling and maintenance payments, should be set out within Local Development Frameworks and developers should be able to predict as accurately as possible the likely contributions they will be asked to pay. Many local authorities now include a S106 contributions calculator on their website ensuring that the system is transparent to all developers. The potential introduction of "Green Bonds" would act as a financial retainer to ensure that S106 Agreements and planning conditions related to open space and the natural environment are implemented.
- 13.41 More detailed policies applying the principles set out in the Development Plan Document, for example, specific localities and likely quantum of contributions, ought to then be included in Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). Dependent of the scope of the SPD, the Council may wish to also consider the development of codes of practice in negotiating planning obligations, so as to make clear the level of service a developer can expect.
- 13.42 The findings of this PPG17 study will also inform the Area Action Plan DPDs for the City centre and York Northwest, providing an indication of the quality, quantity and access to open space expected in the local area.
- 13.43 City of York Council adopted the document "Commutated sum Payments in New Developments - A Guide to Developers" on 26th April 2007. This document sets out the suggested approach to determining commuted sums and gives consideration to the requirements for open space.
- 13.44 The flow diagram overleaf (see Figure 13.1) provides more detail on the process for determining developer contributions using the local standards recommended as part of this study. It is based on a review of best practice and national guidance and builds upon current elements of the approach City of York Council currently takes and highlights how the standards developed as part of this study. A worked example is provided at the end of the Section.

Figure 13.1 - Example process for determining open space requirements



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Determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space

- 13.45 The first stage in the flow diagram is to determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space and which types of open space, sport and recreation facilities will require developer contributions.
- 13.46 Policy L1c of the City of York Local Plan considers the provision of open space within new housing developments and commercial development over 2500m². This policy uses national standards to determine the required contribution, specifically: 0.9ha per 1000 population amenity greenspace, 1.7ha per 1000 population sports pitches and 0.7ha per 1000 population provision for children and young people.
- 13.47 In general the approach taken to affordable housing is to include a statement within the guidance stating that affordable housing schemes will require the same level of open space provision as open market housing but where it can be demonstrated that this would lead to the scheme being unviable, the level of provision required can be reduced.
- 13.48 Policy L1c in the Local Plan and requires contributions towards the provision of open space from employment development.
- 13.49 Based on a review of best practice guidance and the successes of the current approach adopted in City of York it is recommended that the following approach be adapted :
- continue to base the nature and scale of obligations sought from development on the size of development and the impact on open space, sport and recreation provision. Ensure that all developments make a contribution, regardless of the number of dwellings that are created
 - devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space. This can be broken down to indicate the types of open space different housing types will be required to contribute to (see Table 13.3)
 - continue to require contributions from employment development towards the provision of open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

Table 13.3 - Best Practise Approach

Category	Open market housing/flats	Affordable housing	Housing for the active elderly
Playing fields	✓	✓	X
Local play areas	✓	✓	X
Neighbourhood play areas	✓	✓	X
Community centres/meeting halls	✓	✓	✓
Local parks	✓	✓	✓
District parks	✓	✓	✓

Category	Open market housing/flats	Affordable housing	Housing for the active elderly
Swimming pools	✓	✓	✓
Sports halls	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓

Determine whether, after the development, there will be sufficient quantity of open spaces within the recommended distances of the development site, including on site, to meet the needs of existing and new residents based on the proposed local standards. Does the quality of open spaces within the recommended distances match the standard in the assessment?

- 13.50 The determination of shortfalls/surplus relies on the use and application of appropriate standards of provision. The national standards currently incorporated within the City of York local plan should be replaced by the standards derived from the analysis of local needs and audit of existing provision undertaken as part of this report. The Council should determine for which types of open space they would like to receive contributions and should set out these local standards within the Local Development Framework. This should include quantity, quality and accessibility standards.
- 13.51 The use of these locally derived standards ensures that contributions requested are directly in line with proven local need and that there is full justification and rationale for the standards set.
- 13.52 These standards should then be used to determine the contributions required. In order to ensure that the requirement on developers is fair and consistent, contributions should be applied based on the increased level of demand only. This ensures that the developer is paying directly for the associated impact of the development rather than it being dependent on what open space happens to be around the development. It is still essential to consider the existing provision within the area in order to understand the impact that the new development will have.
- 13.53 If there is no quantitative or accessibility deficiency there may be a qualitative deficiency that needs to be addressed.
- 13.54 To identify the level of quantitative, qualitative and accessibility deficiency within the area of the development, the PPG17 study should be applied for each of the types of open space. In simple terms, this is as follows:
- estimate the number of residents living in the proposed development (being explicit about assumed occupation rates)
 - calculate the existing amount of open space within the agreed accessibility threshold of the new development. For example, there may be an existing quantitative undersupply of parks and gardens, provision for young people and children and allotments in the area of the development site
 - estimate the existing population within the relevant accessibility threshold and combine this with the estimated population of the new development
 - compare the existing amount of open space and the total population with the quantity standards developed for that typology in the PPG17 study to decide if after the development there will be sufficient quantity within recommended distances of the development site to meet local needs.
- 13.55 If when assessed against the relevant PPG17 quantity standards, there is a sufficient amount of that type of open space in the local area to meet the needs of the total population, the Council may expect developer contributions to enhance the quality of open spaces within that accessibility threshold.

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

- 13.56 Where it has been decided that a contribution is required to improve provision locally, reference should be made to the quality standards for each typology and the assessment against these standards. Contributions should only be considered necessary where the quality of local provision is considered below the quality standard as outlined in the PPG17 assessment.

PLAN1	<p>Set out the local standards produced within the PPG17 document within the LDF. These should be used as a basis for determining the contributions required.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the production of updated guidance for developers setting out the application of the new standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities. This may be in the form of updated guidance or SPD.</p>
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PLAN2	<p>Apply these local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area</p>
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Determine whether the open space can/should be provided on site.

- 13.57 In instances where a quantitative deficiency has been identified, it is necessary to determine whether the open space should be provided on site. A new area of open space should be required where the existing amount of open space is insufficient to cater for the needs of the total population. The requirement should only cover the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development.
- 13.58 If a housing development generates a need for new open space then wherever possible this should be provided on-site. However, in some circumstances it will not be possible to achieve this. It is recommended that minimum size standards for each typology are developed to ensure that provision is useable and can be viably maintained. If the quantitative need for a type of open space is equivalent to or above the minimum size threshold then new provision should be required on site.

PLAN3	<p>Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on-site versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case-by-case approach will still be required.</p>
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- 13.59 If it is not possible to provide the open space required on site, then contributions should be sought towards the new provision or enhancement of that type of open space within the accessibility threshold. It must be proven that the contribution will be used to improve or provide new provision that is directly related to the development in question.

Pooled contributions

- 13.60 Where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure, it may be reasonable for the associated developer contributions to be pooled. In addition, where individual development will have some impact but is not sufficient to justify the need for a discrete piece of infrastructure, local planning authorities may seek contributions to specific future provision. This can be determined through the application of the quantity standards and the agreed accessibility thresholds developed in study. However, a degree of certainty is needed that cumulatively sufficient developments will come forward in that locality within an agreed time frame or else the contributions will need to be returned to the developer. This should be closely linked to emerging Local Development Framework work on site-specific allocations and knowledge of areas of significant development. Pooled contributions may also be of particular benefit within the more rural areas of the City.
- 13.61 Alternatively, in cases where an item of infrastructure necessitated by the cumulative impact of a series of developments is provided by a local authority before all the developments have come forward, the later developers may still be required to contribute the relevant proportion of costs.

Calculate the recommended open space contribution for new open spaces.

- 13.62 The level of developer contributions for off-site provision will depend on whether it includes the costs of land acquisition. Standards costs towards the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces (across all typologies) should be clearly identified and revised annually. They should be based on local circumstances.
- 13.63 The cost of open space can be difficult to determine based on what elements of open space provision to include within the costing. For example, whether the cost of a facility should include site preparation, eg levelling, drainage, special surfaces and what ancillary facilities to include within costings, what level of equipment and land costs. A guide can be found on the Sport England website: http://www.sportengland.org/kitbag_fac_costs.doc and the NPFA Cost Guides for Play and Sport.

Worked example – calculating the requirement for new provision from a development in City of York

- 13.64 A worked example, detailing the calculation required to determine the contribution towards amenity green space, is provided as follows:
- a housing development for 70 dwellings has been submitted to the Council. The development consists of 30 four-bed dwellings, 30 three-bed dwellings and 10 two-bed dwellings. This will result in 230 additional residents living in the locality
 - the agreed accessibility catchment for amenity green space is a 5 minute walk time or 240 metres. Within this distance of the housing development there is currently 0.70 hectares of provision
 - the estimated population within 240 metres of the housing development is 800 people. Combined with the estimated population from the new development (230), this gives a total population of 1030

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

- the quantity standard for amenity green space is 1.07 hectares per 1000 population. Multiplied by the total population (1030) produced a requirement for 1.102 hectares of amenity greenspace. The existing amount of amenity greenspace is 0.70 hectares
- 0.70 hectares of amenity green space within 280 metres is a lower level of provision than the required 1.102ha. The developer will therefore be required to provide further provision
- the size requirement can be calculated by multiplying the quantity standard per person by the population of the new development. In this example this represents 0.00129 hectares per person multiplied by 230 people, producing a requirement for 0.30 hectares. Given the shortfall in provision is 0.41 hectares, in order to meet the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development; the full quantity of provision should be secured. The developer should only be asked to provide 0.30 hectares, as they can not be asked to make up existing deficiencies
- reference should be made to the agreed minimum size standards to determine whether the requirement should be on site or off site. In this example the minimum acceptable size is 0.2 hectares, so either there should be on site provision of a single piece of land at least 0.2ha in area, or a contribution towards off site provision should be sought.

13.65 It is unreasonable to ask the developer to fund the entire shortfall in the area, and the contribution can only seek to obtain a contribution for the impact of the additional housing.

- if the open space were to be provided off-site, the estimated cost for the provision of amenity greenspace is £8,200 on the basis of a site being 0.2ha (2000m²) in size. For the purpose of this example, the cost per hectare is assumed to be £41,000
- the agreed local standard for provision is 1.07 ha per 1000 population, or 0.00107 ha per person
- using the formula set out above, the contribution required for a 70 dwelling development is:
 - 230 (number of people in development in terms of increased demand over capacity within accessibility catchment of the development) X 0.00107 (requirement per person) X £41,000 (cost of provision per hectare)
 - the contribution required towards amenity greenspace is **£10,090**.

13.66 The application of this formula ensures that the level of provision required from developments is worked out proportionally as to the level of increased demand the development incurs.

13.67 The above methodology should be repeated for each type of open space for which contributions are required.

PLAN4

Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

PLAN5	Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.
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13.68 Maintenance sums are also an important element of any Section 106 process.

13.69 Where appropriate, new developments should therefore make contributions towards the capital expenditure required to provide/enhance areas of open space and for its on going maintenance. Statements regarding this policy should be included within the LDF.

13.70 Where facilities for open space are to be provided by the developer and will be adopted by the Council:

- the Council should normally adopt and maintain properly laid out open space within residential areas subject to the payment, by the developer, of a commuted sum to cover the cost of future maintenance
- it is anticipated that the developer will be required to maintain the open space for 12 months, or other reasonable period for 'establishment'
- a commuted sum payment is payable on transfer of the land covering cost of maintenance for a defined period. From the review of existing supplementary planning policy maintenance periods are normally between five and 25 years
- the commuted maintenance sum should be calculated using current maintenance prices to manage open space, multiplied to allow for inflation of prices and the interest received on the diminishing average annual balance of the sum.

PLAN6	Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.
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PLAN7	Detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions in an SPD, ensuring that the system is fair, transparent and consistent.
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13.71 In addition to the use of the recommended local standards for determining the required level of developer contributions, these standards should also be used to determine the recreational value of an open space site and inform decisions on individual planning applications and priorities for investment.

Using the Recommended Local Standards to guide development and regeneration

13.72 The same process can also be used to determine the level of open space, sport and recreation facilities required in major new urban extensions as well as within smaller new housing developments.

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

- 13.73 This will be particularly important to inform the development of the Area Action Plans for the City centre and York North West. Consideration should be given to the current level of provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the area and the impact on the demand generated by new development. The regeneration of these areas provides a significant opportunity to ensure that the current and future supply of open space, sport and recreation facilities meet the needs of local residents.
- 13.74 The application of the local standards set as part of this study enable proactive planning of open spaces in areas of new development and in areas undergoing regeneration. Quantity standards provide information regarding the amount of each type of open space that can be expected in the local area while accessibility standards drive the location of different facility types. The quality standards guide the quality that is expected and the essential and desirable features that should be provided to meet resident needs.
- 13.75 The local quantity and accessibility standards set as part of this study are summarised in Table 13.4 below. As highlighted throughout this report, these standards should be treated as minimum standards and providers should aspire to a greater level of provision where appropriate.

Table 13.4 – Local Quantity and Accessibility Standards

Typology	Quantity standard (ha per 1000)	Accessibility standard	% Score achieved
Parks and Gardens	0.18	20 minute walk (960m) (City Park) 15 minute walk (720m) (Local Park)	84%
Natural and Semi Natural	2.11	15 minutes walk (720m)	66%
Amenity Green Space	1.14	5 minutes walk (240m)	74%
Provision for Children	0.48 facilities per 1000	10 minutes walk (480m)	72%
Provision for Teenagers	0.2 facilities per 1000	15 minutes walk (720m)	69.95%
Outdoor Sports	2.05	15 minutes walk (720m – local facilities (pitches / tennis / bowls) 20 minute drive time – synthetic pitches and golf courses	70%
Allotments	0.29	15 minutes walk (720m)	72%

- 13.76 The scenario of a new master plan area containing sufficient dwellings to accommodate 2000 residents can be used by means of example to demonstrate the application of the quantity standards, and the level of open space that would be required to meet the standards. All standards represent minimum levels of provision.

- 13.77 Based on the local standards set as part of this study, and applied to a population of 2000 residents, it would be expected that in the range of 11.5 hectares of open space would be required alongside the provision of at least one facility for young people and one facility for teenagers.
- 13.78 This requirement would be split between on and off site provision according to the location and characteristics of the surrounding area.
- 13.79 Given that circa 20 hectares would be required to provide sufficient dwellings to accommodate 2000 residents, it can be concluded that the aspiration would be that every hectare of housing is accompanied by 0.6ha of green space (although some of this may be provided off site, for example City Parks).

Summary

- 13.80 The provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities offers benefits wider than recreational amenities to local residents including educational, social, cultural and ecological benefits. The key priorities for consideration over the LDF period arising from the analysis of each type of open space are explained in full in sections 1 – 12 and include:

Parks and Gardens

- mirror the high standard of Rowntree Park and Museum Gardens at parks across the City through a programme of ongoing investment. Sites should be enhanced in line with the quality visions, taking into account the needs of both humans and wildlife
- continue to promote partnership working and management across the parks in York
- maximise links to, between and within parks through the effective development of footpaths, cycle routes and public transport
- protect all City parks and where possible, investment should be directed into sites to enhance their quality. If a new City park was to be developed, this should be located in the north east of the City
- ensure that local parks are protected and enhanced in quantitative and qualitative terms where appropriate
- consider the provision of small local parks in urban areas currently devoid of parks. This may be delivered by upgrading amenity green spaces. The Acomb and Woodthorpe area of the City is a particular example
- consider opportunities to facilitate the development of small local parks (eg Pocket Parks) in the smaller settlements. In particular consideration should be given to the provision of parks in larger settlements including Wigginton, Strensall, Huntington, Nether and Upper Poppleton and Wheldrake
- identify opportunities to meet current deficiencies as well as meeting future needs when planning major residential areas to meet housing needs to 2029, as part of the Local Development Framework.

Natural and semi natural open spaces

- ensure the large strategic sites of importance across the City are protected from development and facilitate ongoing access to these sites for residents
- continue to promote partnership working and management across the natural and semi natural sites in York
- ensure that recreational usage within natural and semi natural sites is balanced with biodiversity. Consider any future possibilities to enhance both the recreational and biodiversity value
- increase accessibility by providing a network of green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of open space and wider strategic sites. This network should provide a link for those residents within the urban areas to sites located on the urban periphery and beyond
- maximise access opportunities by providing appropriate signage and clearly visible entrances where possible
- consider opportunities to address deficiencies within Osbaldwick, Clifton, Holgate and the central areas of the City
- Investigate the possibility of addressing deficiencies by incorporating natural and semi natural open spaces into other types of open space. Seek opportunities to provide new natural and semi natural open space as part of new development.

Amenity green space

- seek to improve the quality of amenity green space sites
- maintain an appropriate level of amenity green space provision within the City centre. Future improvements should focus on the quality of sites
- investigate opportunities to improve and change the functionality of sites to the west of the City that are of poorer quality and serve overlapping catchments
- consider opportunities to provide local amenity green spaces / pocket parks in areas where residents are currently outside of the catchment for both parks and amenity spaces, including Acomb and Westfield, Hull Road, Heworth and Osbaldwick and in larger rural settlements including Wheldrake, Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Haxby areas
- protect amenity green space provision in areas where they provide the only opportunity for informal recreation
- ensure that residents in settlements with a population in excess of 200 have access to at least one amenity green space. Consideration should also be given to providing amenity green space in settlements devoid of any other open space.

Provision for children

- incorporate the findings from the quality assessments to inform decisions on sites requiring investment. Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard which integrates effective maintenance with appropriate location
- identify opportunities to provide new sites in areas where residents are unable to access play facilities within the recommended catchment. Areas where there are currently large accessibility deficiencies and therefore opportunities for new provision therefore include Heworth Without, Heslington, Huntington and New Earswick, Westfield, Dringhouses and Acomb
- consider the value of play facilities serving similar catchments, particularly those which are of poor quality, seek opportunities to rationalise sites in close proximity to each other in order to enhance the quality of the remaining site. The Dringhouses area is a particular example of where rationalisation should be appropriate
- protect all rural play facilities and support the ongoing maintenance programmes undertaken by the Parish Councils
- identify opportunities to provide new facilities in the larger rural settlements where local demand is expressed. As a minimum, consideration should be given to the provision of facilities in all settlements where the population exceeds 2000. Some of the larger settlements where provision is limited include Bishopthorpe village, the east of Copmanthorpe and South Wigginton to the south of the City and a small area of Strensall, East Nether Poppleton and Skelton to the north of the City
- consider the appropriateness of collocation of facilities at school sites in order to address current deficiencies.

Provision for teenagers

- ensure facilities are fit for purpose by involving local teenagers
- provide new facilities which meet the recommended quality standard
- develop a strategic network of facilities for teenagers through the provision of facilities in City and Local Parks
- as well as addressing deficiencies through the placement of facilities in parks, pursue opportunities in areas where there is a shortage of parks, amenity green spaces and facilities' for teenagers, for example Acomb and Heworth
- maximise the access to facilities for teenagers in the smaller settlements across York by effective development of the public transport/footpath and cycle route networks.

Outdoor sports facilities

- ensure all outdoor sports facilities are fit for purpose through a structured improvement programme
- identify opportunities to formalise community use agreements at school sites where there is an expressed demand for further sporting provision
- maximise the quality of public transport links, cycle routes and public footpaths to facilitate access to sports facilities
- identify opportunities to meet demand for pitches where demand has been expressed, specifically Bishopthorpe, Fulford, Heslington, Skelton, Strensall, New Earswick, Copmanthorpe and Dringhouses
- seek opportunities to provide publicly accessible tennis facilities in the larger rural settlements. Examples may include Wigginton, Strensall, Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe
- monitor the demand for sports facilities on an ongoing basis and address these issues where possible
- consider undertaking detailed sport specific evaluations of demand in order to inform decisions regarding the most appropriate type of facility.

Allotments

- monitor and regularly review demand for allotment provision
- take opportunities to provide new allotments in areas where demand is increasing in light of planning applications for new development, for example in the Guildhall, Micklegate and Acomb wards
- investigate and address any potential demand for additional allotments in Wheldrake, Haxby, Osbaldwick, Dringhouses, Acomb and Westfield
- closely monitor the demand for allotment provision within the City centre as the population increases given the current barriers to allotments sites outside of this area
- protect existing allotment sites from any future developments
- strive to achieve the quality standard at all allotment sites across York
- identify sites which may benefit from future investment using the quality assessments as a baseline of information
- promote the value of allotments to local residents
- build upon the current partnership and provide support and advice to providers of allotments and volunteers.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards
- increase awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards
- prioritise qualitative improvements in areas where cemeteries are the only type of open space.

Green corridors

- maximise linkages between open spaces through the development of green corridors and create a network of multifunctional open spaces
- work in tandem with key partners to maximise the use of green corridors
- aspire to achieve the quality vision at all green corridor sites.

Accessible countryside

- consider opportunities to offset deficiencies of open space by enhancing access to nearby countryside
- protect nearby countryside and ensuring that any development is sensitive to the surroundings
- evaluate the role of the countryside in detail as part of a wider green infrastructure study.

- 13.81 Enhancement of the links between open spaces will be instrumental in both maximising the benefits of the network of open space and also in achieving the wider sustainable transport objectives.
- 13.82 As well as considering the provision of open space within settlement boundaries, it is essential to also acknowledge the role of the wider countryside and the importance of this asset to local residents. The presence of accessible countryside can alleviate deficiencies of other types of open space and provide an important natural resource.
- 13.83 The open space, sport and recreation study is also an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.
- 13.84 The study provides the tools in which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development and for pre-empting growth implications as part of the LDF. The study will be essential in maximising the effect of the regeneration opportunities in the City Centre and York Northwest areas of the authority.

SECTION 13 - STRATEGY, KEY PRIORITIES AND PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

- 13.85 The use of a standard formula for open space provision in new housing developments based on the cost of provision will greatly aid the negotiation process and provide a transparent approach in line with Circular 05/2005. This formula should be based on the recommended local standards contained within this report.

APPENDIX A
BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Wider 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
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

What do you think of parks, play areas, sport and recreational land and other open spaces in York?

Dear Resident,

City of York Council has recently appointed PMP to undertake an assessment of open space across the council area. The study is a requirement of government planning guidance and will investigate whether the current level of open space provision is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility to meet the needs of York residents now and in the future.

We very much **hope you can spare 10-15 minutes to complete the attached survey**. It will be used to help us create an open space strategy to improve your existing open spaces and make sure future provision is based on your needs and views. Your household is one of 5000 randomly selected in order to provide us with an insight into residents' opinions on open space within York. Even if you don't use open spaces we are keen to hear your views. All the answers you give will be treated as confidential.

When completing the survey please answer the questions in relation to the open spaces within your area.

The questionnaire is quick and easy to answer. Please try to answer as many questions as possible by placing a tick in the boxes or write your answer in the space provided. Please return your questionnaire even if you are unable to answer all of the questions, as any information you provide will be of great use to us.

Who should complete the survey?

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. Therefore **please ask the person in your household who will next have their birthday to complete the survey**. This includes children aged 10 and over.

If you have any questions or need any help completing the questionnaire please phone Gary Grocock or myself at PMP on 01606 49582. Alternatively, you can email your views to:

yorkopenspace@pmpconsult.com

Please return your completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided by **Friday 2nd February**. For your chance to win one of four £25 vouchers at a shop of your choice please fill in the slip below and enclose along with survey. Many thanks for your help with this important survey.

Yours sincerely

Steve Ottewell
Consultant
PMP

Enc.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A £25 VOUCHER FOR A SHOP OF YOUR CHOICE,

Please complete (and enclose with your completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope):

Name:

Address:.....

Telephone Number:.....

APPENDIX C
WORKSHOPS

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Three informal workshop sessions were held on **24th April** in Room 3 of the **Guildhall**. The sessions were informal and consisted of a short presentation on the work followed by some interactive exercises designed to give everyone the opportunity to have their say. The sessions were two hours in duration.

The list of invitees included:

- Bowling groups
- Allotment societies
- Resident and tenants associations
- Football leagues using park playing fields
- Green space user groups
- Youth clubs
- Sports clubs
- Play scheme providers
- Ward coordinators
- External agencies

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APPENDIX D

SITE ASSESSMENT SCORES

SiteID	SiteName	Typology	Area (ha)	Ward
1	Salisbury Road	CHIL	0.04	Holgate
3	Rowntree Park (Play Area)	CHIL	0.53	Micklegate
5	Monkton Road Play Area	CHIL	0.11	Heworth
6	Glen Gardens Playground	CHIL	0.09	Heworth
7	Tang Hall Community Centre Play Area	CHIL	0.05	Heworth
9	Land to the east of Stone Riggs	CHIL	0.19	Strensall
10	Land to South of Greenshaw Drive	CHIL	0.13	Haxby and Wigginton
11	Land at Garth Road	CHIL	0.15	Huntington and New Earswick
12	Land between Woodlands Place and River Foss	CHIL	0.02	Huntington and New Earswick
13	Land to the west of the swimming pool and the Folk Hall	CHIL	0.06	Huntington and New Earswick
14	Play area off Burton Stone Lane	CHIL	0.23	Clifton
16	Clarence Gardens Play Area	CHIL	0.25	Clifton
17	Hull Road Park Play Area	CHIL	0.12	Hull Road
18	St Nicholas Field Playground	CHIL	0.13	Guildhall
19	Land to the south of Moorlands Close and East of Hambleton Ave	CHIL	0.20	Osballdwick
20	Playground between School Lane and Fulford School	CHIL	0.12	Fulford
21	Cemetary Road Play Area	CHIL	0.13	Fishergate
22	Leeside Play Area	CHIL	0.25	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
23	Land to the east of Askham Fields Lane, Askham Bryan	CHIL	0.17	Rural West York
24	Foxwood/Bellhouse Way	AGS	0.21	Heworth
25	West Bank Park (Over 11s playground)	YP	0.08	Holgate
26	West Bank Park (Under 11s Playground)	CHIL	0.12	Holgate
27	Scarcroft Green playground	CHIL	0.14	Micklegate
28	Kingsway Play Area	CHIL	0.13	Clifton
29	Viking Road	CHIL	0.12	Acomb
30	Playground on Rawcliffe Recreational Field	CHIL	0.03	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
31	Land to the north west of Main Street, Upper Poppleton	CHIL	0.09	Rural West York
33	The Homestead (Playground)	CHIL	0.72	Clifton
34	Woodthorpe Rec Ground Playground	CHIL	0.22	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
35	Gale Lane/Foxwood Lane playground.	CHIL	0.08	Westfield
36	Sowerby Road Playground	CHIL	0.05	Holgate
37	Arnon Place, Dodsworth Field	CHIL	0.05	Heworth
38	Deramore Drive CYP	CHIL	0.05	Hull Road
39	Cornlands Road / Tennent Road	CHIL	0.08	Westfield
40	Playground on land between Fordlands Road and A19	CHIL	0.05	Fulford
41	Land to west of Boss Lane	CHIL	0.21	Heslington
42	Play area on playing fields to west of Stray Road.	CHIL	0.07	Heworth without
43	Land between Huntington Road and Badger Paddock	CHIL	0.06	Huntington and New Earswick
44	Playground on Land to the east of Common Road	CHIL	0.08	Derwent
45	Playground on land to the north of Elvington Lane	CHIL	0.04	Wheldrake
46	Playground on land to east of York Road	CHIL	0.20	Haxby and Wigginton
47	Land behind the Village Hall, Naburn	CHIL	0.02	Wheldrake
48	Land to South of Village Hall	CHIL	0.07	Strensall
50	Mayfield Grove Playground	CHIL	0.07	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
52	Esk Drive Play Area	CHIL	0.06	Rural West York
53	at Sports field to the south of B1224	AGS	0.05	Fishergate
54	Land off Littlethorpe Close.	CHIL	0.01	Strensall
55	Garnet Terrace	CHIL	0.11	Holgate
56	Victoria Bar (Lower Priory Street)	CHIL	0.03	Micklegate
57	Bell Farm Adventure Playground.	CHIL	0.31	Heworth
59	Heron Avenue (Off Sheringham Drive)	CHIL	0.07	Westfield
61	Askham Bryan College	OSF	3.55	Rural West York
62	Nightingdale Close	CHIL	0.02	Huntington and New Earswick
63	Copmanthorpe Recreation Centre	CHIL	0.14	Rural West York
65	Acomb Green CYP	CHIL	0.12	Westfield
66	Vesper Walk	YP	0.05	Huntington and New Earswick
67	Ashton Avenue Playground	CHIL	0.03	Micklegate
68	Salisbury Terrace	CHIL	0.44	Holgate
69	Fulford Cross	AGS	0.06	Huntington and New Earswick
70	CYP on Earswick Open Space	CHIL	0.02	Strensall
71	Broadway Grove	CHIL	0.10	Fishergate
72	Tedder Road Play Area	CHIL	0.08	Westfield
73	Girven Close	AGS	0.34	Huntington and New Earswick
75	North of Earswick Chase.	CHIL	0.27	Strensall
80	Rowntree Park	CITY PARKS	8.26	Micklegate
81	Heslington Hall	LOCAL PARK	1.35	Heslington
84	Askham Lane Cricket Ground	OSF	1.64	Westfield
85	Craven Sports Ground	OSF	2.59	Acomb
86	Bowling Green to rear of Ainsty Hotel	OSF	0.20	Holgate
87	Hopgrove Playing Fields	OSF	8.84	Heworth without
88	Heworth Cricket Club	OSF	3.81	Heworth without
89	Glen Gardens - Bowling Green	OSF	0.28	Heworth

91	Glen Gardens - Tennis Courts	OSF	0.19	Heworth
92	Bowling Green off Northfields	OSF	0.21	Strensall
93	Wigginton Play Field, off Mill Lane, Wigginton	OSF	3.48	Haxby and Wigginton
94	Huntington Stadium	OSF	1.43	Huntington and New Earswick
95	Tennis courts to the south of Lime Tree Avenue.	OSF	0.23	Huntington and New Earswick
96	Land to the east of Rowan avenue	OSF	0.77	Huntington and New Earswick
97	Playing Field, west of Haxby Road	OSF	6.27	Huntington and New Earswick
98	Sports Ground east of Haxby Road	OSF	5.74	Clifton
99	Clarence Gardens Bowling Green	OSF	0.42	Clifton
101	Hull Road Park Sports pitches	OSF	0.75	Hull Road
102	Sports Ground, Danum Road	OSF	1.61	Fishergate
103	Ground of "The Retreat" OSF	OSF	3.01	Fishergate
104	Rowntree Park - Bowling Greens	OSF	0.26	Micklegate
105	Rowntree Park - Tennis Courts	OSF	0.32	Micklegate
106	St Helen's Road Sports Ground	OSF	2.28	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
107	Sports Ground off Acaster Lane	OSF	0.33	Bishopthorpe
109	Acorn ARL Sports and Social Club	OSF	6.45	Westfield
110	Bowling Green to the rear of library	OSF	0.13	Westfield
111	BR Sports Ground	OSF	6.68	Holgate
112	Holgate Road/ Beech Avenue, Bowling Green	OSF	0.14	Holgate
113	West Bank Park (Bowling Greens)	OSF	0.34	Holgate
114	Scarcroft Green Bowling Greens	OSF	0.49	Micklegate
115	Bootham Park	OSF	3.48	Guildhall
116	Sycamore Place Bowling Green	OSF	0.15	Clifton
117	Clifton Park	OSF	11.47	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
118	Earswick Chase North Tennis Courts	OSF	0.12	Strensall
119	Earswick Chase South Bowling Green	OSF	0.20	Strensall
120	Copmanthorpe Sports Ground	OSF	2.23	Rural West York
124	Askham Bog Nature Reserve	NSN	41.82	Rural West York
141	Playing field at Northfields/ The Village	OSF	0.54	Strensall
142	Allotment Gardens by Terrington Close	ALLOT	0.49	Strensall
144	Land opposite the Tannery	NSN	0.48	Strensall
145	The Brecks	NSN	3.70	Strensall
147	Land between River Foss and Westpit Lane	NSN	4.89	Strensall
148	Playing Field adjacent Railway Track / River Foss	OSF	1.63	Strensall
149	Land off Hollard Way	AGS	0.20	Holgate
150	AGS between Pasture Close	AGS	0.20	Rural West York
151	Land between York Road and Knapton Close	AGS	0.11	Acomb
152	Land off Mill Lane	AGS	0.18	Bishopthorpe
153	Wigginton Pond	NSN	0.33	Haxby and Wigginton
154	Church Field	AGS	1.37	Bishopthorpe
155	Land off the village	AGS	0.13	Wheldrake
156	Land off Mancroft and Hunters Close	AGS	1.06	Wheldrake
157	Land between Old Dykelands and Broad Acres	AGS	0.35	Wheldrake
158	Land between Eastfield Avenue and Sandringham Close	AGS	0.60	Rural West York
159	Ethel Ward Memorial Playing Field.	OSF	3.15	Haxby and Wigginton
160	Allotment Gardens, south of Station Ave, Haxby	ALLOT	0.92	Haxby and Wigginton
161	Land between West Nooks and River Foss (Thornfield	AGS	2.41	Rural West York
162	Land between The Whellhouse, The Village, and Pasture Close, Skelton	AGS	1.07	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
163	Land between The Green and the Village, Skelton	AGS	0.36	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
164	Land Off Brecksfield	AGS	0.23	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
165	Land between Brecksfield and settlement limit.	AGS	0.15	Huntington and New Earswick
166	Land off St Catherines / Burtree Avenue.	AGS	0.25	Rural West York
167	Skelton Pond site	NSN	0.35	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
169	Playing Field, south of Alexander Avenue, Huntington	OSF	1.26	Huntington and New Earswick
171	Huntington Sports Club	OSF	1.74	Huntington and New Earswick
172	Rec ground off Lime Tree Avenue/ Haxby Road	AGS	0.96	Fishergate
173	Recreation ground between White Rose Avenue and Haxby Road	OSF	1.43	Huntington and New Earswick
174	Westfield Beck at corner of Link Road / Haxby Road.	NSN	0.36	Huntington and New Earswick
175	Westfield Beck at the Haxby Road and Poplar Grove	AGS	0.24	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
176	Land to left between Acacia Avenue and Willow Bank	AGS	0.10	Holgate
178	Land at Andrew Drive	AGS	0.15	Clifton
180	South Beck between Byland Avenue and Birch park	AGS	0.61	Guildhall
181	King George's Field	AGS	1.85	Micklegate
182	Land adjacent to Hempland Primary School	OSF	1.09	Heworth without
183	Tang Hall Beck, between Burnholme Lane and Bad Bargain Lane	NSN	1.87	Heworth
184	Burnholme Drive NSN	NSN	1.89	Heworth
185	Tang Hall Beck	NSN	1.11	Heworth
186	PLAYing field by Tang Hall Beck, Off Applecroft Road	OSF	0.79	Heworth without
187	Glen Gardens	LOCAL PARK	0.76	Heworth
188	Land off Melrosegate/Starkey Crescent	NSN	0.43	Heworth

189	New Earswick Allotments	ALLOT	0.67	Huntington and New Earswick
190	Land between River Foss and Link Road	NSN	0.65	Huntington and New Earswick
191	Land south at Link Road/Haxby Road junction	AGS	0.26	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
192	Land between Haxby Road and Huntington Road	AGS	6.06	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
193	Allotment Gardens between River Foss and Haxby Road	ALLOT	2.24	Huntington and New Earswick
196	Bowling Green adjacent to Haxby Road.	OSF	0.16	Clifton
197	Playing Field adjacent Haxby Road/Nestle factory	OSF	0.75	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
201	Land adjacent to playground 179	NSN	0.09	Heworth
202	Land adjacent River Foss (opp Yearsley Baths)	NSN	0.09	Heworth
203	Nature Reserve opposite Yearsley Bridge	NSN	0.28	Heworth
204	Land adjacent River Foss/ Melrosegate by Yearsley	NSN	0.26	Heworth
206	Allotments between Wigginton Road and Wigginton	ALLOT	0.34	Clifton
207	Allotments adjacent to Wigginton Road	ALLOT	0.11	Clifton
208	Allotment Gardens, South of Crickton Avenue/dajace	ALLOT	0.17	Clifton
209	Allotments North Chrickton Avenue/adjacent railway	ALLOT	0.28	Clifton
210	Allotments off Wigginton Road	ALLOT	0.13	Clifton
213	AGS between Burton Stone, Lane and Burrill Avenue.	AGS	0.47	Haxby and Wigginton
215	York St John Uni All Weather Pitch	OSF	0.69	Heworth
216	Clarence Gardens	LOCAL PARK	1.01	Clifton
218	Pond between Elmfield Terrace and Westlands Road	NSN	1.31	Heworth without
219	Pond Off Meadow Way	NSN	0.56	Heworth without
221	Allotments off Sixth Ave / Fourth Ave	ALLOT	1.41	Heworth
225	Tang Hall Beck/ St Nicholas Field.	NSN	9.24	Guildhall
228	Ostbaldwick Beck, adjacent Beckside Gardens.	NSN	0.85	Hull Road
229	Hull Road Park	CITY PARKS	5.49	Hull Road
231	Land adjacent Osbaldwick Beck to North of Tuke Ave	NSN	0.38	Hull Road
232	Land off Wolviston Avenue	AGS	0.16	Fulford
233	Playing field/community centre off Osbaldwick Lane	OSF	2.23	Osbaldwick
234	Land off the Leyes	AGS	0.23	Huntington and New Earswick
236	Land adjacent to Osbaldwick Village	AGS	0.49	Micklegate
239	Land adjacent River Foss / Huntington Road	AGS	0.26	Derwent
243	Clifton Green AGS	AGS	0.64	Haxby and Wigginton
245	Land in middle of Hudson Crescent	AGS	0.14	Haxby and Wigginton
246	Land adjacent to Kingsway North	AGS	2.07	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
251	Rawcliffe Lake	AGS	6.13	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
252	Rawcliffe recreation field	OSF	3.36	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
253	Land adjacent Whitley Class/Hayforth Close.	AGS	0.21	Rural West York
254	Land adjacent Joseph Rowntree School/Haxby Road.	AGS	4.96	Rural West York
255	Bowling Green, north of Salisbury Road	OSF	0.24	Holgate
257	Land at St Pauls Square	AGS	0.32	Guildhall
258	Land between Lavendar Grove and Water End	AGS	0.72	Guildhall
259	Allotment Gardens/Ouse Acres	ALLOT	4.04	Holgate
263	Land Off Prestwick Court	AGS	0.52	Huntington and New Earswick
264	Viking Road AGS	AGS	0.54	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
265	Allotments off Danebury Drive	ALLOT	0.77	Acomb
266	Fishponds Wood	NSN	1.62	Acomb
267	Land Off Beech Grove	NSN	0.23	Acomb
268	Land off Beech Grove/ Chestnut Grove	NSN	0.35	Acomb
269	Land off Sowerby Road	AGS	0.71	Guildhall
270	Allotments between Poppleton Road and Howehill Road	ALLOT	0.72	Holgate
271	Acomb Green	AGS	1.39	Strensall
274	Land adjacent to Chapel Fields Road	AGS	0.28	Huntington and New Earswick
275	Allotments between Lynden Way and Green Lane	ALLOT	1.99	Westfield
277	West Bank Park	CITY PARKS	4.46	Holgate
278	Allotments between Holgate Road and Hamilton Drive	ALLOT	1.61	Holgate
280	The Green off Hodgson Lane	AGS	0.31	Acomb
282	Museum Gardens	CITY PARKS	4.38	Guildhall
287	Land along Hodgson Road	AGS	0.52	Acomb
289	Land Adjacent to Main Street	AGS	0.42	Acomb
291	Allotment gardens off Millfield Lane	ALLOT	0.75	Rural West York
292	AGS off Common Road	AGS	0.23	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
293	Land Off Common Road	AGS	0.32	Huntington and New Earswick
294	The Green Off Intake Lane	AGS	0.36	Huntington and New Earswick
296	Roundabout on Manor Drive	AGS	0.25	Huntington and New Earswick
301	St Giles Church, Church Street, Copmanthorpe	CC	0.10	Bishopthorpe
304	Land Off Low Green	AGS	0.08	Acomb
306	Bachelor Hill	AGS	2.75	Strensall
307	Comlands Road/ Tenant Road	AGS	0.43	Rural West York
308	Oaklands School	OSF	4.99	Westfield
309	Playing field off Foxwood Lane.	OSF	3.62	Westfield
311	Tedder Road AGS	AGS	0.55	Rural West York
312	Acomb Moor	OSF	0.84	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
313	Acomb Moor by Ashmeade Close	NSN	0.49	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
314	Acomb Wood off Acomb Wood Drive	NSN	3.16	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe

315	Acomb Wood off Acomb Wood Drive	NSN	4.29	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
316	Rec Ground between Summerfield Road and Glenridding	AGS	1.13	Huntington and New Earswick
318	Land between Herdsman Road and Wain's Grove	AGS	0.32	Clifton
323	Allotments between Eastlands Avenue and Hamilton Drive	ALLOT	0.67	Holgate
324	Micklegate Stray - Scarcroft Green	AGS	1.50	Micklegate
325	Land at Aldersyde, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	NSN	0.32	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
328	Pond and adjacent land between Nelson's Lane and Acomb	NSN	1.16	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
332	St Oswalds Church, Main Street, Fulford	CC	0.20	Huntington and New Earswick
334	Broadway AGS	AGS	0.41	Holgate
335	Land off Broadway/Heslington	AGS	0.14	Holgate
336	Fulford Parish Council's 'School Lane Recreation Ground	OSF	1.95	Fulford
337	Land including watchtower	NSN	4.65	Heslington
338	St John Playing Fields	OSF	1.48	Hull Road
339	Land off Deramore Drive West	AGS	1.46	Heworth
340	Land at St. Andrews Church, Church Lane, Bishopthorpe	CC	0.74	Fulford
341	Allotment Gardens, off Appleton Road	ALLOT	0.81	Bishopthorpe
342	Land off Maple Avenue	AGS	0.11	Haxby and Wigginton
343	Keble Park North AGS	AGS	0.23	Haxby and Wigginton
345	St Helens Church	CC	0.33	Holgate
346	Land Off Derwent Close	AGS	0.31	Fulford
347	Land Off Church Green	AGS	0.11	Heworth
348	The Green off Main Street	AGS	0.19	Micklegate
350	Pond off Moor Lane (Chapmans Pond)	NSN	2.69	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
351	Esk Drive AGS, Nether Poppleton	AGS	0.28	Acomb
352	Land off Severn Green	AGS	0.10	Derwent
353	Land Off York Road	AGS	0.18	Rural West York
354	Land off Dijon Avenue	AGS	0.21	Rural West York
355	Land off Houndsway	AGS	0.24	Rural West York
356	Heron Avenue AGS	AGS	0.02	Rural West York
358	Land between Vesper Walk and River Foss	NSN	0.83	Huntington and New Earswick
360	Land at Harewood Close/Kensington Road	AGS	0.07	Rural West York
363	Land at Millfield Green	AGS	0.09	Derwent
364	Land off Earswick Chase	AGS	0.64	Westfield
365	Land off Strensall Road	AGS	0.56	Holgate
367	Land off Strensall Road	AGS	1.10	Westfield
373	Land off Poppleton Road	AGS	0.92	Micklegate
375	Land adjacent Holgate Beck	AGS	2.84	Micklegate
376	Land Off Great North Way	NSN	0.44	Rural West York
377	Allotment gardens	ALLOT	0.12	Rural West York
385	Land by York Minster	AGS	0.04	Derwent
387	Fish Pond	AGS	0.21	Holgate
388	War Memorial Gardens	AGS	0.81	Clifton
390	Land by War Memorial	CIVIC	0.2	
391	City walls adjacent Lord Mayor's Walk	AGS	0.65	Rural West York
392	College Green adjacent York Girls School	AGS	0.08	Westfield
393	Land adjacent Jewbury	AGS	0.62	Westfield
395	Land adjacent Station Avenue	AGS	0.22	Guildhall
397	Cholera Burial Ground, Station Road	CC	0.09	Derwent
398	North Street Gardens'	AGS	0.19	Clifton
399	St Marys Graveyard, Bishophill Senior	CC	0.15	Derwent
400	Land adjacent Bishopgate Street	AGS	0.08	Fishergate
401	York Castle	AGS	0.18	Westfield
402	St Georges Field	LOCAL PARK	0.63	Guildhall
403	Rest Garden, Leadmill Lane, Guildhall	CC	0.13	Fishergate
404	Playground at Rosemary Place	CHIL	0.06	Guildhall
405	St Margaret's Church Graveyard, Percy's Lane	CC	0.23	Osballdwick
406	Land adjacent Red Tower/Foss Islands Road	AGS	0.49	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
408	Land adjacent City Walls	AGS	0.33	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
409	Land adjacent City Walls	AGS	0.75	Heslington
411	Land adjacent City Walls	AGS	0.36	Heslington
413	Land adjacent to City Walls	AGS	1.11	Fishergate
415	Land adjacent City Walls	AGS	1.31	Haxby and Wigginton
418	Land adjacent to City Walls	AGS	0.76	Micklegate
420	Land adjacent to Lord Mayors Walk	AGS	0.29	Fishergate
423	Land adjacent River Ouse	GC	0.8	
424	Deans Park and Garden	AGS	1.25	Fishergate
426	Cliffords Tower	NSN	0.47	Guildhall
429	Existing University of York Heslington Campus	OSF	4.66	Heslington
430	Dunnington C of E Primary School	OSF	1.68	Derwent
431	Wheldrake C of E Primary School	OSF	0.75	Wheldrake
432	Elvington C of E Primary School	OSF	0.68	Wheldrake
433	Derwent Infant and Juniors	OSF	1.37	Hull Road
435	Osballdwick C of E Primary School	OSF	0.64	Osballdwick
436	Archbishop Holgate's School	OSF	4.40	Hull Road

437	Burnholme Community College	OSF	6.09	Heworth
438	Hempland Primary School	OSF	1.00	Heworth without
439	Playing field, west of Melrosegate	OSF	1.80	Heworth
442	Huntington Primary School	OSF	0.46	Huntington and New Earswick
443	Huntington School	OSF	3.32	Huntington and New Earswick
444	Sports Ground, opposite Huntington School	OSF	1.87	Huntington and New Earswick
445	Joseph Rowntree School	OSF	7.28	Huntington and New Earswick
446	New Earswick Primary School	OSF	0.19	Huntington and New Earswick
447	Yearsley Grove Primary School	OSF	1.34	Huntington and New Earswick
448	The Robert Wilkinson primary School	OSF	1.39	Strensall
449	Wigginton County Primary School	OSF	0.83	Haxby and Wigginton
450	Ralph Butterfield County Primary School	OSF	0.49	Haxby and Wigginton
451	Headlands primary School	OSF	0.64	Haxby and Wigginton
452	Field between Nicholas Field and Blakeney Place	OSF	0.67	Fishergate
454	Fishergate County Primary School	OSF	0.36	Fishergate
455	St George's RC Primary School	OSF	0.75	Fishergate
457	Fulford School outdoor sports area	OSF	7.04	Fulford
458	Playing Field between Vyner Street and Rose Street	OSF	0.33	Clifton
460	Park Grove Primary School	OSF	0.43	Guildhall
462	Bootham School	OSF	1.77	Guildhall
467	Millthorpe School	OSF	4.25	Micklegate
472	All Saints RC Upper School	OSF	0.52	Micklegate
475	St Peters School	OSF	7.47	Clifton
476	Queen Anne School	OSF	4.24	Clifton
478	Linton Lodge (St Peters School)	OSF	0.16	Clifton
479	Burdyke County Infants School	OSF	0.53	Clifton
480	Clifton Green Junior School	OSF	1.92	Clifton
481	Ebor School (Bootham Junior School)	OSF	3.20	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
482	Clifton without Junior and Canon Lee Secondary School	OSF	2.24	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
483	Cannon Lee School	OSF	1.94	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
484	Lakeside Primary School	OSF	1.05	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
485	The Mount School Playing Fields	OSF	3.25	Micklegate
488	Poppleton Road County Primary School	OSF	0.54	Holgate
489	Acomb County Primary School	OSF	2.61	Holgate
492	Hob Moor Community Primary	OSF	1.26	Westfield
493	English Martyrs RC Primary School	OSF	0.95	Holgate
494	Our Lady's RC Primary School	OSF	0.62	Westfield
495	Copmanthorpe Primary School	OSF	1.73	Rural West York
496	Woodthorpe Primary School	OSF	1.46	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
497	York Sixth Form College	OSF	7.88	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
498	Bishopthorpe C of E Junior School	OSF	0.82	Bishopthorpe
500	Carr infant and junior school	OSF	1.80	Acomb
501	Northfield School	OSF	1.35	Acomb
502	Lowfield School	OSF	3.30	Westfield
503	Westfield Primary Community School	OSF	3.16	Westfield
506	Skelton County Primary School	OSF	1.54	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
507	The Manor C of E Secondary School	OSF	2.60	Acomb
508	Poppleton Ousebank Primary	OSF	1.14	Rural West York
510	Sports Ground in Elvington	OSF	2.37	Wheldrake
512	Wheldrake Sports Ground	OSF	2.43	Wheldrake
514	Sports Ground off Common Road, Dunnington	OSF	3.88	Derwent
531	Off Chalden Close NSN	AGS	1.17	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
542	Land behind Village Hall	AGS	0.22	Holgate
545	Monk Stray	NSN	39.69	Heworth without
552	Walmgate Stray	NSN	26.21	Fishergate
555	Heslington Sportsfield	OSF	1.62	Heslington
556	Fulford Parish Councils 'Fordlands Road Playing Field'	AGS	2.35	Derwent
558	NSN near Common Lane	NSN	7.70	Heslington
560	Monk Stray	AGS	25.02	Micklegate
567	Askham Fields Lane	OSF	0.31	Rural West York
575	Bootham Stray	NSN	36.02	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
575		NSN	33.87	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
576	New Earswick Sport Club	OSF	6.39	Huntington and New Earswick
577	Bootham Stray	NSN	19.53	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
583	Land near Millenium Bridge	AGS	3.71	Haxby and Wigginton
585	Love Lane AGS	AGS	7.42	Rural West York
586	Tadcaster Road Allotments	ALLOT	1.06	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
587	Knavesmire Racecourse and football pitches	OSF	62.11	Micklegate
588	Mayfield Grove AGS	AGS	2.86	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
595	Sports Ground off Ferry Lane and Acaster Lane	OSF	2.56	Bishopthorpe
598	The Homestead	CITY PARKS	5.03	Clifton
606	Water End	AGS	7.60	Micklegate
611	The Esplanade	AGS	4.01	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
624	Mickelgate Stray	NSN	38.10	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe

631	Rawcliffe Country Park	AGS	11.46	Rural West York
633	Rawcliffe Meadows North	NSN	12.85	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
640	Off Westfield Place OSF	OSF	2.17	Westfield
651	Upper Poppleton Sports Ground	OSF	2.65	Rural West York
652	Nether Poppleton Moatfields	NSN	4.83	Rural West York
656	Riverside Walk NSN	NSN	2.48	Rural West York
662	Sports Ground	OSF	3.95	Rural West York
665	Jacksons Walk AGS	AGS	0.13	Haxby and Wigginton
666	School Lane AGS	AGS	0.49	Haxby and Wigginton
670	Earswick Open Space	AGS	5.52	Micklegate
672	Lucombe Way AGS	AGS	0.07	Rural West York
673	Huntington Parish Council Allotments	ALLOT	0.97	Huntington and New Earswick
674	Stratford Way AGS	AGS	0.11	Strensall
675	Link Road Nature Reserve	NSN	2.89	Huntington and New Earswick
676	Rugby Ground, west of Haxby Road	OSF	1.87	Huntington and New Earswick
677	Allotments near Nestle factory	ALLOT	0.42	Huntington and New Earswick
680	Danebury Drive AGS	AGS	0.07	Fishergate
681	Lawn Hill AGS	AGS	0.08	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
682	Coeside AGS	AGS	0.13	Hull Road
683	Belhouse Way AGS	AGS	0.18	Micklegate
684	Dalmally Close AGS	AGS	0.05	Osballdwick
685	Eason View AGS	AGS	0.07	Osballdwick
686	Leven Road AGS	AGS	0.24	Guildhall
687	Knavesmire Wood	NSN	0.34	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
688	Hunters Way AGS	AGS	0.10	Clifton
689	Tadcaster Road Burial Ground	CC	5.60	Wheldrake
690	Bracken Road AGS (Knavesmire)	AGS	3.84	Strensall
691	The College of Law	OSF	3.78	Micklegate
692	Bustardthorpe Allotments	ALLOT	5.48	Micklegate
693	Off Caroline Close NSN	NSN	0.83	Holgate
694	Salisbury Road AGS	AGS	1.07	Micklegate
695	Wigginton Allotments	ALLOT	2.90	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
697	Water Lane AGS	AGS	0.10	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
700	Grosvenor Road Football Pitch	OSF	0.80	Clifton
703	Bootham Park Court	AGS	0.21	Hull Road
704	Scarcroft Road Allotments	ALLOT	3.82	Micklegate
705	Hospital Fields Allotments	ALLOT	0.95	Micklegate
707	Fulford Grass Allotments	ALLOT	1.58	Fishergate
708	Norway Drive OSF	OSF	0.78	Fishergate
709	Huntington Mews AGS	AGS	0.14	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
710	Tennis courts, off East Parade	OSF	0.11	Heworth
711	Hempland Lane - Heworth Allotments	ALLOT	3.65	Heworth
712	Holy Trinity Church, East Parade, Heworth	CC	0.13	Strensall
713	Christ Church, Stockton Lane	CC	0.26	Strensall
714	New Lane Cemetery, Huntington	CC	2.19	Derwent
716	St Laurences Church, Lawrence Street	CC	0.33	Micklegate
717	Nicholas Gardens AGS	AGS	0.09	Acomb
718	York Cemetery, Cemetery Road	CC	9.60	Heworth
719	Low Moor and District Allotments	ALLOT	4.83	Fishergate
721	St Thomas's Church, Osballdwick Link Road	CC	0.22	Bishopthorpe
722	Heslington Church, Field Lane, Heslington	CC	0.30	Haxby and Wigginton
723	AGS near Hull Road	AGS	1.29	Micklegate
724	Lord Deramore's Primary School	OSF	2.06	Heslington
725	The Crescent AGS	AGS	0.07	Guildhall
726	Low Lane Allotments	ALLOT	0.28	Heslington
727	Allotments near Turner's Croft	ALLOT	0.30	Heslington
728	Broadway Grove AGS	AGS	0.11	Acomb
729	St Oswalds Road Bowling Green	OSF	0.14	Fulford
730	St Oswald's Primary School	OSF	0.51	Fulford
731	Fordlands Road Cemetery, Fulford	CC	9.65	Fishergate
732	Cross Lane Allotments	ALLOT	0.80	Fulford
733	Former Oaken Grove School	OSF	0.67	Haxby and Wigginton
734	St Mary's, The Village, Haxby	CC	0.18	Heslington
735	Haxby and Wigginton Cemetery, Moorlands, Wigginton	CC	2.47	Fulford
736	York Road AGS	AGS	0.24	Acomb
737	Wheatfield Lane AGS	AGS	0.07	Westfield
738	Burial Ground, Strensall	CC	0.39	Fishergate
739	Southfields Road AGS	AGS	0.07	Micklegate
740	St Mary The Virgin, Church Lane, Strensall	CC	0.51	Rural West York
741	Westpit Lane AGS	AGS	0.21	Hull Road
742	Lynwood Close AGS	AGS	0.09	Fishergate
743	York Road AGS	AGS	0.19	Fishergate
744	Ash Walk NSN	NSN	0.62	Strensall
745	Howard Road Playing Field	OSF	1.05	Strensall

746	Howard Road Play Area	CHIL	0.20	Strensall
747	Hollis Crescent AGS	AGS	0.13	Micklegate
748	Hollis Crescent Play Area	CHIL	0.03	Strensall
749	St Wilfreds Garrison Church, St Wilfred's Road, Strensall	CC	0.20	Acomb
750	Sports Ground	OSF	3.07	Strensall
751	Tennis Courts	OSF	0.10	Strensall
752	Strensall park Playing Field	OSF	1.50	Strensall
753	Strensall Park AGS	AGS	0.19	Fishergate
754	Holy Trinity Church, The Village, Stockton on Forest	CC	0.51	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
755	Stockton-on-the-forest Primary School	OSF	0.52	Strensall
756	Church at Holtby	CC	0.11	Micklegate
757	St James's Murton Way, Murton	CC	0.14	Bishopthorpe
758	St Nicholas Church, Church Street, Dunnington	CC	0.45	Guildhall
759	Pit Lane Allotments	ALLOT	0.82	Derwent
760	Off Intake Lane Allotments	ALLOT	1.40	Derwent
761	St Pauls Church, Kexby	CC	0.22	Guildhall
762	Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Elvington	CC	0.44	Holgate
763	St Matthews Church, York Road, Naburn	CC	0.28	Micklegate
764	Naburn Church, Acaster Lane, Naburn	CC	0.39	Bishopthorpe
765	Acaster Lane Allotments	ALLOT	0.62	Bishopthorpe
766	Church by riverside, Chantry Lane, Bishopthorpe	CC	0.14	Wheldrake
767	York Crematorium, Bishopthorpe Road, Bishopthorpe	CC	3.11	Micklegate
768	Temple Lane Allotments	ALLOT	1.19	Rural West York
769	Copmanthorpe Burial Ground, Moor Lane, Copmanthorpe	CC	0.29	Rural West York
770	Vavasour Court AGS	AGS	0.08	Haxby and Wigginton
771	St Giles Way AGS	AGS	0.09	Haxby and Wigginton
772	St Nicholas Church, Main Street, Askham Bryan	CC	0.55	Rural West York
773	St Mary's Church, Jackson Walk, Askham Richard	CC	0.20	Rural West York
774	School, Askham Richard	OSF	0.46	Rural West York
775	All Saints Church, Wetherby Road, Rufforth	CC	0.15	Rural West York
776	Rufforth Primary School OSF	OSF	0.38	Rural West York
777	Rufforth Allotments	ALLOT	0.96	Rural West York
778	St John The Baptist Church, New Road, Hessay	CC	0.20	Rural West York
779	All Saints Church, Hodgson Lane, Upper Poppleton	CC	0.37	Rural West York
780	St Everilda's Church, Church Lane, Nether Poppleton	CC	0.36	Rural West York
781	St Giles Church, Church Lane, Skelton	CC	0.16	Haxby and Wigginton
782	Stensall Common 1	AC		
783	Clifton Ings	AC		
784	Rawcliffe Ings	AC		
785	Wheldrake Ings	AC		
786	Wheldrake Woods	AC		
787	Heslington Common	AC		
788	Fulford Ings	AC		
800	OSF Near Great North Way	OSF	0.05	Rural West York
801	Play area in Rufforth Primary school	CHIL	0.06	Rural West York
802	AGS on Main Street	AGS	0.04	Haxby and Wigginton
803	OSF behind village hall	OSF	0.17	Wheldrake
804	CYP in Strensall Park AGS	CHIL	0.06	Strensall
805	AGS off Littlethorpe Close	AGS	0.27	Fishergate
806	Lakeside gardens NSN	NSN	0.37	Strensall
807	St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Wigginton	CC	0.25	Haxby and Wigginton
808	Playarea at Ralph Butterfield School	CHIL	0.07	Haxby and Wigginton
809	Hunters Way AGS	AGS	0.19	Clifton
810	All Saints Church, Church Lane, Huntington	CC	0.75	Osballdwick
811	NSN by River Foss	NSN	0.94	Huntington and New Earswick
812	Land Between Willow Bank and River Foss	AGS	2.08	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
813	Land between Woodland Place and River Foss	NSN	1.47	Huntington and New Earswick
815	Howard Road NSN	NSN	1.17	Strensall
817	Land at Harewood Close/Kensington Road.	CHIL	0.04	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
818	Play area at Rawcliffe Bar Country Park	CHIL	0.26	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
820	Clifton (Without) and Rawcliffe Allotments	ALLOT	2.05	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
821	Land to South Clifton Park Avenue	NSN	9.42	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
822	Heworth ARLFC	OSF	3.16	Heworth without
823	NSN in Hempland Lane Allotments	NSN	0.24	Heworth
824	OSF on land off Deramore Drive West	OSF	0.06	Hull Road
825	Little Knavesmire AGS	AGS	0.86	Strensall
826	Little Knavesmire OSF	OSF	8.49	Micklegate
827	Skatepark in Rowntree Park	YP	0.06	Micklegate
828	Basketball court in Rowntree Park	OSF	0.07	Micklegate
829	Football pitch on Walmgate Stray	OSF	0.45	Fishergate
830	Land between Broadway and Bray Road	AGS	1.98	Holgate
832	Tang Hall Community Centre Basketball Court	OSF	0.06	Heworth
833	Existing University of York Heslington Campus	OSF	0.81	Heslington
834	Playing field adjacent to Holmefield Lane	OSF	11.80	Heslington

835	Grounds of "The Retreat" (Gardens)	LOCAL PARK	3.94	Fishergate
836	Friends Burial Ground, Heslington Road	CC	0.49	Heworth without
837	NSN off Westfield Place	NSN	0.56	Westfield
838	Scarcroft Green Games Area	OSF	0.25	Micklegate
900	Poppleton Millennium Green	CC	2.13	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
901	Playground to the east of Broad Highway	CHIL	0.15	Wheldrake
902	Northfields	CHIL	0.02	Strensall
903	NSN to east of Strensall	NSN	3.89	Strensall
1000	St Stephens Churchyard and Cemetery	CC	0.91	Rural West York
1001	Sovereign Park Estate CYP	CHIL	0.04	Acomb
1002	Sovereign Park Estate AGS	AGS	0.31	Haxby and Wigginton
1003	Sovereign Park AGS	AGS	0.26	Strensall
1004	Tostig Avenue AGS	AGS	0.16	Strensall
1005	Dane Avenue AGS	AGS	0.11	Strensall
1006	Woodlea Avenue AGS	AGS	0.10	Haxby and Wigginton
1007	Fulford Cross Nature Reserve	NSN	0.81	Fishergate
1008	Love Lane Cycle Path	GC	0.3	
1009	Danesmead Meadow NSN	NSN	1.60	Fishergate
1010	Danesmead Meadow - Masts	NSN	2.12	Fishergate
1011	Intake Lane/Hagg Lane	NSN	43.37	Derwent
1012	Undercroft AGS	AGS	0.05	Heworth
1013	Ox Calder Close AGS	AGS	0.06	Huntington and New Earswick
1014	Common Road Local Park	LOCAL PARK	0.09	Derwent
1015	Headlands	AGS	0.07	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1016	Springwood	AGS	0.06	Rural West York
1017	Netherwindings AGS	AGS	0.40	Strensall
1018	Copic Close AGS	AGS	0.11	Strensall
1019	Greenshaw Drive AGS	AGS	0.07	Strensall
1020	Windhill AGS	AGS	0.08	Holgate
1021	Church Lane AGS	AGS	0.14	Holgate
1022	Westfield Grove AGS	AGS	0.05	Guildhall
1023	Helmsley Grove AGS	AGS	0.04	Micklegate
1024	Skelton Cemetery	CC	0.47	Huntington and New Earswick
1025	Poplar Street CYP	CHIL	0.05	Holgate
1026	Water End Allotments	ALLOT	0.45	Holgate
1027	Fosslands Development NSN	NSN	0.52	Haxby and Wigginton
1028	Avon Drive	AGS	0.05	Westfield
1029	Avon Drive AGS	AGS	0.08	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
1030	Armstrong Way CYP	CHIL	0.04	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1031	Crooking Green	AGS	0.14	Huntington and New Earswick
1033	Sycamore Close	AGS	0.04	Huntington and New Earswick
1034	Landalewood road	CHIL	0.22	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1035	Tenneco Turning Head	AGS	0.08	Heslington
1036	Rawcliffe Infants School	OSF	0.93	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1038	Boothwood Road	AGS	0.10	Micklegate
1039	ROKO Sports Centre	OSF	3.84	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1040	Rawcliffe JFC Ground	OSF	3.28	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1041	Milton Carr	AGS	0.03	Micklegate
1042	Milton Carr AGS	AGS	0.03	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1043	Clifton Hospital Paddock	AGS	1.56	Holgate
1044	Rawcliffe Bar	NSN	4.75	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1045	Broadstone Way	CHIL	0.08	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1046	Malton Way	AGS	0.04	Huntington and New Earswick
1047	Westfield Back	AGS	0.21	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
1048	Millers croft	AGS	0.04	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1049	Rawcliffe Lane Multi Use Games Area	YP	0.08	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1050	Rawcliffe Grange	AGS	1.65	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1051	Roman Camp	NSN	1.63	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1052	Whistler Close	AGS	0.03	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1053	Moorland Gardens	AGS	0.03	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1054	Poppleton Sports Ground	AGS	0.09	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1054	Bankside Close	OSF	4.10	Rural West York
1056	Beech grove	AGS	0.27	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1057	Shirbutt Lane	NSN	0.12	Rural West York
1058	Village Green	AGS	0.03	Guildhall
1059	Archbishop Holgates School Playing Fields	OSF	2.00	Hull Road
1060	Land at Next Generation Sports Centre	OSF	1.55	Hull Road
1061	Land behind Next Generation Sports Centre	OSF	0.64	Hull Road
1062	Land between River Ouse and Wellington Street	CIVIC	0.1	
1063	Knavesmire Racecourse AGS	AGS	16.45	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
1064	Mayfield Grove South NSN	NSN	1.34	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
1065	All Saint's Lower School	OSF	0.63	Micklegate
1066	St. Benedict's road estate	AGS	0.11	Strensall
1067	Cleveland Terrace	CHIL	0.04	Holgate

1068	Cleveland Terrace AGS	AGS	0.17	Strensall
1069	Millthorpe School Tennis Court	OSF	0.19	Micklegate
1070	Recreational Lagoons	NSN	1.16	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1071	Hob Moor Community Primary Games Area	OSF	0.08	Westfield
2001	Armstrong Way AGS	AGS	0.25	Holgate
2002	Manor Lane AGS	AGS	0.38	Rural West York
2003	Rivelin Way Play Area	CHIL	0.11	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2004	Birch Park Play Area	CHIL	0.07	Huntington and New Earswick
2005	Whiterose Grove AGS	AGS	0.21	Huntington and New Earswick
2006	Hawthorn Terrace South AGS	AGS	0.28	Huntington and New Earswick
2007	Forge Road AGS	AGS	0.33	Acomb
2008	Water End AGS	AGS	3.29	Guildhall
2009	Poplar Street AGS	AGS	0.25	Guildhall
2010	Rawcliffe Lane Play Area	CHIL	0.07	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2011	Brailsford Crescent Play Area 1	CHIL	0.11	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2012	Rawcliffe Lane Open Space	YP	0.10	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2013	Brailsford Crescent Play Area 2	CHIL	0.21	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2014	Burnholme Avenue Allotments	ALLOT	0.21	Heworth without
2015	Main Street AGS	AGS	2.29	Haxby and Wigginton
2016	Jute Road AGS	AGS	0.08	Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
2017	Acomb Road Church Grounds, Acomb Road	CC	0.12	Strensall
2018	Kingsthorpe AGS	AGS	0.26	Micklegate
2019	Poppleton Road AGS	AGS	0.21	Guildhall
2020	Woodford Place AGS	AGS	0.09	Micklegate
2021	Thanet Road AGS	AGS	0.09	Clifton
2022	Holgate Dock AGS	AGS	0.15	Strensall
2023	Old Church Yard, Watson Street, Holgate	CC	0.08	Strensall
2024	Micklegate Churchyard, Micklegate	CC	0.10	Wheldrake
2025	Bishopthorpe Road AGS	AGS	0.13	Strensall
2026	Towers Street NSN	NSN	0.30	Guildhall
2027	Scarcroft Green AGS	AGS	0.04	Strensall
2028	Fieldside Play Area	CHIL	0.02	Hull Road
2029	Roman Road AGS	AGS	0.09	Micklegate
2030	Lawrence Square AGS	AGS	0.02	Westfield
2031	Play Area off Bellhouse Way	CHIL	0.08	Westfield
2032	Danesmead Meadow Amenity Space	AGS	0.69	Westfield
2033	Fenwick Street Open Space	AGS	0.15	Strensall
2034	Alma Grove Amenity Area	AGS	0.08	Rural West York
2035	MOD Play Area	CHIL	0.04	Fishergate
2036	Green Lane AGS	AGS	0.08	Rural West York
2037	Disused Allotments, Fordlands Road	ALLOT	0.36	Fulford
2038	Mill Lane Allotments	ALLOT	0.28	Haxby and Wigginton
2039	Lancar Close AGS	AGS	0.16	Westfield
2040	Village Garth AGS	AGS	0.04	Westfield
2041	Haxby Pond NSN	NSN	0.07	Haxby and Wigginton
2042	Rowley Court AGS	AGS	1.32	Haxby and Wigginton
2043	Stralers Walk AGS	AGS	0.83	Westfield
2044	Strensall Road AGS	AGS	1.35	Haxby and Wigginton
2045	Hassacar Local Nature Reserve	NSN	1.29	Derwent
2046	Thatchers Croft AGS	AGS	0.03	Haxby and Wigginton
2047	Loriners Drive AGS	AGS	0.06	Haxby and Wigginton
2048	Potters Drive AGS	AGS	0.04	Haxby and Wigginton
2049	Barbers Drive AGS	AGS	0.05	Huntington and New Earswick
2050	Bowyers Close AGS	AGS	0.05	Huntington and New Earswick
2051	Askham Fields Lane Play Area	CHIL	0.36	Rural West York
2052	Tennis Courts	OSF	0.11	Rural West York
2053	Hessay Main Street Play Area	CHIL	0.02	Rural West York
2054	Wheatland Community Woodland	NSN	2.18	Rural West York
2060	Bray Road CYP	CHIL	0.02	Fishergate
2061	Cherry Lane AGS	AGS	2.04	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2062	Knavesmire AGS	AGS	7.89	Strensall
2063	Mount Vale AGS	AGS	0.23	Rural West York
2064	Tadcaster Road AGS	AGS	11.73	Rural West York
2065	Fulford Parish Village Green'	AGS	0.49	Derwent
2066	Monkbridge Gardens AGS	AGS	1.27	Micklegate
2067	Foss Islands Road NSN	NSN	0.29	Guildhall
2068	Moorlands Nature Reserve	NSN	6.29	Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
2069	Haxby Woodland Trust NSN	NSN	2.92	Haxby and Wigginton
2070	Heslington Lane NSN	NSN	2.49	Heslington
2071	Albermarle Road AGS	AGS	0.22	Rural West York

APPENDIX E
SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	not applicable
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

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

x3

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

x2

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

x1

WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Wider Benefits

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

Assessor's Comments

APPENDIX F
QUANTITY STANDARDS

City of York Council - Setting Quantity Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. National Playing Fields Association 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	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	These are figures detailing actual provision and local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities. This is provided as a separate sheet.
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	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.
Consultation Comments (Quantity)	A summary of reasons behind people's choices of whether they feel the provision is about right or not enough in some areas. PPG 17 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 e.g. from neighbourhood drop-in sessions and local strategic documents
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

The local quantity standards have been devised from levels of satisfaction in the household survey.

About Right / more than enough	50%+	CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION
About Right	40-49%	INCREASE CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION BY 2%
About Right	30-39%	INCREASE CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION BY 5%
About Right	20-29%	INCREASE CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION BY 10%
About Right	10-19%	INCREASE CURRENT LEVEL OF PROVISION BY 15%

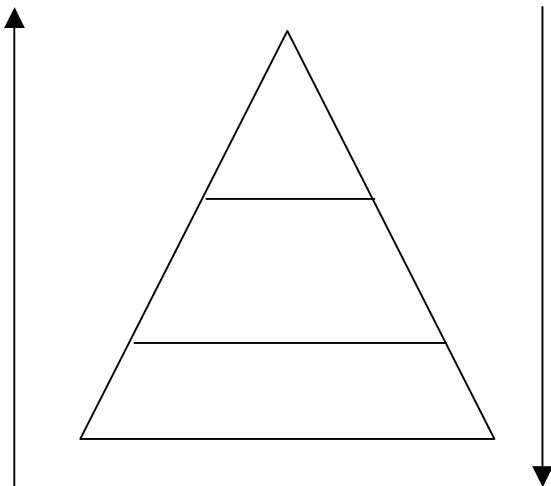
The local standard is recorded as a figure in hectares per 1000 population. For each type of open space, this figure is derived from the proportionate increase (specified above depending on consultation), and translated into a figure per 1000 population. The figure per 1000 population is therefore reflective of the amount of provision required to satisfy current needs i.e it is based on the current population.

The percentage increases applied have been chosen to ensure that the required increase is realistic and achievable but is reflective of local need. The use of a specific percentage increase ensures that the calculation of the standard is transparent.

In order to obtain a greater understanding of how views vary across different areas of the city, the technical appendix summarises provision at a ward level.

Facilities for children and young people are considered in terms of the number of facilities rather than size of site. The above calculations therefore do not apply to facilities for children and young people. Standards have been set for these facilities based on the approximate number that would be required to ensure an adequate distribution across the city to meet the accessibility standard.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PARKS AND GARDENS**

National Standards	No National Standards
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	35.40 hectares, equivalent to 0.18 ha per 1000 population.
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p> <p>PPG17 states that large or high quality spaces or facilities tend to attract users from a wider area than small or poor quality ones and tend to have a higher local profile. This gives rise to the concept of a hierarchy of provision. For this reason, parks and gardens in York has been split into “City Parks” and “Local Parks” to discover whether there are different local aspirations in relation to higher and lower tier parks.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;"> <p align="center">CITY PARKS</p> <p>Increasingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategically significant • Larger effective catchment • Accessed by public transport or car • Larger and more expensive • Planning using national data and strategies </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 20%;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;"> <p align="center">LOCAL PARKS</p> <p>Increasingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally significant • Smaller effective catchment • Accessed on foot or bicycle • Smaller/cheaper • Planned using local data/ views • Local objectives • Voluntarily managed </div> </div>

BENCHMARKING

See attached sheet

**Consultation
(too much / about right / not
enough)****CITY PARKS**

	More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
Overall	2.8%	59.8%	11.2%	22.1%	4.1%
City Centre	6.3%	56.3%	12.5%	25.0%	0.0%
Urban East	2.8%	64.0%	10.9%	20.6%	1.6%
Urban West	1.8%	55.5%	10.5%	28.2%	4.1%
York south	2.1%	64.9%	9.3%	15.5%	8.2%
York North	4.5%	56.0%	14.2%	19.4%	6.0%

Respondents to the household survey were asked about the current level of provision of City parks and whether they think that the number fulfils local need. In total, 62.6% of residents stated that there is more than enough or about the right amount of city parks.

The table above illustrates that across the analysis areas there is a commonly held view that the level of provision is about right. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in the southern areas of the city – where 67% of residents feel that the overall level of provision is about right. Rowntree Park is located in this area and hence this level of satisfaction is perhaps unsurprising. Consultations across the city indicated that Rowntree Park is the most highly regarded of all the parks in York.

Interestingly, while city parks serve the needs of all residents of the city area, in addition to visitors and tourists, these amenities are concentrated only in the city centre and surrounding areas. Although Rowntree Park isn't located within an urban analysis area, it falls just on the edge of the settlement boundaries.

It can be seen however that those residents living in the urban areas of the city are more likely to suggest that there are insufficient facilities than residents living in the more rural settlements. This is to be expected, as it is these residents that may expect to have such a facility on their doorstep. The level of dissatisfaction was highest in the Urban West Area – this correlates with the findings of the audit – this area contains the lowest levels of provision.

In total, 48.5% of respondents to the household survey stated that there is more than enough/about right amount of local parks within the city, lower than the percentage attributed to city parks. The figure of 45.8% of people stating there is nearly enough/not enough local parks within the city suggests a fairly even split of people who are satisfied with the current level of provision and those who are not.

LOCAL PARKS

	More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
Overall	2.4%	46.1%	14.7%	31.7%	5.1%
City Centre	6.7%	46.7%	6.7%	26.7%	13.3%
Urban East	4.1%	49.8%	17.6%	26.5%	2.0%
Urban West	2.3%	50.0%	11.6%	31.5%	4.6%
York South	1.0%	33.0%	11.3%	45.4%	9.3%
York North	0.0%	42.3%	17.7%	32.3%	7.7%

When considering the differing level of satisfaction across the analysis areas, it can be seen from the table above that residents in the rural areas (north and south) are the least satisfied with the quantity of provision. Within these localities, the percentages for nearly enough/not enough are higher than those for more than enough/about right (+22.7% in York South, +7.7% in York North).

CITY PARKS

Residents at drop in sessions highlighted the value of city parks and felt that solutions to increasing provision should focus on the conversion of brownfield land in central locations. The general consensus at the workshop events is that the number of parks is about right.

Parks were clearly the most popular type of open space with teenagers, generally because they are considered to be good places to meet friends and they are free to use.

LOCAL PARKS

Residents at drop in sessions highlighted the value of local parks and felt that solutions to increasing provision should focus on the conversion of brownfield land. Some locational deficiencies of parks were identified by residents at drop in sessions, specifically in Osbaldswick. Local parks were perceived to be an important amenity by both residents at drop in sessions and attendees at workshops. This was further illustrated through the responses to the IT for young people survey, where young people indicated that they value local facilities and some children suggested that there are none in their area. 9% of children and almost 10% of young people indicated that if they could have one more facility within their local area, it would be a park.

While 27% of young people responding to the household survey indicated that there were insufficient open spaces, almost 25% suggested that there were sufficient; they were just not of the right type. This links back to comments made when considering the quality of open spaces, which highlight the importance of the provision of a range of facilities.

There was realisation from some attendees at the workshops that they are not aware of all the parks available to them

**Consultation Comments
(quantity)**

	<p>and therefore don't visit them, this raises questions regarding the publicity, accessibility (current routes) of sites rather than necessarily requiring further provision. It was perceived that this lack of awareness is likely to be widespread across the population as a whole.</p>
<p>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</p>	<p>0.18 ha per 1000 population</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Parks are very important to residents in York, with a large number of respondents to the household survey using them more than once a month (City Parks 31%, Local Parks 37%). Whilst the consultation has split parks and gardens into two separate tiers, it is recommended that the Council adopt a quantity standard based on the overall level of provision. This will provide a greater degree of flexibility in terms of providing parks that are suitable for that locality rather than strict adherence to separate standards for City and Local Parks.</p> <p>The current level of provision of parks and gardens is equivalent to 0.18 ha per 1,000 population in York. The clear message from respondents to the household survey is that the level of provision is currently about right (60% for City Parks and 46% for Local Parks). This suggests that there are limited expectations in terms of further provision. As a consequence, it is recommended that the Council adopt a standard equivalent to the current level of provision in York. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens but also address locational deficiencies in provision. The application of the quantity and accessibility standards should be undertaken alongside natural and semi natural provision and amenity green space (given their similar “informal open space function”). This will help with the prioritisation of quantitative increases.</p> <p>Moreover, given the population growth that will be experienced up to 2029, in addition to the provision of additional parks, it is important for the local authority to seek to enhance accessibility to existing parks – for example by improving routes to them.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL PROVISION**

<p>National Standards</p>	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha</p> <p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population</p> <p>Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation</p>																																										
<p>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</p>	<p>408.96 hectares – equivalent to 2.11 hectares per 1000.</p>																																										
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p>																																										
<p>BENCHMARKING</p>	<p>See attached sheet</p>																																										
<p>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of natural and semi natural provision in York. In total, 49.9% of the population stated that there is more than enough/about right amount of natural and semi natural areas within the city and 43.4% stated that there was nearly enough/not enough.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>5.8%</td> <td>44.1%</td> <td>15.3%</td> <td>28.1%</td> <td>6.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Centre</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>40.0%</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>40.0%</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban East</td> <td>3.8%</td> <td>45.0%</td> <td>16.0%</td> <td>29.0%</td> <td>6.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban West</td> <td>6.1%</td> <td>42.3%</td> <td>15.0%</td> <td>31.5%</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York South</td> <td>10.5%</td> <td>41.1%</td> <td>16.8%</td> <td>23.2%</td> <td>8.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York North</td> <td>5.3%</td> <td>48.1%</td> <td>14.3%</td> <td>23.3%</td> <td>9.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	Overall	5.8%	44.1%	15.3%	28.1%	6.8%	City Centre	6.7%	40.0%	6.7%	40.0%	6.7%	Urban East	3.8%	45.0%	16.0%	29.0%	6.3%	Urban West	6.1%	42.3%	15.0%	31.5%	5.2%	York South	10.5%	41.1%	16.8%	23.2%	8.4%	York North	5.3%	48.1%	14.3%	23.3%	9.0%
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	<p>Looking across the analysis area, it is evident that the levels of satisfaction are highest within the north and south areas of the city – where the smaller settlements are located. It is also in these areas where provision per 1000 population is higher.</p> <p>The lowest level of satisfaction could be found within the city centre area where 46.7% think that the level of provision is insufficient. This is perhaps reflective of the nature of urban city centre living, where opportunities to provide this type of open space are limited. Unsurprisingly, the provision of natural and semi natural open spaces is lowest in the city centre per 1000 population.</p>
<p>Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>Attendees at the workshops expressed confusion over the quantity of natural and semi natural green space, including the strays where they fall within this typology. This has come about through ownership issues, as there was a thought that it is not clear or well documented what can and can't be used. Many recounted experiences when people have been asked to leave by the freeman/land owner and there was a request for the mapping of open access sites to avoid this.</p> <p>While many attendees at the workshops expressed opinions about the value of natural and semi natural sites, the underlying theme of these discussions related to a desire for increased emphasis on the quality and value of existing sites, rather than on the development of new facilities.</p>
<p>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</p>	<p>2.11 hectares per 1000 population</p>

PMP Justification

Current provision across York is equivalent to 2.11 hectares per 1000 population. The spread of natural and semi natural provision about the City varies and it can be seen that provision is significantly higher outside of the main urban areas. In light of the emphasis on enhancing the quality existing natural and semi natural open space, the standard has been set at the existing level of provision.

The overall split in opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is perhaps representative of the uneven distribution of natural and semi natural open space. The recommended standard takes into account the differences in the current level of provision across the city and the different expectations of residents..

The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard (where there is a localised surplus of that typology). This standard should be considered a minimum level of provision.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

<p>National Standards</p>	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha</p> <p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population</p> <p>Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation</p>																																										
<p>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</p>	<p>1.11 ha per 1000 population (216.20 ha overall)</p>																																										
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p>																																										
<p>BENCHMARKING</p>	<p>See attached sheet</p>																																										
<p>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space in York. In total, 43.6% of the population stated that there is more than enough/about right amount of amenity green space areas within the city and 43% stating nearly enough/not enough.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>4.3%</td> <td>39.3%</td> <td>14.1%</td> <td>28.9%</td> <td>13.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Centre</td> <td>14.3%</td> <td>28.6%</td> <td>7.1%</td> <td>21.4%</td> <td>28.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban East</td> <td>3.0%</td> <td>37.7%</td> <td>16.9%</td> <td>28.8%</td> <td>13.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban West</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>39.9%</td> <td>11.1%</td> <td>30.3%</td> <td>13.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York South</td> <td>5.4%</td> <td>39.1%</td> <td>10.9%</td> <td>28.3%</td> <td>16.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York North</td> <td>4.0%</td> <td>42.4%</td> <td>16.8%</td> <td>28.0%</td> <td>8.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	Overall	4.3%	39.3%	14.1%	28.9%	13.5%	City Centre	14.3%	28.6%	7.1%	21.4%	28.6%	Urban East	3.0%	37.7%	16.9%	28.8%	13.6%	Urban West	4.8%	39.9%	11.1%	30.3%	13.9%	York South	5.4%	39.1%	10.9%	28.3%	16.3%	York North	4.0%	42.4%	16.8%	28.0%	8.8%
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	<p>When examining the individual geographical areas, results mirror those found within the overall findings, with the exception of the city centre where 14.3% of residents stated there are more than enough amenity green space sites within York. Residents in the northern area of the city display the highest level of satisfaction with 46.4% of residents suggesting the provision is more than enough/about right.</p> <p>While the opinions of residents are consistent across all geographical areas of the city, analysis of the audit indicates that provision is more uneven. Additionally, only 21% of residents in the city centre indicate that there is not enough amenity space, the lowest proportion of all geographical areas.</p>
<p>Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>There was agreement in the workshop sessions that there is a lack of interest in the amenity green space sites. Furthermore, bad management and a lack of skill lead to quick fix solutions to maintenance and the cutting of grass. Current contractors and budgetary constraints were sighted as issues relating to this. Therefore it is clearly important to set a provision standard that does not lead to further ongoing maintenance problems. Whilst this is the case, the findings of the IT Children and Young People survey illustrates the value of this spaces – which are often the most localised form of recreational open space available to residents. Amenity green spaces were particularly popular with younger children (up to 11 years old) – potentially due to limited potential there is to travel. They were generally thought of as good places to meet friends. There was little emphasis on these amenity spaces during drop in sessions, and increasing the quantity of these type of open spaces was perceived to be of a lower priority than other types of open space.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</p>	<p>1.17ha per 1000 population</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 1.11 hectares per 1000 population. Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in providing green space in what would otherwise be a built up area. Furthermore, of those residents who expressed an opinion (household survey) 29% think that the level of provision is insufficient, whilst only 39% think that the level of provision is about right. Therefore a standard above the existing level of provision is recommended (the recommended standard should be viewed as a minimum standard). This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites to ensure that each area fulfils a role that is complementary to the surrounding green space network but also deliver new sites in areas of quantitative deficiency. This is particularly important in light of the emphasis on these spaces for landscape benefits as well as localised recreational resources.</p> <p>It is important to consider the provision of amenity green spaces alongside the provision of parks and gardens and provision for children as they have similar functions. Amenity green spaces are smaller facilities that tend to attract only local users. As highlighted in the consultations, amenity spaces are particularly important in the provision of local informal play opportunities for children and young people. Those residents living within close proximity to a park may have no need for local amenity green space as well although this type of open space will still be important in the context of visual amenity.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN**

<p>National Standards</p>	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for 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 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> <p>1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>
<p>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</p>	<p>9.66 ha (equivalent to 0.04 ha per 1000 population) 86 facilities – equivalent to 0.44 facilities per 1000</p>
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p> <p>The City of York Council Play Strategy targets the provision of sufficient appropriate play opportunities for both children and young people across all areas of the city. This relates to the provision of informal and formal opportunities for play and development, in addition to the provision of equipped play facilities.</p>
<p>BENCHMARKING</p>	<p>See attached sheet</p>

<p>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Responses from the household survey suggest that there is an overall dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision for children. 52.2% of the population believe that there is nearly enough/not enough, opposed to 32.8% who believe there is more than enough/about right</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>2.0%</td> <td>30.8%</td> <td>14.4%</td> <td>37.8%</td> <td>15.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Centre</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>13.3%</td> <td>26.7%</td> <td>46.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban East</td> <td>2.5%</td> <td>35.4%</td> <td>15.0%</td> <td>30.4%</td> <td>16.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban West</td> <td>2.4%</td> <td>30.3%</td> <td>15.2%</td> <td>36.0%</td> <td>16.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York South</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>26.0%</td> <td>8.3%</td> <td>56.3%</td> <td>9.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York North</td> <td>1.5%</td> <td>29.5%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>41.7%</td> <td>10.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Looking across the area, the lowest level of satisfaction can be found in the southern area where 64.4% stated that the level of provision is nearly enough/not enough and only 26% felt the level of provision is more than enough/about right, a difference of 38.6%. Residents in the city centre exhibit the lowest levels of dissatisfaction. This is likely to result from the demographic profile of residents in this area.</p>		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	Overall	2.0%	30.8%	14.4%	37.8%	15.0%	City Centre	6.7%	6.7%	13.3%	26.7%	46.7%	Urban East	2.5%	35.4%	15.0%	30.4%	16.7%	Urban West	2.4%	30.3%	15.2%	36.0%	16.1%	York South	0.0%	26.0%	8.3%	56.3%	9.4%	York North	1.5%	29.5%	16.7%	41.7%	10.6%
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<p>Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>Many residents at drop in sessions highlighted that there is a lack of provision for children in general. This was perceived to be particularly apparent in the central areas, where there was a desire for more play facilities integrated within formal parks. Museum Gardens was highlighted as a particularly good opportunity.</p> <p>While provision in some villages was perceived to be good, localised deficiencies were highlighted and there were perceived to be some large villages where there are no formal facilities for children.</p> <p>Workshop attendees expressed an opinion that during the building of new developments, should the development be of sufficient size, there is a presumption that a play area will be provided – irrespective of what may already be available locally. It was felt that the provision of new children’s play sites should be considered more strategically in future, ensuring that the needs of local residents are met in the most effective manner.</p> <p>Children responding to the IT Survey were asked to rate the amount of open spaces near to their homes. The results show that the majority of children who replied think that there is sufficient open space, although it may not be the most appropriate type of open space. However, when asked to rate the amount of local play areas / spaces, the most common response was that there are some places to play where they live but they would like more. In contrast, very few children think there are no areas to play where they live. The two most commonly mentioned types of facilities that children wanted near to their homes would be play areas with interesting play equipment and a swimming pool.</p>																																										

	Provision of local facilities for children to maximise opportunity was a key theme throughout consultations.
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.48 facilities per 1000 population.
PMP Justification	<p>There are currently 86 facilities across the city. A key theme emerging from the consultation has been a shortage of provision for children (for example almost 48% of respondents to the household survey think that the level of provision is insufficient). This is supplemented by comments regarding the quality of existing sites. A standard has been recommended (derived from the local consultation) that seeks to encourage new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas. The standard represents a 10% increase on current provision.</p> <p>The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each facility (illustrated through the application of the relevant accessibility standard discussed in Appendix G).</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS**

<p>National Standards</p>	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for 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 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> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>
<p>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</p>	<p>0.0015 hectares per 1000 population 4 facilities</p>
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m2 gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children's equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p> <p>The City of York Council Play Strategy targets the provision of sufficient appropriate play opportunities for both children and young people across all areas of the city. This relates to the provision of informal and formal opportunities for play and development, in addition to the provision of equipped play facilities.</p>
<p>BENCHMARKING</p>	<p>See attached sheet</p>
<p>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Across York, the majority of residents (58.9%) stated that there is insufficient provision for young people. In contrast, only 1.9% think that there is more than enough provision.</p>

	More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
Overall	1.9%	11.8%	8.3%	58.9%	19.2%
City Centre	7.1%	0.0%	7.15	35.7%	50.0%
Urban East	2.5%	11.7%	8.8%	56.3%	20.8%
Urban West	0.0%	11.5%	6.7%	61.7%	20.1%
York South	1.0%	12.4%	8.2%	62.9%	15.5%
York North	3.9%	13.3%	10.2%	58.6%	14.1%

When considering the level of satisfaction across the geographical areas, the findings are relatively consistent – with the exception of the city centre. Within the city centre, 50% of respondents expressed no opinion. However, to a large extent this can be explained by the demographic that choose to live in the city centre areas being less likely to have teenagers.

With the exception of the city centre, over 50% of residents in all other areas indicated that provision was insufficient in quantitative terms to meet local needs. When considering also those residents who felt there to be nearly enough facilities for teenagers, this position is further strengthened. The perception of a lack of provision for teenagers is the most conclusive of all open space typologies.

Correlating the audit information to the findings of the local consultation, it can be seen that the distribution of facilities specifically designed for young people is uneven, with no facilities at all located within the city centre or the rural settlements. Like the provision for children, residents in the city centre exhibit the lowest levels of dissatisfaction of all areas, a point representative of their demographic profile.

**Consultation Comments
(quantity)**

The majority of residents at drop in sessions felt that the quantity of facilities for young people is insufficient to meet current need. Areas of deficiency were highlighted such as Acomb and Layerthorpe.

Many residents at drop in sessions expressed concerns that older children use facilities intended for younger children and cause damage and vandalism. It was felt that this may be a consequence of a lack of provision for teenagers. This viewpoint was also a key point for discussion at workshops and maintaining an adequate supply of facilities for teenagers was suggested as helping to ensure that problems of anti-social behaviour are combated.

Elsewhere, there was a demand for greater attempts to provide sites that will interest younger people, for example motor-cross. However, any potential sites would have to fulfil certain criteria – away from residential areas, not impact current provision of other typologies, minimal impact on the landscape. It is hoped this idea, and other more innovative ones like it, will help reduce the miss-use of other typologies. This is discussed further within the

	<p>recommended quality standards and vision.</p> <p>There was a concern expressed at workshops in relation to the challenges presented in planning now to address future needs— citing the example that skate boarding wasn't as popular 20 or 30 years ago but currently is very popular. In order to reflect this, it is necessary to ensure that sites that are created are large enough in size to offer flexibility of use over future years.</p> <p>Young People responding to the IT Survey were asked to rate the amount of open spaces near to their homes. The results show that the majority of young people who replied think that there is not enough open space in the local areas. This is polarised to the opinions of children, who were asked the same question.</p> <p>When asked to rate the amount of local play areas / spaces, the most common response was that there are some facilities for young people but they would like more. The vast majority of respondents stated that the facilities for young people are average quality but could do with some improvements. Therefore it is important to set a quantity standard that facilitates both quantitative and qualitative improvements to facilities in York. The most common criticism of existing facilities is the need to improve the range of facilities provided.</p> <p>The two most commonly mentioned types of facilities that young people would want to see in their local area would be a kick about area, a local park and outdoor sport facilities.</p>
<p>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</p>	<p>0.2 facilities per 1000</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>There are currently only four facilities for teenagers, which is lower than the level of provision for children and is reflective of the findings of the consultations.</p> <p>A similar proportion of respondents to the IT Teenagers Survey think that the level of provision is inadequate as was the case for children's provision. Both adults and teenagers made similar comments at drop in sessions around the City and the lack of provision for teenagers was a key issue across all consultations. Furthermore, the lack of provision for teenagers was perceived to have a negative impact on the quality of other open spaces across the City boundaries. A standard has therefore been recommended that is above the existing level of provision.</p> <p>In light of the low number of dedicated facilities for teenagers, it is likely that large areas of deficiency will be identified. Provision for teenagers should also be considered in the context of the provision of parks and amenity space, which provide informal opportunities for teenagers.</p> <p>Given the small quantity of existing provision, it is inappropriate to base the standard on the current level of provision. The recommended standard represents an increase of over double the existing provision. This level is considered to be the minimum level to satisfy local needs.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES**

<p>National Standards</p>	<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>		
<p>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</p>	<p>1.96 hectares per 1000 population</p>		
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Local plan policy L1C: Provision of New Open Space in Development. Developments for all housing sites or commercial proposals over 2,500m² gross floor space will be required to make provision for the open space needs of future occupiers. The following provision of open space is required – 0.9 hectares per 1000 population of informal amenity space, 1.7 hectares per 1000 population of sports pitches, and 0.7 hectares per 1000 population for children’s equipped playspaces.</p> <p>Local Plan policy L1D: New Public Parks, Green Spaces, Woodlands and Wetlands. This policy identifies a number of locations as areas for recreation opportunity as part of comprehensive developments to improve the quality of the local environment.</p> <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy highlights shortfalls of junior and mini football pitches across the city and sets out the importance of retaining all existing facilities with a view to the enhancement of these facilities to address quality issues. While it is recognized that if participation is to increase, there will be greater pressure on the existing pitch stock and that new pitch sites will be required, it is the intention that new pitches will delivered through the extension of existing pitches in the first instance.</p>		
<p>BENCHMARKING</p>	<p>See attached sheet</p>		
<p>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Grass pitches: 6.7% more than enough 44.8% about right 21.2% not enough 27.3% no opinion</p>	<p>Synthetic turf pitches: 1.4% more than enough 19.5% about right 28.1% not enough 51.1% no opinion</p>	<p>Tennis Courts: 4.8% more than enough 33.8% about right 29.6% not enough 31.8% no opinion</p>

	<p>Bowling Greens: 6.0% more than enough 41.1% about right 12.5% not enough 40.4% no opinion</p>	<p>Golf Courses: 9.8% more than enough 26.9% about right 11.6% not enough 51.6% no opinion</p>	
<p>Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand-led and the outdoor sports facility typology encompasses a wide variety of different facilities including athletics tracks, pitches, golf courses and bowling greens. However, the concurrent theme is the high response rate of residents having no opinion, highlighting the low level of interest regarding this type of open space, mirrored in responses to the level of use, which shows that 63% of residents in York do not use outdoor sports facilities.</p> <p>Analysis of football team generation rates (Source FA: 2006) suggests that York fall into the bottom 50% of similar authorities in terms of levels of participation in all areas of football, with the exception of girl's football. In contrast, high levels of participation were identified in the Active People Survey.</p> <p>Of the five facility types surveyed, residents showed dissatisfaction with two (synthetic turf pitches 28.1% and tennis courts 28.1%), stating there was not enough provision. The remaining three areas; grass pitches 51.5%, bowling greens 47.1% and golf courses 36.7% showed an overall satisfaction with provisions, deemed to be more than enough/about right.</p> <p>When considering the level of satisfaction across the analysis areas, residents to the north of the city showed the highest level of dissatisfaction in 2 of the 5 types of sports facilities, stating there was not enough provision of synthetic turf pitches (38.1%) and bowling greens (18.3%). Residents in the South displayed the highest level of satisfaction in 3 of the 5 types of sports facilities, suggesting there was enough/about right amount of grass pitches (66.6%), tennis courts (62.4%) and bowling greens (66.2%).</p> <p>Residents at drop in sessions expressed a concern that there are insufficient sport facilities and that the situation has been exacerbated by the loss of sites. Specific deficiencies were pinpointed in Bishopthorpe and more generally to the east side of the City. The importance of providing a variety of sports facilities was highlighted, for example there was a desire in some quarters for an athletics track. Workshops highlighted shortfalls of junior pitches, an issues supported by calculations undertaken as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy.</p> <p>Several comments were made at workshop events suggesting the need for increased use of school facilities for community use, given that there are currently very few available. There was also a feeling that sports facilities are too spread out, although the links to some of these sites are good. Attendees also outlined an aspiration for improved cycle routes to encourage cycling between homes and outdoor sport facilities.</p>		

'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	2.05 hectares per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>Golf courses have been removed from all figures 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 throughout the consultations. School facilities have been included within the calculation, to ensure that they are protected. The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.</p> <p>In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that it is set marginally above the current level of provision (1.96ha) at 2.05 ha per 1,000 population. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most, however results from the local consultation suggest there are demands being placed on STPs, tennis courts and bowling greens. Based on the findings of the audit, the greatest requirement for facilities will be within the urban area..</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
ALLOTMENTS**

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 ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.28 ha per 1000 population total																																										
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet																																										
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>In total, 36% of the population felt that the level of provision of allotments was about right within York City.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>5.1%</td> <td>36.4%</td> <td>7.8%</td> <td>17.8%</td> <td>32.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Centre</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban East</td> <td>7.5%</td> <td>33.6%</td> <td>7.9%</td> <td>18.3%</td> <td>32.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban West</td> <td>2.9%</td> <td>39.7%</td> <td>8.8%</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>31.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York South</td> <td>5.3%</td> <td>45.3%</td> <td>5.3%</td> <td>16.8%</td> <td>27.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York North</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>31.2%</td> <td>8.8%</td> <td>17.6%</td> <td>37.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of people interested in renting an allotment in York when asked: Yes – 14% No – 86%</p> <p>Although there are no allotments in the city centre;, the distribution of allotments across other areas is relatively even.</p>		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	Overall	5.1%	36.4%	7.8%	17.8%	32.8%	City Centre	-	-	-	-	-	Urban East	7.5%	33.6%	7.9%	18.3%	32.8%	Urban West	2.9%	39.7%	8.8%	16.7%	31.9%	York South	5.3%	45.3%	5.3%	16.8%	27.4%	York North	4.8%	31.2%	8.8%	17.6%	37.6%
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Consultation Comments (quantity)	Attendees at the workshops felt that there was a distinct lack of provision across the city –with some sites containing waiting lists exceeding 2 – 3 years. Some plots have now been slit into two in order to provide more residents with the opportunity to participate. Allotments are now recognised as an alternative healthy past time and there is greater focus on the use of allotments in schools and by young people.																																										
PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.29 hectares per 1000 population.																																										
PMP Justification	Allotment provision is unevenly spread across the city. More generally, consultation suggests that the current level of supply is becoming insufficient across York, with 14% of survey respondents interested in owning/managing an allotment and 18% of respondents thinking that the level of provision is insufficient. This is further exacerbated by waiting lists at a number of sites (at the current time, there are less than 50 available full plots on the 15 directly																																										

	<p>managed City of York sites and approximately 150 people on waiting lists. A similar number of people are waiting for plots at parish and independent sites). As a consequence, the local standard has been set marginally above the existing level of provision. When applied in the context of the accessibility standard and existing waiting lists, this will highlight further areas for investigation and enable locational deficiencies to be pinpointed.</p>
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**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
GREEN CORRIDORS**

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.

It is therefore recommended that no provision standard should be set.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS**

No Quantity Standards are set for Cemeteries and Churchyards. PPG 17 Annex states

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

For Cemeteries, PPG 17 Annex states "every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard." This does not relate to a quantitative hectare per 1,000 population requirement.

APPENDIX G
QUALITY STANDARDS

Setting Quality Standards / Vision – City of York Council

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Green Flag criteria for parks produced by Civic Trust
Existing Local Quality Standards	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 authorities for satisfaction of quality	These are figures detailing satisfaction levels of other authorities to the quality of their open space
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Results from the household survey with regards to users of each typology in relation to their aspirations and needs and existing quality experiences
Consultation (other)	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

In order to obtain a greater understanding of how views vary across different areas of the city, the city of York was divided into five areas and responses were recorded across the city as a whole, and for each area. These areas were derived using natural boundaries as recommended in PPG17. The technical appendix summarises the make up of these areas and provides a map illustrating the boundaries used.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
CITY PARKS**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>According to the national CPA indicators for York 88.97% (2003/4) of residents think that over the past three years that parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same. Measuring this statistic against authorities nationally, York falls within the 2nd quartile (where 1st is best). The national mean value is 86.8%.</p>		
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific quality standards at the current time, the objectives of the leisure and recreation section of the 2005 Local Plan seek to ensure that the city has a sufficient provision of safe, attractive and useable public open space, which is accessible to all, including the mobility impaired and carers. Such open space should promote urban quality, health and the well being of residents, nature conservation and visual amenity.</p>		
<p>Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction</p>	<p>Wychavon – 67% Good (parks)</p>	<p>North Shropshire – 53 % average (parks)</p>	<p>Ryedale – 58% good (parks)</p>
	<p>Huntingdonshire – 46% good (parks),</p>	<p>Hambleton – 47% good (amenity space incorporate parks)</p>	<p>York – 62% good (parks)</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated city parks as their most frequently used open space – 23%)</p>	<p>Highest rated aspirations: Clean and litter free (84%), provision of toilets (55%), flowers and trees (52%), well kept grass (51%) and facilities for the young (37%).</p> <p>Respondents to the survey highlighted specifically staff on site (58%) and adequate lighting (40%) as being key to providing safe open spaces.</p> <p>When asked about the quality of city park sites, of those people who gave an opinion, dog fouling (22%), misuse of the site (25%) and litter (22%) were perceived to be significant problems. Vandalism and graffiti (51%) was rated as a minor problem, with poor maintenance (66%) and safety and age of equipment (63%) rated as no problem.</p>		
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>City Parks are considered to be good quality by 62% of household survey respondents. Across the analysis areas, there is a large variation in levels of satisfaction. The highest levels of satisfaction are found in the City Centre Area where 79% of respondents feel that the quality of provision is good. The lowest levels of satisfaction are found in the York South Area where only 58% of respondents feel that the quality of provision is good.</p> <p>When looking at the justifications provided by residents for York North and South for thinking that the quality of city parks is poor, many residents referred to accessibility issues rather than quality issues (most commonly stating that city parks are too far away). Therefore the legitimacy of these lower scores needs to be considered in light on the number who have confused quality and accessibility issues in attributing a score.</p> <p>When asked if there were any barriers to using city parks, a number of reasons were given, including poor toilet and</p>		

	parking facilities.
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>At drop in sessions, it was perceived that the quality of parks had improved over recent years, a viewpoint that was also echoed by attendees at workshops. This improvement is reinforced through the achievement of three new Green Flag awards (at Rowntree Park, Glen Gardens and West Bank Park) over the last five years. Significant investment has been placed into parks and community involvement has been a key determinant of the success of these facilities.</p>
	<p>Parks were the most frequently commended types of open space at drop in sessions. Museum Gardens were highly thought of by residents, however many indicated that formal provision for children within the grounds would enhance the space further. This was reflected more generally by several residents, who indicated that all parks should contain formal provision for children. Museum Gardens was also discussed in detail at workshops, with many attendees echoing the viewpoint that more facilities would enhance the open space. It was felt that residents across York should be given more encouragement (through the provision of appropriate facilities) to visit open spaces and appreciate the value they offer.</p>
	<p>Rowntree Park was also considered to be well maintained and an enjoyable place to visit although concerns were expressed regarding the pollution of the lake through various forms of excrement (geese). Residents were in favour of the current policy of closure of the site during the evening to keep it safe and maintain the high quality. Despite this, many residents highlighted the need for lighting within parks. Almost half of all young people responding felt that lighting in parks would make them feel safer. Young people also felt that staff on site and CCTV cameras were important.</p>
	<p>Reflecting the views of residents, visitors to the city also commented how attractive the parks and open spaces in the city were. University Gardens, West Bank park and Glen Gardens were also perceived to be of high quality and residents valued the newly refurbished children's facility within West Bank park. Hull Road Park was considered to be of lower quality.</p>
	<p>Of those responding to the survey for young people, 44% indicated that parks are their favourite type of open space. 16% of children also indicated that they enjoyed playing in the park. The location of open space and the opportunities to meet friends were however perceived to be more important by young people than the quality of open space. Only three young people perceived the cleanliness to be important. Despite this, almost a quarter of children identified untidiness and litter as problematic at open spaces. 41% of all children felt that the quality of open spaces and parks was good.</p>
<p>Despite positive comments regarding the overall quality of sites, some residents highlighted a desire for more trees, shrubs and woodland areas within the parks – to serve a secondary function as a natural and semi natural space. A view was also expressed at the workshops that while the parks have improved significantly, there remains potential to develop formal elements of the parks to further enhance their overall quality.</p>	
<p>Flooding of parks was identified as a key concern of local residents. This was particularly apparent due to the recent</p>	

	<p>flooding of Rowntree Park. Several residents highlighted the potential to provide cafeterias within parks and suggested that this would enhance their value to the community and increase the level of use at sites.</p> <p>Parks have been a particular focus for events in York. Despite this, several constraints were highlighted of the parks for hosing events, including a lack of toilets, insufficient lighting and a lack of necessary infrastructure (such as water points). Some of these issues more specific to events mirror those raised by residents at drop in sessions and in the household survey. For health and safety reasons, provision of toilets at venues is essential if events are to continue.</p> <p>Attendees at workshops, many of whom currently manage open space, sport and recreation facilities highlighted the benefit of information boards, providing residents with an understanding of the facilities available, in addition to the wildlife and habitats offered.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>CITY PARKS</i></p> <p><i>“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility which is safe and accessible to all and has a range of facilities and other types of open space within it. City parks should be attractive, well designed and maintained, providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees, adequate lighting and other appropriate safety features, as well as suitable ancillary accommodation (including seating, toilets, litter bins and play facilities). Sites should promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage and provide links to the surrounding green infrastructure”</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<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). The quality vision makes reference to other types of open space within it, recognising the multifunctionality of parks.</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of parks across the city it is important that the Council implement and strive to achieve a quality standard that will ensure consistency and high quality provision. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained parks are key elements of good urban design and are fundamentally important in delivering places in which people want to live. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Museum Gardens should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks. Many consultees highlighted the importance of good quality park provision in encouraging residents and visitors to use parks in the city.</p> <p>One of the most significant issues regarding the quality of city parks appears to be the misuse of sites, with 25% of respondents to the household survey stating it was a “significant problem”. Therefore the achievement of the quality vision will be galvanised by the provision of bespoke sites for children and young people.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
LOCAL PARKS**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>According to the national CPA indicators for York 88.97% (2003/4) of residents think that over the past three years that parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same. Measuring this statistic against authorities nationally, York falls within the 2nd quartile (where 1st is best). The national mean value is 86.8%.</p>		
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific quality standards at the current time, the objectives of the leisure and recreation section of the 2005 Local Plan seek to ensure that the city has a sufficient provision of safe, attractive and useable public open space, which is accessible to all, including the mobility impaired and carers. Such open space should promote urban quality, health and the well being of residents, nature conservation and visual amenity.</p>		
<p>Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction</p>	<p>Wychavon – 67% Good (parks), 57%</p>	<p>North Shropshire – 53 % average (parks)</p>	<p>Ryedale – 58% good (parks)</p>
	<p>Huntingdonshire – 46% good (parks),</p>	<p>Hambleton – 47% good (amenity space incorporate parks)</p>	<p>York – 46% (local parks)</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated local parks as their most frequently used open space – 13%)</p>	<p>Highest rated aspirations: Clean/litter free (80%), flowers/trees (61%), well kept grass (45%) and toilets (39%).</p> <p>Respondents to the survey highlighted that staff on site (57%) and adequate lighting (40%) are instrumental in the provision of safe open spaces.</p> <p>When asked about the quality of local park sites, of those people who gave an opinion, few residents felt that safety and age of the equipment and poor maintenance (63%) were problematic. In contrast over 50% of respondents had experienced either minor or significant problems in relation to vandalism and graffiti, litter problems, misuse of the site, and dog fouling. Misuse of the site was perceived to be the greater problem at local parks, with 66% of respondents experiencing either significant or minor problems when using this typology.</p>		
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>Local parks are considered to be good quality by 46% of the household survey respondents, 44% stated these open spaces are average with only 10% rating these sites as poor. These levels of satisfaction are relatively consistent across all of the analysis areas. The largest exception to this is the York South analysis area, where a greater proportion of respondents were dissatisfied with the quality of local parks (17% believe that the quality of this typology in York is currently poor). It is clearly evident across all analysis areas that the quality of local parks is poorer than the quality of city parks.</p> <p>Only 22% of people stated that they do not use this type of open space, highlighting the popularity of local parks to residents in York. As a consequence increasing the quality of existing provision is likely to have significant benefits in terms of the perceived value of local parks to local residents and more generally in terms of satisfaction with open space provision across the city and surrounding area.</p>		

	<p>When asked to identify barriers to visiting local parks in York, respondents to the household survey most commonly mentioned lack of or poor toilet facilities and the misuse of these sites by teenagers which is seen as intimidating.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>The importance of a good quality park was apparent in the responses to the IT young people and children questionnaires, with more children indicating that they would like a local park in their area than any other type of open space. Of those responding to the survey for young people, 44% indicated that parks are their favourite type of open space. 16% of children also indicated that they enjoyed playing in the park. The location of open space and the opportunities to meet friends were however perceived to be more important by young people than the quality of open space. Only three young people perceived the cleanliness to be important. Despite this, almost a quarter of children identified untidiness and litter as problematic at open spaces. 41% of all children felt that the quality of open spaces and parks was good.</p> <p>Attendees at the workshops highlighted the importance of the provision of local parks. The need for these parks to be multifunctional, providing wildlife habitats and ecological opportunities was also raised. While it was acknowledged that significant investment had been targeted at city parks, local parks were perceived to be of lower quality. These facilities also experienced more issues with vandalism and graffiti.</p>

<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>LOCAL PARKS</p> <p><i>"All local parks should be a facility serving the immediate needs of local people for active recreation. They should provide a welcoming, clean and litter free environment. Maintenance should focus on providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees and encourage wildlife to flourish with the use of varied vegetation through appropriate management. Community Leisure Officers should work with other organisations and the community to provide a hub of interest, activities and local events. Good quality and appropriate ancillary facilities (play areas, litter-bins, dog-bins and benches) should be provided to encourage greater use. "</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>A commonly expressed view of residents through the local consultation is that the quality of local parks across York is average (44%). A quality standard has been devised which reflects both concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG17) and also the Green Flag Award criteria. Particularly important factors to arise from the local consultation that are included within the quality vision are well kept grass, clean and litter free, litter bins, flowers and trees and toilets. Explicit reference is not made to specific play opportunities to be included within the site (such as LEAPs, playing pitches and ball games area) as it is considered that the nature of provision is dependent on the size of the site and other facilities available in the area – therefore reference to active recreation is intended to provide a greater degree of flexibility.</p> <p>The importance of local parks is highlighted by the fact that they are one of the most frequently used typologies of open space. Therefore the achievement of a quality standard should be considered as one of the highest priorities for the Council. This focus on the achievement of the quality vision should be given more weight in light of the fact that it is widely felt (by 49%) that the level of provision of local park sites across York is about right / more than enough, suggesting that the emphasis should be on improving existing sites. Residents' perception of quality and quantity are interlinked with quality improvements often mitigating the need for new provision.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>Countryside Agency (now part of the Natural England Partnership) - land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs. 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>
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific quality standards at the current time, the objectives of the leisure and recreation section of the 2005 Local Plan seek to ensure that the city has a sufficient provision of safe, attractive and useable public open space, which is accessible to all, including the mobility impaired and carers. Such open space should promote urban quality, health and the well being of residents, nature conservation and visual amenity.</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated natural and semi-natural sites as their most frequently used open space – 17%)</p>	<p>Highest rated aspirations: Clean and litter free (64%), nature features (63%), footpaths (42%), flowers and trees (39%) and dog walking facilities (33%). Respondents to the survey highlighted three areas as being key to ensuring safety when visiting this type of open space, specifically: other users on site(22%), reputation (20%) and adequate lighting (20%).</p> <p>When asked about the quality of natural and semi-natural sites, areas for concern included vandalism and graffiti, litter problems, misuse of site and dog fouling.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>Based on the findings of the household survey, natural and semi natural open space is very popular with residents of York with 54% of respondents stating that they visit this typology more than once a month.</p> <p>43% of respondents to the household survey felt that the quality of sites was good, 44% indicated these open spaces were average and the remaining 12% felt that the quality of sites was poor. The quality ratings given by residents were similar across all analysis areas; with the modal response suggesting the quality of provision was average. The most satisfied residents were those in York South where 58% felt that the quality of the sites was good.</p> <p>The most commonly cited barrier to visiting natural and semi natural sites on a more regular basis or at all is anti-social behaviour problems (with reports of drinking and drug taking).</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>Heslington Common was highlighted as a particularly high quality site with well-defined paths and appropriate maintenance for a natural site. Askham Bog was also perceived to high quality and well valued by local residents. Hob Moor was also perceived to be well used, and contains good quality paths.</p> <p>Natural and semi natural open space were central to discussions in workshops, from local residents, as well as Parish</p>

	<p>Clerks, Protection of Rural England and the Environmental Trust. The importance of balancing wildlife and ecological benefits with recreational use was highlighted. It was felt that the quality of the ecological environment was equally as important as the recreational opportunities offered. It was highlighted that sites should contain a varied mix of appropriate vegetation, with appropriate management. The Wheatland Community Woodland and New Earswick Nature Reserve were highlighted as examples of good practice. Attendees at workshops, many of whom currently manage open space, sport and recreation facilities highlighted the benefit of information boards, providing residents with an understanding of the facilities available, in addition to the wildlife and habitats offered. Community involvement in local nature reserves has been particularly successful in some of the larger sites across York.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE</i></p> <p><i>“A clean and litter free site with clear and obvious pathways that provide opportunities to link other open spaces together and where appropriate link to the outlying countryside. Sites should encourage wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness and contain appropriate natural features. Litterbins, dog bins, benches and picnic areas should be provided where possible and there should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, whilst ensuring public access. Community involvement through management, maintenance and promotion of these sites should be maximised.”</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural areas value these sites for their recreational value, (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) indicating that ancillary facilities will be an important quality feature of this type of open space. Clear footpaths and appropriate management of vegetation are specific issues to be addressed at these sites and this has been reflected in the quality vision.</p> <p>The main issues identified through local consultations centre around litter and dog fouling and this is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free. Natural and semi natural green spaces are one of the more commonly used green space typologies of residents in York (as indicated in the household survey). As a consequence, the need to balance recreation and wildlife needs is reflected within the vision ensuring that quality is maintained while providing access. There is also a need to maintain and improve the biodiversity and wildlife value of all open space sites. This was a key finding of the workshops.</p> <p>The standard also incorporates the Council and public aspirations for safe, clean and functional natural open spaces that are well used and promoted for their conservation and educational benefits. To facilitate the management of sites the vision suggests the involvement of and consultation with the local community. The Green Flag Criteria represent a key national benchmark of quality for natural sites and the key elements of this standard are therefore also included within the proposed vision.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated amenity green space sites as their most frequently used open space – 3%)	Amenity green spaces were one of the least used (Q7 Household Survey) open spaces in York, however the visual benefits of this type of open space are often as important as the level of use. Of those people indicating that they used this open space, the highest rated aspirations were clean and litter free (79%) and well-kept grass (58%). The main safety factor considered appropriate for amenity green spaces was adequate lighting (68%). The majority of other safety measures were considered inappropriate for AGS. Areas for concern included vandalism and graffiti, litter problems, misuse of site and dog fouling.
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Consultation indicated that the quality of amenity areas is perceived to be average by 59% of household respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were good (26%) as opposed to poor (16%). The perceptions about the quality of amenity green space were extremely similar across all analysis areas, with the most common response being that they are “average”.</p> <p>When looking at the justifications provided by residents for thinking that the quality of amenity areas is average, many residents referred to quantity issues rather than quality issues (with half stating that there are nearly enough/not enough). Therefore the legitimacy of these lower scores from residents needs to be considered in light of the number who have confused quality and accessibility issues in attributing a score.</p> <p>Respondents to the household survey provided a number of general comments about amenity green spaces. One of the most common themes was safety concerns – which act as a barrier to entry. The installation of adequate lighting may alleviate some of these concerns and increase the number of users. Lighting at AGS sites was an aspiration for many residents.</p>
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	<p>Children responding to the IT young people survey highlighted that amenity spaces were their most frequently used open space. Reasons for usage of these sites related primarily to their close proximity to their homes, rather than to the quality or range of facilities provided. Young people highlighted that the quality of their local open spaces was perceived to be average, with some improvements required.</p> <p>While many residents also highlighted the landscape benefits of amenity spaces at drop in sessions, it was indicated</p>

	<p>that the quality of these sites in some instances detracts from these benefits as they become littered and unsafe. A lack of facilities at amenity spaces was highlighted as a key issue throughout drop in sessions. Attendees at workshops reflected the overall poorer perceptions regarding the quality of amenity spaces, indicating that a lack of emphasis on these spaces leads to missed opportunities. While management and maintenance of these spaces focuses primarily on grass cutting, it was felt that more could be made of these spaces including ancillary facilities (litter-bins, dog-bins and benches) and landscaping.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>AMENITY GREEN SPACE</i></p> <p><i>“A clean and well-maintained greenspace site that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate ancillary facilities (dog and litter bins etc), pathways and landscaping in the right places providing a safe secure site with a spacious outlook that enhances the appearance of the local environment and provides a safe area for young people to meet. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus, while smaller sites should at the least provide an important visual amenity function.”</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The local consultation reveals that amenity greenspaces are one of the least used types of open spaces in the area, although they provide an important meeting place for children and young people. The importance of these sites as a visual amenity was reinforced across consultations, highlighting the need for high quality amenity space provision.</p> <p>Provision of amenity green space needs to be considered in the context of park provision, to ensure that they are complimentary to the wider green space network and increase 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. The recommended quality vision addresses some of the key concerns at existing open space sites cited by residents and also considers aspirations. While a desire for lighting was a key feature of local consultations, inclusion of this element may provide unrealistic expectations.</p> <p>Amenity green spaces can serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. As a consequence, one of the important aspects in the vision is for a spacious outlook. This is also reflective of local consultation comments stating that sites are often confined to small cramped areas that aren't of sufficient size to enable informal play or more formalised play facilities. The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice encouraging informal play where sites are large enough - it is also designed to link in with the Green Flag criteria where appropriate. The vision also recognises the need for amenity spaces to contribute positively to the overall landscape and environment.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<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. GREEN FLAG CRITERIA are also relevant to play areas and include Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management</p> <p>CABE Space believes that the use of target hardening as a first response to anti-social behavior is resulting in the fortification of our urban environment, and highlights that there is a better solution: invest in place making and improving public spaces to prevent the onset and escalation of these problems. 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>
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Taking Play Forward, A Play Strategy for York aims to (amongst others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the standards of play provision • encourage genuine communication and interactions between children and young people, individuals and services with interests in play • better manage play environments. <p>The strategy ensures that provision meets the needs of children, meets necessary legislative requirements and involves users in decision-making and consultation. The strategy targets an increase in the proportion of play areas meeting NBPFA criteria from 36% to 42%. While no formal quality standards are set, ensuring good quality play opportunities is a key target of this play strategy. Equipped play provision is just one component of provision for play in York.</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated play areas for children sites as their most frequently used open space – 10%)</p>	<p>10% of respondents to the household survey use play areas for children most frequently of all typologies. However, it is important to note that the level of use of children's play areas demonstrated through the household survey may not be representative of the actual level of use due to the age of the majority of respondents. Only a small percentage of people under the age of 16 completed the household survey, therefore it is important to consider all other consultation.</p> <p>Of those people stating they do use children's play areas as their most frequent type of open space, their highest rated aspirations are clean/litter free (88%), facilities for the young (77%) and a dog free area (53%).</p>

	<p>The factors that were more commonly mentioned as helping to make respondents feel safer at this typology were staff on site, reputation, other users, adequate lighting and CCTV.</p> <p>When asked about the quality of the play areas for children, of those people who gave an opinion, poor maintenance (52%) and dog fouling (54%) was rated as no problem by the majority of respondents. In contrast, misuse of sites and vandalism were thought to be bigger problems, with 74% of respondents having experienced either minor or significant problems.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>Consultation indicated that the quality of children’s play areas is rated average by 46% of household respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were poor (30%) as opposed to being good (25%).</p> <p>The quality ratings stated by residents were similar across all analysis areas, with the exception of York South. This was the only analysis area where the modal answer was ‘poor’ (42%) as opposed to average, a major reason behind this rating may lie in the fact that that 56% of the people in this area stated that there was not enough provision of play areas, thus creating an underlying feeling of discontent with provision per se.</p> <p>Respondents to the household survey provided a number of general comments about play areas. The most common themes were safety concerns and problems with facilities – further cementing issues surrounding these sites.</p> <p>The findings of the household survey reveal that play areas for children in York are thought by to be lacking in terms of both the number and quality of facilities. This acts as a barrier for residents who wish to access these sites. Further issues surround the misuse of the site that has led to cases of vandalism and damaged equipment.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>Many residents at drop in sessions expressed concerns that older children use facilities intended for younger children and cause damage and vandalism. It was felt that this may be a consequence of a lack of provision for teenagers. Rowntree Park Play area and Clarence Gardens Play area were perceived to be of good quality while in contrast, Westhorpe Play Area was perceived to be particularly poor, as was West Bank park play area (which is considered to be damp and dark). Sites located in larger parks were perceived to be of higher quality.</p> <p>Whilst consultation highlighted the need for further facilities for children and young people, it was considered that these need to be carefully located to protect residential amenity. Rowntree Park skate area was cited as an example of good practice (in terms of equipped play provision).</p> <p>Parish Councils have a particularly important role to play in the provision of facilities for children. The viewpoint that the quality of facilities is significantly different was also reflected in workshops, where it was cited that play facilities in the villages are of inferior quality to those located in the urban areas. The importance of exploring new and innovative solutions to provision for children were reinforced, with many new schemes and developments including natural and /</p>

or adventure play.

Children responding to the IT young people survey indicated that provision for children across York is good quality, with 44% of respondents indicating that play provision is clean, nice and safe to use. Despite this, when asked to highlight the main improvement that they would like to see provided in their local areas, more play equipment and a better range of play equipment were the two most common answers. This is reflective of issues identified in other consultations, where the need to ensure that play equipment is varied and challenging was a consistent theme.

<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>PROVISION FOR CHILDREN</i></p> <p><i>“A well designed clean site of sufficient size to provide a mix of well-maintained and imaginative formal equipment and an enriched play environment in a safe and convenient location. Equipped play spaces should be fun and exciting and should have clear boundaries with dog free areas and include appropriate ancillary accommodation such as seating, litter bins and toilets in the locality of larger sites. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety and safeguard residential amenity of neighbouring land users. The site should also be accessible to all”.</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The need to address the misuse of some sites is reflected within the standard in the need to design the site well, to locate it in a safe and secure location and to have clear boundaries. This can also refer to clear boundaries from older children facilities to try and deter older children using younger children facilities. As such, the standard reflects the need for the good design of play areas.</p> <p>Recognition of the need for places to go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for an enriched play environment rather than a focus only on formal equipment, following suggestions from children that some equipment can be boring. Consultation highlighted the importance of these sites being of sufficient size for children to enjoy, and this is mentioned in the quality vision. It is also essential to ensure that the equipment provided is suitable for the age group for which it is intended.</p> <p>The standard aims to achieve a balance between locating play areas close to housing or footpaths as an additional level of security to be provided through natural policing e.g. overlooking houses where possible, but also ensuring that residential amenity and privacy is protected. The standard encompasses the need for play areas to be both sustainable in management terms but also promote a mix of facilities and an enriched play environment and that the site is clean and safe to use. Wherever viable, the play equipment should be updated and developed over time (preferably in consultation with local children) to ensure that the facilities remain relevant to children and continue to be fit for purpose. The standard highlights the need for imaginative equipment, which emerged as a key issue throughout the consultation programme.</p> <p>The standard supports the principles of equipped play set out in the play strategy and encourages the design of interactive areas providing a range of play opportunities. It reflects the key principles outlined in the strategy, including the involvement of users and the desire for challenging, innovative and imaginative facilities. While this vision relates to equipped facilities only, these principles should be applied to all areas providing play opportunities for children.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<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. GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>CABE Space believes that the use of target hardening as a first response to anti-social behavior is resulting in the fortification of our urban environment. Investment: invest in place making and improving public spaces should be used to prevent the onset and escalation of these problems. 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>
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Taking Play Forward, A Play Strategy for York aims to (amongst others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the standards of play provision • encourage genuine communication and interactions between children and young people, individuals and services with interests in play • better manage play environments. <p>The strategy ensures that provision meets the needs of children, meets necessary legislative requirements and involves users in decision-making and consultation. The strategy targets an increase in the proportion of play areas meeting NBPFA criteria from 36% to 42%. While no formal quality standards are set, ensuring good quality play opportunities is a key target of this play strategy. Equipped play provision is just one component of provision for play in York.</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated teenage facilities as their most frequently used open space – 0.29%)</p>	<p>Less than 1% of respondents to the household survey use teenage facilities most frequently of all typologies. However, it is important to note that the level of use demonstrated through the household survey may not be representative of the actual level of use on the ground due to the age of the majority of respondents (86% of respondents stated that they don’t use teenage facilities). Only a small percentage of people under the age of 16 completed the household survey, therefore it is important to consider all other consultations across the city.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>Consultation indicated that the quality of teenage facilities is rated poor by 64% of household survey respondents. This is significantly higher than for any of the other typologies. This high level of dissatisfaction is consistent across all</p>

	<p>of the analysis areas. These issues surrounding the quality of existing provision are compounded by the dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision – with 67% of respondents stating that there is either nearly enough or not enough teenage facilities. From the general comments given, parents seem to suggest that there is a distinct lack of facilities for their children.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>Many residents at drop in sessions expressed concerns that older children use facilities intended for younger children and cause damage and vandalism. It was felt that this may be a consequence of a lack of provision for teenagers. Unlike many other typologies, comments at drop in sessions focused on the quantity of provision for young people rather than the quality of existing provision.</p> <p>A lack of good quality opportunities for young people is perceived to have generated deterioration of the quality of other open spaces. Provision for teenagers was also discussed at workshops, with attendees emphasising the importance of involving potential users of facilities in discussions, rather than creating facilities that do not meet their needs. A particular example cited was in New Earswick, where a teenage shelter was provided but has subsequently suffered from vandalism and graffiti. In contrast, Rowntree Park skatepark was highlighted as a good quality facility.</p> <p>Young people responding to the IT Young people survey indicated that on the whole, facilities are perceived to be of average quality. Quantity of provision was perceived to be a far greater issue. The key issue emerging relating to the quality of facilities provided echoed the views of younger children, as it was stated that the quality of provision suffers from a poor variety of facilities. Many young people indicated that existing provision is boring.</p>

<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS</i></p> <p><i>“A well designed high quality site that provides a meeting place for young people, encompassing the needs of all users with varied formal and informal equipment/space. The site should be located in a safe environment that is accessible to all, without compromising neighbouring land users. The focus should be on providing a well-maintained, clean and litter free area with appropriate lighting and shelter, promoting a sense of community ownership. Facilities should be developed through extensive consultation with the local community at all stages of the process”</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of such spaces to ‘meet friends’, as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism as may the provision of more innovative and imaginative solutions. 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.</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. Consideration should also be given to the achievement of the green flag criteria inherent within this vision. It is important that facilities for teenagers meet the needs of users and teenagers should be involved throughout the consultation and development phase of the site in order to promote community involvement and respect. This is in line with priorities identified in the City of York Council Play Strategy.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>NPFA suggests 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 21.8% of the population of York are within 3 facilities current figure as 21.81%.</p>
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>The Building Schools For the Future programme (BSF) offers significant opportunities to shape and improve provision of outdoor sports facilities, both through the enhancement of current facilities and through ensuring extended use of these facilities to benefit local communities outside school hours.</p> <p>The York Playing Pitch Strategy considers the future direction of pitch provision in the city and highlights the need for qualitative improvements across the pitch stock.</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated outdoor sports facility sites as their most frequently used open space – 4%)</p>	<p>A small percentage of people stated outdoor sports facilities (4%) as their most frequently used open space. Of those people indicating that they used this open space the highest rated aspirations were; clean/litter free (62%), well kept grass (59%), toilet provision (55%), parking facilities (48%) and a level surface (45%).</p> <p>Safety factors considered important for outdoor sports facilities included adequate lighting (41%) staff-on-site (41%) and CCTV (34%). A significant proportion of residents have experienced minor problems in relation to vandalism and graffiti (48%), litter problems (48%) and mis-use of sites (45%). In contrast, safety and age of the equipment, poor maintenance and dog fouling are not considered problematic.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>The household survey reveals that 63% of residents in York do not use outdoor sport facilities at the current time. However within the remaining 37% who do use these facilities, 18% use the majority use them more than once a</p>

	<p>month, showing the demand led nature of this typology and their importance to this group of residents.</p> <p>The findings of the Active People Survey, reveals that 24.8% of residents participate in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or active recreation three or more times a week, placing York in the top 25% nationally. Demand for high quality sports facilities will therefore be high.</p> <p>Consultation indicated that the quality of outdoor sports facilities in York is considered to be average by 50% of household survey respondents. A higher percentage of people stated that they were poor (28%) as opposed to being good (23%).</p> <p>Across the analysis areas, residents in Urban East and Urban West showed similar results to the overall findings, while York South and York North displayed a higher level of satisfaction with 30% (South) and 28% (North) of people stating that the quality of the facilities was good. Throughout the analysis areas the modal response was average.</p> <p>When asked what prevented respondents from accessing these sites, people in Urban East and Urban West commented on the poor quality of the facilities and also the limited size of the specific sites, both of which have contributed to poor quality ratings.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)</p>	<p>Research undertaken as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy indicates that the quality of pitches across the city is a concern, with particular emphasis on poor drainage, poor quality ancillary accommodation and uneven playing surfaces.</p> <p>These views were also reflected at workshops, where it was evident that the quality of facilities is varying. The quantity of pitches to meet the needs of junior and mini teams was also perceived to be a problem. Overuse of facilities generates a knock on effect on the quality of existing facilities, causing long-term quality deterioration.</p> <p>Residents at workshops highlighted the value of the use of school facilities, although constraints of this policy were also highlighted by workshop attendees, focusing particularly on the lack of appropriate ancillary accommodation.</p> <p>The multifunctionality of outdoor sports facilities has also emerged as a key issue, with comments at both workshops and drop in sessions highlighting problems with dog fouling and litter, occurring as a result of the use of pitches as amenity space for dog walking.</p> <p>The quality of facilities is also perceived to be affected by a lack of floodlighting, with few opportunities for pitches to be used in the hours of darkness. It was perceived that provision of floodlighting would significantly enhance the value of local sports facilities to the community, although constraints were also recognised. The key quality issue surrounding outdoor sports facilities emerging from both drop in sessions and workshops related to the drainage of pitches.</p>

	<p>Oaklands was highlighted at drop in sessions as an example of good practice (having been recently refurbished). Residents at drop-in sessions indicated that the drainage of pitches is perceived to be a particular concern. The Knavesmire was highlighted as a site where particular drainage issues are experienced.</p> <p>Responses to the IT survey for both children and young people highlighted that outdoor sports facilities are well used by young people, with 63 young people indicating that their favourite site is an outdoor sports facility. Very few comments were made by young people with regards the quality of outdoor sports facilities.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES</i></p> <p><i>“A well-planned, clean and litter free sports facility that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should be well maintained to an appropriate match play standard, with good grass coverage and well-drained quality surfaces. Appropriate ancillary facilities should be provided at sites with consideration given to providing toilets, changing rooms, car parking, and meeting places. The site should be managed appropriately ensuring community safety and provide a local amenity that is close to people’s homes, encouraging residents to participate in physical activity”</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The key issues identified with existing sites specifically vandalism and graffiti; poor maintenance (drainage) and poor quality changing facilities are reflected within the vision. Cleanliness and maintenance of facilities was perceived to be particularly important throughout consultations. The standard incorporates "appropriate management" to ensure that where appropriate, management issues are addressed. Community safety is also incorporated to reflect NPFA design guidelines. It is also important that outdoor sport facilities are well drained, and are fit for purpose. Given that general satisfaction regarding outdoor sports facilities is fairly low, it is important that careful consideration is giving to delivering aspirations for outdoor sports facilities. Some quantitative issues can also be addressed through improved quality of pitches (and subsequently increases the capacity of pitches for the match play). This increases the importance of meeting this quality vision.</p> <p>Given that the majority of sites will be of substantial size, it is important that sites are designed with careful consideration to their context – this is reflected in the quality vision. The importance of ensuring that sports facilities are accessible to all was also highlighted as a key issue, with many young people enjoying informal use of outdoor sports facilities.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
ALLOTMENTS**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	The Local Plan states that allotments are an important resource within the community, especially for those people with small gardens, or who lack a garden altogether. In addition, they can have a significant amenity and nature conservation role.
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated allotment sites as their most frequently used open space – 1%)	4% of respondents to the household survey currently use an allotment – with one in four of these allotment users stating that allotments are their most frequently used type of open space. A further 14% of respondents expressed an interest in having an allotment. This highlights the demand-led nature of this type of open space and suggests that demand is suppressed within this area. Alternatively it could be suggested that there is a lack of awareness of the availability of allotments.
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>The majority of residents in York perceive the quality of allotments to be average (55%), 35% feel the sites are good and 10% would rate them as poor. When analysing the individual areas the quality ratings follow those given in the overall results, with the exception of York South where there is less discrepancy between the percentage of people who think that facilities are good (42%) and those who think that facilities are average (45%).</p> <p>General comments regarding these sites illustrate several barriers to participation, namely, a lack of knowledge and available information regarding accessing and obtaining an allotment site. Addressing this issue may convert people from merely being interested to actively using these open spaces. A further issue noted, importantly, is the number of people currently on a lengthy waiting list. This has had an effect on the number of people applying for an allotment with many people stating this waiting time had discouraged them from applying. Due to the small number of people who currently use these sites frequently, addressing this issue should be of utmost importance.</p>
Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)	<p>Residents attending drop in sessions felt that the quality of allotments was varying. It was considered that regular inspections were essential to ensure that sites were of a good quality. New Lane Allotments, off Hamilton Drive were mentioned as an example of a well-maintained allotment. In contrast, there are perceived to be security concerns at Holgate and Glen Allotments, off Fourth Avenue. At the workshops it was indicated that the quality of fencing, security and ancillary facilities at allotment sites is considered to be poor.</p> <p>The formation of allotment societies has been a further positive step forward in the development of allotments and the promotion of allotments to local residents. Some attendees at workshops commented on the use of allotment at school sites and the positive messages that this conveys. Despite this, there was still perceived to be a lack of awareness of the facilities provided.</p>

	<p>It was suggested at workshops that each allotment site should include the development of a community garden area, where all residents of the community can enjoy the benefits of allotments.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p><i>ALLOTMENTS</i></p> <p><i>'A well-kept, well managed and secure site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education with appropriate ancillary facilities (eg provision of water and toilets) to meet local needs, clearly marked pathways and good quality soils. The site should be spacious providing appropriate access for all and should be promoted to ensure local community awareness'.</i></p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Provision of allotments is demand driven. However, in times when the wider health agenda is important such sites need to be promoted. Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities that promote sustainable development will help attract more people to allotment sites and in turn make sure that the allotment sites within York are operated at capacity.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
GREEN CORRIDORS**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<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>
<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>The Local Plan (2005) states in policy NE8 that planning permission will not be granted for development, which would destroy or impair the integrity of green corridors and stepping stones. Conversely, development that ensures the continuation and enhancement of green corridors for wildlife will be favoured.</p>
<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space – 16%)</p>	<p>16% of household survey respondents stated that they used this type of open space most frequently with 66% of these people currently walking to these sites. Of those people who gave an opinion, the highest rated aspirations are: clean/litter free (80%), nature features (46%), footpaths (44%), level surfaces (34%) and flowers and trees (31%).</p> <p>Factors considered important to provide safe green corridors include adequate lighting (44%) and other users (39%). Like other open space types, safety and age of equipment (91%) and poor maintenance (53%) are not considered to be a problem. However, responses suggest that vandalism and graffiti, litter problems, misuse of the sites and dog fouling are more of an issue, with a greater proportion of respondents indicating that they have experienced minor or significant problems when using green corridors.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>Overall, 50% of respondents stated that the quality of green corridors in York is average, with 37% rating them as good. The frequency of use substantiates these results, with 49% of respondents stating that they use green corridors more than once a month, the highest of all the typologies.</p> <p>Other consultation highlighted concerns that the sites are often frequented by young people, (relating back to a lack of provision for this age group), this acts as a barrier for people wanting to access green corridors who view their presence as intimidating. Addressing this problem may further increase the current rate of usage. This point also relates to the problems experienced by residents who rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT</p>	<p>The importance of cycle routes was emphasised, with residents highlighting that these are well used and well valued.</p>

Young People Survey)	<p>Some residents suggested that it is important to ensure that cycle routes are continuous and are clearly delineated from pedestrian thoroughfares and parks. The cyclepath around Rowntree Park was perceived to be well used. Poor lighting was perceived to be an issue on cyclepaths in general and it was felt that this would deter potential users.</p> <p>Green corridors were also a key theme of discussion at workshops, with many people reinforcing the important role these sites play in linking open spaces for both recreational value and wildlife. Maintenance of these corridors was perceived to be particularly important in encouraging residents to use these facilities.</p>
PMP Recommendation	<p><i>“Linear open spaces should be clean and litter-free, safe and convenient corridors with clear pathways, linking major residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas, that promote sustainable methods of transport. Appropriate ancillary facilities such as litter, dog bins and seating in appropriate places with signage to and within the sites should be featured to encourage access for all. The corridor should also seek to encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats, enabling the movement of both wildlife and people between open spaces, linking in specifically with natural areas of open space.”</i></p>
PMP Justification	<p>It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. While green corridors have an important recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife / biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play. This was recognised by local residents, particularly when considering the value of local linkages between natural and semi natural areas. It is important that green corridors are promoted, as a lack of awareness was raised as a key barrier to the usage of facilities. If sites are not maintained properly, it is likely to discourage people from using them.</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	NONE.
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated cemeteries and churchyards as their most frequently used open space – 3%)	<p>Only 3% of household survey respondents stated that they used this type of open space most frequently. Of those people who gave an opinion, the highest rated aspirations are well kept grass (71%), clean/litter free (67%) and flowers and trees (62%).</p> <p>Factors considered important to provide safe cemeteries and churchyards include staff on site (43%), adequate lighting (38%) and CCTV (29%). The only problem experienced when visiting this type of site is vandalism and graffiti, where 18% considered it to be a major problem and 41% considered it to be a minor problem.</p>
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Consultation from the household survey indicated that the quality of cemeteries and churchyards is rated as good by 42% of respondents and average by 51%. These ratings are consistent throughout the geographical areas of the city.</p> <p>Despite the low number of respondents who stated this type of open space as their most frequently visited (due to the niche status of this type of site), the general consensus is that the standard of these sites are on the whole good.</p>
Consultation	<p>There was little mention of the quality of cemeteries and churchyards at drop in sessions or workshops, although their value as important wildlife habitats was reinforced. Many cemeteries and churchyards across the city are used as public recreational amenities, as well as fulfilling their primary purpose of burial of the dead.</p> <p>The only quality concern raised during consultations focused on issues experienced with the safety of memorials.</p>

PMP Recommendation	<i>“A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity, an area of quiet contemplation and a sanctuary for wildlife. Sites should have clear pathways, varied vegetation and landscaping and provide appropriate ancillary accommodation (e.g. facilities for flowers litter bins and seating.) Access to sites should be enhanced by parking facilities and by public transport routes where possible, particularly in urban areas”</i>
PMP Justification	Cemeteries and churchyards can provide an important open space function - particularly in rural areas where they may be the only open space in the village. However, it is essential that sites are regularly maintained with clear footpaths so as to increase the ease of access and safety for those who visit the sites. The wildlife benefits of these sites were widely recognised across consultations.

APPENDIX H
ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Setting Accessibility Standards – City of York Council

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Natural England make recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	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
Other Local Authorities Standards (set by PMP)	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities.
Consultation (Household Survey - establish 75% threshold catchments)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire - need to take the 75% level as recommended by PPG 17 Companion Guide (ie from a list of responses - what is the time 75% are willing to travel)
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should 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 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
LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD	Final Local Standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in time and/or distance

Accessibility standards – assumptions

Walking	All areas	average of 3mph
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Conversion (walking)

Time (mins)	Miles	metres	Factor Reduction	metres (straight line to be mapped)
5	0.25	400	40%	240
10	0.5	800	40%	480
15	0.75	1200	40%	720
20	1	1600	40%	960
25	1.25	2000	40%	1200
30	1.5	2400	40%	1440

Assumption

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 but more complex. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes.

In order to obtain a greater understanding of how views vary across different areas of the city, the city of York was divided into five areas and responses were recorded across the city as a whole, and for each area. These areas were derived using natural boundaries as recommended in PPG17. The technical appendix summarises the make up of these areas and provides a map illustrating the boundaries used.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
CITY PARKS**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>There are no specific standards contained with the April 2005 Local Plan. However, the objectives of the leisure and recreation section seek to improve the amount, quality and <u>accessibility</u> of leisure and recreation facilities. Policy GP11 “Accessibility” states that in order to achieve satisfactory access to new development and the new or existing open spaces associated with them, planning applications will be required to demonstrate that suitable provision will be made for access and facilities for people with mobility problems sensory impairment, carers and children, including parking facilities and pedestrian routes to and from those parking facilities.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	District Parks in St Albans – 15 min (drive)	Parks in Oldham above 15ha – 20 min (walk)	Town and country Parks in North Shropshire – 30 Minute Drive

Consultation

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

23% of respondents to the household survey use city parks more frequently than any other typology – making it the most popular type of open space across York. Of this group of respondents who use parks more regularly than any other typology, the majority choose to walk there (47%). However, a substantial amount of users choose to travel by car (40%). This is particularly the case in relation to residents in the rural analysis areas.

When asked how far they currently travel to use city parks, there was a large degree of variation in the times stated by regular users. 50% of respondents said that it takes them between 11 and 20 minutes.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL

Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to this type of open space highlighted walking as the modal response, with a total of 40%. However a high percentage of people stated travelling by car as a preferred option, 32% in total. The breakdown across the analysis areas shows that respondents from Urban East (53%) and Urban West (50%) would predominantly expect to walk to city parks, whereas those respondents living in York South (51%) and York North (53%) would have a tendency to travel by car.

Although travel times varied for those respondents who travel by car, a 5-10 minute (34%) and an 11-15 minute (32%) journey were the most common response times. PPG17 states that the variation in distances travelled should be addressed through using the concept of the 'effective catchment' - defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. 75% would be willing to travel up to 20 minutes by car. Within the two analysis areas where the dominant expectation was to drive to city centre parks (York North and York South) the 75% threshold level was 20 minutes for both areas.

For those respondents who walk to city parks, the most common response time was between 5-10 minutes (38%), with the 75% level calculated at 20 minutes walk time. Within the two analysis areas (Urban East and Urban West) where there was an expectation to walk, the 75% threshold level suggests a willingness to travel up to 20 minutes.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

Residents at drop in sessions felt that there is a requirement for not only large, centrally located parks and gardens but smaller facilities, accessible on foot, to local communities. Most residents indicated they would be willing to travel further to reach large city parks than to small local parks.

Workshop attendees outlined the importance of achieving a balance between security of the facility and accessibility. There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) are well enough publicised by the Council.

The findings of the IT Young People survey reveals that parks are the most popular type of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Moreover, 63% of people would expect to walk to their favourite open space.

PMP Recommendation	20 MINUTE WALK TIME
PMP Justification	<p>Setting separate accessibility standards for city parks and local parks is consistent with PPG17 which makes reference to hierarchies of provision. This is in recognition of the fact that large facilities tend to attract users from a wider area and have a higher local profile. Residents are less likely to travel the same distances to local parks. In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed city park standard should not be considered in isolation but rather in the context of local parks. Those living within the local park distance threshold of a city park will have no need of a local park as well. It will be important to provide an overall network of provision. The wide catchment of city parks was further highlighted at drop-in sessions with many visitors to York having used these facilities.</p> <p>Linking in with the health agenda, it is important to consider sustainable methods of transport and encouraging walking and cycling to and within open spaces. There is a clear expectation from residents in the urban analysis areas that a walk time is required. A 20-minute walk time is recommended, as this is also consistent with the 75% threshold level as advocated in the PPG17 Companion Guide.</p> <p>Setting smaller accessibility catchments could provide unrealistic expectations in terms of delivering further provision in areas outside of the distance threshold – however given that 60% think that the current level of provision is about right it is unlikely that increased provision will be required. Emphasis should be on enhancing the quality of provision and using the opportunity to improve local parks into more formalised provision like city parks. It is important to seek to enhance the accessibility of all existing city parks – for example by promoting new entrance points or better routes to them and/or information and signage.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
LOCAL PARKS**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no specific standards contained with the April 2005 Local Plan. However, the objectives of the leisure and recreation section seek to improve the amount, quality and <u>accessibility</u> of leisure and recreation facilities. Policy GP11 “Accessibility” states that in order to achieve satisfactory access to new development and the new or existing open spaces associated with them, planning applications will be required to demonstrate that suitable provision will be made for access and facilities for people with mobility problems sensory impairment and carers, with children, including parking facilities and pedestrian routes to and from those parking facilities		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Congleton (Urban standard) – 15 Minute walk-time	Oldham – 15 Minute walk-time	Kirklees (Urban Standard) – 10 Minute drive-time
	Halton – 15 minute walk-time	Ellesmere Port and Neston – 10 minute walk-time	Knowsley – 15 minute walk-time

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

Findings from the household survey show that 13% of respondents use local parks more than any other typology. Within this group of regular users, analysis of the current travel patterns shows a significant number of people (75%) walk to local parks in York. Analysis of the travel times of regular users suggest the majority of people travel between 0-10 minutes (58%) to access these sites, highlighting the preference for using this type of open space if it is provided near to residential areas.

PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL

Similar to the patterns exhibited by frequent users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to this type of open space highlighted that 74% of respondents expect to walk. 68% would be willing to travel 5-10 minutes to visit a local park. The analysis area breakdown reinforces the overall figure, with the most common travel time being 5-10 minutes. All of the regions show walking to be the preferred method of travel, with Urban East (81.5%) being the highest and York South (64%) being the lowest. There is no clear distinction in the expectations of residents in the rural and urban areas.

Based on the findings of the household survey, it can be calculated that 75% of the total population would be willing to travel 15 minutes on foot. The modal response was lower than the 75% threshold level – a 10-minute travel time. Using the analysis area breakdown and majority responses, all areas with the exception of the city centre analysis area had a 15-minute walk time (75% threshold level) and 10 minutes was the modal response.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

While residents valued the facilities in larger parks, the need for local facilities was also emphasised strongly at drop in sessions. There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) are well enough publicised by the Council. Respondents to the IT for young people survey highlighted the importance of local park provision. For young people, access to a local park was the most common response when asked what additional provision they would like. Location was highlighted by children and young people as to why they choose to use open spaces. This reinforces the importance of local access for people of these age groups.

PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME
PMP Justification	<p>There is a clear emphasis in favour of walking in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. 74% of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk to a neighbourhood park, and 75% of regular users do walk. Moreover, given the more local nature of these facilities compared to the city parks, it is considered appropriate to focus on access these sites on foot. This was further reflected in the IT for young people survey, where the location of facilities emerged as the key determinant of whether people use facilities.</p> <p>The standard has been set at a 15-minute walk time as this is the distance that 75% of respondents (across all analysis areas apart from the city centre area) would be willing to walk up to. A lower accessibility standard could be justified on the basis of current users travel patterns – with most users travelling less than 10 minutes to access a local park. However, PPG17 states that lower thresholds are only needed where there is clear evidence that a significant proportion of local people do not use existing provision because they regard it as inaccessible. Given the findings of the local consultation (which highlight the high levels of use at local parks) this could not be substantiated.</p> <p>Therefore a 15-minute walk time is recommended – albeit alongside measures designed to improve accessibility, such as improved public transport or cycling routes. This will be particularly important if targets to increase participation in physical activity are realised. Local parks will play a key role in ensuring all sectors of the community have access to parks.</p>

Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha. 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 300 metres (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>		
<p>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</p>	<p>No specific standards in the Local Plan.</p>		
<p>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</p>	<p>Congleton – 15 Minute walk-time</p>	<p>Oldham – 15 Minute walk-time</p>	<p>Kirklees (urban) – 10 Minute drive-time</p>
	<p>Halton – 15 minute walk-time</p>	<p>Ellesmere Port and Neston – 15 minute drive-time</p>	<p>Knowsley – 15 minute walk-time</p>

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>17% of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently. Within this group of regular natural and semi natural open space users, walking is the most common mode of travel used to access sites (72%). Using a car is second with 20%. Travel times of current users were evenly distributed over three timeframes; 0-5 minutes (37%), 5-10 minutes (30%) and 11-15 minutes (20%).</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel to natural and semi-natural open spaces are dominated by walking (62%), with travelling by car second choice (20%).</p> <p>Of those who would expect to walk to a natural and semi natural open space, 55% would be willing to travel between 5-10 minutes. Of those who would expect to drive, there was a greater degree of variety in responses – with 35% expecting to travel between 5-10 minutes, 18% between 11-15 minutes and 25% between 16-20 minutes. All of these figures are consistent across all of the analysis areas.</p> <p>It can be calculated that 75% of the total population would be willing to travel 15 minutes on foot to this type of open space (The modal response a 10 minute walk time). It is likely that people travelling up to 15 minutes are travelling to larger strategic sites and have the ability to do so, whereas other residents are more reliant on smaller, more localised areas of natural and semi-natural provision. Analysis of the five individual analysis areas shows identical results in terms of the 75% threshold and the modal response, with the exception of the City Centre where insufficient data was collected to undertake statistical analysis.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>There are some high quality natural and semi natural open space sites that are only realistically accessible by car such as Moorland Wood. A desire for local accessible natural and semi natural provision was expressed.</p> <p>There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that enough it done to advertise the available opportunities – particularly in relation to biodiversity and play provision. Other views expressed include a lack of accessibility to river corridors, which are considered to be under used and under developed. Ensuring continued access to these sites was very important – even in situations where river development was permitted.</p>
	<p>PMP Recommendation</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The local consultation serves to highlight the split in opinion regarding whether natural and semi natural sites should be access by walking or driving. (20% of respondents would travel by car, whilst 62% of people stated that they would travel by foot). To a certain extent, this will relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality.</p> <p>A drive time standard would produce a significantly larger distance threshold that a walk time standard. PPG17 states that higher thresholds may be appropriate if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to allow lower thresholds to be achievable, but can result in levels of provision that are too low and may not meet some local needs. In the context of the local consultation findings regarding the quantity of provision (28% think that there is not enough as opposed to only 6% who think there is more than enough) , and given the importance of facilitating everyday contact with nature, a standard based on a walk time is recommended as this will help to deliver a greater number of localised natural and semi natural spaces.</p> <p>An assessment of the 75% threshold level citywide suggests that residents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to a natural and semi natural open space. Given the high levels of agreement from respondents to the household survey regarding the appropriateness of a 15-minute walk time, it is recommended that the standard is set at this level.</p>
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Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no local accessibility standards at the current time.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Congleton – 5-10 minute walk-time	Oldham – 10 minute walk-time	Kirklees – 5 minute drive-time
	Halton – 5 minute walk-time	Ellesmere Port and Neston – 5 minute drive-time	Knowsley – 10 minute walk-time

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>A small percentage of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently (3%), 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><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>When accessing amenity areas the majority of people would prefer to walk (82%), with 72% of respondents stating a journey should take between 5-10 minutes.</p> <p>The figures relating to preferred travel patterns and length of journey are similar in all areas (both urban and rural). A typical example of this is Urban West, where 81% of respondents would prefer to walk, with 71% stating this journey should take 5-10 minutes. This shows that there is limited variation in opinion between urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Using the city wide results, it can be calculated that 75% of the total population would travel 10 minutes on foot to amenity areas, however the most common travel time stated is 5 minutes walk-time. Analysis of the individual areas shows an identical response in every case with the exception of York North, the modal response in this case was 10 minutes.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) are well enough publicised by the Council. It was felt that many people were not aware of opportunities to participate.</p> <p>Attendees at drop in sessions expressed a concern that there is a lack of garden spaces in many new build areas, and that amenity green spaces provided – often the most localised form of provision for new residents – should be used in more creative ways.</p>
	<p>PMP Recommendation</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Given the large emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is suggested that a walking standard is set. The expressed desire for local amenity space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot is most appropriate.</p> <p>At a citywide level, the 75% threshold level from the household survey of a 10 minutes walk is higher than the modal response (5 minutes). Whilst setting a standard based on the 75% threshold level of a 10-minute walk time has been considered, this has to be rationalised against the local nature of amenity green spaces and the aspiration of residents for these local open spaces. In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision within close proximity of residents, the value of localised amenity green spaces is particularly important.</p> <p>Applying a shorter walk time will highlight real priority areas of deficiency. Furthermore, whilst having a smaller distance threshold will reveal a larger number of accessibility deficiencies, within these areas the provision of alternative forms of open space can often substitute for provision of informal amenity green spaces and new amenity green spaces may not also be a priority in these areas. A smaller accessibility catchment will ensure all residents have local access to some type of open space, facilitating delivery of increased participation in sport and physical activity. The importance of local provision to break up the urban landscape should also not be underestimated.</p>
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<p>Client Approval</p>	<p>Local Accessibility Standard</p>

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>NPFA 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	There are no existing local accessibility standards for children’s play areas in the 2005 Local Plan.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Congleton – 10 minute walk-time	Oldham – 10 minute walk-time	Kirklees – 5-10 minute walk-time
	Halton – 10 minute walk-time	Ellesmere Port and Neston – 5-10 minute walk-time	Knowsley – 10 minute walk-time

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

A relatively small percentage of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently (10%), this may be due to the fact that it is very specific to its function. When accessing this type of open space 84% of respondents stated walking was their current method of travel.

In terms of length of journey, results showed an even split over three time frames; 0-5 minutes (30%), 5-10 minutes (30%) and 11-15 minutes (28%), thus displaying a flexibility in terms of how far people currently travel to this type of open site. This may be influenced by the location of existing facilities.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel to this type of open space highlighted that 86% of residents expected to walk. Expectations in terms of travel time show a clearer pattern than for those of regular users, with 77% of people expecting the journey to take 5-10 minutes.

Looking at travel expectations across the analysis areas shows almost identical figures to those collated at the city-wide level – a typical example being Urban West, where 89% of respondents stated walking was their preferred method of travel with 75% of these people suggesting a typical journey should take between 5-10 minutes. There are very few differences between the urban and rural areas.

Using the city-wide results, it can be calculated that 75% of the total population would travel 10 minutes on foot to children's play areas and this is supported through the most common travel time of 10 minutes walk-time. This is also consistent when analysed on an area-by-area basis, with the exception of York South, which had a slightly lower modal time of 5 minutes indicating that residents expect play areas in closer proximity to their homes.

OTHER CONSULTATION

There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that enough is done to advertise the available opportunities – particularly in relation to biodiversity and play provision.

The IT for young people survey highlighted the importance of providing local facilities, with many local children indicating that the key determinant of which facilities they used was the location. Distance from home was perceived to be a far greater barrier to usage than cost or poor quality facility provision.

PMP Recommendation	10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480m)
PMP Justification	<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a children’s play facility. Furthermore, the distances that parents are willing to let their children travel unaccompanied from their homes to play facilities has reduced as concerns over safety have grown. However, PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel. The 75% threshold level for children using the responses from the household survey was a 10-minute walk time across the City. This figure was consistent across all analysis areas, indicating an overall consensus of opinion. Furthermore the modal response was also a 10-minute walk time (consistent across all of the geographical areas).</p> <p>Setting the standard in accordance with the 75% threshold level is advocated in PPG17. Moreover, going for a larger accessibility catchment is recommended in terms of providing the council with greater flexibility in terms of striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative improvements in provision. A 5-minute catchment would place a greater requirement on new provision, but local consultation revealed the importance of high quality sites and not just new facilities. The Council should continually seek to promote measures designed to improve accessibility, such as better public transport or cycling routes.</p> <p>A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provides a realist target for implementation. Furthermore, this local standard encompasses all types of provision for children, including the larger, more strategic sites that people could be expected to travel further to visit. The provision of local facilities meets with the aspirations of children and young people and ensures that the use of these play facilities is maximized. It will be important to consider the provision of play facilities in the context of amenity open spaces, and other typologies providing more informal play opportunities for children.</p> <p>The standard of 10 minutes should also be considered in the context of other open space types, particularly AGS, which offer informal and unstructured opportunities for play.</p>

Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS**

<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p>NPFA 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>		
<p>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</p>	<p>There are no accessibility standards in the 2005 Local Plan</p>		
<p>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</p>	<p>Congleton – 15 minute walk-time</p>	<p>Oldham – 10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>	<p>Kirklees – 5-10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>
	<p>Halton – 10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>	<p>Ellesmere Port and Neston – 5-10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>	<p>Knowsley – 10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and the availability of the data collected on current usage through the household survey makes it difficult to assess given the small number of responses (2%). The statistically robust evidence base generated by the household survey enables detailed analysis and interpretation of the expectations and aspirations of local residents.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>68% of respondents stated that walking would be the preferred option when travelling to this type of open space. Of those respondents who would expect to walk to teenager facilities – the most commonly held expectation is that this journey should take 5-10 minutes (66%). When looking across the analysis areas, the figures relating to preferred travel patterns and length of journey are similar in all areas (both urban and rural). A typical example of this being Urban East, where 76% of respondents would prefer to walk, with 57% stating this journey should take 5-10 minutes.</p> <p>The findings of the household survey suggest that across York 75% of the total population would travel 15 minutes on foot to access teenage facilities, however the modal response was slightly lower, calculated as a 10-minute walk time. The breakdown of individual areas shows comparable results in both Urban East and Urban West, however the 75% threshold was lower in both York South (10 minutes) and York North (12.5 minutes).</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Workshop attendees expressed a concern that whilst localised provision for teenagers was preferable – the development of localised facilities does not ensure the ongoing use and popularity of the site. An example was used of New Earswick – where facilities were provided in the form of a shelter, but have been frustrated by the fact that this is vandalised and has litter issues on a regular basis, caused by those whom the facility was built for.</p> <p>The IT young people survey highlighted the importance of the location of the facility, with most young people indicating that they are likely to use facilities near their home. Drop in session comments also highlighted the need for localised provision for young people to reduce the levels of misuse of other sites and ensure that there are positive opportunities for young people to play and socialise.</p>
	<p>PMP Recommendation</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The majority of people stated that walking is the most preferred method of travel to a young person's facility; therefore it is recommended that a walk time standard be adopted. A walk time is considered most appropriate as these facilities are for young people who do not always have access to a motorised vehicle and consequently a walk time enables access for all ages and users. Provision of localised facilities meets the needs of young people as identified within the IT young people survey.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time is in line with the 75% threshold level, however, it is important to note the implications in terms quantitative improvements. Setting a higher travel time threshold provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights areas in most need (priority for new provision). The standard also sits in line with the recommended accessibility standard for local parks, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for young people in these parks. This will be explored further through the application of the local standards (once approved).</p> <p>While the 75% threshold was marginally lower in the rural area, indicating that residents in this area expect more local facilities – the delivery of facilities for teenagers in each of the rural villages would be unduly onerous and inappropriate.</p>
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<p>Client Approval</p>	<p>Local Accessibility Standard</p>
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**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards, although the Comprehensive Performance Assessment highlights “% 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 December 2006 Choice and Opportunity Scores reveal the current figure as 21.81%.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no local accessibility standards in the Local Plan (2005).		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Oldham – 15 minute walk time for pitches, tennis and bowls facilities and 20 minute drive for golf courses and synthetic turf pitches	Knowsley – 15 minute drive-time (All outdoor sports facilities)	North Shropshire - 15-minute walk to local outdoor sports (grass pitches, tennis and bowling greens) 20-minute drive to synthetic turf pitches
	South Northamptonshire 10 minute walk-time to Grass pitches, MUGA's and Tennis Courts and 20 minute drive-time to Golf Courses, Bowling Clubs and STP's -	South Ribble - 15 minute walk to Grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens and 25 minute drive-time to Golf Courses and STP's -	Ellesmere Port and Neston (Urban) – 15 minute drive-time

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

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 (4%). 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.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

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:

Grass Pitches – **Walk (66%)**, Car (15%), Cycle (16%), Bus (3%)
Synthetic Turf – Walk (32%), **Car (38%)**, Cycle (23%), Bus (7%)
Tennis Courts – **Walk (52%)**, Car (23%), Cycle (21%), Bus (4%)
Bowling Greens – **Walk (55%)**, Car (23%), Cycle (13%), Bus (9%)
Golf Courses – Walk (15%), **Car (69%)**, Cycle (8%), Bus (8%)

This highlights how there are differing preferences in York regarding the five types of outdoor sport facilities. More people expect to walk to grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens than drive, whilst the opposite is the case for golf courses and synthetic pitches. However, the only typology with a widely held expectation towards driving was golf courses. Looking across the analysis areas, the travel expectations followed a similar pattern to the results given at a citywide level, with only a few exceptions. In Urban West analysis area, 32% of respondents stated they would cycle to synthetic turf pitches, with similar percentages given for walking and driving. In the York North analysis area, people would predominantly use the car when travelling to bowling greens (44%). It is evident that residents in the rural areas expect local facilities; as do those in urban areas.

For the three types of provision for which there was an overall preference for walking (grass pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts) the 75% threshold level was a 15 minute walk time. For the remaining types of outdoor sport facilities, of those that would expect to drive, the 75% threshold level was a 20-minute drive to both synthetic turf pitches and golf courses.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

Access to local sport facilities was perceived to be particularly important by drop in session attendees. In order to deliver the required level of local facilities, it was felt that community use of school sites was essential and furthermore that private sites should be freely available. This was also an issue raised on several occasions by attendees at workshops, who felt that opportunities to use school facilities were missed. Most sports facilities are managed and operated by the voluntary sector and many people may feel you have to be good to participate. Therefore advertising these facilities to encourage greater levels of community involvement is important.

Attendees at the workshops expressed a concern that sports facilities are too spread out, although the links to some of these sites are good. There was consensus that there was a need for improved cycle routes to encourage cycling between homes and facilities. Access to facilities for junior and mini teams was perceived to be particularly difficult.

In relation to all weather facilities, comments were raised at the workshops suggesting that these need to be located in two or three locations – so as to be more accessibility to local residents.

PMP Recommendation	15-minute walk (720m) to local outdoor sports (grass pitches, tennis and bowling greens) 20-minute drive (8km) to synthetic turf pitches and golf courses
PMP Justification	<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Given the findings from the local consultation, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, and a separate standard for STPs and golf courses to reflect local expectations regarding driving and walked to outdoor sport facilities. The 75% threshold level for those who expect to walk to grass pitches, tennis and bowling greens ranges is 15 minutes. As a consequence a 15 minute walk time to these “local” outdoor sports facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements whilst also focusing on improving the quality of existing provision. This is in line with ensuring sustainable transport choices, to account for the wide mix of facilities types within the standard to meet all expectations.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level for those who expect to drive to STPS and Golf Courses are both 20 minutes. Given the more specialist nature of these facilities, and the fact they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 20 minute drive time standard is recommended.</p> <p>The use of school facilities for community use will be particularly important in the rural areas if the recommended standard is to be delivered.</p>

Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
ALLOTMENTS**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No local accessibility standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Congleton – (Urban) 15 minute walk-time	Oldham – 15 minute walk-time	Kirklees – 10-15 minute drive-time
	Halton – 20 minute walk-time	Ellesmere Port and Neston – 10-15 minute drive-time	Knowsley – 20 minute walk-time
Consultation	<p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u> Respondents to the household survey stated that walking (66%) would be the most popular travel method when visiting allotments. The majority of respondents would expect to travel up to 10 minutes to reach an allotment site (67%). Looking across the analysis areas reinforces these overall results, with all individual areas producing figures closely matching the citywide results with little variation.</p> <p>Using the city-wide results, it can be calculated that 75% of the total population would travel 15 minutes on foot to allotments in York. Individual travel times for each area remained constant with the exception of York South (10 minutes).</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u> Attendees at workshop sessions felt that more should be done to make allotments accessible to younger generations, including encouraging schools to have an allotment plot – for learning and exercise. Comments were also made at the workshops that localised provision of allotments had value for families and individuals in social as well as horticultural or nutritional reasons. The existence of waiting lists across several sites in City of York represents a barrier to access of facilities for some residents.</p>		

PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME
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<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The provision of allotments is very much a demand led typology and this 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, as a guide a standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time. Residents responding to the household survey indicated that they would expect to walk to allotments and a walk time has therefore been used in line with living a healthy lifestyle and targets to reduce the reliance on private transport. Given the 75% threshold level is for a 15 minute walk, setting a standard at this level is in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide. This standard should be applied consistently across the rural and urban areas.</p>
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<p>Client Approval</p>	<p>Local Accessibility Standard</p>
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**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
GREEN CORRIDORS**

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.

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS**

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.

APPENDIX I
QUANTITY STANDARDS

City of York Council - Setting Quantity Standards

Category	Populations	Parks and Gardens (hectares)	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space (hectares)	Amenity Green Space (hectares)	Provision for Children (number)	Provision for Young People (number)	Allotments (hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (hectares)
Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)								
City Centre	5,930							
Urban East	72,045							
Urban West	52,995							
York South	22,132							
York North	40,497							
OVERALL	193,599	35.40	408.96	216.20	84.00	4	53.61	378.7
Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)								
City Centre	5,930							
Urban East	72,045							
Urban West	52,995							
York South	22,132							
York North	40,497							
OVERALL	193,599	0.1829	2.1124	1.1167	0.4339	0.0207	0.28	1.96
Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2029								
City Centre	6,911							
Urban East	83,954							
Urban West	61,755							
York South	25,790							
York North	47,190							
OVERALL	225,600	0.1569	1.8128	0.9583	0.37	0.0177	0.24	1.68
RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD		0.18	2.11	1.14	0.48	0.2	0.29	2.05
Balance								
City Centre	5,930							
Urban East	72,045							
Urban West	52,995							
York South	22,132							
York North	40,497							
OVERALL	193,599	0.24	0.47	-4.50	-8.93	-34.72	-2.53	-18.18
Future Balance 2029								
City Centre	6,911							
Urban East	83,954							
Urban West	61,755							
York South	25,790							
York North	47,190							
OVERALL	225,600	-5.57	-67.06	-40.98	-24.29	-41.12	-11.81	-83.78

Quantity Calculations

APPENDIX J
NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

DLTR

Green Spaces, Better Places - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)

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.



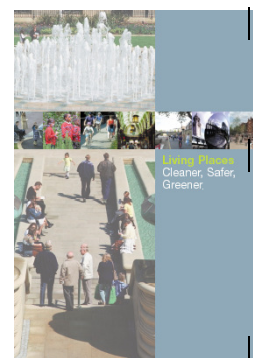
Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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:

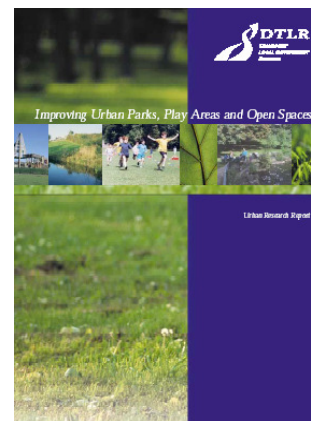
- provide a clearer national policy framework
- invite CABE to set up a new unit for urban spaces (CABE Space)
- encourage a strategic partnership to support the work of the new unit and inform national policy and local delivery.



Improving urban parks, play areas and green space, DTLR (May 2002)

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.

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

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.

The report also highlights major issues in the management, funding and integration of open spaces into the wider context of urban renewal and planning:

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.

Resources - The acknowledged decline in the quality of care of the urban green space resource in England can be linked to declining local authority green space budgets but in terms of different external sources for capital development, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Section 106 Agreements are seen as the most valuable.

Partnerships - between a local authority and community groups, funding agencies and business can result in significant added value, both in terms of finances and quality of green space.

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)

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)

These documents provide Sport England’s planning policy statement on playing fields. It acknowledges that playing fields:

- are one of the most important resources for sport in England as they provide the space which is required for the playing of team sports on outdoor pitches
- as open space particularly in urban areas are becoming an increasingly scarce resource
- can provide an important landscape function, perform the function of a strategic gap or provide a resource for other community activities and informal recreation.



CABE Space

CABE Space is part of the Commission for the Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and is publicly funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). CABE Space aims :
“to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities.”



Through their work, they encourage people to think holistically about green space, and what it means for the health and well being of communities, routes to school and work, and recreation through play and sport. Their ultimate goal is to ensure that people in England have easy access to well designed and well looked after public space.

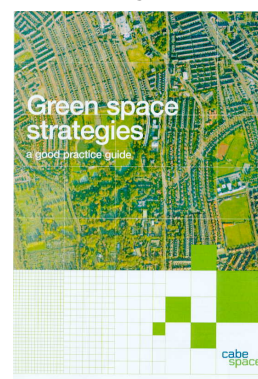
Lessons learnt for some of CABE Space's case studies include:

- strategic vision is essential
- political commitment is essential
- think long-term
- start by making the case for high quality green spaces in-house (persuading other departments is key – high priority)
- a need to market parks and green spaces
- a need to manage resources more efficiently
- work with others - projects are partnerships
- keep good records: monitor investments and outcomes
- consult widely and get public support for your work

Green Space Strategies – a good practice guide CABE Space (May 2004)

The guidance draws on the principles of the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and will help contribute to national objectives for better public spaces, focusing on three broad stages in producing a green space strategy.

- **Stage 1: Preliminary activities**
 - provides the foundation of a successful strategy
- **Stage 2: Information gathering and analysis**
 - provides the objective and subjective data necessary to make informed judgements
- **Stage 3: Strategy production**
 - preparing a consultation draft and final strategy drawing on consultation responses



The document demonstrates why a green space strategy is important and the potential opportunity and benefits that it can provide, including:

- reinforcing local identity and enhancing the physical character of an area, so shaping existing and future development
- maintaining the visual amenity and increasing the attractiveness of a locality to create a sense of civic pride
- securing external funding and focusing capital and revenue expenditure cost-effectively
- improving physical and social inclusion including accessibility, particularly for young, disabled and older people
- protecting and enhancing levels of biodiversity and ecological habitats

Is the grass greener...? Learning from the international innovations in urban green space management, CABE Space (July 2004)

This is an international perspective using examples of good and bad practice that demonstrate the many issues common to English local authorities that international cities also face and providing practical solutions that have combat the problems overseas.

The guide focuses in particular on aspects of management and maintenance practice, providing a series of challenging and inspiring solutions to common issues that are not dissimilar to current English practice.

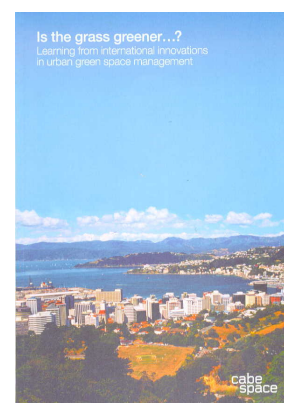
The problem in England!

The document describes the problems faced by green space and how English towns and cities are often criticised for:

- **being poorly maintained** – uncoordinated development and maintenance activities
- **being insecure** – the hostile nature of many green spaces
- **lacking a coherent approach to their management** – conflicting interventions by a multitude of agencies, without clear overall responsibility
- **offering little to their users** – lacking in facilities and amenities and being a haven for anti-social behaviour
- **being poorly designed** – unwelcoming to people, created with poor quality materials

Manifesto for better public spaces, CABE Space (2003)

There is huge national demand for better quality parks and public spaces. Surveys repeatedly show how much the public values them, while research reveals how closely the quality of public spaces links to levels of health, crime and the quality of life in every neighbourhood. CABE Space 'manifesto for better public spaces' explains the 10 things we must do to achieve this:



- 1) ensure that creating and caring for well-designed parks, streets and other public spaces is a national and local political priority
- 2) encourage people of all ages – including children, young people and retired people – to play and active role in deciding what our parks and public spaces should be like and how they should be looked after
- 3) ensure that everyone understands the importance of good design to the vitality of our cities, towns and suburbs and that designers, planners and managers all have the right skills to create high quality public spaces
- 4) ensure that the care of parks and public spaces is acknowledged to be an essential service
- 5) work to increase public debate about the issue of risk in outside spaces, and will encourage people to make decisions that give more weight to the benefits of interesting spaces, rather than to the perceived risks
- 6) work to ensure that national and local health policy recognises the role of high quality parks and public space in helping people to become physically active, to recover from illness, and to increase their general health and well-being
- 7) work to ensure that good paths and seating, play opportunities, signs in local languages, cultural events and art are understood to be essential elements of great places – not optional extras that can be cut from the budget
- 8) encourage people who are designing and managing parks and public spaces to protect and enhance biodiversity and to promote its enjoyment to local people
- 9) seek to ensure that public spaces feel safe to use by encouraging councils to adopt a positive approach to crime prevention through investment in good design and management of the whole network 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)

CABE Space market how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value, as well as being beneficial to physical and mental health, children and young people and a variety of other external issues. Specific examples are used to illustrate the benefits and highlight the issues arising on the value of public space :



- (a) 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
- (b) 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
- (c) 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
- (d) 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
- (e) 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
- (f) 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
- (g) Value from biodiversity and nature - Public spaces and gardens helps to bring important environmental benefits to urban areas, as well as providing an opportunity for people to be close to nature.

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans, CABE Space (May 2004)

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

The guide presents ideas on benefits of management plans identifying steps to be taken to writing the plan. It also provides a list of subject areas that need to be addressed in any comprehensive management plan. The document has been split into two sections, providing a logical explanation of the management process:



Part 1: Planning the plan

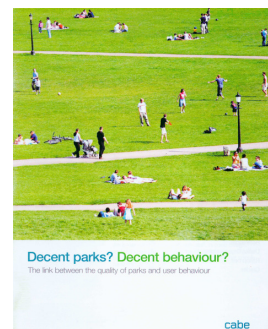
- the who, what, when, where and how questions that may arise in the preparation of a park and green space management plan.

Part 2: Content and structure of the plan

- what information needs to be contained in the final management plan and how should that information be presented?

Decent parks? Decent behaviour? – The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour, CABS space (May 2005)

Based on research that supports public consultation that poor maintenance of parks, in turn, attracts anti-social behaviour. Encouragingly it provides examples of places where a combination of good design, management and maintenance has transformed no-go areas back into popular community spaces.



There are nine case studies explored in the report. Below are some of the key elements that have made these parks a better place to be:

- take advantage of the potential for buildings within parks for natural surveillance e.g. from cafes, flats offices
- involve the community early in the process and continually
- involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible and work hard to avoid single group dominance in the park
- provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young peoples fear of crime as well as that if adults

The evidence in this report suggests that parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic, however by investing and creating good-quality parks and green spaces, which are staffed and provide a range of attractive facilities for the local community, can be an effective use of resource.

Improving access to the countryside: Planning bulletin 17, Sport England (2006)

In October 2005 new access to the countryside rights allowed walkers in the West Midlands and the East of England to join their counterparts in the rest of England enjoying open access rights on areas of mountain, moor, heath and down.

The countryside offers a range of benefits to people's quality of life, health and well being. It offers the opportunity for fresh air, to enjoy scenery, healthy exercise, adventure, recreation and appreciation of nature.

Walking has formed the cornerstone of recent campaigns to encourage people to be more active, including Everyday Sport by Sport England, developing the 30 minutes of moderate daily exercise as recommended by health experts.

Exclusions to access exist to protect the natural environment, it is important to evaluate whether recent changes in legislation and the promotion of a new approach will provide the necessary momentum for resolving wider recreational issues in the countryside.

Planning for play: Guidance on the development and implementation of a local play strategy, National Children's Bureau and Big Lottery Fund (2006)

'Planning for play' outlines the importance of adequate play opportunities for children and young people. Play is of fundamental importance for children and young people's health and well being, their relationships, their development and their learning.

Evidence is emerging that increased opportunity for free play is the most effective way of encouraging children to get the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-intense physical activity per day. A range of increasing health problems are associated with decreased play opportunities.

The document sets out advice on how to develop a local play strategy, which is reflective of the PPG17 process.

APPENDIX K
TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Technical Annex

This technical appendix summarises the level of provision of each type of open space on a ward basis providing a further understanding of the spatial distribution of different types of open space in York. The tables provide an indication of the quantity of each type of open space when applied against the local standard. Shortfalls are shaded in red and surpluses are shaded in green.

Parks and Gardens (City Parks and Local Parks)

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	0.00	0.18	0.00	1.56	-1.56
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.77	-0.77
Clifton Ward	13,437	6.04	0.18	0.45	2.42	3.62
Derwent Ward	3,958	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.71	-0.71
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	3.94	0.18	0.33	2.16	1.78
Fishergate Ward	8,857	0.00	0.18	0.00	1.59	-1.59
Fulford Ward	2,902	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.52	-0.52
Guildhall Ward	7,465	5.01	0.18	0.67	1.34	3.67
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	0.00	0.18	0.00	2.51	-2.51
Heslington Ward	4,609	1.35	0.18	0.29	0.83	0.52
Heworth Ward	4,233	0.00	0.18	0.76	0.76	-0.76
Heworth without Ward	4,233	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.76	-0.76
Holgate Ward	12,931	4.46	0.18	0.35	2.33	2.13
Hull Road Ward	9,246	5.49	0.18	0.59	1.66	3.83
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	0.00	0.18	0.00	2.43	-2.43
Micklegate	12,293	8.26	0.18	0.67	2.21	6.05

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Ward						
Osballdwick Ward	3,521	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.63	-0.63
Rural West York Ward	11,502	0.00	0.18	0.00	2.07	-2.07
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	0.00	0.18	0.00	2.45	-2.45
Strensall Ward	8,791	0.00	0.18	0.00	1.58	-1.58
Westfield Ward	15,308	0.00	0.18	0.00	2.76	-2.76
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.78	-0.78

Over two thirds of all wards in York have deficiencies in park provision. The highest levels of provision are located in the Micklegate Ward, Guildhall Ward and Clifton Ward. There is sufficient provision in 7 of the 22 wards in York.

Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	2.2	2.11	0.26	18.2	-16.0
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	0	2.11	0	9.0	-9.0
Clifton Ward	13,437	0	2.11	0	28.4	-28.4
Derwent Ward	3,958	44.65	2.11	11.28	8.4	36.3
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	51.89	2.11	4.32	25.3	26.6
Fishergate Ward	8,857	30.75	2.11	3.47	18.7	12.1
Fulford Ward	2,902	0	2.11	0	6.1	-6.1
Guildhall Ward	7,465	10.29	2.11	1.38	15.8	-5.5
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	3.84	2.11	0.28	29.4	-25.6

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Heslington Ward	4,609	14.84	2.11	3.22	9.7	5.1
Heworth Ward	4,233	6.26	2.11	1.48	8.9	-2.7
Heworth without Ward	4,233	41.55	2.11	9.82	8.9	32.6
Holgate Ward	12,931	0.83	2.11	0.06	27.3	-26.5
Hull Road Ward	9,246	1.23	2.11	0.13	19.5	-18.3
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	7.14	2.11	0.53	28.5	-21.4
Micklegate Ward	12,293	0	2.11	0	25.9	-25.9
Osbalwick Ward	3,521	0	2.11	0	7.4	-7.4
Rural West York Ward	11,502	51.88	2.11	4.51	24.3	27.6
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	125.88	2.11	9.26	28.7	97.2
Strensall Ward	8,791	15.12	2.11	1.72	18.5	-3.4
Westfield Ward	15,308	0.56	2.11	0.04	32.3	-31.7
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	0	2.11	0	9.2	-9.2

Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton without Ward have the highest levels of natural and semi natural provision in York. There are surpluses in provision in 7 of the 22 wards in the City. Large deficiencies exist in Clifton Ward, Westfield Ward and Holgate Ward.

Amenity Green Space

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	2.33	1.17	0.27	9.9	-7.5
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	0.34	1.17	0.08	4.8	-4.5
Clifton Ward	13,437	7.59	1.17	0.56	15.3	-7.7
Derwent Ward	3,958	1.27	1.17	0.32	4.5	-3.2
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	7.76	1.17	0.65	13.7	-5.9
Fishergate Ward	8,857	11.07	1.17	1.25	10.1	1.0
Fulford Ward	2,902	2.84	1.17	0.98	3.3	-0.5
Guildhall Ward	7,465	5.17	1.17	0.69	8.5	-3.3
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	7.64	1.17	0.55	15.9	-8.3
Heslington Ward	4,609	1.39	1.17	0.30	5.3	-3.9
Heworth Ward	4,233	28.75	1.17	6.79	4.8	23.9
Heworth without Ward	4,233	0.00	1.17	0.00	4.8	-4.8
Holgate Ward	12,931	18.25	1.17	1.41	14.7	3.5
Hull Road Ward	9,246	1.70	1.17	0.18	10.5	-8.8
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	16.96	1.17	1.25	15.4	1.5
Micklegate Ward	12,293	51.91	1.17	4.22	14.0	37.9
Osbaldwick Ward	3,521	0.72	1.17	0.20	4.0	-3.3
Rural West York Ward	11,502	5.66	1.17	0.49	13.1	-7.5
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	24.23	1.17	1.78	15.5	8.7
Strensall Ward	8,791	13.53	1.17	1.54	10.0	3.5
Westfield Ward	15,308	6.47	1.17	0.42	17.5	-11.0
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	0.61	1.17	0.14	5.0	

The majority of wards have deficiencies in the provision of amenity green space, with only 7 wards having sufficient quantity. The highest levels of provision can be found in the Micklegate and Heworth wards. There are significant deficiencies in Westfield, Rural West York Ward and Haxby and Wiggington Ward.

Provision for Children

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (facilities)	Local Standard (facilities/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement (facilities)	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	2	0.48	0.23	4.15	-2.15
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	0	0.48	0.00	2.04	-2.04
Clifton Ward	13,437	4	0.48	0.29	6.45	-2.45
Derwent Ward	3,958	1	0.48	0.25	1.90	-0.90
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	3	0.48	0.25	5.76	-2.76
Fishergate Ward	8,857	4	0.48	0.45	4.25	-0.25
Fulford Ward	2,902	2	0.48	0.69	1.39	0.61
Guildhall Ward	7,465	2	0.48	0.27	3.58	-1.58
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	3	0.48	0.22	6.69	-3.69
Heslington Ward	4,609	1	0.48	0.22	2.21	-1.21
Heworth Ward	4,233	5	0.48	1.18	2.03	3.03
Heworth without Ward	4,233	1	0.48	0.24	2.03	-1.03
Holgate Ward	12,931	7	0.48	0.54	6.21	0.79
Hull Road Ward	9,246	3	0.48	0.32	4.44	-1.44
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	6	0.48	0.44	6.49	-0.49
Micklegate Ward	12,293	4	0.48	0.33	5.90	-1.90
Osbaldwick Ward	3,521	1	0.48	0.28	1.69	-0.69
Rural West York Ward	11,502	7	0.48	0.61	5.52	1.48
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	10	0.48	0.74	6.53	3.47
Strensall Ward	8,791	9	0.48	1.02	4.22	4.78
Westfield Ward	15,308	6	0.48	0.39	7.35	-1.35
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	3	0.48	0.69	2.09	0.89

There is sufficient provision for children in 7 of the 22 wards in York. The highest level of provision is found in the Strensall Ward with a surplus of over four facilities. The greatest deficiency is found in the Haxby and Wigginton Ward, with a deficiency of over 3

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facilities. There are also significant shortfalls in provision of childrens facilities in Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward and Clifton Ward.

Facilities for Young People

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (facilities)	Local Standard (facilities/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement (facilities)	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.73	-1.73
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.85	-0.85
Clifton Ward	13,437	0.00	0.20	0.00	2.69	-2.69
Derwent Ward	3,958	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.79	-0.79
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	0.00	0.20	0.00	2.40	-2.40
Fishergate Ward	8,857	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.77	-1.77
Fulford Ward	2,902	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.58	-0.58
Guildhall Ward	7,465	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.49	-1.49
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	0.00	0.20	0.00	2.79	-2.79
Heslington Ward	4,609	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.92	-0.92
Heworth Ward	4,233	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.85	-0.85
Heworth without Ward	4,233	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.85	-0.85
Holgate Ward	12,931	1	0.20	0.08	2.59	-1.59
Hull Road Ward	9,246	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.85	-1.85
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	1	0.20	0.07	2.70	-1.70
Micklegate Ward	12,293	1	0.20	0.005	2.46	-1.46
Osbalwick Ward	3,521	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.70	-0.70
Rural West York Ward	11,502	0.00	0.20	0.00	2.30	-2.30
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	2	0.20	0.15	2.72	-0.72
Strensall Ward	8,791	0.00	0.20	0.00	1.76	-1.76
Westfield	15,308	0.00	0.20	0.00	3.06	-3.06

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Ward						
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.87	-0.87

There are deficiencies in all wards across the City. Westfield Ward has the greatest level of deficiency; a shortfall of over 3 facilities for young people. There are also significant deficiencies in the Rural West York, Clifton and Haxby and Wigginton Wards. There are only four wards with provision, of which Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without has the highest level.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	8.34	2.05	0.97	17.72	-9.32
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	3.71	2.05	0.87	8.71	-5.00
Clifton Ward	13,437	21.90	2.05	1.63	27.55	-5.65
Derwent Ward	3,958	5.56	2.05	1.40	8.11	-2.55
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	12.47	2.05	1.04	24.60	-12.13
Fishergate Ward	8,857	7.61	2.05	0.86	18.16	-10.55
Fulford Ward	2,902	9.64	2.05	3.32	5.95	3.69
Guildhall Ward	7,465	5.68	2.05	0.76	15.30	-9.62
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	9.26	2.05	0.66	28.58	-19.32
Heslington Ward	4,609	20.95	2.05	4.55	9.45	-11.50
Heworth Ward	4,233	9.21	2.05	2.18	8.68	0.53
Heworth without Ward	4,233	18.69	2.05	4.42	8.68	10.01
Holgate Ward	12,931	11.70	2.05	0.90	26.51	-14.81
Hull Road Ward	9,246	12.25	2.05	13.25	18.95	-6.70
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	35.84	2.05	2.65	27.71	-8.13
Micklegate Ward	12,293	84.6	2.05	6.88	25.20	59.40
Osbalwick Ward	3,521	2.87	2.05	0.82	7.22	-4.35
Rural West York Ward	11,502	20.66	2.05	1.80	23.58	-2.92
Skelton,	13,597	33.61	2.05	2.47	27.87	5.74

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Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward						
Strensall Ward	8,791	10.32	2.05	1.17	18.02	-7.70
Westfield Ward	15,308	27.42	2.05	1.79	31.38	-3.96
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	6.41	2.05	1.47	8.94	-2.53

There are surpluses in five of the 22 wards in York. The highest level of provision of outdoor sports facilities is in the Micklegate Ward. Haxby and Wigginton and Holgate Wards have the highest deficiencies in the City.

Allotments

Ward	Current Population	Current Provision (Hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Acomb Ward	8,642	0.77	0.29	0.09	2.51	-1.74
Bishopthorpe Ward	4,251	1.43	0.29	0.34	1.23	0.20
Clifton Ward	13,437	1.02	0.29	0.08	3.90	-2.88
Derwent Ward	3,958	2.22	0.29	0.56	1.15	1.07
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward	12,001	1.06	0.29	0.09	3.48	-2.42
Fishergate Ward	8,857	6.41	0.29	0.72	2.57	3.84
Fulford Ward	2,902	1.16	0.29	0.40	0.84	0.32
Guildhall Ward	7,465	0.00	0.29	0.00	2.16	-2.16
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	13,942	1.20	0.29	0.09	4.04	-2.84
Heslington Ward	4,609	0.58	0.29	0.13	1.34	-0.76
Heworth Ward	4,233	5.06	0.29	1.20	1.23	3.83
Heworth without Ward	4,233	0.21	0.29	0.05	1.23	-1.02
Holgate Ward	12,931	7.49	0.29	0.58	3.75	-3.74
Hull Road Ward	9,246	0.00	0.29	0.00	2.68	-2.68
Huntington and New Earswick Ward	13,518	4.30	0.29	0.32	3.92	0.38
Micklegate	12,293	10.25	0.29	0.83	3.56	6.69

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Ward						
Osballdwick Ward	3,521	0.00	0.29	0.00	1.02	-1.02
Rural West York Ward	11,502	3.02	0.29	0.26	3.34	-0.32
Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward	13,597	4.95	0.29	0.36	3.94	1.01
Strensall Ward	8,791	0.49	0.29	0.06	2.55	-2.06
Westfield Ward	15,308	1.99	0.29	0.13	4.44	-2.45
Wheldrake Ward	4,360	0.00	0.29	0.00	1.26	-1.26

There are nine wards with sufficient allotment provision. Mickelgate has the highest level of provision with a surplus of 6.69 hectares. There is also good levels of provision within the Fishergate and Heworth Wards. Significant deficiencies of allotment provision exist in Clifton Ward, Holgate Ward, and Haxby and Wiggington Ward.

APPENDIX L
LARGE SCALE MAPS