

Staffordshire Moorlands

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment



A Final Report by PMP

March 2009

Introduction and background

The study

- 1.1 During March 2008 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the District in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002) (PPG17) and its Companion Guide. This report sets out the findings of this study.
- 1.2 The assessment will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF), in particular supporting the policies of the core strategy and other Development Plan Documents (DPD) including the Site Allocations DPD. It will also help to shape the strategic direction of the new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the provision of open space in new developments.
- 1.3 In addition to supporting the LDF, the research undertaken as part of this document will facilitate the delivery of many other strategies and objectives including the recently completed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- 1.4 Other specific objectives of the study include:
 - to undertake an accurate audit of existing green space across Staffordshire Moorlands
 - to identify local needs and aspirations through consultation, a strategic review and a review of existing provision standards
 - to recommend standards of provision (quantity, quality and accessibility) in accordance with PPG17
 - to provide evidence to inform the future enhancement and management of green spaces.
- 1.5 The District Council currently manages almost 600 acres of public open space in the District including a range of parks, sports pitches and play areas. The findings of this work will enable the Council to adopt a clear vision and identify priorities for the future based on local needs.
- 1.6 Parish Councils and voluntary groups are also key providers of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands. This assessment considers facilities in all ownership and will encourage partnership working on the future provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the District.

Why public open space?

- 1.7 Open space and recreation provision in Staffordshire Moorlands has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of both national objectives and more locally in the achievement of key council priorities including investing in children and young people, maintaining and enhancing quality of life and responding to the needs and aspirations of the ageing population.



- 1.8 The provision of open spaces, and sport and recreation facilities is becoming increasingly important and the contributions it can make to both national and local priorities are recognised. The benefit to local communities is reflected in the Park Life Report (Greenspace, June 2007), which indicates that 92% of all those questioned had visited a park within the last month.
- 1.9 PPG17 states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, which include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - health and well being
 - promoting more sustainable development.
- 1.10 The May 2007 White Paper highlights minimising climate change and the protection of the environment as some of the key challenges to be addressed through the planning system in future years. The Staffordshire Moorlands Sustainable Community Strategy highlights addressing climate change and the protection of the environment as a key priority of the Council. The appropriate provision and protection of green space will be instrumental in achieving these objectives.
- 1.11 The importance of promoting health is emphasised through recent pressure on Local Planning Authorities to combat rising obesity through the appropriate design of buildings and the local environment, including open spaces. Increased use of open spaces to provide alternative opportunities for physical activity is a key theme of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- 1.12 The provision of high quality open space has also proved effective in combating crime, both through encouraging community involvement and gaining respect from local residents. In contrast, lower quality sites can attract misuse and encourage anti social behaviour.

Function and benefits of open space

- 1.13 Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of towns and villages, for example, opportunities 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 While all sites have a primary purpose, many open spaces perform secondary functions, for example outdoor sports facilities offer an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.
- 1.15 Changing social and economic circumstances, different work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers. While the provision of open spaces can be challenging, open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.16 Parks and open spaces are more accessible to a wide range of people than many other sport and leisure facilities and are better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation provision is therefore key to an ideal, sustainable and thriving community. The Park Life Report (Green Space June 2007) highlighted that 83% of those surveyed feel that parks are the focal point of a community.

Local features and demographics

- 1.17 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council covers a primarily rural area and is situated in North Staffordshire, bordering Congleton in Cheshire to the West, Buxton in Derbyshire to the east and the city of Stoke on Trent to the South. In light of the close proximity of these towns and cities there is significant movement in and out of the District and many residents commute on a daily basis into the surrounding cities.

- 1.18 Two thirds of residents live within the three main towns of Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle, meaning that a large proportion of demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities is located within these towns. Although all located within Staffordshire Moorlands, the three main towns are very different in character and function as separate entities.



- 1.19 The remaining residents are dispersed across small rural settlements, many of which have no formal open space or sport and recreation facilities. The majority of these residents are in close proximity to areas of nearby countryside.

- 1.20 Residents and visitors to Staffordshire Moorlands are fortunate to be surrounded by greenbelt and countryside (including the Peak District National Park) and the green space and countryside is integral to the character of the District.

- 1.21 The importance of these spaces and the appearance of the local area to residents is reflected in the voluntary work that is undertaken across the District.

- 1.22 According to the 2006/07 Annual Monitoring Report, the population in the District is approximately 94,500. This population is predicted to grow only marginally over the Local Development Framework period. While increases to the population can place additional pressures on land, new development can also provide a significant opportunity for the provision of new open spaces through developer contributions and S106 agreements. Development is likely to take place both in the large towns and also in some of the larger rural settlements.



- 1.23 The proportion of residents over the age of 65 (17.4%) in Staffordshire Moorlands is greater than the national average of 15.97%. In contrast, the quantity of people below the age of 44 is significantly below the national average. This is reflective of the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy, which reinforces the need to cater for the ageing population.
- 1.24 Changes to the population profile over the Local Development Framework period will exacerbate the skewed population profile. The ageing population and the consequential reduction in the proportion of young people is likely to generate further changes in the type of open space, sport and recreation facilities required to meet the needs of the population.
- 1.25 There is little diversity in the make up of the District with 99.2% of residents being white. Despite the low proportion of residents of BME origin, it is nevertheless essential to ensure that the open space, sport and recreation provision caters for the varying needs of all of the community.
- 1.26 Although there are low unemployment levels, the average wage of residents in the District is below the national average. The cost of using facilities is therefore a key consideration in maximising access to facilities for all residents. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Biddulph East, Hammersley Hayes, Cheadle and Haregate all suffer from high levels of deprivation.
- 1.27 The above characteristics will all be important determinants of the demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities across the District.

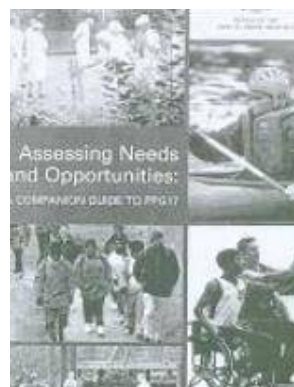
Structure of the report

- 1.28 This report is split into 14 sections. Section 2 summarises the methodology used to undertake the study and Section 3 provides the strategic context to the study.
- 1.29 Sections 4 -13 relate to each of the typologies identified within the scope of the report. Each typology chapter sets out the strategic context to that particular typology, the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards, the application of these standards and the resulting priorities.
- 1.30 An overview of negotiating developer contributions in light of the locally derived provision standards is contained within Section 14. This section includes examples of good practice in other local authorities as well as making recommendations for the future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands.
- 1.31 There are also a number of appendices that support the report, providing further background detail and statistical calculations.

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 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). It encourages local authorities to proactively plan for the future delivery of appropriate open space, sport and leisure facilities.
- 2.2 Paragraph 7 states that “local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas”. PPG17 sets out the Government’s belief 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. PPG17 therefore places significant emphasis on meeting local needs and expectations and adapting provision to the local context.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The Companion Guide recommends a process that should be followed and outlines the key objectives of an open space, sport and recreation needs assessment.
- 2.5 The Companion Guide indicates that the four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) understanding that local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) recognising that the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) considering that delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - (iv) taking into account that the value of open space will be greater when local needs are met. It is essential to consider the wider benefits that sites generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.6 This PPG17 study has been undertaken following the recommended process and guides the effective provision of open spaces across Staffordshire Moorlands District. It recommends local standards based on an analysis of current provision and local community need. The application of the recommended local standards highlights key areas of deficiency and priorities for enhancement.



- 2.7 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The process set out in PPG17 has therefore been adopted to ensure that the needs and expectations of residents in Staffordshire Moorlands are adequately addressed, particularly in light of the rural characteristics of the area and the ageing population.

Types of open space

- 2.8 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:
- 2.9 “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”.
- 2.10 PPG17 identifies ten typologies, including nine types of green space and one category of urban open space. It states that when preparing assessments of needs and audits of existing open space and recreation facilities, local authorities should use these typologies, or variations of them.
- 2.11 Table 2.1 below sets out the types of open space included within this study in Staffordshire Moorlands. It is important to note that only those sites within settlement boundaries have been included in the audit, in line with guidelines set out in PPG17. The key exception to this is country parks, which are included in light of the importance of these sites to residents in the local area. These sites have been audited as a separate type of open space.
- 2.12 The significance of sites outside of settlement boundaries, alongside areas of nearby natural countryside will be considered throughout this report. This is particularly important in light of the nature of many of the rural settlements in the District where there may be limited dedicated provision within the boundaries of the settlement but extensive areas of countryside in close proximity to the home. In some instances, increasing access to existing open space will be as or more important than the development of new spaces.

Table 2.1 – Typologies of open space, sport and recreation facilities within Staffordshire Moorlands

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
Country Parks	Includes country parks. These facilities tend to attract users from a wider and in many cases, have a higher local and regional profile. These sites are frequently outside of the settlement boundary due to their characteristics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation community events.
Formal parks	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Local parks usually have a local profile (and are therefore unlikely to attract visitors from a wider region). Local parks may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have a smaller effective catchment contain a range of facilities include formal planting or bedding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation.
Natural and Semi-natural green spaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation biodiversity environmental education and awareness.
Amenity green space	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work children's play enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below the age of 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 containing equipped play facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's play.
Provision for young people	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teenage shelters skateboard parks BMX tracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities or meeting places for young people.

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi Activity Play Areas (MAPA). 	
Outdoor sports facilities	<p>Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor sports pitches tennis courts and bowls greens golf courses athletics tracks 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. Private gardens are not included.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing vegetables, fruit and flowers.
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.
Civic spaces	<p>Hard surfaced areas usually located within town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community events setting for civic buildings.

The geographical area

- 2.13 Analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities across the District has been undertaken both District wide and also by five areas across the local authority area (referred to as analysis areas in this report). These areas were discussed and agreed with the Council at the outset of the project and are made up primarily by the amalgamation of wards.

- 2.14 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, enabling an understanding of the geographical distribution of open spaces and ensuring that differences in perception and opinion of open spaces across the District are understood.
- 2.15 Although these analysis areas have been used to guide interpretation, the application of local standards will enable the identification of priorities at neighbourhood level where appropriate.
- 2.16 Sites falling within the National Park Boundaries but located with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have not been audited and included within the study. A separate study will be undertaken considering the provision of and demand for, open spaces in the National Park area.
- 2.17 Table 2.2 details the geographical areas that have been used for analysis and interpretation during this study.

Table 2.2 – Analysis areas in Staffordshire Moorlands

Area name	Population	Wards included
Biddulph	19,512	Biddulph North, Biddulph South, Biddulph East, Biddulph West and Biddulph Moor.
Cheadle	12,166	Cheadle North East, Cheadle South East and Cheadle West.
Leek	19,880	Leek North, Leek South, Leek East and Leek West.
Rural	37,826	Alton, Bagnall and Stanley, Brown Edge and Endon, Caverswall, Cellarhead, Checkley, Cheddleton, Churnet, Forsbrook, Horton, Ipstones and Werrington.

PPG 17 – Five - step process

- 2.18 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a logical five-step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities. This process was followed in this assessment and although presented as a linear process below, in reality, steps 1 and 2 were undertaken simultaneously. Steps 1 – 4 have been undertaken by PMP. Step 5 will be undertaken by the Council.
- 2.19 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.

Our process

- 2.20 The following paragraphs detail the key tasks undertaken as part of each of the key stages of PPG17.

Step 1 - Identifying local needs

- 2.21 PPG17 states that consultation with the local community is essential to identify local attitudes to existing provision and local expectations for additional or improved provision.
- 2.22 The assessment of needs should contribute to the production of local standards that reflect the type and amount of open space, sport and recreation facilities that local communities want. It is essential that the local standards set are directly reflective of local needs and expectations. The study was advertised in two local newspapers, “Your Leek News” and “The Leek Post”, in order to raise awareness of the study.
- 2.23 It is important to obtain a statistical evidence base of local needs as well as carrying out a series of subjective consultations to test the key themes emerging from the statistical evidence base.
- 2.24 A series of local consultations were therefore carried out across Staffordshire Moorlands including:
- household questionnaires
 - neighbourhood ‘drop in’ sessions
 - internet survey for children and young people
 - consultation with external agencies
 - one-to-one consultations with Council officers
 - council officer survey
 - parish council questionnaire
 - workshops with Parish Councils, Community Sport Network, Older residents and local residents.
- 2.25 Background is provided on each of the key elements of the consultation in the paragraphs that follow.

Household survey

- 2.26 The household survey provides an opportunity for residents to comment on the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open space provision as well as identifying their aspirations for future provision.
- 2.27 5000 questionnaires were distributed to households across the District to capture the views of both users and non-users of open spaces. Residents were randomly selected using the electoral register.

- 2.28 Random distribution of questionnaires to a geographically representative sample (based on the populations living in each of the identified analysis areas) of households ensures that representatives from all age groups, 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 in each household were asked to complete the questionnaire. A copy of the household survey and accompanying covering letter can be found in Appendix B.
- 2.29 489 postal surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to assume responses for the remaining population across the District. Obtaining more than 400 responses means that the results are accurate to +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval.

Neighbourhood 'drop in' sessions

- 2.30 Neighbourhood 'drop in' sessions were held in three locations within Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically:
- Leek Market
 - Biddulph Connect Centre
 - Cheadle Connect Centre.
- 2.31 These sessions were advertised to the public via the local press and intended to provide an informal opportunity for residents to give their views on open space, sport and recreation issues. Many residents passing by also took the time to discuss their views. The sessions were well attended and the key issues arising from discussions have fed directly into the recommended local standards.

Internet survey for children and young people

- 2.32 Consultation with young people and children is traditionally difficult, however it is important to understand the views of this large sector of the community. Children and young people are important users of open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- 2.33 To reflect the importance of children and young people, two questionnaires were therefore posted on the internet. One questionnaire was intended for pupils of a primary school age and one for young people of secondary school age. All schools within the Council boundaries were notified of the website address and asked to encourage their pupils to complete the questionnaires.
- 2.34 The level of response to the surveys was good with 346 responses received in total.
- 2.35 The information obtained through the distribution of these questionnaires has been instrumental in the development of the local standards and ensures that the views of young people and children are represented.

External agencies questionnaire

- 2.36 Questionnaires were distributed to key regional and local agencies with the aim of obtaining their views and ensuring that local standards and emerging priorities dovetail with the work of other agencies. These questionnaires were distributed electronically and by post and were followed up with telephone calls where required.

Internal Council officers

- 2.37 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. An internet survey was also distributed to Council officers, examining their views on open space, sport and recreation facilities from their perspective as residents and people who work within the District. This survey received 35 responses.

Parish and Town Council Questionnaires

- 2.38 In recognition of the important role that Parish and Town Councils play in the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands, a questionnaire was distributed to all Parish and Town Councils in the District in order to gain an understanding of localised issues and priorities. Questionnaires explored issues including the perceived quality and quantity of facilities in the area and issues experienced with existing facilities and/or access to facilities. A discussion session was also held to which Clerks of all Parish Councils were invited.
- 2.39 Discussion sessions were held with specific groups across the District. These explored key issues relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities in more detail and provided further detail on some of the key issues arising from the statistical consultation. Sessions were held with sports groups and older residents.

Step 2 - Auditing local provision

- 2.40 PPG17 states that audits of provision should encompass all existing open space and sport and recreation, irrespective of ownership and the extent of public access. The logic for this is that all forms of provision can contribute to meeting local needs. Audits should also include all primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions and should focus on provision within settlement boundaries.
- 2.41 The Council compiled a detailed audit of provision of open space across the District. This audit was then verified and refined by PMP in order to ensure that only those sites falling within the PPG17 typologies were identified and that no sites, apart from those under 0.2 ha (excluding children and young people), were omitted. In line with PPG17, grass verges and farmland were excluded from consideration, as well as sites located outside of settlement boundaries.
- 2.42 298 sites were identified during the audit. Each site was classified into a relevant typology. The multi functionality of some types of open space presents a challenge in the audit. In order to address these issues, all spaces have been classified by their primary purpose. This ensures that all spaces are counted only once, but does not negate the need to consider the relationships between different types of open space as part of the study.
- 2.43 Additionally, some types of open space are located within a larger space. Where this occurs and the primary purpose is clearly defined, these sites are considered to be two separate sites and have been subdivided. A good example is the location of a children's play area within a park. It is important that these sites are considered separately as they have different roles and fall into different typologies, although it is recognised that the collocation of sites of many different typologies may in itself be an attraction to local residents.
- 2.44 Following completion of the desk based audit, site assessments were carried out at each site.

- 2.45 Site assessments were undertaken using a matrix developed in conjunction with Council Officers, enabling comparisons both between sites in the same typology and across typologies. For consistency purposes, all sites were assessed by the same person. Sites were rated against the following categories:
- accessibility
 - quality
 - wider benefits.
- 2.46 The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site in addition to ratings for each individual factor. The site assessment matrix and a full list of sites and their scores can be found in Appendix C.

Steps 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards

- 2.47 PPG17 states that open space standards should be set locally and recommends that national standards should not be used to assess local circumstances.
- 2.48 PPG17 recommends that local authorities use information gained from the assessment of needs and opportunities (stage 1) to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. In order to ensure that the recommended local standards are directly representative of local needs in Staffordshire Moorlands, PMP has derived the standards directly from the result of other consultations.
- 2.49 PPG17 recommends that local standards should include:
- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed)
 - a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities)
 - accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

- 2.50 Table 2.3 below briefly summarises the process that has been adopted for setting local standards.

Table 2.3 – The setting standards process

Process Stage	Methodology
National standards	Analysis of any existing national standards for each typology. These are usually provided by national organisations eg Fields in Trust for playing pitches. It is important to ensure that national standards are taken into account as part of determination of local standards.
Existing local standards	Consideration of existing local standards for each typology that are currently applied by the Council. These include standards set out in the Local Plan and in other adopted strategies.
Current provision (quantity standards only)	Assessment of the current quantity of provision within the local authority area as a whole and within each of the analysis areas.
Benchmarking	Figures detailing local standards set by PMP for other open space projects to provide a benchmark.
Consultation (household survey)	Consideration of the findings of the household survey with regards the provision of each type of open space. This analysis provides a robust indication (at the District wide 95% confidence level) of public perception of the existing provision and aspirations for future provision of all different types of open spaces.
Consultation comments	Results from qualitative consultations are used to test the key themes emerging from the statistical evidence base and to determine issues of priority importance to residents. These feed in to the standards set.
PMP recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard. The standard is based on an assessment of the local community need and will be in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• quantity – x hectares per 1000 population• accessibility – a distance threshold in metres• quality – a list of essential and desirable features.
PMP justification	Full justifications for the recommended local standard based on qualitative and quantitative consultations are provided for each typology.

- 2.51 A brief explanation of the purpose of setting each type of standard is set out below.

Quantity

- 2.52 The open space audit gives an understanding of the quantity of provision for each type of open space in each area of the District. This level of detail enables the calculation of the amount of each type of open space per 1,000 population. This information is provided within typology specific sections 4-13.

- 2.53 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
- provide an understanding of the adequacy of existing provision for each type of open space in the District
 - establish areas of the District suffering from deficiency of provision of each type of open space
 - provide a guide to developers as to the amount of open space expected in conjunction with new development.
- 2.54 This assessment measures the quantity of provision against the current population of 89,495. This figure was taken from the 2001 Census, however it does exclude residents located within the National Park boundaries.
- 2.55 Consideration is also given to the likely implications of future population growth up to 2026 using population projections developed by the Office of National Statistics. The likely implications for new housing growth through the Regional Spatial Strategy are also evaluated.
- 2.56 In order to ensure that any standards set are reflective of local community needs and opinions, key themes emerging from consultations in each analysis area relating to the quantity of each type are analysed. The key issues for each type of open space are assessed within sections 4 – 13. Local standards are subsequently set, taking into account the current level of provision compared to the perceived community need.

Accessibility

- 2.57 Accessibility is a key criteria for open space sites. Without good access, the provision of good quality open space would be of limited value. The overall aim of accessibility standards is to identify:
- how accessible sites are
 - how far people are willing to travel to reach open space
 - areas of the District that are deficient in provision (identified through the application of local standards).
- 2.58 Similar to quantity standards, accessibility standards should be derived from an understanding of community views, particularly with regards to the maximum distance that members of the public are willing to travel.
- 2.59 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 Geographic Information System (GIS). PPG17 suggests that open spaces should be accessible by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. Access is a particularly pertinent issue in rural areas like Staffordshire Moorlands.

Quality

- 2.60 The quality and value of open space are fundamentally different and can sometimes be completely unrelated. Two examples of this are:
- a high quality open space is provided but is completely inaccessible. Usage is therefore restricted and as a result the value of the site to the public is limited
 - a low quality open space may be used every day by the public or have significant wider benefits such as biodiversity or educational use and therefore has a high value despite qualitative issues.
- 2.61 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 District
 - specific types of open space.
- 2.62 The quality standards set as part of the study are intended to provide information on the key features of open space that are important to local residents. Sites are then assessed and given a score for a range of factors including:
- cleanliness and maintenance
 - security and safety
 - vegetation
 - ancillary accommodation.
- 2.63 Each element of quality is rated on a scale of very good (5 points) to poor (1 point) and a total percentage score is then calculated. Where an element of provision (such as toilets) is considered to be not applicable, this will not be taken into account in the calculation of the percentage score.
- 2.64 These scores are then weighted (multiplied either by 4, 3, 2 or 1) to reflect the importance of each factor for each type of open space. These weightings are derived from the findings of the consultation. Factors that are given higher weightings are perceived to be the most important and to have the largest impact on the quality of the site according to local residents. Factors with a higher weighting will therefore influence the total score more than those with lower weightings.
- 2.65 Full details of the linkages between the quality assessments and the site visits undertaken can be found in Appendix G.
- 2.66 Following the calculation of the total scores achieved during site visits, sites can then be benchmarked against each other. The application of the process for each typology can be found in typology specific sections 4 – 13.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.67 The application of the local standards enables the identification of deficiencies in terms of accessibility, quality and quantity and also enables analysis of the spatial distribution of unmet need.

- 2.68 Based on this analysis, strategic options can be devised considering space to be protected, existing provision to be enhanced, opportunities for relocation and proposals for new provision.
- 2.69 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology. An example is provided below:

PG1

Given the low number of sites within the District, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection from development.

- 2.70 The recommendations and key issues raised will inform the direction of the local development framework as well as other strategy documents across Staffordshire Moorlands.

Strategic context

- 3.1 This section reviews the strategic context and provides background on the national/regional picture relevant to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Whilst this review is not exhaustive it provides details on the context in which the findings of this study sit and all documents included influence the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the District.
- 3.2 As highlighted in section 2, this document follows the key principles of PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 reflects 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 D** sets out the national strategic context, including Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer Greener which was produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in 2002 and led to the creation of CABE 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”. This study takes into account the key principles and priorities that emerge from current national documents.
- 3.5 Local strategic documents specific to one typology have been reviewed within the individual typology sections and specific strategic objectives that link into this study have been highlighted. The key principles of these documents are also summarised later in this section.

Regional Policy Documents

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (formerly Regional Planning Guidance (RPG 11) June 2004

- 3.6 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) guides the preparation of local authority development plans and local transport plans to deliver a coherent framework for regional development.
- 3.7 The overall vision for the West Midlands is to be:
- “an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life for future generations”

3.8 The key challenges and outcomes for the region are highlighted as:

- providing opportunities for all to progress and improve their quality of life
- an advanced, thriving and diverse economy occupying a competitive position
- successful urban and rural renaissance
- diverse and distinctive cities, towns, sub-regions and communities
- recognition for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment
- an efficient network of integrated sustainable transport facilities and services
- partnership working for a commonly agreed sustainable future.

3.9 Policies contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy of specific relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:

- **Policy QE1** - Environmental improvement is a key component of the Spatial Strategy in order to underpin the overall quality of life of all areas and support wider economic and social objectives
- **Policy QE4** - local authorities and other agencies should ***undertake assessments of local need and audits of provision***, and develop appropriate strategies for greenspace to ensure that there is adequate provision of accessible, high quality urban greenspace with an emphasis on:
 - i) significantly improve the overall quality of public space, especially in city centres
 - ii) enhancing the setting of local residential neighbourhoods in built up areas
 - iii) increasing the overall stock of urban trees
 - iv) improved accessibility and community safety
 - v) maintaining and enhancing sports, playing fields and recreation grounds.
- **Policy T3** - Development plans and local transport plans should provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling by:
 - i) developing safe, secure, direct, convenient and attractive networks which connect town centres, local facilities, educational premises, public transport interchanges, residential and employment areas
 - ii) giving pedestrians and cyclists priority in residential areas and town centres
 - iii) providing links between smaller settlements and centres and development of greenways and quiet roads
 - v) making the most effective use of canal towpaths

- vi) expanding 'cycle & ride' and cycle carriage on public transport
- vii) ensuring that new developments and infrastructure proposals improve walking and cycling access.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands – Phase 2 Revision

- 3.10 When the Secretary of State published the Regional Spatial Strategy in 2004, he recognised that, in some instances, more work was required to develop the strategy further. Phase 2 revisions to the 2004 Regional Spatial Strategy relate to housing, employment, transport and waste.
- 3.11 For Staffordshire Moorlands the proposed housing requirement is 6,000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026. This is equivalent to an annual development rate of 300 dwellings per annum.
- 3.12 Once finalised, the scale and location of house building across Staffordshire Moorlands will impact on the demand for open space, as well as impacting on amount of pressure on existing open space from development.
- 3.13 The RSS Preferred Option identifies a network of strategic town and city centres across the Region which will be the preferred location for major retail developments, uses which attract large numbers of people including major cultural, indoor sport, tourist, social, leisure and community venues and large scale office developments. None of the town centres in Staffordshire Moorlands are identified as strategic centres but the larger centres of population are considered to be 'non-strategic centres'.
- 3.14 One of the greatest challenges the Council faces is ensuring that the quality of life for existing and new communities in the area is improved. Fundamental to achieving this is the need to enhance existing infrastructure, including open space, sport and recreation infrastructure to support the scale of growth proposed.
- 3.15 The RSS seeks to improve access within and across the Region in a way that supports the Spatial Strategy, reduces the need for travel, expands travel choice, tackles congestion, improves safety and protects the environment. There will be an emphasis on improved accessibility and mobility in market towns and rural areas so that more sustainable means of travel are encouraged and local regeneration initiatives are supported.
- 3.16 The implications of population growth on the open space, sport and recreation network in Staffordshire Moorlands are highlighted throughout this report.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands – Phase 3 Revision

- 3.17 Phase 3 revisions look at critical rural services, recreational provision, regionally significant environmental issues and the development of a framework for provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Council should use the findings of this study to influence their involvement in the phase 3 revisions regarding recreation provision.

Sign Up For Sport: A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands 2004-2008, Sport England

- 3.18 Sport England as the national agency driving sports development, takes a strategic lead on the provision of sport.

3.19 Sign Up For Sport is a plan for sport and physical activity in the region. Its formulation has involved national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors that fully understand the strategic issues and local needs of the region. It has been facilitated by Sport England under the guidance of the new West Midlands Sports Board.

3.20 The aim of the plan is:

”to significantly increase participation in sport within all age and social groups, leading to improvements in health and other social and economic benefits and providing the basis for progression into higher levels of performance for those with talent and the desire to progress”.

3.21 The plan has seven main outcomes:

- increase participation in club and community sport
- improve levels of sport performance
- widen access to sport
- improve the health and well being of people through sport
- create safer and stronger communities through sport
- improve education through PE and sport
- benefit the economy through sport.

The West Midlands Regional Sports Strategy

3.22 The Regional Facilities Framework identifies the priorities for the future investment in sport and active recreation facilities. It considers the period up to 2021 and assesses the impact of population change, and the facility requirements that will be needed if the targets for participation in sport and active recreation are to be met and support is to be given to the highest levels of elite sport.

3.23 The vision for the strategy builds upon ‘Sign up for Sport’ and states that:

“By 2021 the West Midlands will have active healthy people enjoying a range of sport and recreation opportunities, in high quality facilities, in a high quality environment. People take part in activity from their earliest years right through to very old age, and have the opportunities to excel in which ever sport they choose. The facilities providing for sport and active recreation are good quality and well maintained, with a range of providers involved. Everyone having access to at least three quality assured facilities within 20 minutes travel from their home, which in rural areas may be by car.”

3.24 The framework sets out a series of key priorities for the region. None of these relate specifically to Staffordshire Moorlands. The report also considers the key issues for the Staffordshire Community Sports Partnership (CSP), of which Staffordshire

Moorlands is a key partner. Key issues highlighted for Staffordshire Moorlands include:

- there is general concern over the ageing facility stock in Staffordshire
- the strategy suggests that a proportion of the existing cinder athletics tracks should be upgraded to synthetic tracks
- new provision of health and fitness facilities may be required in the more rural areas of the CSP – this may include Staffordshire Moorlands
- provision of additional synthetic turf pitches are considered to be priority in Staffordshire Moorlands
- provision of new indoor bowling facilities should be considered in light of the ageing population in the area – at least one of these facilities should be provided in Stoke, which would also serve residents of Staffordshire Moorlands.

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Sports Facilities Framework 2009 - 2021

- 3.25 The framework provides a strategic link between the West Midlands Regional Facilities Strategy and existing/emerging strategies from local authorities in Staffordshire.
- 3.26 The framework prioritises investment for sports facilities across the sub region. The framework states that new provision should:
- meet identified needs of community provision
 - provide for forecast populations
 - provide sufficient facilities to enable a 1% per annum growth in population
 - support national governing body aspirations
 - build on existing club networks and encourage multi sport facilities
 - take account of equity
 - prioritise the most popular sports
 - be cost effective
 - be opportunistic.
- 3.27 The key issues identified for Staffordshire Moorlands are:
- Birchall Playing Fields is part of a major sports redevelopment project in Leek
 - Thorley Drive Playing Fields is a £1.2 - £1.4 million pound project linked to South Moorlands Leisure Centre.
- 3.28 The framework states that full sized 3G pitches should be a priority for Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically within Leek and possible Cheadle.

Local strategic documents

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

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

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	<p>The plan sets out all the policies and development proposals for the area. The following policies related to this open space, sport and recreation assessment have been saved until the Local Development Framework has been adopted.</p> <p>Chapter two of the plan relates to the natural environment. Policy N1 focuses on the protection of the natural environment and states that the open countryside in the plan area and its cultural heritage will be strictly protected.</p> <p>Policy N2 protects the Green Belt from development identifying that, except in special circumstances, the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development. Key developments that may be permitted include if the development is for the purposes of essential facilities for outdoor sports and outdoor recreation (provided that the scale of the development is appropriate to the scale of the Green Belt) and cemeteries and other uses of land that preserve the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Policy N3 permits development in a number of villages currently containing a large amount of the Green Belt. However, development will only be allowed if it does not cause loss of local amenity space.</p> <p>Policy N7 states that development that will harm the visual amenity of the Green Belt will not be permitted in locations that are within or visually conspicuous from the Green Belt.</p> <p>Policy N8 protects the special landscape area from development that will have an adverse effect on the high quality landscape. Policy N9 further states that high standards of design for development in these areas will be required.</p> <p>Policy N11 relates to the Peak District National Park and states that proposals for development in this area will need to ensure that the visual amenities of the land are not adversely affected to the detriment of the National Park.</p> <p>Policies N13, N14 and N15 protect SSSIs, Nature Reserves and sites of biological or regional importance from development, unless there are reasons that outweigh the need to safeguard the value of these sites.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan.</p> <p>The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.</p>

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>Chapter eight of the strategy relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy R2 states that in areas deficient in open space, new residential developments will be required to make provision for open space in relation to the standards within Policy R1.</p>	

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (September 2007)</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is a strategic plan that will influence how and where Staffordshire Moorlands will develop in the future.</p> <p>The strategy will set a framework for the future spatial development of the District in terms of economic contribution, natural and built heritage and distinctive character.</p> <p>The future key challenges facing the District of relevance to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting the requirements of housing and employment provision • ensuring accessibility to services and determining the best pattern of provision and distribution of development across the District • adapting to changes in population structure, particularly the rising elderly population • improving the market towns, addressing qualitative deficiencies and regenerating underused or poor quality areas • tackling social exclusion and a lack of access to facilities in the rural areas of the District • continuing to protect, manage and enhance the countryside and areas/features of value within built and natural environment • accommodating development in a sustainable way which minimises the impact in the environment, makes places safer and healthier and promotes high quality design • addressing transport – ensuring maximum accessibility to development sites and allowing for alternative modes of travel. <p>The spatial objectives of importance to this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the long-term vitality and viability of the three market towns • to maintain and promote sustainable rural settlements with access to services for all • to support and enhance recreation and cultural assets throughout the 	<p>The key findings of this open space, sport and recreation assessment will guide and provide the evidence for the policies that will be included within the core strategy.</p> <p>The information collected will also inform decision making based on the policies set.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to protect and improve the countryside and diversity of wildlife and habitats• to deliver sustainable, inclusive, healthy and safe communities• to reduce the need to travel and make it easier to travel to key services by more sustainable forms of transport. <p>A significant amount of consultation was undertaken as part of the Issues and Options assessment for the core strategy. The key findings of this consultation will inform and guide the preparation of the core strategy and have also informed the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment.</p>	

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (September 2006)	<p>The document sets out how all groups, organisations and people will be involved in the production of LDDs and planning applications.</p> <p>it aims to ensure that local groups, organisations and the public are involved in the planning process and preparation of Local Development Documents (LDDs).</p>	The SCI was considered during the preparation of this sport and recreation assessment and all relevant groups were provided with the opportunity to contribute.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	<p>Chapter five of the SPG sets out the Council's policies with regards the provision of public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to contribute towards the provision of open space where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)	<p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>
Biddulph Town Centre	The Action Plan states that the vision for Biddulph town centre is, "...a sustainable mix of retail, service community and residential uses and improved	The key priorities of the AAP will inform the findings of this open space,

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Area Action Plan (AAP)	<p>local employment opportunities. A high quality, well designed, safe and integrated centre, accessible by a choice of transport modes”.</p> <p>The objectives of the action plan of relevance to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sustainable mix of retail, service community and residential uses • a high quality, well designed, safe and integrated centre • a centre accessible by choice of transport modes • a locally distinctive town centre where environmental and heritage assets are maximised. <p>Policy STRAT5 relates to developer contributions and states that new developments within the town centre will contribute to towards the cost of delivering public infrastructure and public art in the town centre.</p> <p>Chapter seven of the document refers to transport policies and Policy T2 outlines a number of cycle routes that will be implemented in partnership with the County Council.</p> <p>Policy T3 identifies that cycle parking facilities should be located near to the bus facilities, as part of the transport interchange.</p>	<p>sport and recreation assessment. This study will also provide further evidence and guidance on the local needs within Biddulph, which will help to inform the delivery of the AAP.</p>
Corporate Plan 2007 -2011	<p>The vision of the plan is, “achieving excellence in the delivery of high quality services that meet the needs and aspirations of our communities”.</p> <p>The outcomes of the plan of relevance to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved community safety • improved health • protection of the environment. 	<p>Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the key objectives of the corporate plan.</p>
Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2020	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “by 2020 Staffordshire Moorlands will be recognised as a vital part of a regenerated North Staffordshire sub-region. All our communities will enjoy an excellent quality of life, including access to affordable housing and excellent public services...Our natural environment will</p>	<p>Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>be protected and our carbon emissions reduced”.</p> <p>The five outcomes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children, young people and their families will report that Staffordshire Moorlands is a great place to live, play, learn and achieve in, a place where they feel safe and can lead healthy lives, a place that they feel offers good employment and housing opportunities • communities will be safer and will feel safe at all times. They will feel a strong sense of community and the ability to influence those things that affect community life. They will be experiencing improved health and well being, and know that they receive high quality public services • older people in Staffordshire Moorlands will feel confident about the future, reporting that they are effectively supported to retain their independence and general quality of life, and that they are able to participate fully in community life • the people and businesses of Staffordshire Moorlands feel confident about the future, recognising the District as a unique and successful part of a growing North Staffordshire economy with diverse, accessible and high quality work opportunities within easy travelling distance. They will welcome and feel able to take advantage of a wide range of learning opportunities to develop high levels of skill • communities, businesses and public agencies in Staffordshire Moorlands will have significantly reduced carbon emissions. The built and natural environment will have been protected, public open spaces improved and biodiversity enhanced. 	<p>of the community strategy.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Local Cultural Strategy 2003 -2008	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “to ensure that culture and creativity have a central role in forging the District’s future and that all aspects of Staffordshire Moorlands’ cultural life are celebrated”.</p> <p>The six priorities of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • widening access and participation • conserving and enhancing heritage and environment • maximising the role of culture in social regeneration and inclusion • inspiring local pride and confidence • provision for lifelong learning • economic regeneration. 	<p>Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the key objectives of the cultural strategy. Appropriate provision of open spaces will drive increased participation in a wider range of activities.</p>
Sports Strategy 2003 – 2007	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “to develop partnerships that create and sustain quality sporting opportunities for people to participate at a level of their choice”.</p> <p>The strategic priorities of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase opportunities for target groups • to concentrate development on priority and focus sports • to develop opportunities for clubs, coaches and volunteers • to develop opportunities for progression in sport by creating pathways • to strive to improve sports facilities within the Moorlands • to raise the profile of sport • to encourage opportunities for the development of sport in education. 	<p>This assessment will provide an understanding of the existing provision of sport and recreation facilities and will highlight where new facilities may be required to meet demand. It will therefore provide a starting point for an update of the sports strategy and will link with the recently completed sport and physical activity strategy.</p>
Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”.</p>	<p>This assessment will facilitate the improvement of existing parks and green spaces through the planning</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The objectives of the strategy of relevance to this study are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to meet quality of life, quality of environment, health, economic prosperity and community safety objectives • to ensure a coherent approach to the management and promotion of the available assets in support of these objectives • to provide and promote informal recreational access opportunities for all • to conserve and enhance ecology, biodiversity and geological diversity • to protect the countryside • to conserve, enhance and restore landscape features of the countryside • to maximise the sustainability of services we provide • to inform work through appropriate consultation with relevant interest groups • to use resources wisely and aim for excellence. <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained • principles of sustainability are applied 	<p>system as well as providing baseline information for the development of an updated parks and countryside strategy. The key priorities of the existing parks and countryside service strategy will inform the key priorities derived from this study.</p> <p>This assessment will also consider the links between local parks and open spaces and the countryside.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• natural and cultural heritage is conserved• local communities are informed and involved• facilities are properly marketed and publicised. <p>The strategy aims to develop and promote recreational access to the countryside providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• opportunity• partnership• protection• sustainability• responsibility• information• equal opportunity• responsibility• enhanced enjoyment.	

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Staffordshire	<p>The plan establishes a framework for the managing the rights of way network over the next 10 years and sets out priorities for future improvement.</p> <p>The five key themes of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a better signed, maintained and accessible path network – focuses on what needs to be done to encourage greater use and better quality public access • a more connected and safer network – addresses safety concerns of users and the shortfall in access provision for horseriders and cyclists • encouraging greater community involvement • protecting the path network – focuses on what should be done to protect the network from future built development • encouraging greater use of the network – understanding the benefits associated with outdoor recreation. It embraces the role that public access can play in delivering a number of health, economic and sustainable health objectives. 	<p>The Public Rights of Way plan will inform the development of this study. The priorities set out in the Improvement Plan will be reflected in this study, facilitating the implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan through the planning system.</p>
Playing Pitch Assessment Staffordshire Moorlands Assessment Report July 2002	<p>The aim of the strategy is by 2018 that the Council will provide and have assisted in the provision of an appropriate distribution and range of quality playing pitches that will sustain a growing sporting community and provide opportunities for increased participation.</p> <p>The eight objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the quality and capacity of existing outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of governing bodies, sports leagues, sports clubs and the Council • maintain and increase the quantity of outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs of local sports clubs and users 	<p>The key issues emerging from the playing pitch strategy will inform the priorities for outdoor sports facilities and the local standards set. The information collected as part of this assessment will also facilitate updates to the Playing Pitch Strategy.</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve accessibility to existing sports facilities and opportunities for local sports clubs and users • provide useable, accessible and viable outdoor sports facilities • improve the health and wellbeing of residents by providing high quality opportunities for sporting activities • support the development of local sports clubs • designate and develop 'community sports parks' on existing parks, recreation grounds, open spaces and school playing fields • ensure an appropriate distribution of good quality playing pitches and associated facilities to ensure all schools are able to deliver physical education and extra curricular games provision. <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy for Staffordshire Moorlands identifies latent/future demand for sports pitches in the area. The future requirements for the District are split into four areas: Biddulph, Cheadle, Leek and the Rural Area. The key issues arising for each area are derived from the application of a local standard developed as part of the study and include:</p> <p>Biddulph</p> <p>Based on the playing pitch local standard of 1.43 ha per 1000 population there is a requirement for an additional 8.82 ha of playing pitch space (0.41 ha per 1000).</p> <p>Improvements are required to 10.81 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>The future demand in Biddulph is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 senior football pitches 	

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 junior football pitches • 6 mini soccer pitches • 6 netball courts. <p>Cheadle</p> <p>Based on the playing pitch local standard of 1.83 ha per 1000 population there is a requirement for an additional 7.83 ha of playing pitch space (0.28 ha per 1000).</p> <p>Improvements are required to 21.24 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>The future demand in Cheadle is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 senior football pitches • 3 junior football pitches • 4 mini soccer pitches • 6 netball courts. <p>Leek</p> <p>Based on the playing pitch local standard of 2.10 ha per 1000 population there is a requirement for an additional 13.07 ha of playing pitch space (0.32 ha per 1000).</p> <p>Improvements are required to 27.92 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>The future demand in Leek is for:</p>	

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Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 senior football pitches • 3 junior football pitches • 4 mini soccer pitches • 1 senior rugby pitch • 1 Astro Turf Pitch • 2 tennis courts. <p>Rural Area</p> <p>Based on the playing pitch local standard of 3.49 ha per 1000 population there is a requirement for an additional 3.64 ha of playing pitch space (0.91 ha per 1000).</p> <p>Improvements are required to 61.09 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>The future demand in the Rural Area is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 senior football pitches • 1 junior football pitches • 4 mini soccer pitches. 	
<p>Staffordshire Children and Young People's plan 2007 – 2010</p>	<p>The vision of the strategy is, "children, young people and families experience Staffordshire as a great place to live, learn and achieve in and they will be supported to be healthy and safe from harm".</p> <p>The five key themes of the strategy are:</p>	<p>The provision of appropriate open space, sport and recreation facilities will contribute to the achievement of the goals of this strategy. In particular, the evaluation of provision for children and young people will contribute to the</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• being healthy• staying safe• enjoying and achieving• making a positive contribution• achieving economic wellbeing.	objectives set out in the vision.

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Play Strategy 2007 - 2012</p>	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “working through the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Partnership to ensure all children in the District have access to high quality, inclusive play opportunities”.</p> <p>The aims of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a range of high quality informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District’s children and young people • provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills • ensure inclusive play opportunities are provided where needed to facilitate the provision of high quality, accessible facilities • ensure play opportunities meet demand, encourage participation and enable children to engage in play and recreational activities • ensure provision is effectively planned and co-ordinated • ensure the strategy supports the aims of relevant national, regional and local strategies. <p>The objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide evidence of the need for play opportunities and facilities, identifying shortfalls and surpluses in provision to enable an informed approach in the future • analyse future provision and establish future policy of children’s play provision within the District • provide an action plan detailing the outcomes for the next five years 	<p>This assessment takes into account the key findings of the Play Strategy and facilitates the delivery of the objectives and targets of strategy through the planning system.</p>
<p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment</p>	<p>help identify a portfolio of projects to be submitted for funding to the BIG Lottery Children’s Play Programme.</p> <p>The five key themes of the strategy are based upon the Staffordshire Children and Young People’s plan, specifically:</p>	<p>Page 39</p>

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
A Healthy Future: A five year strategy for improving health and healthcare services for the people served by North Staffordshire PCT 2007/08 – 2012/13	<p>The aim of the strategy is to create a healthcare system that engages with users and focuses on achieving good results.</p> <p>Of the five strategic themes of the strategy, those of relevance to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staying healthy • reducing health inequalities. 	Open spaces provide alternative opportunities for residents to participate in sport and recreation. The wider benefits derived from the appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities will contribute to the achievement of the goals of this strategy.
Health Inequalities Action Plan 2007 – 2010	<p>The plan identifies that within Staffordshire Moorlands there are three areas of deprivation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biddulph East • Haregate, Leek • Hammersley Hayes, Cheadle. <p>The four overarching priorities for the Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the number of people who smoke • reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition • increasing exercise • improving mental health. 	Open spaces provide alternative opportunities for residents to participate in sport and recreation. The wider benefits derived from the appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the identified areas of deprivation will contribute to health improvements of local residents.

Summary and conclusions

- 3.30 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. Any development of open spaces (ie provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.31 The effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities offers multiple benefits to local residents. As well as providing a visual amenity, open spaces can also be central to the local community and provide an alternative opportunity to participate in physical activity. The provision of open spaces can therefore contribute towards the achievement of regional and local priorities.
- 3.32 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. The importance of enhancing biodiversity across the region as well as maintaining and improving the green network is a key feature of many regional strategies.
- 3.33 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in Staffordshire Moorlands include:
- improvements and continuing enhancement of the local environment are an important feature of the region, providing a tool to achieve many wide-ranging issues impacting on health levels as well as increasing the well-being of residents, workers and visitors
 - housing developments and geographical allocations driven by national planning policies, and employment land allocations will have a direct impact on open space, sport and recreation provision and sustainability. Population growth will place increasing demands on existing open spaces as well as generating higher needs for recreational open space provision
 - the increased focus on improving the health of local residents will raise the profile of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Open space can provide alternative opportunities for physical activity.
- 3.34 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within Staffordshire Moorlands. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.

Parks and gardens

Introduction and definition

- 4.1 This type of open space (as defined by PPG17) includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events. Only sites falling within settlement boundaries are included.
- 4.2 Parks often contain a variety of facilities and amenities, including some that fall within different classifications of open space, eg children's play facilities, sport pitches and wildlife areas. For classification purposes, the different open spaces within parks have been separated according to the PPG17 typology under which they most appropriately fall. Large green areas, footpaths, lakes and less dense woodland will provide the park area (total hectares) and the other facilities will be calculated separately under their own classification. This ensures that open space sites are not counted twice within the PPG17 assessment.
- 4.3 Parks provide a sense of place for the local community and help to address social inclusion issues within wider society. According to the Park Life Report (published June 2007), 83% of those questioned feel that parks are a focal point of community life. Parks also provide an important recreational resource, and many residents enjoy visiting parks to walk or to undertake more physical exercise. The Active People survey (Sport England 2007) reveals that walking is the most popular recreational activity for people in England. Over 8 million adults aged 16 and over completed a recreational walk for at least 30 minutes in the last four weeks. Provision of parks therefore represents a key opportunity to increase levels of physical activity across the local population. Increasing levels of physical activity is a key priority of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and will have a far reaching impact on a series of wider objectives.
- 4.4 In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by parks, these large green spaces provide structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding local area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas. The provision of parks to break up urban landscapes is becoming increasingly important, particularly in light of growing fears regarding climate change. Appropriate provision of green space can contribute to a reduction of the impact of climate change.
- 4.5 For the purpose of this study, parks and gardens have been divided into two hierarchies: formal parks and country parks. It is important to consider each hierarchy separately and in context with one another. Both types of parks will be discussed later in this section.
- 4.6 Formal parks are located within the settlements and are extensively managed and maintained. They may contain formal flower beds and a vast array of facilities and landscaping.
- 4.7 Country parks are larger sites often located outside of settlement boundaries. offer a less structured environment and act as a gateway to the wider countryside.

Strategic context

- 4.8 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?
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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 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.

- 4.11 It is clear that the benefits that the provision of parks can offer are now recognised on a national scale. There are also a number of regional and local documents that refer to the importance of parks and gardens. The key issues arising from these documents and the links with this study are set out in 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
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.	This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan. The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	<p>Chapter five of the SPG sets out guidance on the implementation of public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards suggest there is a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to contribute to open space provision where it can shown to be necessary. The requirements will be related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on site• on other land in the vicinity owned by them• by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

SECTION 4 - PARKS AND GARDENS

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)	<p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, developers of new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

SECTION 4 - PARKS AND GARDENS

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they are welcoming• healthy, safe and secure• clean and well maintained.	<p>This assessment will facilitate the improvement of existing parks and green spaces through the planning system as well as providing baseline information for the development of an updated parks and countryside strategy. The key priorities of the existing parks and countryside service strategy will inform the key priorities derived from this study.</p> <p>This assessment will also consider the links between local parks and open spaces and the countryside.</p>

Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

4.12 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that

- Formal parks are highly valued across the District, with many residents identifying them as a vital feature of the community. The wide range of facilities available at this typology perceived to provide excellent recreational opportunities
- the importance of country parks was also recognised, with many residents reinforcing the natural value of these sites. Country parks, such as Biddulph Grange Country Park, were identified as excellent open spaces for walking in Staffordshire Moorlands.
- over 15 % of respondents to the household survey visit country parks at least once a week and almost 17% of residents use a formal park at least once a week. This makes parks one of the most popular types of open space in the District.

Current Position – Quantity

- 4.13 The District Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the key country parks and formal parks across the District. There are three country parks, specifically Greenway Bank, Biddulph Grange (both near Biddulph) and Ladderedge Country Park near Leek. Biddulph Grange is part of the National Trust Estate although there is free access to the site. In addition, there are five formal parks, the majority of which are located in Leek.
- 4.14 The network of formal and country parks is supplemented by a series of natural sites and the accessible countryside. These sites have a similar function to the country parks.
- 4.15 The quantity of parks and gardens across Staffordshire Moorlands is summarised in Tables 4.2 and 4.3.

Table 4.2 – Provision of formal parks across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	0.00	0	-	-	20,185	0.00
Cheadle	1.77	1	-	1.77	12,586	0.14
Leek	17.94	4	0.34	15.69	20,566	0.87
Rural	0.00	0	-	-	39,246	0.00
Overall	20.18	5	0.34	15.69	92,583	0.21

4.16 The key issues emerging from Table 4.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of formal parks across the District include:

- 53% of residents stated that the provision of formal parks in the District is sufficient. However, a substantial amount (29%) also felt there are insufficient formal parks
- analysis of the location of formal parks shows that the distribution is uneven – with four of the five parks situated in Leek, equating to 17.94 hectares. Not surprisingly, this is supported by high levels of satisfaction, with 45% of residents in this area indicating that provision is sufficient
- within the Cheadle area almost half of the respondents indicated provision was insufficient. There is only one formal park in Cheadle, equating to 0.14 ha per 1000 population.
- residents a drop in sessions expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of a formal park within Biddulph Town
- the highest level of satisfaction can be found in rural settlements – where 67% of residents feel that the overall level of provision is sufficient although none of the settlements contain formal parks. This suggests that there is little expectation that formal provision will be provided within these areas.

Table 4.3 – Provision of country parks across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	60.79	2	4.83	55.96	20,185	3.2970
Cheadle	0.00	0	-	-	12,586	0.0000
Leek	28.34	1	-	28.34	20,566	1.3780
Rural	0.00	0	-	-	39,246	0.0000
Overall	89.13	3	4.83	55.96	92,583	0.9627

Table 4.3 above and the consultations relating to country parks demonstrate that:

- there is an overall level of satisfaction with the quantity of country parks in the District - 67% of respondents to the household survey perceived the quantity be sufficient. 28% of respondents stated that there is insufficient provision – this may relate to the distribution of sites
- within the individual settlement areas a similar perception was portrayed, with the exception of the Leek analysis area, where the 47% of respondents indicated that provision was insufficient. Although there is a good level of provision in this area (28.34 hectares per 1000), the site is of lower quality and offers less than the equivalent provision in Biddulph – this may influence local perceptions.
- the greatest level of provision per 1000 population can be found in the Biddulph area (3.30 ha per 1000).

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 4.17 The recommended local quantity standards for formal parks and country parks have been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and summarised below. Full justifications for the standards are provided within Appendix F.
- 4.18 In line with consultation, the standard for country parks is set at the existing level of provision, reflecting the overall satisfaction with provision. The standard for formal parks represents an increase on the existing level of provision.

Quantity Standard – Formal parks (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
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0.22 ha per 1000 population	0.23 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The value of formal parks to local residents was reinforced throughout consultation, with many residents emphasising the wide range of facilities these open spaces offer. The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the provision of formal parks to be sufficient (49%). Despite this, other consultations identified areas of perceived deficiency.</p> <p>Findings from local consultation place a greater emphasis on improving the quality, rather than quantity of formal parks. In light of the emphasis on quality, and the areas of deficiency raised, the local standard has been set marginally above the existing level of provision, putting an emphasis on qualitative improvements and the protection of existing spaces as well as the creation of new sites where they are most needed. This standard will also enable the identification of any locational deficiencies and combined with the application of the accessibility standard, will enable the Council to ensure that residents have access to a formal park within the recommended distance of their homes.</p>	

Quantity Standard – Country parks (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.99 ha per 1000 population	0.99 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The general perception gathered from consultation is that the provision of country parks is sufficient. This perception is reflected across all analysis areas in the District and is reinforced by additional consultation findings.</p> <p>Throughout consultation there was a focus on the quality of country parks, with many quality issues raised by residents. A local standard set at the existing level of provision will protect the existing country parks as a valued local resource to the community and allow for qualitative enhancements to country parks across the District.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 4.19 The quality of existing formal parks and country parks in the District was assessed through site visits and is summarised in Tables 4.4 and 4.5. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 4.20 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation (as discussed in Section 2). Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of a park have been weighted higher. This ensures that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.
- 4.21 The Green Flag Award is a national standard for parks and greenspace. No parks in Staffordshire Moorlands have achieved this status. The key principles of the Green Flag award have been used to inform the matrix used during site visits.
- 4.22 Quality of parks emerged as being particularly important to local residents. The Council are increasingly encouraging attractive and creative management, to enhance the overall quality of the experience for users.

Table 4.4 – Quality of formal parks across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	0	-	-	-	-
Cheadle	1	-	70	-	Memorial Recreation Ground – ID 78
Leek	4	74-100	84	Pickwood Recreation Ground – ID 249	Brough Park – ID 220
Rural	0	-	-	-	-
Overall	5	70-100	81	Memorial Recreation Ground – ID 78	Brough Park – ID 220

4.23 The key issues emerging from Table 4.4 and the consultation relating to the quality of formal parks are:

- respondents to the household survey demonstrated a split in opinion regarding the quality of formal parks. 43% of respondents rated the quality of formal parks as average while 41% felt it to be good. This suggests overall, there is a positive perception of formal parks
- due to the small amount of formal park provision it is difficult to analyse the average quality score for the District. Site scores vary from 82% to 100%, with the highest scoring site being Brough Park in Leek. This indicates that the overall quality of formal parks is high, reinforcing the positive perception of residents.

- across the District similar results are portrayed. Despite a lack of provision, the highest level of satisfaction is found in Biddulph, where 46% of residents feel the quality of formal parks is good. It is likely that this positive perception is reflective of overlapping perceptions between the provision of formal and country parks
- site assessments reveal the average quality score of a formal park is 81%. This highlights the high quality of formal parks in the District
- Leek Brough Park achieved the highest quality score of all formal parks in the District (100%). This site is one of the highest quality open spaces in Staffordshire Moorlands
- the quality of maintenance at formal parks was rated as good by 48% of respondents to the household survey and a further 33% of residents perceived the quality of maintenance as average. Responses within the individual geographical areas were consistent with the overall findings
- despite positive perceptions from residents in the household survey, general comments from residents at drop in sessions, along with Parish Clerks indicated that while formal parks are seen to be well maintained, they are in need of investment to improve their quality and functionality
- safety concerns were a key issue raised by residents. Gangs of youths, vandalism and anti social behaviour at formal parks were identified as barriers to access. This conflicts with findings from the household survey, where safety was not perceived to be a major issue. Therefore it can be concluded that safety is a perceived barrier for non-users of formal parks
- there was generally a negative response to the quality of parks from the IT Young People survey. 50% of respondents felt that the quality of their formal parks was average and some improvements were needed with 34% suggesting formal parks are of poor quality and needed extensive improvements.

Table 4.5 – Quality of country parks across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	2	88	88	-	Biddulph Grange – ID 73
Cheadle	0	-	-	-	-
Leek	2	76	76	-	Ladderedge Country Park – ID 426
Rural	0	-	-	-	-
Overall	3	76-88	82		Biddulph Grange – ID 73

4.24 The key issues emerging from Table 4.5 and the consultation relating to the quality of country parks are:

- country parks were perceived to be of high quality by the majority of respondents to the household survey. 67% rated their quality as good and 27% average. This suggests an overall positive perception and is supported by the quality scores achieved. Biddulph Grange was identified as a high quality site.
- responses within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings. However, a significantly lower level of satisfaction is found in the Cheadle analysis area, where 45% of residents rate the quality of country parks as average – this is likely to be linked to the lack of provision in this area.

- residents in the Biddulph analysis area portrayed the greatest level of satisfaction with the quality of country parks, with 76% of residents rating the quality of this typology as good. The higher level of satisfaction indicated by respondents in the Biddulph analysis area for both formal parks and country parks suggests residents feel they have access to good quality parks in this area of the District. This is unsurprising, given the close proximity of residents to two country parks
- 58% of respondents to the household survey perceived the quality of maintenance at country parks as good. Only 8% of residents stated that the quality of maintenance was poor.
- general comments from residents highlighted country parks as being well maintained but in need of investment to improve their quality. Analysis of issues experienced by those responsible for the maintenance of these sites suggests that dog fouling is a problem (particularly in Leek).

Setting provision standards – quality

- 4.25 The recommended local quality standard for formal parks and country parks is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 4.26 The aspirations are derived directly from the findings of local consultations.

Quality standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – FORMAL PARKS		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Well kept grass	
Toilets	Footpaths	
Flowers and trees	Seating	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to formal parks, the relative importance of the key components is shown below. These scores have been used to weight the site assessments.		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	12%	3 (<i>Importance of consultation</i>)
Cleanliness and maintenance	47%	4
Vegetation	25%	2
Ancillary accommodation	19%	1

Quality standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – COUNTRY PARKS		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Parking facilities	
Nature features	Toilets	
Footpaths	Dog walking facilities	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to country parks, the relative importance of the key components is shown below. These scores have been used to weight the site assessments.		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	13%	3 (Importance of consultation)
Cleanliness and maintenance	38%	4
Vegetation	32%	2
Ancillary accommodation	19%	1

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 4.27 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 4.28 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits, where information and signage, transport and general access issues were assessed.
- 4.29 Consultation and analysis has shown that the key issues with regards accessibility are:
- there is a split in opinion regarding the most appropriate mode of travel to reach formal parks. 53% of users currently walk while 47% drive. The majority of respondents to the household survey would expect to drive to a formal park (49%), however 43% would prefer to walk
 - consultation highlights a clear preference in favour of driving to a country park, indicated by 70% of current users and 66% of expected users. This is reflective of the location of sites

- residents indicated a willingness to travel further to access a country park rather than a formal park and Parish Council respondents highlighted many people outside of the District boundary visit country parks. This indicates country parks are highly valuable open spaces to residents and visitors alike. Despite the emphasis on residents driving to country parks, there are significant opportunities to provide increased linkages to country parks, encouraging access by foot
- site assessments reveal access to formal parks is generally average. However, transport was perceived to be good.

4.30 The recommended local accessibility standard for formal parks and country parks is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. The standard reflects the difference in aspiration between residents in the urban and rural areas.

Accessibility Standard – formal parks (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
15 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN) 20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)
Justification
<p>Current travel patterns indicate an emphasis in favour of walking to formal parks. However, expected travel patterns indicated by respondents to the household survey highlight an expectation for driving. When considering the location of residents, a clear difference in the travel patterns between the urban and rural areas is evident. Residents in two of the three (Cheadle and Leek) urban areas indicate a preference for walking, therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set for the urban areas of the District.</p> <p>Responses from residents in Rural analysis area highlighted an acceptance of the need to travel by car to access park provision, with 66% of respondents stating they expect to travel by car. Based on this, a drive time has been set for the rural settlements of Staffordshire Moorlands. This means that formal parks will not be expected in each rural settlement.</p> <p>The standard for urban areas is therefore set at 15 minutes (720 metres) walk time to formal parks, based on the findings emerging from consultation.. This encompasses all areas and is representative of the viewpoint of residents of all areas (due to the number of responses this information can be said to be statistically robust). While the mode is 10 minutes, setting the standard at 15 minutes provides a more realistic target and is in line with the mean response as well as the second and third quartile figures.</p> <p>Given that formal parks tend to be larger strategic facilities offering a range of activities it would not be realistic to expect this type of facility within each village, therefore, a drive time of 20 minutes has been set for the rural areas. This is supported by the consultation undertaken in the rural area, where it can be seen that residents expect to travel by car, with the mean, 2nd and 3rd quartile being 20 minutes.</p> <p>Setting separate accessibility standards is reflective of the fact that further provision should be made within the urban areas that are currently outside of the proposed accessibility catchment due to the density of population in these areas. In order to achieve both accessibility standards for the urban and rural areas the Council should be pursuing improvements to the accessibility of these areas for rural residents (such as public transport networks etc) and adopting an approach that facilitates the usage of these areas and increases their value locally.</p> <p>Setting a standard at this level will enable the Council to strike a balance between quantitative improvements in areas with accessibility deficiencies and improving the quality of existing sites.</p>

Accessibility Standard – Country parks (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
22 MINUTE DRIVE TIME
Justification
<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of driving to country parks. Usage patterns indicate 70% of current users drive to country parks and 66% of respondents to the household survey expect to drive to this typology. In light of this, it is recommended a drive time is set.</p> <p>A local standard of a 22 minute drive time is recommended based upon the findings of the consultation and the third quartile response. This also links with the mean and supports other consultation findings. Although varying results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas, setting the standard at this level will provide a realistic challenge for the Council and allow a focus on enhancing the quality and increasing access to existing provision.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 4.31 The application of the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of parks and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 4.32 The application of the local quantity standard for each area is set out in Tables 4.6 and 4.7. The interrelationship between formal parks and country parks will be discussed later in this section.
- 4.33 As well as determining areas of surplus and deficiency, the application of the quantity standard will also guide expectations as to the minimum size of settlement where parks should be provided.

Table 4.6 – Application of quantity standard - formal parks

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.23 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.23 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	-4.49	-4.64
Cheadle	-1.03	-1.12
Leek	13.37	13.21
Rural	-8.70	-9.03
Overall	-0.85	-1.58

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

4.34 As can be seen in Table 4.6 above:

- overall, the current provision of formal parks is insufficient to meet the local standard. This deficiency will increase by 2026 when the overall deficiency will equate to -1.58 ha
- there are current and future deficiencies in all areas of the District with the exception of the Leek area (13.21 ha). This is unsurprising given that four of the five existing sites are located in this area
- the greatest under supply of formal parks is located in the rural settlements (-9.03 ha by 2026). Consideration will be given to the appropriateness of provision in these areas later in this section. In rural settlements, it is often necessary to exceed the minimum standard in order to provide local provision for residents.

Table 4.7 – Application of quantity standard - country parks

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.99 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.99 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	41.47	40.81
Cheadle	-12.04	-12.46
Leek	8.66	7.98
Rural	-37.45	-38.85
Overall	0.64	-2.53

4.35 Table 4.7 illustrates that:

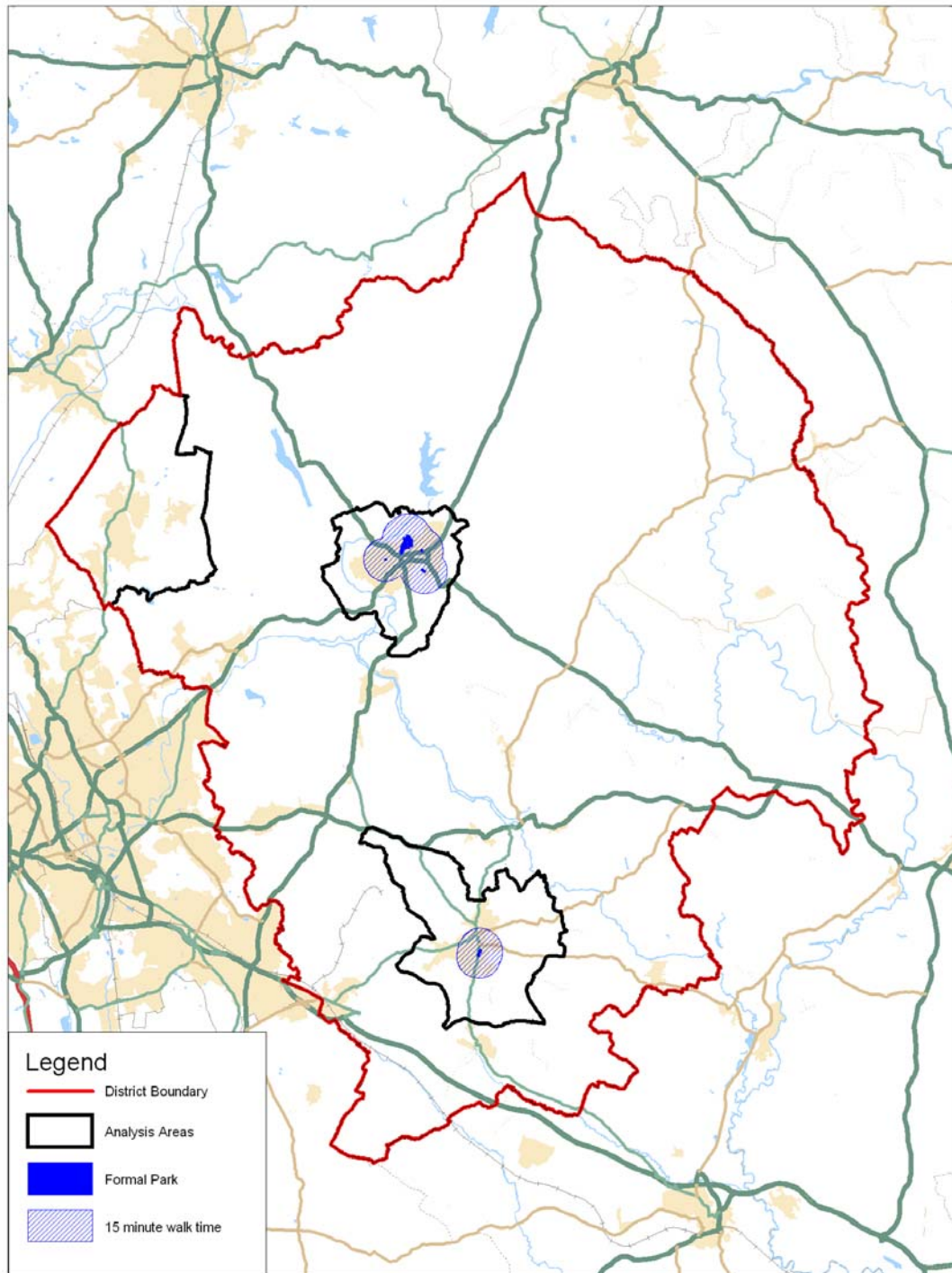
- overall, the provision of country parks is sufficient to meet current demand. Based on population projections for 2026, there will be a shortfall of 2.53 ha
- the Biddulph and Leek analysis areas have sufficient provision to meet current and future needs
- similar to the findings for formal parks, the largest current and future shortfall of country parks is located in the rural settlements (-38.85 ha by 2026).

4.36 In light of the wide catchment of formal and country parks, locational quantitative deficiencies should be treated as being of limited significance unless the deficiency is sufficiently large to justify the development of a new park. The overall shortfall of less than three hectares suggests that new provision is unlikely to be required.

4.37 It is also important to consider the interrelationship between formal and country parks.

4.38 The application of the local accessibility standards for formal parks and country parks is set out overleaf in Maps 4.1 – 4.3. Consideration is given to the distribution of both formal and country parks, as well as to the interrelationship between parks and amenity green spaces (Map 4.4).

Map 4.1 - Provision of formal parks in Staffordshire Moorlands (urban standard)



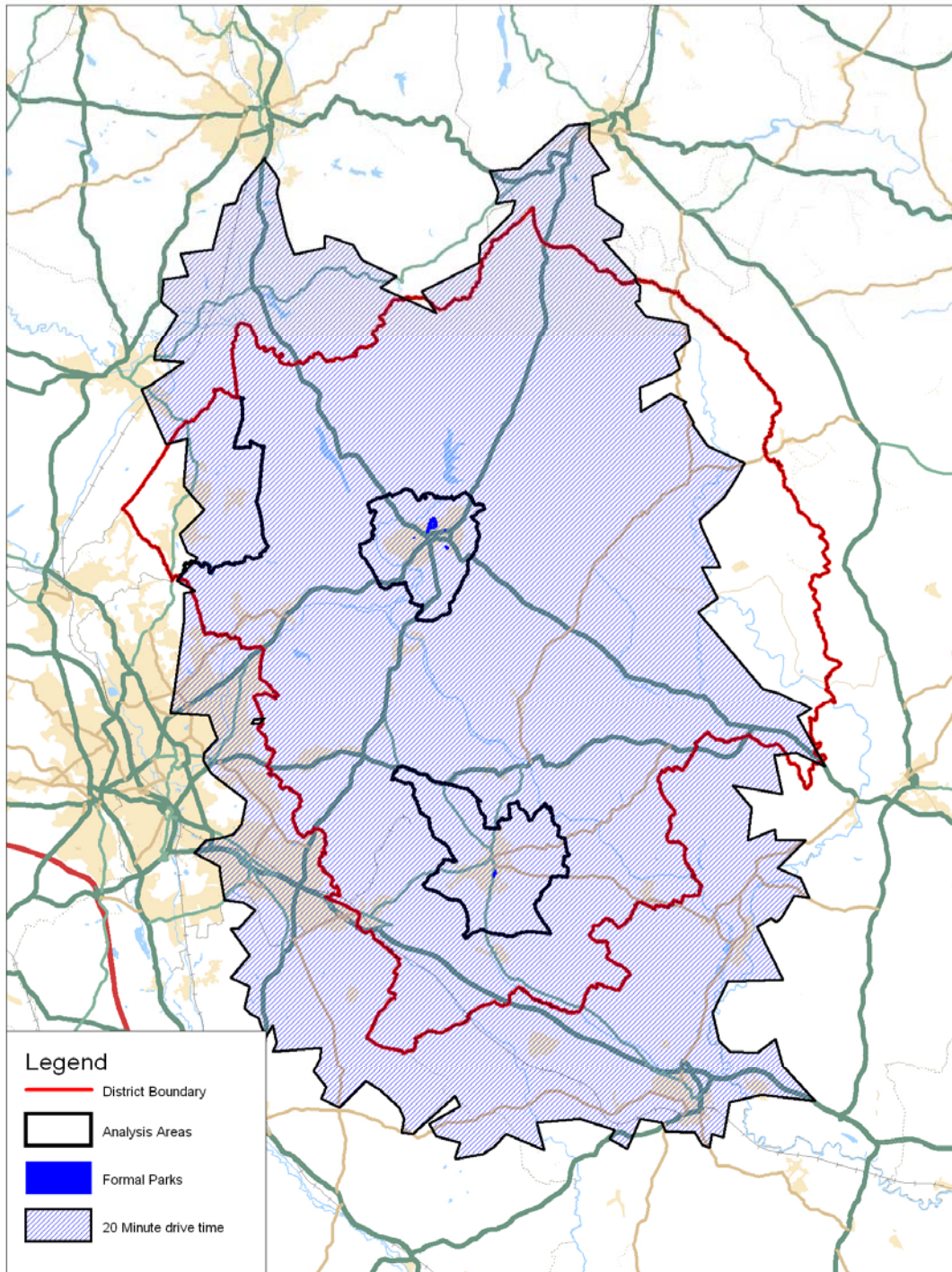
**Staffordshire Moorlands - Formal Parks
(urban standard)**

NORTH
Not to Scale



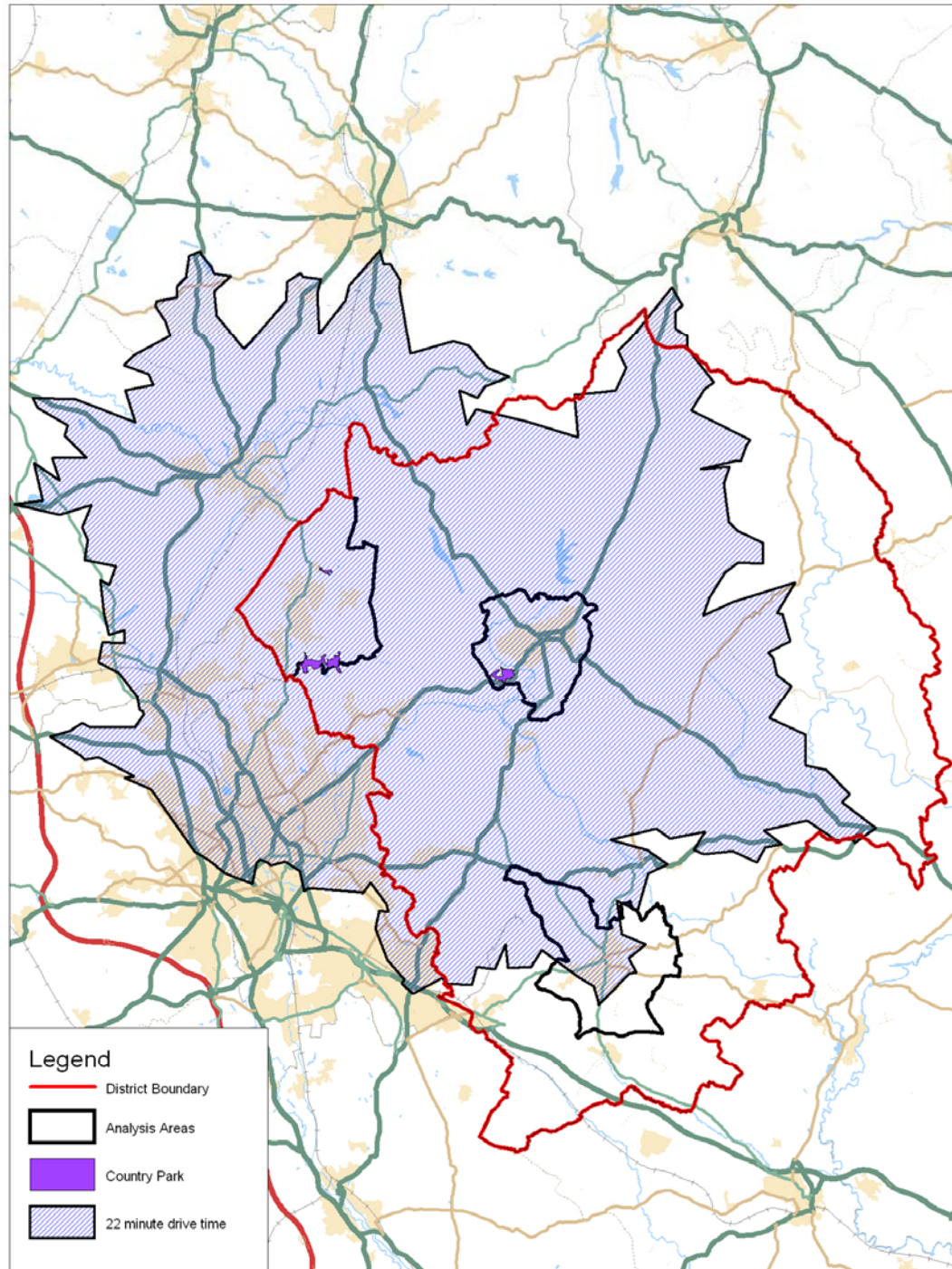
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Map 4.2 - Provision of formal parks in Staffordshire Moorlands (rural standard)



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Map 4.3 - Provision of country parks in Staffordshire Moorlands



Staffordshire Moorlands - Country Parks

NORTH
Not to Scale

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- 4.39 Map 4.3 indicates the majority of residents in Staffordshire Moorlands are within the recommend catchment of a country park. However, residents in a number of rural settlements, including Blythe Bridge, Upper and Lower Tean and Alton, do not have access to a country park within the recommended distance of their home.
- 4.40 As can be seen in Map 4.1, application of the local accessibility standard (for the urban area) highlights clear accessibility deficiencies in the Biddulph analysis area and to the north and west of Cheadle. These issues will be returned to later in this section.
- 4.41 When applying the local accessibility standard for formal parks in the rural settlements, Map 4.2 shows all residents have access to a formal park within the recommended 20 minute drive time.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 4.42 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where there is potential unmet demand we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard; and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Consideration should also be given to the quality of sites.
- 4.43 As highlighted, parks can play a key role in providing informal sport and recreation opportunities for local residents. Many residents who do not wish to participate in formal sports can participate in lighter physical activity in parks. There are many activities already underway across the Parks and Country Parks including the Walk Way to Health Scheme. Funding has recently been secured for a three year programme of walking events at parks. Events at parks can also be effective in promoting the usage of sites.

PG1	Maximise the role that parks can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the District by effectively promoting these opportunities. Continue to promote activities and alternative means of exercise at parks to maximise usage and work in tandem with Partners to provide a variety of opportunities.
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- 4.44 Additionally, a key objective of the Playing Pitch Strategy is to designate and develop 'community sports parks' on existing parks. Implementing this opportunity will contribute to increasing participation levels in Staffordshire Moorlands and will further increase the usage of parks across the District.

PG2	Seek to designate and develop 'community sports parks', as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy, to provide enhanced sport and recreation opportunities to local residents
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- 4.45 While the value of parks and the wider benefits that can stem from the provision of parks are clear, if the above targets are to be successful, it is essential that facilities are of appropriate quality and that the distribution of facilities is sufficient to provide all residents with opportunities.
- 4.46 The aim of the Parks and Countryside Service Strategy is to provide high quality parks and the strategy identifies a number of areas for development. As highlighted, consultation highlighted as part of this study reinforced the importance of the quality of facilities and highlighted that improved maintenance was particularly important. Consultees indicated that an injection of investment was required to ensure that parks of the required standard are provided. The importance of the perception of safety at sites was also raised. These issues related to both the provision of formal and country parks.

PG3	<p>Seek to develop and enhance existing parks to ensure that they meet both local and regional needs.</p> <p>Drive a structured programme of improvements with clear defined outputs.</p> <p>This may include the production of parks management plans and an updated strategy.</p> <p>Strive to achieve the recommended quality vision at all sites across the District.</p>
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- 4.47 In order to achieve parks of a high quality, it will be essential that partnership working continues. There are four active Friends Groups in the District who continue to offer help and support on specific sites.
- 4.48 While there is a focus on the quality of parks and ensuring that the wider opportunities these sites offer are maximised, the application of the accessibility and quantity standards highlight some issues with the distribution of existing provision.
- 4.49 When combining the provision of formal parks and country parks, all residents have access to at least one of these types of open space within the recommended accessibility standard. Parks are highly valued by residents in Staffordshire Moorlands and are one of the most frequently used open spaces in the District. The protection of existing parks should therefore be a priority.

PG4	<p>Given the low number of sites within the District and the presence of some areas of deficiency, all parks should be afforded protection through the inclusion of appropriate policies in the Local Development Framework.</p>
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Country Parks

- 4.50 The recommended quantity standard for country parks has been set at the existing level of provision. While application of the quantity standard for country parks indicates that there is a small deficiency in provision, this would be insufficient to warrant the creation of an additional park.
- 4.51 Supporting this, accessibility mapping suggests the majority of residents in the District have access to a country park within the recommended 22 minute drive time. Only residents in some southern rural settlements do not have access to a country park. However, it is acknowledged that Park Hall Country Park in Stoke-on-Trent is within the drive time catchment of many residents in the south west of the District. This site will serve a number of residents in the rural settlements.
- 4.52 This reinforces the focus on improving the quality of provision.
- 4.53 Country parks provide a gateway to the countryside and access to these sites is a key issue for residents. While all residents are within the recommended catchment area, many are reliant on the car. Links to country parks from settlements across the District (through the provision of appropriate cyclepaths and footpaths) should therefore be considered a priority.

PG5	Prioritise the development of linkages between settlements and country parks in order to promote usage and encourage sustainable means of transport.
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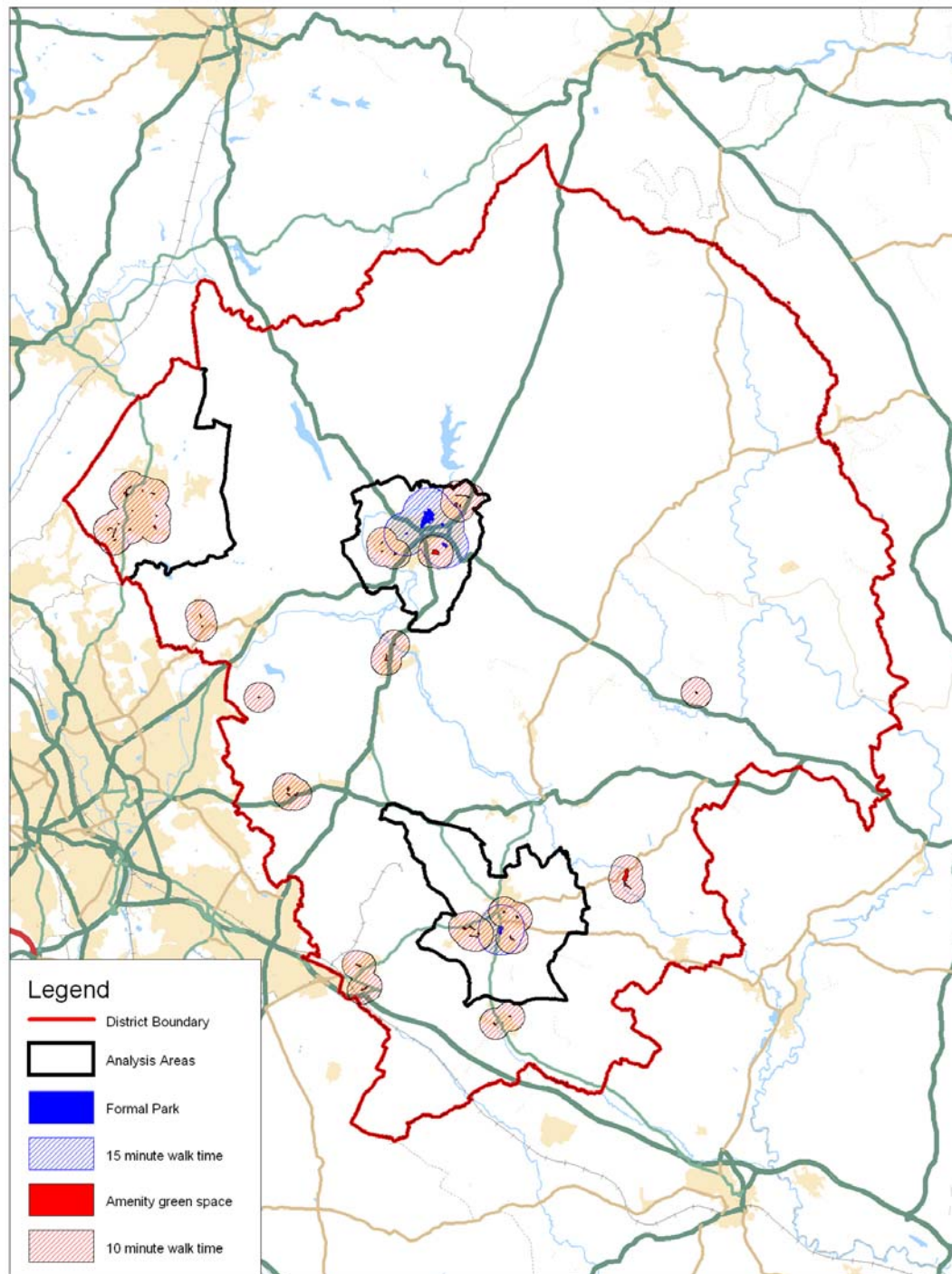
Formal Parks

- 4.54 In contrast to country parks, while the quality of formal parks remains a key issue, there are also several areas of deficiency illuminated by the application of the quantity and accessibility standards.
- 4.55 Map 4.4 overleaf illustrates the provision of formal parks in the context of amenity green space in the area. Amenity green space can play a key role in the delivery of local open space to residents; however the provision of local amenity green space does not negate the need for more formalised provision, such as a formal park.
- 4.56 The presence of amenity green space in areas deficient of parks provides an opportunity to formalise these spaces to better meet the needs of local residents.
- 4.57 Where parks are provided within a 10 minute catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity green space as 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) as they fulfil similar roles. This is discussed in Section 6.

SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.58 The analysis that follows considers the provision of parks within each of the geographical areas of the District and highlights where future priorities should lie. The role of the country parks in offsetting existing deficiencies is also considered.
- 4.59 In order to maximise the benefit of new parks, 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 accessibly catchment of parks and gardens, any new site should be located so that there is no overlap with the catchment of existing parks.
- 4.60 Consideration should also be given for formal park provision outside of the local authority boundary. For example, Central Forest Park in Stoke-on-Trent is within the recommended rural drive time standard, serving residents in the rural settlements in the south west of Staffordshire Moorlands (eg Werrington, Stanley, Endon, Brown Edge).

Map 4.4 - Provision of formal parks and amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands (urban standards)



Biddulph Area

- 4.61 Application of the quantity standard for formal parks (0.23 ha per 1000 population) highlights there is insufficient provision to meet current demand in Biddulph. There are no formal parks within Biddulph and this is reinforced by the accessibility mapping, which demonstrates that all residents in the Biddulph analysis area are outside the recommended catchment of a formal park (figure 4.1). Future population projections indicate this shortfall is expected to equate to -4.64 ha by 2026. Assuming that a park would be a minimum of 1ha in size, this deficiency is sufficient to warrant the provision of a park.

Figure 4.1 – Deficiencies of formal parks in the Biddulph analysis area



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- 4.62 The provision of amenity green space in the Biddulph analysis area is also below the recommended quantity standard. However, accessibility mapping indicates that the majority of residents in Biddulph are within the recommended catchment of an amenity green space, though residents in the north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor do not have access to an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time (figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2 – Deficiencies of amenity green space in the Biddulph analysis area



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- 4.63 The lack of a formal park in Biddulph was a key theme raised throughout consultation. Although residents were aware that they had good access to country parks, they highlighted the need for a more formal park with a range of facilities located in close proximity to their homes. The country parks are located outside settlement boundaries and are therefore less accessible to residents.
- 4.64 Dorset Drive, an amenity green space site, is located within Biddulph. Dorset Drive is a large amenity green space (1.4 ha) that could potentially be formalised to provide a formal park. This site is situated in a good location and could provide many opportunities to local residents if upgraded to a formal park (figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3 – Dorset Drive amenity green space



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- 4.65 Alternatively, a natural and semi natural open space site could be converted into a formal park.

PG6	Provide a new formal park in Biddulph. The new park could be provided by upgrading an amenity or natural and semi natural open space.
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- 4.66 In light of the poor access to formal parks within Biddulph, it is essential to ensure that there are good links between the town and the country parks.

Cheadle

- 4.67 Accessibility mapping reveals that residents in the west and north of the Cheadle analysis area do not have access to a formal park within the recommended 15 minute walk time (figure 4.4). Application of the quantity standard also identifies a minor shortfall in provision, with a deficiency of - 1.12 ha expected by 2026.

Figure 4.4 – Deficiencies of formal parks in Cheadle



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- 4.68 When combining the provision of formal parks and amenity green space, nearly all residents in the Cheadle analysis area have access to at least one of these types of open spaces within the recommended accessibility catchment (figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5 – Provision of formal parks and amenity green space in the Cheadle analysis area



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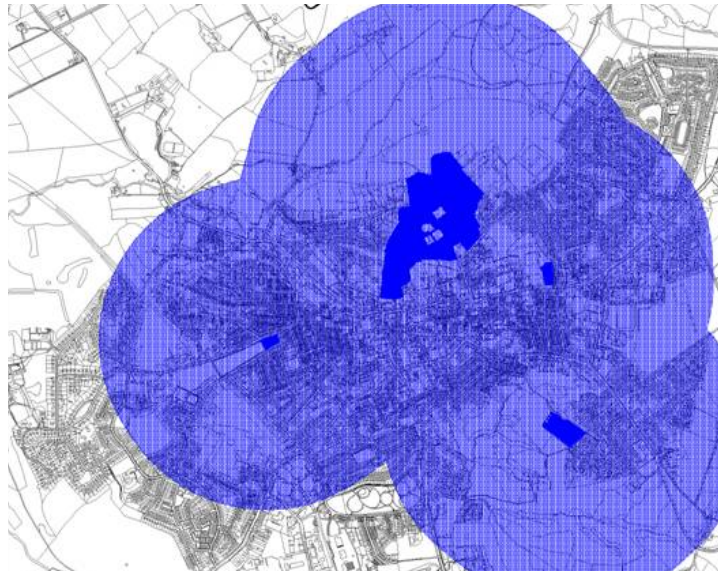
- 4.69 Memorial Recreation Ground is the only formal park within the Cheadle analysis area, however the park provides a wide range of facilities including, children's and young people's provision and sports provision. The park provides excellent sport and recreation opportunities for local residents and when considering both parks and amenity green space together, the majority of residents have access to formal and informal open space.
- 4.70 Furthermore, residents in areas deficient in the provision of formal parks are within the recommended catchment of a country park. The shortfall, resulting from the application of the quantity standard, is also insufficient to warrant the provision of an additional park. In light of this, the Council should focus on increasing access to Memorial Recreation Ground. Enhancement of the quality of this site should also be considered.

PG7	<p>Focus on increasing access to Memorial Recreation Ground, particularly for those residents in areas of deficiency.</p> <p>Seek to enhance the quality of this site.</p>
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Leek

- 4.71 The greatest provision of formal parks is found in the Leek analysis area (17.94 ha). Based on the local standard of 0.23 ha per 1000 population, there are sufficient formal parks in the Leek to meet both current and future demand. Accessibility mapping reinforces this, with the majority of residents able to access a formal park within the recommended 15 minute walk time. However, minor deficiencies do exist, in the north and south of Leek (figure 4.6).

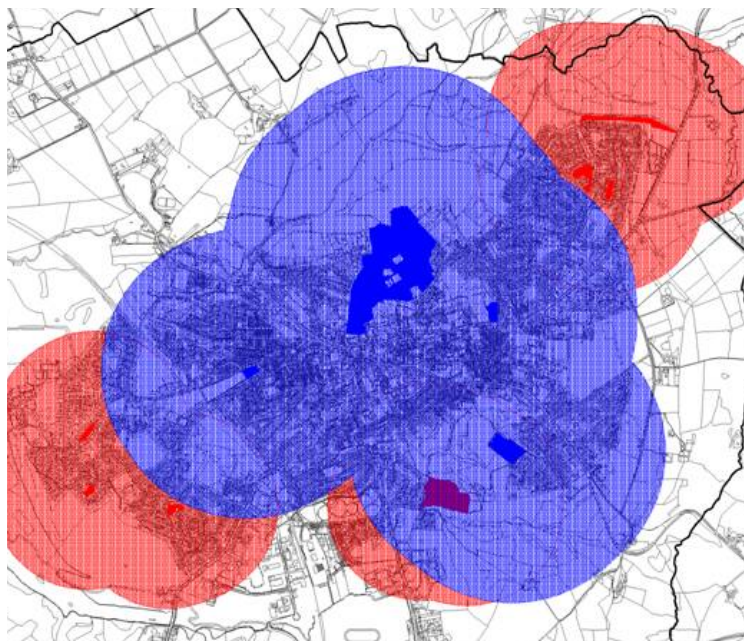
Figure 4.6 – Deficiencies in the provision of formal parks in Leek



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- 4.72 The provision of amenity green space in Leek is slightly below the recommended standard, with a shortfall of -0.55 ha expected by 2026. Application of the accessibility standards for both formal parks and amenity green space reveals the majority of residents have access to at least one of these types of open spaces within the recommended travel times. Only those residents located in the far southern areas of the Leek analysis area are unable to access a formal park or amenity green space within the recommended accessibility catchments (figure 4.7).

Figure 4.7 - Provision of formal parks and amenity green space in Leek



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- 4.73 Although some residents in the southern area of the Leek analysis area are outside the recommended catchment of a formal park and amenity green space, they do have access to a country park within the recommended 22 minute drive time. Furthermore, Ladderedge Country Park is in relatively close proximity, providing local access to a form of park for residents in this area of deficiency. In light of the deficiency it will be essential to both ensure that the amenity spaces in the area are of high quality, as well as maximising access to Ladderedge Country Park through the provision of appropriate green corridors and other means of transport.

PG8	Improve the green linkages to Ladderedge County Park for residents of Leek. Maximise the functionality of amenity spaces to the south of the town.
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Rural settlements

- 4.74 Although quantity calculations identify an expected shortfall of -9.43 ha by 2026, application of the accessibility standard reveals that all residents located in the rural settlements are within the recommended catchment of a formal park.
- 4.75 The provision of amenity green space is sufficient to meet the recommended standard of 0.30 ha per 1000 population. Accessibility mapping illustrates that the majority of residents in the larger rural settlements are within the recommended catchment of an amenity green space. Residents located in

settlements including Alton, Froghall and Ipstones, are outside the recommended catchment of an amenity green space (figure 4.8).

Figure 4.8 – Provision of amenity green space in the rural settlements



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- 4.76 The local accessibility standard for the rural area is reflective of a willingness to travel further to reach formal parks and although there is no formal park in the rural settlements, all residents are within the recommended 20 minute drive time of a formal park. Residents in this area of the District also have good access to country parks, amenity green space and open countryside. In light of the reliance on rural residents to travel to access a formal park, improvements to public transport links and green corridors should be prioritised.

PG9	Prioritise the improvement of public transport links between the rural settlements of the District, seeking to increase access to formal parks for residents located in these settlements.
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- 4.77 Despite a willingness to travel, in light of the wider benefits of parks, consideration should be given to the provision of parks in some of the larger settlements.

- 4.78 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.

- 4.79 Application of the quantity standard suggests that as a minimum, provision should be considered in Werrington, Cheddleton, Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook and Checkley. Demand in each of these villages exceeds 1ha.

PG10	Promote the development of pocket parks, focusing specifically on Werrington, Cheddleton, Blythe Bridge and Checkley.
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Summary

- 4.80 Parks and gardens were highlighted as particularly valuable to local residents. Country parks are one of the most frequently used open spaces in Staffordshire Moorlands and many residents identified the natural value of these open space. The wide range of facilities available at formal parks was perceived as the main contributor to the high value of these sites.
- 4.81 The role of parks and gardens in meeting targets to increase level of physical activity and improve health should also not be underestimated. The wider benefits of parks are wide reaching.
- 4.82 The quality of parks and gardens is excellent, with the average quality score of a formal park being 81%. Leek Brough Park is the highest quality open space in the District, achieving a quality score of 100%.

- 4.83 Although increasing quality of existing parks and gardens in the District is highlighted as particularly important, application of the accessibility standards reveals that distribution of parks is uneven. In particular there are deficiencies in Biddulph. In contrast, almost all residents are within an appropriate distance of a country park. New provision is therefore recommended within Biddulph.
- 4.84 While provision in all rural settlements would be undesirable and impractical, consideration should be given to the implementation of the pocket parks scheme, where residents take ownership of local spaces.
- 4.85 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision of formal parks in Staffordshire Moorlands, that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework (LDF) and/or other delivery mechanisms, are:
- maximise the role that parks can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the District
 - continue to promote activities and alternative means of exercise at parks to maximise usage
 - ensure that the LDF contains policies that protect parks from development
 - drive a strategic programme of qualitative improvements across the District
 - seek to designate and develop 'community sports parks'
 - improve public transport and green corridors between country parks and settlements
 - provide a new formal park in Biddulph. This may be delivered by upgrading an existing amenity space or natural open space
 - consider the implementation of the pocket parks scheme in rural settlement across the District, focusing firstly on rural settlements where demand exceeds 1ha, specifically Werrington, Cheddleton, Blythe Bridge and Checkley.

Natural and semi natural open space

Introduction and definition

- 5.1 This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity within the settlement boundaries.
- 5.2 Natural and semi natural open space can frequently be found within other open space types, and in some instances there may be some sites classified as amenity green space or parks that play a similar role to natural and semi natural open space sites. This serves to highlight the overlap between typologies.
- 5.3 In line with PPG17, larger sites that sit outside of settlement boundaries have been excluded from the audit and calculations. However it is important to consider the role that these sites play in alleviating deficiencies and providing resources for both residents and wildlife. This will be returned to later in this section.
- 5.4 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. It is essential that a balance between recreational use, biodiversity and conservation is achieved.
- 5.5 This section outlines the strategic context and key consultation findings relating to natural and semi natural open space within Staffordshire Moorlands and the recommended local standards. These local standards are then applied in order to understand local issues and priorities.

Regional and local context

- 5.6 The key issues for natural and semi natural open spaces arising from a review of strategic documents are set out overleaf in Table 5.1.

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Table 5.1 – Strategic context – regional and local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	<p>Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements for public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.6 ha of playing fields• 0.6 ha of children's play areas• 0.4 ha of major open space• 0.6 ha of incidental open space. <p>Policy N1 focuses on the protection of the natural environment and states the open countryside in the plan area and its cultural heritage will be strictly protected.</p> <p>Policy N8 protects the special landscape area from development that will have an adverse effect on the high quality landscape.</p> <p>Policy N9 further states that high standards of design for development in these areas will be required.</p> <p>Policies N13, N14 and N15 protect SSSIs, Nature Reserves and sites of biological or regional importance from development, unless there are reasons that outweigh the need to safeguard the value of these sites.</p> <p>Policy N16 states the Council will develop and implement site management for its own sites of ecological interest and will encourage other landowners.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan.</p> <p>The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.</p>

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>Policies N20 and N21 relate to woodland and state that any development should make adequate provision for the protection existing trees and the planting of new trees. Any development that will damage sites of ancient woodland will not be permitted.</p> <p>Policies R10 and R11 focus on access to the countryside and state the Council will encourage, provide and manage access to wider areas of countryside and help provide recreation sites to act as gateways to the countryside.</p>	
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (September 2007)	<p>A key future challenge for the District is continuing to protect, manage and enhance the countryside and areas/features of value within built and natural environment.</p> <p>A spatial objective of the strategy is to protect and improve the countryside and diversity of wildlife and habitats.</p>	<p>The key findings of this open space, sport and recreation assessment will guide and provide the evidence for the policies that will be included within the core strategy.</p> <p>The information collected will also inform decision making based on the policies set.</p>
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	<p>Chapter five of the SPG sets out public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)	<p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>
Corporate Plan 2007 -2011	<p>A key outcome of the strategy is the protection of the environment.</p>	<p>Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the key objectives of the corporate plan.</p>

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2020	The vision of the strategy is, “by 2020 Staffordshire Moorlands will be recognised as a vital part of a regenerated North Staffordshire sub-region. All our communities will enjoy an excellent quality of life, including access to affordable housing and excellent public services...Our natural environment will be protected and our carbon emissions reduced”.	Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the community strategy.
Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007	<p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they are welcoming• healthy, safe and secure• clean and well maintained.	<p>This assessment will facilitate the improvement of existing parks and green spaces through the planning system as well as providing baseline information for the development of an updated parks and countryside strategy. The key priorities of the existing parks and countryside service strategy will inform the key priorities derived from this study.</p> <p>This assessment will also consider the links between local parks and open spaces and the countryside.</p>

- 5.7 These strategic documents reinforce the role of natural and semi natural open space in the local community and the importance of providing high quality, easily accessible natural and semi natural open space. The number of documents in which natural open space is referenced serves to illustrate the wider benefits that this type of open space offers.

Consultation – Assessing local needs

- 5.8 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues relating to natural and semi natural open space:
- natural and semi natural open space is the most frequently visited of all open space typologies in Staffordshire Moorlands, as indicated by 24% of respondents to the household survey. 42% of residents visit this type of open space at least once a week, reinforcing it's value to local residents
 - 19% of respondents to the children's IT survey identified natural and semi natural open space as their favourite type of open space in the District, with the main reason for this being that sites are in close proximity to their homes
 - drop in session attendees highlighted the importance of natural and semi natural open space in the District. Residents perceived there to be an abundance of this type of open space and identified it as an important part of Staffordshire Moorlands, providing good access to the countryside and wildlife. Newpool, a natural habitat area, was highlighted as a site in need of protection. Tittesworth Reservoir also emerged as a popular location for walking. A key benefit of this site was perceived to be it's proximity to the towns
 - the importance of protecting natural and semi natural open space was reinforced throughout all consultations. At the older resident's discussion session the value of natural and semi natural open space was also emphasised, with attendees stating the need to protect this type of open space from development.

Existing natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands

- 5.9 There is an abundance of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands located both inside and outside the settlement boundaries. Brough Park Fields, a registered Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is of particular note, located centrally within Leek Town Centre. Wetley Moor, located outside of settlement boundaries and covering over 70 ha is also a well used site. The site has been designated as an Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its vegetation and heath land. Natural and semi natural open space within settlement boundaries provides a gateway to the natural countryside.

Quantity of existing provision

- 5.10 The provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands is summarised in Table 5.2 overleaf.

Table 5.2 – Provision of natural and semi natural open space across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	16.62	8	0.62	7.58	20,185	0.8234
Cheadle	9.85	4	0.60	5.95	12,586	0.7826
Leek	10.01	6	0.52	4.61	20,566	0.4867
Rural	30.77	12	0.25	17.51	39,246	0.7840
Overall	67.25	30	0.62	17.51	92,583	0.7264

5.11 The key issues emerging from Table 5.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of natural and semi natural open space across the District include:

- natural and semi natural open spaces are unevenly distributed across Staffordshire Moorlands, with the majority of sites (12) located in the rural settlements. Provision is significantly lower in Leek and Cheadle than in other areas of the District.
- 64% of the population stated that the provision of natural and semi natural open space is sufficient. In contrast, 32% feel that provision does not meet local needs. The majority therefore view the quantity of provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands to be sufficient. It is important to note that the abundance of accessible countryside is also likely to have impacted on this perception
- within the individual geographical areas, levels of satisfaction are similar. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Biddulph analysis area
- high levels of satisfaction indicated by residents in the Biddulph analysis area are supported by actual levels of provision – Biddulph contains 0.82 ha per 1000 population, the highest of all areas. Provision per 1000 population is lowest in Leek.

Setting provision standards – quantity

5.12 The recommended local quantity standard for natural and semi natural open space has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F. The standard is set at the existing level of provision and therefore places an emphasis on increasing the quality of sites.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.75 ha per 1000 population	0.75 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The overall perception established through local consultation was that the provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands is sufficient. A number of residents at the drop in sessions further emphasised the value of this typology, identifying natural and semi natural space as a key contributor to the character of the District, specifically highlighting the locality of the Peak District as an excellent resource for informal recreation and the importance of the abundance of countryside was also recognised.</p> <p>Both quantitative and qualitative issues were raised during local consultation, however the key theme established by residents was the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development. The local standard has therefore been set at the existing level of provision. This will enable a focus on the protection and enhancement of sites across Staffordshire Moorlands. In particular the Council should concentrate on the improvement of footpaths and access to sites, as this was one of the main issues raised by residents. Accessibility to sites will be a key area for improvement and a challenging accessibility standard has been set.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 5.13 The quality of existing natural and semi natural open space in the District was assessed through site visits and is summarised in Table 5.3 overleaf. Full details of all the scores achieved can be found in Appendix C. Each site was measured against a site assessment matrix (Appendix C).
- 5.14 It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 5.15 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being particularly important determinants of quality have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score achieved.
- 5.16 In particular, the quality and variety of the vegetation was perceived to be particularly important for natural and semi natural open spaces. This weighting approach is particularly important for natural and semi natural open space, where lower level maintenance may be expected in order to maintain the natural characteristics of sites. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

Table 5.3 – Quality of natural and semi natural open space across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality Scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	8	32 - 74	50	Bemersley Road – ID 1	Biddulph Brook – ID 55
Cheadle	4	50-78	63	Newmarket Way – ID 109	Hales Hall Pool LNR – ID 115
Leek	6	52 - 78	62	Valley Drive – ID 262	The Waste – ID 402
Rural	12	34 - 94	66	The Dingle – ID 300	The Old Cheddleton Asylum Burial Ground – ID 274
Overall	30	32 - 94	58	Bemersley Road – ID 1	The Old Cheddleton Asylum Burial Ground – ID 274

5.17 The key issues emerging from Table 5.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of natural and semi natural open space includes:

- the majority of respondents to the household survey feel that the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good (59%) and 33% of residents state the quality to be average. This suggests an overall positive perception of natural and semi natural open space
- the average quality score (58%) indicates that the quality of sites generally poor. However, there is a significant variation between the quality of sites, with some poor quality sites in the District scoring below 35% and some above 85%
- findings within the individual analysis areas are inconsistent, with the average quality score of a site in Biddulph being 50% and 66% in the rural analysis area
- the majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of maintenance at natural and semi natural open space as good (49%). 34% of residents also rate the quality of maintenance as average. Similar results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas

- general comments from residents focused on problems with litter and dog fouling at many sites in the District. A number of residents also identified maintenance issues at this typology, with footpaths highlighted as being in need of improved maintenance. Fly tipping at some natural and semi natural open spaces, specifically in Biddulph Moor, was highlighted.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 5.18 The recommended local quality standard for natural and semi natural open space is summarised below. This standard sets out the essential elements of a high quality natural open space. These findings are derived from the key themes of local consultations. Full justification and consultation relating to the quality of provision is provided within Appendix G.

Quality standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Water features	
Footpaths	Dog walking facilities	
Nature features	Flowers/trees	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to natural and semi natural areas, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	7%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	31%	3
Vegetation	35%	4
Ancillary accommodation	19%	2

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 5.19 The local accessibility standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations. It considers the distance that residents are willing to travel to access different types of facilities as well as the mode of transport that they would anticipate using.
- 5.20 Findings from the household survey reveal 65% of current users walk to access this typology – this suggests that natural and semi natural open space is expected to be located relatively close to the home

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 5.21 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 those residents who expect to walk (53%) – again this indicates that local provision is expected
- 5.22 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed. Where access to specific sites is limited, this will impact on usage of the site.
- 5.23 Site assessments reveal access to natural and semi natural open space is average. The main area of concern was a lack of appropriate information and signage.
- 5.24 The recommended local accessibility standard for natural and semi natural open space is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
15 MINUTE WALK TIME
Justification
<p>Local consultation indicates the majority of current users walk to this typology (65%). Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, 53% of respondents expect to walk to natural and semi natural open space. Therefore it is recommended a walk time is set across the District. This is deliverable in both the urban and rural areas of the District.</p> <p>Analysis of consultation responses demonstrates that respondents to the household survey would expect to walk for 15 minutes on foot to access this open space. Findings within the individual analysis areas also support a 15 minute walk time, A 15 minute walk time is therefore recommended in line with both user expectations and current user patterns. This standard is representative of local expectations but is also realistic and achievable.</p> <p>While the creation of new natural and semi natural open space is challenging, increasing access to natural and semi natural open space and areas of natural countryside will be instrumental in the delivery of this target.</p>

Applying provision standards

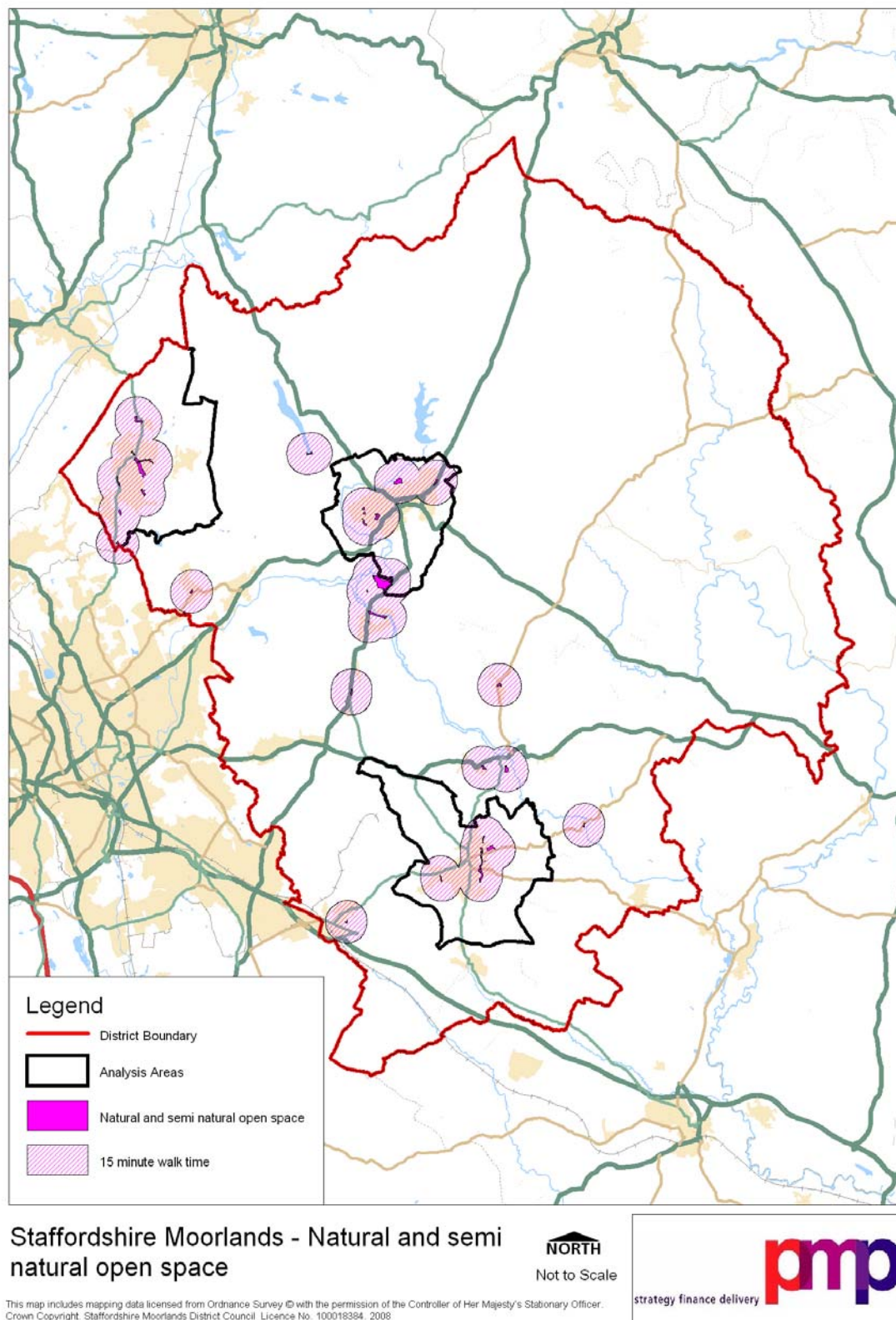
- 5.25 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential to understand the existing distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities and identify areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 5.26 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 5.27 The application of the local standard for quantity is set out in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 – Application of quantity standard

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.75 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.75 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	1.99	1.48
Cheadle	0.73	0.41
Leek	-4.90	-5.41
Rural	2.40	1.34
Overall	0.21	-2.19

- 5.28 The application of standards results in the following issues:
- the current provision of natural and semi natural open space is sufficient to meet the local standard, however, when taking into account projected population growth there will be a shortfall of -2.19 ha by 2026
 - three of the four areas have sufficient provision to meet current and future demand. The greatest current and future provision of natural and semi natural open space is found in the Biddulph analysis area (1.48 ha)
 - existing and future deficiencies are evident in Leek with a shortfall of -5.41 ha expected by 2026. Brough Park Fields is the main natural and semi natural site located within this area.
- 5.29 The application of the local accessibility standards for natural and semi natural open space is set out in Map 5.1 overleaf.

Map 5.1 - Provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands



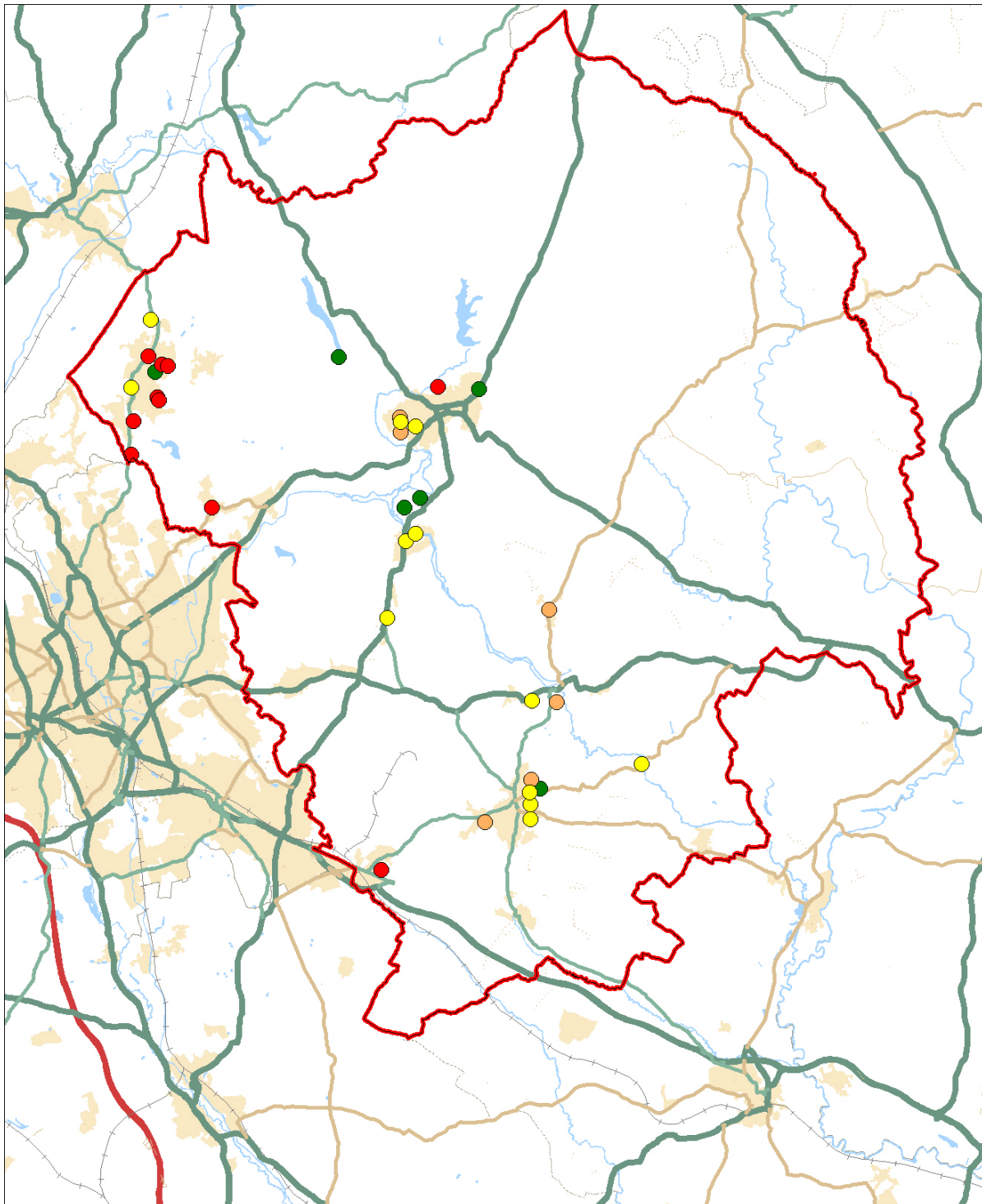
SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 5.30 Although a large proportion of natural and semi natural sites are located in the rural settlements, Map 5.1 illustrates there is a fairly even distribution of natural and semi natural open space within the District. The majority of residents in Staffordshire Moorlands are able to access a natural and semi natural open space within the recommended 15 minute walk time. Key areas of deficiency will be returned to later in this section.
- 5.31 Although the distribution of sites is even, and enhanced by the abundance of accessible countryside, it is 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.

NSN1	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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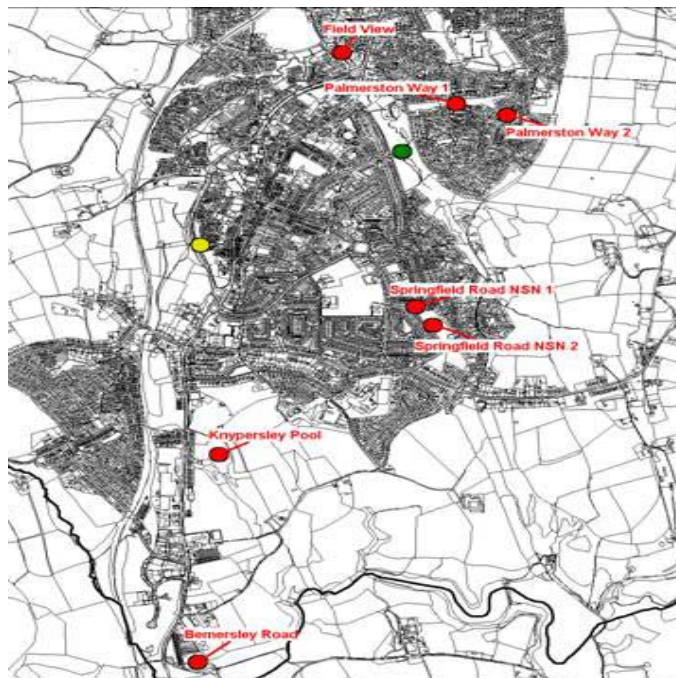
- 5.32 The local quantity standard equates to the current District wide level of provision, indicating that, currently, there is sufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire. Although future population projections indicate there is expected to be a minor shortfall in provision by 2026 (-2.19 ha), local consultation established an overall satisfaction with the provision of natural and semi natural open space. This suggests that the focus should be on the enhancement of the quality of existing sites in the short term, as opposed to encouraging the development of more semi natural open space. By its very nature, natural open space is difficult to create.
- 5.33 The quality of natural and semi natural open space in the District is average, with the average quality score of site being 58%. The range of quality scores (32% - 94%) also indicated the varied quality of provision.
- 5.34 The application of the quality standard for natural and semi natural open space is set out in Map 5.2 overleaf.

Map 5.2 – Quality of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands



- 5.35 Map 5.2 highlights the variety in quality of existing natural and semi natural open spaces within Staffordshire Moorlands. There is a concentration of poor quality sites in the Biddulph analysis area.

Figure 5.1 – Poor quality sites in Biddulph



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- 5.36 Despite this, the distribution of high quality sites is good with one good quality site located in each of the analysis areas.
- 5.37 While it is not expected that these sites will be managed in the same way as formal parks/amenity green spaces, they should be inviting and controlled. The key aspirations for natural and semi natural open spaces identified by residents included a clean and litter free site, good footpaths and nature features. To improve the quality of existing sites in the District, these features should be enhanced.

NSN2	Identify opportunities for improving the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces. Enhancements should be informed by the quality vision and site assessment quality scores. Sites require an overall score of 73% or above to fall within the top quartile – the benchmark for quality.
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- 5.38 While enhancement of sites for recreational purposes is important, consideration should also be given to the ecological and conservation opportunities provided and the habitats that these sites can create. As consultation highlights, natural and semi natural open spaces are the most popular of all the open spaces in the District. It is therefore important to ensure that promotion of recreational opportunities on site is balanced with the wider functions of the site and that recreation and wildlife uses are in equilibrium. This will require careful management and maintenance.

NSN3	Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes. The impact of recreational use on sites should be monitored.
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- 5.39 Despite a good distribution of natural and semi natural open space, there are a number of areas of deficiency. In light of the importance of natural open spaces to residents, the wider habitat and biodiversity benefits and the deficiencies across the District, all sites should be protected through appropriate policies in the LDF.

NSN4	Include appropriate policies for the protection of natural open space within the LDF.
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- 5.40 While the previous issues relate to natural and semi natural open space in all areas of the District, the key issues relating to the provision of natural and semi natural open space in each area is outlined in the sections that follow.

Biddulph

- 5.41 Application of the quantity standard indicates there is sufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space to meet current and future needs. Accessibility mapping reinforces this adequate provision, with the all residents in Biddulph able to access a natural and semi natural open space within the recommended catchment. However, deficiencies do exist in Biddulph Moor (figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2 – Deficiencies in Biddulph Moor



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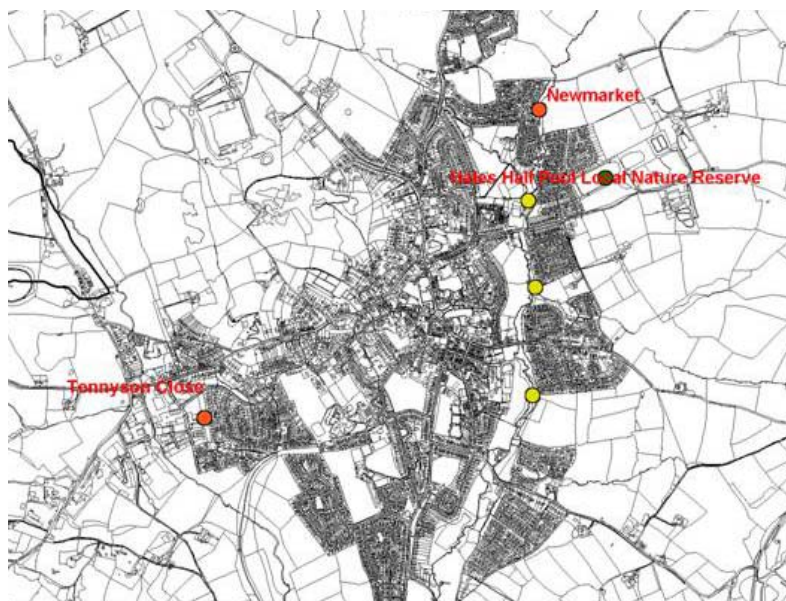
- 5.42 Although residents in Biddulph Moor cannot access a natural and semi natural open space within the recommended 15 minute walk time, the location of Biddulph Grange Country Park provides local access to a country park, offering residents a more formalised form of natural and semi natural open space. This emphasises the importance of enhancing the linkages between natural open spaces and the countryside.

NSN5	Develop green links between Biddulph Town and Biddulph Grange to ensure access to natural open space for residents of Biddulph Moor. Maximise access to the nearby countryside.
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Cheadle

- 5.43 Accessibility mapping illustrates that all residents within the Cheadle analysis area have access to natural and semi natural open space within the recommended 15 minute walk time. Application of the quantity standards reinforces this sufficient provision, with adequate provision expected by 2026 (0.41 ha).
- 5.44 The average quality score of a natural and semi natural open space in Cheadle is 63%, highlighting the average quality of existing provision. Newmarket (50%) and Tennyson Close (52%) scored particularly low, indicating the need for qualitative improvements.

Figure 5.3 – Poor quality sites within Cheadle



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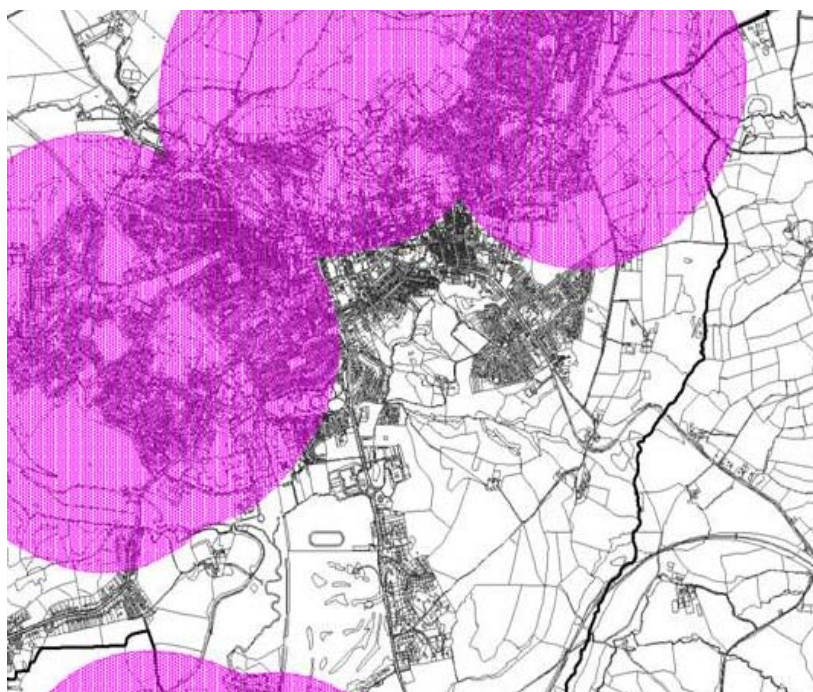
- 5.45 In consideration of the adequate provision of natural and semi natural open space and good accessibility, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites within the analysis area.

NSN6	Seek to enhance the quality of existing natural and semi natural open spaces within Cheadle analysis area. Use the findings from site assessments to identify priorities for improvements.
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Leek

- 5.46 Based on the application of the local standard (0.75 ha per 1000 population), the largest shortfall is expected in Leek (-5.41 ha) by 2026. Accessibility mapping highlights this shortfall, with key deficiencies located in the east and south of the analysis area (figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4 – Deficiencies in the east and south of the Leek analysis area



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- 5.47 Access to amenity green space in these areas of deficiency is also limited for some residents. Therefore, opportunities for new provision within these areas of deficiency should be considered. This may be delivered through the inclusion of semi natural open space within sites of other typologies.

NSN7	Seize opportunities to address the quantitative and access deficiencies in the east and south of Leek. This may be delivered through the inclusion of semi natural open spaces within sites of other typologies.
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Rural Settlements

- 5.48 Within the rural settlements, accessible countryside provides the majority of natural provision for residents. Therefore it is important to increase access to such sites through the improvement of rights of way and green corridors. There is a good

distribution of natural and semi natural open space within the rural analysis area, however a number of residents in settlements such as Werrington, Upper and Lower Tean and Alton, are outside the recommended accessibility catchment of a natural and semi natural open space. This further reinforces the importance of good access to the countryside.

- 5.49 The development of a 'green network' was identified as a key future priority by attendees at the older people's discussion session. Attendees identified that the current network was disjointed and the enhancement of the network would significantly increase access to open space and the countryside.

NSN8	Create a network of green corridors across the District linking natural open space with the wider countryside and key settlements. Particular emphasis should be placed on Werrington, Upper and Lower Tean and Alton in light of deficiencies in natural and semi natural open space within the settlements.
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Summary

- 5.50 Natural and semi natural open space is one of the most frequently visited type of open space in the District, indicated by 24% of respondents to the household survey. This emphasises the value of this type of open space.
- 5.51 In addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation. The benefit of the abundance of accessible countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands is also acknowledged by residents.
- 5.52 The need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development was a key theme throughout consultation and while recreational opportunities should be encouraged, this should be balanced with conserving and promoting biodiversity.
- 5.53 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 urban settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside should also be a key future priority.
- 5.54 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are:
- identify opportunities for improving the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces both in terms of the wildlife and habitat values of the site, but also for recreational purposes
 - maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes
 - monitor the impact of recreation of natural and semi natural open spaces

SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- incorporate a policy protecting existing natural and semi natural open space within the Local Development Framework
- seek to increase access to existing natural and semi natural open spaces within the Biddulph area
- seek to improve the quality of sites in Cheadle
- seize opportunities to address the quantitative and access deficiencies in the east and south of Leek – this may be through the inclusion of semi natural open space within sites of another typology
- establish a network of accessible green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of local open space and to key settlements where residents would otherwise be deficient in natural and semi natural open spaces.

Amenity green space

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 This type of open space is most commonly found in residential 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. Amenity green space is also often used for landscaping purposes.
- 6.2 Amenity green space is also often found in villages, in the form of village greens. Amenity green spaces can have an overlapping function with parks and gardens and natural areas and also provide informal opportunities for children's play where there are no other facilities. It is important therefore to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the context of other types of open space.
- 6.3 There is much research relating to the links between the provision of high quality open space and a reduction in crime. Given that amenity space is perhaps the most local type of open space provided, high quality space will be essential in order to discourage misuse and encourage a culture of respect.
- 6.4 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the strategic context, key findings of the consultations and recommended local standards. The standards are then applied to evaluate the adequacy of the existing amenity green space and the associated demand for these spaces. Standards are also applied in the context of other open spaces with overlapping functions.
- 6.5 The key issues for amenity spaces arising from a review of strategic documents are set out in Table 6.1overleaf.

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Table 6.1 – Strategic context – regional and local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	<p>Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements for public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy N3 permits development in a number of villages currently containing a large amount of the Green Belt. However, development will only be allowed if it does not cause loss to local amenity space.</p> <p>Policy R2 states that in areas deficient in open space, new residential developments will be required to make provision for open space in relation to the standards within Policy R1.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan.</p> <p>The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.</p>
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	<p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site 	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on other land in the vicinity owned by them by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)	<p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	
Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <u>high quality</u> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound</p>	<p>This assessment will facilitate the improvement of existing parks and green spaces through the planning system as well as providing baseline information for the development of an updated parks and countryside strategy. The key priorities of the existing parks and countryside service strategy will inform the key priorities</p>

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they are welcoming• healthy, safe and secure• clean and well maintained.	<p>derived from this study.</p> <p>This assessment will also consider the links between local parks and open spaces and the countryside.</p>

Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

6.6 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that:

- due to the rural nature of Staffordshire Moorlands the need for amenity space was not a key feature of discussions. However, the community interaction benefits that amenity green space can provide was widely recognised by residents
- amenity green space is one of the least visited open spaces, with only 3% of respondents to the household survey stating they use this open space most frequently. However, a significant number of respondents visit amenity green space at least once a month (34%). These low levels of usage in comparison to other types of open space are perhaps reflective of the emphasis on amenity green space for landscaping/visual purposes rather than recreational usage
- residents reinforced the importance of achieving a balance between the appropriate quality and quantity of provision. Poor quality amenity areas were perceived to encourage misuse and crime.

Existing provision - Quantity

6.7 The quantity of amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands is summarised in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	4.66	11	0.17	1.4	20,185	0.2309
Cheadle	3.94	7	0.28	1.39	12,586	0.3131
Leek	5.83	7	0.22	2.95	20,566	0.2835
Rural	12.44	14	0.21	6.21	39,246	0.3170
Overall	26.87	39	0.17	6.21	92,583	0.2902

6.8 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of amenity green space across the District are as follows:

- based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space in the District. In total, 44% of the population feel that provision is sufficient while 43% have the opposite view – indicating that provision is insufficient

- within the geographical areas, results are consistent with the overall findings
- as can be seen, in terms of hectares per 1000, the provision of amenity space is similar across the District. Despite this, there are significant variations in the number of sites in each area, with the majority of sites located in the rural settlements (14) and the Biddulph analysis area (11)
- the size of sites varies from 0.17 ha to 6.21 ha. The size of sites can influence the functionality significantly and may therefore influence the split in opinion. These variations in size are evident across all areas but are particularly apparent in the rural settlements.
- the highest level of dissatisfaction can be seen in the Leek analysis area, where 33% feel that there are not enough amenity green spaces and a further 18% suggest that there is only nearly enough. Although the provision per 1000 in Leek is similar to other areas, the number of sites provided is significantly lower in Biddulph. This may therefore influence the perceptions of residents
- overall, based on population projections there will be 0.29 ha of amenity green space per 1000 population by 2026.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 6.9 The recommended local quantity standard for amenity green space has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F. The standard has been set at the existing level of provision to promote a balance between new provision in areas where it is most needed and qualitative enhancements where new provision is not required.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.30 ha per 1000	0.30 ha per 1000
Justification	
<p>Local consultation findings highlight a split in opinion regarding the current provision of amenity green space, with 44% of residents indicating provision is insufficient and 43% stating provision is sufficient. The value of amenity green spaces as informal open spaces offering community interaction was widely recognised by drop in session attendees. Respondents to the children and young people's survey also highlighted amenity green space as a popular open space due to the localised nature of this typology.</p> <p>In light of the value of amenity green space to local residents and the split in opinion with regards to the provision of amenity green space, it is recommended the standard is set at the existing level of provision. Setting the standard at this level will enable the Council to identify priorities for new provision and also focus on enhancing the quality of existing sites within the District. Provision of amenity spaces should be considered in the context of parks, where a slight increase in provision is required to meet the recommended standard. It is important that opportunities are taken to increase the function of amenity space sites.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 6.10 The quality of existing amenity green space in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 6.3 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 6.11 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of amenity green spaces have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. In particular, the cleanliness and maintenance and ancillary accommodation was perceived to be important for amenity green spaces. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

Table 6.3 – Quality of amenity green space across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis Area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	11	34 - 80	65	Slater Street – ID 43	Endon Drive – ID 7
Cheadle	7	60 - 90	72	Greenways – ID 99	Keeling Road – ID 105
Leek	7	56 - 72	64	Thornccliffe View – ID 241	Ashcombe Way Village Green – ID 434
Rural	14	54 - 86	67	Whitmore Avenue – ID 283	Oakamoor Park – ID 146
Overall	39	34 - 90	67	Slater Street – ID 43	Keeling Road – ID 105

6.12 The key issues emerging from Table 6.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of amenity green space are as follows:

- the general consensus established from the household survey is that the quality of amenity green space is average (53%). However, 27% of residents regard the quality of amenity green space to be poor, which suggests amenity green space is the poorest type of informal open space
- site assessments indicate that the quality of amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands is comparable to many other typologies, with the average quality score of a site being 67%
- similar results are evident within the individual areas and the greatest average quality score can be found in Cheadle (72%)
- there is a wide range of quality scores (34% - 90%), indicating that there is significant variation in the quality of provision for all analysis areas. All areas contain some sites of high quality, with the highest scoring site in each area being at least 72%
- the highest quality amenity green space in the District is Keeling Road in Cheadle (90%)
- the quality of maintenance of amenity green spaces was perceived to be average by 45% of respondents to the household survey. However,

31% also rated the quality of maintenance as good. Similar results are shown across all four areas

- general comments from residents identified the quality of amenity green space as being average. The need for more flowers and trees at amenity green spaces was regularly mentioned. Incidents of miss use at amenity green space sites were also highlighted
- 57% of children responding to the IT survey felt that grass areas near to their home were clean, safe and nice to use. 25% suggested that they were in need of improvement. 45% of young people responding to the IT survey felt that the quality of informal grass areas in their local area was average and could do with some improvement. 22% were more positive and believed their local grass areas were clean, tidy and well maintained.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 6.13 The recommended local quality standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justification and consultation relating to the quality of provision is provided within Appendix G. Improvements to the quality of amenity green space were perceived to be particularly important to local residents.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – AMENITY GREEN SPACE		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential		Desirable
Clean/litter free		Flowers/trees
Well kept grass		Seating
Good site access		Footpaths
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to amenity green spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	20%	2
Cleanliness and maintenance	45%	4
Vegetation	27%	3
Ancillary accommodation	13%	1
Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of amenity green space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.		

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 6.14 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 6.15 70% of residents would expect to walk to amenity green spaces. This emphasises the expectation that these sites are perceived to be local resources. This expectation was reflected in all areas of the District, including residents of the rural settlements.
- 6.16 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits. Information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 6.17 The recommended local accessibility standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
10 MINUTE WALK TIME
Justification
<p>A walk time standard has been set based upon the high level of expectation to travel by foot to access an amenity green space. This was emphasised throughout consultation along with the importance of accessible local provision.</p> <p>Both the modal and mean response suggest that a walk time of 10 minutes is appropriate. Residents in Biddulph and Cheadle in particular had high expectations that facilities would be provided locally.</p> <p>In consideration of the above, It is recommended the local standard be set at a 10 minute walk time across the District. Setting the local standard at this level will provide a challenging target for the Council, but one that reflects the views of residents that amenity green space should be provided within close proximity to the home. Combined with the local quantity standard, the accessibility standard will enable the Council to identify areas deficient in the provision of amenity green space.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 6.18 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 6.19 Table 6.4 below summarises the application of the quantity standard both at the existing time and up to 2026. This provides an understanding of where current provision is insufficient to meet local need.

Table 6.4 – Application of quantity standard

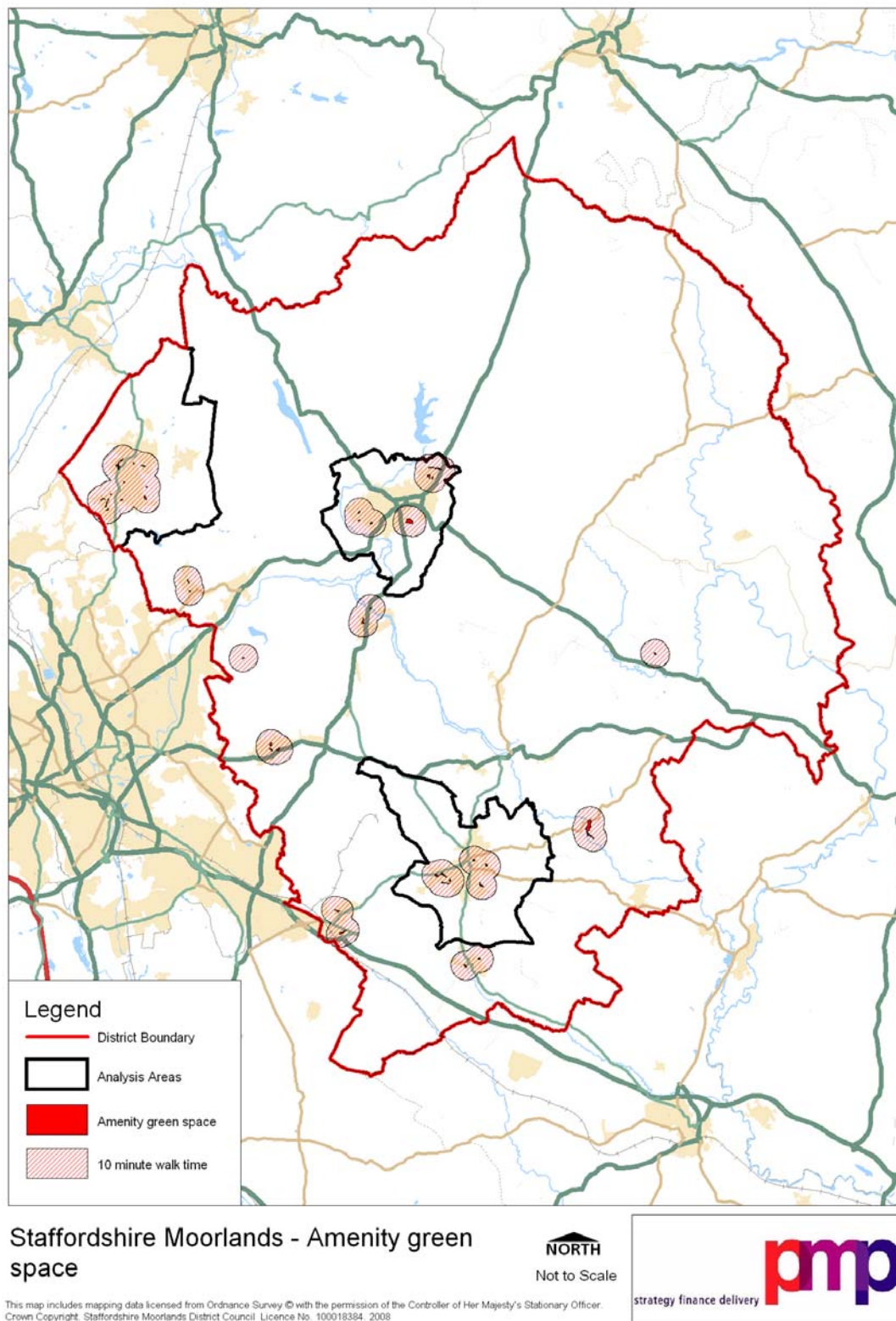
Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.30 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.30 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	-1.19	-1.40
Cheadle	0.29	0.16
Leek	-0.13	-0.34
Rural	1.09	0.67
Overall	0.05	-0.90

6.20 Table 6.4 indicates the following:

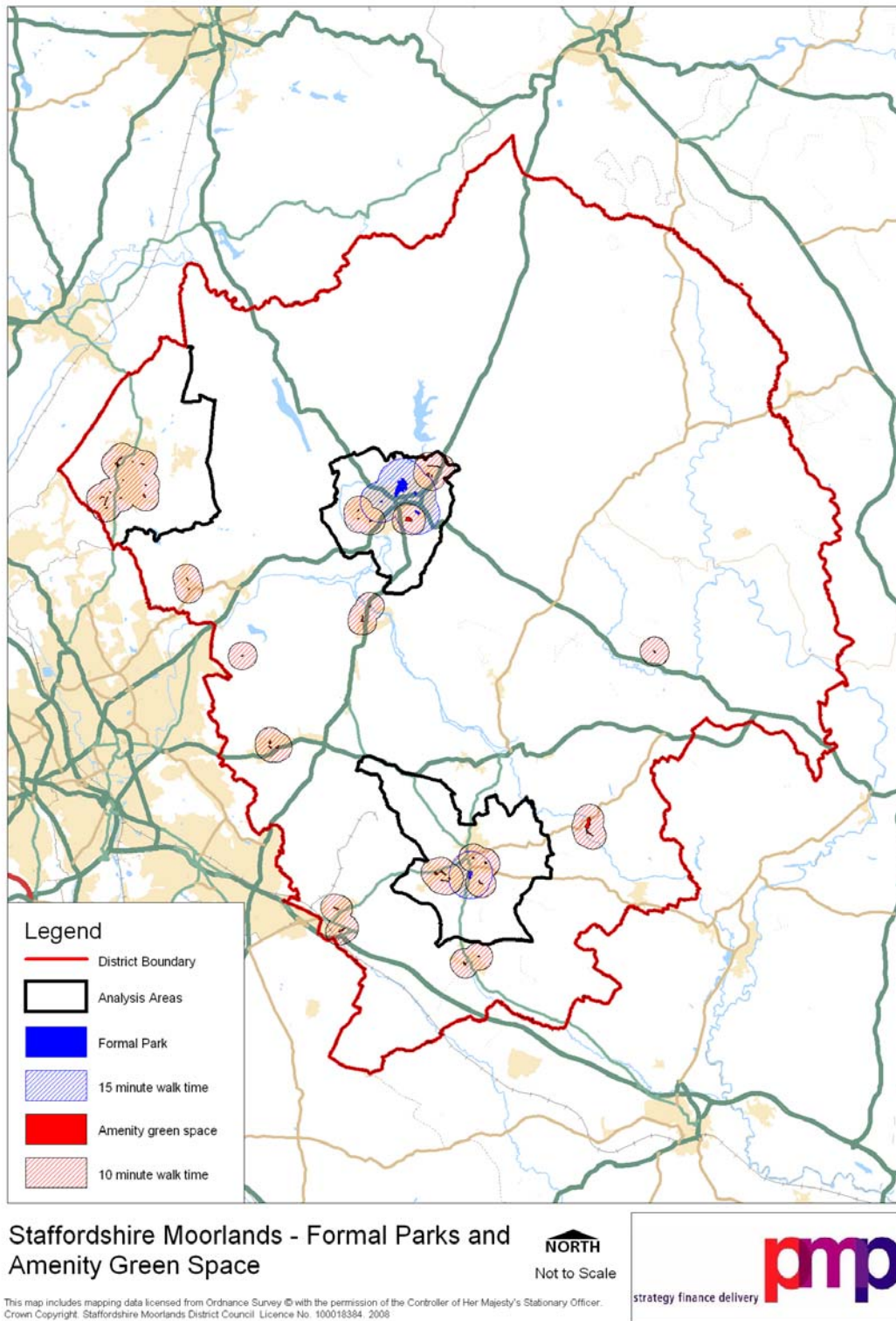
- application of the quantity standard reveals there is currently sufficient provision of amenity green space within Staffordshire Moorlands (0.05 ha). Population growth will ensure that by 2026, there will be deficiencies of amenity green space, equivalent to approximately 0.90 ha
- the application of the standard demonstrates that there is sufficient provision in the Cheadle and rural analysis areas to meet current and future demand
- residents in Leek demonstrated the greatest dissatisfaction with the current provision of amenity green space. The provision of amenity green space in this area is insufficient to meet current and future demand. When measured against the local standards, the greatest shortfalls can be found in Biddulph (-1.40 ha).

6.21 The application of the local accessibility and quality standards for amenity green space is set out overleaf (Map 6.1). Provision of amenity green space is also considered in relation to the location of parks and gardens and this can be seen in Map 6.2.

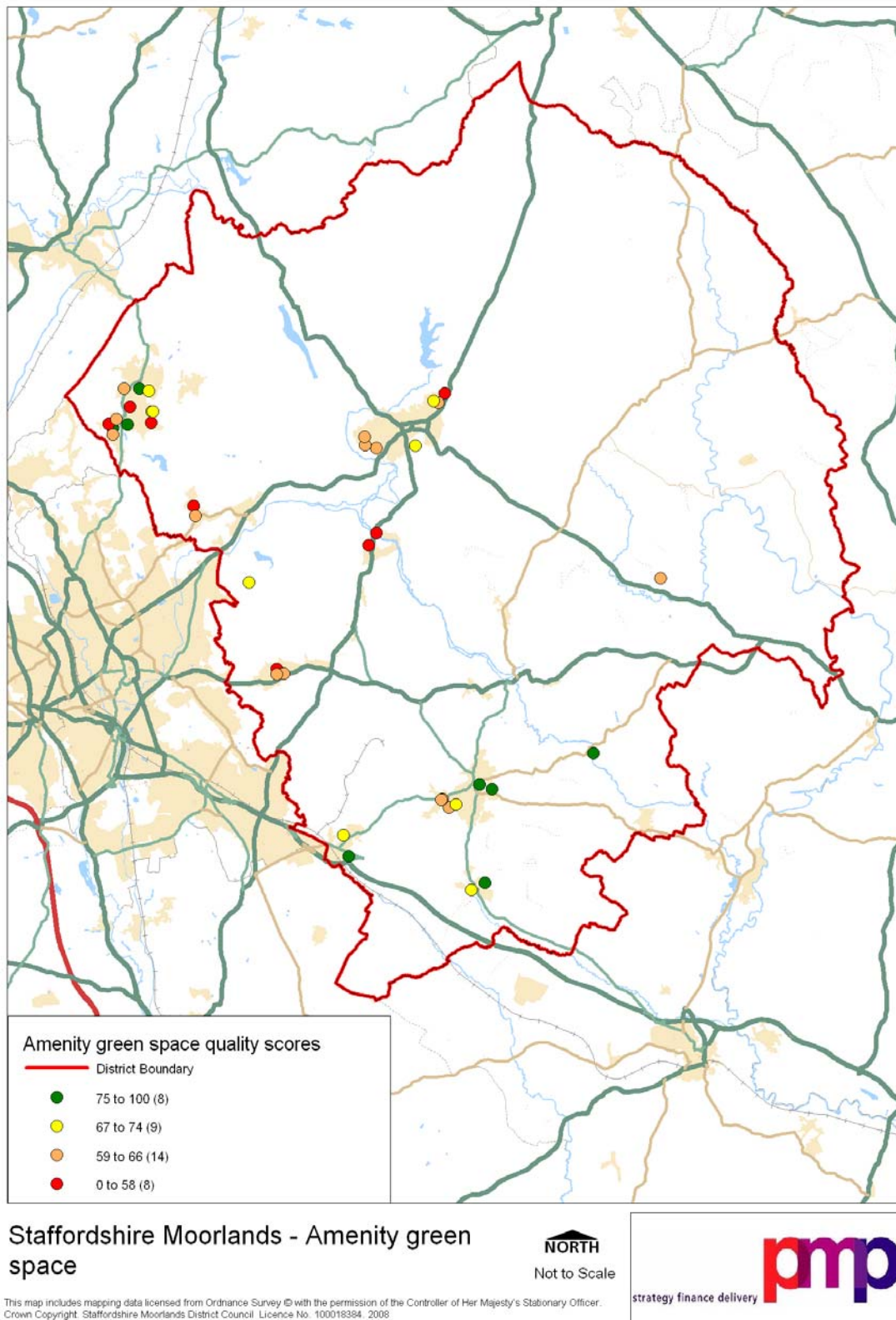
Map 6.1 – Provision of amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands



Map 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space and formal parks in Staffordshire Moorlands



Map 6.3 – Quality of amenity green space sites in Staffordshire Moorlands

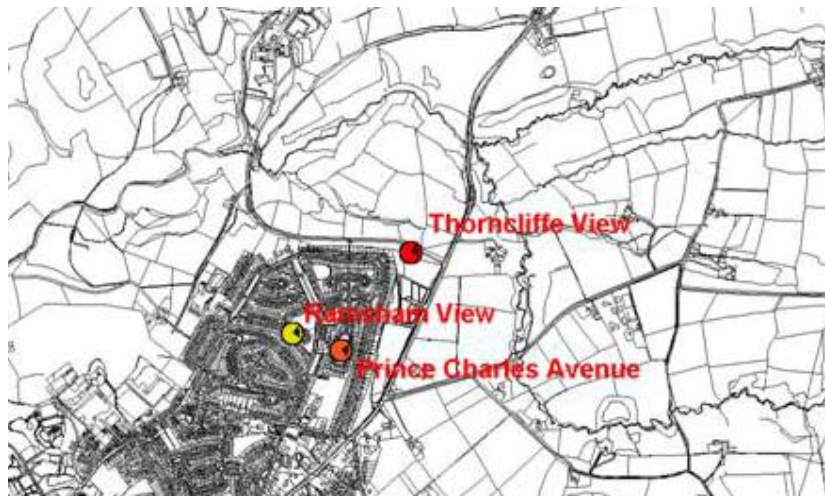


- 6.22 Map 6.1 indicates that amenity green spaces are evenly distributed across Staffordshire Moorlands. However, despite this, deficiencies are evident in the Cheadle analysis area, north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor.
- 6.23 As can be seen from Map 6.2, almost all residents have access to at least one amenity space or a formal park. However, some residents, particularly in the rural settlements do not have access to either.
- 6.24 The key issues emerging from the quality of existing amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands (Map 6.3) are:
- within the District there is generally an uneven distribution of high quality sites
 - there is a concentration of poor and average quality sites in Leek analysis area
 - in the Cheadle analysis area there is a large number of good quality sites
 - there is a variation in the quality of sites in the Biddulph analysis area.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

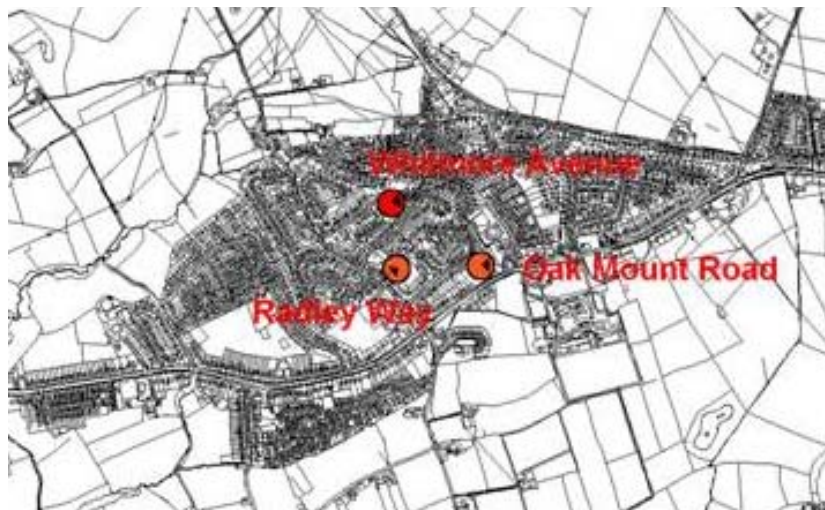
- 6.25 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where there is potential unmet demand we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 6.26 Consultation highlights the importance of obtaining a balance between the quality and quantity of amenity green space and the quality was considered to be of particular importance. The interrelationship between quality and quantity was clear. Given that the emphasis of the local quantity standard is on maintaining the existing level of provision, the focus should be on improving the quality of amenity space in the first instance.
- 6.27 The existing quality of amenity green spaces is average, with the average quality score of a site being 67%. This indicates the need for an improvement in the quality of existing provision.
- 6.28 The existing quality of amenity green spaces is variable, with all areas containing a mixture of poor and average quality sites. Examples of clusters of poor quality provision can be seen in Figures 6.1 and 6.2 below.

Figure 6.1 – Cluster of poor quality sites in Leek



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Figure 6.2 – Cluster of poor quality sites in Werrington



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- 6.29 In light of the importance of the quality of amenity green spaces, sites have been divided into quartiles according to their quality in order to identify those sites where particular improvement is required. This analysis is set out in Table 6.5 below and a selection of sites falling into each category is listed. A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix C. It can be seen that to fall within the top quartile, a score of 75% would be required.

Table 6.5 – Detailed analysis of the quality of existing sites

Above upper quartile	75% +	(90%) Keeling Road – Cheadle – Site ID 105
Median – Upper quartile	68% - 74%	(74%) Humber Drive – Biddulph – Site ID 60
Lower quartile – median	58% - 66%	(66%) – Glebe Close – Cheadle – Site ID 98
Less than lower quartile	Below 58%	(57%) – The Rocks – Rural – Site ID 458

- 6.30 The quality scores, and key areas of improvement identified for each site should inform any improvements at amenity green space sites.

AGS1	<p>Seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 75% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity green space.</p> <p>Priorities for improvement should be given to areas where amenity spaces provide the only informal recreational opportunity.</p>
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- 6.31 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 local residents and costly in terms of maintenance to the provider. Functionality was considered to be particularly important by residents.
- 6.32 The most appropriate priorities for each area of the District are therefore discussed taking into account the relationship between quality, quantity and accessibility. For all areas, where new development occurs, it will be essential to ensure that new amenity space is provided if the development falls outside of the recommended catchment of an existing amenity space site.

AGS2	Where new development occurs ensure that new amenity space is provided if the development falls outside of the recommended catchment of an existing amenity space site.
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Biddulph analysis area

- 6.33 Application of the quantity standard indicates the need for increased provision of amenity green space. Based on future population projections there is expected to be a shortfall of -1.40 ha by 2026. Accessibility mapping highlights this shortfall, with residents in the north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor, unable to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time (figures 6.3 and 6.4).

Figure 6.3 – Deficiencies in the north of Biddulph



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Figure 6.4 – Deficiencies in Biddulph Moor



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- 6.34 The provision of formal parks in the Biddulph analysis area is also insufficient to meet current and future demand. This means that residents currently located in an area deficient in the provision of amenity green space are also outside the catchment of a formal park. This reinforces the importance of addressing this area of deficiency.
- 6.35 The location of Biddulph Grange Country Park is in close proximity to this area, however there is a need for local access to informal open space. The Council should therefore seek to address any opportunities for new provision in these areas.

AGS3

Seek opportunities for new provision of amenity green space within the north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor. Alternatively, provision of a park in this area would alleviate the need for amenity space.

- 6.36 The quality of existing amenity green space sites in the Biddulph analysis area is average, with the average quality score of a site being 65%. Three of the five poorest quality amenity green spaces in the District are also located within this area, highlighting the need for significant improvements to a number of sites.
- 6.37 In light of the shortfalls of both parks and amenity green space in Biddulph, it will be essential to maximise the functionality of amenity spaces in the town.

AGS4

Seek to enhance the quality of existing amenity green space site within Biddulph to increase the functionality of the site. This may include providing ancillary accommodation.

Cheadle

- 6.38 Application of the accessibility standard reveals that the majority of residents in the Cheadle analysis area are within the recommended travel time of an amenity green space. Only a small number of residents in the north and south of Cheadle are outside the recommended catchment of an amenity green space (figures 6.5 and 6.6).

Figure 6.5 – Deficiencies in the north of Cheadle



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Figure 6.6 – Deficiencies in the south of Cheadle



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- 6.39 When combining the provision of formal parks and amenity green space, residents in the south of Cheadle who are located in an area deficient in the provision of amenity green space do have access to a formal park. However, deficiencies in the north of Cheadle do still exist. In light of the adequate provision of amenity green space, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing amenity sites and increasing access to this type of open space for residents where amenity space is more limited.

AGS5	Focus on enhancing the quality of existing amenity green space sites within the Cheadle analysis area. Particular consideration should be given to increasing access to sites for residents located in areas of deficiency. This may include the creation of green links.
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- 6.40 Although there is sufficient provision of amenity green space in the Cheadle analysis area, there are a number of sites with overlapping catchments. This suggests that some sites may have limited functionality and may better meet local need if the primary purpose of the site was to change.

AGS6	Evaluate the value to local residents in the sites in question in order to determine the most appropriate future use. This should consider the current levels of use of the site as well as the quality and access.
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Leek

- 6.41 Application of the quantity standard reveals there is insufficient amenity space to meet current and future demands. A shortfall of -0.34 ha is expected by 2026 and accessibility mapping further illustrates this shortfall, with a large number of residents in the centre and north of Leek unable to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time (figure 6.7).

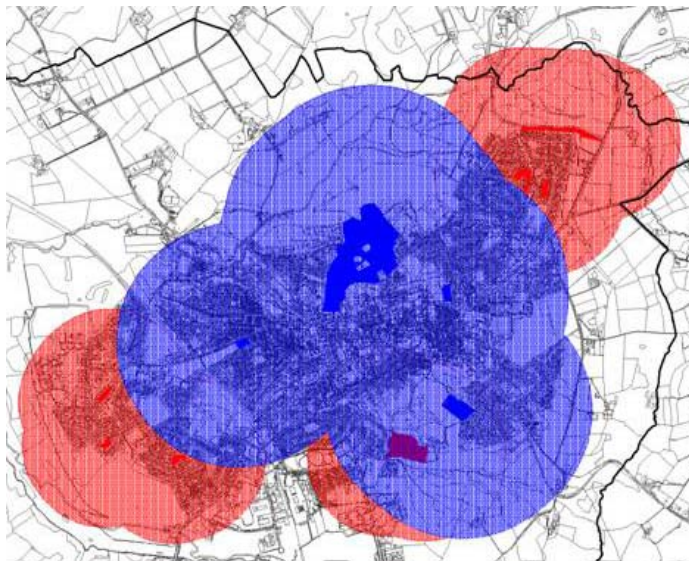
Figure 6.7 – Deficiencies within the Leek analysis area



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- 6.42 Despite this, when combining the provision of formal parks and amenity green space, it can be seen that nearly all residents have access to one of these open spaces within the recommended accessibility standard (figure 6.8).

Figure 6.8 – Provision of formal parks and amenity green space in the Leek analysis area



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- 6.43 There are several formal parks located in the areas deficient in amenity green space and, as a high order facility, the formal parks negate the need for amenity green space. Therefore, focus should be placed on enhancing

existing formal parks in the Leek analysis area, to increase their value to the local community. The provision of local informal open space will be essential, particularly in the Haregate area of Leek where deprivation is higher.

AGS7	Seek to enhance the quality of existing formal parks in Leek to increase their value to the local community. Maintain the quality of amenity spaces.
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Rural Settlements

- 6.44 The provision of amenity green space in the rural analysis area is sufficient to meet current and future demand (0.67 ha). As highlighted for many other types of open space, in rural areas it is often necessary to exceed the recommended minimum standard in order to provide appropriately for residents.
- 6.45 Accessibility mapping illustrates that many settlements do contain amenity spaces, however deficiencies do exist in some larger settlements, such as Endon and Alton (figures 6.9 – 6.10).

Figure 6.9 – Deficiencies in Endon



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Figure 6.10 – Deficiencies in Alton



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- 6.46 In many rural settlements amenity space may act as a substitute for the provision of play areas, as well as being the only type of open space in the settlement.
- 6.47 In light of the identified deficiencies of parks and gardens within the smaller settlements and deficiencies highlighted in the provision of amenity space, consideration should be given to upgrading amenity space (where possible) or providing a new small local park in these areas. The pocket parks initiative was discussed in the parks and gardens section. Focus should initially be on villages sufficient in size to warrant the provision of a park. This was discussed in the Parks and Gardens Section.
- 6.48 Based on the local quantity standard and the minimum size of an amenity green space, suggested in PPG17 guidance (0.2ha), as a minimum it could be suggested that amenity green space should be provided in settlements where the population exceeds 700 (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).
- 6.49 Those settlements without sufficient provision should therefore be prioritised for improvement. Those Church Parishes (CP) where the population is sufficient to generate demand for at least one amenity space therefore include:
- Endon and Stanley CP
 - Brown Edge CP
 - Kingsley CP
 - Ipstones CP
 - Alton CP
 - Draycott in the Moors CP
 - Waterhouses CP
 - Caverswall CP
 - Horton CP
 - Bagnall CP.

- 6.50 Given the importance of providing amenity space in every area, while priority should be given to larger settlements above, 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.

AGS8	Ensure that all villages with over 700 residents contain an amenity green space. PPG17 guidance recommends a minimum site size of 0.2 hectares. Consideration should also be given to providing amenity space in settlements devoid of any other open space.
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- 6.51 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.

AGS9	Seek to enhance the quality of existing amenity green space within the rural settlements. Monitor demand for increased provision within the larger rural settlements where there is an existing deficiency and explore alternative solutions for the effective provision of amenity space through partnership working.
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Summary

- 6.52 The community interaction benefits of amenity green space are recognised, with residents identifying this type of open space as valuable to the local community.
- 6.53 Application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards illustrates the need for qualitative enhancements to a number of existing amenity green space sites. Amenity spaces can be particularly important to local residents in light of their close proximity to the home.
- 6.54 While the overall focus is on increasing the quality of amenity spaces, consideration should be given to new provision in some larger rural settlements, focusing firstly on settlements where the population exceeds 700.
- 6.55 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are to:
- seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 75%
 - seize opportunities for new provision of amenity green space within the north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor
 - seek to enhance the quality of existing amenity green space site within Biddulph, Cheadle and Leek

SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- facilitate the provision of amenity spaces in settlements where the population exceeds 700 residents
- ensure that amenity space is provided in new developments which fall outside of the recommended catchment of an existing amenity space.

Provision for children and young people

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 PPG17 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 greenspace) to large, multi purpose play areas. PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. Provision of facilities for children does not necessarily negate the need for provision for young people and vice versa.
- 7.3 The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) 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).
- 7.4 The Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy (2007) identifies alternative categories of play provision for children and young people:
- Junior/Toddler Outdoor Play Space (JOP) (Replacing LEAP)
 - Youth/Outdoor Play Spaces (YOPS) (Replacing NEAP)
 - Family Outdoor Play Spaces (FOPS).
- 7.5 In light of the differences between provision for children and young people, this typology has been subdivided and provision for children and facilities for young people have been analysed separately.
- 7.6 Provision for children is taken to include equipped children's play areas and adventure playgrounds that are perceived to cater for children under 12.

7.7 Facilities for young people includes the following types of provision:

- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- skateparks
- basketball courts
- youth shelters
- informal kickabout areas
- BMX tracks.

7.8 This section of the report sets out the strategic context, key findings emerging from consultation and assessment of current provision for children and young people. Local standards have been derived from the consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and children.

7.9 This section of the report directly complements the Play Strategy and is designed to support the implementation of the key priorities of the play strategy from a planning perspective.

Strategic context

7.10 The key issues for children and young people's facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are set out in Table 7.1 overleaf.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Table 7.1 – Strategic context – regional and local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.	This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan. The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development. Residential developments may make provision in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on site• on other land in the vicinity owned by them• by making payments to the Council's 'Central	This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate. The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>Fund for Open space'</p> <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)	<p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Play Strategy 2007 – 2012	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “working through the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Partnership to ensure all children in the District have access to high quality, inclusive play opportunities”.</p> <p>The aims of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide a range of high quality informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District’s children and young people• provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills• ensure inclusive play opportunities are provided where needed to facilitate the provision of high quality, accessible facilities• ensure play opportunities meet demand, encourage participation and enable children to engage in play and recreational activities• ensure the strategy supports the aims of relevant national, regional and local strategies.	<p>This assessment takes into account the key findings of the Play Strategy and facilitates the delivery of the objectives and targets of strategy through the planning system.</p>
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SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

	<p>The objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide evidence of the need for play opportunities and facilities identifying shortfalls and surpluses in provision to enable an informed approach in the future• analyse future provision and establish future policy of children's play provision within the District• help identify a portfolio of projects to be submitted for funding to the BIG Lottery Children's Play Programme. <p>The five key themes of the strategy are based upon the Staffordshire Children and Young People's plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• being healthy• staying safe• enjoying and achieving• making a positive contribution• achieving economic wellbeing. <p>The play strategy sets some specific standards for the appropriate provision of play across Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically:</p>	
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SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 facility for children per 1000 residents • 1 facility for youths per 3000 residents • Facilities (of different scales) should be provided in rural settlements where the population exceeds 500. A full range of provision for all age groups is required where the population of settlements exceeds 3000. <p>JOP (Replacing LEAP) – local accessibility standard of 10 minutes walk time.</p> <p>YOPS (Replacing NEAP) – local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time.</p> <p>FOPS – local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time.</p>	
Staffordshire Children and Young People's plan 2007 – 2010	<p>The vision of the strategy is, "children, young people and families experience Staffordshire as a great place to live, learn and achieve in and they will be supported to be healthy and safe from harm".</p> <p>The five key themes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being healthy • staying safe • enjoying and achieving 	<p>The provision of appropriate open space, sport and recreation facilities will contribute to the achievement of the goals of this strategy. In particular, the evaluation of provision for children and young people will contribute to the objectives set out in the vision.</p>

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• making a positive contribution• achieving economic wellbeing.	
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Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

7.11 Consultation undertaken as part of this study highlighted the following key issues relating to provision for children and young people:

- there is a need for more imaginative and exciting play in addition to increased provision for children and young people
- the lack of facilities available for use at night and during school holidays for young people is a key issue across the District. This highlights the importance of considering equipped provision for children and young people in the context of wider facilities and opportunities
- a lack of opportunities for younger residents is perceived to have a knock on impact on the poor quality of other types of open space, generating misuse and anti social behaviour
- there are a number of schemes and opportunities for young people which are provided across the district. These have proved successful and participation is increasing
- in addition to providing young people and children with an opportunity to play, facilities for children and young people encourage social interaction and provide educational opportunities.

Quantity of provision

7.12 The quantity of provision for children and young people across Staffordshire Moorlands is summarised in Tables 7.2 below and 7.3 overleaf.

7.13 It must be noted that this assessment considers only the provision of equipped facilities and does not take into account other activities offered.

Table 7.2 – Provision for children across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	0.33	7	0.02	0.08	20,185	0.0163
Cheadle	0.34	7	0.01	0.13	12,586	0.0270
Leek	0.47	7	0.02	0.31	20,566	0.0229
Rural	1.66	20	0.01	0.47	39,246	0.0322
Overall	2.80	41	0.01	0.31	92,583	0.0543

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.14 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision are as follows:

- responses from the household survey suggest that there is dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision for children. 61% of the population believe that there is nearly enough/not enough, as opposed to 30% who believe there is more than enough/about the right provision
- looking across the analysis areas, the lowest level of satisfaction can be found in Cheadle where 65% stated that the level of provision is insufficient and only 27% felt the level of provision is more than sufficient
- the high level of dissatisfaction in the Cheadle analysis area is supported by the actual level of provision, where the lowest current provision of children's play areas in the District can be found
- sites are unevenly distributed across the District, with nearly 50% of sites located in the rural settlements of Staffordshire Moorlands. However, sites are evenly distributed across the urban areas of the District. The concentration of facilities in the rural settlements is perhaps unsurprising, given that facilities are required to meet the needs of residents in each settlement and therefore probably serve fewer children. The rural area also demonstrates the greatest variation in the size of sites.

7.15 Table 7.3 below summarises the quantity of facilities for young people across Staffordshire Moorlands.

Table 7.3 – Provision for young people across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	0.18	2	0.04	0.14	20,185	0.0089
Cheadle	0.31	3	0.01	0.25	12,586	0.0246
Leek	0.04	2	-	0.20	20,566	0.0019
Rural	0.05	1	-	0.05	39,246	0.0013
Overall	0.58	8	0.01	0.25	92,583	0.0112

7.16 The key issues emerging from Table 7.3 above and consultations relating to the quantity of provision for young people are as follows:

- across Staffordshire Moorlands, the majority of residents (75%) stated that there is not enough provision for young people. In contrast, only

13% think that there is either more than enough provision or that the level is about right

- when considering the level of satisfaction across the geographical areas the findings are relatively consistent. Residents in Biddulph expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with 76% of residents suggesting there were not enough facilities for young people. The perception that there is a lack of provision for young people is the most conclusive of all open space typologies
- the greatest current provision of young people's facilities is found in the Cheadle analysis area (0.31 ha). Based on the findings of the household survey, it is within this area where the greatest level of satisfaction was portrayed
- facilities for young people are evenly distributed across the District; however the lack of provision is clearly evident, with only one site located in the rural settlements. The size of sites does not vary significantly.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 7.17 The recommended local quantity standards have been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and are summarised overleaf. Full justification for each of the standards is provided within Appendix F.
- 7.18 Both standards require an increase on existing levels of provision in light of the findings of the local needs assessment, where there was an overwhelming concern that provision is insufficient. These findings were consistent with the Play Strategy, and the recommended standards mirror those set in the strategy.

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Quantity standard – provision for children (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.05 ha per 1000 population	0.08 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The general consensus established throughout consultation was a lack of provision of children's play areas. Furthermore residents at drop in sessions, older resident's discussion sessions and respondents to the IT children's survey identified the need for increased provision for children in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>In light of the conclusive perception of insufficient provision for children in the District, it is recommended the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. This would ensure that opportunities to provide new play areas are taken and would also ensure that where appropriate, new developments include suitable provision for children. This is particularly important considering 44% of residents feel the quality of play areas is poor and therefore there should also be a focus on quality.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 0.08 ha per 1000 is approximately equivalent to that set in the Play Strategy. This is particularly challenging. In light of issues raised in rural settlements regards a lack of playing facilities, a challenging standard has also been set.</p> <p>The main complaint identified during consultation was a lack of interesting and exciting facilities. Therefore, a key consideration for the Council should be the design of any new provision, ensuring that it is fit for purpose. One of the aims of the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy is that play opportunities should provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills, and the Council should strive to achieve this.</p> <p>Although setting the standard above the existing level of provision creates a focus on increasing provision in the District all play areas should achieve the recommended quality standard. This will require qualitative improvements to a number of sites in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>While setting a quantity standard above the existing level of provision is reflective of local expectations for a greater quantity of provision of play areas, it is the application of the accessibility standard that should determine the value of existing sites and identify areas where new provision is required. Setting a quantity standard above the existing level alongside a challenging accessibility standard should ensure that provision is equitably distributed.</p>	

Quantity standard – provision for young people (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.011 ha per 1000 population	0.070 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The insufficient provision of young people's facilities was a key theme raised throughout consultation. The dissatisfaction with the provision of this typology was the most conclusive of all typologies. The lack of provision and lack of appropriate provision was acknowledged to have a negative effect on other typologies in the District, for example formal parks.</p> <p>The local standard has been set above the existing level of provision to address the need for the increased provision of young people's facilities. Combined with the accessibility standard, this will allow the identification of any locational deficiencies in the District and establish priorities for increased provision.</p> <p>Although setting the standard at this level will prioritise the provision of new facilities, the Council should be aware of the requirement to enhance the quality of facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands. This is particularly important, considering the quality of young people's facilities was considered to be poor by respondents to the household survey. The type of facility provided was perceived to be particularly important in consultations undertaken as part of both this study and the play strategy.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 7.19 The quality of provision for children and young people was assessed through site visits. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 7.20 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in appendix G. Cleanliness and maintenance was perceived to be the key issue for facilities for children and young people in Staffordshire Moorlands. For young people, the type of facilities was the most important factor.
- 7.21 The quality of provision for children is summarised in Table 7.4 overleaf. Issues arising from the assessment of facilities for young people are set out in Table 7.5.

Table 7.4 – Quality of provision for children

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	7	52-80	65	Brown Leeds Play Area – ID 8	Biddulph Valley Play Area – ID 56
Cheadle	6	60-83	74	Churchill Road Play Area – ID 108	Arundel Drive Play Area – ID 114
Leek	8	46-80	65	Charnwood Close Play Area – ID 412	Cruso Street Play Area – ID 270
Rural	17	36-88	60	Kingsley Recreation Ground Play Area – ID 135	Checkley Community Centre Play Area – ID 209
Overall	38	36-88	66	Kingsley Recreation Ground Play Area – ID 135	Checkley Community Centre Play Area – ID 209

7.22 The key issues emerging from Table 7.4 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for children are as follows:

- findings from the household survey highlight a split in opinion concerning the quality of children's play areas. 44% of respondents feel the quality of play areas is poor and 40% consider them to be average. This indicates children's play areas are of lower quality than other types of open space
- within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed. The greatest level of dissatisfaction can be found in the Rural analysis area, where 49% of residents regard the quality of children's play areas as poor. The average quality of sites is consistent across the District, with the average score of a facility being 66%. Despite this, the overall scores achieved vary from 36% – 87% indicating that facilities are of varying quality in each of the areas
- the quality of maintenance at children's play areas was rated as average by the majority of respondents to the household survey (37%). 34% of residents stated that the quality of maintenance of this

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typology was poor. Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall results, with the exception of residents in the Leek analysis area, who rate the quality of maintenance as good (34%)

- general comments from residents emphasised the poor quality maintenance at children's play areas. Specifically, residents highlighted play areas as being unsafe due to litter and broken glass. Play equipment was also identified as being in need of repair due to ageing and a lack of varied opportunities for children. Parish Councils highlighted the challenges of maintaining play areas to the required standard, referencing a lack of investment
- while 37% of children responding to the IT Survey felt play areas were clean, safe and nice to use, 31% believed that facilities were sometimes unclean and in need of improvement. When asked what they would like to make things better, 24% of respondents stated better range of play equipment. 22% also stated they would like play area with interesting play equipment near to their home
- responses to the Parish Council questionnaires focused on the lack of funding available for maintenance and development of play areas. There were concerns over the limited variety of play equipment and the fact that many of the facilities needed upgrading.

Table 7.5 – Quality of provision for young people

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	2	58-93	76	Newpool Terrace – ID 903	Mill Hayes Sports Ground Skate Park – ID 4
Cheadle	3	38-72	60	Hammersley Hayes Road – ID 112	Memorial Recreation Ground MUGA – ID 915
Leek	2	72-82	77	Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground MUGA – ID 401	Brough Park Skate Park – ID 400
Rural	1	51	-	-	-

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Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Overall	8	38-93	67	Hammersley Hayes Road – ID 112	Mill Hayes Sports Ground Skate Park – ID 4

7.23 The key issues emerging from Table 7.5 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for young people are:

- 71% of respondents to the household survey state that the quality of young people's open space is poor. Only 8% of residents indicate the quality of facilities is good, highlighting an overall perception of poor quality provision for young people in the District. Further in depth analysis suggests this may be influenced by the perceived lack of provision, highlighted throughout consultation
- findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses; with over 59% of respondents in each analysis area indicating the quality of young people's provision is poor. As with children's provision, the lowest level of satisfaction is shown in the Rural analysis area, with 79% of residents stating the quality of young people's provision is poor. This suggests that there are particular issues with regards to young people's provision in the rural settlements. This is reflected in the quality scores
- there is a variation with the quality of sites across the District with the average score of a facility being 67%. This does not reflect the findings of the consultation and further supports the view that there is dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision. However, scores achieved vary from 38% – 93%, indicating that facilities are of mixed quality throughout the District
- 52% of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of maintenance at young people's open space as poor. Results within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, highlighting the poor quality maintenance of these facilities. Furthermore, general comments from residents noted the poor quality of maintenance at young people's facilities
- some residents at drop in sessions expressed concerns that older children use facilities intended for younger children and cause damage and vandalism

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- 46% of respondents to the IT Young People survey felt that current facilities were of average quality and needed some improvements. Furthermore, 27% stated that the quality of their local facilities were poor and needed extensive improvements. The need for a range of facilities was emphasised by respondents.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 7.24 The recommended local quality standards for provision for children and young people are summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 7.25 The standards summarise the key aspirations of residents of Staffordshire Moorlands with regards provision for children and young people.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – provision for children		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Well kept grass	
Facilities for the young	Dog free area	
Toilets	Seating	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	5%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	64%	4
Vegetation	16%	3
Ancillary accommodation	14%	2
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for children.		
Recommended standard – provision for young people		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Seating	
Range of facilities	Toilets	

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Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to facilities for young people, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
Component of quality	Weighting
Security and Safety	2
Cleanliness and maintenance	3
Vegetation	1
Ancillary accommodation	4
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for young people.	

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 7.26 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing opportunities for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 7.27 Local access to provision for children and young people is particularly important in order to promote use of the site. In some instances, territorial issues prevent young people from using facilities that would appear to be in close proximity to their home.
- 7.28 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.
- 7.29 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility of provision for children and young people include:
- current and expected travel methods highlight a clear preference for walking to children's play areas – this reinforces the expectation that facilities are provided locally
 - 60% of respondents to the household survey indicated they prefer to walk to young people's facilities – again there is an expectation that these facilities would be located in close proximity to the home
 - site assessments reveal that access to facilities for both children and young people is generally average. However, one significant area identified for improvement was signage.
- 7.30 The recommended local accessibility standards for children and young people are summarised below. It can be seen that residents expect to travel further to reach facilities for young people than they do for children. Provision of both types of facility is expected to be in close proximity to the home. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.
- 7.31 It is recognised that some facilities may attract users from a wider catchment and this will be discussed in the analysis that follows. While these facilities do

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not negate the need for local provision, they provide an additional and frequently used District wide resource.

- 7.32 The accessibility standards set are based directly on the findings of the consultation carried out as part of this study. They are also directly comparable with the standards set in the Play Strategy.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard – Provision for Children
10 MINUTE WALK TIME
Justification
66% of current users and 75% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to a children's play area. In light of this it is recommended a walk time be set to meet the expectations of current and prospective users.
A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended in line with the consultation findings (supported by the mean and the mode). This is also reflective of findings within the individual analysis areas. Setting a standard at this level will ensure the provision of locally accessible children's play areas and allow for a balance between quantity and quality. This is reflective of the local accessibility standard contained within the Play Strategy. As within the strategy, further consideration should be given to the type of facility in each area.

Recommended standard – Provision for Young People
15 MINUTE WALK TIME
Justification
The majority of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to young people's facilities (60%). However, within the rural area residents indicate more of a willingness to drive to young people's facilities, indicating an expected lack of access to local facilities within a rural settlement.
A 15 minute walk time has been set based upon the findings of the consultation and the importance of balancing quantity of provision with high quality facilities. Setting a local standard at this level will highlight deficiencies and allow for some young people's facilities to be provided in larger strategic sites, such as parks. The local standard is broadly representative of the opinions of all residents in across the individual analysis areas. This is reflective of the local accessibility standard contained within the Play Strategy.

Applying provision standards

- 7.33 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 7.34 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. The application of these standards is set out below in Table 7.6. In light of the importance of the proximity of facilities to the home, the application of accessibility standards is particularly important.

- 7.35 The findings of the application of these standards should complement the principles set out in the play strategy and inform future decision making.

Table 7.6 – Application of quantity standard

Analysis areas	Children	Children	Young people	Young people
	Current balanced against local standard - children (0.08 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard - children (0.08 hectares per 1000 population)	Current balanced against local standard – young people (0.070 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard – young people (0.070 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	-1.23	-1.28	-1.19	-1.23
Cheadle	-0.63	-0.67	-0.54	-0.57
Leek	-1.12	-1.18	-1.35	-1.40
Rural	-1.37	-1.48	-2.60	-2.70
Overall	-1.23	-4.61	-1.19	-5.90

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

- application of the quantity standard for children's play areas (0.08 ha per 1000) indicates that District wide, there is insufficient provision to meet current demand (-1.23 ha). Future population projections further increase this shortfall significantly to -4.61 ha by 2026
- the provision of children's play areas is insufficient to meet current and future demand across all areas of Staffordshire Moorlands. The greatest shortfall of provision is located in the rural settlements (-1.37 ha)
- for young people's facilities, the local standard of 0.070 ha per 1000 population shows that there is insufficient provision to meet current and future demand in all areas of the District
- similar to the findings for children's play areas, the total deficiency across the District equates to -1.19 hectares, with the rural settlements having the greatest shortfall (-2.60 ha per 1000 population)
- future population projections indicate the shortfall of young people's facilities is expected to increase significantly to -5.90 ha by 2026.

7.37 In light of the local nature of both facilities for children and facilities for young people, consideration has been given to the application of the quantity standard at a ward level. This further highlights shortfalls and surpluses and is set out in Table 7.7 (children) and Table 7.8 (young people) overleaf. Shortfalls and surpluses by Parish were provided as part of the Play Strategy.

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Table 7.6 – Provision of facilities for children by ward

Ward	Population	Provision for children (hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Alton	1,396	0.050	0.08	0.0358166	0.11168	-0.06168
Bagnall and Stanley	1,481	0.010	0.08	0.0067522	0.11848	-0.10848
Biddulph East	5,996	0.090	0.08	0.01501	0.47968	-0.38968
Biddulph North	5,122	0.020	0.08	0.0039047	0.40976	-0.38976
Biddulph South	1,626	0.000	0.08	0	0.13008	-0.13008
Biddulph West	5,079	0.160	0.08	0.0315023	0.40632	-0.24632
Biddulph Moor	1,689	0.060	0.08	0.035524	0.13512	-0.07512
Brown Edge and Endon	4,759	0.170	0.08	0.0357218	0.38072	-0.21072
Caverswall	1,707	0.300	0.08	0.1757469	0.13656	0.16344
Cellarhead	3,342	0.000	0.08	0	0.26736	-0.26736
Cheadle North East	3,581	0.210	0.08	0.0586428	0.28648	-0.07648
Cheadle South East	3,664	0.100	0.08	0.0272926	0.29312	-0.19312
Cheadle West	4,921	0.030	0.08	0.0060963	0.39368	-0.36368
Checkley	5,402	0.160	0.08	0.0296187	0.43216	-0.27216
Cheddleton	4,474	0.130	0.08	0.0290568	0.35792	-0.22792
Churnet	3,226	0.120	0.08	0.0371978	0.25808	-0.13808
Forsbrook	5,008	0.050	0.08	0.009984	0.40064	-0.35064
Horton	1,784	0.100	0.08	0.0560538	0.14272	-0.04272
Ipstones	1,817	0.050	0.08	0.0275179	0.14536	-0.09536
Leek East	4,645	0.020	0.08	0.0043057	0.3716	-0.3516
Leek North	5,412	0.060	0.08	0.0110865	0.43296	-0.37296
Leek South	5,093	0.340	0.08	0.0667583	0.40744	-0.06744
Leek West	4,730	0.050	0.08	0.0105708	0.3784	-0.3284
Werrington	3,430	0.050	0.08	0.0145773	0.2744	-0.2244

7.38 It can be seen that Werrington is the only ward where the level of provision for children is sufficient to meet the needs of the local population. The greatest shortfalls exist in:

- Biddulph North – 0.39 ha
- Biddulph East – 0.39ha
- Leek North – 0.37 ha
- Cheadle West – 0.36 ha.

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Table 7.7 – Provision for young people

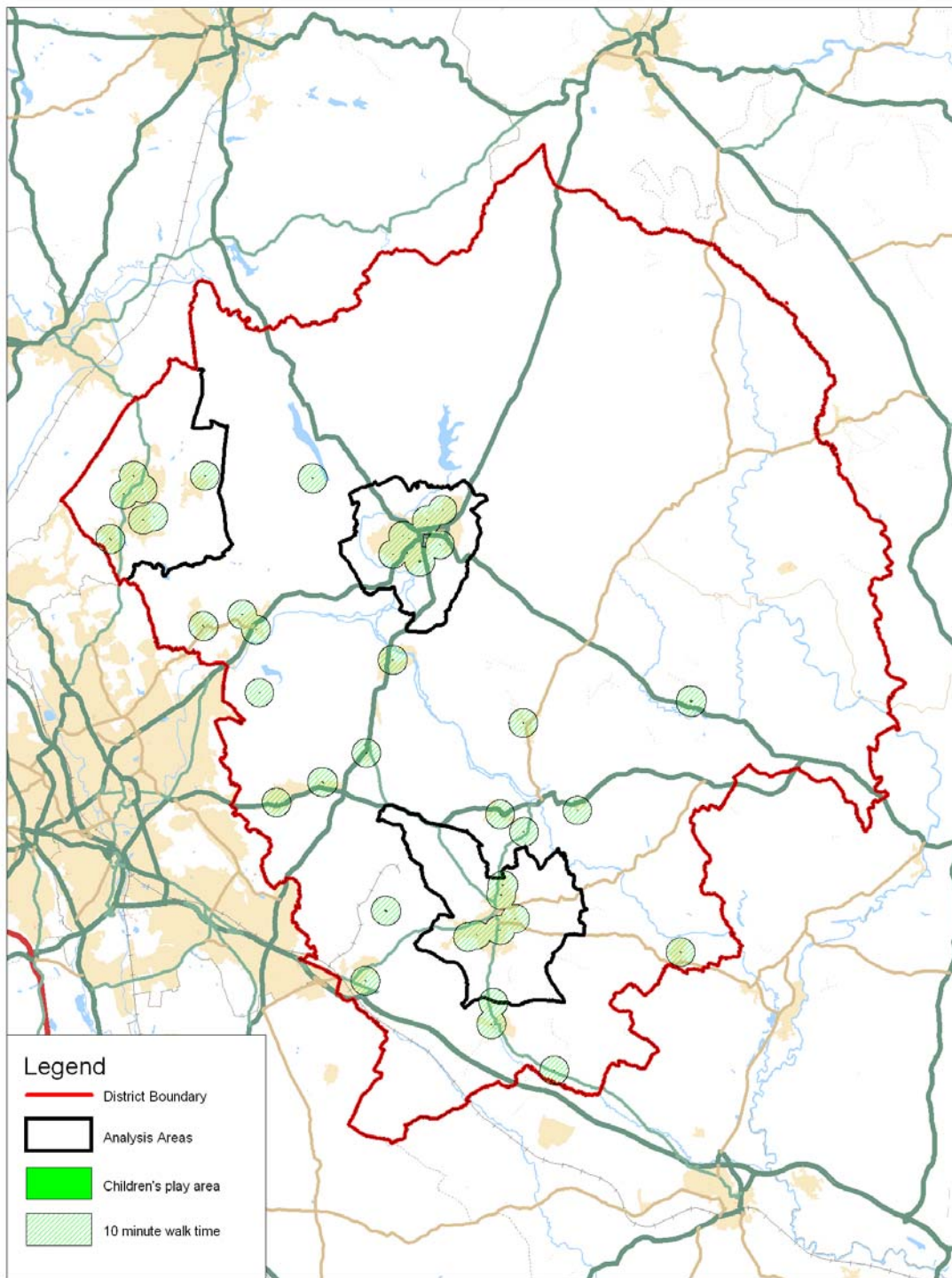
Ward	Population	Provision for teenagers (hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Biddulph East	5,996	0	0.07	0	0.41972	-0.41972
Checkley	5,402	0	0.07	0	0.37814	-0.37814
Biddulph North	5,122	0	0.07	0	0.35854	-0.35854
Leek South	5,093	0	0.07	0	0.35651	-0.35651
Forsbrook	5,008	0	0.07	0	0.35056	-0.35056
Cheadle West	4,921	0	0.07	0	0.34447	-0.34447
Leek North	5,412	0.04	0.07	0.007391	0.37884	-0.33884
Brown Edge and Endon	4,759	0	0.07	0	0.33313	-0.33313
Leek West	4,730	0	0.07	0	0.3311	-0.3311
Leek East	4,645	0	0.07	0	0.32515	-0.32515
Cheddleton	4,474	0	0.07	0	0.31318	-0.31318
Cellahead	3,342	0	0.07	0	0.23394	-0.23394
Churnet	3,226	0	0.07	0	0.22582	-0.22582
Biddulph West	5,079	0.14	0.07	0.0275645	0.35553	-0.21553
Cheadle South East	3,664	0.06	0.07	0.0163755	0.25648	-0.19648
Werrington	3,430	0.05	0.07	0.0145773	0.2401	-0.1901
Ipsstones	1,817	0	0.07	0	0.12719	-0.12719
Horton	1,784	0	0.07	0	0.12488	-0.12488
Caverswall	1,707	0	0.07	0	0.11949	-0.11949
Biddulph Moor	1,689	0	0.07	0	0.11823	-0.11823
Bagnall and Stanley	1,481	0	0.07	0	0.10367	-0.10367
Alton	1,396	0	0.07	0	0.09772	-0.09772
Biddulph South	1,626	0.04	0.07	0.0246002	0.11382	-0.07382
Cheadle North East	3,581	0.25	0.07	0.0698129	0.25067	-0.00067

7.39 Similarly, there no wards where the level of provision for young people is sufficient to meet local needs. The wards that contain the largest deficiencies per 1000 population are:

- Biddulph East – 0.42 ha
- Checkley – 0.38 ha
- Biddulph North – 0.36
- Leek South – 0.36 ha.

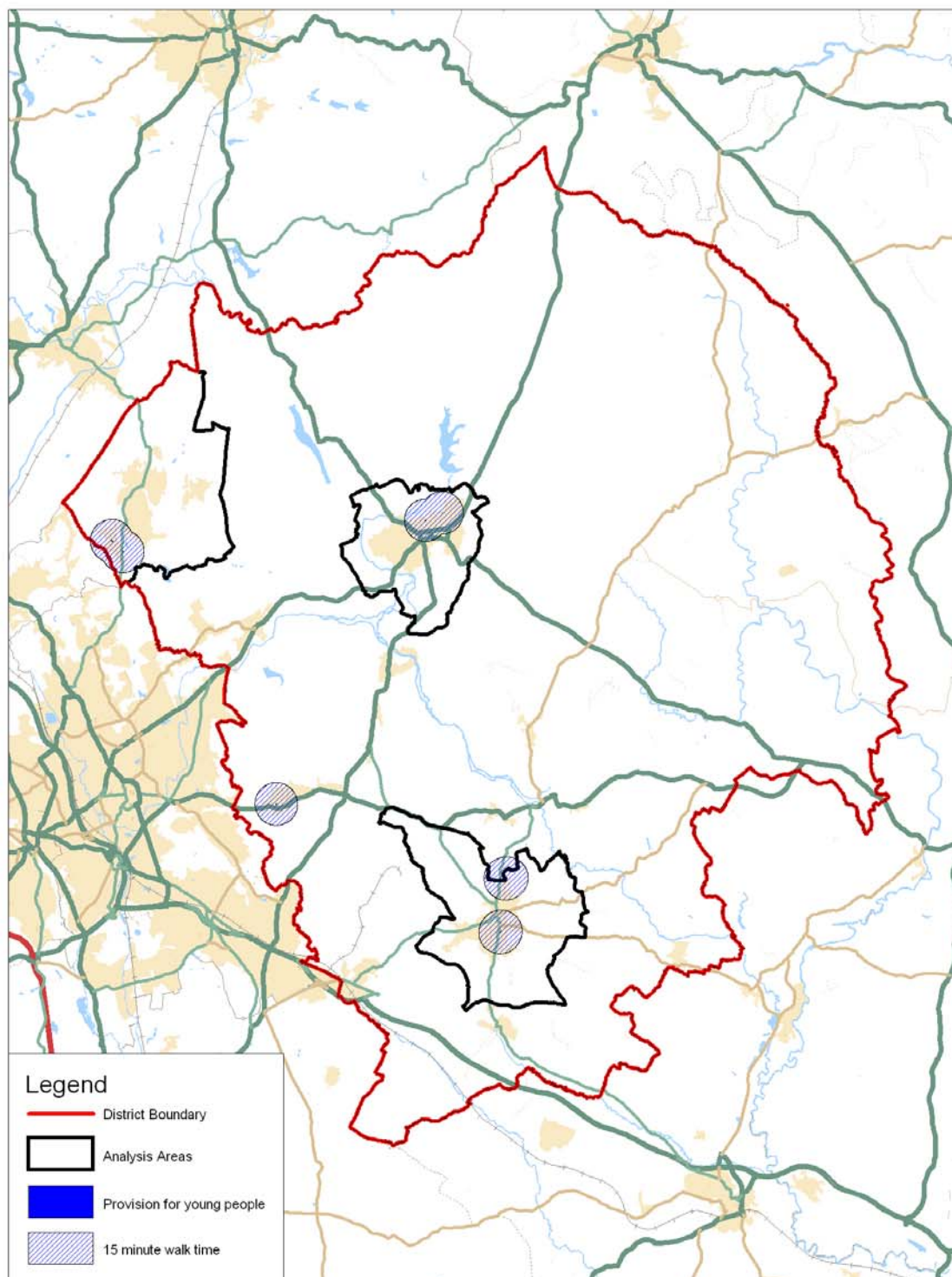
7.40 The application of the local accessibility standards in relation to provision for children and young people is set out in Map 7.1 and 7.2 overleaf.

Map 7.1 – Provision for children in Staffordshire Moorlands



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Map 7.2 – Provision for young people in Staffordshire Moorlands



Staffordshire Moorlands - Provision for young people

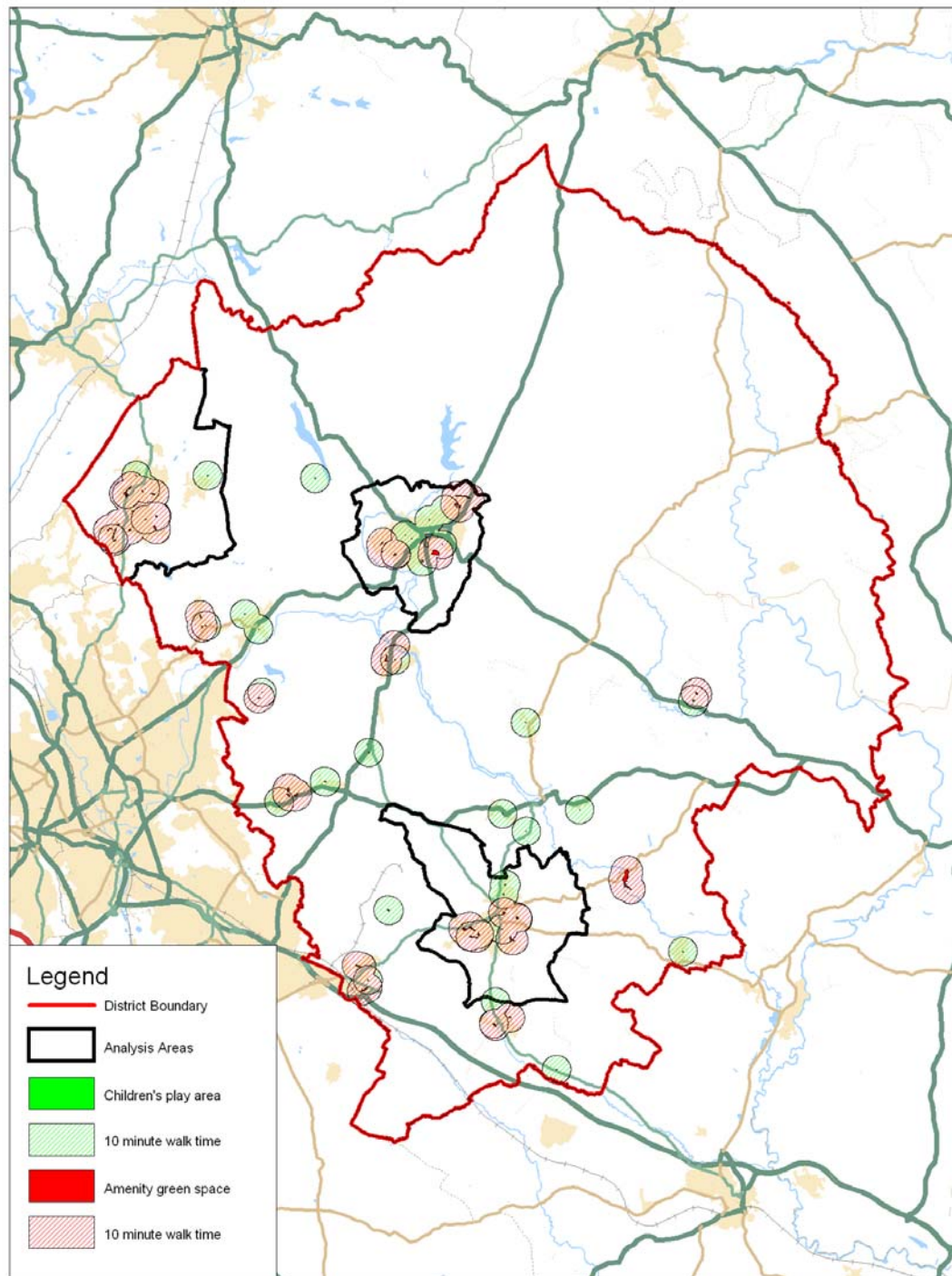
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NORTH
Not to Scale



- 7.41 Map 7.1 highlights that there is an even distribution of children's play areas across the District, with the majority of residents within the recommended 10 minute catchment of a play area. However, despite this equitable distribution of facilities, there remain some key areas of deficiency, particularly in the south of Leek analysis area and in some of the rural settlements.
- 7.42 Additionally, it is clear from Map 7.1 that a number of facilities for children have overlapping catchments and are therefore serving similar residents. This suggests that there may be scope for the rationalisation of play areas in some parts of Staffordshire Moorlands (although it will be important to analyse the specific value of each site in detail).
- 7.43 Map 7.2 illustrates that there is an even distribution of young people's facilities across the District, however, predominantly due to the lack of facilities for young people, a number of areas are outside the recommended distance threshold of a facility. This is particularly evident in Biddulph, Leek and the rural settlements.
- 7.44 While this section focuses primarily on equipped areas for children and young people, it is also essential to consider the role that amenity green spaces play in reducing the need for the provision of facilities for young people and children. Areas deficient in both amenity space and formal facilities should be a particular priority for new provision, as this indicates that there is a distinct lack of opportunities. The provision of amenity green space in relation to facilities for children is set out overleaf in Map 7.3.

Map 7.3 – Provision for children and amenity green space in Staffordshire Moorlands



Staffordshire Moorlands - Children's play areas and amenity green space

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NORTH
Not to Scale



- 7.45 Map 7.3 illustrates that when combining the provision of children's play areas and amenity green space the majority of residents have access to at least one of these typologies. However, despite this, key areas of deficiency in the north of Biddulph analysis area and the south of Cheadle analysis area remain.

Quality of provision

- 7.46 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 play equipment.
- 7.47 The site assessments provide an indication of the quality of existing facilities and it is clear that there is significant variation across the District. The quality standard and related site assessments should inform a programme of improvements, highlighting sites in need of upgrading. Sites serving unique catchments that are considered to be of poor quality should be given particular priority. The Play Strategy identified several play areas currently lacking in facilities, including:
- Hammersley Hayes Road (Cheadle)
 - Centenary Road, Checkley
 - Cauldon Lowe Village Hall
 - Forsbrook Recreation Ground
 - Barley Road Play Area, Ipstones
 - Woodcroft Play Area, Leek
 - Farley Road Recreation Ground, Oakmoor
 - Tittesworth Estate Play Area.

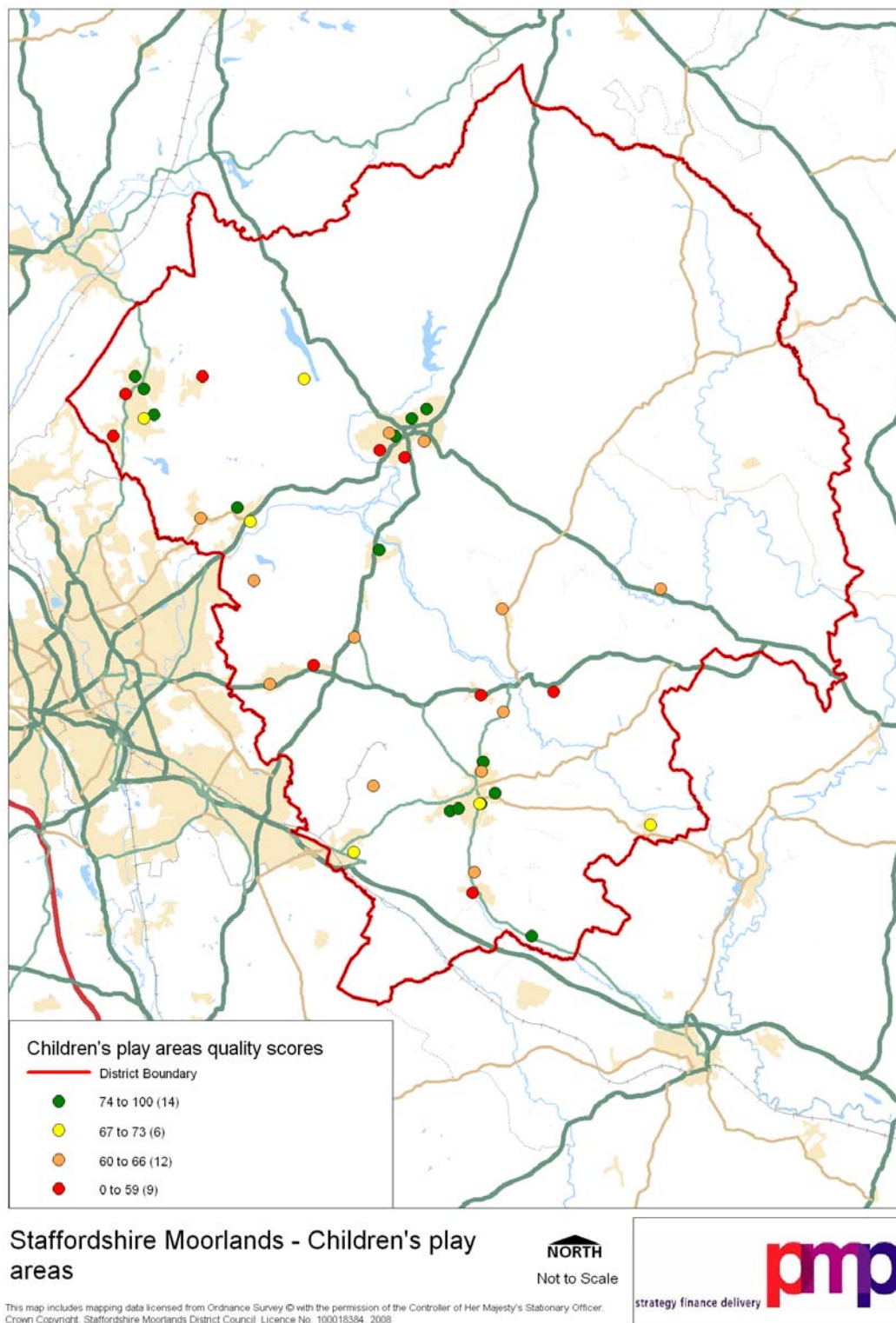
C1	Use the findings of the quality assessment to inform a programme of improvements across facilities for children and young people. Where the opportunity arises, priority should be given to poor quality play areas serving unique catchments. Consideration should be given to the provision of an appropriate variety of facilities.
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- 7.48 The Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy reinforced that children need and want to take risks when they play. It emphasises the importance of responding to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities whilst managing the risk

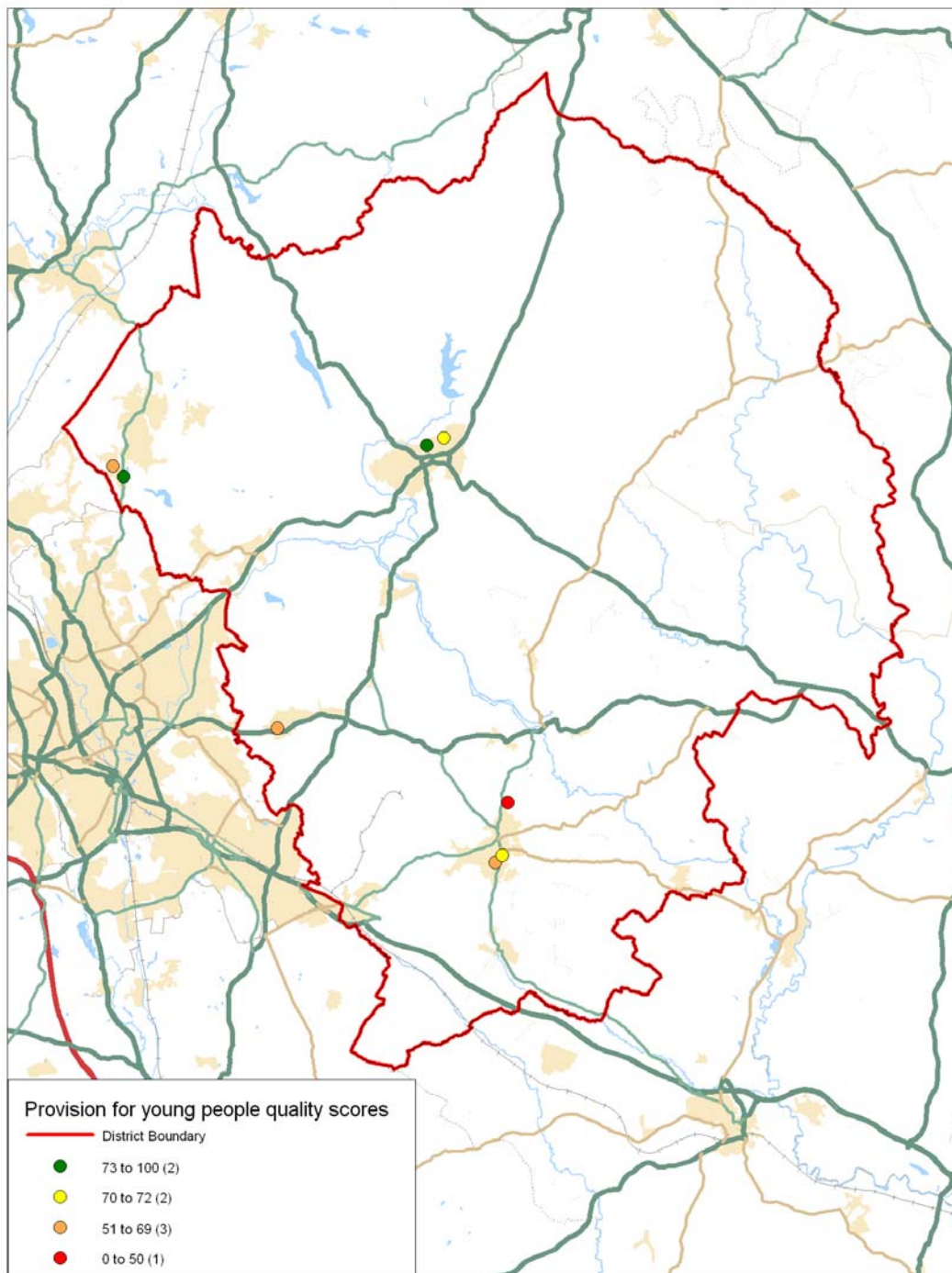
C2	Ensure that play provision offers and encourages appropriate risk taking, ensuring that facilities are challenging, innovative and stimulating.
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- 7.49 The distribution of the quality of children's play areas and young people's facilities can be seen on Maps 7.4 and 7.5 overleaf. This highlights that there are clusters of high quality and poorer quality facilities, based on the site assessments undertaken as part of these assessments. Consideration should also be given to the more detailed site evaluations undertaken as part of the Play Strategy.

Map 7.4 – Quality of children’s play areas in Staffordshire Moorlands



Map 7.5 – Quality of young people’s facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands



Staffordshire Moorlands - Provision for young people

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NORTH
Not to Scale



SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.50 Map 7.4 illustrates the variety in quality of children's play areas within Staffordshire Moorlands, particularly evident in the Rural analysis area. High quality facilities are concentrated in the three main urban settlements of Cheadle, Biddulph and Leek.
- 7.51 Similar to the application of the quality standard for children's play areas, map 7.5 shows the mixture in quality of young people's facilities within the District. There are only two high quality sites, located within the Leek and Biddulph analysis areas. The only poor quality site is located within the Cheadle analysis area.
- 7.52 As well as guiding the enhancement of existing sites, the quality standard should also drive new provision and all new sites should be developed taking into account the identified aspirations of the local residents. The Play Strategy concluded that in the first instance, priority should be given to the refurbishment and improvement of existing facilities for children and young people rather than the development of new facilities.

C3	Target improvements to the existing provision for children and young people using the quality standards and site assessments undertaken as part of this assessment and the play strategy to guide improvements. Sites require an overall score of 73% or above (children) and 75% and above (young people) to fall within the top quartile – the benchmark for quality. Ensure that new provision also meets recommended standards.
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- 7.53 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each analysis area through the interpretation of the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments. In terms of locating priority areas for new facilities, new provision should be targeted at those areas outside the distance threshold where there are sufficient people to justify new provision. This emphasises the importance of access in determining the need for new provision for children.

Biddulph analysis area

- 7.54 Analysis of the quantity standard for children's provision indicates that by 2026 there will be insufficient provision to meet local need (-1.28 ha). Despite this shortfall, application of the accessibility standard reveals that a good proportion of residents living in this area of the District are within the recommended catchment of a site indicating that provision is well distributed. This is particularly the case in the more densely populated areas (Biddulph and Biddulph Moor).
- 7.55 The Play Strategy highlights that there is only one facility for toddlers (Biddulph East) and three standalone junior facilities.
- 7.56 Analysis on a ward by ward basis indicates that Biddulph North and Biddulph East have the largest deficiencies. These wards have the greatest quantitative shortfall of children's play areas in the District (-0.39 ha). Application of the accessibility standard exemplifies this shortfall with a large proportion of residents outside of the recommended catchment of a children's play area (figure 7.1).

Figure 7.1 – Deficiency of children’s play areas in Biddulph



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- 7.57 The deficiency of provision in this area is particularly important in light of the levels of deprivation in the area.

C4	Provide three new facilities for toddlers adjacent to existing play areas on Church Road, St Lawrence's Rec Ground and Mill Hayes Sports Ground and identify an opportunity to address the identified deficiency in provision.
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- 7.58 Outside of the areas outlined above, in consideration of the even distribution of children's play areas within the more densely populated areas of this analysis area, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of current facilities.

C5	Seek to achieve the recommended quality standard at all play areas in Biddulph analysis area. Use the findings from the site assessments to identify specific sites in need of priority improvements. Particular priority should be given to St Lawrence's Recreation Ground and Slater Street.
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- 7.59 Quantitative analysis reveals that the Biddulph analysis area will have insufficient provision of young people's facilities by 2026 (-1.23 ha). Accessibility mapping illustrates that only residents in the south west of Biddulph analysis area have access to a young people's facility. Residents in the majority of Biddulph are outside the recommended catchment for facilities for young people (figure 7.2).

Figure 7.2 – Deficiency of young people’s facilities in Biddulph



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- 7.60 Similar to provision for children, Biddulph East and Biddulph North have the greatest shortfalls in provision in the district. Residents in the north of Biddulph are also without access to amenity green space or formal park provision within the recommended catchment.
- 7.61 The majority of residents outside the accessibility catchment of a young people's facility are also without access to formal park provision. Despite most residents being within access of Biddulph Grange Country Park, it would be inappropriate to incorporate the provision of a new facility within this park due to the location of this site outside of the main settlement. Access to facilities for young people in this area should be increased to provide opportunities for those residents located in an area of deficiency.

C6	Prioritise the new provision of young people's facilities in Biddulph North and Biddulph East. Up to three additional facilities may be required.
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Cheadle analysis area

- 7.62 Application of the quantity standard indicates that despite having the highest existing level of provision for children, there is still insufficient provision to meet current and future needs. Accessibility mapping suggests a relatively good level of provision with nearly all residents within the main urban area able to access a children's play area within the recommended travel time. This is due to the central location of Cheadle Recreation Ground. However, clear deficiencies can be found to the south and north west of Cheadle (figure 7.3). Cheadle West has one of the greatest shortfalls in provision (-0.36 ha) within the District.
- 7.63 As highlighted in Section 4, nearly all residents have access to formal or informal open space within the recommended catchment. This includes Memorial Recreation Ground which provides a wide range of facilities including children's and young people's provision. Like Biddulph, there is limited provision for toddlers in the area.

Figure 7.3 – Deficiency of children’s play areas in Cheadle



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C7	<p>Develop a network of facilities for toddlers, providing facilities adjacent to existing junior sites. Should the need arise; consider the provision of a new facility for all age groups within Cheadle South East.</p> <p>Facilities on Churchill Road and Hammersley Hayes should be considered priority.</p>
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7.64 As with provision for children, Cheadle analysis area has the highest level of provision for young people. However, this is still insufficient to meet current and future needs. Based on 2026 population projections there will be a shortfall of -0.57 hectares. Application of the accessibility standard reinforces this shortfall, with the key areas of deficiency located to the south west of Cheadle town centre and central Cheadle (figures 7.4 and 7.5).

Figure 7.4 – Deficiency of young people’s facilities to the south west of Cheadle town centre



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Figure 7.5 – Deficiency of young people’s facilities in central Cheadle



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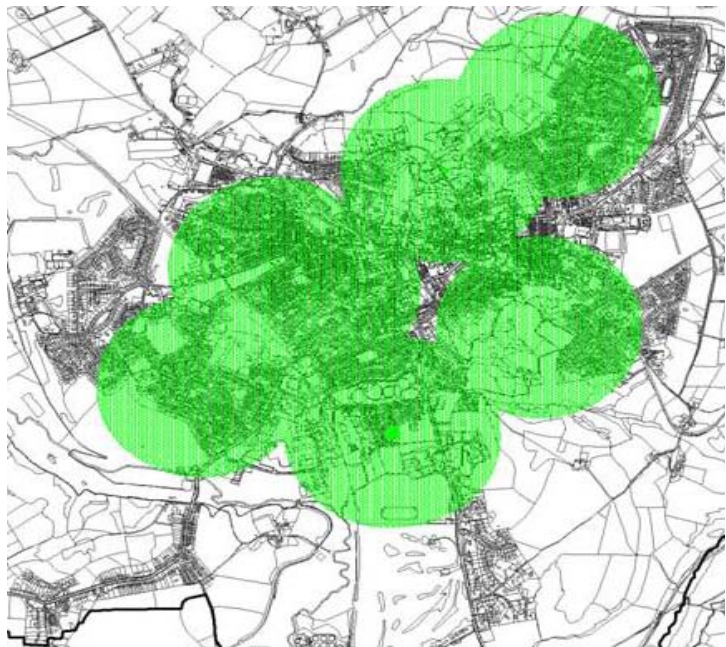
7.65 Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy sets a standard of one facility per 3000 people for young people’s provision, a requirement of 4 facilities in Cheadle. Therefore, there is a shortfall of 2 facilities in this analysis area. Consideration should be given to providing extra facilities in areas of high deficiency.

C8	Prioritise any further provision for youths in the Cheadle West ward.
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Leek analysis area

- 7.66 Application of the quantity standard reveals Leek will experience a shortfall in the provision of children’s play areas of -1.18 hectares per 1000 population by 2026. Accessibility mapping further illustrates this shortfall, with residents in the north east, west and south of the analysis area outside the recommended accessibility catchment of a children’s play area (Figure 7.6).
- 7.67 There is just one standalone facility for toddlers and one junior area to the north east. Brough Park is the central area for provision.
- 7.68 As highlighted in Section 4, the majority of residents in Leek analysis area have access to at least a formal park or amenity green space within the recommended travel times.

Figure 7.6 - Deficiency of children’s play areas in Leek



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C9	In light of the deficiencies highlighted in the maps above, new provision for children should be considered in Leek West, Leek South and Leek East. The play strategy also highlights Glebeville Play area as a priority for qualitative improvements.
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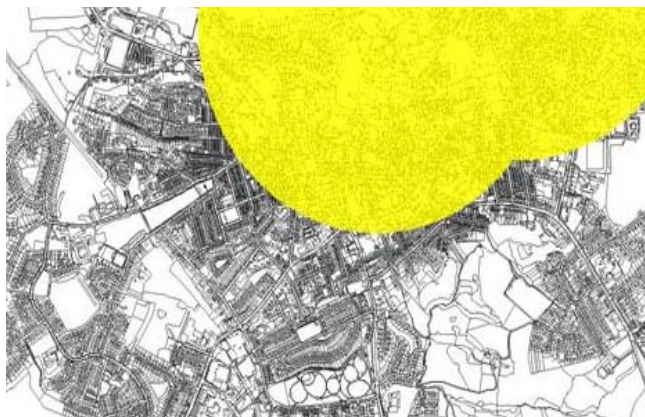
- 7.69 Quantitative analysis of facilities for young people in the Leek analysis area highlights a shortfall of -1.40 ha per 1000 population by 2026. This shortfall is the second largest in the District and analysis on a ward by ward basis shows that Leek South has one of the greatest deficiencies in the District (-0.36 ha). Application of the accessibility standard illustrates this shortfall, with clear areas of deficiency located in the south and centre of the analysis area (Figures 7.7 – 7.8).

Figure 7.7 – Deficiency of young people’s facilities in the south of Leek



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Figure 7.8 – Deficiency of young people’s facilities in the centre of Leek



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In light of the deficiencies of provision in this area, two further facilities should be provided.

C10	Consider any potential opportunities of new provision of a young people's facility within the South East and west of the analysis area.
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Rural settlements

- 7.70 Provision for both children and young people is particularly challenging within a rural area, with some residents living in small villages expecting access to formal facilities. In order to effectively serve residents, it is therefore likely that the level of provision will exceed the recommended minimum standard.
- 7.71 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. Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy aims to ensure that inclusive play opportunities are provided where needed to facilitate the provision of high quality, accessible facilities. Standards have been set for the provision of play.
- 7.72 The Rural analysis area has the greatest quantitative shortfall of children's play areas in the District (-1.37 ha). Application of the accessibility standard exemplifies this shortfall with a large proportion of residents outside of the recommended catchment of a children's play area (figure 7.7). It would be unrealistic to expect all rural settlements to provide a children's play area, particularly those smaller villages and hamlets with populations under 500 people. However, as stressed in the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy, a standard has been set specifying a requirement for one facility in rural settlements where the population exceeds 500 people. This standard would reveal shortfalls in several of the larger settlements in this analysis area (Oakmoor, Kingsley, Wetley Rocks).

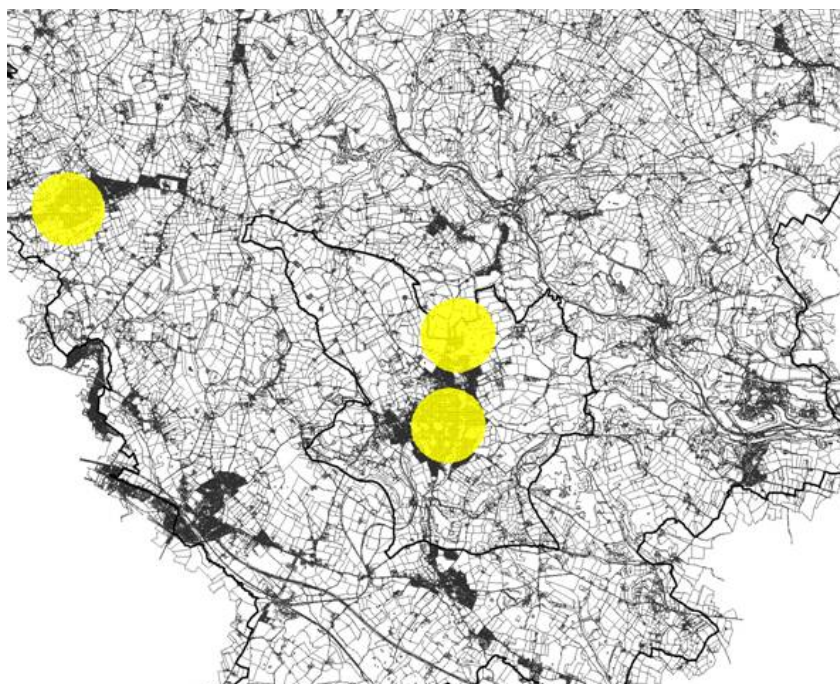
C11	Protect rural facilities and support parish Councils in the ongoing provision and maintenance of these sites. Provide new facilities in areas where there is sufficient population or where local demand is expressed. The play strategy identifies Forsbrook, Werrington and Cellarhead as particular priorities for additional provision.
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- 7.73 Analysis on a ward-by-ward basis reveals that Forsbrook ward has the highest deficiency in the Rural analysis area (-0.35 ha).
- 7.74 Similarly, effective provision for young people is challenging within the rural area and it would not be realistic to expect dedicated facilities for young people in every village. Alternative solutions should be explored to ensure that local needs are met, for example the provision of mobile facilities for young people. Additionally, it will be essential to ensure good public transport links between villages and facilities to maximise opportunities for young people. Many residents also raised the opportunities arising through improvements to existing green corridor networks, which could allow young people to cycle to different settlements safely.

C12	Consider public transport links in the planning and development of new facilities for young people and ensure that facilities are accessible to young people within the rural area.
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- 7.75 While it is recognised that provision is particularly challenging in the rural area, key areas of deficiency are discussed below.
- 7.76 As with provision for children, the rural analysis area has a large quantitative shortfall in provision for young people (-2.70 ha). Application of the accessibility standard highlights that with the exception of Werrington, all rural settlements are deficient in provision. The majority of residents located in the rural analysis area are unable to access a young person's facility within the recommended 15 minute walk time (Figure 7.9)
- 7.77 Consideration must be given to the location of facilities in neighbouring authorities. Skate Plaza in Stoke-on-Trent is a high quality facility for young people. While it is not accessible within the recommended 15 minute walk time, it does serve a number of residents in Staffordshire Moorlands, particularly those in the south west of the District (Werrington, Bagnall, Stanley, Endon and Brown Edge).

Figure 7.9 Deficiency of young people's provision in the rural settlements



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- 7.78 The play strategy sets a standard of one facility for youths per 3000 people. The key areas of deficiency are located in Cheddleton, Forsbrook, Endon, Brown Edge and Checkley. In consideration of the lack of amenity green space and formal parks and gardens in these areas, the new provision of a young people's facility should be a priority.

C13	Prioritise the new provision of young people's facilities within the larger rural settlements.
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Summary and recommendations

- 7.79 Equipped provision for children and young people was the overriding theme of consultations throughout the study. Residents expressed 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.
- 7.80 The Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy provides a detailed overview of provision for children and young people in this area. This document supports the key findings of that strategy and sets local standards which can be used to facilitate decision making. The key issues arising out of this document mirror those emerging during the preparation of the Play Strategy.
- 7.81 Analysis of existing facilities highlight that there is significant variation in the quality of sites although sites are distributed relatively evenly across the District.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.82 There are particular priorities for new provision, particularly in Biddulph East, Leek East, Leek South, Cheadle South East, Cheadle West, Forsbrook, Werrington and Cellarhead.
- 7.83 Any new facilities developed should meet the suggested quality criteria and should provide exciting play opportunities for children and young people. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement.
- 7.84 Effectively providing facilities in the rural area is an important challenge and it will be essential to ensure that public transport links are maximised.

Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 PPG 17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, these amenities are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands.
- 8.2 Outdoor sports facilities are 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.
- 8.3 Facilities included within this category are:
- playing pitches (including football, rugby, cricket, hockey)
 - synthetic turf pitches
 - tennis courts
 - bowling greens
 - athletics tracks
 - golf courses
 - other sports (including water sports).
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 Private facilities/clubs play a crucial role in the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands and several large clubs provide opportunities for player progression from a young age through to veterans. The Sports Councils in the three main towns are instrumental in the delivery of sport across the district and a vast array of opportunities are available to local residents.
- 8.6 While this PPG17 study provides a strategic overview of existing provision of outdoor sports facilities and future priorities across Staffordshire Moorlands, in light of the demand led nature of outdoor sports facilities, it is recommended specific studies should be carried out relating to each type of facility.
- 8.7 There are many opportunities for the improvement of facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands, particularly capitalising upon the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. In addition, other sources of funding (such as National Governing Bodies) may offer further avenues for improvement, although it is recognised that funding opportunities for the majority of sports are currently limited.

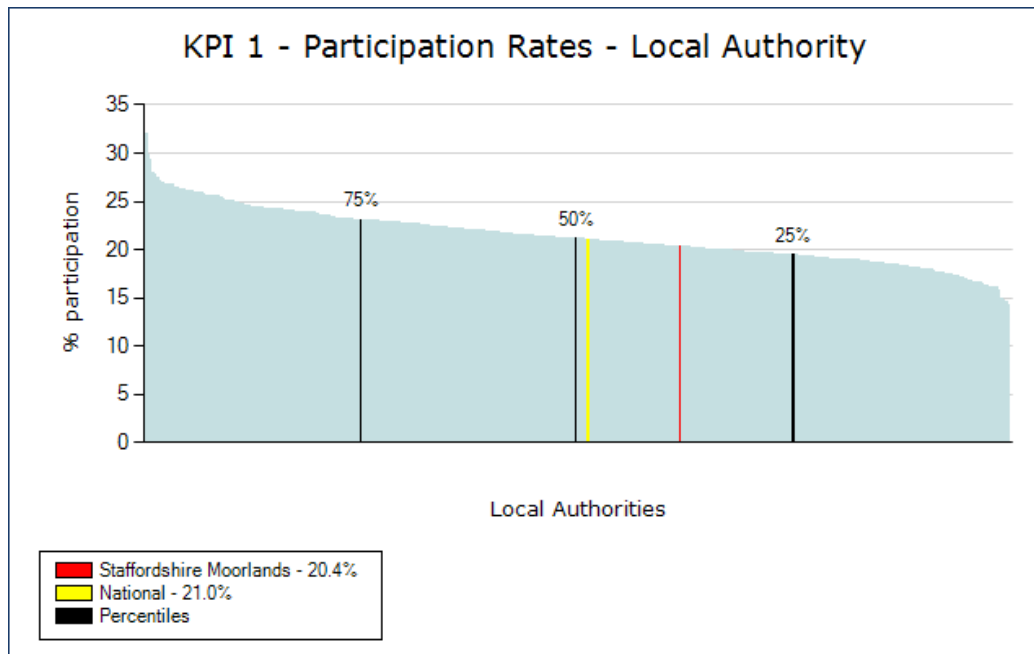
- 8.8 The effective provision of formal and informal facilities for sports will be instrumental if participation in Staffordshire Moorlands is to increase in line with national and local targets at a rate of 1% a year. This will place greater demand on the facility stock and emphasise the need to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose.

Context

Active People Survey results

- 8.9 The Active People Survey 2006 (the Survey) was a survey of adults aged 16 and over living in England. The Survey gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership (member of a club where they play sport), people receiving tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.
- 8.10 Staffordshire Moorlands District was recorded as having a participation rate of 20.4%, which, as shown in figure 8.1 below, falls just below the national average and places the District in the middle 50% for participation (3 x 30 minutes sport and active recreation).

Figure 8.1 – Participation rates within Staffordshire Moorlands



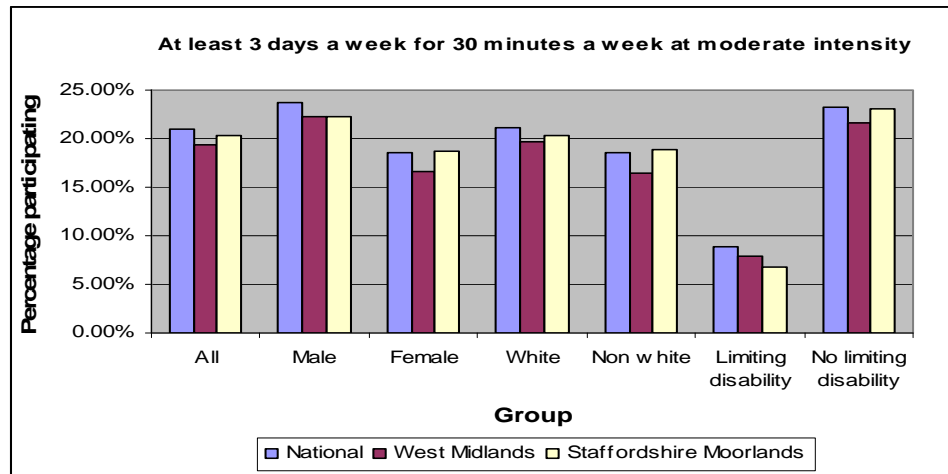
- 8.11 Following the success of the survey in 2006, the survey was repeated in 2008, enabling the analysis of more recent participation figures as well as providing an understanding of changing trends in participation.
- 8.12 Staffordshire Moorlands falls within the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent County Sports Partnership (CSP), which is in the West Midland Sport England region.

	At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults) % 2006	At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults) % 2008	Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults) % 2006	Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults) % 2008	Satisfied with local sports provision (all adults) % 2006	Satisfied with local sports provision (all adults) % 2008
National	21.0	21.3	15.0	14.6	69.5	66.6
West Midlands	19.3	19.1	13.9	14	69.1	65.3
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (CSP)	20.3	19.6	13.1	14.8	70.6	66.7%
Staffordshire Moorlands	20.4	18.1	13.7	14	74.3	68.5

Table 8.1 - Results of the Active People Survey for 2006 and 2008

- 8.13 As table 8.1 above shows, 2006 results for Staffordshire Moorlands are similar to the findings for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CSP, with the exception of the percentage of people who are satisfied with their local provision, which places Staffordshire Moorlands in the top quartile. The Active People Survey found that 74% of people in Staffordshire Moorlands are satisfied with local sports provision, approximately 5% more than the national average and the level for the West Midlands; and almost 10% more than some other CSPs in the region.
- 8.14 Overall, the change between participation in 2006 and 2008 is positive. The findings of the survey however demonstrate that there has been a decline in participation in the West Midlands.
- 8.15 In line with the decline in participation in the West Midlands, the 2008 Active People Survey indicates that participation in Staffordshire Moorlands has dropped to 18.1%. This suggests that to date, participation targets have not been achieved and that alternative interventions need to be implemented in order to increase participation across the district. Despite the declining participation, club membership and volunteering have increased in Staffordshire Moorlands. In contrast, the proportion of residents who are satisfied with sports provision in the district has reduced from 74% to 68%.
- 8.16 The rate of recreational walking and recreational cycling are also marginally higher in Staffordshire Moorlands than the West Midlands (21.1% and 7.8% nationally), and each are at least equal to the national average. This further emphasises the role that parks and other informal open spaces can play in increasing the levels of activity of residents in the district.
- 8.17 Figure 8.2 shows that Staffordshire Moorlands has comparable levels of participation for various socio economic groups to both regional and national figures.

Figure 8.2 – Participation rates for selected socio economic groups



- 8.18 Those with a limiting disability in Staffordshire Moorlands participate in sport and active recreation less than those in the West Midlands and nationally.
- 8.19 The analysis of data from the Active People survey therefore demonstrates that on the whole, participation in Staffordshire Moorlands is marginally below the national average. This reinforces the role that alternative opportunities for participation in physical activity can have on the achievement of key goals.

Market Segmentation

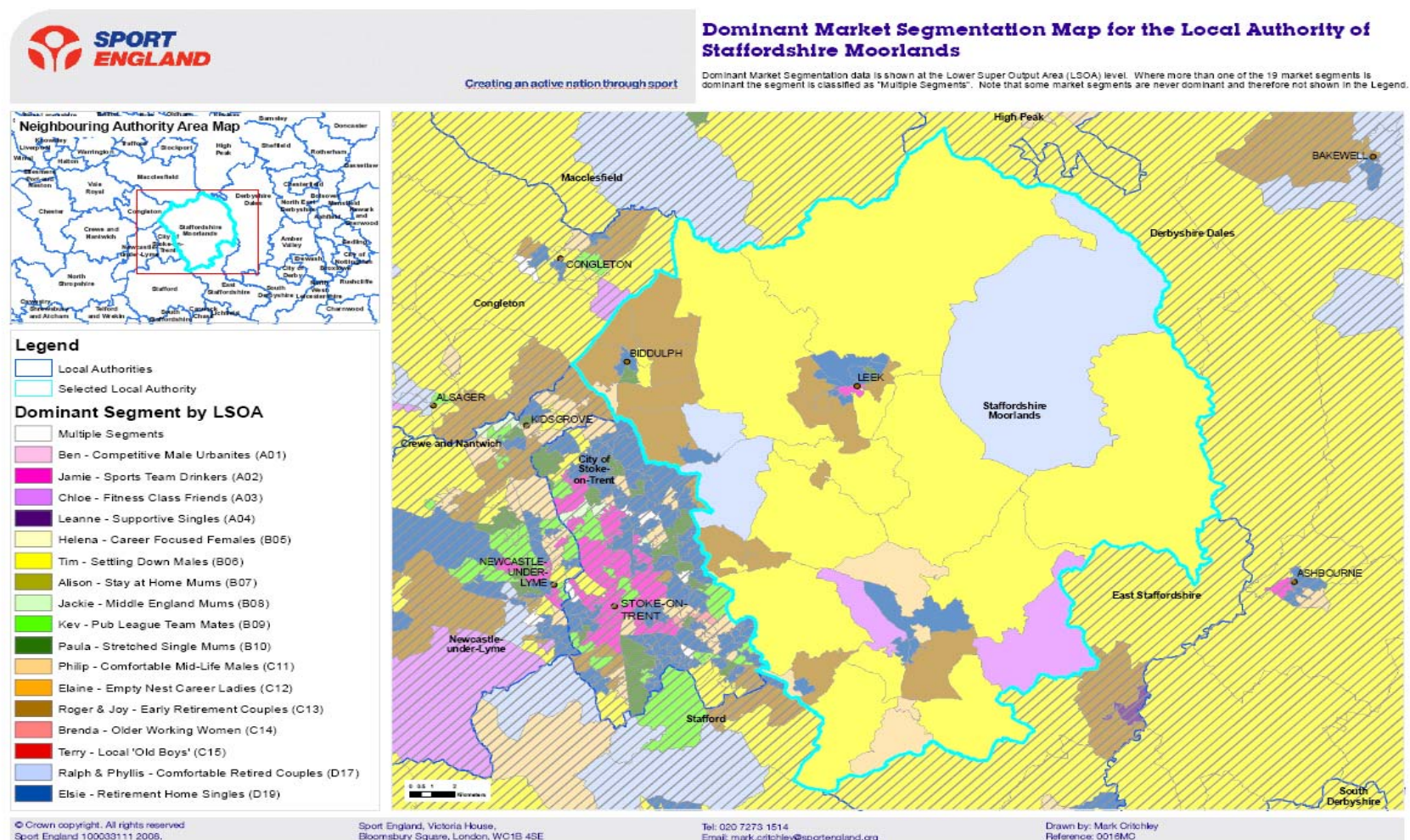
- 8.20 Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nations' attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don't. This is particularly important to understand in order to ensure that the facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands cater for the needs and expectations of local residents.
- 8.21 The research builds on the results of Sport England's Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian. It informs Sport England's Strategy and Business Plan 2008-2011 and helps ensure that money is invested into areas that will have the greatest impact.
- 8.22 Residents are classified according to their key characteristics. The dominant groups in the district are explained in Table 8.2 overleaf. Map 8.1 illustrates the spread of these residents.
- 8.23 It can be seen that 'Tim' appears to be the most dominant group throughout the district, followed by 'Ralph and Phyllis' in the north east and 'Roger and Joy' who are primarily dominant in the west of the local authority.

Table 8.2 – Dominant market segments in Staffordshire Moorlands

Label	Age	Status	Characteristics
Chloe	18 – 25	Single Graduate/ professional	Image conscious, likes to keep fit/trim Makes friends at fitness classes etc Likely to volunteer within sports/the arts.
Tim	26 – 35	Single/ married May have children Professional	Sporty Settling down with partner, buying a house Enjoys technical sports. Likely to have private gym membership, and compete in some sports
Philip	45 - 55	Married Professional Older children	Sporty Has more time for himself Most active type within this Peer Group, enjoys participating in a number of activities, including team sports, racquet games and technical sports.
Roger and Joy	56-65	Married Retired or part time	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers Participate one/two times a week. Enjoy activities such as walking, swimming, table tennis or golf, and also keep fit classes.
Ralph and Phylis	65 +	Married Retired	enjoy a variety of activities and are likely to be members of sports and social clubs Particularly enjoy individual activities such as swimming, fishing or golf and lower intensity sports such as bowls
Elsie and Arnold	66+	Widowed Retired	Health problems and disability being major inhibitors to activity. Those that do participate tend towards low intensity activities, such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom), safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Map 8.1 – Distribution of dominant market segments in Staffordshire Moorlands



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.24 The market segmentation information helps the identification of priority areas and helps to channel investment accordingly. The distribution of the dominant markets for Staffordshire Moorlands indicates that there are areas that may benefit from certain types of provision.
- 8.25 For example, to the north east of the district where 'Ralph and Phyllis' are dominant and this is a group which particularly enjoys individual activities such as swimming, fishing or golf and lower intensity sports such as bowls and whose main motivation for participation is to meet with friends, improve performance, and keep fit, but also because they enjoy it.
- 8.26 This will be returned to later in this section when considering the appropriateness of existing provision.

National Governing Bodies and Sports Councils

- 8.27 Regional contacts for the priority sports were contacted by telephone and asked for their opinion on the current provision for their respective sports within Staffordshire Moorlands (SM). Key points from their feedback are detailed in Tables 8.3 and 8.4 below.

Table 8.3 – National Governing Bodies consultation

Governing Body	Area	Comments
England Netball	Quality	Painsley College is well used, although the outdoor surface can become very slippery when wet.
	Quantity	Generally, more courts are always needed. Specifically there is a need for more sports hall which can hold more than two netball courts.
	Accessibility	There have been some teething problems regarding access to the new sports hall at Cheadle High School but Tean Valley Netball club (TVNC) will be able to use the space from September 2008, at a fee of £25/hour. This cost may present problems for the club, but "time will tell". The new facility appears to be of good quality and TVNC were involved in the bids for funding. Cost of play is, in the main, not seen as a barrier for participation/club membership.
	Generally SM is not used for larger netball events because of the high quality facilities elsewhere in the West Midlands. Teams often travel to Stoke to use the indoor facilities for competitions.	

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Governing Body	Area	Comments
Rugby Football Union (RFU)	Quality	<p>Generally the quality of pitches can always be improved but there are no specific issues (unsure of the quality of school pitches as has little contact).</p> <p>Leek RFC are a very good club who are extending their facility to include more changing accommodation and floodlighting, with the help of the RFU and SMDC. They are responsible for their own ground and share the facility with the Cricket club in the 'off' season. John McDermot should be the primary contact for Leek RFC.</p>
	Quantity	Clubs would always benefit from more pitch space and availability in order to rest/rotate pitches or extend the membership.
	Accessibility	Generally access to pitches is available when required. There are some issues with parking at Leek RFC and the club would benefit from more parking.
England Cricket Board (ECB)	Quality	<p>Each club in the district has its own ground, the quality of which is good enough to meet league standards. Most clubs carry out the ground maintenance themselves, without assistance from the Council.</p> <p>A number of clubs are in need of new maintenance machinery – mowers etc.</p> <p>Blythe CC want to extend their clubhouse and increase available space and changing facilities, the club have also developed the bottom end of the land to include a 'nursery' ground. It is hoped that a junior football pitch will be able to be accommodated.</p> <p>Leek CC is one of the biggest in SMDC area and would benefit from more space.</p> <p>Bagnall CC have also extended and refurbished their clubhouse, and as a result they have increased their bar takings and membership. There are plans to complete the kitchen etc in the winter/off season.</p>
	Quantity	<p>Some clubs could benefit from more grounds</p> <p>There is a reciprocal, casual agreement between Cheadle High School and the local Cricket Club that the school can use the club's ground for important matches during the week and the club can use the school's facilities at the weekends, as an overflow/3rd Team matches.</p> <p>Some clubs are catering for other sports (multi sports hub) in order to increase the likelihood of receiving funding from external organisations.</p>

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Governing Body	Area	Comments
	Accessibility	<p>Generally access is adequate, Leek CC could benefit from more parking.</p> <p>There have been instances of vandalism and the council owned ground near Finney Gardens is no longer suitable/used. It was not possible to leave boards/other equipment between games because it would be vandalised/stolen</p> <p>There have been thefts from clubs in the area, for example, fence panels were stolen from one club, machinery has been taken from another.</p>

Table 8.4 – Sports Council consultation

Sports Council	Area	Comments
Cheadle Sports Council	Quality	<p>There are lots of dedicated people (volunteers) who are working hard to improve the provision for sport within the area.</p> <p>The provision within the Cheadle area does not match that in other areas of Staffordshire Moorlands and the region often feels like 'the poor relation'.</p>
	Quantity	<p>There is a good range of sports clubs within the Cheadle area, including Netball, Archery, Sub-aqua, Cricket etc.</p> <p>There is a lack of changing facilities throughout the Cheadle area, the Council are working to improve this. Currently teams have to use the Cricket Club or Cheadle Leisure Centre's facilities.</p> <p>There are no rugby pitches in the area, only football. These are maintained well and the drainage issues have been resolved. There is no Premier Pitch in the area.</p> <p>There is an area of land called the "Tod Block", near Freehay which was a rugby club and was owned by Tarmac, it is currently rough ground but it is thought that its designated for sports use and could be converted.</p>
	Accessibility	<p>The local rugby club unfortunately closed because of a lack of interest.</p> <p>Football obtains adequate support but it would be beneficial if the pitches were available for longer into the summer so that the backlog of fixtures (due to winter cancellations) can be met.</p> <p>Some football teams have to travel to other pitches within the district for league matches</p> <p>School facilities are not used much because there are barriers of price and availability.</p>

Strategic context

Regional

Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands (2007)

- 8.28 The Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands (the Framework) was produced by Nortoft in 2007. The Framework identifies the priorities for the future investment in sport and active recreation facilities. It considers the period up to 2021 and assesses the impact of population change, and the facility requirements that will be needed if the targets for participation in sport and active recreation are to be met and support is to be given to the highest levels of elite sport. The document highlights that there are lower participation rates in Staffordshire Moorlands than in some areas, and identifies access to facilities as being a key issue in this area.
- 8.29 The Framework has three sections:
- part 1: Character of the Region, policy and key issues
 - part 2: Hierarchy of provision, regional level proposals, implementation and monitoring
 - part 3: County Sports Partnership generic section, and CSP specific sections.
- 8.30 The 10 priority sports for Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (athletics, badminton, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby union, girls and women's rugby, swimming and tennis) are detailed in the Framework, and the facility priorities identified in the Framework are detailed overleaf. It should be noted that few of the sports' priorities refer specifically to the Staffordshire Moorlands District and often relate to the CSP area in general.
- 8.31 The Framework identified the requirements of the various priority sports for different levels of facilities, and also proposed a network of facilities at the local and regional level. The key elements of this network, for the 10 priority sports are detailed in table 8.5 overleaf.

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Table 8.5 –Facility priorities for priority sports in the West Midlands

Sport	Facility Type/specification		Location
Athletics	Indoor track and field	High performance Centre	One regional
		200m track	One regional
		Indoor training centres 82m x 25m x 7m high	One per 545,000 people or within a 45 minute drivetime in rural catchment areas. (2 each for Birmingham, Black Country, Greater Warwickshire and Staffordshire) (1 each for Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester)
	Outdoor track and field	8 lane track with covered spectator provision	One in each CSP
		6 lane track	1 per 250,000 or 45 minute drivetime in rural catchments
		Training facilities eg 6 lane x 100m straight, 4 lane x 200m J track, 2 lane x 400m track or 3 lane x 300m track	As satellites, particularly in rural areas
	In facility terms the priority is to maintain what exists and take advantage of new build eg Specialist Sports Colleges.		
Badminton	Badminton requires an indoor space equivalent in size to that of 4 badminton courts with the relevant height clearance		Centre per 50,000 adult population and/or within a 15 minute drive time of anyone within an urban/semi urban area, or 20 minutes in a rural area.
			A minimum of one Centre per County.
	Provision of a badminton facility in Worcestershire is a priority as there is no provision currently.		

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
Cricket	<p>The English Cricket Board have identified a number of broad priorities in relation to facility provision. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of tenure for cricket clubs. • Improving the standard of pavilions and support facilities. • Improving the standard and availability of <i>indoor sports halls</i>. • Improving the standard of strategically located indoor Cricket Centres. • Improving spectator safety and provision at Test, One day international and first Class Cricket Grounds. • The need to improve the availability and standard of indoor practice facilities. 	
	<p>In addition to the indoor facility requirements the ECB have identified the following specific facility needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all accredited Premier League Clubs meet the minimum facility requirements and standards. • To ensure a network of accredited District Development Centres is established to service the facility requirements of District development squad coaching and competition programmes. • To ensure a network of accredited facilities is established to service the requirements of County Representative, Academy, University Centres of Excellence and National Development Squads Programmes. 	
Football	The Football Association (FA) has no advertised standards for the provision of full size pitches,	However informally the FA work on a ratio of 1 full-size pitch per 30,000 population of football participation age (6 - 45 years). The FA estimates that the prime catchment area for full-size 3G pitches is a radius of around 5 miles.
	The Football Association's recommended dimensions for small-sided football pitches vary for 5, 6 and 7 a-side pitches. However small-sided football is also provided for on full-size STPs by sub-dividing the pitch, usually into three.	The informal advice of officers within the FA is that they would expect that a supply rate of one small-sided court/pitch to a total population of 10,000 to be reasonable. This rate includes the availability for hire of full-sized STPs divided to provide for the small-sided game.
	New provision leads to an overall increase in participation in football, particularly amongst adults.	

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
Hockey	<p>Across the region there are seven water based pitches, some of which are deemed important to Performance Development. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox Hollies Leisure Centre (Birmingham) • Birmingham University (2) • Cannock Hockey Club • Lilleshall National Sports Centre • North Solihull Sports Centre • Wyndley Stadium (Sutton Coldfields). 	<p>Provision of facilities for a minimum of one model key club in each local authority area. Current gaps in provision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Warwickshire • North Shropshire • South Shropshire • Birmingham
	<p>Increase the number of water based pitches in the region as only four of those currently in existence are of the appropriate standard for top quality club games. This is too few to fully serve the elite English Hockey League teams.</p>	
Netball	<p>A Regional Centre, funded by Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) monies.</p>	<p>No location identified, although the Regional Office is to be based at University of Wolverhampton and it is hoped that this will also be the venue for the Regional Centre.</p>
	<p>There is a desire to increasing the number of Club Action Planning Scheme clubs across the West Midlands through a structured club development programme</p>	
Rugby	<p>As part of it range of facilities strategies and plans the RFU has introduced a structure for club provision, using four Model Venues.</p>	<p>Model Venue 1 (MV1) – club, school or other provider playing recreational, introductory and lower level competitive rugby.</p> <p>Model Venue 2 (MV2) – club, school, university or other provider, with a wider programme.</p> <p>Model Venue 3 (MV3) – established venue with a wide range of programmes and potentially higher level competitive rugby.</p> <p>Model Venue 4 (MV4) – a venue for top-level training and competition rugby.</p>

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
	The provision of at least one rubber crumb pitch.	within each County Sports Partnership (CSP) is identified as desirable There are currently no RFU compliant 3rd Generation surfaces in Warwickshire or Herefordshire.
	RFU Council agreed to the formation Schools of Rugby (SoR)	With the objective of a minimum of one in each area.
	5 Pitch site, 6 team changing room clubhouse and 60 by 40m STP.	Relocation of Longton RFC to Trentham Fields from Staffordshire Moorlands. A major capital projects across the region and are likely to cost a minimum of £500,000.
Swimming	Swimming clubs to have agreed access to 25m pools at appropriate times and cost.	In each local authority area
	At least one 25m x 6-lane pool with timing equipment and adequate accommodation for competitors and spectators to stage local galas and events	
	There is at least one 25m x 8 lane pool with timing equipment and accommodation for competitors and spectators, capable of staging county galas and league events.	Within every English county and major conurbation
	At least one 8 lane, 50m and one 8 lane 25m competition pool for Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) District competitions.	In each of the nine Sport England regions
	The ASA has also identified the need for Regional Performance Centres to cater for elite swimming. These pools should be 50m pools (6 lane minimum) providing at least 22 hours access for elite swimmers together with access to land conditioning, sports science, and sports medicine services on site or close by.	Where there is no High Performance Centre within a reasonable travel time
	Four or five sub-regional 50-metre community pools	In the West Midland Region, specifically around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham • Coventry • The Potteries/North Staffordshire (Stoke on Trent)

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Sport	Facility Type/specification	Location
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wolverhampton The Black Country Warwick
Tennis	International High Performance clubs capability of supporting all aspects of player development	Up to 10 throughout the UK
	High Performance Clubs with outstanding player performance programmes	40 – 50 throughout the UK
	County Accredited Clubs, which will be satellites or feeders for the top clubs.	Circa 175 throughout the UK
	There are currently 4 High Performance Clubs in the West Midlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solihull Arden Edgbaston Priory Tipton Sutton Coldfield. 	
Synthetic Turf Pitches	Encourage some limited new STP provision, but each proposal needs to be market tested if the business case is reliant on community use.	At present there are no full-size pitches in Staffordshire Moorlands. If additional provision is proposed, this should be considered as a high priority.
	Encourage a mix of pitch types and sizes, including the retention of at least one water-based pitch for hockey, and the development of one match quality 3G pitch.	
	Resurface existing pitches available to the community to retain quality and availability.	

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Sports Facilities Framework 2009 - 2021

- 8.32 The framework provides a strategic link between the West Midlands Regional Facilities Strategy and existing/emerging strategies from local authorities in Staffordshire.
- 8.33 The framework prioritises investment for sports facilities across the sub region. The framework states that new provision should:
- meet identified needs of community provision
 - provide for forecast populations
 - provide sufficient facilities to enable a 1% per annum growth in population
 - support national governing body aspirations
 - build on existing club networks and encourage multi sport facilities
 - take account of equity
 - prioritise the most popular sports
 - be cost effective
 - be opportunistic.
- 8.34 The key issues identified for Staffordshire Moorlands are:
- Birchall Playing Fields is part of a major sports redevelopment project in Leek
 - Thorley Drive Playing Fields is a £1.2 - £1.4 million pound project linked to South Moorlands Leisure Centre.
- 8.35 The framework states that full sized 3G pitches should be a priority for Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically within Leek and possible Cheadle.

Sport across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Delivery Plan April 2008 – March 2009. Increasingly Active, Healthy and Successful Communities

- 8.36 Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is a Partnership of agencies *“working together to champion participation, enjoyment and success through sport, physical education and active recreation”*.
- 8.37 The delivery plan evidences how the Partnership will be implementing a high quality delivery system in order that the County Sports Partnership (CSP) can achieve their aim of increasing participation in sport, PE and active recreation by at least 1% year on year.
- 8.38 Top priorities for 2008/09 include:

- increasing adult (16+) participation by 1% (8,488 people of which 6,579 are from underrepresented groups) and widening access to sport for under represented groups
 - ensure all nine Community Sports Networks (CSN) are effective and embedded.
 - support implementation of the nine Community Sports Networks delivery plans and ensure effective delivery of Community Investment Fund (CIF) Portfolio projects
 - developing support to voluntary sector to increase capacity to deliver increases in participation
 - deliver the six objectives of the Workforce Development Plan
 - Club Development Strategy delivery plans reviewed and implemented
 - support 2012 Sub Regional Agenda
 - supporting Education Partners to achieve the 85% of young People receiving two hours of high quality PE.
 - work with key partners to develop an Extending Activity plan to deliver the five hour offer across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
 - embed standards into Partnership Working (Safeguarding & Equity)
 - ensure financial sustainability beyond March 2009.
- 8.39 This means that the current level of provision within the CSP area, including the Staffordshire Moorlands District, will benefit from assessment. This will allow appropriate measures to be taken to ensure that the proposed growth in participation can be accommodated.

2007 Young Peoples Activities Questionnaire for Parents/Carers

- 8.40 In Spring 2007 Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent undertook a survey among disabled residents.
- 8.41 The survey aimed to establish what disabled/special needs children and young people like to do in their spare time. The questionnaire in placed a focus on physical activity and sport.
- 8.42 The findings of the questionnaire included:
- good levels of participation exist
 - most activities occur at the weekend, however children and young people would like more to do after school, in the early evening and during the holidays
 - apart from football, many children and young people took part in informal physical activities

- martial arts, gymnastics and trampolining were popular with children and young people
- although informal venues for activities were popular, children and young people indicated a desire for more activities at schools, community centres, leisure and sports clubs and youth clubs
- many children and young people indicated a willingness to do more physical activities, with horse riding the most frequently requested
- the three main factors that would increase physical activity for children and young people were people's understanding of their special need, somebody to go with and awareness of what is available
- children and young people were willing to travel long distances to access an activity
- a minority of respondents were involved with a sports club.

8.43 The key recommendations based upon this questionnaire were:

- increasing the profile and awareness of disability/special needs activities
- producing a physical activity disability directory
- disability awareness
- encouraging buddy schemes at clubs and centres
- establishing more school based activities
- developing improved holiday play schemes
- setting up communication training for leisure centre staff, coaches and volunteers
- increasing the capacity of sports clubs to open up to disabled members for taster sessions
- raising the profile of sport and leisure for disabled/special needs people in BME communities.

8.44 It is important to consider the delivery of sport and recreation for residents with disabilities. The provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can play a key role in maintaining and increasing the good levels of participation highlighted in the disability survey.

8.45 It will be vital to consider the needs of residents with disabilities when planning for the future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands.

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- 8.46 The Council should seek to raise awareness of the facilities and activities that are available for residents with disabilities and consider making future open space, sport and recreation facilities DDA compliant.

Local

- 8.47 The key issues for outdoor sports facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are summarised in table 8.6 overleaf.

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Table 8.6 – Strategic context – Local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan	<p>Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy N2 protects the Green Belt from development identifying that, except in special circumstances, the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development unless for the purposes of essential facilities for outdoor sports and outdoor recreation, provided that the scale of the development is appropriate to the scale of the Green Belt and cemeteries and other uses of land that preserve the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Policy R4 protects school playing fields from development, unless suitable alternative provision is provided.</p> <p>Policy R7 encourages recreational development in the countryside providing adequate conditions are met. Developments should be accessible by public transport and cycling.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan.</p> <p>The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.</p>
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)	Chapter five of the SPG details public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or	This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
	<p>more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>	<p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>
<p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p>	<p>Chapter six relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
Staffordshire Moorlands Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2007)	<p>The vision for the Staffordshire Moorlands Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is:</p> <p><i>“Staffordshire Moorlands will have an active population that is able to engage in exciting opportunities for sport and physical activity in high quality facilities”</i></p> <p>The aims of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide opportunities for sports and physical activity by people of all abilities• improve and make accessible sports and leisure facilities throughout the district• support the development of sports clubs and individuals <p>The objectives that support the vision and aims and will underpin successful delivery are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increase participation in sports and physical activity• increase the level of volunteering to support sports and leisure activity	<p>The effective planning of facilities for sport and active recreation will be essential if the aims and objectives of this document are to be achieved.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure equality of access to sports and physical activity • provide choice and opportunity for participation across the district • ensure a high level of quality of facilities and activities • maintain a high level of user and resident satisfaction • increase the sporting achievement of sports clubs and individuals across the district • ensure that public sports and facilities provide value for money. 	
Playing Pitch Assessment Staffordshire Moorlands Assessment Report March 2009	<p>The playing pitch strategy evaluates the adequacy of pitch provision in Staffordshire Moorlands following the methodology set out in Towards a Level Playing Field. The key issues arising from the application of the methodology include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drainage at pitches and the provision of ancillary accommodation are particular priorities with regards the quality of pitches • there is an theoretical oversupply of adult football pitches (20.4) on the peak day across the District. The majority of this oversupply is found in the Rural area (13.7 pitches) 	<p>The key issues emerging from the playing pitch strategy will inform the priorities for outdoor sports facilities and the local standards set.</p>

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Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is an undersupply of junior pitches (-23.5) on the peak day (Sunday). However, in practice the adult pitch stock is currently being used by a number junior teams• there is a theoretical oversupply of mini soccer pitches (8.0) on the peak day (Sunday). This indicates that mini soccer teams are likely to be using adult / junior pitches• there is a theoretical shortfall of cricket pitches (-14.8) on the peak day (Saturday)• there is an theoretical oversupply (4.5) of adult rugby union pitches on the peak day (Saturday)• there is a theoretical undersupply (-4.5) of junior rugby pitches on the peak day, which is Sunday mornings. However, there is also a theoretical surplus of adult pitches which is equivalent to the shortfall of junior pitches and adult pitches are used to accommodate junior matches <p>in order to maximise resources, increasing access to school facilities should be a key priority going forward, particularly with regards to the large shortfall of junior football pitches and qualitative improvements of other facilities.</p>	

Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

8.48 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that:

- 63% of respondents to the household survey do not use outdoor sports facilities, however 19% of residents responding to this survey use outdoor sports facilities at least once a week. This reinforces the specialist nature of these facilities and is reflective of a participation rate similar to that suggested by the 2006 Active People Survey
- residents identified both quantitative and qualitative issues with regards to outdoor sports facilities. Ancillary accommodation in particular was perceived to be a key issue
- the importance of outdoor sports facilities was emphasised by respondents to the children and young people's survey, with playing sport outdoors highlighted as a popular activity for children and young people
- sports clubs and other sport specific consultees raised a variety of issues relating to both the quality and quantity of provision
- accessibility was one of the overriding issues throughout consultation. Several Parish Councils highlighted the importance of maximising access to school facilities in the rural areas to ensure that local provision is available for residents in the smaller settlements

Quantity of provision

8.49 Outdoor sports facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands are owned and managed by a range of providers including the District Council (and management contractor), voluntary sports clubs and Parish and Town Councils. This reinforces the importance of partnership working.

8.50 The quantity of outdoor sports facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands is summarised in Table 8.7 below. Calculations include all outdoor sports facilities regardless of their primary purpose. Consideration will be given to the specific type of facility provided during the application of local standards. The playing pitch strategy provides full details of the provision of pitches across the district.

Table 8.7 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	35.47	24	0.08	5.89	20,185	1.82

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Cheadle	26.80	15	0.12	5.04	12,586	2.20
Leek	47.18	23	0.12	10.86	20,566	2.37
Rural	89.02	68	0.05	6.49	39,246	2.35
Overall	198.47	130	0.05	10.86	92,583	2.22

- 8.51 The key issues emerging from Table 8.7 and consultations relating to the overall quantity of outdoor sports facilities across the District are as follows:
- with the exception of Biddulph, the total provision per 1000 population is consistent across the district
 - high satisfaction portrayed by residents in the Leek analysis area is supported by the actual provision. This area contains the highest provision per 1000 population (2.37 ha)
 - over 50% of outdoor sports facilities are located within the rural settlements. In many cases, these sites may accommodate one or two sports teams but are vital for the local community.
 - varying levels of current provision are evident in the urban areas of the District, ranging from 26.80 ha in the Cheadle analysis area to 47.18 ha in the Leek analysis area
 - of the facility types surveyed, dissatisfaction was shown with the provision of synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts. The highest level of satisfaction was shown for grass pitches, with 60% of respondents indicating that provision is sufficient
 - within the different geographical areas, residents in the Leek analysis area portrayed the highest level of satisfaction with the provision of tennis courts and bowling greens
 - the distribution of different facility types is uneven. There is a particularly high quantity of tennis facilities in the rural areas, and the supply of bowling greens is biased towards Leek and the rural area. The only athletics facility is located in Leek.
- 8.52 Consideration will be given to the quality of facilities later in this section.

Active Places Power

- 8.53 Active Places Power (a strategic planning tool provided by Sport England) enables the comparison of the provision of outdoor sports facilities with other areas.
- 8.54 As shown in table 8.8 below, Staffordshire Moorlands compares favourably to the West Midlands and the national levels of provision. The key point to note is that the number of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) per 1000 of the population is lower than both England and the West Midlands.

Table 8.8 – Outdoor sports provision per 1000 of the population

	Athletics tracks/1000 population (lanes)	Golf courses/ 1000 population (holes)	STPs/1000 population (pitches)
National	0.05	0.67	0.03
West Midlands	0.06	0.61	0.03
Staffordshire Moorlands	0.06	0.76	0.01

- 8.55 The distribution of specific facilities will be considered later in this section as part of the application of standards.

Setting provision standards – quantity

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

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
2.22 ha per 1000 (includes 0.77 ha per 1000 community pitch provision, 1 tennis court per 2983 people and 1 bowling green per 9900 people	2.27 ha per 1000 of which a minimum of 1ha per 1000 is dedicated to community sports pitch provision. A standard of 1 tennis court per 2983 people and 1 bowling green per 9900 people should be used as a guideline standard.
Justification	
<p>Due to the broad nature of the sports facilities included within this typology, it is recommended that this standard is used for planning need only. Detailed studies (such as a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)) should be used to ascertain the detailed provision required for each type of facility. The recommended standard takes into account the findings of the playing pitch strategy as well as the expressed demand during consultations. The provision of effective outdoor sports facilities, as long as the provision of access to high quality recreational opportunities will be an essential component of the Physical Activity Strategy.</p> <p>Overall there is general dissatisfaction with the current level of provision, particularly with more formal facilities such as tennis courts. Findings from the PPS further identify the need for increased provision and the need for improvements to a large quantity of existing playing pitches in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>In light of the above evidence, it is recommended that the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. Setting the standard above the existing level of provision will enable the Council to identify any areas deficient in the provision of outdoor sports facilities and combined with the application of the accessibility standard, enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as the provision of new facilities to meet increased demand.</p> <p>The playing pitch strategy indicates that 1ha of community sports provision is required to meet demand. As well as ensuring that the quantity of provision is sufficient to meet needs, the playing pitch strategy also encourages the delivery of increased capacity through improvements to the quality of existing facilities as well as through new provision. Enhancing access to existing sites (for example school sites) will be an important way of increasing provision for community use.</p> <p>Setting a standard above the existing level of provision will also facilitate the development of multi sport sites in the large towns, which can provide a focal point for community activity. Increases in the quantity and capacity of provision will ensure that increases in participation levels can be accommodated.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 8.57 The quality of existing outdoor sports facilities in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 8.10 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

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- 8.58 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of quality have been given a higher weighting to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G. The quality of both the playing surface and the ancillary accommodation were deemed to be particularly important for the provision of outdoor sports.
- 8.59 The site visits undertaken assess the outdoor sport site as a whole and do not specifically consider the degree to which a facility can be considered fit for purpose. Assessments of the playing pitches across the District in line with the approach set out in Towards a Level Playing Field were carried out as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Table 8.9 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities across Staffordshire Moorlands

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	24	46 - 94	69	Kynpersley First School – ID 15	Biddulph Victoria FC – ID 9
Cheadle	15	48 - 86	66	Cheadle Primary School – ID 88	Cheadle Cricket Club – ID 77
Leek	23	58 - 100	77	Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground – ID 229	Leek Bowling Club – ID 257
Rural	68	31 - 100	67	Dilhorne Recreation Centre Tennis Court – ID 451	Draycott Sports Centre – ID 445
Overall	130	31 -100	69	Dilhorne Recreation Centre Tennis Court – ID 451	Leek Bowling Club – ID 257

- 8.60 The key issues emerging from Table 8.9 and the consultation relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- the majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average (47%). However, a significant amount of residents also regard their quality to be poor (33%). This highlights a split in opinion in relation to the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands. This may be reflective of the wide variety of facilities that are included within this typology
- the average quality score of an outdoor sports facility in Staffordshire Moorlands is 69%, indicating that overall, facilities are above average – this is in line with many other types of open space. Despite this, the range of scores awarded to outdoor sports facilities highlights the significant variation in the quality of facilities (31 – 100%)
- across the individual analysis areas results are consistent with the overall findings. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Leek analysis area, where 30% of respondents feel that the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good. Quality scores reinforce this with facilities in Leek receiving an average quality score of 77%. This score is greater than all other geographical areas and the District average
- when considering the provision of specific types of facility it can be seen that the quality of all outdoor sports facilities, except golf courses, was perceived to be average. The quality of golf courses was rated as good. Similar results are evident within the individual analysis areas. Residents in Leek exhibited the greatest level of satisfaction with the provision of synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens. The greatest level of dissatisfaction with the provision of grass pitches, bowling greens and golf courses was shown in Biddulph
- this reflects the findings of the site visits, which demonstrate that there are significant variations in each type of facility, with private facilities being of higher quality. Public tennis facilities are of particularly poor quality and private bowling greens are particularly good
- the majority of respondents to the household survey perceive the quality of maintenance at outdoor sports facilities as average (42%). 30% of residents also rate the quality of maintenance as good. Similar results are highlighted within the individual analysis areas, although the most positive perceptions are in Biddulph and Leek (35% and 41% respectively). However, poor drainage at a number of sports pitches was a regular issue raised by residents
- poor drainage was also a key theme emerging through consultations with sports clubs. Issues with the quality of ancillary accommodation were also frequently raised. These issues were also apparent in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 8.61 The recommended local quality standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G. The standard highlights the key aspirations of local residents with regards sports facilities.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Toilets	
Parking facilities	Dog free area	
Well kept grass	Facilities for the young	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	9%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	53%	4
Vegetation	22%	3
Ancillary accommodation	15%	2

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 8.62 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 8.63 Findings from the household survey indicate that the majority of residents expect to drive to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of grass pitches where residents expect to walk.
- 8.64 Accessibility was one of the key issues for outdoor sports, with many residents highlighting that the lack of access to school facilities restricted their use of local sites.
- 8.65 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 8.66 Site assessments reveal the accessibility of outdoor sports facilities is generally good. However, site assessments highlighted some issues with information and signage at existing sites.
- 8.67 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within

Appendix H. The standard reflects the aspiration that pitches will be provided in close proximity to the home.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
10 MINUTE WALK TIME = GRASS PITCHES 15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = TENNIS COURTS, BOWLING GREENS, SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES 20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = GOLF COURSES
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 (to which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Findings from local consultation suggest two standards should be set. A walk time standard has been set for grass pitches and a drive time for tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. These standards have been recommended in line with the expected travel methods and to reflect the specialist nature of this typology and although residents in Cheadle and Leek indicate a clear preference for walking to the majority of facilities, it is not realistic to expect all these facilities to be provided locally.</p> <p>Respondents to the household survey indicate they would be willing to travel for 10 minutes to access a grass pitch and this was also supported by findings from the sports club consultation. A local standard of a 10 minute walk time has therefore been set. For the four facilities where there is an expectation to drive a standard of a 15 minute drive time has been set for tennis courts, bowling greens and synthetic turf pitches and a 20 minute drive time for golf courses. All these standards are based on the consultation findings and are derived from analysis of the mean, mode and quartile figures.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 8.68 Given the broad nature of the outdoor sports facilities typology within PPG17, standards should only be applied to provide an indication of planning need. In light of the demand led nature of each type of facility, specific studies identifying the nature of facilities required should be carried out to provide a further basis for informed decision making.
- 8.69 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards helps to understand the existing distribution of outdoor sports facilities and identify areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 8.70 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 more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 8.71 Table 8.10 below summarises the application of the quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities. As highlighted, the broad range of facilities included within this typology means that the application of a quantity standard provides only an indication of provision at this stage. The type of facility that is most appropriate for a given area will be derived from expressed demand and local participation trends.

Table 8.10 – Application of quantity standard

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (2.27 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (2.27 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	-8.82	-10.35
Cheadle	-0.82	-1.77
Leek	2.05	0.50
Rural	3.15	-0.07
Overall	-4.43	-11.69

- 8.72 As can be seen in table 8.10 above:
- the recommended local standard (2.27 ha) has been set above the existing level of provision to reflect the findings of the consultation and unmet demand highlighted in the Playing Pitch Strategy
 - only within Leek is the provision of outdoor sports facilities sufficient to meet current and future demand

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- there are shortfalls of provision in Biddulph and the Cheadle analysis areas both when measuring current provision against the population and also when taking into account the future population growth

8.73 These calculations do not take into account the targeted 1% increase in participation per annum. If this was to occur, unmet demand would increase.

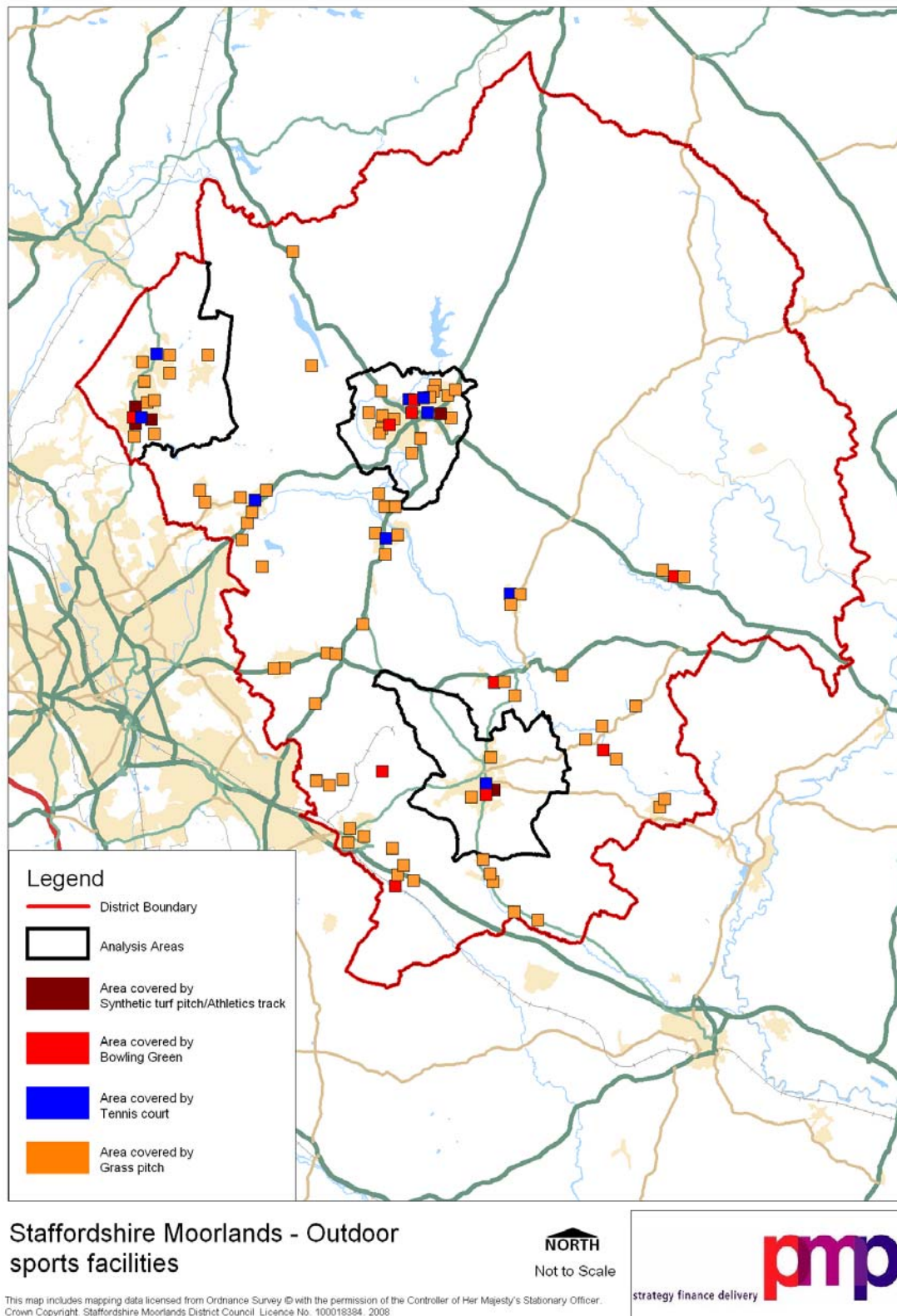
8.74 When breaking down the provision of specific facilities, it can be seen that:

- the quantity of bowling greens falls below the guideline in Biddulph and Cheadle
- tennis provision is below the guideline in Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle
- there are deficiencies of pitches in all areas, with the playing pitch strategy recording the following deficiencies:

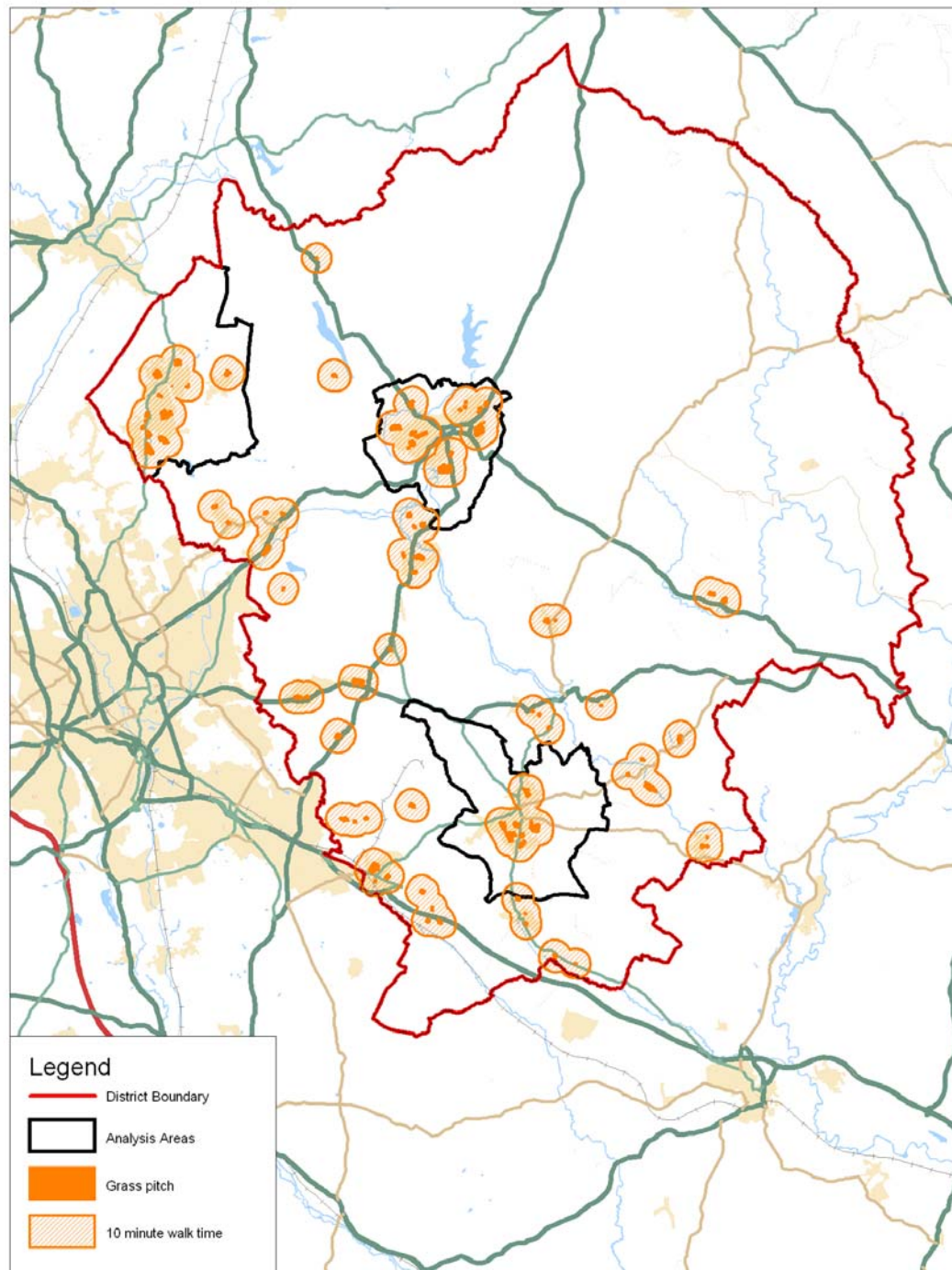
Sub-area name	Shortfall of adult football	Shortfall of junior football	Shortfall of Mini-soccer	Shortfall of cricket	Shortfall of adult rugby union	Shortfall of junior rugby union	Shortfall of adult rugby league	Shortfall of junior rugby league	Shortfall of hockey	Total pitches
Biddulph	5.1	-5.0	5.5	-3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Cheadle	1.1	-7.0	-1.0	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-8.8
Leek	2.9	-4.0	3.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5.6	-3.1
Rural	11.2	-7.5	0.0	-9.4	4.5	-4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5.7
	20.4	-23.5	8.0	-14.8	4.5	-4.5	0.0	0.0	-5.6	

8.75 The application of the local accessibility standards for outdoor sports facilities is set out overleaf in Maps 8.2 – 8.6.

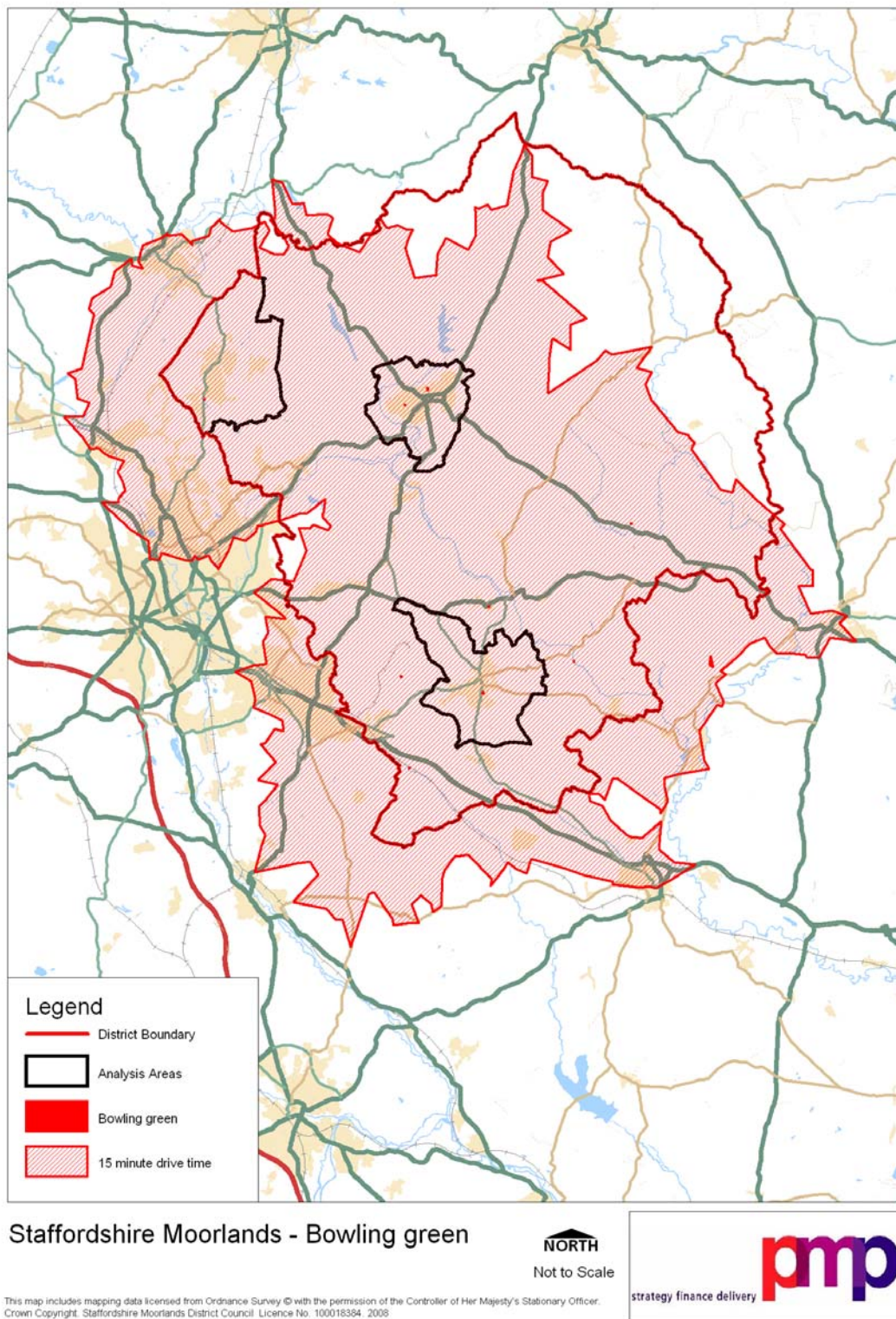
Map 8.2 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands



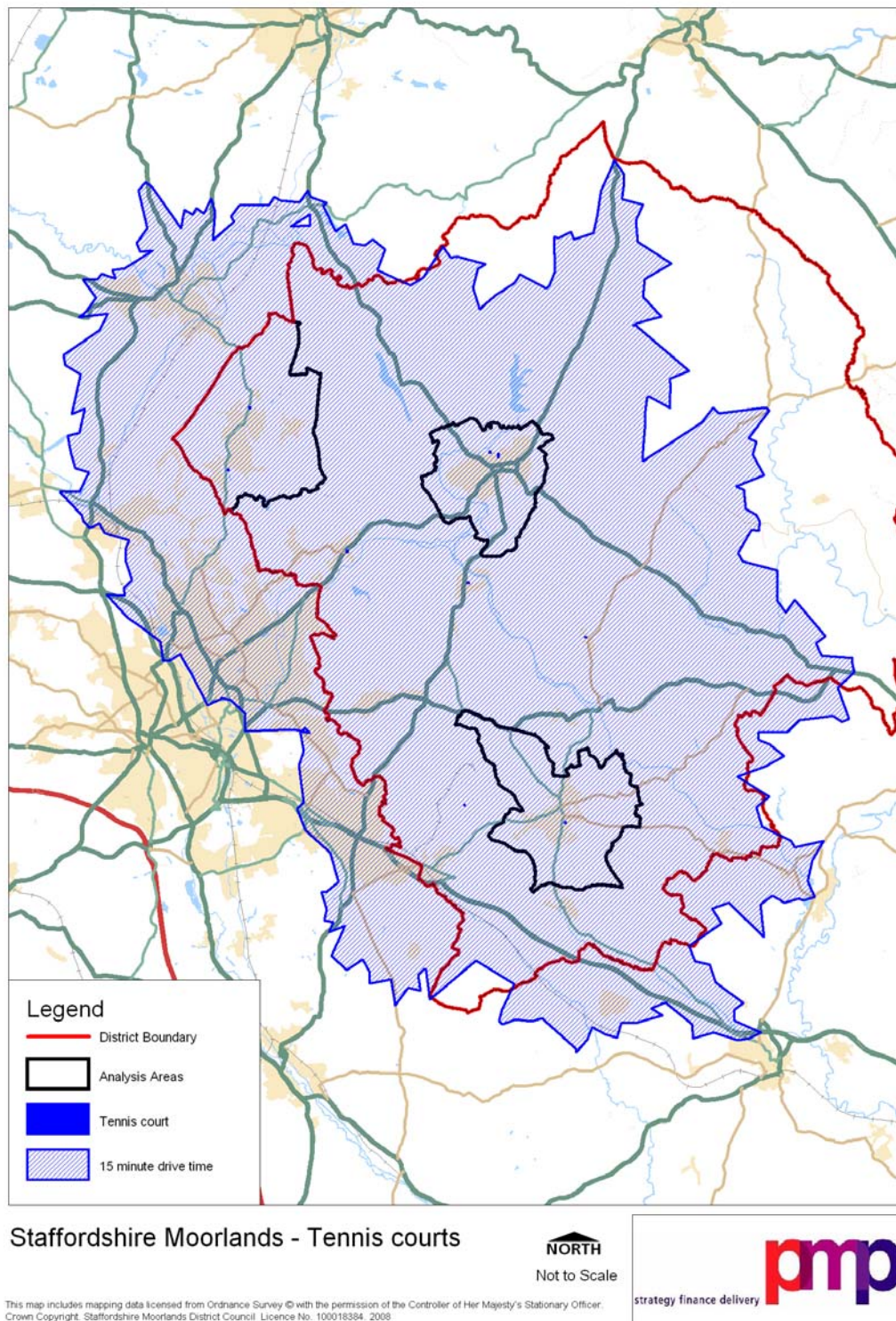
Map 8.3 – Provision of grass pitches in Staffordshire Moorlands



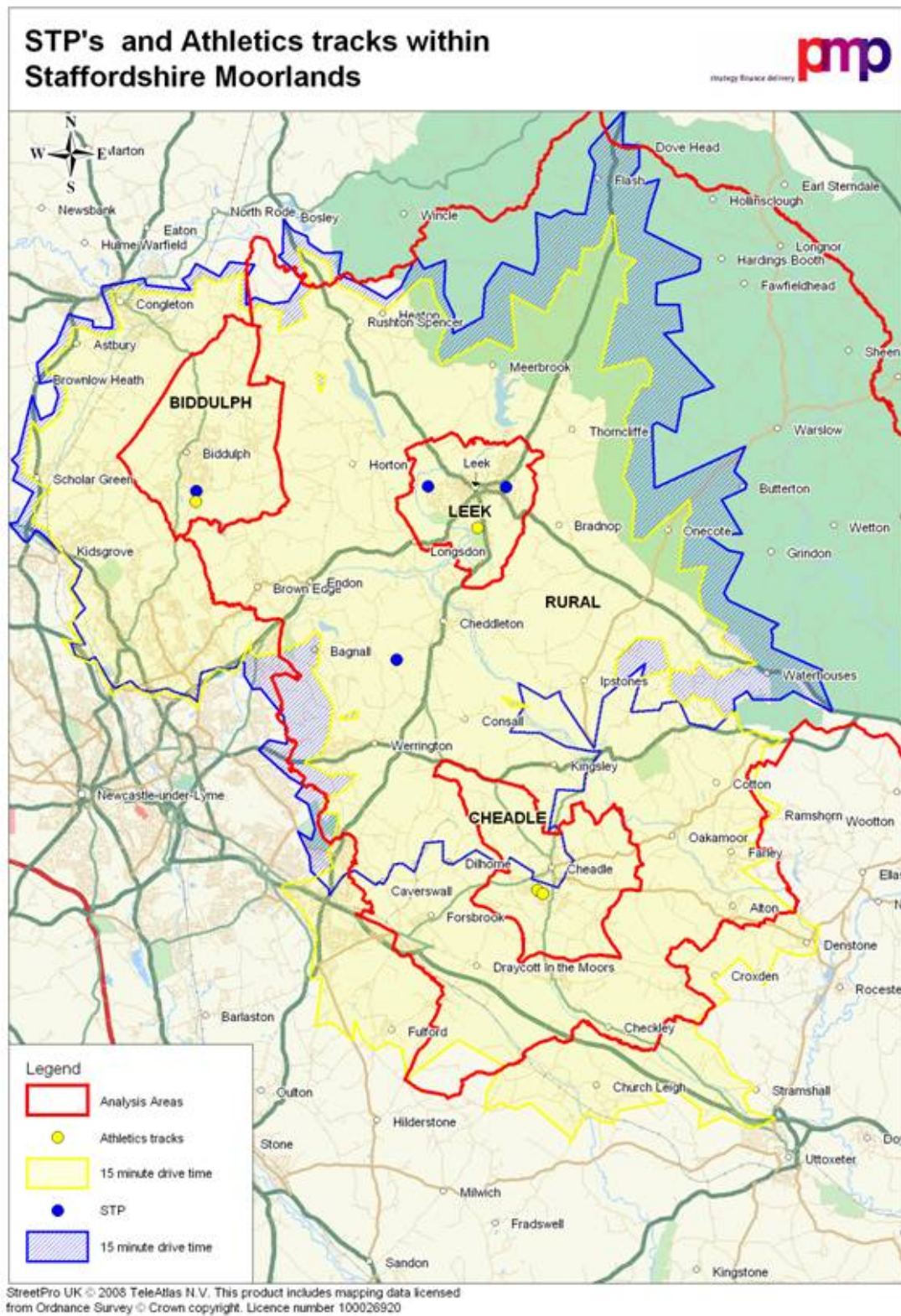
Map 8.4 – Provision of bowling greens in Staffordshire Moorlands



Map 8.5 – Provision of tennis courts in Staffordshire Moorlands



Map 8.6 – Provision of synthetic turf pitches and athletics tracks in Staffordshire Moorlands



- 8.76 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands sites include:
- there is an even distribution of outdoor sport facilities across both the urban and rural areas of the District – this is influenced by the inclusion of school sites within calculations. While these sites provide a multitude of facilities, in many instances they are not available to the local community. This was a key issue raised during consultation
 - nearly all residents in Staffordshire Moorlands have access to at least one outdoor sports facility within the recommended travel times
 - nearly all residents have access to a bowling green, tennis court and synthetic turf pitch within the recommended 15 minute drive time
 - grass pitches are evenly distributed and the majority of residents do have access to a grass pitch, however deficiencies are evident in the Leek analysis area and in some rural settlements.
- 8.77 While consideration of the distribution of facilities is important, it is important to balance the desire to ensure that all residents have local access to facilities with the logistics of providing high quality facilities. Sites containing multiple facilities are more cost effective as well as providing greater opportunities for local residents.

Quality of facilities

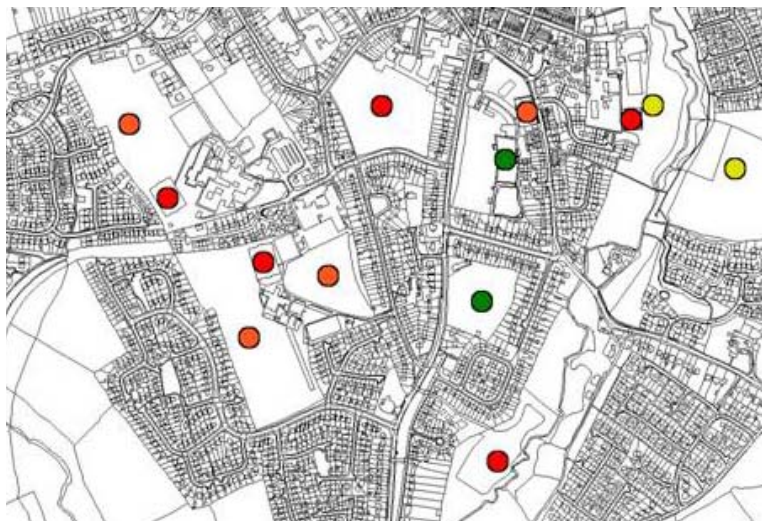
- 8.78 Map 8.7 illustrates an even spread of facilities of high and low quality across all areas of the District. However, despite this even distribution the majority of high quality sites are focused in the Leek and Biddulph analysis areas.
- 8.79 Clusters of poor quality facilities are evident in Staffordshire Moorlands. These are particularly noticeable in Biddulph, Cheadle and Rural analysis areas (Figures 8.3 – 8.5).

Figure 8.3 – Clusters of poor quality sites within Biddulph



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Figure 8.4 – Cluster of poor quality sites within Cheadle



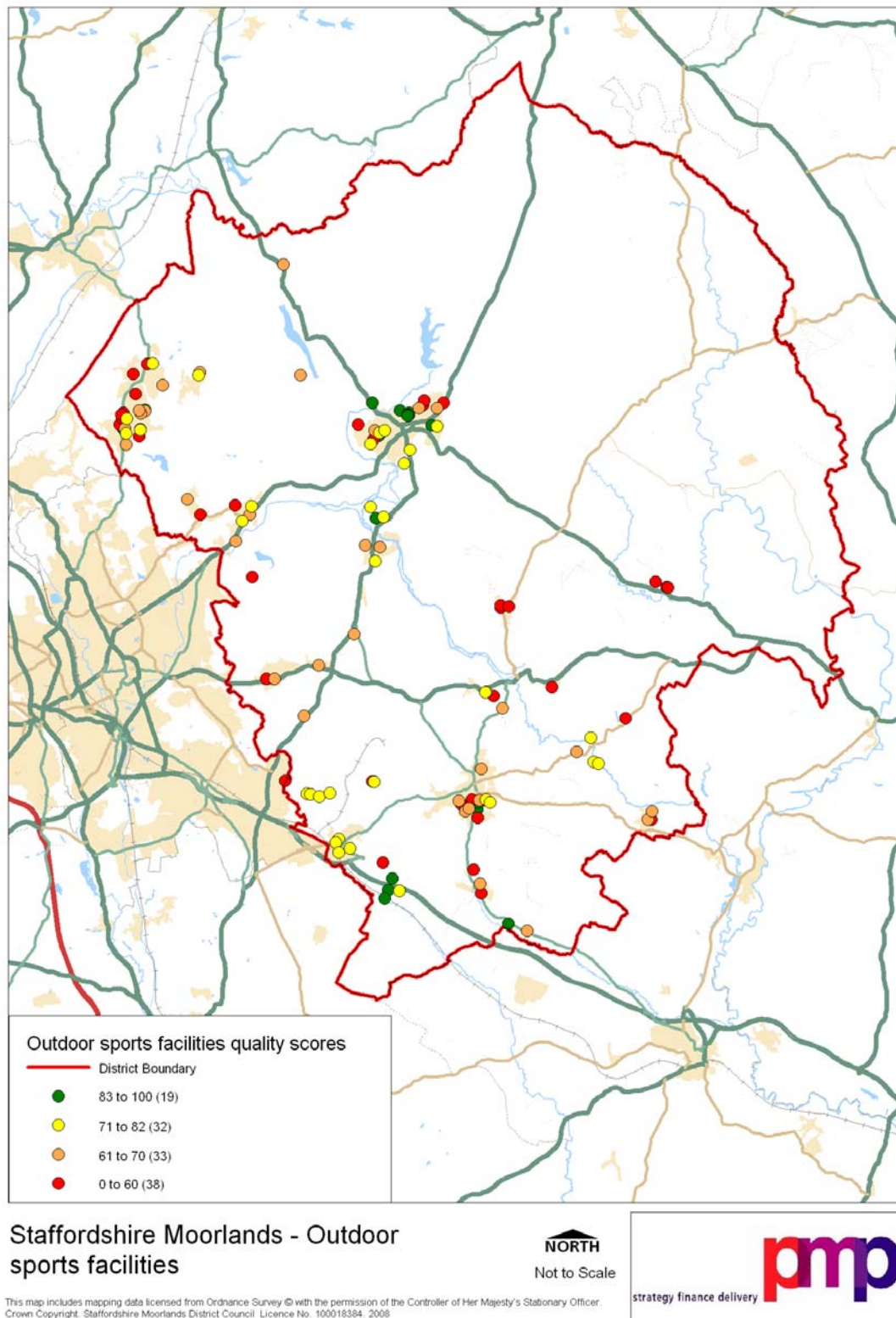
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Figure 8.5 – Cluster of poor quality sites within the Rural analysis area



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Map 8.7 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands



Applying the quality, quantity and accessibility standards together

- 8.80 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. Quality standards outline the key aspirations of local residents and provide an indication as to where sites may currently fall below expectations.
- 8.81 Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic in some areas, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. In many instances, improvements to the quality of existing sites will impact on the capacity of the facility. A facility that is able to sustain more games will serve the local community to a greater extent
- 8.82 As seen on Map 8.7, the quality of outdoor sports facilities is varying. Site visits highlighted that existing facilities are currently average, scoring 69%, although there is a significant variation in the range of scores achieved. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.
- 8.83 Sites have therefore been divided into quartiles according to their quality. This analysis is set out in Table 8.7 below and a selection of sites falling into each category is listed. A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix C. To fall within the top quartile, a score of 83% would be required.

Table 8.7 – Detailed analysis of the quality of existing sites

Above upper quartile	83% +	(100%) Leek Bowling Club – Leek – Site ID 214
Median – Upper quartile	71% - 82%	(82%) Birchall Playing Fields – Leek – Site ID 246
Lower quartile – median	61% - 70%	(70%) Church Road Playing Fields – Site ID 33
Less than lower quartile	60% and below	(60%) Westwood College Playing Fields – Leek – Site ID 425

- 8.84 Key issues relating to the quality of specific sites will be considered during the application of the standards for each of the specific types of open space. The findings of the quality assessments should be used to guide the provision of outdoor sports facilities to ensure that they are fit for the purpose that they are intended.

OSF1	<p>Seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve 83% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.</p> <p>Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities.</p>
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- 8.85 In addition to the quality of outdoor sports facilities, consultation highlighted that the quantity of provision in some areas is problematic. As previously highlighted, nearly all residents have access to a bowling green, tennis court or synthetic turf pitch within the recommended 15 minute drive time.

- 8.86 Consideration is given to the location of each type of facility in order to understand the provision of different facilities. In light of the expectation that these facilities will be provided within a drive time distance and are not expected within close proximity of the home, consideration has been given to the provision of tennis courts, bowling greens and synthetic turf pitches at a District wide level.
- 8.87 Outdoor sports facilities provide important sport and recreation opportunities for local residents and can contribute to improving participation and health. Therefore, all outdoor sports facilities within the District should be protected from development.

OSF2	Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to demand, or that development of one site will result in improved facilities at a nearby site. This should be incorporated through the provision of appropriate policies in the LDF.
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Tennis courts

- 8.88 Tennis was identified as the ninth most popular participation sport in England by a Sport England survey in November 2006. The Active People Survey showed that there were 860,000 people over the age of 16 playing tennis once a month. Based on 2001 census population figures, there are 46.93m people in the United Kingdom. Applying the Active People Survey findings, suggests a participation rate equivalent to 1.83%. This suggests that 1365 residents would regularly play tennis.
- 8.89 All residents have access to a publicly accessible tennis court within the distance threshold of 15 minutes drivetime. Sites are evenly distributed between three of the four geographical areas, with three sites located in the Biddulph and Leek analysis areas and four in the rural settlements. There is only one site in Cheadle.
- 8.90 There are increasing links between clubs and schools, which try to encourage more residents to play tennis. As well as club provision, it is essential to ensure that there are casual play opportunities to facilitate informal participation. Respondents to the sports club survey suggested that more investment was needed in tennis court provision, both in terms of quantity and quality.
- 8.91 There is a variety of provision in each areas, specifically:
- Biddulph – Knypersley Sports Club (2 courts) and St Lawrences Recreation Ground (2 courts). These facilities offer both club and casual participation, although the facilities at St Lawrences Recreation Ground are poor quality and receive limited use
 - Cheadle – provision at Memorial Recreation Ground (2 courts) – casual use available
 - Leek – provision at Brough Park (2 courts) as well as Abbey Tennis Club (4 courts)– a variety of club and casual participation.
 - in the rural settlements there are public facilities at Ipstones (1 court), Dilhorne Recreation Ground (1 court), Cheddleton Recreation Ground (2 courts) Draycott Sports Centre (6) and a tennis club at Endon (6 courts).

- tennis courts in the rural area are of poor quality, with Dilhorne Recreation Centre (31%) and Ipstones Recreation Ground (34%), being the two lowest scoring sites in the District. St Lawrence's Recreation Ground Tennis Court in Biddulph is also of very poor quality (46%). In contrast, facilities at Endon Tennis Club, Abbey Tennis Club and Draycott Sports Centre were perceived to be high.
- 8.92 This indicates the variety of opportunities in the key settlements across the District. As highlighted, the total courts vary, with 4 in Biddulph, 2 in Cheadle, 6 courts in Leek and 16 courts within the rural area. The total provision therefore equates to 30 courts. Consultation indicates that in the majority of instances, courts are not operating at capacity and in many cases are run down and in need of repair. In addition, there are some tennis courts at school sites (not accessible to the public outside of school hours) and some of the synthetic turf pitches also contain markings for tennis.
- 8.93 The current supply of tennis courts is equivalent to 1 court per 2983 residents. Provision in Biddulph (1 court per 4878), Cheadle (1 court per 6083) and Leek (3313) are below the average for the district. While provision in the rural area exceeds this level, it must be noted that higher quantities of provision will be necessary to compensate for the dispersed nature of the population.
- 8.94 While tennis clubs indicated that there is demand for additional facilities, much of this is thought to be at existing club sites. In light of the findings on current use of public tennis courts, and the quality of existing provision, focus should be placed on increasing access and enhancing the existing tennis courts in the District because nearly all residents have access to a tennis court.
- 8.95 Where appropriate, support should be given to tennis clubs who are looking to improve their facilities and to increase membership.
- 8.96 In areas where there is a demand for increased provision the use of school sites should be considered to address this demand. While many of the larger rural settlements do not contain tennis courts, the adoption of a 15 minute drivetime means that residents are still within the appropriate distance threshold. The needs of residents in local villages were discussed by some Parishes and it was indicated that local provision may be beneficial.
- 8.97 The overall supply of 1 court per 2983 residents should be used as a guideline standard of provision.

OSF3	<p>Focus on increasing access and enhancing the quality of existing tennis courts in the District. Use the findings of the site assessments to identify poor quality sites in need of improvement.</p> <p>Improve public transport links to maximise access to sites.</p>
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- 8.98 Although nearly all residents are within the recommended accessibility catchment of a tennis court, consultation indicates a concern over the lack of tennis courts. A reason for this perception may be the lack of publicly accessible facilities in some areas of the district and the quality of facilities. The Sport England Market segmentation tool indicated that residents in the west of the district (Biddulph) would have a particular propensity to participate in tennis. Improvements to the site at St Lawrences Recreation Ground may therefore encourage more residents to participate. Public

tennis courts are not perceived to be over capacity although there are seasonal peaks in demand.

OSF4	Investigate demand and likely usage of the tennis courts at St Lawrences Recreation Ground in light of the local propensity to participate in tennis.
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Bowling greens

- 8.99 The provision of bowling greens is significantly higher within the rural settlements and Leek, with seven of the ten sites located in these areas. The highest level of satisfaction was portrayed in the Leek analysis area, where there is a good level of provision. Total bowling provision in the district equates to one site per 9,900 residents.
- 8.100 The majority of bowling greens in the District are private and therefore offer limited public access. The only publicly owned facilities in the district are in Cheadle and Leek.
- 8.101 Consultation with the general public and with sports clubs did not identify the need for any additional bowling greens although the Sport England Market Segmentation tool indicated that bowling may be popular in the east of the district. Demand for indoor bowls centres was raised.
- 8.102 Focus should therefore be placed on increasing access to existing public bowling greens and enhancing the quality of these sites to improve their value to the local community. Bowling greens across Staffordshire Moorlands were all perceived to be high quality facilities. This should be maintained. Longer term, demand for additional facilities should be monitored. Bowling may offer a good opportunity to engage older residents in physical activity and participation.

OSF5	Focus on increasing access to existing publicly accessible bowling greens in the District. Seek to enhance the quality of existing sites, aiming to achieve a quality score of 82%.
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Synthetic turf pitches and athletics tracks

- 8.103 The provision of synthetic turf pitches and athletics tracks is focused in the urban areas of the District.
- 8.104 The West Midlands Regional Facility Strategy identified the need for an astro turf pitch in Leek. The hockey club indicate that provision is currently sufficient to meet their needs however it is clear that they are travelling out of the district for some fixtures. Furthermore, there are pressures on existing pitches to accommodate football training. Therefore, consideration should be given to the provision of a new synthetic turf pitch in Leek. This is discussed further in the playing pitch strategy.

OSF6	Consider the provision of a new synthetic turf pitch within Leek.
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- 8.105 The success of the Athletics Club in Leek means that the club desires an upgrade of the existing cinder track. There are no other facilities for athletics in the District and the West Midlands Regional Facility Strategy highlights the need to upgrade some facilities

within Staffordshire CSP. In order to promote the ongoing development of the club, this should be supported.

OSF7	Consider relaying or upgrading the existing cinder track to a synthetic should the opportunity arise.
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Other Sports

Netball

- 8.106 Outdoor netball courts are predominantly located on multi use sites at school venues. The facilities at Painsley Catholic College in particular were commended, although changing facilities were perceived to be poor. The lack of outdoor floodlit courts was perceived to be a particular issue although the lack of indoor space was highlighted as being the main barrier to growing participation in netball. Future priority with regards outdoor facilities should therefore be the installation of floodlights at key school sites.

Water Sports

- 8.107 Rudyard Lake is an important venue in Staffordshire Moorlands for watersports. It offers a variety of opportunities including sailing, windsurfing and water skiing as well as being a well used tourist destination. The facility provides an important resource for local residents and should therefore be maintained and promoted.
- 8.108 The provision of grass pitches in each of the analysis area will be the main point of the discussion for the remainder of the application of the standards. The information is drawn predominantly from the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Grass pitches

- 8.109 The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies a number of objectives relating to the quality, quantity and accessibility of pitches across the district. Quality of pitches is of particular importance and as highlighted improvements to the quality of pitches will generate increased capacity.

OSF8	<p>Seek to enhance the quality of existing playing pitches in Staffordshire Moorlands. Use the findings from site assessments and consultation to identify priorities for improvement. The Council is committed to a step change in the quality of provision</p> <p>Key areas for improvement should therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drainage• provision of changing facilities
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- 8.110 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Staffordshire Moorlands identifies latent/future demand for sports pitches in the area. The future requirements for the District are split into four areas: Biddulph, Cheadle, Leek and the Rural Area. These will be discussed in further detail when applying recommended standards in each geographical area.
- 8.111 The analysis below considers the supply of sports pitches in each of the areas across the District.

Biddulph

- 8.112 Application of the quantity standard (2.25 ha per 1000 population) highlights a large under supply of provision within the Biddulph analysis area (-8.82 ha). Furthermore, this shortfall is set to increase significantly by 2026, equating to a deficiency of -10.35 ha. The greatest level of dissatisfaction with the current level of provision was also located in this area of the District.
- 8.113 Despite a shortfall in provision, nearly all residents are within the recommended 10 minute walk time of a grass pitch. Only a small minority of residents located in the south of Biddulph Moor and north of Biddulph, are outside the recommended accessibility catchment of a grass pitch. This indicates that pitches are well distributed.
- 8.114 The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies shortfalls of 5 junior pitches and 3 cricket pitches. Consultation with the club demonstrates that shortfalls in cricket are not a priority at the current time.
- 8.115 In addition to considering the reallocation of adult and junior pitches, qualitative improvements and securing community use of facilities are considered to be priority.
- 8.116 Hall's Road Sports Ground and Mill Hayes Sports Ground are the principal Council owned multi pitch sites in Biddulph. Both sites are well used by clubs in the area and site assessments revealed problems with drainage at both of these sites, with water logging on the pitches. The slope of pitches at Mill Hayes and quality of goalposts at Hall's Road were also identified as issues.
- 8.117 Improving the quality of these sites would increase the carrying capacity of pitches (the number of matches that can be played per week) and help alleviate pressures on existing facilities in Biddulph. Biddulph Town Youth currently use this site and therefore enhancing the quality of Mill Hayes will aid the development of Biddulph Town Youth (an FA Community Club) by providing the club with access to high quality pitches for competitive matches.
- 8.118 Due to the importance of Hall's Road and Mill Hayes, improvements should be prioritised at these sites. Three junior football pitches are located at Woodhouse Middle School and Knypersley First School. In light of the shortfalls of junior football pitches, these sites should be priorities for securing community use agreements. Although secure community access should be sought at Knypersley First School and Woodhouse Middle School, consultation with the schools indicated that there are problems with drainage and that the sites are often water logged. Enhancements to these sites will be required if competitive matches are to be played on these pitches. It is recommended that in the first instance, a focus is placed on enhancing the quality of existing provision.

OSF9	Focus on enhancing the quality of existing grass pitches within the Biddulph analysis area.
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- 8.119 In light of the identified demand in the playing pitch strategy, access to school facilities for the local community will be essential to ensure that supply of pitches does not inhibit demand. This will be particularly important until the quality of pitches is enhanced.

OSF10	Negotiate agreements with schools in Biddulph for the use of their facilities for the local community.
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- 8.120 In order to promote sport within Biddulph, consideration should be given to the development of a multi pitch (and potentially multi sport site) which would encourage participation by local residents.

Cheadle

- 8.121 Accessibility mapping illustrates that nearly all residents within the Cheadle analysis area are within the recommended 10 minute walk time of a grass pitch. Only a very small minority of residents on the far outskirts of Cheadle are outside the recommended catchment of a grass pitch. The current provision of outdoor sports facilities is insufficient to meet existing demand and future population projections highlight a minor expected shortfall of -1.77 ha.
- 8.122 The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies the need for an additional 7 junior pitches and 1 cricket pitch. The supply of adult football pitches is only just sufficient to meet needs.
- 8.123 In light of the average quality of existing provision and shortfalls in pitch provision additional facilities as well as qualitative improvements will be required. Additionally, the shortfalls in provision emphasise the importance of community use agreements.
- 8.124 Thorley Drive is the largest playing fields site in the area and therefore presents a significant opportunity to provide a high quality venue with a variety of facilities. New pitches are also required and consideration is being given to the development of a sports village in Cheadle, which would provide a particular focus on junior football. In light of the focus on improving quality, while addressing some of the shortfalls, these proposals should be supported.

OSF11	Seek community use agreements for pitches in Cheadle. New provision may also be required. Qualitative improvements to existing sites will be important to maximise the capacity of pitches.
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Leek

- 8.125 Application of the quantity standard indicates that the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Leek is sufficient to meet current and future demand. Despite there being adequate provision, accessibility mapping illustrates areas of deficiency, with residents located in the north and south of Leek unable to access a grass pitch within the recommended accessibility catchment (figure 8.6).

Figure 8.6 – Deficiencies in the Leek analysis area



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- 8.126 The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies shortfalls of four junior pitches. There is an overall shortfall of three pitches.
- 8.127 In light of the identified accessibility deficiencies and the requirement for additional facilities, the negotiation of community use agreements should be prioritised. Additionally, qualitative improvements to existing sites will be important to increase the capacity of pitches and ensure that they are able to accommodate longer term growth in participation. New provision may also be required.
- 8.128 Large pitch sites within Leek and partnership working between clubs may generate the opportunity for a large multi sport venue within Leek. This would foster increased participation as well as providing a high quality venue for users.

OSF12	Seize opportunities to increase the quantity and quality of grass pitch provision. This may involve securing community use sites. Consider the development of a multi sport venue.
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Rural Settlements

- 8.129 Application of the quantity standard indicate that there is sufficient provision to meet demand, however based on future population projections there will be a minimal shortfall of - 0.07 ha by 2026. Accessibility mapping reveals a good distribution of grass pitches within the rural analysis area. Despite a good distribution of provision, key accessibility deficiencies are evident in Alton, Blythe Bridge and Werrington (figures 8.7 – 8.8).

Figure 8.7 – Deficiencies in Blythe Bridge



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Figure 8.8 – Deficiencies in Werrington



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- 8.130 The Playing Pitch Strategy indicates that overall, there is a good supply of pitches in the rural area with sufficient football pitches overall although there are pressures on the existing stock of cricket pitches.
- 8.131 Although accessibility mapping illustrates areas of deficiency it is unreasonable to expect local provision of grass pitches within every rural settlement and residents indicated a high level of satisfaction with current provision.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.132 While deficiencies in the settlements above should be investigated, a focus should be placed on improving the quality of existing facilities. A lack of access to school pitches for both informal and formal sport was also raised frequently during consultation.
- 8.133 In consideration of the great quantity of grass pitches in need of improvement, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites in the area. Furthermore, the playing pitch strategy highlights that the quality of several facilities is poor.

OSF13	Focus on the enhancement of existing grass pitches within the rural settlements. Site assessments indicate that sites requiring particular improvement include: Kingsley Recreation Ground, Ipstones Recreation Ground, Werrington Recreation Ground, Hurstons Lane Playing Field and High Lane Playing Field.
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Summary

- 8.134 Outdoor sports facilities are a wide-ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation. Facilities can be owned and managed by Councils, sports associations, schools and individual sports clubs with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports. Examples include
- playing pitches
 - athletics tracks
 - bowling greens
 - golf courses.
- 8.135 The overall amount of space dedicated to sports facilities, and the overall quality of provision has been considered and sport specific issues have been highlighted. The key issues arising from the Playing Pitch Strategy have also been incorporated in order to provide a detailed assessment of pitches.
- 8.136 Consultation highlights issues with both the quantity and quality of facilities. Analysis of the existing provision supports this, with areas of deficiency located in the Leek analysis area and rural settlements. The quality of sports facilities is perceived to be in need of particular improvements, particularly with regards drainage and provision of ancillary accommodation.
- 8.137 There is a good distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the District, with nearly all residents able to access a bowling green, tennis court and synthetic turf pitch within the recommended travel time. The majority of residents also have local access to a grass pitch.
- 8.138 The enhancement of the quality of existing outdoor sports facilities is a priority. However, increasing access to existing provision, specifically tennis courts and bowling greens is important. Increasing access to school sites can be a solution to this problem.
- 8.139 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are:
- protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless it can be proven that the replacement of a facility will result in a higher quality facility in a nearby location
 - seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities
 - focus on enhancing the quality of existing tennis courts in the District
 - focus on increasing access to existing publicly accessible bowling greens in the District. Seek to enhance the quality of existing sites
 - consider the provision of a new synthetic turf pitch within Leek
 - enhance the quality of existing grass pitches within the Biddulph analysis area.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- monitor the demand for increased provision in grass pitches and investigate opportunities to provide a multi sport facility
- focus on securing community use agreements in Cheadle and consider opportunities to provide a multi sport facility. Qualitative improvements will also be important to increase the capacity of existing pitches
- secure community use agreements in Leek and improve the quality of pitches . Longer term, new provision will be required. Investigate opportunities to provide a multi sport facility
- prioritise the enhancement of existing grass pitches within the rural settlements. Address deficiencies through the negotiation of community use agreements at school sites.

Indoor sports facilities

9.1 To be inserted.

Allotments

Introduction and definition

- 10.1 This typology includes all forms of allotments. The primary purpose of allotments is to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. This type of open space may also include urban farms.
- 10.2 Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community in addition to their primary purpose. These include:
- bringing together different cultural backgrounds
 - improving physical and mental health
 - providing a source of recreation
 - making a wider contribution to the green and open space network.
- 10.3 Allotments are becoming increasingly popular nationally, following the recognition of the role that they can play in encouraging all sectors of the community to participate in active recreation. Allotments offer an alternative active pastime to participation in formal sport, particularly for older residents. This is particularly important in light of the ageing population in Staffordshire Moorlands. Many residents in the District acknowledged the recreational benefits associated with using an allotment.
- 10.4 Changing trends in house building, with an increasing focus on flats and apartments may also generate an upturn in the demand for allotments, as residents without access to private gardens seek opportunities to participate.
- 10.5 This section considers the quality, quantity and accessibility of allotments across Staffordshire.
- 10.6 Analysis of the current provision of allotments across the District is set out overleaf.

Example of an allotment



Quantity of provision

- 10.7 There are nine allotment sites situated within Staffordshire Moorlands, all of which are owned and managed by Town and Parish Councils. Residents liaise directly with the providers of the allotments to rent plots.
- 10.8 Of the nine allotment sites, seven currently have waiting lists, reinforcing the growing popularity of allotments in the District. The highest demand is at Cheadle Road allotments, with 28 people on the waiting list. 2.3% of respondents to the household survey who do not currently rent an allotment plot indicated that they would be interested in having one.
- 10.9 The quantity of allotments across the District is summarised in Table 10.1 below.

Table 10.1 – Provision of allotments across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Current provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	0.49	1	-	-	20,185	0.02
Cheadle	0	0	-	-	12,586	0.00
Leek	6.94	7	0.21	3.16	20,566	0.34
Rural	0.47	1	-	-	39,246	0.01
Overall	7.90	9	0.21	3.16	92,583	0.09

- 10.10 The key issues emerging from Table 10.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of allotments include:
- in total, 44% of the population felt that the provision of allotments in the district was insufficient. This is supported by the presence of waiting lists at over 50% of sites
 - the level of provision varies significantly across the different geographical areas, ranging from 0.34 hectares per 1000 population in Leek, to no provision in Cheadle
 - over 50% of residents in the Leek analysis area felt that there were insufficient allotments. This is perhaps surprising, given that Leek contains almost 90% of the total allotment provision in the District, however it is likely to be influenced by the presence of waiting lists at existing sites
 - in contrast, residents in the rural areas demonstrated the greatest satisfaction. Demand may be lower in the rural areas given that the majority of residents have access to gardens

- it is acknowledged that despite the general consensus that there are not enough allotments, a large proportion (over 30%) of respondents did not have an opinion. This may be reflective of the low user levels for this demand-led typology

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 10.11 The recommended local quantity standard for allotments has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F.
- 10.12 The standard recommends an increase on the existing level of provision. This is based on the existing waiting lists in addition to expressed demand from local residents.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.09 ha per 1000	0.097 ha per 1000
Justification	
<p>A standard set above the existing level of provision has been set to address the demand for the increased provision of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands. The clear perception established through all consultations was that the existing provision of allotments is insufficient. This was also reflected by the presence of waiting lists at some of the key sites across the District, indicating that demand is unmet.</p> <p>Setting the quantity standard above the current level of provision will allow the Council to concentrate on the new provision of allotments to reflect existing demand. The recommended quantity standard would require an 8% increase on existing provision and would generate 50 additional full size plots.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 10.13 The quality of existing allotments in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 10.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 10.14 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of allotments have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

Table 10.2 – Quality of allotments across Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	1	-	74	-	-
Cheadle	0	-	-	-	-
Leek	7	46-74	54	Novi Lane – ID 232	Thornhill Road – ID 254
Rural	1	-	60	-	-
Overall	9	46-74	57	Novi Lane – Id 232	Thornhill Road – ID 254

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

- residents demonstrated a split in the perceived quality of allotments, with 44% indicating that they are poor, while 43% regarded them as average
- findings across three of the four individual geographical areas are consistent with the overall responses with the majority of respondents in each area stating that the quality of allotments is poor. It is likely that this response is influenced by the perception that the quantity of provision is insufficient
- in Leek analysis area the majority of respondents (50%) rate the quality of allotments as average
- the average quality score of an allotment in Staffordshire Moorlands is 57% and the range of scores is 46% – 74%. This suggests that in fact there is little variation in the overall quality of sites in the District
- the quality of maintenance at allotments was perceived to be average by 42% of respondents to the household survey. In addition, 34% highlighted maintenance as being poor, indicating the need for improvements. The greatest dissatisfaction can be found in the Cheadle analysis area, where 59% of respondents rate the quality of maintenance as poor. Again, it is likely that this is influenced by the lack of provision in this area of the District

- residents attending drop in sessions felt that the quality of allotments was varying. Allotments within Leek were said to be suffering from a lack of parking provision. Attempts have been made to secure extra parking but this has proved unsuccessful to date
- over half of respondents to the IT Young People survey did not have an opinion on the quality of allotments. This is unsurprising considering the current level of use by this age group. Of those that did respond, the majority (22%) felt that the quality was average and some improvements were needed.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 10.16 The recommended local quality standard for allotments is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 10.17 The quality standard summarises the features that residents consider to be an important determinant of the quality of provision.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – ALLOTMENTS		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential		Desirable
Good site access		Parking facilities
Toilets		Footpaths
Clean/litter free		
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to allotments, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	1%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	22%	4
Vegetation	6%	2
Ancillary accommodation	14%	3

Setting provision standards – accessibility

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

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- 10.19 Site-specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits and information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 10.20 Consultation and analysis highlights that 60% of residents expect to walk to their local allotment while 31% prefer to travel by car. This indicates that allotments are expected to be local to the home.
- 10.21 Site assessments indicate that the majority of allotments are poor in terms of general access and information and signage (eg Chadderton Road allotments). Transport was rated as average.
- 10.22 Respondents to the household survey indicated that the key barriers to increased usage of allotments (coupled with waiting lists for current sites) are lack of provision in proximity to the home and a lack of awareness of opportunities.
- 10.23 The recommended local accessibility standard for allotments is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
15 MINUTE WALK TIME
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>A clear preference for walking is established through consultation and therefore a walk time standard has been set.. The travel time of 15 minutes has been derived from analysis of the aspirations of local residents.</p> <p>This represents a significantly challenging standard, however current waiting lists were highlighted throughout consultation. The sufficient provision of allotments in the District will provide an alternative form of recreation and physical activity for residents.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 10.24 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards provides an understanding of the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifies areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 10.25 Table 10.3 overleaf sets out the results of the application of the quantity standard against the current distribution of allotments.

Table 10.3 – Application of quantity standard

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.097 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.097 hectares per 1000 population)
Biddulph	-1.40	-1.46
Cheadle	-1.18	-1.22
Leek	5.02	4.95
Rural	-3.19	-3.33
Overall	-0.75	-1.06

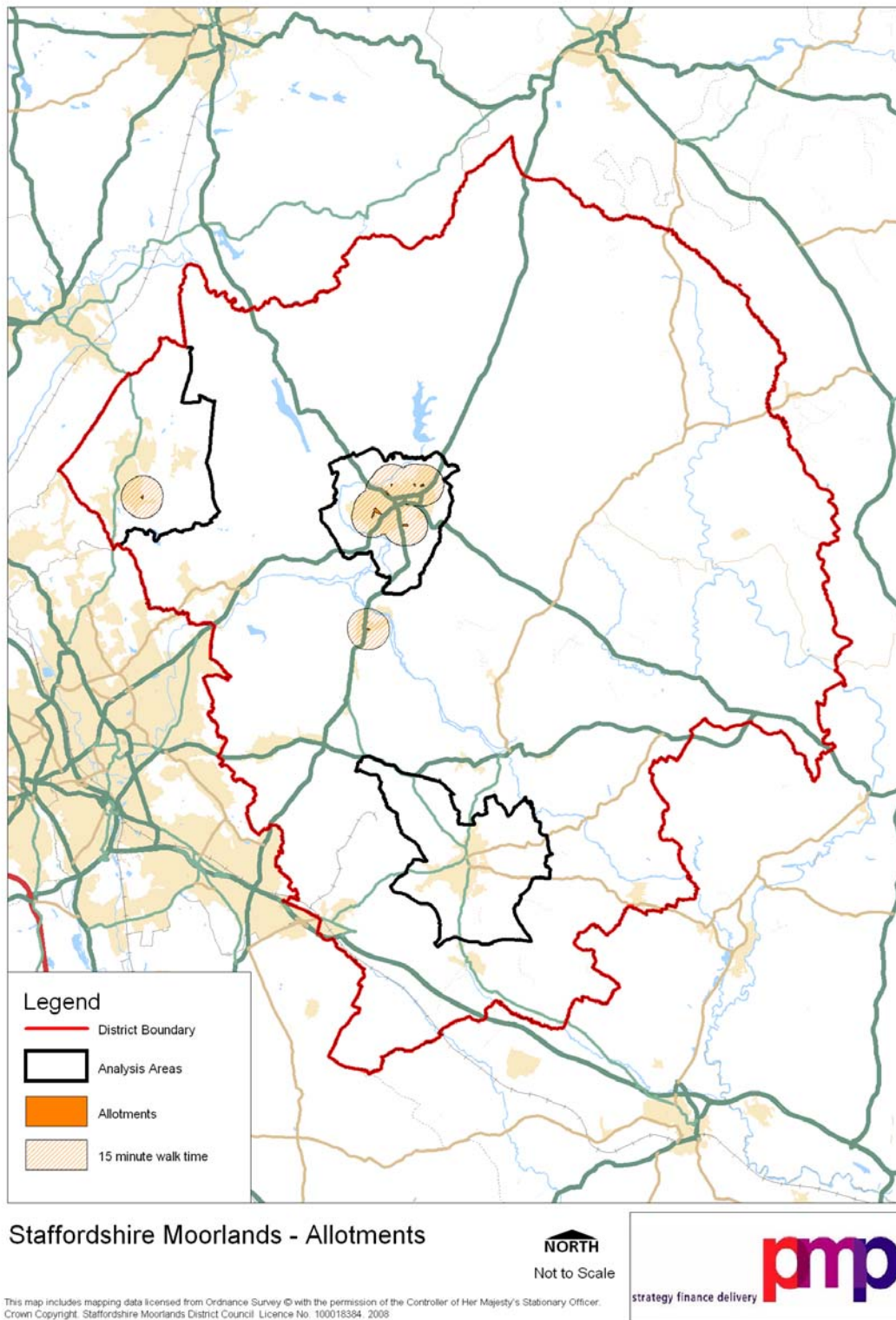
Green = above the minimum standard, Red = below the minimum standard.

Table 10.3 shows that:

- the current provision of allotments in the District is insufficient to meet the recommended minimum standards. This is exemplified by the waiting lists present at over half of the sites. The quantity standard suggests that with the exception of Leek, there are shortfalls in provision per 1000 population in all areas of the District
- based on the recommended local standard of 0.097 ha per 1000 population, three of the four analysis areas will have a deficiency by 2026. Leek will have sufficient provision to meet local demand by 2026. Despite meeting the minimum provision standard, waiting lists are particularly high in the Leek analysis area. This is reflective of national trends in allotments, where successful allotment sites generate demand for more
- the overall deficiency District wide will be equivalent to –1.06 ha per 1000 population by 2026. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the greatest undersupply of allotments is located in the rural analysis area (-3.33 ha by 2026).

10.26 The application of the local accessibility and quality standards for allotments is set out overleaf in Map 10.1.

Map 10.1 – Provision of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands



- 10.27 Map 10.1 reinforces the uneven distribution of allotments across the District. There is currently no provision in Cheadle and some of the main settlements in the rural analysis area (Werrington, Brown Edge and Forsbrook).
- 10.28 Clear accessibility deficiencies are also evident in the west and north of Biddulph analysis area. Despite high levels of provision, there are also deficiencies in the south of Leek.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 10.29 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where there is potential unmet demand we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 10.30 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. Detailed research and monitoring of local demand should be undertaken prior to the development of new allotments. Consideration of existing waiting lists is a particularly useful indicator of latent demand.

ALL1	Regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities where demand is increasing through ongoing evaluation of waiting lists. Ensure new housing developments contribute to any increase in demand as necessary. Evaluation of demand should consider demand in areas where allotments are not currently provided as well as monitoring the usage of existing sites.
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- 10.31 The breakdown of provision across the District has previously revealed that with the exception of the Leek, there are significant deficiencies across the District and that all areas will have shortfalls by 2026 when measured against the minimum quantity standard. This is reinforced by current waiting lists. There are 70 people on the waiting list for an allotment plot, which equates to 30% of the current stock of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands. There has also been a recent upsurge in demand for allotments over the previous 18 months.
- 10.32 In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotment sites, all provision should be protected from development through the Local Development Framework.

ALL2	Ensure that allotments are protected from development through the Local Development Framework and provide ongoing support to local providers.
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- 10.33 Demand in each of the geographical areas of the District is evaluated in the sections that follow. In some instances, extension of existing sites (or reduction in the size of plots to accommodate more residents) may provide an appropriate alternative to the development of new sites.
- 10.34 The quality of allotments in the District is average, with the average quality score of a site being 57%. This highlights the need for qualitative improvements at allotments in

Staffordshire Moorlands. The key aspirations for allotments identified by residents included good site access, toilets and a clean and litter free site. To improve the quality of existing sites in the District, these features should be enhanced.

ALL3	Identify opportunities for improving the quality of allotments. Enhancements should be informed by the quality vision and site assessment quality scores. Sites require an overall score of 69% or above to fall within the top quartile – the benchmark for quality.
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Cheadle

- 10.35 Within the urban settlements, the largest quantitative deficiency is found in the Cheadle analysis area (as shown overleaf in Figure 10.1). This is reinforced by the application of the accessibility standards, which highlights that all residents are outside of the recommended distance threshold for allotments. Consideration should therefore be given to incorporating provision within this area.
- 10.36 Application of the quantity standard suggests that by 2026, there will be demand for 48 allotment plots within the Cheadle analysis area (assuming that plots are of standard size (250m²). Provision of allotments in Cheadle town may be of particular importance in light of the density of housing (and smaller gardens) found in this area. Several residents in the Cheadle area expressed an interest in renting an allotment.

Figure 10.1 – Deficiencies of allotments in Cheadle



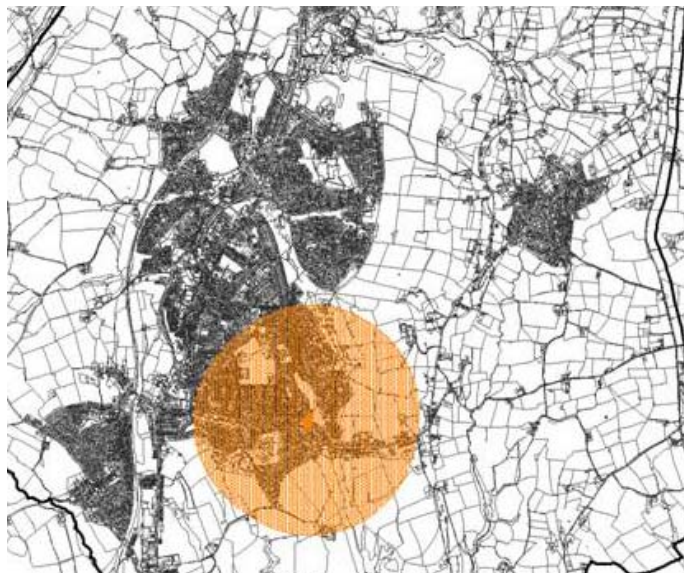
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ALL4	Investigate the demand for the provision of allotments in Cheadle and consider the potential for the provision of a new site.
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Biddulph

- 10.37 Like Cheadle, shortfalls in the quantity of provision are also confirmed by the application of the accessibility standards in Biddulph. Applications of local standards suggest that there is a deficiency of approximately 50 allotment plots. Application of the accessibility standards suggests that any new allotments in this area should be positioned to the west and north of the town and also in Biddulph Moor. Figure 10.2 below illustrates the key area of deficiency.

Figure 10.2 Deficiencies of allotments in Biddulph



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ALL5	Investigate demand for allotments in Biddulph. Any new allotments should be located in the west, north and Biddulph Moor areas.
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Leek

- 10.38 Unlike Biddulph and Cheadle, there is an abundance of allotments in Leek. However, there are significant waiting lists and interest is growing. While consideration should be given to the provision of additional sites to accommodate demand, opportunities to reduce plot sizes in order to accommodate additional residents should be considered.

ALL6	<p>Evaluate the existing management practices of allotments in Leek and investigate opportunities to provide half plots in order to accommodate more residents.</p> <p>In light of high levels of demand, identify opportunities to provide additional sites. Given the distribution of the existing sites, new provision should be located to the South of the town.</p>
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Rural

- 10.39 There is limited provision in the rural settlements. With only one village containing a site (Ashcombe Road Allotments - Cheddleton) there are large populations without access to any formal allotment provision. This is confirmed through the application of the quantity standards, which suggests that shortfalls equate to almost 135 plots.
- 10.40 The application of quantity standards to each Parish indicates that, based on the existing population, there is demand in Werrington, Blythe Bridge, Upper Tean and Endon for 23, 19, 16 and 12 plots respectively. Demand at this level would be sufficient to sustain a small allotment site and consideration should therefore be given to provision in these areas. Provision may take on greater importance in these areas as the population increases.
- 10.41 Provision should also be considered in other rural settlements where demand is expressed.

ALL7	<p>Investigate the demand for the provision of allotments in some of the larger settlements within the rural analysis area and consider the development of new sites.</p> <p>Consideration should be given specifically to demand in Werrington, Forsbrook, Checkton and Endon where the local standard suggests that demand exceeds 10 plots in each area.</p>
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- 10.42 As well as ensuring that the provision of allotments is sufficient in quantitative terms, consideration should also be given to the achievement of the qualitative standard. This will ensure that all allotments are of adequate standard to meet local need and to encourage new users. Good access, toilets and cleanliness were perceived to be particularly important and vandalism and graffiti were also stated to be key issues.

ALL8	<p>Seek to improve the quality of existing allotment sites in order to ensure that all sites are of adequate quality to meet the needs of local residents.</p>
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- 10.43 In light of the recognised need for additional provision of allotments across Staffordshire Moorlands, innovative approaches to the provision of allotments should be considered, including links and partnerships with schools.

ALL9

Explore alternative opportunities for the provision of allotments including co-location at school sites.

- 10.44 Allotments can play a key role in increasing levels of physical activity across the District, providing an alternative to formal sporting activities. The value of allotments to local residents as a social opportunity and alternative option for exercise was emphasised through consultation. In light of the ageing population in the area, increasing participation in such activities will be instrumental in the achievement of the objectives of the physical activity strategy. In order to maximise awareness of the opportunities available in these areas, it will be important to ensure that the sites are promoted affectively.

ALL10

Following the provision of additional allotments, promote the availability of sites to local residents maximising awareness of the opportunities available.

Summary and recommendations

- 10.45 There are currently nine allotment sites across Staffordshire Moorlands, totalling 7.90 hectares and equating to an overall level of provision of 0.09 hectares per 1000 population. Seven sites have waiting lists and it is evident that demand for allotments is increasing.
- 10.46 Results from the household survey show 44% of respondents consider the provision of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands to be insufficient (over 30% had no opinion).
- 10.47 The majority of residents indicated that they would expect to walk to an allotment, hence an accessibility standard equivalent to a 15 minute walk has been set. This reflects the expectation for local provision.
- 10.48 Toilets, clean and litter free and good access were perceived to be essential if high quality allotments are to be provided. Graffiti and vandalism were identified as problems, highlighting the importance of security and safety.
- 10.49 The current distribution of allotments across the District is uneven. The application of the recommended local standards highlights a number of deficiencies, particularly focusing on Cheadle, Biddulph and several rural settlements.
- 10.50 The key priorities for improving the provision of allotments over the Local Development Framework period therefore include:
- regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities where demand is increasing through ongoing evaluation of waiting lists. Evaluation of demand should consider demand in areas where allotments are not currently provided as well as monitoring the usage of existing sites
 - ensure new housing developments contribute to provision of allotments as necessary
 - ensure that allotments are protected from development through the Local Development Framework and provide ongoing support to local providers
 - identify opportunities for improving the quality of allotments
 - identify opportunities for new provision in Cheadle, Biddulph Moor and west and north Biddulph
 - facilitate the provision of small allotment sites in Werrington, Forsbrook, Checkton and Endon
 - seek to improve the quality of existing allotment sites in order to ensure that all sites are of adequate quality to meet the needs of local residents
 - explore alternative opportunities for the provision of allotments including co-location at school sites
 - following the provision of additional allotments, promote the availability of sites to local residents maximising awareness of the opportunities available.

Cemeteries and churchyards

Introduction

- 11.1 This typology encompasses both churchyards contained within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries outside the confines of a church. This includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. Although the primary purpose of this type of open space is burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, these sites frequently have considerable value for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
- 11.2 Some churchyards contain areas of unimproved grasslands and various other habitats. They can make provide a sanctuary for wildlife in the urban settlements and often offer historic value in the more rural landscapes.
- 11.3 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in rural areas. In some instances, cemeteries and churchyards may be the only open space within a settlement. They can therefore function as an area of open space, as well as fulfilling their primary purpose.
- 11.4 In urban areas especially, although representing a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, they can be important for nature conservation.

Biddulph Church and Cemetery



- 11.5 49% of respondents to the household survey do not use churchyards and cemeteries. However, 24% of respondents use this typology more than once a month.

Current position

- 11.6 There are currently 35 cemeteries and churchyards in Staffordshire Moorlands. A new cemetery on Buxton Road is currently being prepared and this will provide additional capacity.
- 11.7 The distribution of sites across the District is summarised in Table 11.1 overleaf.

Table 11.1 – Provision of churchyards and cemeteries in Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Current provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Biddulph	2.63	4	0.20	1.74	20,185	0.13
Cheadle	2.67	2	0.21	2.46	12,586	0.21
Leek	7.76	3	0.46	5.42	20,566	0.38
Rural	12.42	26	0.11	1.56	39,246	0.32
Overall	25.48	35	0.11	5.42	92,583	0.28

11.8 It can be seen from Table 11.1 that:

- the existing provision of cemeteries and churchyards in the District equates to 25.48 hectares
- there is an uneven distribution of sites across the District, with 26 of the 35 sites located in the Rural analysis area, equating to 12.42 ha. This may suggest that cemeteries and churchyards play a particularly important function in the rural areas. The lowest level of provision is in Biddulph (2.63 ha)
- when measuring the quantity of provision against the population, it can be seen that the highest level of provision per 1000 population is in Leek (0.38 ha). In contrast, the lowest level of provision per 1000 of cemeteries and churchyards is in Biddulph (equivalent to 0.13 ha per 1000 population)
- the size of sites is wide ranging with the smallest being 0.11 ha and the largest 5.42 ha. This is representative of the different functions of cemeteries and churchyards.

Setting provision standards

Quantity standard

11.9 No quantity standards have been set for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG17 Annex states: "many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."

11.10 For cemeteries, 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

SECTION 11 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard." However, this does not relate to a quantitative hectare per 1,000 population requirement.

- 11.11 Therefore, although PPG17 does not recommend a quantity standard for cemeteries and churchyards should be set, the Council should give consideration to the existing and future capacity of burial space within Staffordshire Moorlands.

Quality

- 11.12 The quality of cemeteries and churchyards can be particularly important in encouraging local residents to use these sites for recreational purposes.
- 11.13 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of the pro forma described in Section 2. This is provided in detail in Appendix G. 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 visit. The quality of cemeteries across the District is set out in Table 11.2 below.

Table 11.2 – The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in Staffordshire Moorlands

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Biddulph	4	74-94	84	Hill Top Methodist Church – ID 296	Christ Church Biddulph Moor – ID 299
Cheadle	2	-	-	-	-
Leek	3	60-92	80	St Edwards Churchyard – ID 405	Leek Cemetery – ID 244
Rural	26	56-82	70	Kingsley Holt Chapel – ID 127	The Parish Church of St Margarets – ID 446
Overall	35	56-94	73	Kingsley Holt Chapel – ID 127	Christ Church Biddulph Moor – ID 299

11.14 Analysis of the quality of cemeteries and churchyards highlights that:

- 54% of residents perceive the quality of churchyards and cemeteries to be average. The majority of the remainder (45%) of respondents indicate that the quality of this typology is good. This suggests that the overall perception of the quality of cemeteries and churchyards is higher than other types of open space
- results in the different geographical areas mirror the overall findings. Residents in Biddulph exhibit the highest levels of satisfaction, and the majority of residents regard the quality of cemeteries and churchyards as good (58%). General comments from residents emphasised the good maintenance at this typology
- respondents identified the ideal features of cemeteries and churchyards as well kept grass, clean and litter free and flowers/trees
- analysis of the scores achieved indicates that the overall quality of provision is consistent across the District, with similar averages in each area. Despite this, the range of scores (56% - 94%) reveals significant differences in the quality of provision. The sites that score highest within the District are Leek Cemetery (92%) and Christ Church in Biddulph Moor (94%)
- residents at the Parish Council discussion session stated that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards were well maintained across the District. Despite this, there were some concerns over vandalism (Leek Cemetery), dog walking, and safety concerns at some of the sites. It was reiterated that for many villages, churches provide a physical and social focus for the local community, hence the desire for high quality and visually appealing sites that can be used for recreation as well as other functions
- a substantial amount (39%) of young people responding to the IT Young People Survey felt that local sites were of high quality and well maintained. 32%, however, felt that the quality was average and sites needed some improvements.

Accessibility standards

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

Quality standards

11.16 As highlighted, it is only appropriate to set a quality standard for cemeteries and churchyards. This should take into account any national or local standards. Full indication of consultation and justifications for the recommended local standard are provided within Appendix G. The recommended local standard, derived directly from consultation across Staffordshire Moorlands, has been summarised below:

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Well kept grass	Parking facilities	
Clean/litter free	Seating	
Flowers/trees	Good site access	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to cemeteries and churchyards, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	11%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	51%	4
Vegetation	24%	3
Ancillary accommodation	12%	2

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 11.17 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 to examine the spatial distribution of these sites.
- 11.18 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 cemeteries.
- 11.19 Sites scoring well in terms of quality should be considered examples of good practice. The value of cemeteries and churchyards in the promotion of biodiversity and provision of habitats should be reinforced.

CC1	Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop a greater awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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- 11.20 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 crucial to ensure local residents value this type of open space. This is particularly the case in rural settlements 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. The quality of cemeteries is of paramount importance if sites are to be promoted as opportunities for rest and relaxation. Quality improvements should be made where required using the essential and desirable features as a guide.
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- 11.21 As highlighted by the preparation of a new cemetery in Leek, proactive planning is essential in order to ensure the adequate provision of cemeteries across the District. The management and maintenance of sites is a big challenge for the Council as is the provision of new burial plots on an ongoing basis. The requirement for new cemeteries and churchyards across the Local Development Framework (LDF) should be considered and land should be allocated in order to ensure that appropriate provision can be made.

CC3	The Council should keep under review the opportunities for the reuse, expansion or acquisition of suitable land to ensure the continued and sustainable provision of local cemeteries. The LDF should facilitate the delivery of additional cemeteries and should project need across the LDF period.
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Summary

- 11.22 Cemeteries and churchyards can be significant providers of open space, particularly in rural areas. In towns they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land required, but are important for nature conservation.
- 11.23 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.
- 11.24 The essential and desirable features set out in the quality standards should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the District. Site quality is currently good in comparison to other typologies. This is reflected in the findings of the household survey, with 54% of respondents thinking that the quality of sites is average while 45% of respondents felt that the quality was good.
- 11.25 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. Enhancements to accessibility and quality should be prioritised in these areas.
- 11.26 The wider benefits of churchyards are significant 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.

11.27 The key priorities for the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards across the district therefore include:

- recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and investigate the implementation of ecological management
- enhance the quality of sites where appropriate using the essential and desirable features as a guide
- the Council should keep under review the opportunities for the reuse, expansion or acquisition of suitable land to ensure the continued and sustainable provision of local cemeteries
- the LDF should facilitate the delivery of additional cemeteries and should project need across the LDF period.

Civic spaces

Definition

- 12.1 Civic spaces include civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians. The primary purpose of civic spaces is the provision of a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

Leek Market Square



Strategic context and consultation

- 12.2 Civic spaces can be important areas of open space in town centres. They can also provide a focal point for community interaction in a village settlement.
- 12.3 PPG 17 states that “the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design led basis. Accordingly it is for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas”.
- 12.4 Civic spaces play a key role in the towns of Staffordshire Moorlands. It is the only public open space that is not considered to be green open space.
- 12.5 41% of respondents from the household survey stated that they visit a civic space more than once a month. However only 5% of respondents identified this type of open space as the type they use most frequently. This does not necessarily suggest that residents do not use these open spaces, just that they visit other types on a more frequent basis.
- 12.6 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces. However, the Staffordshire Moorlands District Adopted Local Plan does make references to the provision of public open space.
- 12.7 Policy R1 of the plan sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children’s play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.

12.8 Civic spaces could be considered to be a form of public open space.

Current Provision

12.9 Two civic spaces have been identified throughout the audit, specifically:

- Station Road (Biddulph) – Site ID 53
- Leek Market Square – Site ID 478

12.10 As may be expected, these sites are located within the urban areas of the District. Consultation suggests that the majority of residents consider the provision of civic spaces to be sufficient (46%). Interestingly, civic space is the only area where the views of women differed from that of men and proportionally more women held the view that there were insufficient civic spaces.

12.11 Analysis of the more qualitative elements of the household survey indicated that people value the use of civic spaces as meeting places and feel that they provide a "sense of belonging" to a place.

Setting a Quantity standard

12.12 PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces in light of their specialist nature.

12.13 Therefore **no provision standard** has been set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres. The design and planning of new neighbourhoods in Staffordshire Moorlands should take into account the high demand for new civic spaces from local residents and ensure that such spaces are incorporated within master plans. This will be particularly important in the town centres.

Quality standard

12.14 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a detailed pro forma described in Section 2. More detail is provided in Appendix G. 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.

12.15 The key issues emerging from the site assessments and local consultations relating to the quantity of provision of civic spaces include:

- civic spaces are perceived to be of average quality by 59% of respondents to the household survey. 20% of respondents view their quality to be good.
- responses within the individual areas are consistent with the overall findings and the highest level of satisfaction is found in Leek, where 25% of residents feel the quality of Market Square is good. This site achieved a quality score of 64%.
- perceptions of good maintenance are consistent across all geographical areas.

12.16 Full details of the consultation and justifications for the recommended local standard are provided within Appendix G. The recommended local standard, derived directly from consultation across Staffordshire Moorlands has been summarised overleaf:

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – CIVIC SPACES		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential	Desirable	
Clean/litter free	Seating	
Flowers/trees	Litter bins	
Toilets	Level surface	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to civic spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	13%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	35%	4
Vegetation	28%	3
Ancillary accommodation	15%	2

Accessibility

- 12.17 Site-specific accessibility issues were analysed as part of the programme of site visits and information and signage, transport and general issues were also assessed.
- 12.18 Site assessment ratings show that all of the civic spaces are average in terms of transport links, general site access and information and signage. Access to these sites is often facilitated by their primary location within the key town centres.

Setting an Accessibility Standard

- 12.19 PPG17 states that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such a typology as the provision of civic spaces will not be appropriate in every environment and cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.
- 12.20 Appropriate access to sites is however paramount in maximising usage. Responses to the household questionnaire showed that more people would expect to walk to civic spaces as opposed to drive (51% walk compared to 42% drive). This reinforces the importance of ensuring good access to civic spaces in order to promote walking as a preferred travel method.
- 12.21 Consultations identified a clear differentiation between expectations in the rural and urban areas. Residents in rural settlements demonstrated a greater willingness to drive to their nearest civic space.

Summary

- 12.22 There are two civic spaces across the District, both of which are located in urban areas. Throughout the consultation, the aesthetic importance of civic spaces was raised and they were perceived to be regularly used by both visitors and residents. Civic spaces function as a key meeting place within the town centres.
- 12.23 The nature of this typology means that they are very specific to their locality. The design and planning of new neighbourhoods in Staffordshire Moorlands should take into account the high demand for new civic spaces from local residents and ensure that such spaces are incorporated within master plans. This will be particularly important in the town centres.
- 12.24 A quality standard has been set as a benchmark for new areas of civic space and the maintenance of existing areas across the District.

Green corridors

Definition

- 13.1 This open space type includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. Green corridors are linear routes with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. Green corridors also facilitate wildlife migration.
- 13.2 Although the role that all green corridors play in the provision of open space and recreation within local authority areas is recognised, the focus in this study is on important urban corridors and public rights of way (PROW).
- 13.3 Green corridors can be particularly valuable in towns, facilitating links between open spaces and local residents. Green corridors also provide valuable linkages between the towns and outlying rural settlements. As highlighted throughout this report, in many instances enhancing links between open spaces will be as important as the development of new sites.

Caldon Canal, Cheddleton



Strategic context and consultation

- 13.4 In addition to improving sustainability and linking urban areas with nearby rural countryside, green corridors represent an important chance to promote sustainable transport by cycle and on foot. Provision and use of green corridors will be a key determinant in the achievement of targets for participation in sport and active recreation.
- 13.5 The latest government plan published by the Department for Transport and entitled “Walking and Cycling: an action plan” states:

“Walking and cycling are good for our health, good for getting us around, good for our public spaces and good for our society, for all these reasons we need to persuade more people to choose to walk and cycle more often”
- 13.6 It is therefore important to address any deficiencies of green corridors and capitalise on opportunities to increase and enhance the network. Providing a high quality infrastructure will not only increase use of green corridors, but linkages between sites will increase usage of individual open space sites and reduce barriers to access.

- 13.7 The rural nature of Staffordshire Moorlands lends itself to the provision of linear corridors which link open spaces (and settlements) together. The District contains a wide variety of canals and towpaths that form the basis of the green infrastructure. The abundance of natural countryside provides significant opportunities for a dense PROW network.
- 13.8 In the main, the County Council (Staffordshire County Council) is responsible for the PROW in the District. Staffordshire has a network of 2,734 miles of public rights of way.
- 13.9 As a Highway Authority, Staffordshire County Council has a duty to assert and protect the rights of way network. However, the responsibility for ensuring paths are safe and convenient for the public to use is shared between a number of others including the District councils, local communities and users.
- 13.10 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Staffordshire County Council produced a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) in 2007. The plan outlines and prioritises countryside access improvements over the next ten years.
- 13.11 The five key themes of the plan are:
- a better signed, maintained and accessible path network – focusing on what needs to be done to encourage greater use and better quality public access
 - a more connected and safer network – addressing safety concerns of users and the shortfall in access for horseriders and cyclists
 - encouraging greater community involvement
 - protecting the path network – focusing on what should be done to protect the network from future built development
 - encouraging greater use of the network – understanding the benefits associated with outdoor recreation, and embracing the role that public access can play in delivering a number of health, economic and sustainable health objectives.
- 13.12 Staffordshire Moorlands has a network of 600 miles of public rights of way. Key routes in the District include the Staffordshire Moorlands Walks, Biddulph Valley Way, Manifold Walks and County Park trails.
- 13.13 There are also a number of strategic cycle routes throughout the District. Specific routes include the Manifold Track, Biddulph and Leek to Rudyard Lake. The Manifold Track is a high quality site shared by walkers and cyclists and stretches for nearly nine miles through the Manifold, Hamps Valley, and Waterhouses.
- 13.14 The ROWIP sets out key actions to help achieve the priorities and guide future resources. Ultimately these are focused on the five key themes outlined above, with a focus on providing better public access through improving the condition and accessibility of the network and creating new routes.

13.15 Key actions specific to Staffordshire Moorlands and this study include:

- establish a pedestrian route linking Froghall and Oakamoor
- establish at least one horse riding/cycling route in each District
- establish at least one circular route for the less agile in each District
- promote the social and health benefits of walking, riding and cycling through the County Council's website.

13.16 As well as being a key partner in the delivery of the ROWIP, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's commitment to the provision of green corridors is emphasised in several documents including the Adopted Local Plan, The Community Strategy and the Parks and Countryside Service Strategy (2002-2007). The key themes emerging from these documents are as follows:

- Policy N2 protects the Green Belt from development identifying that, except in special circumstances, the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development
- Policy N8 protects the special landscape area from development that will have an adverse effect on the high quality landscape. Policy N9 further states that high standards of design for development in these areas will be required
- Policies N13, N14 and N15 protect SSSIs, Nature Reserves and sites of biological or regional importance from development, unless there are reasons that outweigh the need to safeguard the value of these sites
- Staffordshire Moorlands Community Strategy highlights the role of public access and the use of public rights of way. Specifically it aims to 'ensure everyone who wishes has access to services, learning opportunities, health provision and leisure activities in a way that is sustainable'. This further emphasises the importance of the Public Rights of Way Network to the Local Community
- The aim of The Parks and Countryside Service Strategy is, "to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working". The strategy aims to protect, conserve, develop and promote recreational access to the countryside.

Consultation

13.17 Consultation on the provision of green corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands was undertaken through a variety of methods. The findings showed that:

- 16% of respondents to the household survey used green corridors more frequently than any other open space in the District. Only Country Parks and Natural and Semi Natural Open Space were more popular. This popularity was also evident at other consultations undertaken with Parish Clerks highlighting the value and role of green corridors and highlighting opportunities for improvement
- the quality of green corridors is perceived to be good by 42% of respondents to the household survey. 44% of residents stated that the quality of this typology is average
- dog fouling and litter were considered to be the main problems experienced when using green corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands. These issues were also raised during drop in sessions and workshops
- Green Corridors were highly valued by residents and it was stated that there are number of high quality corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands that were good for walking
- residents highlighted the need for a more complete 'green network' indentifying poor linkages between a number of rights of way networks. Issues with a lack of access for cyclists were also raised
- cycle paths and canal tow paths were particularly valued by residents in the District
- Parish Council discussion session attendees identified the health benefits green corridors offer. The Healthy Walks scheme was seen as an excellent opportunity to increase informal recreation opportunities
- the IT Young People survey revealed a mixed response to the quality of green corridors. Of those that had an opinion (71%), 26% felt that the quality of green corridors was high and sites were well maintained. However, a higher proportion (30%) felt that the quality was average with some improvements needed.

GC1	Building on the popularity of green corridors, the Council should look to enhance and develop pathways along the rivers and canals.
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Current position

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

Quality

- 13.19 While it is inappropriate to measure the area of green corridors, quality is central to their use and value both as a recreational resource and also as a means of enhancing wildlife.
- 13.20 A quality vision, based on the aspirations of the local community of Staffordshire Moorlands has therefore been set below. Full justifications for the recommended local standards are provided within Appendix G.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – Green corridors		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
Essential		Desirable
Clean/litter free		Level surface
Nature features		Dog walking facilities
Footpaths		Flowers/trees
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to green corridors, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	8%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	32%	3
Vegetation	39%	4
Ancillary accommodation	15%	2

GC2	Providers of green corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands should aspire to the essential and desirable quality features.
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Quantity standard

- 13.21 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”.

- 13.22 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

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

Applying provision standards

- 13.24 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 based on standards.
- 13.25 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 District.

GC3	The Council should work in tandem with Staffordshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust and other key partners to help maximise the use of green corridors and Public Rights of Way in the District and to deliver the PROW improvement plan.
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- 13.26 In light of the high value placed on green corridors by local residents, the Local Development Framework (LDF) should protect existing corridors and support enhancements to the overall network. In particular, consideration should be given to linking open spaces together, as well as linking settlements to the open spaces. Links between local settlements and the two country parks should be treated as a particular priority.

GC4	Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in the District 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. The LDF should facilitate the protection of existing corridors as well as the development of the network.
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- 13.27 Specific opportunities to develop increased linkages were discussed in earlier sections of this study and several gaps were identified. In particular, a lack of access for cyclists and horse riders was highlighted.

GC5	Capitalise on opportunities to address gaps in the network for cyclists and horse riders.
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- 13.28 In addition to delivering an overall joined up network, improvements to the quality of existing corridors will be essential if current usage is to be maintained and increased. This may include improved signage, improved safety and enhanced maintenance of paths. All of these were identified as key issues during consultation.

GC6	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across the district including enhanced maintenance of footpaths and increased signage.
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- 13.29 As highlighted in previous sections, improving health and physical activity is a key priority for the Council. Appropriate provision of green corridors and promotion of the opportunities available will have a positive influence on the drive to reduce health inequalities. Enhancing access to green corridors will therefore emphasise the role that outdoor recreation can play in delivering a number of health, economic and sustainable health objectives.

GC7	Promote the opportunities available to increase usage of green corridors. As well as increasing awareness, partnership working with the PCT and other key organisations to deliver organised opportunities should be considered (as in GC1)
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GC8	Investigate the feasibility of a green infrastructure study to help maximise the linkages of open spaces with green corridors and help create a network of multi-functional greenspace in Staffordshire Moorlands. This should serve as an extension to this PPG17 Study and should link with adjoining authorities.
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Summary

- 13.30 Green corridors provide opportunities close to peoples' homes for informal recreation, particularly walking and cycling, as part of every day activities, for example, travel to work or shops. Therefore the development of a linked green corridor network will help to 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.
- 13.31 There are already a large number of footpaths and green corridor networks within the study area and consultation indicates that they are well-used. Future opportunities and developments should seek to enhance the pathways along rivers and canals.
- 13.32 Future development needs to encompass linkages between large areas of open space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites. Development should consider both the needs of wildlife and humans.
- 13.33 A network of multi-functional greenspace will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities in the future. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces, helping to alleviate other open space deficiencies and provide opportunities for alternative means of transport.

13.34 The key priorities for the future delivery of green corridors should therefore include:

- the Council working in tandem with Staffordshire County Council, the PCT and other key partners to help maximise the use of green corridors and Public Rights of Way in the District and to deliver the PROW improvement plan
- facilitating the protection and development of the network through the inclusion of appropriate policies in the LDF
- capitalising on opportunities to address gaps in the network for cyclists and horse riders
- driving a programme of qualitative improvements across the district including enhanced maintenance of footpaths and increased signage
- promoting the opportunities available to increase usage of green corridors
- undertaking a green infrastructure assessment in conjunction with adjoining local authorities.

Overview of open space, sport and recreation provision in Staffordshire Moorlands

- 14.1 This study has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide.
- 14.2 This section considers the wider benefits of open spaces and the impact and implications of the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities on wider priorities. It also summarises the local standards set, and the application of the local standards for all typologies, in each area of the District. Consideration is then given to the implementation of the study in a planning policy and development control context.

The wider context

Why are green spaces in Staffordshire Moorlands important?

- 14.3 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 Note 17: Planning for open space, sport and Recreation¹ and the CABE Green Space Report². 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 Green Spaces, Better Places Report (DTLR Task Force May 2002)³ 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.
- 14.4 As highlighted in Section 3, the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can play a wider role in improving health.
- 14.5 Increasing sport and physical activity is a key target both nationally and locally and parks and open spaces provide an alternative means of encouraging local residents to participate. The recent Active People survey indicates that 20.4% of residents of Staffordshire Moorlands undertake regular sport and moderate physical activity, a figure below the national average (21.4%).
- 14.6 The Active People survey diagnostic tool enables the actual level of participation (3x30minutes) to be measured against the expected levels of participation. The results are based on a regression model determining the main economic and

¹ Department of Communities and Local Government, Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, July 2002,

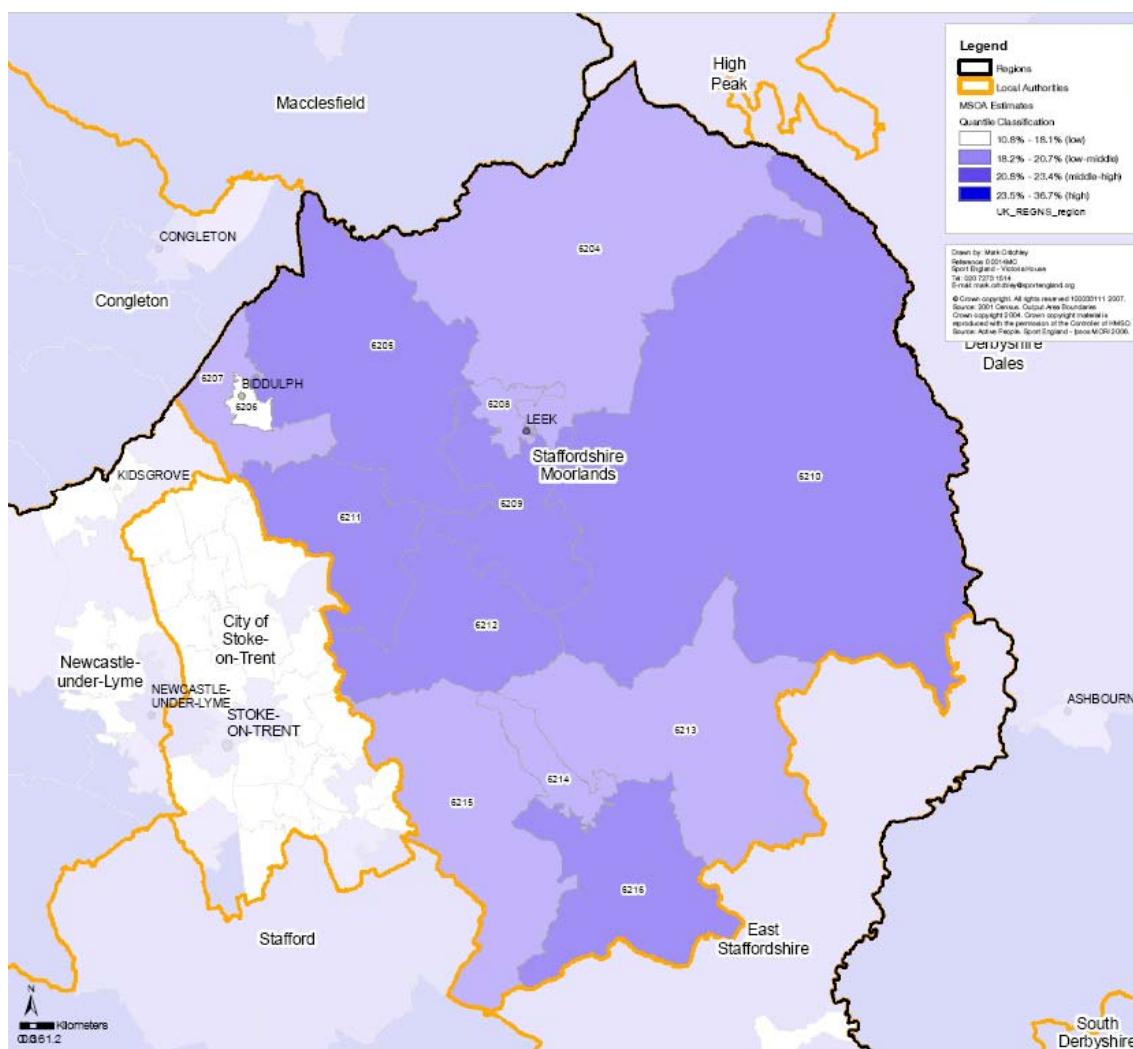
² Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), "A guide to producing parks and green space management plans."

³ DTLR, 2002: Green Spaces, Better Places (Urban Green Spaces Task Force 2002)

demographic factors that influence sport participation. It takes into account a wide range of economic and demographic variables outside the control of local authorities such as income, age, profession, and family structure.

- 14.7 Whilst Staffordshire Moorlands has a participation rate (20.4%) that is lower than the national average (21.4%), when considering the socio-economic factors the District is participating marginally more than expected. It is expected that the District should have a participation level of 20.2%, which is 0.2% lower than actual participation levels.
- 14.8 The Active People survey also allows the indicative levels of participation (3x30mins) to be mapped for Staffordshire Moorlands. This allows the geographical variation in participation to be illustrated. Map 14.1 below shows that there are higher levels of participation in the centre of the District, and Biddulph in particular has low levels of participation. This means that physical activity and sport initiatives can be targeted on those areas which have lower levels of participation, thus ensuring provision is available in those areas which need to increase their physical activity levels.

**Map 14.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Participation (3 x 30)
Estimates by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



14.9 The value of open space is not just recreational. The strategic contribution that open spaces can make to the wider environment includes:

- 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
- combating climate change and flood risk.

14.10 The natural open spaces in Staffordshire Moorlands are integral to the overall character of the environment.

Linking green spaces

14.11 As highlighted previously, 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.

14.12 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'.

14.13 This PPG17 study provides a starting point for understanding the wider green infrastructure across the District and its surrounding areas and the benefit that this can bring to the local community.

Planning green space, sport and recreational facilities at a local level

14.14 At the local level, the role that green spaces play in the achievement of wider corporate objectives is recognised, both within the parks strategy, sports strategy and physical activity strategy, and within more overarching strategic documents such as the community strategy and corporate plan. Open spaces are central to quality of life. Enhanced quality of life is the key objective of the community plan and can also play a significant role in achieving targets against all five key themes.

14.15 The Staffordshire Moorlands Local Area Agreement (LAA) is developed around the four building blocks that are instrumental in the achievement of the four priority areas of the community strategy. These four building blocks are:

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

14.16 The effective provision of green space can play a key role in the delivery of targets within these four areas. Table 14.1 below summarises the contributions that achievement of some of the key objectives arising from the assessment of local needs and existing provision can generate.

Table 14.1 - Achievement of wider LAA 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 day design and planning of facilities for children and young people • maximising the role of school facilities in the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. 	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximising use of open spaces and sports facilities for physical activity and achievement of the Council's targets for increasing participation in sport and 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.

Sustainable communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring that open spaces meet the needs of all sectors of the community• open spaces contribute to the sustainability of a community as well as contributing to the achievement of other objectives such as climate change• promoting the development of sustainable open space, sport and recreation facilities.

14.17 Open Space, sport and recreation provision can also contribute to the wider cross cutting agendas identified in the LAA including:

- Closing the Gap
- Prevention as a Priority
- Local Services for Local People
- Promoting Respect and Taking Responsibility.

14.18 Table 14.2 overleaf summarises the role of open space in the achievement of the priorities of other regional and local strategies. The key objectives of each of the document are summarised in Section 3.

SECTION 14 – SUMMARY AND PLANNING OVERVIEW

Table 14.2 – Contribution of the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities to wider strategy objectives

Document	Short term objectives for the future delivery of open space			
	Enhance the quality of open spaces in the District	Ensure the quantity of open space is sufficient to meet local needs	Maximise access to existing open spaces	Maximise the use of open space, sport and recreation facilities
Regional Documents				
Regional Spatial Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Sports Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Documents				
Community Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓

Current position

14.19 As discussed in sections 4 – 13, local standards have been set for different types of open space, sport and recreation facilities. These standards are summarised in Table 14.3 below.

Table 14.3 – Recommended Local Standards

Typology	Quantity Standard	Accessibility Standard	Quality Percentage Score Required
Formal Parks	0.23 ha per 1000 population – equivalent to current level of provision	15 minute walk time (urban) 20 minute drive time (rural)	N/A
Country Parks	Existing level of provision	22 minute drive time	N/A
Natural and Semi Natural Open Space	0.75 ha per 1000 population – equivalent to the existing provision	15 minute walk time	73%
Amenity Green Space	0.30 ha per 1000 population – equivalent to the existing provision	10 minute walk time	75%
Provision for Children	0.08 ha per 1000 population – this represents a significant increase on existing provision. 1 facility in rural settlements exceeding 500 residents.	10 minute walk time	75%
Provision for young people	0.07ha per 1000 population (towns) Provision of a facility in settlements with a population of greater than 3000	15 minute walk time	73%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.27 ha per 1000 population – above the existing level of provision. At least 1ha per 1000 should be dedicated to community pitch sports.	15 minute walk time	83%
Allotments	0.097 ha per 1000	15 minute walk	69%

Typology	Quantity Standard	Accessibility Standard	Quality Percentage Score Required
	population Provision considered in rural settlements above a certain population.	time	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	N/A	15 minute walk time (urban areas) 20 minute drive time (rural settlements).	N/A

14.20 The key issues emerging for each type of open space are summarised below. The key issues for each area of the district are summarised overleaf.

Key issues by open space type

Parks and Gardens

- parks and gardens were highlighted as particularly valuable to local residents. Country Parks are one of the most frequently used open spaces in the District and many residents identified the natural value of these open space. The wide range of facilities available at formal parks was perceived as the main contributor to the high value of these sites
- the role of parks in meeting targets to increase level of physical activity and improve health should also not be underestimated. The wider benefits of parks are wide reaching
- site assessments reveal that the overall quality of formal parks is high. Despite this, other consultations stressed a need for an improvement in quality of formal parks and country parks across the District
- although increasing quality to existing parks and gardens in the District is highlighted as particularly important, application of the accessibility standards reveals that distribution of parks is uneven. In particular, there are deficiencies in Biddulph. Despite the fact all residents in this analysis area are within an appropriate distance of a country park, new provision of a formal park should be prioritised
- while provision in all rural settlements would be undesirable and impractical, consideration should be given to the implementation of the pocket parks scheme, where residents take ownership of local spaces.

Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

- Natural and semi natural open space is one of the most frequently visited type of open space in the District, indicated by 24% of respondents to the household survey. This emphasises the value of this type of open space
- in addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation. The benefit of the abundance of accessible countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands is also acknowledged by residents
- the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development was a key theme throughout consultation and while recreational opportunities should be encouraged, this should be balanced with conserving and promoting biodiversity
- 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 urban settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside should also be a key future priority.

Amenity Green Space

- the community interaction benefits of amenity green space are recognised, with residents identifying this type of open space as valuable to the local community
- application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards illustrates the need for qualitative enhancements to a number of existing amenity green space sites. Amenity spaces can be particularly important to local residents in light of their close proximity to the home
- while the overall focus is on increasing the quality of amenity spaces, consideration should be given to new provision in some larger rural settlements, focusing firstly on settlements where the population exceeds 700.

Provision for children

- equipped provision for children and young people was the overriding theme 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
- the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy provides a detailed overview of provision for children and young people in this area. This document supports the key findings of that strategy and sets local standards which can be used to facilitate decision making. The key issues arising out of this document mirror those emerging during the preparation of the Play Strategy
- analysis of existing facilities highlights that there is significant variation in the quality of sites although sites are distributed relatively evenly across the District

- there are particular priorities for new provision, in Biddulph East, Leek East, Leek South, Cheadle South East, Cheadle West, Forsbrook, Werrington and Cellarhead
- any new facilities developed should meet the suggested quality criteria and should provide exciting play opportunities for children and young people. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement
- effectively providing facilities in the rural area is an important challenge and it will be essential to ensure that public transport links are maximised.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- consultation highlights issues with both the quality and quantity of facilities. Analysis of the existing provision supports this, with areas of deficiency located in the Leek analysis area and rural settlements. The quality of sports facilities is perceived to be in need of particular improvement, particularly with regards drainage and provision of ancillary accommodation
- there is a good distribution of outdoor sports facilities across the District, with nearly all residents able to access a bowling green, tennis court and synthetic turf pitch within the recommended travel time. The majority of residents also have local access to a grass pitch
- the enhancement of the quality of existing outdoor sports facilities is a priority, in particular tennis courts and bowling greens. However, increasing access to existing provision, specifically tennis courts and bowling greens, is important. Increasing access to school sites can be a solution to this problem
- the playing pitch strategy concludes that a balance between community use agreements, qualitative improvements and new provision is required.

Allotments

- there are currently nine allotment sites across Staffordshire Moorlands, totalling 7.90 hectares and equating to an overall level of provision of 0.09 hectares per 1000 population. Seven sites have waiting lists and it is evident that demand for allotments is increasing
- results from the household survey show 44% of respondents consider the provision of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands to be insufficient (over 30% had no opinion)
- 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
- Toilets, security and good access were perceived to be essential if high quality allotments are to be provided. Graffiti and vandalism were identified as problems, highlighting the importance of security and safety
- the current distribution of allotments is uneven. The application of the recommended local standards highlights a number of deficiencies, particularly focusing on Cheadle, Biddulph and several rural settlements.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider, particularly in rural areas. In towns they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land required, but are important for nature conservation
- 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
- the essential and desirable features set out in the quality standards should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the District. Site quality is currently good in comparison to other typologies. This is reflected in the findings of the household survey, with 54% of respondents thinking that the quality of sites is average while 45% of respondents felt that the quality was good
- 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. Enhancements to accessibility and quality should be prioritised in these areas
- the wider benefits of churchyards are significant 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

- the development of a linked green corridor network will help to 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
- there are already a large number of footpaths and green corridor networks within the study area and consultation indicates that they are well-used. Future opportunities and developments should seek to enhance the pathways along rivers and canals
- future development needs to encompass links 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
- a network of multi-functional greenspace will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities in the future. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces, helping to alleviate other open space deficiencies and provide opportunities for alternative means of transport.

14.21 The key issues emerging for each analysis area are summarised below.

Key issues by analysis area

Biddulph

- there are deficiencies in the provision of formal parks. However, almost all residents are within an appropriate distance of a country park. New formal park provision is recommended in this analysis area
- seek to increase access to existing natural and semi natural open spaces within this analysis area
- the priority is enhancing the quality of existing amenity green space site within Biddulph and seizing opportunities for new provision of amenity green space within the north of Biddulph and Biddulph Moor
- priorities for new provision for children in Biddulph East and seek to achieve the quality standard for all facilities
- prioritise new provision of young people's facilities in Biddulph North and Biddulph East. Up to three additional facilities may be required
- focus on enhancing the quality of existing grass pitches and increasing access to school sports facilities
- identify new opportunities for provision of allotments in the west and north of Biddulph and in Biddulph Moor.

Cheadle

- the focus is on increasing access to Memorial Recreation Ground, particularly for those residents in areas of deficiency. Opportunities must also be taken to enhance the quality of this site
- priority should be improving the quality of natural and semi natural open space sites
- priority on enhancing the quality of existing amenity green spaces in this analysis area
- there are area deficiencies in provision for children. Opportunities should be taken for new provision for children in Cheadle South East and Cheadle West
- consider any potential opportunities of new provision for young people's facilities within the South East and Cheadle West ward
- secure community use agreements for grass pitches and provide new facilities where appropriate. Qualitative improvements will be important to maximise the capacity of existing facilities. Consider opportunities to provide a multi sport facility
- investigate the demand for the provision of allotments in Cheadle and consider the potential for the provision of a new site.

Leek

- improve the links to Ladderedge County Park for local residents. Maximise the functionality of amenity spaces to the south of the town
- address quantitative and access deficiencies for natural and semi natural open space in the east and south of Leek – this may be through the inclusion of semi natural open space within sites of another typology
- seek to enhance the quality of existing amenity green spaces
- seek opportunities for new provision of facilities for children in Leek East and Leek South
- in light of the deficiencies of provision for young people in Leek, two further facilities should be provided, focusing on the south east and west of Leek
- given that there is a slight shortfall in pitch provision, community use of school sites should be secured and qualitative improvements prioritised. Longer term, additional pitch provision will be required
- prioritise opportunities to increase access to allotments.

Rural areas

- consideration should be given to the implementation of the pocket parks scheme, focusing on rural settlements where demand exceeds 1ha
- increase access to the countryside through the improvement of rights of way and green corridors, particularly those areas deficient in natural and semi natural open space
- enhance the quality of existing amenity green space within the rural settlement and facilitate the provision of new sites in settlements where the population exceeds 700 residents
- provide new facilities for children in areas where there is sufficient population or where local demand is expressed. The play strategy identifies Forsbrook, Werrington and Cellarhead as particular priorities for additional provision
- prioritise the new provision of young people's facilities within the larger rural settlements, adhering to the standard set in the play strategy of one facility per 3000 people
- in light of overall deficiencies in the provision of outdoor sport facilities, there should be a focus on the enhancement of existing grass pitches within the rural settlements. It is also important to prioritise increased access to school facilities
- investigate the demand for the provision of allotments in some of the larger settlements within the rural analysis area and consider the development of new sites.

14.22 In summary therefore, the key actions relating to quality, quantity and accessibility arising through this study which should be addressed through the Local Development Framework (LDF) include:

- protect all parks, natural areas, allotments and sports facilities through a policy in the LDF
- designate a new park within Biddulph
- support the development of pocket parks in the rural settlements
- promote enhancements of natural and semi natural open space in terms of biodiversity as well as a recreational resource
- facilitate the delivery of new play areas and facilities for young people
- allocate additional land for the provision of allotments
- support the improvement of the quality of outdoor sports facilities and address deficiencies where possible.

The plan led system

14.23 The overall conclusions of the report should be used to guide future planning policy and to inform development control decisions.

14.24 The Staffordshire Moorlands District Adopted Local Plan has an end date of 2011. This plan continues to form part of the Development Plan for the District, together with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) until it is superseded by the new plan for the District: the Staffordshire Moorlands District Local Development Framework. The key policies relating to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities from the Adopted Local Plan which have been saved include:

- Policy N2 protects the Green Belt from development
- Policy N3 permits development in a number of villages currently containing a large amount of the Green Belt. However, development will only be allowed if it does not cause loss to local amenity space
- Policy N7 states development that will harm the visual amenity of the Green Belt will not be permitted in locations that are within or visually conspicuous from the Green Belt
- Policy N8 protects the special landscape area from development that will have an adverse effect on the high quality landscape
- Policy N9 further states that high standards of design for development in these areas will be required
- Policy N11 relates to the Peak District National Park and states that proposals for development in this area will need to ensure that the visual amenities of that land are not adversely affected to the detriment of the National Park.
- Policies N13, N14 and N15 protects SSSIs, Nature Reserves and sites of biological or regional importance from development

- Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space
 - Policy R2 states that in areas deficient in open space, new residential developments will be required to make provision for open space in relation to the standards within Policy R1
- 14.25 These policies have been saved until the production of the LDF for Staffordshire Moorlands. This LDF will provide the long term development vision for the District and will be made up of a series of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents including the Core Strategy and key LDF document.
- 14.26 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) should include general policies relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities that are supported by the findings of this study and other relevant documents. This PPG17 study should be used as a supporting evidence base for Local Development Documents and the policies within them.
- 14.27 Key issues emerging from this study which should be covered in general planning policies within Staffordshire Moorlands LDF include:
- in light of the value of open spaces to residents, the LDF should protect open space from development - this should include all types of open space
 - the LDF should facilitate the proactive planning and delivery of new open space where it is required through appropriate allocations and policies. Allocations for new sites may be required for provision for children and young people and formal parks.
 - the LDF should maximise opportunities arising from new developments through the inclusion of appropriate policies and local standards.
- 14.28 While the saved policies in the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan cover many of the above issues, these policies should be updated in order to reflect the findings of this study.
- 14.29 As well as contributing to the development of general policies, this document also informs more specific documents within the Local Development Framework Portfolio specifically:
- Core Strategy
 - Supplementary Planning Documents on Open Space
 - Site Specific Policies and allocations DPD
 - Area Action Plans.
- 14.30 These are discussed in more detail in the remainder of this section.
- 14.31 The remainder of this section provides guidance on the use of this PPG17 study, particularly with regards the determination of developer contributions (for consideration within the DPDs) and the identification of issues within specific areas.

Planning Contributions - Strategic context and overview

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for open spaces, sport and recreation

- 14.32 Assessments of need undertaken in relation to PPG17 should drive the future provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Planning contributions can be a key source of funding to ensure that provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities meets the aims and objectives of current and future residents.
- 14.33 With regards the use of planning obligations, paragraph 33 of PPG17 states: “planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreation provision. Local Authorities will be justified in seeking planning obligations where the quantity or quality of provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs. It is essential that local authorities have undertaken detailed assessments of needs and audits of existing facilities, and set appropriate local standards in order to justify planning obligations.”

Assessing needs and opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17

- 14.34 Whilst the advice within the Companion Guide was written at a time when the guidance on developer contributions was contained within Circular 1/97, its recommendations on the implementation of developer contributions are still highly relevant.
- 14.35 Diagram 1 of the Companion Guide shows how to deal with the redevelopment of an existing open space or sports/recreation facility, using developer contributions and planning conditions.
- 14.36 Crucially, paragraph 9.1 states that provided authorities have undertaken assessments of need and audits of existing facilities compliant with PPG17, locally determined provision standards will meet the tests of reasonableness set out in paragraph 7 of Department of the Environment Circular 1/97, Planning Obligations. Whilst Circular 05/2005 has superseded this circular, the reference to “reasonableness” remains.
- 14.37 The Companion Guide states that additional provision will be needed when the total amount of provision within the appropriate distance threshold of the site is or will be below the amount required in the area following the development. The decision as to whether on-site provision or a contribution to off-site provision is more appropriate depends primarily on whether the total quantity of each form of new provision required as a result of the proposed development is above the minimum acceptable size in the adopted provision standards. If it is, then new provision should normally be on-site; if not, the developer should be required to contribute to off-site provision.
- 14.38 Before seeking contributions to off-site provision, authorities should be satisfied that they will be able to use them within the distance threshold of the proposed development site. If they do not use them within an agreed time frame, developers are able to submit an S106 application for their return. This underlines the importance of ensuring planning obligations are implemented or enforced in an efficient and transparent way, in order to ensure that contributions are spent on their intended purposes and that the associated development contributes to the sustainability of the areas. This will require monitoring by the Adopted Local Planning authority.

- 14.39 Whilst the Council will be justified in seeking contributions for the full range of open space, sport and recreation facilities for which they have adopted provision standards, in practice they will have to be realistic and in many instances prioritise within the findings of the local needs and audit assessment. This will vary dependent on the location of the planning application.

Circular 05/2005: Planning obligations

- 14.40 This Circular replaces the Department of the Environment Circular 1/97, with the changes only concerning the negotiation of planning obligations. This Circular will act in the interim period before further reforms are brought forward.
- 14.41 Planning obligations are intended to make acceptable development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. They may be used to:
- prescribe the nature of a development (eg proportion of affordable housing)
 - compensate for loss or damage created by a development (eg loss of open space)
 - mitigate a developments impact (eg through increased public transport provision).
- 14.42 Planning obligations should only be sought where they meet all of the following tests:
- relevant to planning
 - necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms
 - directly related to the proposed development
 - fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development
 - reasonable in all other aspects.

Developer Contributions in Staffordshire Moorlands

- 14.43 The plan led system ensures that Adopted Local Planning authorities clearly define requirements for contributions and the type of development that will be permissible.
- 14.44 As well as outlining the general policies for the future delivery of open space, 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.
- 14.45 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. Increased transparency is a key target of PPG17 guidance.
- 14.46 More detailed policies applying the principles set out in the DPD, 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

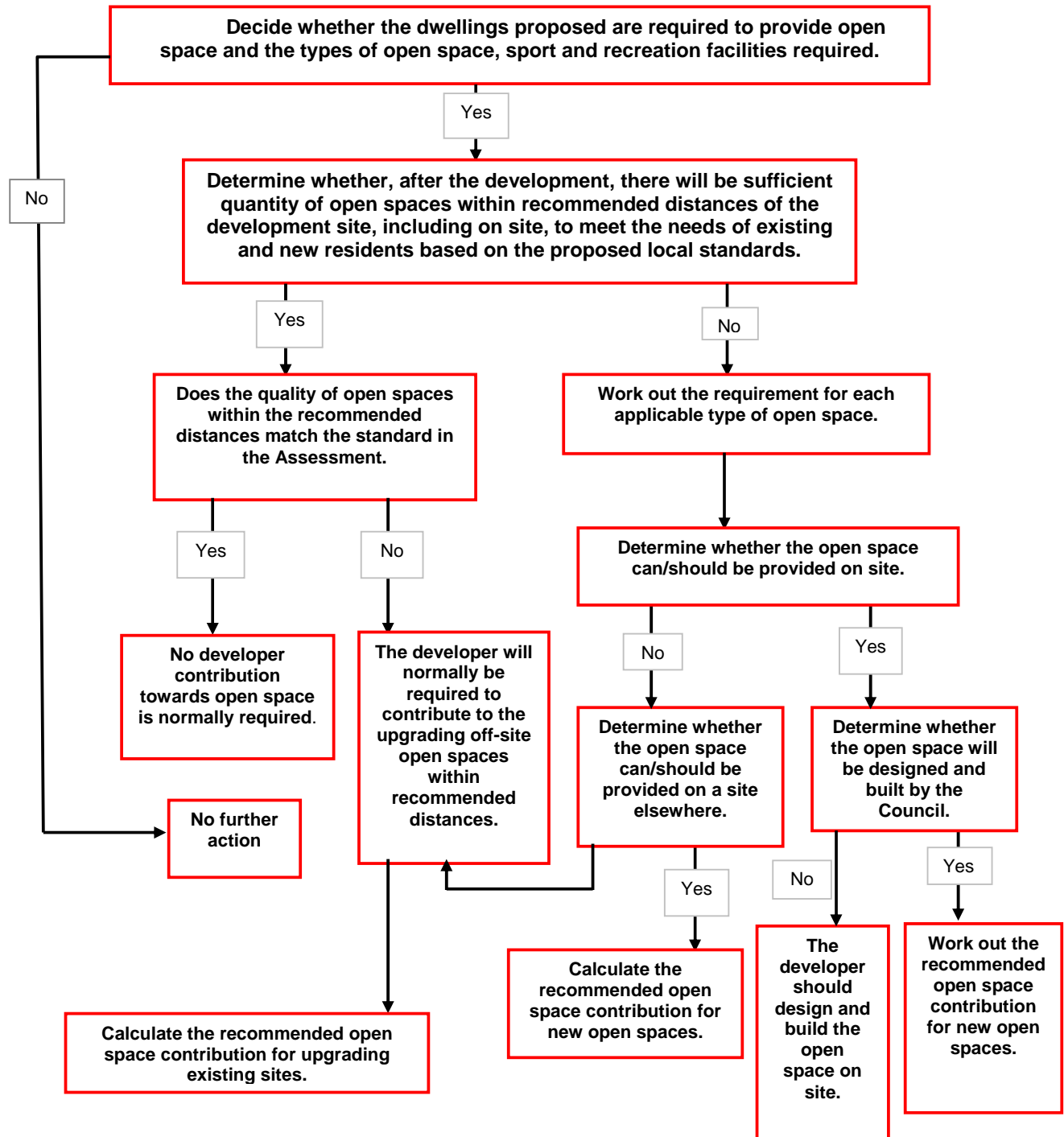
negotiating planning obligations, so as to make clear the level of service a developer can expect.

- 14.47 The Staffordshire Moorlands Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) outlines the current requirements for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. This is based on the saved policies in the Adopted Local Plan which are based on national standards.
- 14.48 The local standards derived as part of this study should be integrated within future SPDs. Contributions should be requested towards all types of open space.

Determining Developer Contributions – good practice

- 14.49 The flow diagram overleaf 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. A worked example is also provided later in this section.
- 14.50 The example and diagram are intended to act as a guide for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on how to use the information contained within this report to plan existing and future provision most effectively. It is intended to guide the Council in updating the public open space SPG and to inform the developer contributions DPD.
- 14.51 The key stages of this diagram are discussed in the section that follows and recommendations with regards the future use of developer contributions in Staffordshire Moorlands are made.

**Figure 14.1 - Proposed process for determining open space requirements
(adapted from Swindon Borough adopted SPG: 2004)**



1. Determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space

- 14.52 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.
- 14.53 The Public Open Space SPG currently requires contributions from developments of 20 dwellings or above.
- 14.54 Contributions are required for schemes involving affordable housing.
- 14.55 Based on the review of the existing SPG and good practice guidance, it is recommended that the following approach be taken when producing the new SPD:
- 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
 - clearly set out the circumstances under which contributions would be required towards other types of open space as well as major open space, incidental open space, play areas and playing fields
 - consider whether contributions are required from industrial, commercial and employment development
 - consider reducing the threshold for contributions from 20 dwellings to 10.

PLAN1

Review the thresholds on the types and number of dwellings that are required to contribute towards the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

2. 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?

- 14.56 The determination of shortfalls/surpluses relies on the use and application of appropriate standards of provision.
- 14.57 The existing Adopted Local Plan and SPG relies on national standards within existing policies on sport and recreation facilities and indicates that minimum standards will be sought, specifically:
- Playing Pitches 1.6ha / 1,000 population
 - Children's Play Areas 0.6ha / 1,000 population
 - Major Open Space 0.4ha / 1,000 population
 - Incidental Open Space 0.6ha / 1,000 population

- 14.58 These standards should be reviewed and replaced by the local standards set out within this PPG17 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.
- 14.59 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.
- 14.60 These standards should then be used to determine the contributions required. In order to ensure that the requirement of 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 depending on the requirements of the open space that happens to be near 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.
- 14.61 If there is no quantitative or accessibility deficiency there may be a qualitative deficiency that needs to be addressed. This is also reflected in the existing SPG.
- 14.62 A detailed worked example is set out at the end of this section.
- 14.63 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.
- 14.64 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.
- 14.65 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.

PLAN2	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.
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PLAN3	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
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3. Determine whether the open space can/should be provided on site.

- 14.66 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 will 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.
- 14.67 If a housing development generates a need for new open space then, wherever possible, this should be provided on-site. However, in many circumstances it will not be possible to achieve this.
- 14.68 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. The implementation of a minimum size is particularly important in Staffordshire Moorlands, where the rural nature of the area means that housing developments are frequently small in size.

PLAN3	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.
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- 14.69 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 the same 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. The current SPG indicates that contributions may be pooled into the Council's Open Space Fund.

Pooled contributions

- 14.70 Where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for new 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, Adopted Local Planning authorities may seek contributions to specific future provision. This can be determined through the application of the quantity standards and the agreed accessibility thresholds developed in the study (see para 14.15). 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.

- 14.71 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.

4. Calculate the recommended open space contribution for new open spaces.

- 14.72 The level of developer contributions for off-site provision will depend on whether it includes the costs of land acquisition. Standard costs towards the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces (across all typologies) should be clearly identified and revised annually. They should be based on local circumstances.
- 14.73 The cost of open space can be difficult to determine based on which 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.
- 14.74 Increased transparency for developers is one of the key targets of PPG17 and the Council should therefore ensure that costs and requirements are set out coherently. The existing SPG on open spaces details costs for the four types of open spaces considered. These should be updated regularly in order to maximise benefits to the Council.

PLAN4	Update local costs for each type of open space (per person) so that an appropriate contribution towards the provision of off site open space can be determined.
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Worked example – calculating the requirement for new provision from a development in Staffordshire Moorlands

- 14.75 A worked example, 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 in this example is a 10 minute walk time or 480 metres. Within this distance of the housing development there is currently 0.27 hectares of provision
 - the estimated population within 480 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
 - the quantity standard for amenity green space is 0.29 hectares per 1000 population. Multiplied by the total population (1030) produced a requirement

for 0.299 hectares of amenity greenspace. The existing amount of amenity greenspace is 0.27 hectares

- 0.27 hectares of amenity green space within 480 metres is a lower level of provision than the required 0.299. The developer will therefore be required to provide further open space
- 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 0.00029 hectares per person multiplied by 230 people, producing a requirement for 0.0667 hectares. Given the shortfall in provision is 0.0667 hectares, in order to meet the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development; the full quantity provision should be secured
- 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.

14.76 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 and the cost per hectare being £41,000 (example only)
- the agreed local standard for provision is 0.29 ha per 1000 population, or 0.00029 ha per person
- using the formula set out above, the contribution required for a 70 dwelling development is:

Number of people in new development	X	Requirement per person (ha)	X	Cost of provision (per ha)	=	TOTAL contribution toward amenity green space
230	X	0.00029	X	£41,000	=	£2734.47

14.77 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.

14.78 This PPG17 study can be used to determine the level of open space and indoor sport and recreation facilities required in major new urban extensions as well as within smaller new housing developments. The above methodology should be repeated for each type of open space for which contributions are required.

Maintenance

14.79 Maintenance sums are also an important element of any Section 106 (S106) process. The current SPG expects that any open space provided as part of a S106 agreement will be provided by the Developer. With regards to off site provision, maintenance is not currently required.

- 14.80 Contributions towards all open space types should give consideration to the long-term maintenance requirements.
- 14.81 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. Maintenance should be required where the monies received will directly benefit the residents of the housing development.

Informing Area Action Plans

- 14.82 In addition to informing the S106 process, the findings of this open space and PPG17 assessment also inform Area Action Plans and Development Control Decisions.
- 14.83 The application of the standards to the geographical area in question will provide an indication as to the amount of open space of each type that is required within an area. The accessibility standards should guide the Council in the distribution of this type of open space.
- 14.84 In the same vein, standards can be applied to determine the value of existing open spaces to the local community. This procedure should be followed before the loss of any open space to development.

Summary and recommendations

- 14.85 The open space, sport and recreation study is an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.
- 14.86 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.
- 14.87 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.
- 14.88 There are many other factors to consider in administering planning obligations such as determining occupancy rates, costings and on versus off site provision. The Council's approach is set out in Supplementary Planning Guidance. This should be updated to reflect the new standards produced as part of this study.
- 14.89 Maintenance sums are an important element of open space provision. It is not considered reasonable to expect maintenance in perpetuity; however the authorities reviewed are typically securing maintenance for up to 20 years.
- 14.90 More generally, it is important to note that the provision standards are only the starting point in negotiations with developments. High quality environments will not result simply from applying them in a mechanical way. It is desirable also to complement provision standards with design guidance that concentrates on effective place making.

Wider Benefits of Open Space

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise• social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride• providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising• providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits• offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games.• open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world• play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities• providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity• helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity• providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials• providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment• open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues• contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects• contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events• encouraging employment and inward investment• complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Survey

DEFINITIONS

- Formal Parks** - These range from town parks to small memorial gardens eg Borough Park, Leek
- Country Parks** - Large areas of land offering easy access for countryside recreation eg Biddulph Grange Country Park
- Natural areas** - Woods, Nature Reserves and unmanaged greenspaces such as scrubland
- Green corridors** - These are footpaths, canal towpaths, bridleways and cycleways
- Amenity areas** - These are small or large greenspaces often found amongst housing estates
- Play areas for children** - These are equipped play areas for children eg swings, slides and climbing frames
- Facilities for young people / teenagers** - These range from youth shelters, to skate parks and multi-use-games-areas
- Outdoor sports facilities** - Grass pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and golf courses
- Allotments** - Public or private open spaces dedicated to growing produce and gardening
- Cemeteries and churchyards** - Open and closed burial grounds and cemeteries
- Civic spaces** - Formal hard surfaces for pedestrians such as civic squares and market squares
- Indoor sports facilities** - Swimming pools, sports halls, squash courts and gymnasiums / health and fitness suites.

SECTION 1 - QUANTITY

Q1

Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of open space within your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer (e.g. not enough in your area/ quality is poor/ difficult to get to).

	More than enough	About right	Nearly enough	Not enough	No opinion
Formal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					
Country Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answers					
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answers					
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					
Facilities for Young people / teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for answer					

Travel Time

Q2 Please write the TIME you would expect to travel and the type of transport you would expect to use when travelling to open space in Staffordshire Moorlands (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only e.g. if you expect to walk to a play area for children and take 10 minutes to get there, please write 10 in the walk column):

	Walk	Cycle	Bus	Car
Formal Parks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Country Parks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Natural areas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Facilities for young people / teenagers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Allotments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Usage

Q3 How **OFTEN** do you use each of the following types of open space? (Please tick one option only for each type of open space.)

	Daily	Twice weekly	Weekly	More than once per month	Once per month	Do not use
Formal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities for young people / teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Churchyards and cemeteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Is there anything which prevents you from visiting the above types of open space more often or at all? Please explain your reasons in the boxes below and state the type of open space you are referring to.

Too far away...	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Quality of facilities...	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Too many roads to cross	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Safety concerns	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Size of sites	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Lack of facilities	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Difficult to get to by public transport	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Lack of disabled access	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Other (please specify)	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

Q5 Do you or any member of your household own / manage / use an allotment in your local area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q6 If **NO**, would you be interested in using an allotment within your local area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES please indicate why you are not an allotment user already

Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Q7 How would you rate the quality of the following types of open space in Staffordshire Moorlands? (If you are unsure please leave blank)

	Good	Average	Poor
Formal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities for young people / teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Churchyards and cemeteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quality of Council service

Q8 How would you rate the overall quality of Council service relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands?

Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Average	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9 How would you rate the quality of maintenance with regards to the specific open space, sport and recreation facilities below?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Formal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities for young people/teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Churchyards and cemeteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10 Please give reasons for your answers to Q9

SECTION 2 - SPECIFIC TO THE TYPE OF OPEN SPACE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY

Q11 Which open space TYPE do you use MOST FREQUENTLY in Staffordshire Moorlands? (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE.)

Formal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities for young people / teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Q12 Please name the SITE you use MOST FREQUENTLY and where it is located. (e.g. part of town)

Site Name..

Location

QUESTIONS 13 - 18 SHOULD RELATE TO THE OPEN SPACE TYPE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY AS INDICATED IN QUESTIONS 11 and 12

Travel

- Q13** How do you normally TRAVEL there? (please tick one box only)
- Walk ☐ Car ☐ Public transport ☐ Cycle ☐
- Q14** How LONG does it take you to reach this type of open space?(please tick one box only)
- Less than 5 minutes ☐ Between 10 - 14 minutes ☐ Between 20 - 29 minutes ☐
- Between 5 - 9 minutes ☐ Between 15 -19 minutes ☐ Over 30 minutes ☐

Aspirations

- Q15** If you were describing your ideal features within this type of open space, what would be the TOP FEATURES you think should be provided? (please only tick up to FIVE)
- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Well kept grass | <input type="checkbox"/> | Level surface / good drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nature features (eg wildlife) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Good access to site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clean / litter free | <input type="checkbox"/> | Events eg music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pond / lake /water features | <input type="checkbox"/> | On site security (eg warden /CCTV) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flowers/trees and shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Toilets | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dog walking facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | Information boards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Changing facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cafe | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dog free area | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cycle paths/parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parking facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seating | <input type="checkbox"/> | Litter bins | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disabled access | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Footpaths | <input type="checkbox"/> | Picnic area | <input type="checkbox"/> | Facilities for children and young people | <input type="checkbox"/> | Play assistants | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="text"/> | | | | | | |

- Q16** Do you feel safe when using this type of open space in Staffordshire Moorlands?
- Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes ☐
- Q17** Which of the following factors would make you feel SAFER using this type of open space? (please tick one or more)
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Adequate lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staff on site (e.g. park rangers) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Overlooked by housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clear route to open space | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reputation of area / space | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other users | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CCTV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clear boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Other | <input type="text"/> | | | | |

Quality

- Q18** Please indicate whether you experience any of the following PROBLEMS at the open space type you visit most frequently as indicated in Q11 by rating the seriousness of the problem in the boxes below:
- | | Significant Problem | Minor Problem | No problem |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vandalism and graffiti | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safety and age of equipment (play areas, seating) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of seating and other on street furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of footpaths | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grass cutting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Litter problems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Misuse of site (e.g. unruly behaviour) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog Fouling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION THREE - OUTDOOR SPORTS

 Quantity |

Q19 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of outdoor sport facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer.
















More than
enough About right Not enough No opinion

Grass Pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<input type="text"/>			
Synthetic Turf Pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<input type="text"/>			
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<input type="text"/>			
Bowling greens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<input type="text"/>			
Golf courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	<input type="text"/>			

Quality

Q20 How would you rate the quality of the following types of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands? (If you are unsure please leave blank)

Good *Average* *Poor*

Facility Type	Facility 1	Facility 2	Facility 3
Grass Pitches			
Synthetic Turf Pitches			
Tennis Courts			
Bowling Greens			
Golf Courses			

Travel Time

Q21 Please write the **TIME** you would expect to travel against the type of transport you would expect to use for each outdoor facility type.

Walk Cycle Public Transport Car

Grass Pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Synthetic Turf Pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bowling Greens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Usage

Q22 How OFTEN do you use each of the following types of outdoor sports facilities? (Please tick one option only for each type of open space.)

Daily	Twice weekly	Weekly	More than once per month	Once per month	Do not use
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[illegible]

SECTION FOUR - INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Q23 If you were describing your ideal features for indoor sport facilities, what would be the TOP FIVE FEATURES you think should be provided? (please only tick up to FIVE)

 Quantity |

Q24 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH or NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of indoor facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer

Q25 If you could have one new indoor sports facility within Staffordshire Moorlands, what would it be?

Quality

Q26 How would you rate the quality of the following types of indoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands? (If you are unsure please leave blank)

1

Travel Time

Q27 Please write the TIME you would expect to travel and the type of transport you would expect to use when travelling to indoor sport facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands (please state one time and travel mode for each facility type only)

1

Usage

Q28 How OFTEN do you use each of the following types of indoor sports facilities? (Please tick one option only for each type of open space.)

1

General

Q29 If you have any other **COMMENTS** that you would like to make regarding open space in Staffordshire Moorlands, please write them in the box below.

SECTION FIVE - SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOU

- Q30** What is your gender?
Male ☐ *Female* ☐
- Q31** What is your age?
Under 18 ☐ *25-39* ☐ *55-64* ☐ *80+* ☐
18-24 ☐ *40-54* ☐ *65 - 79* ☐
- Q32** How long have you lived in the District of Staffordshire Moorlands?
Up to 1 year ☐ *3-5 years* ☐ *10 -15 years* ☐ *20 years or more* ☐
1-3 years ☐ *5-10 years* ☐ *15-20 years* ☐
- Q33** Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Employed (incl. full time, part time or self employed) ☐ *Unemployed and not looking for work* ☐ *Not working but responsible for looking after home/dependents* ☐
Unemployed and currently looking for work ☐ *Student or on a training scheme* ☐ *Other* ☐
Retired ☐
Other (please specify)
- Q34** Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?
White British ☐ *Any Other Mixed Background* ☐ *Black or Black British Caribbean* ☐
White Irish ☐ *Asian or Asian British Indian* ☐ *Black or Black British African* ☐
Any Other White Background ☐ *Asian or Asian British Pakistani* ☐ *Any Other Black Background* ☐
White and Black African ☐ *Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi* ☐ *Chinese* ☐
White and Asian ☐ *Any Other Asian Background* ☐
- Q35** Are there any children in the household under 16 years?
Yes ☐ *No* ☐
- Q36** Please provide your FULL post code.

PMP Consultancy is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 with the Notification Department of the Information Commission.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Size (hectares)	Analysis area	Quality Score
31	Squirrel Hayes Avenue Allotments	Allotments	0.49	Biddulph	74
216	Abbey View Allotments	Allotments	0.21	Leek	68
232	Novi Lane Allotments	Allotments	0.52	Leek	46
247	Cheddleton Road Allotments	Allotments	0.88	Leek	56
254	Thornhill Road Allotments	Allotments	0.83	Leek	74
256	Beggars Lane Allotments	Allotments	3.16	Leek	66
268	Badnall Street Allotments	Allotments	1.01	Leek	68
293	Ashcombe Road Allotments	Allotments	0.47	Rural	60
506	Pump Street Allotments	Allotments	0.33	Leek	68
6	Healey Avenue	Amenity green space	0.2	Biddulph	64
7	Endon Drive	Amenity green space	0.45	Biddulph	80
17	Newpool Road	Amenity green space	0.17	Biddulph	62
20	Farnworth Close	Amenity green space	0.53	Biddulph	52
21	Conway Road	Amenity green space	0.29	Biddulph	75
39	Hawthorn Grove	Amenity green space	0.14	Biddulph	74
43	Slater Street	Amenity green space	0.17	Biddulph	34
50	Dorset Drive	Amenity green space	1.4	Biddulph	66
57	East Drive	Amenity green space	0.23	Biddulph	76
60	Humber Drive	Amenity green space	0.34	Biddulph	74
92	Austin Close	Amenity green space	0.28	Cheadle	68
94	Kenilworth Walk	Amenity green space	0.54	Cheadle	66
98	Glebe Close	Amenity green space	1.39	Cheadle	66
99	Greenways	Amenity green space	0.31	Cheadle	60
105	Kelling Road	Amenity green space	0.38	Cheadle	90
113	Arundel Drive	Amenity green space	0.29	Cheadle	78
146	Oakamoor Park	Amenity green space	6.21	Rural	86
173	Caverswall Old Road	Amenity green space	0.62	Rural	70
183	Crossfield Avenue	Amenity green space	0.9	Rural	76
194	Branfield Road	Amenity green space	0.21	Rural	80
195	Riverside Road	Amenity green space	0.47	Rural	74
235	Prince Charles Avenue	Amenity green space	0.29	Leek	60
236	Ramsham View	Amenity green space	0.68	Leek	72
241	Thorncliffe View	Amenity green space	1.11	Leek	56
260	Wettenhall Drive	Amenity green space	0.22	Leek	64
261	Curzon Rise	Amenity green space	0.28	Leek	66

276	Breech Close Open Space	Amenity green space	0.32	Rural	64
283	Whitmore Avenue	Amenity green space	0.56	Rural	54
284	Radley Way	Amenity green space	0.58	Rural	64
285	Oak Mount Road	Amenity green space	0.77	Rural	62
289	Bridge Eye Playing Field	Amenity green space	0.26	Rural	54
411	Charnwood Close	Amenity green space	0.3	Leek	60
431	Millhouse Drive	Amenity green space	0.75	Cheadle	73
434	Ashcombe Way Village Green	Amenity green space	2.95	Leek	70
458	The Rocks	Amenity green space	0.23	Rural	57
465	Ostlers Lane	Amenity green space	0.88	Rural	56
900	Springfield Road AGS	Amenity green space	0.74	Biddulph	54
951	School Road	Amenity green space	0.21	Rural	70
958	Bank End	Amenity green space	0.22	Rural	66
69	Parish Church of St Edward	Cemetery and churchya	0.21	Rural	
72	Biddulph Town Burial Ground	Cemetery and churchya	1.74	Biddulph	88
101	St Giles Roman Catholic Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.21	Cheadle	
103	Church of St Giles The Abbot	Cemetery and churchya	2.46	Cheadle	
121	Ipstones Churchyard	Cemetery and churchya	0.81	Rural	
127	Kingsley Holt Chapel	Cemetery and churchya	0.15	Rural	56
131	St Mildred's Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.4	Rural	70
132	Whiston Methodist Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.27	Rural	64
136	St Weaburgh's Church	Cemetery and churchya	1.56	Rural	74
160	Hurstons Lane Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	0.35	Rural	68
163	New Cemetery Extension	Cemetery and churchya	0.26	Rural	68
167	Caverswall Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	1.19	Rural	72
192	Parish Church of Upper Tean	Cemetery and churchya	0.49	Rural	72
212	St Mary's and All Saints Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.73	Rural	70
244	Leek Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	5.42	Leek	88
296	Hill Top Methodist Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.25	Biddulph	74
299	Christ Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.44	Biddulph	94
303	Brown Edge Lawn Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	0.45	Rural	80
304	Christ Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.34	Rural	72
312	St Chad's Church, Bagnall	Cemetery and churchya	0.38	Rural	78
405	St Edward's Churchyard	Cemetery and churchya	0.46	Leek	60
413	Buxton Road Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	1.88	Leek	92
430	St Leonard's Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.29	Rural	76

432	St Filumena's RC Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.11	Rural	
433	The Parish of St Peter's Caverswall	Cemetery and churchya	0.32	Rural	74
435	St Leonard's Graveyard	Cemetery and churchya	0.39	Rural	
437	St Mary's Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.34	Rural	62
438	Cauldon Cemetery	Cemetery and churchya	0.17	Rural	64
442	St Mary's Graveyard	Cemetery and churchya	0.26	Rural	74
443	St Mary's RC Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.22	Rural	
446	The Parish Church of St Margaret	Cemetery and churchya	0.64	Rural	82
453	All Saint's Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.49	Rural	68
464	Parish Church of St Edward Cemet	Cemetery and churchya	0.74	Rural	68
468	St Luke's Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.8	Rural	78
469	St Peter's Alton Churchyard	Cemetery and churchya	0.44	Rural	56
957	New Road Methodist Church	Cemetery and churchya	0.2	Biddulph	80
8	Brown Lees Play Area	Children's play area	0.06	Biddulph	52
32	Church Road Play Area	Children's play area	0.07	Biddulph	70
40	Hawthorn Grove Play Area	Children's play area	0.02	Biddulph	74
51	Dorset Drive Play Area	Children's play area	0.02	Biddulph	56
56	Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre Play	Children's play area	0.02	Biddulph	80
65	Hall's Road Play Area	Children's play area	0.08	Biddulph	76
93	Austin Close Play Area	Children's play area	0.01	Cheadle	80
95	Kenilworth Walk Play Area	Children's play area	0.02	Cheadle	74
108	Churchill Road Recreation Ground P	Children's play area	0.08	Cheadle	60
110	Thorpe Rise Play Area	Children's play area	0.13	Cheadle	74
114	Arundel Drive Play Area	Children's play area	0.04	Cheadle	83
119	Ipstones Recreation Ground Play Ar	Children's play area	0.05	Rural	62
126	Kingsley Holt Recreation Ground Pla	Children's play area	0.05	Rural	60
130	Whiston Eaves Playing Field Play A	Children's play area	0.01	Rural	56
135	Kingsley Recreation Ground Play Ar	Children's play area	0.06	Rural	36
158	Alton Adventure Play Area	Children's play area	0.05	Rural	70
179	Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground PI	Children's play area	0.05	Rural	72
196	Riverside Road Play Area	Children's play area	0.07	Rural	55
201	Wentlows Recreation Ground Play A	Children's play area	0.03	Rural	63
209	Checkley Community Centre Play A	Children's play area	0.06	Rural	88
230	Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground	Children's play area	0.02	Leek	76
243	Glebeville Play Area	Children's play area	0.31	Leek	46
265	Westwood Recreation Ground Play	Children's play area	0.03	Leek	63

270	Cruzo Street Play Area	Children's play area	0.03	Leek	80
281	Toll Bar Playing Field Play Area	Children's play area	0.17	Rural	56
308	Station Road Play Area	Children's play area	0.04	Rural	71
412	Charnwood Close Play Area	Children's play area	0.02	Leek	46
420	Brough Park Leisure Centre Play Area	Children's play area	0.04	Leek	78
450	Dilhorne Recreation Centre Play Area	Children's play area	0.13	Rural	66
459	High Lane Playing Field Play Area	Children's play area	0.07	Rural	60
462	Cheddleton Playing Fields Play Area	Children's play area	0.1	Rural	74
466	Hillswood Playing Field Play Area	Children's play area	0.06	Rural	75
470	Werrington Playing Fields Play Area	Children's play area	0.05	Rural	66
472	Waterhouses Sport and Recreation	Children's play area	0.47	Rural	66
473	Clewloes Bank Play Area	Children's play area	0.01	Rural	64
475	Wetley Rocks Playing Field Play Area	Children's play area	0.03	Rural	62
476	Pickwood Recreation Ground Play Area	Children's play area	0.02	Leek	63
477	Hot Lane Recreation Ground Play Area	Children's play area	0.06	Biddulph	55
500	Rudyard Football Pitch Play Area	Children's play area	0.1	Rural	68
911	Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area	Children's play area	0.01	Cheadle	68
912	Memorial Recreation Ground Young	Children's play area	0.05	Cheadle	80
53	Station Road Civic Space	Civic space	0.03	Biddulph	80
478	Leek Market Square	Civic space	0.13	Leek	64
73	Biddulph Grange Country Park	Country Park	4.83	Biddulph	88
207	Greenway Bank Country Park	Country Park	55.96	Biddulph	68
426	Ladderedge Country Park	Country Park	28.34	Leek	76
78	Memorial Recreation Ground	Formal Park	1.77	Cheadle	70
220	Leek Brough Park	Formal Park	15.69	Leek	100
249	Pickwood Recreation Ground	Formal Park	1.47	Leek	74
408	Westwood Recreation Ground	Formal Park	0.34	Leek	76
428	Birch Gardens	Formal Park	0.44	Leek	84
1	Bemersley Road	Natural and semi natural	0.63	Biddulph	32
37	Springfield Road NSN	Natural and semi natural	1.47	Biddulph	36
46	Crabtree Avenue	Natural and semi natural	0.87	Biddulph	62
55	Biddulph Brook	Natural and semi natural	7.58	Biddulph	74
61	Palmerston Way	Natural and semi natural	1.74	Biddulph	44
63	Field View	Natural and semi natural	0.62	Biddulph	40
68	Bailey's Wood	Natural and semi natural	2.6	Biddulph	66
97	Tennyson Close	Natural and semi natural	0.53	Cheadle	52

106	Cecilly Brook	Natural and semi natura	5.95	Cheadle	70
109	Newmarket	Natural and semi natura	0.6	Cheadle	50
115	Hales Hall Pool Local Nature Reser	Natural and semi natura	2.77	Cheadle	78
117	Ipstones Village Natural Area	Natural and semi natura	1.21	Rural	52
124	Holt Lane	Natural and semi natura	1.37	Rural	70
128	Sidney Drive	Natural and semi natura	2.29	Rural	56
145	Bracket Wood	Natural and semi natura	0.59	Rural	72
180	Mount Road	Natural and semi natura	0.53	Rural	44
221	Brough Park Fields	Natural and semi natura	4.21	Leek	
255	Thornhill Road	Natural and semi natura	2.24	Leek	58
259	Wallbrook Drive	Natural and semi natura	0.52	Leek	66
262	Valley Drive	Natural and semi natura	0.62	Leek	52
273	East Drive Woodland	Natural and semi natura	17.51	Rural	88
274	The Old Cheddleton Asylum Burial G	Natural and semi natura	0.25	Rural	94
290	Churnet Open Space	Natural and semi natura	4.15	Rural	70
300	The Dingle	Natural and semi natura	0.87	Rural	34
402	The Waste	Natural and semi natura	1.1	Leek	78
409	Lorient Drive	Natural and semi natura	1.32	Leek	56
424	Knypersley Pool	Natural and semi natura	1.11	Biddulph	44
455	Rudyard Lake	Natural and semi natura	0.77	Rural	88
501	Cheadle Road	Natural and semi natura	0.98	Rural	70
504	Moorland Road	Natural and semi natura	0.25	Rural	58
2	Mill Hayes Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	5.89	Biddulph	68
3	Leek Rugby Club Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.92	Rural	70
9	Knypersley Victoria Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	2.33	Biddulph	94
10	Biddulph High School Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	4.86	Biddulph	58
12	Knypersley Sports Club STP	Outdoor sports facility	0.08	Biddulph	77
13	Knypersley Sports Club Tennis Cou	Outdoor sports facility	0.11	Biddulph	69
14	Knypersley Bowling Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.14	Biddulph	86
15	Knypersley First School Playing Fiel	Outdoor sports facility	0.88	Biddulph	46
18	The Roaches Independent School P	Outdoor sports facility	0.29	Biddulph	60
23	Park Middle School STP	Outdoor sports facility	0.34	Biddulph	74
28	Biddulph High School STP	Outdoor sports facility	0.1	Biddulph	89
29	Biddulph High School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.03	Biddulph	80
33	Church Road Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	3.91	Biddulph	70
34	English Martyrs' Catholic Primary Sc	Outdoor sports facility	1.57	Biddulph	64

35	Squirrel Hayes First School Playing	Outdoor sports facility	0.42	Biddulph	70
36	Squirrel Hayes First School Playing	Outdoor sports facility	0.22	Biddulph	88
48	Kingsfield First School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.89	Biddulph	60
62	Oxhey First School Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	0.8	Biddulph	62
64	Hall's Road Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	4.85	Biddulph	54
70	St Lawrence's Recreation Ground T	Outdoor sports facility	0.14	Biddulph	46
76	Stanfields Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	2.35	Cheadle	56
77	Cheadle Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.46	Cheadle	86
81	Moorlands Sixth Form Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	4.26	Cheadle	64
82	Moorlands Sixth Form Redgrass Pit	Outdoor sports facility	0.27	Cheadle	60
83	Painsley Catholic College Playing Fi	Outdoor sports facility	1.52	Cheadle	68
86	Cheadle High School Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	3.15	Cheadle	68
87	Cheadle High School Redgrass Pit	Outdoor sports facility	0.27	Cheadle	60
88	Cheadle Primary School Playing Fie	Outdoor sports facility	2.6	Cheadle	48
89	South Moorlands Leisure Centre Fo	Outdoor sports facility	1.6	Cheadle	76
90	South Moorlands Leisure Centre ST	Outdoor sports facility	0.14	Cheadle	57
102	Thorley Drive Football Pitches	Outdoor sports facility	5.04	Cheadle	74
107	Churchill Road Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	3.21	Cheadle	66
118	Ipstones Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.85	Rural	58
120	Ipstones School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.51	Rural	
125	Kingsley Holt Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	0.76	Rural	62
129	Whiston Eaves Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.32	Rural	50
134	Kingsley Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.04	Rural	44
137	St Weaburgh's C of E Primary Scho	Outdoor sports facility	0.52	Rural	68
138	Kingsley Bowling Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.1	Rural	74
139	Wiston Eaves Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.77	Rural	60
141	The Valley Primary School Playing F	Outdoor sports facility	0.92	Rural	76
147	Davies Worthington Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	6.49	Rural	72
148	Davies Worthington Bowling Green	Outdoor sports facility	0.15	Rural	82
152	The Mick Edwards Memorial Ground	Outdoor sports facility	0.77	Rural	70
153	Faber RC School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	2.36	Rural	56
157	Alton Village Hall Playing Filed	Outdoor sports facility	1.07	Rural	70
159	Hurstons Lane Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.82	Rural	46
161	St Peter's C of E First School Playin	Outdoor sports facility	0.19	Rural	62
165	Waterhouses Sports Ground Bowlin	Outdoor sports facility	0.13	Rural	
166	Caverswall Parish Council Playing F	Outdoor sports facility	2.06	Rural	74

168	St Filumena's Catholic Primary School	Outdoor sports facility	0.54	Rural	76
169	St Peter's Caverswall C of E Primary	Outdoor sports facility	0.42	Rural	74
170	Caverswall Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.66	Rural	
174	Blythe Bridge High School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	2.49	Rural	74
175	Foresbrook Primary School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	3.79	Rural	76
178	Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.59	Rural	78
181	The William Armory Primary School	Outdoor sports facility	0.45	Rural	74
185	Draycott Moor College Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.68	Rural	54
191	Great Wood County Primary School	Outdoor sports facility	0.69	Rural	60
193	St Thomas' RC Primary School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.24	Rural	68
200	Wentlows Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.28	Rural	54
206	Checkley Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.48	Rural	98
210	Hutchinson Memorial C of E First School	Outdoor sports facility	0.43	Rural	70
214	Leek Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	3.04	Leek	100
217	Abbey View Lawn Tennis Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.22	Leek	89
222	Leek Brough Park Tennis Courts	Outdoor sports facility	0.18	Leek	89
223	Leek Brough Park Bowling Green	Outdoor sports facility	0.16	Leek	88
225	Leek Brough Park Bowling Green Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.12	Leek	86
226	Leek Brough Park Tennis Courts Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.16	Leek	92
228	Ball Haye Green FC	Outdoor sports facility	0.67	Leek	64
229	Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	0.65	Leek	58
233	Beresford Memorial School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.35	Leek	66
234	The Waste Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.45	Leek	60
246	Birchall Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	10.86	Leek	82
248	All Saints First School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.2	Leek	74
251	Leek High Specialist Technology College	Outdoor sports facility	8.43	Leek	80
257	Leek Bowling Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.16	Leek	100
258	Woodcroft First School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	2.81	Leek	60
263	Westwood School Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.74	Leek	66
264	St Edwards C of E High School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.73	Leek	72
275	Leek Rugby Club	Outdoor sports facility	2.02	Rural	74
277	Waterhouses Primary School	Outdoor sports facility	2.48	Rural	56
278	Waterhouses Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	2.38	Rural	60
279	Moorside High School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	5.41	Rural	70
286	Werrington Primary School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	1.19	Rural	70
287	Werrington Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	2.87	Rural	60

288	Wetley Rocks Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.82	Rural	64
292	Cheddleton Palying Fields	Outdoor sports facility	3.73	Rural	68
294	Ashcombe Park Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.41	Rural	74
297	Moor Lane First School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.62	Biddulph	74
298	Hot Lane Recreation Ground	Outdoor sports facility	1.38	Biddulph	68
301	High Lane Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.72	Rural	48
302	Church Road Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	1.34	Rural	66
306	Endon Hall Primary School Playing	Outdoor sports facility	0.9	Rural	74
307	Endon Tennis Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.35	Rural	64
309	St Luke's C of E Primary School Pla	Outdoor sports facility	0.46	Rural	76
310	Hillswood Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.9	Rural	60
311	Clewlow Bank Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.55	Rural	58
407	Westwood Recreation Ground Playi	Outdoor sports facility	1.54	Leek	72
422	Woodcroft First School Playing Field	Outdoor sports facility	0.53	Leek	74
423	Woodhouse Middle School Playing f	Outdoor sports facility	3.01	Biddulph	76
425	Westwood College Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	5.55	Leek	60
439	Blythe Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.22	Rural	98
441	Cresswell Old Lane Football Pitch	Outdoor sports facility	1.76	Rural	76
444	Checkley Parish Council Bowls Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.12	Rural	86
445	Draycott Sports Centre	Outdoor sports facility	0.52	Rural	100
448	Longton Harriers FC	Outdoor sports facility	2.92	Rural	70
449	Dilhorne Recreation Ground Playing	Outdoor sports facility	1.26	Rural	50
451	Dilhorne Recreation Centre Tennis C	Outdoor sports facility	0.07	Rural	31
452	Dilhorne Bowling Club	Outdoor sports facility	0.13	Rural	80
454	Rudyard Football Pitch	Outdoor sports facility	1.57	Rural	68
456	Ipstones Recreation Ground Tennis	Outdoor sports facility	0.05	Rural	34
463	St Edward C of E Primary School Pl	Outdoor sports facility	1.03	Rural	70
467	Endon High School Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	4.24	Rural	70
474	Rushton C of E Primary School Play	Outdoor sports facility	0.22	Rural	70
503	Cheddleton Playing Fields Tennis C	Outdoor sports facility	0.19	Rural	51
505	Churnet View Middle School Playing	Outdoor sports facility	0.46	Leek	
507	Leek High Specialist Technology Co	Outdoor sports facility	0.67	Leek	91
508	Leek Rugby Club Sports Ground	Outdoor sports facility	2.15	Rural	80
904	Meadows Special School	Outdoor sports facility	1.53	Biddulph	60
913	Memorial Recreation Ground Tennis	Outdoor sports facility	0.12	Cheadle	62
914	Memorial Recreation Ground Bowlin	Outdoor sports facility	0.34	Cheadle	86

950	Forsbrook Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.16	Rural	76
980	Meadow's Special School Tennis Co	Outdoor sports facility	0.08	Biddulph	
981	Memorial Playing Fields	Outdoor sports facility	0.47	Cheadle	68
982	Leek Hockey club	Outdoor sports facility	3.5	Leek	74
986	Cicely Haughton School	Outdoor sports facility	0.92	Rural	
987	St John's Primary School	Outdoor sports facility	0.96	Rural	
988	Endon Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.08	Rural	70
989	Bagnall Cricket Club	Outdoor sports facility	1.43	Rural	
4	Mill Hayes Sports Ground Skatepark	Provision for young people	0.04	Biddulph	93
79	Memorial Recreation Ground Skate	Provision for young people	0.01	Cheadle	69
112	Hammersley Hayes Road	Provision for young people	0.25	Cheadle	38
400	Leek Brough Park Skate Park	Provision for young people	0.02	Leek	82
401	Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground	Provision for young people	0.02	Leek	72
502	Werrington Playing Fields MUGA	Provision for young people	0.05	Rural	51
903	Newpool Terrace Young People	Provision for young people	0.14	Biddulph	58
915	Memorial Recreation Ground MUGA	Provision for young people	0.05	Cheadle	72

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL DETAILS

Site ID:

Date of Visit:

Site Name:

Site Address:

Boundary of Site Check: ☐

Other Sites within the site? (e.g. play area in a park) ☐

Changed? - (✓) or (x)

No ☐

Yes ☐

- complete other site assessment and draw on map and label with new site ID

Specific Facilities:

Type of Open Space (please circle):

1

Formal Parks

2

Country Parks

3

Natural and semi natural areas

4

Green Corridors

5

Amenity Greenspace

6

Children

Map No

7

Young People/teenagers

8

Outdoor Sports Facilities

9

Allotments

10

Cemteries and Churchyards

11

Civic Spaces

'Typology Changed:

(✓) or (x)

☐

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	not applicable	Weighting	Assessor's Comments						
Cleanliness and Maintenance													
Includes: Vandalism and Graffiti	Litter problems	Dog Fouling	Noise	Equipment	Maintenance	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3	
Security and Safety													
Includes: Lighting	Equipment	Boundaries (e.g. fencing)				5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2	
Vegetation													
Includes: Planted areas	Grass areas					5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3	
Ancillary Accomodation													
Includes: Toilets	Parking	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	Seats / Benches	Pathways (within the open space sites)		5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2	

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

PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities (paragraph 1).

The document also states that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs and opportunities for new open space and facilities (paragraph 2).

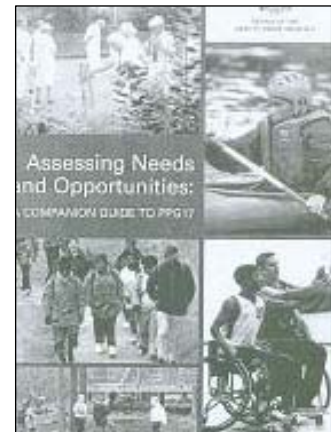
Paragraph 5 states that “The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and recreational facilities”. National standards are no longer considered to meet local needs as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development

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.

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.



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.

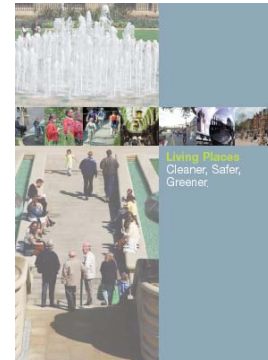
Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)

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.

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.

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 an active role in deciding what our parks and public spaces should be like and how they should be looked after
- 3) ensure that everyone understands the importance of good design to the vitality of our cities, towns and suburbs and that designers, planners and managers all have the right skills to create high quality public spaces
- 4) ensure that the care of parks and public spaces is acknowledged to be an essential service
- 5) work to increase public debate about the issue of risk in outside spaces, and will encourage people to make decisions that give more weight to the benefits of interesting spaces, rather than to the perceived risks



- 6) work to ensure that national and local health policy recognises the role of high quality parks and public space in helping people to become physically active, to recover from illness, and to increase their general health and well-being
- 7) work to ensure that good paths and seating, play opportunities, signs in local languages, cultural events and art are understood to be essential elements of great places – not optional extras that can be cut from the budget
- 8) encourage people who are designing and managing parks and public spaces to protect and enhance biodiversity and to promote its enjoyment to local people
- 9) seek to ensure that public spaces feel safe to use by encouraging councils to adopt a positive approach to crime prevention through investment in good design and management of the whole network of urban green spaces
- 10) encourage people from all sectors of the community to give time to improving their local environment. If we work together we can transform our public spaces and help to improve everyone's quality of life.

The Value of Public Space, CABI Space (March 2004)

CABI 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, CABI Space (May 2004)

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

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



Part 1: Planning the plan

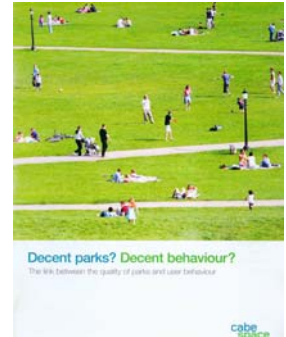
- the who, what, when, where and how questions that may arise in the preparation of a park and green space management plan.

Part 2: Content and structure of the plan

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

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

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



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

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

Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier. Government White Paper 2004

Choosing health sets out how the Government will work to provide more of the opportunities, support and information people want to enable them to choose health. It aims to inform and encourage people as individuals, and to help shape the commercial and cultural environment we live in so that it is easier to choose a healthy lifestyle.

Choosing Activity: A physical activity action plan sets out how the physical activity element of the choosing health white paper will be delivered. The Government plans to encourage and co-ordinate the action of a range of departments and organisations to promote increased participation in physical activity across England.

The aim of the plan is to promote activity for all, in line with the Chief Medical Officers recommendations – at least five times a week.

The key outcomes of the action plan can be summarised as:

- improve information and raise awareness of the benefits of activity
- support activity in the community by addressing barriers such as safety, cost and locality
- support activity in early years and schools and improve community access to school facilities
- support and encourage everyday activities like walking and cycling.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Category		Populations	Country Parks	Formal Parks	Amenity Green Space	Natural and Semi Natural	Provision for Children (hectares)	Provision for Young People (hectares)	Allotments (in hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (in hectares)
Quantity Calculations	Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)									
	Biddulph	19,512	60.79	0	4.66	16.62	0.33	0.18	0.49	35.47
	Cheadle	12,166	0	1.77	3.94	9.85	0.34	0.31	0	26.80
	Leek	19,880	28.34	17.94	5.83	10.01	0.47	0.04	6.94	47.18
	Rural Area	37,826	0	0	12.44	30.77	1.66	0.05	0.47	89.02
	OVERALL	89,384	89.13	19.71	26.87	67.25	2.80	0.58	7.90	198.47
	Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)									
	Biddulph	19,512	3.1155	0.0000	0.2388	0.8518	0.0169	0.0092	0.0251	1.8179
	Cheadle	12,166	0.0000	0.1455	0.3239	0.8096	0.0279	0.0255	0.0000	2.2029
	Leek	19,880	1.4256	0.9024	0.2933	0.5035	0.0236	0.0020	0.3491	2.3732
	Rural Area	37,826	0.0000	0.0000	0.3289	0.8135	0.0439	0.0013	0.0124	2.3534
	OVERALL	89,384	0.9972	0.2205	0.3006	0.7524	0.0561	0.0116	0.0884	2.2204
	Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2026									
	Biddulph	20,185	3.0116	0.0000	0.2309	0.8234	0.0163	0.0089	0.0243	1.7572
	Cheadle	12,586	0.0000	0.1406	0.3131	0.7826	0.0270	0.0246	0.0000	2.1294
	Leek	20,566	1.3780	0.8723	0.2835	0.4867	0.0229	0.0019	0.3375	2.2941
	Rural Area	39,246	0.0000	0.0000	0.3170	0.7840	0.0322	0.0013	0.0120	2.2683
	OVERALL	92,583	0.9627	0.2129	0.2902	0.7264	0.0543	0.0112	0.0853	2.1437
	Consultation (%)									
	RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD		0.99	0.23	0.30	0.75	0.08	0.070	0.097	2.27
	Balance									
	Biddulph	19,512	41.47	-4.49	-1.19	1.99	-1.23	-1.19	-1.40	-8.82
	Cheadle	12,166	-12.04	-1.03	0.29	0.73	-0.63	-0.54	-1.18	-0.82
	Leek	19,880	8.66	13.37	-0.13	-4.90	-1.12	-1.35	5.02	2.05
	Rural Area	37,826	-37.45	-8.70	1.09	2.40	-1.37	-2.60	-3.19	3.15
	OVERALL	89,384	0.64	-0.85	0.05	0.21	-1.23	-1.19	-0.75	-4.43
	Future Balance 2026									
	Biddulph	20,185	40.81	-4.64	-1.40	1.48	-1.28	-1.23	-1.46	-10.35
	Cheadle	12,586	-12.46	-1.12	0.16	0.41	-0.67	-0.57	-1.22	-1.77
	Leek	20,566	7.98	13.21	-0.34	-5.41	-1.18	-1.40	4.95	0.50
	Rural Area	39,246	-38.85	-9.03	0.67	1.34	-1.48	-2.70	-3.33	-0.07
	OVERALL	92,583	-2.53	-1.58	-0.90	-2.19	-4.61	-5.90	-1.06	-11.69

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - Setting Quantity Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Natural England for natural open spaces
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)	<p>A summary of reasons behind people's choices of whether they feel their 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.</p> <p>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</p>
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

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS PROVISION OF FORMAL PARKS	
National Standards	No National Standards
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.22 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to contribute to open space provision where it can shown to be necessary. The requirements will be related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, developers of new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p> <p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is, <i>"for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there"</i>.</p>

	The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.					
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 44% about right		North Shropshire – 53% about right		Shrewsbury – 59% about right	
	Ryedale – 60% about right		Wychavon – 70% about right		York – 60% about right (City), 46% about right (Local)	
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	Overall	3.4%	49.4%	11.6%	29.1%	6.5%
	Biddulph	4.5%	55.3%	9.5%	23.6%	7.0%
	Cheadle	2.7%	29.7%	11.7%	49.5%	6.3%
	Leek	1.6%	45.3%	15.6%	31.3%	6.3%
	Rural	3.3%	63.3%	13.3%	14.4%	5.6%
	<p>Respondents to the household survey were asked about the current level of provision and whether they think that the amount of formal parks fulfils local needs. In total, 52.8 % of residents stated that there are more than enough or about the right amount of formal parks in the district. A substantial amount (29%) also felt there was not enough provision of formal parks.</p> <p>The table above illustrates that across all but one of the analysis areas there is a commonly held view that the level of provision is about right. Within Cheadle, almost half of all residents are dissatisfied with the level of provision. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in rural areas – where 67% of residents feel that the overall level of provision is about right or more than enough. This level of satisfaction is perhaps surprising considering the lack of formal park provision in the rural areas. However, this view may be influenced by the amount of natural accessible open space and country parks and demonstrates that there may not be a direct correlation between the level of provision and the perception of quantity. Additionally, analysis of expectations relating to accessibility indicates that residents in the rural areas expect to travel to reach a formal park. Residents in the towns expect to have one in close proximity to their home.</p>					
Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Residents at drop in sessions indicated that there is overall satisfaction with the provision of formal parks in the district. However, a number of residents did identify the need for a more formal park in Biddulph, stating that a park with more formal facilities, such as picnic tables and recreational facilities would be of great value to the community. Brough Park in Leek was identified as important historical site of high value to the community that should be offered protection.</p> <p>10% of respondents to the IT Children’s survey would like a local park near to their home. The IT Young People survey (aged over 12) also revealed a desire for more parks, with 38% stating they didn’t think there was enough provision in their local area. Both children and young people emphasised the importance of the provision of parks.</p>					

	<p>Responses to the Parish Council surveys differed from other consultation findings. It is clear that there is a small amount of formal park provision in the district and it was felt that this was offset by the provision of country parks and an abundance of natural areas and countryside. However, the linkages between formal park provision and other local amenities such as play areas was acknowledged and it was felt some of the larger settlements (Biddulph) were lacking in this respect.</p>
PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.23 ha per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>The value of formal parks to local residents was reinforced throughout consultation, with many residents emphasising the wide range of facilities these open spaces offer. The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the provision of formal parks to be sufficient (49%). Despite this, other consultations identified areas of perceived deficiency.</p> <p>Findings from local consultation place a greater emphasis on improving the quality, rather than quantity of formal parks. In light of the emphasis on quality, and the areas of deficiency raised, the local standard has been set marginally above the existing level of provision, putting an emphasis on qualitative improvements and the protection of existing spaces as well as the creation of new sites where they are most needed. This standard will also enable the identification of any locational deficiencies and combined with the application of the accessibility standard, will enable the Council to ensure that residents have access to a formal park within the recommended distance of their homes.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS COUNTRY PARKS	
National Standards	No National Standards
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p> <p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is, <i>"for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there"</i>.</p>

	The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.																																									
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 44% about right		North Shropshire – 53% about right		Shrewsbury – 59% about right																																					
	Ryedale – 60% about right		Wychavon – 70% about right		York – 60% about right (City), 46% about right (Local)																																					
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	<p>In total, 67% of respondents to the household survey perceived the quantity of country parks to be about right or more than sufficient, higher than the percentage attributed to formal park provision. 28% of respondents stated that there are nearly enough/not enough country parks within the district. This suggests that the majority of residents are satisfied with the quantity of country parks. The most frequently received response was that the quantity of country parks is about right.</p> <p>When considering the differing level of satisfaction across the analysis areas, it can be seen from the table above that residents in Leek are the least satisfied with the quantity of provision. Within this locality, the percentage of residents perceiving provision to be insufficient is higher than those indicating that it is about right or more than sufficient (+1.6%). Analysis of the current distribution of country parks (eg Ladderedge Country Park) suggests that these findings do not correlate directly with the location of existing provision.</p>																																									
Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Residents at drop in sessions indicated that there is general satisfaction with the provision of country parks in the district. Country parks were perceived to be of high value to local residents, providing countryside recreation opportunities and tourism benefits. A number of comments regarding the quality of this typology were received. Ladderedge County Park (Green Flag Award) was identified as an example of good practice and a site that is well used by local residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>The findings from the IT Children Survey illustrates the popularity of larger parks in general, with 25% stating that they used parks more often than other types of open space. However, further analysis suggests that this is primarily focused around where the respondent lives. When asked about what they liked most about their most popular open space, ‘being close to home’ was the most common response (37%). While country parks may provide localised</p>																																									

	<p>opportunities for some children, in the majority of instances, they are not the focus for everyday participation.</p> <p>Respondents to the Parish Council surveys highlighted the value of the district's country parks and the majority felt that provision was sufficient. It was felt that site such as Ladderedge Country Park and Biddulph Grange were valuable to the local community and needed to be protected.</p> <p>Other consultations reinforced the importance of providing alternative opportunities to sports facilities for residents to participate in physical activity. The provision of country parks was perceived to be central to this.</p>
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	Standard to be set at current level of provision
PMP Justification	<p>Similar to the findings for formal parks, the general perception gathered from consultation is that the provision of country parks is sufficient. This perception is reflected across all analysis areas in the District and is reinforced by additional consultation findings.</p> <p>Throughout consultation there was a focus on the quality of country parks, with many quality issues raised by residents. A local standard set at the existing level of provision will protect the existing country parks as a valued local resource to the community and allow for qualitative enhancements to country parks across the District.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS PROVISION OF NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
National Standards	<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>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.75 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy N1 focuses on the protection of the natural environment and states the open countryside in the plan area and its cultural heritage will be strictly protected.</p> <p>Policy N8 protects the special landscape area from development that will have an adverse effect on the high quality landscape. Policy N9 further states that high standards of design for development in these areas will be required.</p> <p>Policies N13, N14 and N15 protects SSSIs, Nature Reserves and sites of biological or regional importance from development, unless there are reasons that outweigh the need to safeguard the value of these sites.</p> <p>Policy N16 states the Council will develop and implement site management for its own sites of ecological interest and will encourage other landowners.</p> <p>Policies N20 and N21 relate to woodland and state that any development should make adequate provision for the protection existing trees and the planting of new trees. Any development that will damage sites of ancient woodland will not be permitted.</p> <p>Policies R10 and R11 focus on access to the countryside and state the Council will encourage, provide and manage access to wider areas of countryside and help provide recreation sites to act as gateways to the countryside.</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (September 2007)</p> <p>A key future challenge for the District is continuing to protect, manage and enhance the countryside and areas/features of value within built and natural environment.</p>

A spatial objective of the strategy is to protect and improve the countryside and diversity of wildlife and habitats.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)

Chapter five of the SPG sets out public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.

Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:

- on site
- on other land in the vicinity owned by them
- by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space'

Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)

Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.

Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.

Corporate Plan 2007 -2011

A key outcome of the strategy is the protection of the environment.

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2020

The vision of the strategy is, *"by 2020 Staffordshire Moorlands will be recognised as a vital part of a regenerated North Staffordshire sub-region. All our communities will enjoy an excellent quality of life, including access to affordable housing and excellent public services...Our natural environment will be protected and our carbon emissions reduced".*

Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007

The vision of the strategy is, *"for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there".*

	The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.					
	Objectives of the strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">to conserve and enhance ecology, biodiversity and geological diversityto protect the countrysideto conserve, enhance and restore landscape features of the countryside.					
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 44% about right	North Shropshire – 47% about right		Shrewsbury – 53% about right		
	Ryedale – 54% about right	Wychavon – 46% about right		York – 44% about right		
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)		More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	Overall	10.6%	53.6%	11.9%	19.7%	4.1%
	Biddulph	14.5%	56.0%	9.0%	16.0%	4.5%
	Cheadle	7.0%	50.4%	12.2%	27.0%	3.5%
	Leek	4.8%	46.0%	20.6%	27.0%	1.6%
	Rural	10.8%	57.8%	12.0%	13.3%	6.0%
	64.2% of the population stated that the provision of natural and semi natural open space is sufficient (more than enough/about right). In contrast, 31.6% feel that provision does not meet local needs (nearly enough/not enough). The majority therefore view the quantity of provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands to be about right. Compared to other typologies in the district, natural and semi natural provision is the most frequently visited open space. One may argue that the overall levels of dissatisfaction appear to be high (31.6%) considering the nature of the district and the large amount of accessible countryside. Access issues at many natural and semi natural open spaces were identified and may be influencing perceptions relating to the quantity of provision.					
Looking across the analysis areas, it is evident that the levels of satisfaction are similar. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in Biddulph. In addition to the high levels of provision of natural and semi natural open space sites in this area, this is also reflective of the good access to nearby countryside that residents in these areas have.						
The lowest levels of satisfaction could be found within Leek where 48% of respondents think that the level of provision is insufficient. This is perhaps reflective of the nature of a larger urban settlement, where access to natural open space may be more restricted.						
Consultation Comments (quantity)	Drop in session attendees highlighted the importance of natural and semi natural open space in the district. Residents perceived there to be an abundance of this type of open space and identified it as an important part of Staffordshire					

	<p>Moorlands, providing good access to the countryside and wildlife. Newpool, a natural habitat area, was highlighted as a site in need of protection. The importance of protecting natural and semi natural open space was reinforced throughout all consultations. At the older resident's discussion session the value of natural and semi natural open space was also emphasised, with attendees stating the need to protect this type of open space from development.</p> <p>In addition to the satisfaction with the level of green space within the district, preserving and enhancing the quality of this open space was deemed to be more important than further provision. This reinforces the feeling that quality may be a greater concern and priority than the level of provision.</p> <p>The general response to the Parish Council questionnaires was that the provision of natural areas in the district is about right with many stressing the rural nature of the district and the role of the natural countryside. While the abundance of natural open space was recognised, access issues were again raised. Brown Edge Parish Council expressed concerns over the amount of accessible open space around the settlement boundary and restricted public footpaths.</p> <p>19% of respondents to the IT Children Survey identified wooded areas as their most frequently visited open space. This is reflective of the large amount of natural and semi natural provision in the district.</p>
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.75 ha per 1000 population – equivalent to the existing provision
PMP Justification	<p>The overall perception established through local consultation was that the provision of natural and semi natural open space in Staffordshire Moorlands is sufficient. A number of residents at the drop in sessions further emphasised the value of this typology, identifying natural and semi natural space as a key contributor to the character of the District, specifically highlighting the locality of the Peak District as an excellent resource for informal recreation and the importance of the abundance of countryside was also recognised.</p> <p>Both quantitative and qualitative issues were raised during local consultation, however the key theme established by residents was the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development. The local standard has therefore been set at the existing level of provision. This will enable a focus on the protection and enhancement of sites across Staffordshire Moorlands. In particular the Council should concentrate on the improvement of footpaths and access to sites, as this was one of the main issues raised by residents. Accessibility to sites will be a key area for improvement and a challenging accessibility standard has been set.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS PROVISION FOR AMENITY GREEN SPACE	
National Standards	The Six acre standard includes some elements of amenity green space.
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.30 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight of the local plan relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy N3 permits development in a number of villages currently containing a large amount of the Green Belt. However, development will only be allowed if it does not cause loss to local amenity space.</p> <p>Policy R2 states that in areas deficient in open space, new residential developments will be required to make provision for open space in relation to the standards within Policy R1.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>

	Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007 The vision of the strategy is, “for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”. The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.					
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 32% not enough		North Shropshire – 39% about right		Shrewsbury – 39% about right	
	Ryedale – 40% not enough		Wychavon – 39% about right		York – 39% about right	
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)		More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	Overall	2.0%	41.7%	14.6%	28.7%	13.0%
	Biddulph	2.1%	37.8%	14.0%	29.0%	17.1%
	Cheadle	0.9%	52.2%	13.3%	26.5%	7.1%
	Leek	3.2%	38.1%	17.5%	33.3%	7.9%
	Rural	2.4%	39.3%	15.5%	27.4%	15.5%
	Based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space in the district. In total, 44% of the population feel that provision is sufficient (stating that there is more than enough/about right amount of amenity green space areas within the District) and 43.3% have the opposite view – indicating that there is nearly enough/not enough.					
	The opinions in all analysis areas are similar to the overall pattern. The highest level of dissatisfaction can be seen in Leek, where 33.3% feel that there are not enough amenity spaces and a further 17.5% suggest that there is only nearly enough.					
While the opinions of residents are consistent across all three out of the four analysis areas, evaluation of the audit indicates that provision per 1000 of the population is lower in Leek and the rural area than in the other areas of the District.						
Consultation Comments (quantity)	Few comments regarding the quantity of amenity green space were received at drop in sessions. Due to the rural nature of the district, there was deemed to be less of a need for formal green space generally within towns or villages. However, residents did recognise the community interaction benefits amenity green space can provide and the importance of this typology in areas deficient in open space. The village green within Ipstones was highlighted as a potentially valuable amenity space but is currently inaccessible and overgrown. In many instances the functions of parks and amenity spaces were perceived to overlap.					
	The findings of the IT Children survey illustrate the value of these spaces – which are often the most localised form of					

	<p>recreational open space available to residents. Amenity green spaces were popular with younger children (up to 11 years old) – potentially due to travel limitations which restrict them to localised open spaces. 26% of respondents to the children's survey identified amenity grass areas as their most visited / used type of open space. 52% of respondents also felt that there was a lot of provision near to their home.</p> <p>The value of these spaces was less so for respondents to the IT Young People survey with only 5% stating they use informal grass areas near to their home. However, 36% stated that there were enough grass areas near to their home, suggesting the quantity of provision may be sufficient.</p> <p>Similar to the findings from the household survey, the Parish Council questionnaire suggests a split in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space. Areas well served include the main towns of Cheadle, Leek and Biddulph. Ipstones and Rushton Parish Councils both commented on the poor amount of amenity green space within their respective settlements.</p>
PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.30 ha per 1000 population – equivalent to the existing provision
PMP Justification	<p>Local consultation findings highlight a split in opinion regarding the current provision of amenity green space, with 44% of residents indicating provision is insufficient and 43% stating provision is sufficient. The value of amenity green spaces as informal open spaces offering community interaction was widely recognised by drop in session attendees. Respondents to the children and young people's survey also highlighted amenity green space as a popular open space due to the localised nature of this typology.</p> <p>In light of the value of amenity green space to local residents and the split in opinion with regards to the provision of amenity green space, it is recommended the standard is set at the existing level of provision. Setting the standard at this level will enable the Council to identify priorities for new provision and also focus on enhancing the quality of existing sites within the District. Provision of amenity spaces should be considered in the context of parks, where a slight increase in provision is required to meet the recommended standard. It is important that opportunities are taken to increase the function of amenity space sites.</p>

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PROVISION OF PLAY AREAS 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 may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p>
	<p>1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 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>0.06 ha per 1000 population</p>
<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p>

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Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012

The vision of the strategy is, *“working through the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Partnership to ensure all children in the District have access to high quality, inclusive play opportunities”*.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- provide a range of high quality informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District’s children and young people
- provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills
- ensure play opportunities meet demand, encourage participation and enable children to engage in play and recreational activities
- ensure provision is effectively planned and co-ordinated.

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- provide evidence of the need for play opportunities and facilities identifying shortfalls and surpluses in provision to enable an informed approach in the future
- analyse future provision and establish future policy of children's play provision within the District
- help identify a portfolio of projects to be submitted for funding to the BIG Lottery Children’s Play Programme.

The play strategy sets some specific standards for the appropriate provision of play across Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 facility for children per 1000 residents• 1 facility for youths per 3000 residents• Facilities (of different scales) should be provided in rural settlements where the population exceeds 500. A full range of provision for all age groups is required where the population of settlements exceeds 3000. <p>These standards represent an increase on existing provision.</p>																																									
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 46% not enough		North Shropshire – 36% not enough		Shrewsbury – 35% about right																																					
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	<p>Responses from the household survey suggest that there is dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision for children. 60.6% of the population believe that there is nearly enough/not enough, as opposed to 30.3% who believe there is more than enough/about the right provision.</p>																																									
<p>Looking across the analysis areas, the lowest level of satisfaction can be found in Cheadle where 65% stated that the level of provision is nearly enough/not enough and only 27% felt the level of provision is more than enough/about right.</p>																																										
<p>Analysis of the distribution of facilities indicates that like other types of open space, facilities are relatively unevenly distributed across the district. Reinforcing public perception, the audit indicates that the highest level of provision can be found in the Rural analysis area. Despite this, many settlements do not contain a play facility.</p>																																										
<p>Residents indicated however through consultation that they are willing to travel further to reach a high quality play area. This was reinforced through consultation for the play strategy. It is therefore important to ensure an appropriate balance between quantity and quality. The standards set out in the Play Strategy also reflect the high demand for facilities, but emphasise the importance of the location of facilities.</p>																																										
Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>There was mixed response with the provision of children’s play areas in the District by residents at drop in sessions. Provision in Biddulph Moor was regarded as being good and the new play area at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre was regularly commended and highlighted as being well used. While provision in some areas was perceived to be good, localised deficiencies were highlighted and there were perceived to be some settlements (Rushton, Quarnford) where there are no formal facilities for children. In Rushton, there have been unsuccessful attempts for over two years to get</p>																																									

	<p>a new play area in the local area.</p> <p>A lack of provision for children was a key theme raised by attendees at the older resident's discussion session. This was particularly in reference to provision in the urban areas of the District, with residents stating there is a good provision of children's play areas within the rural settlements of Staffordshire Moorlands. This is supported by actual quantity figures which indicate the highest level of provision is located in the rural settlements. Specifically in relation to existing provision, residents also identified the need for more challenging and imaginative equipment for children, a further theme of the play strategy.</p> <p>Children responding to the IT survey were asked to rate whether there were enough play areas close to their home. 35% felt that there was enough provision, 29% acknowledged there were some facilities but they would like more, and 22% stated there were no play areas in their local area. When asked what would make things better, 31% identified more play equipment.</p> <p>Reiterating the comments and findings from the household survey and drop in sessions, responses to the Parish Council questionnaire suggest a desire for more children's play areas in some of the settlements (Brown Edge, Oakamoor). The majority of comments, however, related to the quality of facilities and their function.</p>
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	<p>0.08 ha per 1000 population – this represents a significant increase on existing provision. 1 facility in rural settlements exceeding 500 residents.</p>
PMP Justification	<p>The general consensus established throughout consultation was a lack of provision of children's play areas. Furthermore residents at drop in sessions, older resident's discussion sessions and respondents to the IT children's survey identified the need for increased provision for children in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>In light of the conclusive perception of insufficient provision for children in the District, it is recommended the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. This would ensure that opportunities to provide new play areas are taken and would also ensure that where appropriate, new developments include suitable provision for children. This is particularly important considering 44% of residents feel the quality of play areas is poor and therefore there should also be a focus on quality.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 0.08 ha per 1000 is approximately equivalent to that set in the Play Strategy. This is particularly challenging. In light of issues raised in rural settlements regards a lack of playing facilities, a challenging standard has also been set.</p> <p>The main complaint identified during consultation was a lack of interesting and exciting facilities. Therefore, a key consideration for the Council should be the design of any new provision, ensuring that it is fit for purpose. One of the aims of the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Strategy is that play opportunities should provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills, and the Council should strive to achieve this.</p> <p>Although setting the standard above the existing level of provision creates a focus on increasing provision in the</p>

	<p>District all play areas should achieve the recommended quality standard. This will require qualitative improvements to a number of sites in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>While setting a quantity standard above the existing level of provision is reflective of local expectations for a greater quantity of provision of play areas, it is the application of the accessibility standard that should determine the value of existing sites and identify areas where new provision is required. Setting a quantity standard above the existing level alongside a challenging accessibility standard should ensure that provision is equitably distributed.</p>
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**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

National Standards	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <p>(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>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.01 ha per 1000 population (towns)
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can be shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p>

Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.

Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012

The vision of the strategy is, *“working through the Staffordshire Moorlands Play Partnership to ensure all children in the District have access to high quality, inclusive play opportunities”*.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- provide a range of high quality informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District’s children and young people
- provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills
- ensure play opportunities meet demand, encourage participation and enable children to engage in play and recreational activities
- ensure provision is effectively planned and co-ordinated.

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- provide evidence of the need for play opportunities and facilities identifying shortfalls and surpluses in provision to enable an informed approach in the future
- analyse future provision and establish future policy of children's play provision within the District
- help identify a portfolio of projects to be submitted for funding to the BIG Lottery Children’s Play Programme.

The play strategy sets some specific standards for the appropriate provision of play across Staffordshire Moorlands, specifically:

- 1 facility for children per 1000 residents
- 1 facility for youths per 3000 residents
- Facilities (of different scales) should be provided in rural settlements where the population exceeds 500. A full range of provision for all age groups is required where the population of settlements exceeds 3000.

These standards represent an increase on existing provision.

BENCHMARKING	Telford – 65% not enough		North Shropshire – 65% not enough		Shrewsbury – 57% not enough	
	Ryedale – 51% not enough		Wychavon – 62% not enough		York – 59% not enough	
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)		More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	Overall	2.4%	10.1%	9.9%	65.5%	12.1%
	Biddulph	3.0%	5.6%	5.6%	76.3%	9.6%
	Cheadle	0.9%	14.5%	13.6%	52.7%	18.2%
	Leek	0.0%	14.1%	18.8%	64.1%	3.1%
	Rural	4.8%	12.0%	8.4%	57.8%	16.9%
	<p>Across Staffordshire Moorlands, the majority of residents (75.4%) stated that there is not enough provision for young people. In contrast, only 12.5% think that there is either more than enough provision or that the level is about right.</p> <p>When considering the level of satisfaction across the analysis areas, the findings are relatively consistent. Residents of Biddulph expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with 76.3% of residents suggesting there were not enough facilities for young people. The perception of a lack of provision for young people is the most conclusive of all open space typologies.</p> <p>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 a concentration of facilities in the main settlements (Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle. There are few facilities in the rural settlements.</p>					
Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>A lack of provision for young people was a key theme throughout drop in sessions. Many residents commented that there are limited facilities for young people, particularly for those aged 13 and over. This lack of provision was perceived to be a cause of young people congregating at other open spaces, often creating safety concerns for users. A lack of provision for young people in Cheadle was highlighted as an issue.</p> <p>Examples of good practice include the skate park in Biddulph, which is well used and appreciated. However, while this type of facility was welcomed, it was acknowledged that there needed to be more diversionary activities that catered for the wider population. It was felt that not all young people want to use facilities such as skate parks or MUGA's. The play strategy also raised the issue of the need for increased diversity in the type of facilities provided.</p> <p>Attendees at the older resident's discussion session further emphasised the insufficient provision of young people's facilities. Although it was acknowledged there was a need for increased provision, residents stated the need for careful planning of the location of facilities.</p> <p>The IT Young People survey revealed a mixed response to the provision of facilities for young people. 31% stated that there were facilities but some more were needed. 24% also stated that there are no facilities at all in their local area. Moreover, when asked what facilities they would like in their local area, 12% stated a teenage shelter and 10% wanted</p>					

	<p>a skate park – these were the second and third most popular responses respectively. 9% of respondents to the IT Children's survey would like a skate or BMX park near to their home.</p> <p>Respondents to the Parish Council surveys also reiterated that there was a lack of facilities for young people in the district. It was noted in the majority of towns (eg Brown Edge) there are no facilities of this type with current provision limited to informal playing fields or kick about areas. The lack of formal provision is reinforced by the audit with facilities concentrated in the main towns (Leek, Biddulph).</p>
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	<p>0.07ha per 1000 population (towns)</p> <p>Provision of a facility in settlements with a population of greater than 3000</p>
PMP Justification	<p>The insufficient provision of young people's facilities was a key theme raised throughout consultation. The dissatisfaction with the provision of this typology was the most conclusive of all typologies. The lack of provision and lack of appropriate provision was acknowledged to have a negative effect on other typologies in the District, for example formal parks.</p> <p>The local standard has been set above the existing level of provision to address the need for the increased provision of young people's facilities. Combined with the accessibility standard, this will allow the identification of any locational deficiencies in the District and establish priorities for increased provision.</p> <p>Although setting the standard at this level will prioritise the provision of new facilities, the Council should be aware of the requirement to enhance the quality of facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands. This is particularly important, considering the quality of young people's facilities was considered to be poor by respondents to the household survey. The type of facility provided was perceived to be particularly important in consultations undertaken as part of both this study and the play strategy.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS	
PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	

National Standards	FIT - 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
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<p>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population made up of: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Policy N2 protects the Green Belt from development identifying that, except in special circumstances, the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development unless for the purposes of essential facilities for outdoor sports and outdoor recreation, provided that the scale of the development is appropriate to the scale of the Green Belt and cemeteries and other uses of land that preserve the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Policy R4 protects school playing fields from development, unless suitable alternative provision is provided.</p> <p>Policy R7 encourages recreational development in the countryside providing adequate conditions are met. Developments should be accessible by public transport and cycling.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG details public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>
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Sports Strategy 2003 – 2007

Strategic priorities of the strategy include:

- to increase opportunities for target groups
- to concentrate development on priority and focus sports
- to develop opportunities for clubs, coaches and volunteers
- to develop opportunities for progression in sport by creating pathways.

Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007

The vision of the strategy is, *“for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”*.

The aim of the strategy is, *“to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”*.

Playing Pitch Assessment Staffordshire Moorlands - 2009

The key issues arising include::

- drainage at pitches and the provision of ancillary accommodation are particular priorities with regards the quality of pitches
- there is an theoretical oversupply of adult football pitches (20.4) on the peak day across the District. The majority of this oversupply is found in the Rural area (13.7 pitches)
- there is an undersupply of junior pitches (-23.5) on the peak day (Sunday). However, in practice the adult pitch stock is currently being used by a number junior teams
- there is a theoretical oversupply of mini soccer pitches (8.0) on the peak day (Sunday). This indicates that mini soccer teams are likely to be using adult / junior pitches
- there is a theoretical shortfall of cricket pitches (-14.8) on the peak day (Saturday)
- there is an theoretical oversupply (4.5) of adult rugby union pitches on the peak day (Saturday)
- there is a theoretical undersupply (-4.5) of junior rugby pitches on the peak day, which is Sunday mornings. However, there is also a theoretical surplus of adult pitches which is equivalent to the shortfall of junior pitches and adult pitches are used to accommodate junior matches

Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	2.22 ha per 1000 population		
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	Grass Pitches: 7.2% more than enough 46.7% about right 23% not enough 23.2% no opinion	Synthetic Turf Pitches: 3.4 % more than enough 18.5% about right 33.3% not enough 44.7% no opinion	Tennis Courts: 1.7% more than enough 27.9% about right 40% not enough 30.3% no opinion
	Bowling Greens: 2.5% more than enough 34.4% about right 21.8% not enough 41.3% no opinion	Golf Courses: 7.2% more than enough 27.4% about right 17.8% not enough 47.5% no opinion	
Consultation Comments (quantity)	While it is important to consider the views of local residents on the provision of outdoor sports facilities, it is also essential to take into account the views of specific user groups in light of the specialist nature of these facilities. The key messages arising from the analysis of the household survey for each type of open space are set out below:		
	Grass Pitches: Individual analysis areas indicate the provision of grass pitches to be about right. The greatest dissatisfaction can be found in Biddulph, where 28.9% of residents feel provision is insufficient.	Synthetic Turf Pitches: Results from the individual analysis areas support the perception that there is not enough provision. However, in the rural area, more residents feel provision is about right/more than enough (30.8%) than they feel provision is insufficient (27.9%). A lack of interest in this facility type is highlighted; with over 40% of respondents having no opinion regarding the provision of synthetic turf pitches in three out of the four analysis areas.	Tennis Courts: The majority of residents across each individual analysis area indicate there is not enough provision of tennis courts. However, in Leek the majority of respondents (45.8%) feel provision is about right.

	<p>Bowling Greens:</p> <p>Within the analysis areas there is split opinion regarding the provision of bowling greens, with two of the analysis areas stating provision is about right and the other two areas indicating mixed opinions. The highest level of satisfaction is located in Leek, where 53.5% of residents state provision is about right. A high proportion of respondents had no opinion on the provision of bowling greens.</p>	<p>Golf Courses:</p> <p>There was a mixed response in each analysis area with regards the level of provision. Residents in Areas Biddulph and the Rural area felt that the provision of golf courses is about right. In contrast, over 30% of residents in Areas Cheadle and Leek felt the level of provision was not enough. Again, a high proportion of respondents did not have an opinion, reflecting the demand led nature of this typology.</p>	
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	<p>Respondents to the sports club survey highlighted that demand is outstripping supply in terms of football pitches and the number of teams in the district. Respondents also expressed a concern over a lack of cricket pitches at local schools with many school teams having to use local clubs for matches. There was satisfaction with the provision of outdoor bowling greens in the district. As well as quantitative issues, some quality issues were raised with regards outdoor sports pitches, particularly with regards drainage and ancillary accommodation.</p> <p>The perceived shortfall of some outdoor sports facilities was emphasised by residents at drop in sessions, who also indicated that there was a lack of appropriate facilities, particularly tennis courts.</p> <p>Concern was also raised with the removal of the bowling green in Biddulph. This facility was seen as important for the older generation and regarded as highly valuable due to a lack of provision for this age group.</p> <p>Residents in Biddulph were particularly concerned with the lack of outdoor sports facilities in the town. It was felt that a multi sport community facility would encourage sports participation and provide the younger population with something to do. Specifically, some residents felt there was a need for more athletics facilities in the district. The nearest facility for many in the district is located at Northwood Stadium in Stoke. The demand for athletics facilities is reinforced by the IT Young People Survey. 28% of respondents stated athletics as the sport they participate in most, third behind football and swimming.</p> <p>Residents at the older resident's discussion session identified the community use of school facilities, particularly in the rural settlements as vital. It was stated that although there is already good access to a number of facilities, there is still room for improvement. This view was echoed at the Parish Councils discussion session, where use of school sites was perceived to be essential if the overall provision of outdoor sports facilities was to be fit for purpose. In response to the Parish Council questionnaire, with the exception of the larger settlements (Leek and Cheadle), the general consensus is that there are some deficiencies in the provision of outdoor sports facilities. Forsbrook Parish Council stated that some of their outdoor sports facilities are school based and not open to the public, which has repercussions on the amount of publicly accessible provision in the area. A lack of access to school sites was</p> <p>47% of respondents to the IT Children Survey highlighted 'playing sport' as one of the two things they enjoy doing most. 39% of children also stated that they didn't think there was enough outdoor sports provision near to their home. When asked what new provision they would have near their home, 15% stated a sports pitch and 13% would prefer tennis courts.</p> <p>The IT Young People Survey focused on those children aged 12-18. 33% of respondents stated 'playing sport outdoors' as one of the two activities they most enjoy doing. Football was the most popular sports among this age group. This was followed by swimming and athletics. In terms of provision, 42% of young people did not feel there were enough outdoor sports facilities in the local area which reinforces the views of the children's survey and other local consultations.</p>
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PMP Recommendation (per 1000 population)	2.27 ha per 1000 population (of which a minimum of 1ha per 1000 is dedicated to community sports pitch provision. A standard of 1 tennis court per 2983 people and 1 bowling green per 9900 people should be used as a guideline standard.)
PMP Justification	<p>Due to the broad nature of the sports facilities included within this typology, it is recommended that this standard is used for planning need only. Detailed studies (such as a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)) should be used to ascertain the detailed provision required for each type of facility. The recommended standard takes into account the findings of the playing pitch strategy as well as the expressed demand during consultations. The provision of effective outdoor sports facilities, as long as the provision of access to high quality recreational opportunities will be an essential component of the Physical Activity Strategy.</p> <p>Overall there is general dissatisfaction with the current level of provision, particularly with more formal facilities such as tennis courts. Findings from the PPS further identify the need for increased provision and the need for improvements to a large quantity of existing playing pitches in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>In light of the above evidence, it is recommended that the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. Setting the standard above the existing level of provision will enable the Council to identify any areas deficient in the provision of outdoor sports facilities and combined with the application of the accessibility standard, enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as the provision of new facilities to meet increased demand.</p> <p>The playing pitch strategy indicates that 1ha of community sports provision is required to meet demand. As well as ensuring that the quantity of provision is sufficient to meet needs, the playing pitch strategy also encourages the delivery of increased capacity through improvements to the quality of existing facilities as well as through new provision. Enhancing access to existing sites (for example school sites) will be an important way of increasing provision for community use.</p> <p>Setting a standard above the existing level of provision will also facilitate the development of multi sport sites in the large towns, which can provide a focal point for community activity. Increases in the quantity and capacity of provision will ensure that increases in participation levels can be accommodated.</p>

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL- SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

National Standards	<p>The Sport England Facility Calculator identifies the following requirements for the provision of swimming pools and halls across Staffordshire Moorlands:</p> <p>Swimming Pools: Sports Halls:</p> <p>Active Places Power uses different parameters and therefore suggests that the following provision is appropriate:</p> <p>Swimming Pools: Sports Halls:</p> <p>The National Facility Calculator also suggests that provision of XXX indoor bowls rinks is appropriate.</p>		
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)			
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>No existing local standards.</p> <p>Like the provision of outdoor sports facilities, it is important to consider the views of specific users of indoor leisure facilities as well as the general public as a result of the specific nature of these facilities.</p> <p>Overall it can be seen that there is an overall perception from residents that the quantity of provision is about right. While there is limited provision in the rural areas, there was an acknowledgement from these residents that they would expect to travel into the towns to reach the central indoor facilities.</p>		
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>Swimming Pools: 4.1% More than enough 58.5% About right 10.3% Nearly enough 17.3% Not enough 9.8% No opinion</p>	<p>Sports Halls: 3.8% More than enough 50.1% About right 12.3% Nearly enough 14.3% Not enough 19.5% No opinion</p>	<p>Squash Courts: 3.9% More than enough 41.8% About right 9.4% Nearly enough 10.2% Not enough 34.7% No opinion</p>
	<p>Gymnasiums: 6.3% More than enough 49.9% About right 9.5% Nearly enough 12.3% Not enough 22.1% No opinion</p>		

<p>Consultation Comments (Quantity)</p>	<p>A lack of comments regarding the quantity of indoor sports facilities were received at drop in sessions. However, residents did make a number of comments relating to the quality of indoor sports facilities. Overall the quantity of facilities was perceived to be sufficient, while the quality of facilities was considered to be tired and in need of improvement.</p> <p>Some respondents to the sports club survey expressed a desire for more indoor bowls in the district with many having to travel into Derbyshire or Nottinghamshire to access adequate facilities. It was also highlighted by respondents to the sports club survey that more investment was needed in tennis court provision, both in terms of quantity and quality.</p> <p>A large proportion (35%) of respondents to the IT Children's survey felt there were some but could be more indoor sports facilities in their local area. 27% believed there wasn't enough. When asked what new provision they would have near their home, 16% wanted a swimming pool.</p> <p>There was a mixed response to the IT Young People survey with regards the provision of Indoor sports facilities. 32% of respondents felt that the provision was adequate and 36% suggesting enough facilities in their local area. This may be reflective of localised deficiencies of this type of provision. Furthermore, when asked if they could have one new open space, sport or recreation facility in their local area, the most popular response (14%) was a swimming pool.</p>
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	Swimming Pools: Results from the individual analysis areas support the perception that there is about the right amount of swimming pool provision in the district. The greatest satisfaction can be found in Cheadle where 79.6% of residents feel there is about the right amount/more than enough swimming pools.	Sports Halls: The individual analysis areas portray similar results to the overall findings, with respondents feeling there about the right amount of indoor sports facilities. Again, the greatest satisfaction was shown in Cheadle, where 64.6% of residents felt provision was sufficient.	Squash Courts: A high proportion of residents had no opinion on the provision of squash courts. This may be reflective of the demand led nature of this facility. Of those residents who did respond, all individual analysis areas support the perception that there is about the right amount of facilities in the district.

	<p>Gymnasiums / Health and Fitness Suites:</p> <p>The individual analysis areas portray similar results to the overall findings, with respondents feeling there about the right amount of gymnasiums in the district. Residents in Cheadle showed the greatest satisfaction with provision, with 65.3% of respondents feeling provision was sufficient.</p>		
PMP Justification	<p>Overall, consultation suggests that the standards should be set at the existing level of provision and that the focus should be on continuing to improve the quality of facilities available.</p> <p>The provision of both sports halls and swimming pools falls within / above the recommended range of provision. While there are some programming issues, it would appear that these facilities are able to accommodate more residents.</p>		

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS	
National Standards	<p>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</p> <p>1970 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population</p>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.088 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight of the strategy relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population containing: 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided either in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p> <p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p>

	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “for parks, green spaces and countryside in Staffordshire Moorlands to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors and be valued for the cultural and natural qualities found there”.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p>																																									
BENCHMARKING	Telford – 35% not enough	North Shropshire – 31% not enough		Shrewsbury – 28% about right																																						
	Ryedale – 28% about right	Wychavon – 31% about right		York – 36% about right																																						
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<table><tr><td></td><td>More than Enough</td><td>About Right</td><td>Nearly Enough</td><td>Not Enough</td><td>No Opinion</td></tr><tr><td>Overall</td><td>2.4%</td><td>17.5%</td><td>8.2%</td><td>35.5%</td><td>36.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Biddulph</td><td>2.0%</td><td>15.7%</td><td>7.6%</td><td>38.1%</td><td>36.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Cheadle</td><td>0.0%</td><td>15.7%</td><td>10.2%</td><td>37.0%</td><td>37.0%</td></tr><tr><td>Leek</td><td>0.0%</td><td>10.9%</td><td>4.7%</td><td>46.9%</td><td>37.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Rural</td><td>8.5%</td><td>29.3%</td><td>9.8%</td><td>18.3%</td><td>34.1%</td></tr></table>							More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	Overall	2.4%	17.5%	8.2%	35.5%	36.4%	Biddulph	2.0%	15.7%	7.6%	38.1%	36.5%	Cheadle	0.0%	15.7%	10.2%	37.0%	37.0%	Leek	0.0%	10.9%	4.7%	46.9%	37.5%	Rural	8.5%	29.3%	9.8%	18.3%	34.1%
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	Rural	8.5%	29.3%	9.8%	18.3%	34.1%																																				
<p>In total, 43.7% of the population felt that the provision of allotments in the district was insufficient (nearly enough / not enough). The most common response was not enough.</p> <p>Over 50% of residents in Leek felt that there were insufficient allotments. In contrast, residents in the rural areas demonstrated the greatest satisfaction. It is acknowledged that despite the general consensus that there are not enough allotments, a large proportion (over 30%) of respondents did not have an opinion. This may be reflective of the low user levels for this demand-led typology.</p>																																										
<p>Residents were generally satisfied with the level of provision of allotments in the district. Some residents did, however, suggest that there were localised deficiencies in allotment provision and more should be done to protect current provision and improve access. Several attendees were also keen to stress the importance of allotments, stating they should be protected from development. Waiting lists at some allotment sites were noted (Biddulph and Leek). Indeed there are waiting lists at all sites in Leek indicating that there is unmet demand.</p> <p>The older resident's discussion session highlighted the need for the increased provision of allotments. Residents stated that demand for allotments had increased and identified there are a number of waiting lists at allotment sites across the District. Allotments are a popular alternative means of physical activity, particularly for older residents.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussion session revealed that there is demand for more local amenities such as allotments in the rural settlements. It was felt that an increase in demand for allotments will require an investment in current provision.</p>																																										
Consultation Comments (quantity)																																										
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000	0.097 ha per 1000 population																																									

population)	Provision considered in rural settlements above a certain population.
PMP Justification	<p>A standard set above the existing level of provision has been set to address the demand for the increased provision of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands. The clear perception established through all consultations was that the existing provision of allotments is insufficient. This was also reflected by the presence of waiting lists at many of the key sites across the district, indicating that demand is unmet.</p> <p>Setting the quantity standard above the current level of provision will allow the Council to concentrate on the new provision of allotments to reflect existing demand. The recommended quantity standard would require a 10% increase on existing provision and would generate 50 additional full size plots.</p>

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS
PROVISION FOR CIVIC SPACES**

National Standards	None.
Existing local and strategic context	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan</p> <p>Chapter eight relates to open space. Policy R1 sets out the minimum requirements of public open space stating there should be 3.2 ha per 1000 population 1.6 ha of playing fields, 0.6 ha of children's play areas, 0.4 ha of major open space and 0.6 ha of incidental open space.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Public Open Space (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter five of the SPG identifies public open space policies and states that where the Council's Open Spaces Survey and minimum standards indicate a shortage of open space, developments of 20 or more housing units will be expected to make open space provision where it can shown to be necessary and related to the scale and requirements of the development.</p> <p>Residential developments may make provision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on site • on other land in the vicinity owned by them • by making payments to the Council's 'Central Fund for Open space' <p>Open space contributions will normally be implemented under S106 agreements.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Developer/Landowners Contributions (November 2004)</p> <p>Chapter six of the document relates to public open space and states that where there is a proven deficiency, new residential developments of 20 dwellings or more will be expected to make provision for public open space within the development to meet the standards contained in Policy R1 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any contribution will be equal to the need generated by the particular development. If open space cannot be provided within the development it will need to be provided in the locality. If a site is not available in the locality a contribution to future provision or the enhancement of existing open space will be required.</p>

Consultation (btoo much / about right / not enough)		More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	Overall	4.2%	45.6%	12.0%	21.3%	16.9%
	Biddulph	5.2%	52.6%	7.7%	17.0%	17.5%
	Cheadle	2.8%	30.6%	16.7%	30.6%	19.4%
	Leek	1.6%	42.9%	11.1%	31.7%	12.7%
	Rural	5.9%	50.6%	16.5%	11.8%	15.3%
	<p>In total 49.8% of respondents feel that there are more than enough/about right civic spaces and 33.3% feel provision is nearly enough/not enough. This indicates more residents are satisfied with the provision of civic spaces in the district than are not.</p> <p>Residents in Biddulph portray the highest level of satisfaction, with 58.1% of residents deeming the provision of civic spaces to be more than enough/about right. The lowest level of satisfaction can be found in Cheadle, where 47.3% of residents stated provision was insufficient (nearly / not enough).</p>					
PMP Recommendation	<p>As a result of the nature of civic spaces, PPG17 recommends that it is inappropriate to set local quantity standards. It is therefore suggested that these spaces are considered in terms of their overall quality and distribution across the District.</p>					

Setting Quality Standards / Vision – Staffordshire Moorlands District 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

Setting the Local Quality Standards – Explanation and Justification of the recommended approach

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

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

These lists therefore set out the quality vision (as required by PPG17) which should be applied to all new sites and should inform the enhancement of existing sites.

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

Essential	Desirable
Clean and litter free	Toilets
Provision of seats	A range of equipment
Provision of bins	An information board
Even footpaths	

In order to relate the recommended quality vision to the site assessments, those priorities derived from consultation have been used to inform the percentage scores achieved during site assessments. For each type of open space, those elements that have emerged as being of particular priority to local residents during consultation are given a greater weighting in the site assessments. This weighting ensures that those areas considered to be of higher relative importance have a greater influence on the overall score achieved.

The key aspirations of local residents with regards the quality of open spaces have therefore been categorised into the four overarching categories considered within the site assessments, specifically:

- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Vegetation
- Ancillary accommodation
- Security and safety.

These classifications are set out below:

Cleanliness and maintenance	Vegetation	Ancillary accommodation	Security and safety
Well kept grass	Flowers/Trees	Changing facilities	Welcoming staff
Clean and litter free	Level surface	Parking facilities	Good access
Play equipment	Nature features	Footpaths	On site security
Well laid out		Toilets	

Range of facilities		Seating	
Equipment maintenance		Dog bins	
		Litter bins	
		Information boards	

For each typology, the number of responses received indicating that each of the above features is considered in addition to other comments made during consultations and national standards have been used to determine the relative importance of each of the four key areas.

Given that for each typology, respondents were able to select as many key features as they felt appropriate, the proportion of respondents prioritising each area is determined by calculating the total number of responses that could have been received and measuring this against the number of responses that were received.

The following example sets out the calculations using the above methodology, on the assumption that there were 100 respondents to the survey (who could all have ticked every box if they felt this was appropriate).

Site assessment classification	Number of features contributing to this area	Total Number of Possible Responses
Cleanliness and maintenance	6	600
Vegetation	3	300
Ancillary accommodation	8	800
Security and safety	3	300

The response rate for each of the four key areas is therefore derived by calculating the questions ticked as a percentage of the total number of responses that could have been received. A fictitious example, building on the previous example, is set out below:

Site assessment classification	Number of features contributing to this area	Total Number of Possible Responses	Responses Received	Percentage
Cleanliness and maintenance	6	600	400	66%
Vegetation	3	300	25	8%
Ancillary accommodation	8	800	400	50%
Security and safety	3	300	280	93%

The percentage response rates above (informed by other consultations) can then be used to determine the relative importance of each component of quality. Using the example above, it can be seen that for this typology, security and safety are most important, cleanliness and maintenance is second and ancillary accommodation and vegetation are less important.

This relative importance will be reflected in the overall score of the site assessment through a weighting system whereby:

The score for the most valued element will be multiplied by 4

The score for the second most valued aspect will be multiplied by three

The score for the third most valued aspect will be multiplied by two
The score for the fourth element will be multiplied by one.

For each typology, all sites can therefore be measured against each other in order to determine which sites best meet public need.

This approach means that in line with PPG17, both the quality vision and the site assessment scores are directly correlated with the findings of the local consultation. The justification behind all of these standards is that they are directly reflective of local needs and the degree to which sites achieve the required standard can be measured using the findings of the site assessments.

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION FORMAL PARKS			
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	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained • principles of sustainability are applied • natural and cultural heritage is conserved • local communities are informed and involved • facilities are properly marketed and publicised. 		
Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction	Telford – 36% good	North Shropshire – 53 % average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 86% good
	Ryedale – 58% good	Wychavon - 67% good	York – 62% good (parks)
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space – 9%)	<p>The household survey reveals that the highest rated aspirations with regards to formal parks in Staffordshire Moorlands are: clean/litter free (70%), toilets (48%), flowers and trees (40%) and well kept grass (38%).</p> <p>Significant problems experienced by users of formal parks were vandalism and graffiti (33%), dog fouling (33%) and litter problems (33%). Maintenance was considered to be no problem.</p> <p>When asked whether they felt safe at formal parks 67% of residents stated they did feel safe and 28% indicated they sometimes felt safe. Of the features that could improve security 40% of respondents stated staff on site and 35% adequate lighting. These findings suggest that there are few issues with safety at the larger sites.</p>		
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Respondents to the household survey indicated a split in opinion regarding the quality of formal parks. 43% of respondents rated the quality of formal parks as average and 41% good. This suggests an overall positive perception of formal parks.</p> <p>Across the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed and the highest satisfaction is found in the Biddulph analysis area, where 46% of residents feel the quality of formal parks is good.</p>		

	<p>The quality of maintenance at formal parks was rated as good by 48% of respondents to the household survey and a further 33% of residents perceived the quality of maintenance as average. Responses within the individual analysis areas were consistent with the overall findings. General comments from residents highlighted formal parks as being well maintained but in need of investment to improve their quality and functionality.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>The quality of formal parks was generally perceived to be good by attendees at drop in sessions. However, safety concerns were a key issue raised by residents. Gangs of youths, vandalism and anti social behaviour at formal parks were identified as barriers to access and a 'presence' on site, such as a park warden, was seen as a solution to this problem. Brough Park was a site identified as good for walking and John Halls Gardens was perceived to be a high quality site of aesthetic value. This conflicts with findings from the household survey, where safety was not perceived to be a major issue. Therefore it can be concluded that safety is a perceived barrier for non-users of formal parks.</p> <p>Although Brough Park was identified as a site good for walking, the park was perceived to lack user friendliness due to the steepness and layout of the site, with residents stating the park was not designed for informal play. Respondents to the Parish Council Survey also stipulated that Brough Park is in need of investment with low usage levels for the majority of the year. At the Parish Council discussion session, it was also raised that investment is required at all parks in the District.</p> <p>The general view was that there is sufficient open space but the quality of these spaces need improving (litter bins, ancillary accommodation, maintenance, vandalism). It was felt that the majority of quality issues are due to a lack of resourcing. Despite this, Parish Council discussion sessions revealed that park rangers/wardens have been a positive step in the reduction of vandalism.</p> <p>There was a generally negative response to the quality of parks from the IT Young People survey. 50% of respondents felt that the quality of their formal parks was average and some improvements were needed with 34% suggesting formal parks are of poor quality and needed extensive improvements. Interestingly, 29% felt that there were enough parks but not the right type, perhaps raising issues over the functionality of parks and the demands of this age group for specific facilities. The views of young people relating to parks are more negative than those of older residents. Despite this, parks were one of the more frequently used open spaces.</p>

PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential		Desirable
	Clean/litter free	Well kept grass	
	Toilets	Footpaths	
	Flowers and trees	Seating	
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to formal parks, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
	Security and Safety	12%	3 (Importance of consultation)
	Cleanliness and maintenance	47%	4
	Vegetation	25%	2
Ancillary accommodation	19%	1	

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION COUNTRY PARKS			
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	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained. 		
Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction	Telford – 36% good	North Shropshire – 53 % average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 86% good
	Ryedale – 58% good	Wychavon - 67% good	York – 62% good (parks)
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space – 21%)	<p>The highest rated aspirations for country parks in the Staffordshire Moorlands are: clean/litter free (77%), nature features (51%) and footpaths (49%).</p> <p>Frequent users of country parks experienced dog fouling (23%), litter problems (22%) and vandalism and graffiti (17%). However, grass cutting (51%) and misuse of site (46%) were considered to be no problem.</p> <p>83% of respondents felt safe when using country parks. However, 13% of respondents stated they sometimes felt unsafe when using country parks and further safety concerns were raised by residents at drop in sessions. Similar to the responses for formal parks users considered staff on site as a way of improving safety. However, the reputation of a site was considered as a way of improving safety.</p>		
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Country parks were perceived to be of high quality by the majority of respondents to the household survey. 67% rated their quality as good and 27% average. This suggests an overall positive perception of country parks.</p> <p>Responses within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings. However, a significantly lower level of satisfaction is found in the Cheadle analysis area, where 45% of residents rate the quality of country parks as average. Residents in the Biddulph analysis area portrayed the greatest level of satisfaction with the quality of country parks, with 76% of residents rating the quality of this typology as good. The higher level of satisfaction indicated by respondents in the Biddulph analysis area for both formal parks and country parks suggests residents feel they have access to good quality parks in this area of the District.</p> <p>58% of respondents to the household survey perceived the quality of maintenance at country parks as good. Only 8%</p>		

	of residents stated that the quality of maintenance was poor. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall response. General comments from residents highlighted country parks as being well maintained but in need of investment to improve their quality.	
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	Country parks were regarded as being of high quality by residents at drop in sessions. Biddulph Grange Country Park was identified as an example of good practice, with many residents commending this site and stating it had good walking paths/trails. Similar to comments received regarding formal parks, safety concerns were also raised concerning country parks. Vandalism was perceived to be prevalent at country parks, specifically at Biddulph Grange Country Park and residents stated that damage had been done to the infrastructure at this site. Park rangers were identified as a solution to this problem.	
PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
	Essential	Desirable
	Clean/litter free	Parking facilities
	Nature features	Toilets
	Footpaths	Dog walking facilities
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to country parks, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received
	Security and Safety	13%
	Cleanliness and maintenance	38%
	Vegetation	32%
	Ancillary accommodation	19%
		Weighting
		3 (Importance of consultation)
		4
		2
		1

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<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>		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 38% good	North Shropshire - 48% good	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 60% good
	Wychavon – 51% good	York – 44% average	
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained. <p>Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Framework: Core Strategy (September 2007)</p> <p>A future challenge facing the District is continuing to protect, manage and <u>enhance</u> the countryside and areas/features of value within built and natural environment.</p> <p>A spatial objective of the strategy is to protect and <u>improve</u> the countryside and diversity of wildlife and habitats.</p>		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated natural and semi-natural sites as their most frequently used open space –	<p>Highest rated aspirations: Clean/litter free (70%), footpaths (59%) and nature features (56%).</p> <p>When asked about the quality of natural and semi-natural sites, 18% of residents indicated that they experience litter problems and 30% also felt that dog fouling was very problematic. Few residents highlighted frequent issues with maintenance.</p>		

24%)	<p>The majority of users did not experience safety concerns, with 84% of residents feeling safe when using natural and semi natural open space.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey feel the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good (59%). However, 33% of residents state the quality to be average. This suggests an overall positive perception of natural and semi natural open space.</p> <p>Findings within three of the four individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses, with over 57% of respondents in each analysis area stating that the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good. However, in the Cheadle analysis area the majority of respondents rate the quality of natural and semi natural open space as average (44%). This suggests residents in this area of the District have access to poorer quality natural and semi natural open space than any other area of Staffordshire Moorlands. Findings may be influenced by country parks too.</p> <p>The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of maintenance at natural and semi natural open space as good (49%). 34% of residents also rate the quality of maintenance as average. Similar results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas. General comments from residents focused on problems with litter and dog fouling at many sites in the District.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</p>	<p>A small amount of comments regarding the quality of natural and semi natural open space were received at drop in sessions. Generally there were positive comments about the quality of sites. Rudyard Lake was identified as a high quality open space with a wide range of facilities. The importance of access to natural and semi natural open space was also clear from drop in sessions.</p> <p>A number of residents identified maintenance issues at this typology, with footpaths highlighted as being in need of improved maintenance. Fly tipping at some natural and semi natural open spaces, specifically in Biddulph Moor, was highlighted. Anti social behaviour and drug use at some natural or semi natural open spaces was identified, with residents stating the 'hidden' areas of these sites was the reason for this. Attendees at the Parish Council discussion session placed an emphasis on the quality of footpaths and bridleways.</p> <p>The 'Walk to Water Health Walk' project driven by Natural England and The Council involves conservation work and countryside management along certain routes and on local green spaces. This initiative was mentioned at discussion sessions and received positive comments.</p>

PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential		Desirable
	Clean/litter free		Water features
	Footpaths		Dog walking facilities
	Nature features		Flowers/trees
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to natural and semi natural areas, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
	Security and Safety	7%	1
	Cleanliness and maintenance	31%	3
	Vegetation	35%	4
Ancillary accommodation	19%	2	
Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of natural and semi natural open space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.			

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT 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		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 48% average	North Shropshire - 57% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 56% average
	Ryedale – 49% average	Wychavon – 57% average	York – 50% average
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working</i>”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained. 		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated amenity green space sites as their most frequently used open space – 3%)	<p>Amenity green space is one of the least frequently used types of open spaces in Staffordshire Moorlands. The highest rated aspirations of those residents who do use this typology regularly are: clean/litter free (73%), well kept grass (45%) and good site access (45%).The lack of use of this type of open space suggests that these sites may have a primarily aesthetic role.</p> <p>The most significant problems experienced by users of amenity green space are litter and dog fouling. However, maintenance was not considered to be problematic.</p>		
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>The general consensus established from the household survey is that the quality of amenity green space is average (53%). 27% of residents also regard the quality of amenity green space to be poor. This suggests amenity green space is the poorest type of informal open space.</p> <p>Similar results are evident within the individual areas and the highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Rural settlements, where 21% of residents rate the quality of amenity green space as good.</p> <p>The quality of maintenance at amenity green space was perceived to be average by 45% of respondents to the household survey. However, 31% also rated the quality of maintenance as good. Similar results are shown across all four analysis areas.</p> <p>General comments from residents identified the quality of amenity green space as being average. The need for more</p>		

	flowers and trees at amenity green spaces was regularly mentioned.																							
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	<p>A lack of comments regarding the quality of amenity green space were received at drop in sessions. A number of residents did however state that small amenity green space sites within housing estates can create problems with gangs of youths congregating in these areas.</p> <p>Children responding to the IT survey highlighted that amenity spaces were their most frequently used open space (26%). Reasons for usage of these sites related primarily to the close distance from the home and the opportunities for social interaction and informal sport and recreation. In terms of quality, 57% of respondents felt that grass areas near to their home were clean, safe and nice to use. 25% suggested that they were in need of improvement.</p> <p>In terms of quality, 45% of young people responding to the IT survey felt that the quality of informal grass areas in their local area was average and could do with some improvement. 22% were more positive and believed their local grass areas were clean, tidy and well maintained.</p>																							
PMP Recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table><tr><th>Essential</th><th>Desirable</th></tr><tr><td>Clean/litter free</td><td>Flowers/trees</td></tr><tr><td>Well kept grass</td><td>Seating</td></tr><tr><td>Good site access</td><td>Footpaths</td></tr></table> <p><i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to amenity green spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Component of quality</th><th>Proportion of possible total responses received</th><th>Weighting</th></tr><tr><td>Security and Safety</td><td>20%</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Cleanliness and maintenance</td><td>45%</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Vegetation</td><td>27%</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Ancillary accommodation</td><td>13%</td><td>1</td></tr></table> <p><i>Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of amenity green space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.</i></p>	Essential	Desirable	Clean/litter free	Flowers/trees	Well kept grass	Seating	Good site access	Footpaths	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting	Security and Safety	20%	2	Cleanliness and maintenance	45%	4	Vegetation	27%	3	Ancillary accommodation	13%	1
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**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<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 / Conservation and Heritage / 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>		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 35% average	North Shropshire - 44% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 43% average
	Ryedale – 47% average	Wychavon – 44% average	York – 46% average
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012</p> <p>Aims of the strategy include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a range of <u>high quality</u> informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District's children and young people provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills. 		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated play areas for children sites as their most frequently used open space – 10%)	<p>The aspirations of those residents who stated they use children's play areas most frequently are: clean/litter free (82%), facilities for the young (64%) and toilets (45%).</p> <p>Significant problems experienced by users of this typology are misuse of site (45%), dog fouling (41%) and safety and age of equipment (36%). Users of children's play areas did not consider maintenance to be a problem.</p>		
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Findings from the household survey highlight a split in opinion concerning the quality of children's play areas. 44% of respondents feel the quality of play areas is poor and 40% average. This indicates children's play areas are of lower quality than other types of open space.</p>		

	<p>Within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed. The greatest level of dissatisfaction can be found in the Rural analysis area, where 49% of residents regard the quality of children's play areas as poor.</p> <p>The quality of maintenance at children's play areas was rated as average by the majority of respondents to the household survey (37%). 34% of residents stated that the quality of maintenance at this typology was poor. Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall results, with the exception of residents in the Leek analysis area, who rate the quality of maintenance as good (34%).</p> <p>General comments from residents emphasised the poor quality maintenance at children's play areas. Specifically, residents highlighted play areas as being unsafe due to litter and broken glass. Play equipment was also identified as being in need of repair due to ageing and a lack of varied opportunities for children.</p>
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	<p>The quality of children's play areas in Staffordshire Moorlands was regarded as good by residents at drop in sessions. The new play area at Biddulph Valley Grange Leisure Centre was highly appreciated and regularly commended by residents. It was also mentioned that residents would be prepared to travel further to access high quality play areas.</p> <p>There was a mixed response with regards the quality of facilities from the IT Children's survey. While 37% felt play areas were clean, safe and nice to use, 31% believed that facilities were sometimes unclean and in need of improvement. When asked what they would like to make things better, 24% of respondents stated better range of play equipment. 22% also stated they would like play area with interesting play equipment near to their home.</p> <p>Responses to the Parish Council questionnaires focused on the lack of funding available for maintenance and development of play areas. There were concerns over the limited variety of play equipment and the fact that many of the facilities needed upgrading.</p>

PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential		Desirable
	Clean/litter free		Well kept grass
	Facilities for the young		Dog free area
	Toilets		Seating
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
	Security and Safety	5%	1
	Cleanliness and maintenance	64%	4
	Vegetation	16%	3
Ancillary accommodation	14%	2	
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for children.			

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
PROVISION YOUNG PEOPLE**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<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 / Conservation and Heritage / 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>		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 39% poor	North Shropshire - 72% poor	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 62% poor
	Ryedale – 57% poor	Wychavon – 65% poor	York – 64% poor
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012</p> <p>Aims of the strategy include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a range of <u>high quality</u> informal opportunities in play that is sufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of the District's children and young people • provide play opportunities that provide challenge, enhance confidence and develop life skills. 		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	<p>71% of respondents to the household survey state the quality of young people's open space is poor. Only 8% of residents indicate the quality of facilities is good, highlighting an overall perception of poor quality provision for young people in the District. Further in depth analysis suggests this may be influenced by a perceived lack of provision, highlighted throughout consultation.</p> <p>Findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses; with over 59% of respondents in each analysis area indicating the quality of young people's provision is poor. As with children's provision, the lowest level of satisfaction is shown in the Rural analysis area, with 79% of residents stating the quality of young people's provision is poor. This suggests that there are particular issues with regards to young people's provision in the rural settlements.</p> <p>52% of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of maintenance at young people's open space as poor. Results within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, highlighting the poor quality maintenance of these facilities. Furthermore, general comments from residents noted the poor quality of maintenance at young</p>		

	people's facilities.																		
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	<p>Drop in session attendees focused on the quantity rather than quality of young people's facilities in the District. However, the new skate park in Biddulph was stated as being a facility of high quality that is regularly used by young people.</p> <p>Some 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 young people. 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>46% of respondents to the IT Young People survey felt that current facilities were of average quality and needed some improvements. Furthermore, 27% stated that the quality of their local facilities were poor and needed extensive improvements. The need for a range of facilities was emphasised by respondents.</p>																		
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Vegetation	1																		
Ancillary accommodation	4																		

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
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.		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 39% average	North Shropshire - 48% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 45% good
	Ryedale – 41% average	Wychavon – 52% average	York – 50% average

<p>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “<i>to provide <u>high quality</u> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working</i>”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained. <p>Sports Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is, “<i>to develop partnerships that create and sustain <u>quality</u> sporting opportunities for people to participate at a level of their choice</i>”.</p> <p>A strategic priority of the strategy is to strive to improve sports facilities within Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>Playing Pitch Assessment Staffordshire Moorlands Assessment Report July 2002</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is by 2018 that the Council will provide and have assisted in the provision of an appropriate distribution and range of <u>quality</u> playing pitches that will sustain a growing sporting community and provide opportunities for increased participation.</p> <p>Objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the quality and capacity of existing outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of governing bodies, sports leagues, sports clubs and the Council • ensure an appropriate distribution and provision of good quality playing pitches and associated facilities to ensure all schools are able to deliver physical education and extra curricular games provision. <p>Biddulph - Improvements are required to 10.81 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>Cheadle - Improvements are required to 21.24 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>Leek - Improvements are required to 27.92 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p> <p>Rural area - Improvements are required to 61.09 ha of exiting playing pitch space.</p>
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<p>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated outdoor sports facility sites as their most frequently used open space – 4%)</p>	<p>Of those people indicating that they use this open space most frequently the highest rated aspirations were: clean/litter free, parking facilities and well kept grass.</p> <p>The major problems experienced by users of outdoor sports facilities are dog fouling, misuse of site and vandalism and graffiti. Maintenance is not considered a problem.</p>
<p>Consultation Household Survey - other</p>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average (47%). However, a significant amount of residents also regard their quality to be poor (33%). This highlights a split in opinion in relation to the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>Across the individual analysis areas results are consistent with the overall findings. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Leek analysis area, where 30% of respondents feel the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good.</p> <p>The quality of all outdoor sports facilities, except golf courses, was perceived to be average. The quality of golf courses was rated as good. Similar results are evident within the individual analysis areas. Residents in Leek exhibited the greatest level of satisfaction with the provision of synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens. The greatest level of dissatisfaction with the provision of grass pitches, bowling greens and golf courses was shown in the Biddulph analysis area, indicating a lower quality of outdoor sports facilities within this area of the District.</p> <p>The majority of respondents to the household survey perceive the quality of maintenance at outdoor sports facilities as average (42%). 30% of residents also rate the quality of maintenance as good. Similar results are highlighted within the individual analysis areas, although the most positive perceptions are in Biddulph and Leek (35% and 41% respectively). However, poor drainage at a number of sports pitches was a regular issue raised by residents.</p>
<p>Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)</p>	<p>It was generally felt that outdoor sports facilities in the District suffered from poor quality ancillary accommodation, many having a lack of adequate community, parking and changing facilities. Birchall Playing Fields in Leek was rated as a good quality site in terms of pitch quality but it was felt that it there was insufficient parking and improvements were required to the changing rooms. Residents in Biddulph also noted a lack of changing and parking facilities at Halls Road Playing Fields.</p> <p>Quality was generally perceived to be more important than the quantity of provision with many residents critical over the maintenance of outdoor pitches and the funding received. The multifunctional use of outdoor sports facilities also emerged as an issue, with dog fouling and litter occurring as a result of the use of pitches as amenity space for dog walking.</p> <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies a large quantity of playing pitches in need of qualitative enhancements.</p> <p>The negative response to the quality of sports pitches in the District was further supported by the demand expressed for artificial playing surfaces by attendees at drop in sessions. Leek Specialist Technology College was highlighted at drop in sessions as an example of good practice and the need for more of these types of facilities was expressed across the District.</p>

	<p>Most bowling greens are well used and the quality is perceived to be good. Leek Bowling Club was noted as an example of good practice.</p> <p>Responses to the IT survey for children highlighted that outdoor sports facilities are not as well used as some types of open spaces, with only 9% of children indicating that they used sports pitches. In terms of quality, 32% felt that the sports facilities were clean, safe and nice to use, whilst nearly as many (28%) felt that the facilities are sometimes unclean with litter and could do with improvements.</p> <p>Young People had a slightly different viewpoint on the quality of facilities. Almost half of respondents (47%) felt that the quality of outdoor sport provision was average and could do with some improvements. More respondents also felt that facilities were poor (21%) rather than clean, tidy and well maintained (13%).</p> <p>Responses to the Parish Council questionnaires focused on the lack of funding available for maintenance and development of sports facilities (eg Wetton).</p>																							
PMP Recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table><tr><th>Essential</th><th>Desirable</th></tr><tr><td>Clean/litter free</td><td>Toilets</td></tr><tr><td>Parking facilities</td><td>Dog free area</td></tr><tr><td>Well kept grass</td><td>Facilities for the young</td></tr></table> <p><i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Component of quality</th><th>Proportion of possible total responses received</th><th>Weighting</th></tr><tr><td>Security and Safety</td><td>9%</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Cleanliness and maintenance</td><td>53%</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Vegetation</td><td>22%</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Ancillary accommodation</td><td>15%</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean/litter free	Toilets	Parking facilities	Dog free area	Well kept grass	Facilities for the young	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting	Security and Safety	9%	1	Cleanliness and maintenance	53%	4	Vegetation	22%	3	Ancillary accommodation	15%	2
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES									
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	None.								
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Sport England CPA Choice and Opportunity Score</p> <p>50.3% of the population within Staffordshire Moorlands are within 20 minutes travel time of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard.</p>								
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated indoor sports facilities as their most frequently used open space – 13%)	<p>The quality of all four indoor sports facilities was perceived to be average by respondents to the household survey. Similar results are evident in the individual analysis areas and the greatest level of satisfaction with the quality of all four facility types is found within the Biddulph analysis area. This suggests there is the provision of high quality indoor sports facilities in this area of the District.</p> <p>The ideal features for indoor sports facilities as indicated by respondents to the household survey are: cleanliness (58%), range of activities (57%), cost of facilities (55%) and maintenance (52%).</p>								
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Indoor sports facilities were generally perceived to be good quality by attendees at drop in sessions. Programming at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre, however, was highlighted as being poor, with public swim sessions introduced at the same time as adult lessons, creating a lack of space and confrontation between users. South Moorlands Leisure Centre was also highlighted as a site that needed improvements and modernising.</p> <p>Respondents to the IT Children Survey were positive about the quality of indoor sports facilities, reinforcing the views of local residents at drop in sessions. 50% of children felt that their local facilities are clean, safe and nice to use. Young People had slightly lower satisfaction levels with the quality of provision with 31% stating their local facilities were clean, tidy and well maintained. 37% also stated that the quality of indoor facilities was average and needed some improvements.</p>								
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT 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.		
Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction	Telford – 42% average	North Shropshire - 47% poor	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 48% average
	Wychavon – 54% average	York – 55% average	
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained. 		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated allotment sites as their most frequently used open space – 1%)	<p>A small proportion of residents (1%) use allotments more frequently than any other open space in Staffordshire Moorlands. Of those residents who do use allotments, good site access, toilets and clean/litter free are the key aspirations.</p> <p>The main problems experienced by frequent users of allotments are vandalism and graffiti and misuse of the site.</p>		
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of allotments to be poor (44%). 43% of residents also regard them as average.</p> <p>Findings across three of the four individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall responses with the majority of respondents in each area stating that the quality of allotments is poor. However, in the Leek analysis area the majority of respondents (50%) rate the quality of allotments as average. This suggests the provision of higher quality allotments in this area of the District.</p> <p>The quality of maintenance at allotments was perceived to be average by 42% of respondents to the household survey. 34% also highlighted maintenance as being poor, indicating the need for improvements. Similar results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas and the greatest dissatisfaction can be found in the Cheadle analysis area, where 59% of respondents rate the quality of maintenance as poor.</p>		

Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)	<p>Residents attending drop in sessions felt that the quality of allotments was varying. Allotments within Leek were said to be suffering from a lack of parking provision. Attempts have been made to secure extra parking but this has proved unsuccessful to date.</p> <p>Attendees at the older resident’s discussion session identified the quality of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands as good.</p> <p>Over half of respondents to the IT Young People survey did not have an opinion on the quality of allotments. This is perhaps unsurprising considering the current level of use by this age group. Of those that did respond, the majority (22%) felt that the quality was average and some improvements were needed.</p>																							
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION GREEN CORRIDORS	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Natural England, the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation advocate providing a network of local health walks to promote the 'Walking the Way to Health Initiative', something that can easily be enhanced through the provision of quality green corridors and natural linkages with other open spaces.</p>
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained.
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space – 16%)	<p>Of those respondents who stated they use green corridors most frequently, their highest rated aspirations are: clean/litter free (73%), nature features (58%) and footpaths (52%).</p> <p>Litter problems (33%) and dog fouling (27%) were the most significant problems experienced by users of this typology. However, maintenance was not considered to be a problem.</p>
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>Results from the household survey reveal 44% of respondents indicate the quality of green corridors is average and 42% good. Few respondents perceive the quality of green corridors to be poor, highlighting the overall positive perception of green corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>Within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed and the highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Biddulph analysis area, where 49% of residents feel the quality of green corridors is good.</p> <p>The majority of respondents to the household survey rate the quality of maintenance at green corridors as average (39%). 38% of residents also perceive the quality of maintenance as good. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the District wide results.</p>

	General comments from residents highlighted the poor quality of canal tow paths. Canal tow paths were stated as being uneven and muddy and in particular reference was made to the tow path from Bowford Bridge to Cheadle Road.																							
Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)	<p>Parish Council discussion session attendees identified the health benefits green corridors offer. The Healthy Walks scheme was seen as an excellent opportunity to increase informal recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Green Corridors were highly valued by residents at the older resident’s discussion session. It was stated there are number of good quality green corridors in Staffordshire Moorlands that were good for walking, however residents did identify the need for a more complete ‘green network’ indentifying poor linkages between a number of rights of way networks.</p> <p>The IT Young People survey revealed a mix response to the quality of green corridors. Of those that had an opinion (71%), 26% felt that the quality of green corridors was high and sites were well maintained. However, a higher proportion (30%) felt that the quality was average with some improvements needed.</p>																							
PMP Recommendation	<p>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</p> <table><tr><th>Essential</th><th>Desirable</th></tr><tr><td>Clean/litter free</td><td>Level surface</td></tr><tr><td>Nature features</td><td>Dog walking facilities</td></tr><tr><td>Footpaths</td><td>Flowers/trees</td></tr></table> <p><i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to green corridors, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Component of quality</th><th>Proportion of possible total responses received</th><th>Weighting</th></tr><tr><td>Security and Safety</td><td>8%</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Cleanliness and maintenance</td><td>32%</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Vegetation</td><td>39%</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Ancillary accommodation</td><td>15%</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Essential	Desirable	Clean/litter free	Level surface	Nature features	Dog walking facilities	Footpaths	Flowers/trees	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting	Security and Safety	8%	1	Cleanliness and maintenance	32%	3	Vegetation	39%	4	Ancillary accommodation	15%	2
Essential	Desirable																							
Clean/litter free	Level surface																							
Nature features	Dog walking facilities																							
Footpaths	Flowers/trees																							
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Cleanliness and maintenance	32%	3																						
Vegetation	39%	4																						
Ancillary accommodation	15%	2																						

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION
CIVIC SPACES**

National Standards and/or Benchmarks	None.		
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	No existing local quality standards.		
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated civic spaces as their most frequently used open space – 5%)	The highest rated aspirations of those residents who use civic spaces more frequently than any other open spaces are: clean/litter free (88%), flowers/trees (48%) and toilets (43%). Significant problems experienced by users of civic spaces are misuse of site, vandalism and graffiti, litter problems and dog fouling. Maintenance and seating were not considered to be a problem.		
Consultation Household Survey - other	Civic spaces are perceived to be of average quality by 59% of respondents to the household survey. 20% of respondents also state their quality is good. Responses within the individual areas are consistent with the overall findings and the highest level of satisfaction is found in the Leek analysis area, where 25% of residents feel the quality of civic spaces is good. Perceptions of maintenance are consistent across all geographical areas.		
PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential		Desirable
	Clean/litter free		Seating
	Flowers/trees		Litter bins
	Toilets		Level surface
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to civic spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
Security and Safety	13%	1	
Cleanliness and maintenance	35%	4	
Vegetation	28%	3	
Ancillary accommodation	15%	2	

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION CHURCHYARDS AND CEMETERIES	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	None.
Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context	<p>Parks and Countryside Service Strategy 2003 – 2007</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is, “to provide <i>high quality</i> parks and green spaces that conserve and develop our natural and recreational assets...achieving harmony between user demands and sound ecological management practices and promote these principles in the wider countryside and through planning and partnership working”.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop parks and green spaces so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are welcoming • healthy, safe and secure • clean and well maintained.
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated indoor sports facilities as their most frequently used open space – 6%)	<p>The highest rated aspirations of those people who use churchyards and cemeteries most frequently are: well kept grass (80%), clean and litter free (68%) and flowers/trees (52%).</p> <p>Factors considered problematic by users of this typology are grass cutting, dog fouling and vandalism and graffiti. Maintenance of seating and footpaths and litter were not considered problematic.</p> <p>The quality of maintenance at cemeteries and churchyards is regarded as good by 48% of respondents to the household survey. 43% of residents also perceive the quality of maintenance at cemeteries and churchyards as average. Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall results.</p>
Consultation Household Survey - other	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey perceive the quality of churchyards and cemeteries to be average (54%). However, 45% of respondents also indicate the quality of this typology is good. Results across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, with the exception of the Biddulph analysis area, where the majority of residents regard the quality of cemeteries and churchyards as good (58%). General comments from residents emphasised the good maintenance at this typology.</p>
Consultation	<p>Residents at the Parish Council discussion session stated that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards were well maintained across the District. Despite this, there were some concerns over vandalism (Leek Cemetery), dog walking, and safety concerns at some of the sites. It was reiterated that for many villages, churches provide a physical and social focus for the local community, hence the desire for high quality and visually appealing sites that can be used for recreation as well as other functions.</p>

	Respondents to the IT Young People survey were asked about their views on the quality of cemeteries and churchyards in their local area. A substantial amount (39%) felt that local sites were of high quality and well maintained. 32%, however, felt that the quality was average and sites needed some improvements.		
PMP Recommendation	Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
	Essential		Desirable
	Well kept grass		Parking facilities
	Clean/litter free		Seating
	Flowers/trees		Good site access
	Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to cemeteries and churchyards, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
	Component of quality	Proportion of possible total responses received	Weighting
	Security and Safety	11%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	51%	4	
Vegetation	24%	3	
Ancillary accommodation	12%	2	

Setting Accessibility Standards – Staffordshire Moorlands District 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)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire -
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.

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS			
FORMAL PARKS			
Definition	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them. Their primary purpose is informal recreation.		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	None.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minute drive time (Town), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 20 minute walk time (City), 15 minute walk time (Local)

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>Of those residents who use formal parks more frequently than any other open space in district, 53% currently walk and 47% drive. When asked how long they travel to access a formal park, travel times were split between 10 – 14 minutes (28%), less than 5 minutes (25%) and 20 – 29 minutes (18%).</p> <p><u>HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Findings from the household survey reveal the majority of respondents expect to drive to a formal park (49%). However, 43% of residents expect to walk. Within the individual analysis areas differing results are portrayed. In the Cheadle and Leek analysis areas over 63% of residents expect to walk to access a formal park, which suggests residents in these areas expect to have local access to a formal park. In the Rural analysis area the majority of residents prefer to drive to a formal park (66%), which indicates that there is an acceptance by residents in rural settlements that formal parks may not be located in close proximity to their homes.</p> <p>Respondents who would prefer to walk to formal parks suggest that these should be local facilities. For those who expect to drive to a formal park, a travel time of 5 -10 minutes (45%) is expected. Findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, with the exception of the Leek analysis area, where 41% of residents expect to travel between 11 – 15 minutes by car to access a formal park. This suggests that residents are willing to travel further than those in other areas of the District.</p> <p>The modal response for those that would walk was 10 minutes, while the second and third quartile figures District wide are foot and 20 minutes by car (modal response 10 minutes) to access a formal park. The mean response for those that would walk is 16 minutes both on foot and by car. Findings within the Biddulph, Cheadle and Leek analysis areas are consistent with the District wide results, however in the rural settlements, residents are prepared to travel for longer to access a formal park.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>There were few comments made at drop in sessions with regards access to formal parks in the District. Of those residents who did respond, there was an indication that they would be willing to travel further to reach formal park provision as opposed to informal open space. For example, residents in Leek suggested that a large proportion of park users (Brough Park) come from outside the town as well as the local population.</p> <p>Respondents to the IT Young People survey stated that local parks were their favourite type of open space to visit after swimming pools. 56% of respondents walk to their favourite type of open space. 28% are reliant on driving. When asked what two things they liked most about their favourite open space, 37% of young people stated the fact that it was close to their home. The close proximity of parks is therefore particularly important to young people.</p> <p>In light of the findings from the Sport England market segmentation to increase propensity to participate in sport and recreation, access to informal recreation at parks will be particularly important.</p>
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PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN) 20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)
PMP Justification	<p>Current travel patterns indicate an emphasis in favour of walking to formal parks. However, expected travel patterns indicated by respondents to the household survey highlight an expectation for driving. When considering the location of residents, a clear difference in the travel patterns between the urban and rural areas is evident. Residents in two of the three (Cheadle and Leek) urban areas indicate a preference for walking, therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set for the urban areas of the District.</p> <p>Responses from residents in Rural analysis area highlighted an acceptance of the need to travel by car to access park provision, with 66% of respondents stating they expect to travel by car. Based on this, a drive time has been set for the rural settlements of Staffordshire Moorlands. This means that formal parks will not be expected in each rural settlement.</p> <p>The standard for urban areas is therefore set at 15 minutes (720 metres) walk time to formal parks, based on the findings emerging from consultation.. This encompasses all areas and is representative of the viewpoint of residents of all areas (due to the number of responses this information can be said to be statistically robust). While the mode is 10 minutes, setting the standard at 15 minutes provides a more realistic target and is in line with the mean response as well as the second and third quartile figures.</p> <p>Given that formal parks tend to be larger strategic facilities offering a range of activities it would not be realistic to expect this type of facility within each village, therefore, a drive time of 20 minutes has been set for the rural areas. This is supported by the consultation undertaken in the rural area, where it can be seen that residents expect to travel by car, with the mean, 2nd and 3rd quartile being 20 minutes.</p> <p>Setting separate accessibility standards is reflective of the fact that further provision should be made within the urban areas that are currently outside of the proposed accessibility catchment due to the density of population in these areas. In order to achieve both accessibility standards for the urban and rural areas the Council should be pursuing improvements to the accessibility of these areas for rural residents (such as public transport networks etc) and adopting an approach that facilitates the usage of these areas and increases their value locally.</p> <p>Setting a standard at this level will enable the Council to strike a balance between quantitative improvements in areas with accessibility deficiencies and improving the quality of existing sites.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS COUNTRY PARKS			
Definition	Includes large areas of land offering easy access for countryside recreation.		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	None.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minute drive time (Town), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 20 minute walk time (City), 15 minute walk time (Local)

Consultation

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

The majority of residents who use country parks drive to access this typology (70%). Only a small amount of current users walk to a country park (30%). When accessing a country park, the most common travel time experienced by current users is 10 – 14 minutes (29%). These current patterns are representative of the distribution of existing sites.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL

66% of respondents to the household survey expect to drive to a country park. Only 23% of residents expect to walk to access this type of open space. Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall results, with over 58% of residents in each area expecting to drive to a country park. This indicates an acceptance by residents that they will have to travel to access a country park in the District and illustrates an understanding of the location of these sites outside settlement boundaries.

When accessing a country park by car, residents expect to travel between 5 and 10 minutes (71%). Results within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, with the majority of residents in each area expecting to travel between 5 and 10 minutes by car to access a country park.

For those who expect to walk to a country park, residents expect to travel between 16 – 20 minutes (33%), 11 -15 minutes (27%) and 5 – 10 minutes (24%). The mean response is 25 minutes while the modal response is 15 minutes.

District wide results reveal that the third quartile level expected by residents for driving to a country park is 22 minutes, with the mean being 19 minutes. Findings within the four analysis areas portray differing results. Within the Biddulph and Leek analysis areas the third quartile figure is 15 minutes, in Cheadle 26 minutes and in the Rural settlements, 30 minutes. This suggests residents in Biddulph and Leek expect to have more local access to a country park and may be reflective of the location of current sites. Of those who prefer to walk to country parks, the third quartile figure is 20 minutes, while the mean response is higher, at 25 minutes .. Across the individual analysis areas varying results are highlighted. Residents in Leek (26 minutes) and the Rural settlements (27 minutes) expect to travel for longer, however in Cheadle, residents are only prepared to travel for 15 minutes by foot to access a country park.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

Residents at drop in sessions indicated that they would be willing to travel further to reach country parks and this is evidenced by the household survey analysis where a significant proportion of respondents would be willing to drive to this type of open space. For example, residents in Leek suggested that a large proportion of users of sites such as Ladderedge Country Park come from outside of the town.

	<p>Responses from the Parish Council questionnaires reinforced the views of the drop in session comments. Cheddleton Parish Council stated that a number of people visit country parks from outside of the settlement boundary. Country parks were particularly important to residents in the rural settlements.</p> <p>The high cost of hiring facilities at country parks was identified as a deterrent to holding events at these sites in the District. Drop in session attendees stated that although these events were well attended, cost was a barrier to access.</p> <p>In light of the findings from the Sport England market segmentation to increase propensity to participate in sport and recreation, access to informal recreation at parks will be particularly important.</p>
PMP Recommendation	22 MINUTE DRIVE TIME
PMP Justification	<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of driving to country parks. Usage patterns indicate 70% of current users drive to country parks and 66% of respondents to the household survey expect to drive to this typology. In light of this, it is recommended a drive time is set.</p> <p>A local standard of a 22 minute drive time is recommended based upon the findings of the consultation and the third quartile response. This also links with the mean and supports other consultation findings. Although varying results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas, setting the standard at this level will provide a realistic challenge for the Council and allow a focus on enhancing the quality and increasing access to existing provision.</p>

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE**

Definition	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<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>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	None, however the importance of the abundance of local countryside should be recognised.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minutes drive time (Sites over 5ha), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon –15 minute walk time	York – 15 minute walk time

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

Natural and semi natural open space is the most frequently used type of open space in Staffordshire Moorlands, with 24% of residents using this typology more frequently than any other open space. Of those current users of natural and semi natural open space, 65% walk and 31% of residents drive to access a natural and semi natural open space. The most common travel time experienced by current users of this typology was between 5 and 10 minutes (46%).

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

Similar to patterns exhibited by regular users, 53% of residents expect to walk to access natural and semi natural open space. 37% prefer to drive. Similar results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas, however in the Leek analysis area the majority of residents prefer to drive to a natural and semi natural open space (43%). This suggests residents in this area perceive they do not have local access to natural and semi natural open space. Residents in urban areas of the District would expect to have less natural and semi natural open space.

Respondents who prefer to walk to this typology expect a journey to last between 5 and 10 minutes (62%). Results across the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings, however in the Leek analysis area, 39% of residents expect a travel time between 11 and 15 minutes. This further supports the suggestion that residents in this area do not have local access to natural and semi natural open space. For those respondents who prefer to travel by car to access a natural and semi natural open space, a journey time of 5 – 10 minutes is also expected (49%). Findings within the individual analysis areas are similar to the District wide results. However, the majority of residents in Cheadle expect to travel between 16 and 20 minutes.

It can be calculated that the third quartile figure is 15 minutes, while the modal response is 10 minutes and the mean is 13. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the District wide response, with the exception of the Leek analysis area where the modal response is 15 minutes. Of those who prefer to drive to a natural and semi natural open space, residents are prepared to travel further, with the mean response being almost 20 minutes. Similar results are indicated within the individual analysis areas.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

A large number of drop in session attendees highlighted the excellent accessibility to natural and semi natural open space in the District. The abundance of countryside and location of the settlements in the Peak District were key reasons for this perception.

	<p>Residents also highlighted the value and importance of the ‘urban fringes’ that surround District settlements. However, some felt that due to poor linkages through pathways, these areas were not being used to their full potential and were often inaccessible. Respondents to the Parish Council questionnaires supported this view and highlighted some deficiencies in accessing natural open space in the District, particularly via public rights of way such as footpaths and cycleways. It was felt this deficiency was restricting access. Bridleways and footpaths were key issues raised by attendees at the Parish Council discussion session.</p> <p>Despite this, it was noted that there have been some initiatives to promote access to the countryside. One of these is the ‘Walk to Water Health Walk’ project in the Haregate area of Leek. Driven by Natural England and the Council, this project aims to improve physical activity by using the natural habitat to increase physical activity. It specifically targets individuals, teenagers, older people, and local residents.</p> <p>Excellent access to an abundance of countryside was widely recognised by residents at the older resident’s discussion session.</p>
PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME
PMP Justification	<p>Local consultation indicates the majority of current users walk to this typology (65%). Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, 53% of respondents expect to walk to natural and semi natural open space. Therefore it is a recommended a walk time is set across the District. This is deliverable in both the urban and rural areas of the District.</p> <p>Analysis of consultation responses demonstrates that respondents to the household survey would expect to walk for 15 minutes on foot to access this open space. Findings within the individual analysis areas also support a 15 minute walk time, A 15 minute walk time is therefore recommended in line with both user expectations and current user patterns. This standard is representative of local expectations but is also realistic and achievable.</p> <p>While the creation of new natural and semi natural open space is challenging, increasing access to natural and semi natural open space and areas of natural countryside will be instrumental in the delivery of this target.</p>

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS AMENITY GREEN SPACE			
Definition	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing local accessibility standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 10 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 10 minute walk	Wychavon – 10 minute walk time	York – 5 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. Analysis of the regularity of use of amenity spaces indicates that amenity spaces are less frequently used than other typologies, with many having a wider landscape value rather than recreational use.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>When accessing amenity green space, the majority of residents would prefer to walk (70%) highlighting the expectation that provision is local. Of these people, 64% expect to walk 5 –10 minutes to access an amenity green space. Across the individual analysis areas similar results are provided with over 58% of residents in each area stating their preferred mode of travel as walking, with the expectation of a 5 – 10 minute journey. These findings are the same in both the rural and urban areas of the District.</p> <p>Using District wide results it can be calculated the both the mean and modal response is 10 minutes. Analysis of the range of responses demonstrates that residents are willing to travel shorter distances to reach amenity spaces than they are for other typologies, with the quartiles ranging from 5 minutes to 15 minutes.. These results are replicated in two of the four analysis areas, however in the Biddulph and Cheadle analysis areas, expectations are higher.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>13% of respondents to the IT Young People Survey stated that they used informal grass areas more than any other type of open space. Amenity green spaces are often the most localised form of open space, which may reflect the relatively high response rate. The close proximity of amenity green space is therefore particularly important to young people.</p> <p>There was little emphasis on this typology during drop in sessions and amenity green space was perceived to be of a lower priority than other types of open space. Those parishes that stated that the level of provision was good also suggested there was no problem with accessibility. However there were concerns over access in other towns that had a lower level of provision and it was stated that there are a number of amenity areas that are underused due to a lack of access and maintenance (eg Ipstones Village Green).</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>A walk time standard has been set based upon the high level of expectation to travel by foot to access an amenity green space. This was emphasised throughout consultation along with the importance of accessible local provision.</p> <p>Both the modal and mean response suggest that a walk time of 10 minutes is appropriate. Residents in Biddulph and Cheadle in particular had high expectations that facilities would be provided locally.</p> <p>In consideration of the above, It is recommended the local standard be set at a 10 minute walk time across the District. Setting the local standard at this level will provide a challenging target for the Council, but one that reflects the views of residents that amenity green space should be provided within close proximity to the home. Combined with the local quantity standard, the accessibility standard will enable the Council to identify areas deficient in the provision of amenity green space.</p>
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN	
<p>Definition</p>	<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. Within this study, play provision for children includes only equipped play areas (ie. LEAPS and NEAPS) which are designed for children.</p>
<p>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</p>	<p><u>NPFA</u> 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	<p>Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012</p> <p>An aim of the strategy is to ensure inclusive play opportunities are provided where needed to facilitate the provision of high quality, <u>accessible</u> facilities.</p> <p>Junior/Toddler Outdoor Play Space (JOP) (Replacing LEAP) – local accessibility standard of 10 minutes walk time.</p> <p>Youth/Outdoor Play Spaces (YOPS) (Replacing NEAP) – local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time.</p> <p>Family Outdoor Play Spaces (FOPS) – local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 10 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 10 minute walk time	Wychavon – 10 minute walk time	York – 10 minute walk time

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>66% of regular users currently walk to this typology. Of these respondents, journey times are split between 10 – 14 minutes (39%) and 10 -14 minutes (20%). Of those respondents to the children's survey who stated play areas are their favourite open space, 33% travel by foot and 44% by car to access this type of open space.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Consistent with the patterns of current users, 75% of residents expect to walk to a children's play area. However, unlike the travel times indicated by current users, 73% of residents expect to travel between 5 and 10 minutes to access a children's play area. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall results.</p> <p>Analysis of consultation findings indicates that residents are willing to travel for 10 minutes by foot to access a children's play area. This is reflected in both the modal and mean responses, as well as being supported by the range of responses given. Identical results are shown in the individual areas with the exception of the Leek analysis area, where residents appear willing to travel further.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Residents at drop in sessions stressed the need for more local facilities, particularly in the smaller settlements. It was commented that due to a number of poor quality facilities locally, it was necessary to travel to good quality play areas, often located in larger towns and major parks. This indicates both, that residents are willing to travel further to high quality sites and that there are quality issues as well as quantity issues.</p> <p>A lack of children's play areas in close proximity to the home was stated as an issue by residents at drop in sessions. Specifically, Endon was highlighted as an example. It was also noted at drop in sessions that public transport is infrequent in rural areas, making access to facilities very difficult.</p> <p>The importance of locally accessible children's play areas was identified at the older resident's discussion session. It was stated that safety fears prevented children from travelling far from home and therefore play areas in close proximity to the home are essential.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</p>

PMP Justification	<p>66% of current users and 75% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to a children's play area. In light of this it is recommended a walk time be set to meet the expectations of current and prospective users.</p> <p>A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended in line with the consultation findings (supported by the mean and the mode). This is also reflective of findings within the individual analysis areas. Setting a standard at this level will ensure the provision of locally accessible children's play areas and allow for a balance between quantity and quality. This is reflective of the local accessibility standard contained within the Play Strategy. As within the strategy, further consideration should be given to the type of facility in each area.</p>
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE			
Definition	<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"> • teenage shelters • skateboard Parks • BMX tracks • Multi Use Games Areas. 		
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	<p>Play Strategy Draft 2007 – 2012</p> <p>An aim of the strategy is to ensure inclusive play opportunities are provided where needed to facilitate the provision of high quality, <u>accessible</u> facilities.</p> <p>Youth/Outdoor Play Spaces (YOPS) (Replacing NEAP) – local accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk time.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 15 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 15 minute walk time

Consultation	<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 (1%). 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>60% of respondents indicated they prefer to walk to young people's facilities and the majority of these people expect a travel time of 5 –10 minutes (62%). The figures relating to preferred travel patterns and length of journey are similar in all areas, with the exception of the rural area, where a significant number of residents indicate a greater willingness to travel by car to access a young people's facility (42%). This suggests a number residents located in the Rural settlements in the District do not have local access to young people's facilities and do not expect these to be provided in the outlying areas.</p> <p>Using the District wide results, it can be calculated that residents are willing to travel between 10 and 15 minutes on foot to access young people's facilities, with the modal response being 10 minutes, the mean being 13 minutes and the third quartile response being 15 minutes. Similar results are portrayed in three of the four analysis areas, however in the Cheadle analysis area, residents are prepared to travel slightly less (10 minutes).</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Some drop in session comments stressed the need for these facilities to be located on the outskirts of towns/villages due to concerns over noise and antisocial behaviour in residential areas. The general feeling from the Parish Council questionnaires was that there was a lack of provision for young people and there needed to be more facilities accessible to local communities.</p> <p>Access to young people's facilities was a key theme established from the Community Activity Network meeting.</p>
PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME

	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to young people's facilities (60%). However, within the rural area residents indicate more of a willingness to drive to young people's facilities, indicating an expected lack of access to local facilities within a rural settlement.</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>A 15 minute walk time has been set based upon the findings of the consultation and the importance of balancing quantity of provision with high quality facilities. Setting a local standard at this level will highlight deficiencies and allow for some young people's facilities to be provided in larger strategic sites, such as parks. The local standard is broadly representative of the opinions of all residents in across the individual analysis areas. This is reflective of the local accessibility standard contained within the Play Strategy.</p>

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

Definition	<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. 		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>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 that the current figure is Staffordshire Moorlands is 50.2%.</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>Playing Pitch Assessment Staffordshire Moorlands Assessment Report July 2002</p> <p>Objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide useable, accessible and viable outdoor sports facilities • ensure an appropriate distribution and provision of good quality playing pitches and associated facilities to ensure all schools are able to deliver physical education and extra curricular games provision. 		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	<p>Telford – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>	<p>North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>	<p>Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>
	<p>Ryedale –15 minute drive time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)</p>	<p>Wychavon –15 minute walk time (grass pitches and tennis courts), 15 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and bowling greens)</p>	<p>York – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</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 (4%). 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>Responses from the household survey regarding the preferred travel method for the different types of open space highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:</p> <p>Grass Pitches – Walk (61%), Car (32%) Synthetic Turf – Walk (40%), Car (51%) Tennis Courts – Walk (43%), Car (46%) Bowling Greens – Walk (44%), Car (48%) Golf Courses – Walk (22%), Car (70%)</p> <p>The above findings indicate the majority of residents expect to drive to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of grass pitches where residents expect to walk. This suggests that only grass pitches are expected locally. To access four of the facility types by car a 5 – 10 minute travel time is expected. For those people who prefer to walk to grass pitches a 5 –10 minute journey is also expected.</p> <p>Looking at different geographical areas, the travel expectations followed a similar pattern to the results given at a District level, with the exception of the Cheadle and Leek analysis areas. Within Cheadle the majority of residents expect to walk to all five outdoor sports facilities and in Leek residents expect to walk to all facilities except golf courses. This is reflective of the more urban nature of these settlements.</p> <p>This indicates expectations of good access to these outdoor sports facility types in these areas of the District. Residents in the Rural settlements also indicate a willingness to travel longer by car to access an outdoor sports facility. Similar travel times are portrayed in the remaining areas.</p> <p>For the facility types where there is a preference for driving, the third quartile response is 15 minutes for bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts. However, to access golf courses a journey time of 20 minutes is expected. Residents in Cheadle have high expectations for local provision, however in the rural settlements, expectations for local provision are lower.</p>
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	<p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Residents at drop in sessions noted that some sports teams based in the villages have to travel several miles to access facilities, which in some cases has been caused by poor quality local facilities. In Brown Edge, for example, there are five football teams that are required to travel at least four miles to train and play matches.</p> <p>There were some concerns over community access to school facilities. Forsbrook Parish Council stated that the excellent sports facilities at Blythe Bridge High School are not accessible to the general public. It was felt that community use of school sites was essential and furthermore that private sites should be freely available. This issue was supported by responses to the Parish Council questionnaires which suggested that school playing fields were generally underused (Leek) and could be made available to the public. This issue was also discussed at the Parish Council workshop.</p> <p>In relation to all weather facilities, comments were raised at drop in sessions suggesting that these need to be located in two or three locations throughout the District to be more accessible to local residents. Currently residents have to travel some distance, often with poor public transport, to reach all weather surfaces (eg Leek Specialist Technology College).</p> <p>Access to school sports facilities was perceived to be good by residents at the older residents discussion session. Community access to such facilities in the rural settlements was seen as vital.</p> <p>In light of the findings from the Sport England market segmentation to increase propensity to participate in sport and recreation, access to informal recreation at parks will be particularly important. The provision of 'community sports parks' can play a key role increasing participation.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>10 MINUTE WALK TIME = GRASS PITCHES</p> <p>15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = TENNIS COURTS, BOWLING GREENS, SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES</p> <p>20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = GOLF COURSES</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (to which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Findings from local consultation suggest two standards should be set. A walk time standard has been set for grass pitches and a drive time for tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. These standards have been recommended in line with the expected travel methods and to reflect the specialist nature of this typology and although residents in Cheadle and Leek indicate a clear preference for walking to the majority of facilities, it is not realistic to expect all these facilities to be provided locally.</p> <p>Respondents to the household survey indicate they would be willing to travel for 10 minutes to access a grass pitch and this was also supported by findings from the sports club consultation. A local standard of a 10 minute walk time has therefore been set. For the four facilities where there is an expectation to drive a standard of a 15 minute drive time has been set for tennis courts, bowling greens and synthetic turf pitches and a 20 minute drive time for golf courses. All these standards are based on the consultation findings and are derived from analysis of the mean, mode and quartile figures.</p>
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>CPA targets measure the number of residents that are within a range of three different sports facility types.</p> <p>Sport England accessibility targets reinforce those measured within the CPA.</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>CPA accessibility target - 50.2% of the population within Staffordshire Moorlands reside within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quest • Green Flag • ISO 9001:2000 • Investors in Excellence • Chartermark. 		
Other Authorities - Benchmarking	Wychavon – 20 minute drive time	Wolverhampton – 20 minute walk time (urban areas)	Northampton – 15 minute drive time

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Responses from the household survey regarding the preferred travel method for the different types of open space highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:</p> <p>Swimming pools – Walk (29%), Car (63%) Sports halls – Walk (29%), Car (61%) Squash courts – Walk (29%), Car (61%) Indoor Tennis – Walk (28%), Car (70%)</p> <p>The above findings show over 61% of residents expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. Similar perceptions are evident in the individual analysis areas and over 79% of residents in the Rural settlements expect to travel by car to access indoor sports facilities. This suggests limited access to indoor sports facilities in the rural areas of Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>To access an indoor sports facility a travel time of 5 – 10 minutes by both car and foot is expected. Similar results are portrayed in two of the four analysis areas, however in the Leek and rural analysis areas residents indicated a willingness to travel further to access indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>Below are the appropriate distances derived from consultation for the urban and rural areas for each facility type (split as recommended by the Sport England CPA Accessibility Indicator).</p> <p>Swimming pools – Urban – 15 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive Sports halls – Urban – 15 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive Squash courts – Urban – 15 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive Health and fitness gyms – Urban – 16 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive</p> <p>It can be seen that residents are prepared to travel for 15 minutes on foot to access a swimming pool, sports hall or squash court and 16 minutes to access a health and fitness gym. However, the modal response for each facility type, with the exception health and fitness gyms, was lower at 10 minutes. Of those people who prefer to travel by car residents expect a journey time of 15 minutes to access all four facility types.</p> <p>Residents in the Rural settlements are willing to travel the furthest to access all four facility types. A reason for this may be the lack of indoor sports facilities in these areas of the district. Residents may also be influenced by the existing distribution of provision.</p> <p>These findings are broadly in line with those emerging from national benchmarking undertaken by Sport England,</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>15 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN) 20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>In line with the CPA indicator, Staffordshire Moorlands has been split into a rural and urban area. As such, different modes of transport to access indoor facilities have been established. Within the rural areas, over 79% of residents expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. In line with the 75% threshold, of those respondents who suggested that they would drive to indoor sports facilities, it is recommended that the local accessibility standard should be set at a 20 minute drive time for both sports halls and swimming pools in the rural area. Provision of indoor sports facilities in the three market towns will be important if the rural accessibility standard is to be achieved.</p> <p>In light of the preference for driving, the 75% threshold level indicates a standard of a 15 minute drive time. However, the Council has higher aspirations and therefore it is recommended a 15 minute walk time is set for the urban area. Both of the recommended standards are in line with CPA indicators and the aspirations of local residents across Staffordshire Moorlands.</p> <p>Sport England guidance on the implementation of the national CPA standards suggests that the range of facilities is essential in giving people a choice. Greater choice in the different types of facilities which people have access to and the proximity of these facilities to where they live will increase the likelihood that people will visit and become more active.</p> <p>The use of school facilities for community use will be particularly important if the recommended standards are to be delivered for all residents in the District.</p>
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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS ALLOTMENTS			
Definitions	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.		
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing local accessibility standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Telford – 15 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 15 minute walk (Urban), 15 minute drive (Rural)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 15 minute walk time
Consultation	<p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Respondents to the household survey state that walking is the preferred mode of travel to access an allotment (60%). 31% of residents indicate they would favour travelling by car. The expected travel time for both modes of transport is 5 –10 minutes, as indicated by 59% of people who prefer to walk and 63% who would travel by car. Results from the individual analysis areas support the overall results.</p> <p>Using the District wide results it can be calculated that residents are prepared to travel for up to 15 minutes on foot to use an allotment. These expectations are consistent across the District and reflect the mode (10 minutes) and the mean (14 minutes) as well as the range of responses provided.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Residents at drop in sessions suggested that allotments needed to be made more accessible to local residents. Some respondents were unaware of how to gain access to plots and assumed that sites had waiting lists.</p> <p>The importance of accessible allotments was identified by residents at the older resident's discussion session. Residents felt there was a lack of allotments in Staffordshire Moorlands, however commended the reopening of allotments in Biddulph.</p>		
PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME		

PMP 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>A clear preference for walking is established through consultation and therefore a walk time standard has been set.. The travel time of 15 minutes has been derived from analysis of the aspirations of local residents.</p> <p>This represents a significantly challenging standard, however current waiting lists were highlighted throughout consultation. The sufficient provision of allotments in the District will provide an alternative form of recreation and physical activity for residents.</p>
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