



WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 2014

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This Strategy and Action Plan sets out a strategic vision and a series of aims and objectives for open space in Wolverhampton of all types and ownerships. Based on these objectives and an assessment against quantity, quality and access standards a prioritised action plan is provided for different parts of the City for each type of open space. Over-arching actions for the whole City are also identified.

The document builds upon the work undertaken by Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) as part of the Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2008 and the findings of the review, carried out by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) in 2012, on the recommended OSANA standards. A summary of both is provided in section two.

The document also draws on key actions identified in the Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2012 and the Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy 2012, and highlights where there is cross-over between actions affecting different types of open space and sports facilities.

The Strategy and Action Plan sets out a vision up to 2026, providing a strategic framework for the development and improvement of existing open space facilities. It aims to:

- ◀ Provide a clear prioritised action plan to protect and improve existing open spaces and to increase the provision of such facilities, where it is shown there are deficiencies against quantity, quality and access standards. This includes area-based action plans with implementation and funding sources.
- ◀ Advise, as appropriate, on opportunities for rationalisation and change of use of current open space provision within the City.
- ◀ Detail how WCC can encourage greater community involvement and ownership in the management, maintenance and development of open spaces.
- ◀ Recommend how to maximise the effective use of physical and financial resources in improving the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space
- ◀ Advise on best practise in terms of delivery including stakeholder and partnership working, marketing and communication improvements.
- ◀ Establish a robust monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- ◀ Provide the basis for reviewing the existing draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD.

An action plan has been developed which identifies areas for prioritisation, together with level of priority and recommended action. It is important to remember that the action plan is a working document and the priority actions highlighted will be monitored and updated every year and the action plan as a whole reviewed at an appropriate time or a minimum of every five years, in order to take account of any significant changes, for example, following any adjustment to housing allocations.

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2. CONTEXT

The following section summarises the key strategic documents relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

National

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under the promoting healthy communities theme, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sport and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sport and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Localism Act 2011

The government expects local authorities to empower their communities and maintain strong links with the voluntary and community groups. The current Localism Act 2011 includes new community Rights designed to enable local people to play a major part in shaping and helping to manage green spaces where they live.

This empowerment of local communities through schemes such as the creation of Neighbourhood Plan documents could be used as mechanism to deliver the actions set out within this plan. Opportunities such as these should be explored through working closely with community groups. If for example a specific area is deficient in a typology than a document such as the neighbourhood plan could look at ways of addressing this deficiency locally.

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Sub-Regional

Black Country Core Strategy

The Core Strategy sets out the policy direction for how the sub-region (covering Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) should look in 2026. It is a spatial plan, addressing the economic, transportation, social infrastructure and environmental needs of the sub-region. The Core Strategy replaces the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

There are 10 spatial objectives outlined in the Core Strategy. Spatial Objective Six details that by 2026 the Core Strategy would have helped to deliver *a high quality environment fit for the future, and a strong Urban Park focussed on beacons, corridors and communities: respecting, protecting and enhancing the unique biodiversity and geo-diversity of the Black Country and making the most of its assets whilst valuing its local character and industrial legacy.*

Policy ENV6 of the Core Strategy sets the spatial objectives for open space, sport and recreation across the Black Country. The policy advocates the need to apply the principles of national policy in order to support urban renaissance and environmental transformation and to deliver Spatial Objective Six. In addition to national policy and guidance the policy also states the need to recognise the following roles of open space as being of importance:

- ◀ Improving the image and environmental quality of the Black Country;
- ◀ Defining and enhancing local distinctiveness;
- ◀ Reducing potential urban heat island effects;
- ◀ Preserving and enhancing diversity in the natural and built environment;
- ◀ Preserving and enhancing industrial, archaeological and architectural heritage, including canals;
- ◀ Providing components of a high quality, multifunctional green space network or 'Urban Park';
- ◀ Enhancing people's mental and physical well-being;
- ◀ Strengthening (through extension, increased access and enhanced value) the existing greenway network.

Local

Wolverhampton City Strategy (2011-2016)

The Strategy has been developed by City partners working together through the Wolverhampton Partnership – the City's Local Strategic Partnership. The City Strategy aims to provide a city where people benefit from good health and live longer and also a city of safe, strong and popular neighbourhoods where people have a sense of place and are proud to say they live in Wolverhampton. The vision of the strategy is to achieve *prosperity for all*.

The goal of *prosperity for all* will be achieved through the themes and subsequent actions set out by the Wolverhampton Partnership. The three core themes are:

- ◀ Encouraging enterprise and business
- ◀ Empowering people and communities
- ◀ Re-invigorating our city

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Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the council to replace the UDP with new Development Plan Documents (DPD's) which form part of the Council's emerging Local Plan .

However, parts of the Wolverhampton UDP remain in force. Section 12 is the most pertinent to this study, covering the topic of open space, sport and recreation.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Open Space SPD is currently in draft form and will be adopted in 2014 subject to public consultation. The SPD sets out and adopts the quantity, quality and access standards for different types of open space, for planning purposes. It also clarifies how developer contributions will be sought for open space, in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010).

Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

Area Action Plans' (AAP) are Local Development Documents which focus on a specific location or area subject to significant change (i.e. major regeneration or growth). An AAP focuses on the implementation of a development in terms of its scale, mix and key areas of opportunity, change and conservation.

There are three AAPs programmed in Wolverhampton; City Centre, Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Corridor. Each provides a framework to deliver the planned growth for their respective area. There are two Neighbourhood Plans currently being progressed in Wolverhampton, for Tettenhall and Heathfield Park.

The Wolverhampton Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) have been, and will continue to be, involved in the development of the Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, including the open space related proposals in these Plans. The LNPs will also continue to play a key role in the monitoring and review of the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring that the priority actions, in particular, reflect local needs and aspirations.

Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2008)

Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) undertook an Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2007-8 as part of a Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the City. The OSANA provides an audit of all recreational open space within the City by type of use, and for each of five analysis areas. A range of community consultation methods was used to establish the satisfaction of residents with the current amount, location and quality of each type of open space, in each analysis area.

Based on this evidence the OSANA sets quantity (ha per 1,000 residents), access (mins walking distance) and quality standards for each type of open space for the City as a whole. These standards were then applied to each analysis area to identify gaps in provision over a 15 year period, taking into account new developments and population projections. The report then makes recommendations to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of all types of recreational open space for the future, including a number of specific actions.

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Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Standards Review (2012)

To inform the development of a new Open Space Strategy and Action Plan, there was a need to review and update the 2008 OSANA quantity and access standards, and to objectively assess the quality and value of key open spaces across the City to inform investment decisions.

The standards review involved the following work to ensure the standards used in the new Strategy, and applied for Planning purposes, were up to date, appropriate and robust:

- ◀ Applying site size thresholds to the typologies of amenity green space and natural green space.
- ◀ Where appropriate merging GIS polygons of adjacent sites of the same typology.
- ◀ Implementing a set size standard for certain sub-categories of play sites.
- ◀ Presenting one city-wide standard for each typology.

The new quantity standards were generally lower or remained the same as the 2008 OSANA standards for all typologies, with the exception of parks, which increased due to reclassification of some sites previously in amenity green space and outdoor sports facility typologies.

The review recommended that the 2008 OSANA access standards should remain unchanged, because the evidence to support these standards was (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment.

The recommended quantity and access standards for different types of open space, to be used for the purposes of this Strategy, are set out and applied in Section Three.

An assessment of quality and value was also undertaken as part of the review. The methodology used to score quality and value is set out in Appendix One. The quality and value scores have been used to identify which sites should be given the highest level of protection, those which are suitable for improvement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space.

Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan / Sport Development and Investment Strategy

A Playing Pitch Assessment was carried out in 2011, following the recommended Sport England methodology, covering:

- ◀ An audit of existing provision of different types of outdoor facilities detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ◀ An assessment of supply/demand for outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Analysis of the quantity and quality of other outdoor sports facilities in the City.

Based on the Assessment, a Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan was developed in 2012, which included a breakdown of key actions by Analysis Area and by sport. The key playing pitch issues arising from the Strategy fed into development of the Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy (2012). These included the need to address loss of playing fields at Building Schools for the Future sites by providing a new multi-pitch site at Barnhurst Lane.

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Action Planning Methodology

Following the standards review work, the 2008 OSANA recommendations have been reviewed, updated and refined to produce a prioritised and deliverable action plan, including key actions from the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan. The quantity and access standards and the quality/value work have been applied in combination to identify key actions, and to prioritise those actions. The action plan in Section nine is designed to address the identified deficiencies from application of the three standards (Quantity, Quality and Accessibility). A summary of the identified deficiencies are set out in Section four.

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3. OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

This section provides details of the revised quantity, quality and access standards, and applies these standards by analysis area. It begins to identify deficiencies and issues which need to be addressed through the action plan. Section four summarises the findings from the application of the standards for each analysis area.

Quantity standards

The quantity standards provide a guide as to the amount (in hectares) of different types of open space per 1,000 people required across the City to meet local needs. The standards can then be used to identify whether each analysis area is above or below the level of provision required, based on current and future projected populations.

A quantity standard is set for each type of open space with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, in line with Government guidance. As each area of open space has been allocated only one type, the standards do not overlap. However, at a local level some types of open space should be viewed together as they may perform a similar function. For example, an area may be below standard for amenity green space, but be above standard for Parks, which will function as amenity green space for local residents.

Table 3.1: Quantity standards

Typology	Quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Parks	0.99
Natural green space	1.33
Provision for children	0.026
Provision for young people	0.018
Amenity green space	0.56
Allotments	0.15
Civic spaces	0.005
Outdoor sports facilities	1.35 0.74 of which should be pitches available for community use ¹
Total	4.43

The standards have been applied to each analysis area on the basis of ONS population estimates. Table 3.2 sets out surpluses (green) and deficiencies (red) of provision against the standards.

¹ From Playing Pitch Strategy (population figures based on 2001 Census data as it is only dataset with breakdowns for gender and age groups required. Also incorporates latent demand)

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Table 3.2: Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Different Types of Open Space – 2010 (ha per 1,000 popn **below/above standard**)

Analysis area	Current population (2010)	Parks		Natural green space		Provision for children		Provision for young people		Amenity green space		Allotments		Outdoor sports (w/o golf)		All Open Space	
		0.99	1.33	0.028	0.026	0.018	0.56	0.15	1.35	4.42							
Bilston	41,587	0.99	2.89	0.028	0.026	0.028	0.010	0.66	0.10	0.015	-0.135	1.03	-0.35	5.64	1.22		
Central & South	63,845	0.88	1.19	0.028	0.002	0.012	-0.006	0.42	-0.14	0.159	0.009	1.10	-0.25	3.92	-0.50		
North	37,278	1.40	1.29	0.029	0.003	0.016	-0.002	0.72	0.16	0.135	-0.015	1.85	0.50	5.99	1.57		
Tettenhall	50,334	0.82	0.95	0.021	-	0.006	-0.012	0.44	-0.12	0.289	0.139	1.61	0.26	4.65	0.23		
Wednesfield	46,310	0.94	0.60	0.024	-	0.033	0.015	0.67	0.11	0.108	-0.042	1.29	-0.06	3.81	-0.61		
Wolverhampton	239,354	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10	0.53							

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Quality standards

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score. The scores for each site are then applied against a threshold in order to distinguish sites of a high, average and low quality and/or value. This distinguishing of sites enables for prioritisation in the action planning stage following application of the quantity and accessibility standards. It also identifies site specific quality/value issues that require addressing.

Site by site quality and value scoring has been carried out as a desk based exercise in partnership with the Wolverhampton City Council Parks Team and Open Space Steering Group. The scoring should be used by WCC to create a quality and value matrix for sites within the City. Quality and value scores are provided in a separate Excel project database which accompanies this report.

KKP developed specific quality and value criteria to assess sites against. To give a consistent and robust approach to scoring, workshop sessions were facilitated with WCC Area Managers to score sites for quality. Value scoring was initially developed by KKP and agreed with WCC officers.

Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

In order to determine whether sites are high, adequate or low quality/value (as recommended by Government guidance); the results have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green, amber being adequate and low being red).

The primary aim of applying a threshold or standard is to identify and justify sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed (particularly in conjunction with quantity and accessibility standards).

Quality

The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites		
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	Adequate	High
Allotments	5	20%	54%	80%	1	25	6
Amenity green space	24	0%	69%	100%	21	127	51
Provision for children & young people	6	33%	91%	100%	3	33	93
Parks	24	42%	81%	100%	1	24	29
Natural green	3	0%	65%	100%	26	37	40

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space							
TOTAL	24	0%	-	100%	52	247	219

Most sites score either adequate (48%) or high (43%) for quality with only a small proportion of all sites (10%) receiving a low quality score.

Provision for children and young people scores well compared to other typologies; with 72% of such sites scoring high for quality. Play areas generally have a good range of equipment. The three lowest scoring sites are St Chad's Recreation Ground Play Area, Stirling Road Play Area and Laburnum Street Play Area. All are identified as having a poor range and quality of equipment.

More natural and semi natural green space sites (25%) score low for quality compared to any other typology. This reflects the generally lower mark which sites receive for conservation and biodiversity, such as designated Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

The typologies of allotments, parks, amenity green space and natural green spaces are generally all of an adequate or high quality. In particular most allotments (78%) and amenity green spaces (64%) are rated as being of an adequate quality.

The one allotment site with a low quality score is Slim Avenue Allotments. It has no toilet provision, water supply or onsite parking. Two allotment sites do not receive a quality score; Lich Avenue and Elmdon Close. These are managed by the Council but are identified as currently being closed for allotment usage.

Oak Street is the only park site to receive a low quality score. The site scores poorly on quality of paths and access for all. The site also has low scores for ancillary facilities, information, conservation and biodiversity and its general maintenance.

Value

The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	30	17%	32%	53%	2	30
Amenity green space	37	11%	21%	46%	9	190
Provision for children & young people	15	33%	48%	93%	1	128
Parks	52	13%	28%	50%	1	53
Natural green space	35	9%	27%	51%	9	94
TOTAL	52	9%	-	93%	22	495

The vast majority of sites (96%) are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores, provision for children and young people is highly valued with nearly all sites (99%) being assessed as high value. This reflects the unique benefits such sites provide to local communities, particularly for children and families. A similar very high proportion of parks

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(98%) also score high for value. This is due to the number of sites identified as providing a range of different and popular uses.

A higher proportion of natural green space sites (9%) score low for value compared to any other typology. This is a reflection of the number of sites that do not have a particular designation, either historic or conservation, and/or lack a multi-functional role. However, the value these sites play in providing a visual amenity and a break from the built form remains important in a wider context.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered of a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland or unattractive.

Quality and Value Matrix

The assessment of open space quality and value has been used to help develop the action plan by identifying sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised require enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space (in conjunction with application of the quantity and accessibility standards).

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score (provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet). This score allows each site to be placed in a high/average/low category for quality and a high/low category for value. This categorisation can then be used to inform recommended actions for each site, as detailed below:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should fall into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them. Sites in this category should be recognised as forming a key part of the open space network.

High quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and/or by securing greater community involvement.

Average quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality where possible and to protect through the planning system.

Low quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality as a priority and to protect through the planning system.

Average quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater

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community involvement. Quality improvements may also be necessary to achieve increased value. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' if value cannot be increased.

Low quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to seriously consider if there is any potential to enhance both value and quality. If this is not practical or viable, the open space may then be considered 'surplus to requirements'. If the site is not suitable for any purpose other than open space in the long term, value and quality improvements may still need to be considered.

This quality and value categorisation of sites is used to inform the action planning section in this report. It helps to identify sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised for enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements. This is carried out in union with the surplus and deficiency findings from application of the quantity and quality standards.

Access standards

Access standards are the distances that typical users can reasonably be expected to walk to each type of open space. An access standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, as recommended by PPG17 guidance.

The access standards are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. However, the challenging 5 minute walk time standard set in the 2008 OSANA for amenity green space has been increased to a 10 minute walk time standard, which is more in line with survey results.

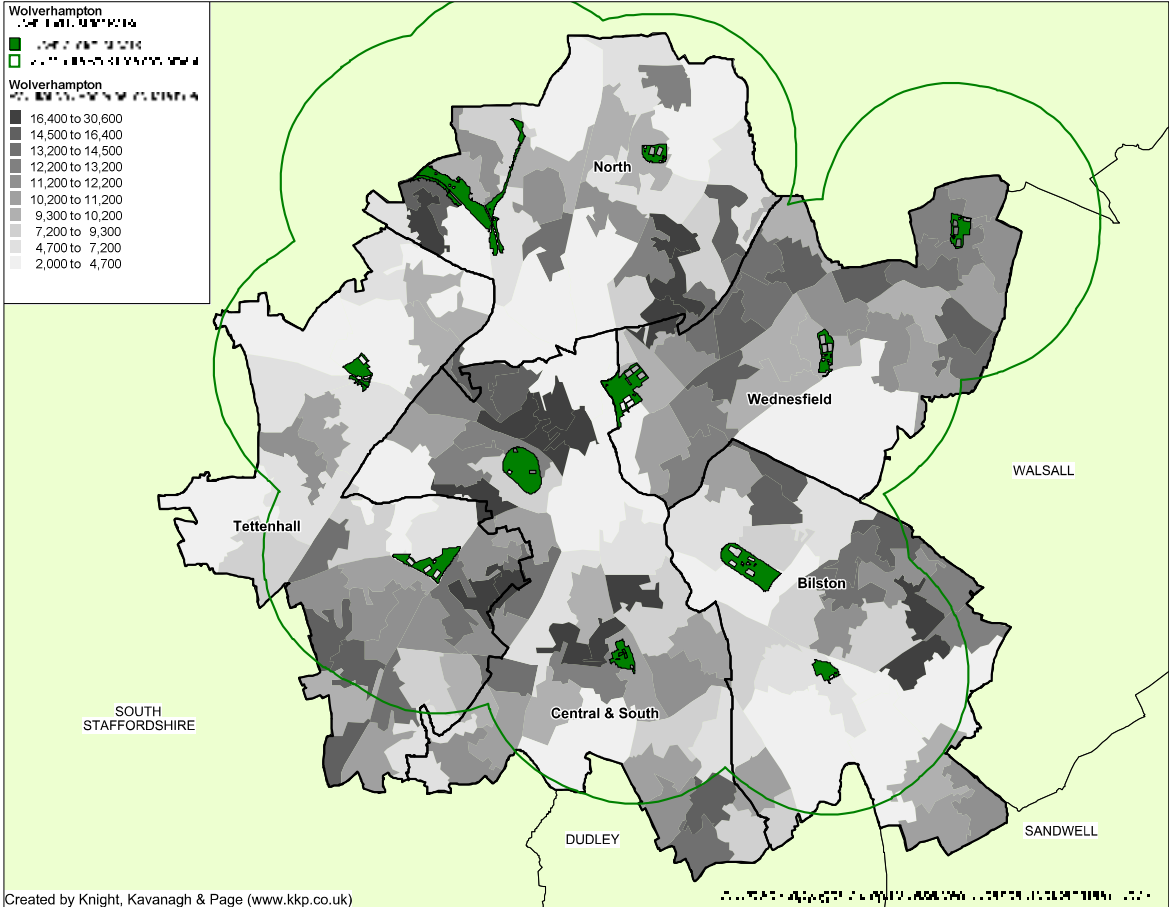
Table 3.5: Accessibility standards

Typology	Accessibility standard
Parks	District - 20 minute walk Neighbourhood - 10 minute walk Pocket – 10 minute walk
Natural green space	15 minute walk
Provision for children	10 minute walk
Provision for young people	20 minute walk
Amenity green space	10 minute walk
Allotments	15 minute walk
Outdoor sports facilities	15 minute walk

The maps on the following pages show the access catchments for different types of open space. This allows gaps in provision to be identified which affect existing or proposed residential areas.

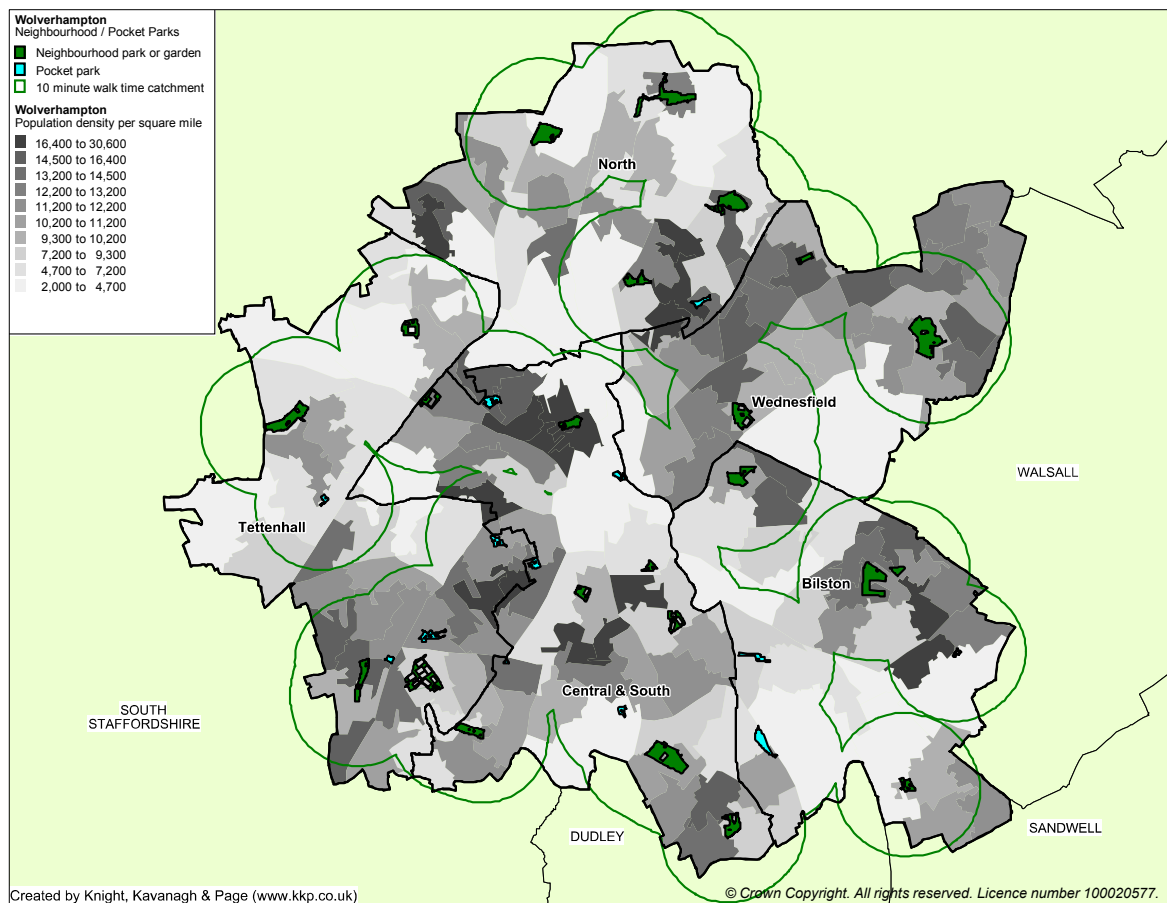
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District parks



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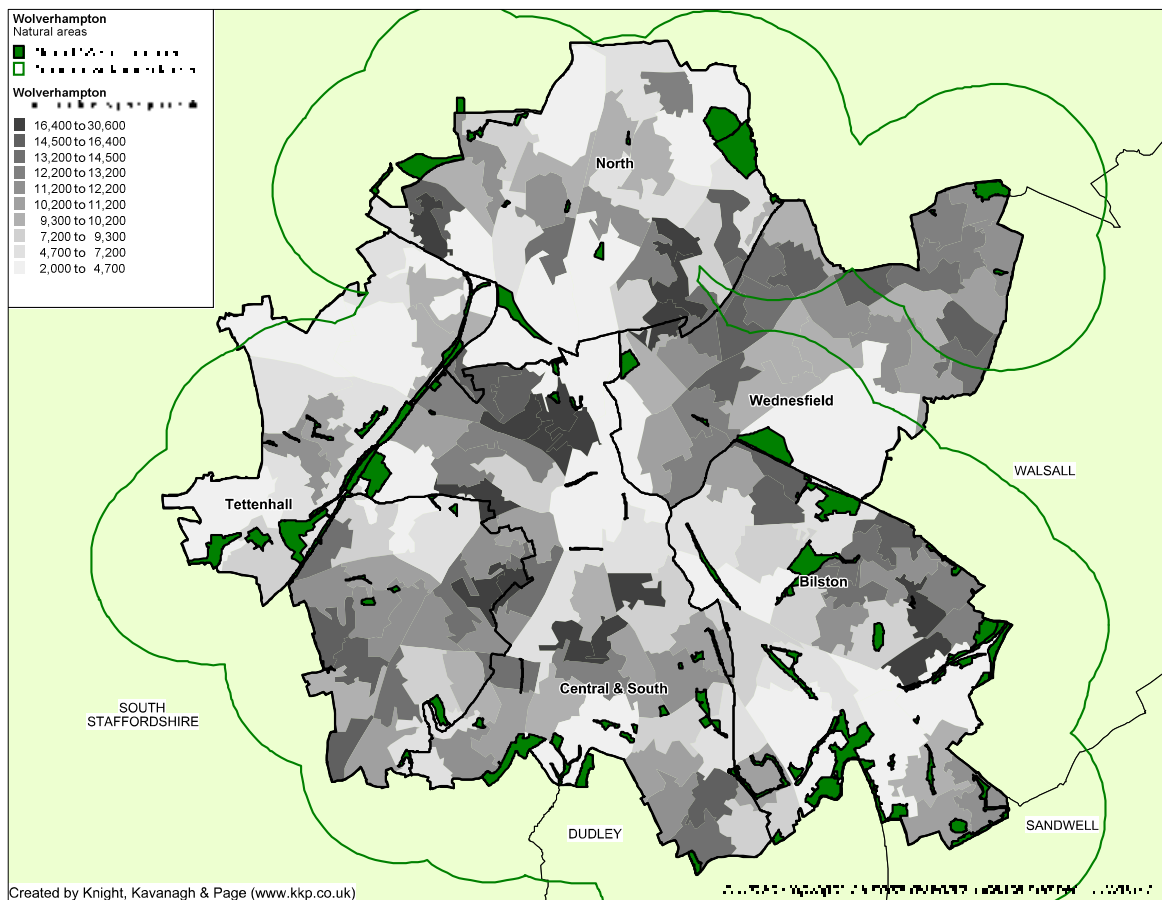
Neighbourhood and pocket parks



Gaps in District Park provision are identified on the outskirts of Tettenhall, Central & South and Bilston. There are also gaps in Neighbourhood / Pocket Park provision in southern Tettenhall and Bilston. Therefore there is a clear need to identify sites for new Park provision in southern Tettenhall and Bilston. Based on Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance for minimum site sizes a new Park should be at least 2 hectares in size.

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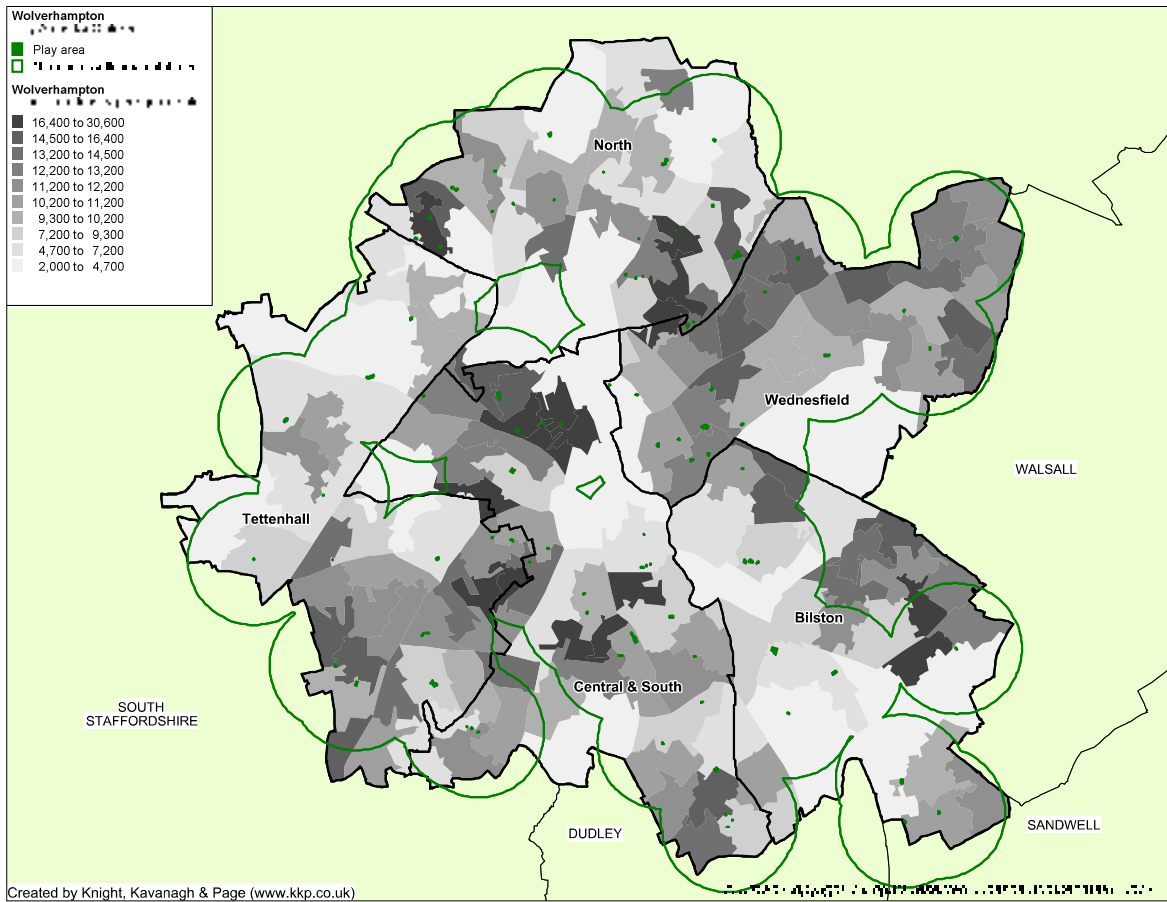
Natural green space



There is good coverage of provision across all analysis areas. The only area with a gap in provision is to the north of Wednesfield, where there is also a large deficiency in quantity. It is likely that provision of one additional site in this area could meet the catchment deficiency. Based on Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance, natural green spaces should be at least 0.4 hectares in size.

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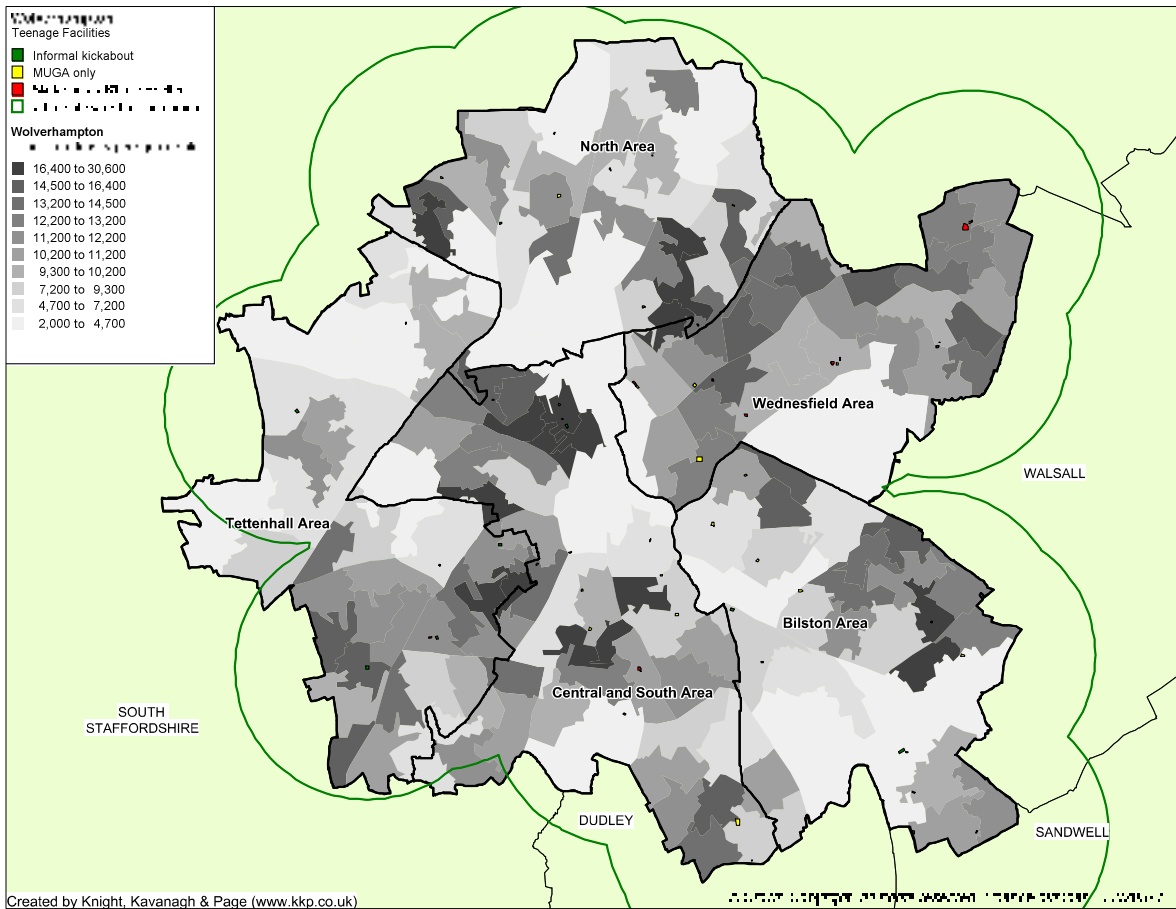
Provision for children



Minor gaps in the catchment mapping are noted across the City. The most significant gap is in the north of the Bilston analysis area (the gap in Wednesfield covers an industrial area). It is likely that provision of two additional sites in this area could meet the catchment deficiency.

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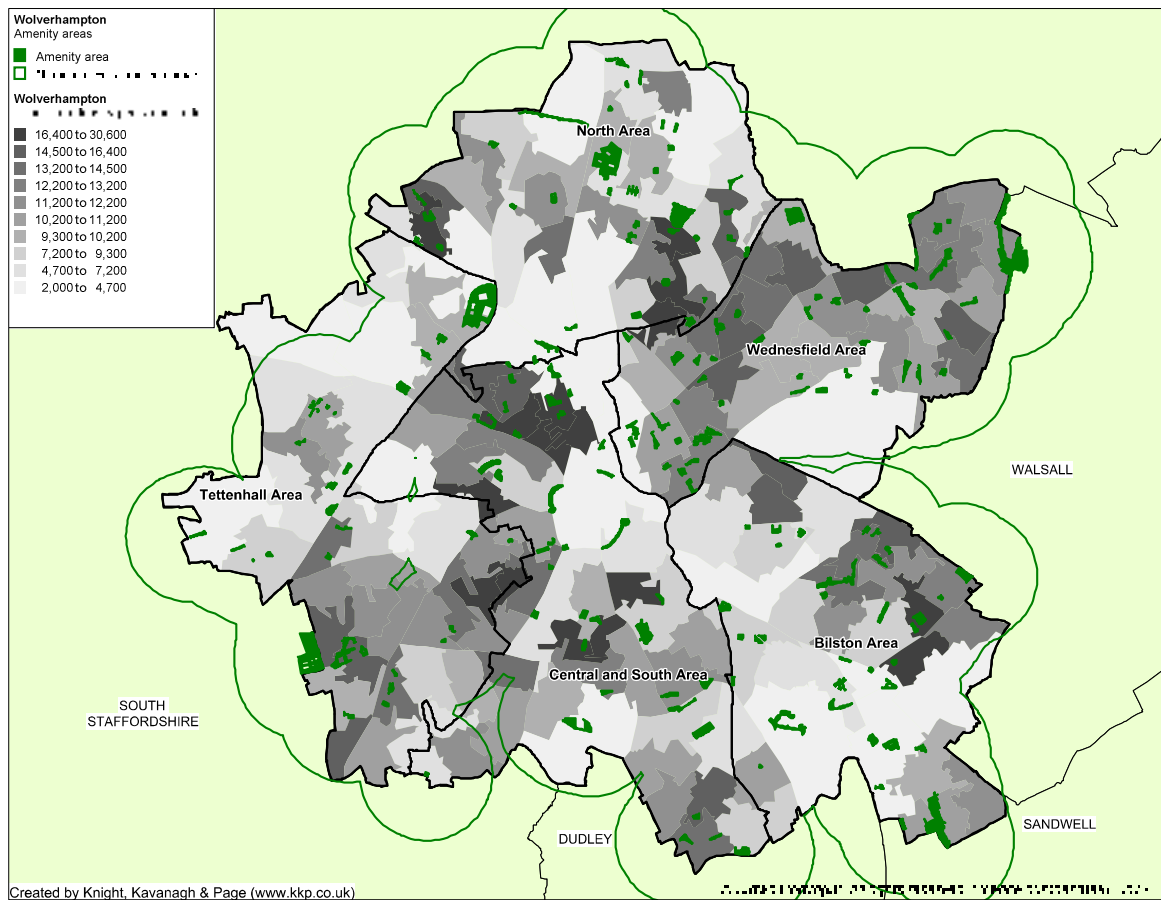
Provision for young people



There is good coverage of provision across all analysis areas. Only a minor gap to the West of Tettenhall is noted.

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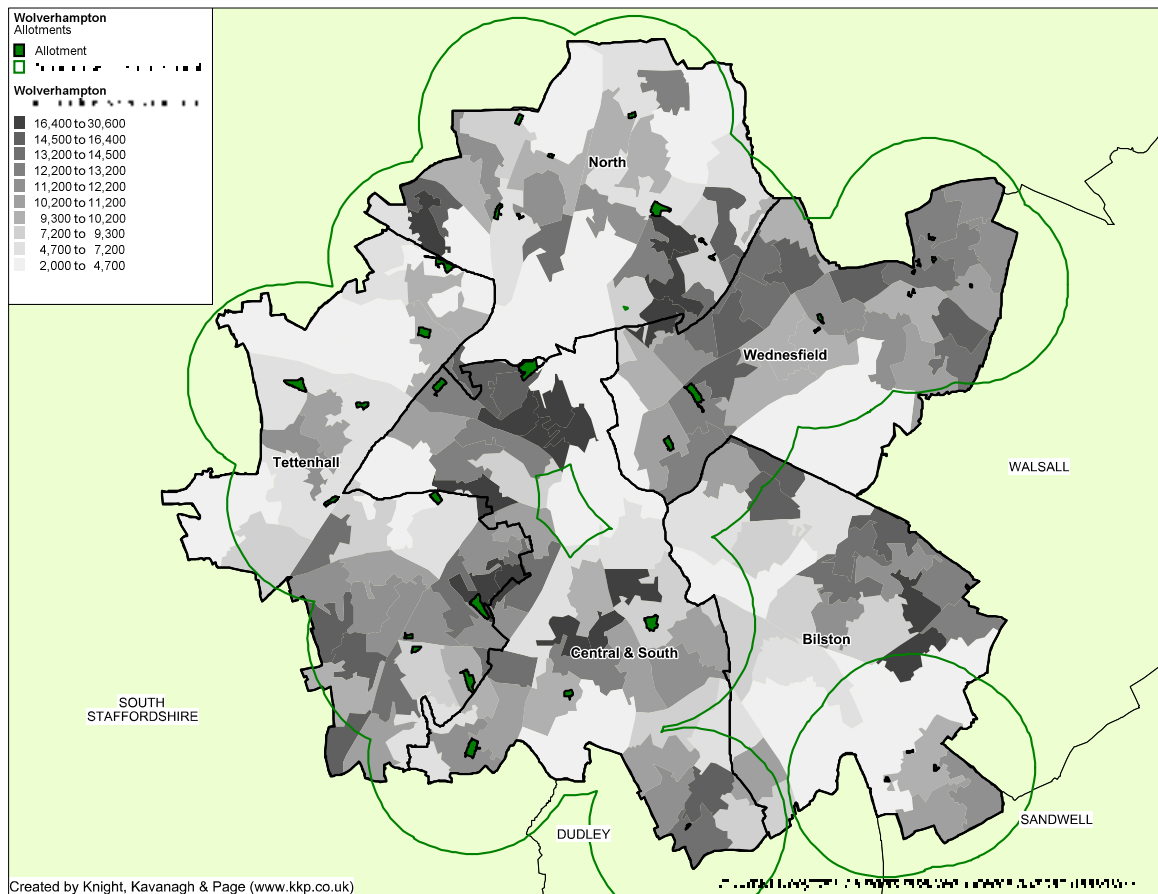
Amenity green space



No significant gaps are noted across the City based on the 10 minute catchment standard. Taking into account the distribution of Parks across the City, which also perform a similar function to amenity green space, these gaps reduce further.

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Allotments



Application of the standard shows a significant gap in the Bilston area (the gap in Wednesfield covers an industrial area). It is likely that provision of one or two additional sites could help to meet the deficiency identified. Based on the average allotment plot size in Wolverhampton suggested minimum site sizes for each new site required should be of a minimum 20 plots.

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4. SUMMARY

A summary of current performance against quantity, quality and access standards is set out below for each analysis area.

Bilston Analysis Area

Overall the Bilston area has a sufficient quantity of open space. There is a large quantity of amenity green space and natural green space, some of which is of SLINC / SINC value. However, the quality, access and safety of these spaces is sometimes poor. The area will also be a focus for housing growth in future years, requiring more quality open space to serve new residents and support regeneration.

The area has a number of District Parks serving a wide area, which are known for their distinctive character and could benefit from improvements. However, some areas have a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to meet local needs and there are three areas which are a priority for creation of new Parks – to the south of Bilston Town Centre; Ettingshall; and The Lunt.

There is a deficiency in the quantity of outdoor sports provision in the area, which will increase by 2026 due to population growth. However, the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan concludes that there are sufficient playing pitches across the area to meet current and future needs, subject to improving quality at junior pitch sites and making maximum use of community use football pitches in the area which have spare capacity.

There is an area with poor access to children's play facilities to the north of this Analysis Area and the overall level of provision for children only just exceeds the quantity standard. The south of the area will be a focus for housing growth in future years, providing additional demands for children's play and also opportunities to provide new facilities. Arnhem Road Open Space is suggested for consideration as a site that could be appropriate for any new provision for children. Furthermore the Stirling Road Play Area site is highlighted as being of a low quality compared to other sites. Consideration could also be given to rationalising play provision i.e. disposing of poor quality site in order to fund improvements/extensions to existing better quality sites.

There are significant parts of Bilston which do not have good access to allotments, and existing allotments are full. This area also contains the one allotment site (Slim Avenue Allotments) in Wolverhampton to score low for quality.

Central and South Analysis Area

There are low levels of open space provision across the Central and South Analysis Area, which includes Wolverhampton City Centre and high density, inner city neighbourhoods to the south. Shortfalls are identified for parks, natural green space, provision for young people, outdoor sports and amenity green space. There is little potential to create new open space through development, therefore it is important to maximise use of existing open space, including bringing amenity green space up to park standard and maximising community use of sports pitches.

West Park (the "City" Park) falls within this Analysis Area and, due to its size, the Area is above standard for District Parks. However, there is a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to serve the rest of the area. Increasing the range of functions provided by larger amenity green space and natural green spaces could help address gaps in provision. There are

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plans for housing growth and regeneration in the City Centre, which already has a large student population. The City Centre has little open space but is served by a network of canals which link to open spaces further afield.

There is a current shortfall of junior football pitches in the area, which will increase in the future, and a need to maintain senior football pitch and cricket pitch provision to accommodate future increases in participation. There is a sufficient amount of allotments and these are well distributed across the area.

There is little natural green space in the north of the Area, where housing growth is planned in the City Centre and areas to the south, and some existing areas are of poor quality. There is little potential to provide new open space through development in this area, but opportunities to improve the quality of existing sites or to provide more natural habitat in existing open spaces could be explored.

In general standards for children and young people's provision are met, although there is a gap in access to children's play provision to the south of the analysis area, and the quantity (area in ha) of provision for young people is below standard.

The Analysis Area has good access to amenity green space, although there is a shortfall against quantity standards of 0.14 ha per 1,000 population and a number of sites are of a poor quality. The priority should be to first address qualitative issues at sites

There is a sufficient amount of allotments and these are well distributed across the area.

North Analysis Area

The North Analysis Area has a generally good level of open space provision of different types. There are minor shortfalls in quantity of natural green space, provision for young people and allotments.

There are a number of parks and amenity green spaces in the area which are of an average quality. There is a gap in park provision in the Oxley area, which is being addressed through provision of a new, high quality Neighbourhood Park as part of the Goodyear housing development.

The area has a large amount of outdoor sports space and will benefit from the installation of a new artificial grass pitch at Our Lady and St Chad's Catholic School and Sports College, which will be available for community use for 39 hours a week. This will help to address local shortfalls in football pitch provision.

There is generally good access to natural green space, although the majority of sites are of an average to poor quality. There is generally good access to allotments across the analysis area, although the quantity of provision is below standard and the quality of allotment sites is generally average.

No quantitative deficiency is identified in provision for children but there is poor access to facilities in the north of the analysis area, where there are areas of amenity green space which could accommodate new facilities. A minor shortfall in provision for young people is identified in quantitative terms. However, no significant issues are highlighted in terms of quality or access standards.

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Tettenhall Analysis Area

Overall the Tettenhall Analysis Area has insufficient quantitative provision for all typologies with the exception of allotments and outdoor sports provision.

There is a shortfall in the overall area of parks and the Compton, Wightwick and Castlecroft areas do not have access to a Park, and also have poor access to amenity open space and provision for children and young people. Tettenhall Upper Green / Lower Green and Penk Rise do not provide the full range of facilities which would be expected for Neighbourhood Parks. There are a number of smaller park sites that score average in terms of quality and the Oak Street Open Space site is the only low quality scoring park in the City.

There are few opportunities to provide new open space in the area, however disposal of small areas of surplus open space and new housing developments have the potential to fund improvements and provide new facilities. A Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for the Tettenhall area, which will incorporate proposals for protection and improvement of open space in the area.

There is a good coverage of natural green space provision and the area benefits from good access to the only Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Wolverhampton, Smestow Valley, which acts as a green lung extending throughout the area with a range of functions. A Management Plan is now in place for the LNR to guide future improvements. However, there is a shortfall in quantity and a few sites are rated as having a poor quality and/or value score. Opportunities to improve or extend existing provision in the area should be explored. An option could be to provide more natural elements/areas in existing open spaces such as parks and amenity green spaces.

The area is below the quantity standard for amenity green space, with gaps identified in the west of the area. The main priority should be to address quality of provision before looking to provide further provision in these areas of Tettenhall (which are also lacking in parks provision). Application of the quality scoring highlights there are also five sites rated as being of a poor quality.

A shortfall in quantity of provision for children is identified and there are minor gaps in provision for children and young people towards the western edges of the area. This is a similar gap to that identified for parks provision. Any development of new parks provision in these areas should look to also feature provision for children and young people. Only the Laburnum Street site is rated as being of poor quality, and there is potential to dispose of this site to fund improvements in the local area.

There is a lack of cricket and rugby pitches in the area and a lack of junior football pitches, meaning that junior clubs have to play on senior pitches. New junior pitches can be created by converting senior pitches and by looking to open up school pitches for community use. There is a need to protect cricket sites and increase the availability of non-turf wickets. Two Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) used for hockey have recently been resurfaced at Aldersley Leisure Village, at a cost of £430k, in line with the need identified in the Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy. The relocation of Wolves Academy from Aldersley Leisure Village to Wolves training ground at Compton, including a £700k upgrading of pitches, and transfer of use of the dome at Aldersley Leisure Village to Wolves Community Trust has also been completed. This was a key Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy project.

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Wednesfield Analysis Area

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the lowest level of general provision for open space in the City, and has below standard provision for all types of open space, except for provision for young people and amenity green space.

There is a small shortfall in the quantity of parkland and some average quality parks, however all parts of the area have good access to a park, including housing growth areas. The area is also well served by outdoor sports space and pitches.

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the greatest shortfall in the City against the quantity standard for natural green space. There are also large areas with poor access to natural green space, particularly in the centre of the area, and there are few natural green space sites in total, with only one good quality site.

The area has good access to amenity green space and provision for children and young people, and has a surplus of amenity green space. However, quality of amenity green space is variable with a number of sites of a poor quality.

There is a shortfall in allotment provision in the area, and only one allotment site is of a high quality.

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5. VISION

The variety of open space provision across Wolverhampton provides opportunity for all people to play, exercise, meet one another, and for public events to be held. As a focal point of a community, parks and open spaces can contribute to building community spirit and community cohesion. This role, however, must be carefully balanced with the role of open spaces as a home to wildlife and natural habitats.

The City Strategy² vision is about providing a city to be proud of and creating new opportunities for local people, communities and businesses. Its goal for Wolverhampton is *prosperity for all*. Making sure everyone benefits from the goal; including the most vulnerable people. Its aim is to create new job opportunities, support businesses and communities and close gaps in skills, health and well-being. Based on this, the proposed vision for parks and open spaces is that:

'By 2026 Wolverhampton will have a vibrant and diverse range of quality parks and open spaces, well distributed across the City. Sites will reflect local needs and historical and natural characteristics as well as the overall needs of the City. The spaces will form a network which maximises opportunities for everyone to interact with their local community and area whilst also attracting people into the City'

Aims

The following section provides a framework for the Council and its partners to maintain and improve parks and open spaces across the City. In order to achieve the vision of providing quality, vibrant and diverse parks and open spaces across the City, it is vital that the process of agreeing the Strategy and Action Plan provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to explore issues and prioritise key actions within a clear, practical and achievable framework. This includes the opportunity to incorporate the aims of other strategies and action plans in relation to open spaces.

The Strategy and Action Plan should respond to key drivers, including the need to address identified deficiencies, protect existing sites of high quality and value and set out a framework for future investment, including rationalisation of low value sites.

The Strategy is focused on achieving four aims (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below). A number of objectives need to be implemented to enable these aims to be realised. It is recommended that the Council adopt the aims and objectives as policy:

AIM 1

Provide new open spaces to meet current and future needs that are designed to attract people to the City.

AIM 2

Focus on providing a network of strategic sites, which are high quality and meet the needs of local communities.

² Wolverhampton City Strategy 2011-2026, Wolverhampton Partnership, 2011

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AIM 3

Provide a diverse natural environment helping to support and protect wildlife habitats, which are well connected and accessible to all.

AIM 4

Improve and widen access to recreation opportunities, increasing participation in sport and fitness activities and helping to improve peoples' health and well-being.

Objectives

Each of the four aims has a set of objectives designed to enable their delivery.

AIM 1

Provide new open spaces to meet current and future needs that are designed to attract people to the City.

Adopt quantity, quality and access standards which are achievable and sustainable and which support current and future needs.

- f. Use the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Plan and to secure appropriate new and improved open space through development.
- g. Prioritise actions which address key shortfalls against adopted standards, so that all residents have reasonable access to a variety of open space types of an acceptable quality.
- h. Ensure new open spaces provided through development are of a high quality and will be well maintained in perpetuity.
- i. Where open space is lost to development, ensure that losses are mitigated for and that mitigation measures are focused on the priority actions.

AIM 2

Focus on providing a network of strategic sites, which are high quality and meet the needs of local communities.

- j. Focus available funding from developments and capital budgets on investment in the network of strategic sites.
- k. Rationalise existing open space provision where this will support the creation of a network of strategic sites and better meet local needs.
- l. Ensure that all significant changes to the open space network are subject to community consultation.

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AIM 3

Provide a diverse natural environment (ecological and geological) helping to support and protect wildlife habitats, which are well connected and accessible to all, and adapt to climate change.

- m. Maintain and increase the wildlife value of key sites (SINCs, SLINCs and LNRs) through protection, good management and enhancement.
- n. Increase the wildlife value of open spaces generally, and foster an appreciation of ecology and the natural world.
- o. Promote use of the natural environment to improve the health and well being of residents and visitors.
- p. Make use of native species and species resistant to climate change in planting schemes as far as possible
- q. Encourage use of open space for fuel, food and timber crops e.g. coppicing, biomass

AIM 4

Improve and widen access to recreation opportunities, increasing participation in sport and fitness activities and helping to improve peoples' health and well-being.

- r. Adopt local access standards as outlined in the OSANA Review Report.
- s. Where creation or improvement of open space is planned, ensure new provision is fully accessible to all residents (including the elderly, disabled, young people, BME groups and girls/women) in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- t. Encourage partners to work together to maximise safe access to open space, including canals, school playing fields and privately owned spaces, where appropriate.
- u. Maintain a safe, clean, accessible and attractive environment for children's play and for the leisure of older and disabled residents and families.
- v. Ensure a sufficient quantity, quality and access of outdoor sports facilities through delivery of the objectives set out in the Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy and the supporting Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan.

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Typology specific aims and objectives

An aim and objectives are provided for each type of open space as a mechanism for addressing issues identified through application of the standards.

ALLOTMENTS

To be secure, well kept sites providing communal places for growing produce whilst encouraging biodiversity, learning opportunities and healthier lifestyles both mentally and physically.

- ◀ Work towards meeting identified demand through exploring opportunities to provide additional plots.
- ◀ Strengthen ties and joint working with allotment societies and private landowners.
- ◀ Promote best practice gardening examples designed to increase biodiversity.

AMENITY GREEN SPACE

To be accessible and safe green spaces which visually enhance the appearance of the local environment and allow opportunities for the local community to play, meet and exercise.

- ◀ Ensure that new housing developments provide sufficient allowance for amenity green space.
- ◀ Encourage community involvement and ownership of sites through events, activities and active management (i.e. undertaking maintenance and site tidying).

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Make most effective use of cemeteries and churchyards for appropriate community use and wildlife value.

- ◀ Provision to remain accessible and to be promoted as a recreation resource where appropriate.
- ◀ Encourage greater use of closed churchyards as areas for wildlife use through habitat development (e.g. introduction of bird/bat boxes, insect logs).
- ◀ Support use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage and environmental value.

CIVIC SPACES

To be clean, well maintained and safe sites which are accessible to all.

- ◀ Ensure provision is kept to a sufficient standard and elements such as landscaping are encouraged and designed to enhance the visual appearance of the area.
- ◀ Promote use of sites through holding appropriate community events and activities.

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NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Work to address deficiencies against adopted standards and encourage and recognise the wider habitat value of sites.

- ◀ Encourage provision of more onsite natural features (e.g. woodland planting, wildflower meadows, sustainable drainage features) particularly in areas of deficiency as a priority.
- ◀ Maintain and develop partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of sites.
- ◀ Work to raise awareness of accessible provision and the value of sites in terms of habitat creation and educational learning benefits.

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Provide a range of sporting facilities which offer opportunities for all to participate in regular formal and informal sports and activities.

- ◀ Increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity by 1% every year until 2022.
- ◀ By 2022, significantly reduce the health costs of inactivity, particularly through those with health inequalities and obese and overweight people.
- ◀ Deliver improved sporting facilities across the City based on up to date understanding of supply and demand in partnership with National Governing Bodies and Sport England.
- ◀ Use the legacy of London 2012 and subsequent international sports events to raise the profile of the City's sport and physical activity offer.

PARKS

To be clean, safe and welcoming sites with a range of features which are accessible and attractive to users. Strategic sites should have an appropriate level of ancillary facilities (such as benches, bins and pathways) and be maintained to a high standard.

- ◀ Adopt a hierarchy approach to the categorisation of parks in order to prioritise investment.
- ◀ Keep up to date management plans for all strategic parks, focused on maintaining site quality and encouraging further use.
- ◀ Continue to improve quality by securing and making best use of funding, including developer contributions.
- ◀ Work to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups to increase community engagement in the management and development of parks.

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PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Continue to provide inclusive and enriched places for children to play safely.

- ◀ Adopt a hierarchy approach to the categorisation of provision in order to prioritise investment opportunities.
- ◀ Investigate rationalisation of equipped play provision in terms of the quality and value matrix.
- ◀ Aspire to meet deficiencies identified in provision for young people against adopted standards.
- ◀ Use developer contributions to address the quality/capacity of current stock.

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6. DELIVERY

The following section sets out best practice guidance intended to assist in implementing and achieving the aims and outcomes of the Strategy and Action Plan. These include how to encourage greater community involvement, maximising resources and delivery methods and procedures.

Resources

The efficient use of physical and financial resources is important. Increasingly more innovative and effective ways of maintaining and improving open spaces are being required. Some of the Strategy's actions suggest the need to explore alternative resources. This can be through increasing community involvement opportunities in elements such as managing and maintaining sites as well as seeking external funding sources.

Further to this, WCC and its partners should consider and explore the following when undertaking any site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access
- ◀ Seeking planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified
- ◀ Seeking revenue funding from planning contributions in order to increase the capacity of existing site standards
- ◀ Analysis of shared site management options
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations
- ◀ Options to support community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision

The quality and value matrix can also be used as a tool to maximise the effectiveness of resources. For example, a site that is deemed low quality but high value should, in most instances, be identified as a priority for enhancement. A site of average quality but with low value is likely to be less of a priority for improvement. Further detail on the quality and value matrix and classifications is found in Appendix 2.

Community funding sources

Outside of the usual funding sources for open spaces (e.g. annual budget allocations, developer contributions) there are a number of other potential funding sources available to community and voluntary groups³.

³ Source: Potential funding for community green spaces, DCLG

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Below is a list of funding sources that may be relevant for community improvement projects involving parks, open spaces and nature conservation in Wolverhampton.

- ◀ BIG Lottery Fund
- ◀ Awards for All
- ◀ Access to Nature (only eligible to existing Access to Nature projects)
- ◀ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ◀ Community Development Foundation
- ◀ Landfill Communities Fund
- ◀ Lloyds TSB Foundation
- ◀ Co-Operative Group Community Fund
- ◀ The Design Council
- ◀ Big Tree Plant
- ◀ Forestry Commission – English Woodland Grant Scheme
- ◀ Biffa Awards
- ◀ Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA)
- ◀ Environment Agency funding for sustainable drainage projects

There will be other sources of funding available in addition to those listed above. Sources of funding are continuously changing and regular checking of funding providers should be undertaken.

Nature Improvement Area

Wolverhampton is part of the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA). It is one of the first 12 NIAs in England. The vision of the NIA is to achieve long term environmental gains for the wildlife and people of the area by delivering targeted, on the ground, biodiversity projects at a landscape scale.

The NIA covering Wolverhampton is a partnership of over 50 organisations working together to significantly improve the natural environment of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Funding is available through the NIA for delivery of projects designed to boost nature locally.

Community and partnership working

Partnership working between WCC and various private, public and voluntary sectors is vital in order to deliver the Strategy, particularly as WCC does not own or provide all publicly accessible open space in the City.

In order to encourage greater community involvement in the management and maintenance of open spaces it is important to recognise that each site and each volunteer / community group is different and faces varying issues and circumstances. It is therefore unlikely to be feasible or appropriate to adopt a “one size fits all” approach

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A number of issues and questions need to be considered when determining the level of willingness and ability a volunteer or community group has to increase involvement in maintaining or managing a site. These include:

- ◀ The amount of voluntary time which can be committed on a regular basis
- ◀ The level of responsibility the group is willing to take on
- ◀ The role and duties the group is prepared to undertake
- ◀ Any incentives for greater involvement

Consideration must also be given to the ways in which volunteering is promoted throughout the City. Awareness of volunteering opportunities is limited and this is likely to inhibit people becoming volunteers. Equally it is important that volunteering opportunities are clearly defined and offer choice through a level of flexibility.

To engage with more volunteers there is a need to embark on a process of engaging the community more widely via improved marketing of opportunities. Some useful methods of boosting community relations with a view to greater involvement include:

- ◀ Using a range of techniques – websites, notices, leaflets etc. Also establish how communities like to be communicated with. Use resident surveys, community panels and groups to get messages across.
- ◀ Dispel myths – such as how service provision is allocated or how decisions are made.
- ◀ Publicise achievements – promote local interest stories and recognise individuals and communities accomplishments to the provision of open spaces.
- ◀ Celebrate – host and support an array of national and local events and festivals. Existing schemes such as Love Parks Week and the Green Flag Award are initiatives intended to promote community involvement.
- ◀ Feedback – always give honest views towards any comments or suggestions submitted. Don't ignore controversial or unpopular topics; arising issues need to be discussed and ironed out.

Case study: Pinecliff Gardens, Poole

The site is a Mediterranean style garden on the seafront. It was created in this permanent style following the Council's policy to reduce the use of bedding and water in its parks. However, users of the site were unhappy at the change. Following local community discussions, the local Residents Association offered to undertake maintenance of the site. As part of an agreement the Council drew up a three year licence allowing the Association to upgrade and maintain the landscaping of the site. A requirement of the licence was for the Association to apply and achieve a Green Flag Community Award; reducing the need for the Council to inspect excessively whilst ensuring an acceptable quality standard. Issues regarding insurance, risk and sustainability were addressed through the use of a licence between the Council and the community group.

Working with partners

Collaborative partnership working is essential to deliver the aims and objectives of the Strategy. Each partner organisation has its own objectives in order to deliver its individual goals. However, there are mutual benefits and overlapping aims for all parties. As stakeholders in the provision of open spaces and the wider green infrastructure network there is a need to work together to achieve these visions.

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This Strategy is a means to further engaging and initiating support with partners to establish a common set of principles for improving the quality of parks and open space provision across Wolverhampton.

Examples of key partners to work with include the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, Canals and River Trust, Groundwork West Midlands, local Friends of Groups, Resident Associations, Conservation Groups. In addition national organisations such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Sport England are key contributors to the delivery of provision and can provide access to sources of funding.

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7. MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The implementation and delivery of the actions should be monitored on an annual basis. There are a number of ways to measure how effectively actions are being implemented. Some are based on previous National Indicators and others are locally derived. The WCC Annual Monitoring Report has been used to inform the development of the following proposed indicators:

- ◀ The number of open spaces managed to green flag award standard (annual).
- ◀ Performance against current open space quantity, access and quality standards, in the light of major changes to open space e.g. additions and losses through development, improvements in quality, changes in access (annual).
- ◀ Percentage of residents satisfied with the quantity, distribution and quality of different types of open space (every 3-5 years).

The Strategy and Action Plan is intended to act as a framework for joint action. Each individual service group of the Council should incorporate the actions into their respective service planning processes. Overall monitoring will be undertaken by the WCC Parks Team.

To ensure the Strategy and Action Plan are relevant and up to date a full review should be undertaken every three to five years. The Action Plan can be updated annually to reflect progress as part of the monitoring process.

8. OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The aim of the action plan is to identify priority actions which WCC should work towards in partnership with agencies, communities and landowners across the City. It should also be used by WCC to inform negotiations with developers to ensure adequate mitigation and provision to serve new residents is secured for the improvement of open space and recreation facilities across Wolverhampton. It should also advise on opportunities for rationalisation and potential change of use of sites.

Determining Priority Actions

The area actions build upon the initial recommendations made by the OSANA. These have been updated to reflect any changes in local circumstances and to address key issues resulting from the application of the revised standards and the new assessment of quality and value.

The purpose of the action plan is to identify and prioritise major or significant actions. There are a number of smaller or more detailed actions which fall outside the scope of the action plan but will still need to be addressed e.g. increasing frequency of maintenance, provision of litterbins and benches, or increasing value by widening the range of open space functions a site performs, raising awareness or increasing community engagement.

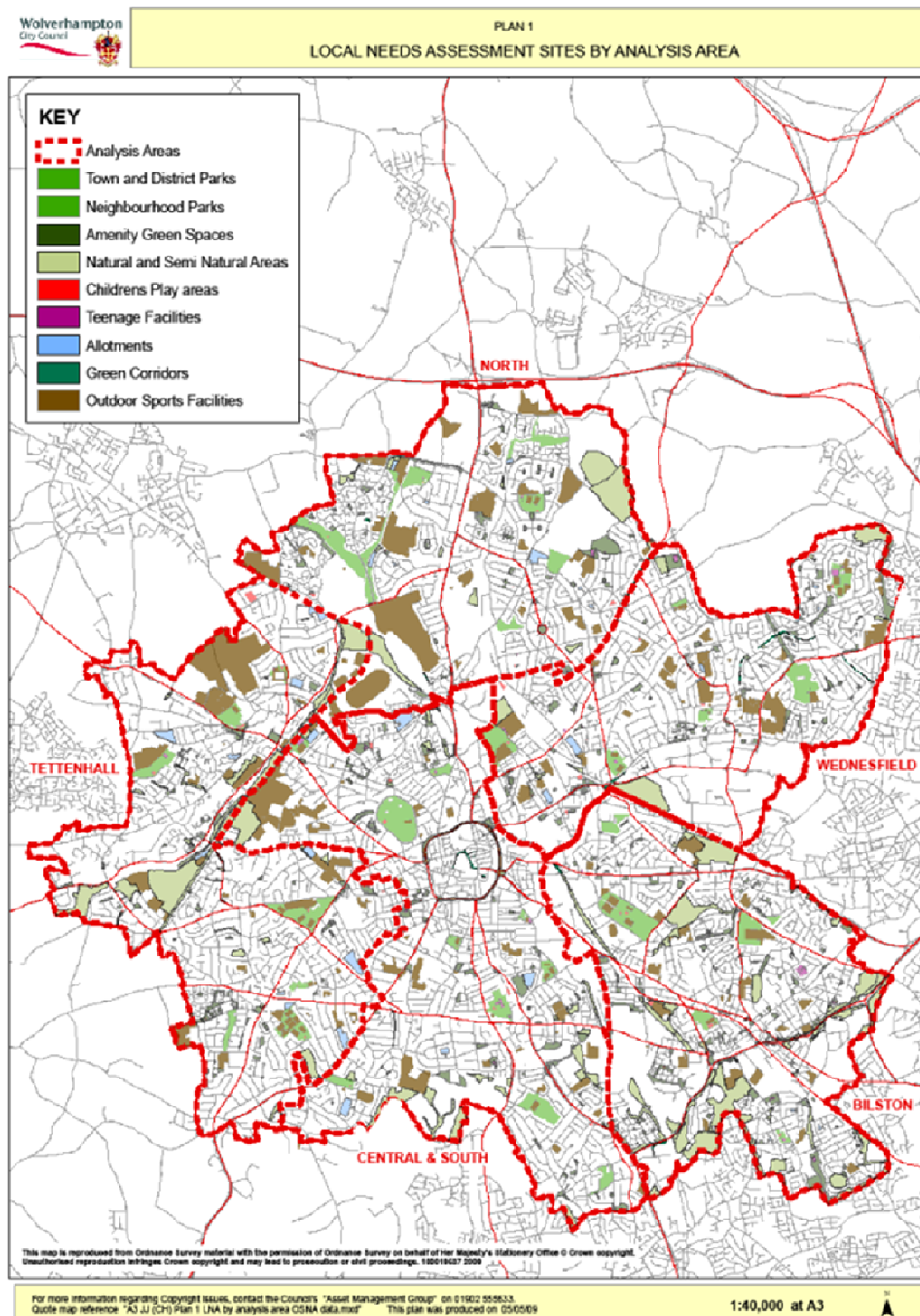
The following criteria have been used to identify priority actions:

- ◀ The action will help to address an identified deficiency against the revised open space quantity and access standards;
- ◀ The action will target a site identified as being of low quality and/or value;
- ◀ A project is currently planned or underway to enhance the site and funding may have been secured;
- ◀ The action is small scale or short term but will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst increasing community involvement;
- ◀ The action / site is identified as a priority in other strategies.

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9. ACTION PLAN BY AREA AND TYPOLOGY

This section identifies priority actions for each of the five analysis areas, by type of open space. Included in the site specific actions are any current or planned improvement works identified on sites.



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Bilston

Total ha's Open Space for the Bilston Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
Bilston Area	245.5	41,590	41.1	120.3	1.2	1.2	27.3	0.6	42.8	10.1	0.9
Wolverhampton	1129.3	239,350	238.1	319.6	6.2	4.3	134.1	35.4	322.4	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.424	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.018	0.56	0.15	1.35
Bilston Area	5.641	0.99	1.56	0.028	0.010	0.66	-0.135	1.03
Wolverhampton	4.945	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10

* No standards have been set for Cemeteries & Churchyards and Green Corridors

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Open Space Strategy Rationale
Parks The Bilston Analysis Area has a number of District Parks serving a wide area, which are known for their distinctive character and could benefit from improvements. However, some areas have a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to meet local needs and there are three areas which are a priority for creation of new Parks. The first area is to the south of Bilston Town Centre which could be addressed through the creation of a new Neighbourhood Park as part of the Bilston Urban Village development. The second area is in Ettingshall, where a new Neighbourhood Park will be provided as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development. The third area is in The Lunt, where there is no potential to create new open space, but there is potential to improve Alexander Metals Open Space to provide a Pocket Park, subject to housing development on part of the site.		
£2M (£982k Lottery; £74k developer contributions; £624k secured Council budget; £320k funding to be identified)	East Park (2013-16) Major programme of improvements 2013-14, including major restoration work to the clock tower, terrace, bandstand and main entrances to the park. This builds on improvements in recent years, including installation of a fitness trail, a natural play area and a multi-use games area and refurbishment of the lodge. Future improvements include external improvements to the pavilion, relocation of play area and water play improvements.	East Park is the main District Park serving the Bilston Area and is locally listed.
c £1.2M (£100k secured Council budget; £1.1M other sources)	Bilston Park (2014-16) To provide a large new Park at the heart of the Bilston Urban Village development, which will form part of a network of natural greenspace across the site, providing sustainable links to Bilston Town Centre, the Bradley Arm Canal and Bradley. The Park will be approx. 7 ha and have a variety of functions. Works will include creation of play facilities and allotments and improvements to natural areas and the existing pool. Site preparation, woodland management and access works are being funded from the Bilston Urban Village Advanced Work Programme.	Required to serve the needs of new residents and visitors to the Town Centre and to provide a quality development which works within existing site constraints.
£1M (developer contributions)	Ward Street Park (2014-16) Provide a new Park as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development, through reconfiguring and improving existing open space, to include a play area, multi-use games area and sustainable drainage features.	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Secured through development, which is currently under construction.
n/k	Alexander Metals Open Space (2015-20) Consider improvements to the privately-owned Alexander Metals Open Space, located in The Lunt area, and the adjoining greenway alongside the Black Country Route. To be funded through	The Lunt area has poor access to parks / park facilities and Alexander

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Open Space Strategy Rationale
	housing development on part of the site, which will also improve over-looking / security, as proposed in the Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan Options Report. Development will be subject to ecological survey and mitigation for loss of nature conservation value.	Metals Open Space is the only sizeable area which could perform this role.
Outdoor Sports		
There is a deficiency in the quantity of outdoor sports provision in the area, which will increase by 2026 due to population growth. However, the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan concludes that there are sufficient playing pitches across the area to meet current and future needs, subject to improving quality at junior pitch sites and making maximum use of community use football pitches in the area which have spare capacity.		
n/k	Prouds Lane Playing Fields (2014-16) Look at potential to improve quality of the two junior football pitches and thereby increase capacity to accommodate more matches.	To address identified poor quality / overplayed pitches, in line with the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
There is a large quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace in Bilston, some of which is of SLINC / SINC value. However, the quality, access and safety of these spaces is sometimes poor.		
n/k (developer funded)	Bradley Lane Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (2014-15) Improve and take into Council ownership.	Improvements secured through adjoining Duke's Park housing development, which is under construction.
n/k	Citadel Junction Open Space (2015-20) Part of to be allocated for employment through Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan, subject to ecological survey and mitigation for loss of nature conservation value.	Average quality / high value (for wildlife)
Developer to part fill Landscaping works c-£1M (developer contributions)	Ward Street Railway Cutting (2015-20) Part fill and re-landscape Dudley – Priestfield Disused Railway (North) SLINC / greenway and loss of Albany Crescent Open Space for housing / reconfigured school playing fields as part of Ward Street Masterplan development.	Sufficient quantity of amenity open space in Bilston area / small area of low value. Part of overall open space improvements to be delivered through Ward Street development.
n/k	Stowheath Lane Open Space (feasibility work: 2014-15) Consider potential for small part of to be developed subject to quality improvements to remainder of site.	Sufficient quantity of amenity open space in Bilston area. Large site of average quality / high value.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Open Space Strategy Rationale
Included in Bilston Park above	Bilston Urban Village Natural Areas (see also Bilston Park above) Consider potential to improve quality of natural areas, subject to ecological survey, to form part of new Park / greenway network.	Average quality / high value
c £5M	Former Bradley Arm Canal (2015-25) Protect the line of the former Bradley Arm Canal (Great Bridge Open Space and Stirling Road Open Space), which currently acts as a greenway, and look to reinstate the canal itself as a link between the Birmingham Mainline and Walsall Canals, or canal features, as and when opportunities arise.	Average quality open space with potential to promote regeneration through creation of new environmental infrastructure
£50 - £200k	Ladymoor Pool Open Space (2015-20) Look at potential to improve the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), to serve existing and new residents and as part of the ecological network including Bilston Urban Village to the north e.g. fence and grow shrubs around pool to address effects of Canada geese.	Key canal-side natural greenspace, part-owned by the Canal and River Trust, adjoining Bilston Urban Village
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (on-going) Programme of surveys on key sites to ensure habitats are identified, protected and well managed.	Large quantity of natural greenspace in Bilston but quality is often not good.
Provision for children and young people		
The key areas of deficiency for children's facilities are to the north of this Analysis Area. Play areas provided in new parks created through development may address access issues for many residents. Provision of further play facilities to address gaps would also ensure that residents are able to access facilities.		
n/a	Play provision in the north of the Bilston Area (2014) Look at adequacy of play provision in the north of the Bilston Area, which currently has poor access.	Poor access to play provision identified to the north of the Bilston Area.
Included under other actions	Play Provision on New Housing Developments (on-going) Creation of new play provision on major housing sites, including Bilston Urban Village and Ward Street.	New play provision will be required to serve the needs of new residents on larger housing developments.

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Amenity greenspace		
There is about the right amount of amenity greenspace across Bilston, but quality can be poor.		
n/k	Bilston Town Centre (2014-16) Various improvements to open spaces in Bilston Town Centre, including God's Acre and Churchyards, and to the public realm. To build on improvements carried out to St Leonard's Churchyard in 2011/12.	It is important that greenspace / public realm in and around Bilston Town Centre is improved, to reinforce the benefits provided by regeneration
Allotments		
There are significant parts of Bilston which do not have good access to allotments, and existing allotments are full.		
To be provided through development	Allotment Opportunities (on-going) Regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities where demand is improving / increasing. Look for opportunities to provide medium/large sized allotment sites and ensure new housing developments allow for any increase in demand as opportunities arise (e.g. at Bilston Urban Village), subject to ground condition constraints.	Significant gap in provision identified for Bilston area.
Total		
£10.4M (where known), including £2.1M developer contributions and £0.7M secured Council funding.		

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Central and South

Total ha's Open Space for the Central & South Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries and Church yards	Green Corridor
Central & South	250.269	63,845	56.1	75.8	1.8	0.8	26.7	10.2	70.0	7.9	-
Wolverhampton	1129.3	239,354	238.1	319.6	6.2	4.3	134.1	35.4	322.4	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.424	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.018	0.56	0.15	1.35
Central & South Analysis Area	3.92	0.88	1.19	0.028	0.012	0.42	0.159	1.10
Wolverhampton	4.945	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10

There are low levels of open space provision across the Central and South Analysis Area, which includes Wolverhampton City Centre and high density, inner city neighbourhoods to the south. Shortfalls are identified for parks, natural open space, provision for young people, outdoor sports and amenity greenspace. There is little potential to create new open space through development, therefore it is important to maximise use of existing open space, including bringing amenity greenspace up to park standard and maximising community use of sports pitches. There is a sufficient amount of allotments and these are well distributed across the area.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
<p>Parks</p> <p>West Park (the "City" Park) falls within this Analysis Area and, due to its size, the Area is above standard for District Parks. However, there is a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to serve the rest of the area. Increasing the range of functions provided by larger amenity greenspace and natural open spaces, such as Taylor Road, can help address gaps in provision. There are plans for housing growth and regeneration in the City Centre, which already has a large student population. The City Centre has little open space but is served by a network of canals which link to open spaces further afield, and will be served by the new Youth Zone.</p>		
<p>£177k (£136k developer contributions; £41k secured Council funding)</p>	<p>Taylor Road Open Space (2014-16) Continue improvements to create a Neighbourhood Park to serve the area east of Birmingham New Road, with emphasis on nature conservation.</p>	<p>To provide a quality Neighbourhood Park to serve the area east of Birmingham New Road.</p>
<p>£350k (£196k developer contributions confirmed; £154k funding to be confirmed)</p>	<p>Hay Basin / Broad Street Canal Open Space (2014-16) Continue improvements to create a pocket park serving the east of the City Centre, and also provide a focus for canal-based recreation.</p>	<p>To provide a quality pocket Park serving the City Centre and providing a focus for canal-based recreation.</p>
<p>£170k (developer contributions)</p>	<p>All Saints Neighbourhood Park (2014-16) Rationalise / improve play provision.</p>	<p>To provide a quality pocket Park serving an area which is a focus for housing renewal.</p>
<p>Outdoor Sports</p> <p>There is a current shortfall of junior football pitches in the area, which will increase in the future, and a need to maintain senior football pitch and cricket pitch provision to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>		
<p>£100k (secured for loss of Thompson Av Open Space)</p>	<p>Rooker Avenue Sports Ground (2014-15) Renovate changing rooms and fencing to allow the Council-owned sports ground with one senior football pitch to be brought back into use.</p>	<p>The changing rooms are now derelict, meaning that the pitch cannot currently be used, resulting in a loss of senior pitch provision.</p>

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
n/k	Fmr Parkfield High School (2014-16) Following conversion of former school to public sector offices, retain playing fields, look at potential to remark and maximise community use.	The site provides one junior and one senior pitch which could be used to address local deficiencies.
£185k (developer contributions)	Newbridge Playing Fields (2014-16) The Council is working in partnership with Staffordshire Cricket Ltd to use developer contributions to redevelop the derelict pavilion and provide cricket and football clubs with changing facilities and meeting space.	Identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy as a key site which requires an increase in quality to accommodate more matches.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
There is little natural greenspace in the north of the Area, where housing growth is planned in the City Centre and areas to the south, and some existing areas are of poor quality. There is little potential to provide new open space through development in this area, and so opportunities to improve the quality of existing sites or to provide more natural habitat in existing open spaces should be explored.		
n/k	Taylor Road Open Space SLINC (2013-15) Improve quality and value for wildlife. Investigate potential for NIA funding.	The site is a Neighbourhood Park with potential to improve nature conservation value.
n/k	Springvale Park (2013-15) Improve quality and value for wildlife. Investigate potential for NIA funding.	The site is a Neighbourhood Park with potential to improve nature conservation value.
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (2013-15) Programme of surveys to recognise nature conservation value of some amenity greenspaces and amend management accordingly.	Appropriate management may increase quality.
Provision for children and young people		
In general standards are met, although there is a gap in access to children's play provision to the south of the analysis area, and the quantity (area in ha) of provision for young people is below standard.		
£6m (£3m secured Council funding; £3m external funding)	City Centre Youth Zone (2014-16) Creation of a new youth centre providing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including two multi-use games areas and an outdoor recreation area. This facility will complement the existing Penn Road Island skate park nearby.	To meet the sport and play needs of young people visiting and living within / close to the City Centre

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Amenity greenspace		Site scores low for quality.
The Analysis Area has good access to amenity greenspace, although there is a shortfall against quantity standards of 0.14 ha per 1,000 population and a number of sites are of a poor quality. The priority should be to first address qualitative issues at sites. An approach may be to consolidate sites in order to provide fewer but better quality levels of provision. Long term any opportunities to provide new amenity greenspace should be explored to meet quantity shortfalls.		
£100k (developer contributions)	Rough Hills Open Space Look to improve quality using mitigation from loss of Thompson Avenue Open Space and any developer contributions.	
Total		
£7.0M (where known), including £1.0M developer contributions and £3.0M secured Council funding.		

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North

Total ha's Open Space for the North Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries and Church yards	Green Corridor
North	223.207	37,278	56.2	48.0	1.1	0.6	26.9	5.0	68.9	15.0	1.3
Wolverhampton	1129.3	239,354	238.1	319.6	6.2	4.3	134.1	35.4	322.4	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
<i>Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)</i>	4.424	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.078	0.56	0.15	1.35
North Area	5.99	1.40	1.29	0.029	0.016	0.72	0.135	1.85
Wolverhampton	4.945	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks Although there is a large quantity of parkland in the area, there are a number of parks and amenity greenspaces in the area which are of an average quality. There is a gap in park provision in the Oxley area, which is being addressed through provision of a new, high quality Neighbourhood Park as part of the Goodyear housing development.		
c. £1.5M (developer funded)	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park (2014-16) Provide a new Park as part of the Goodyear housing development, through extending existing playing fields and improvements to changing rooms, to include a play area, multi-use games area and sustainable drainage features.	Too address a gap in Parks provision in the Oxley area and to meet the needs of new residents.
£150k (developer funded)	Pendeford Park Marsh Lane (2014-21) Explore options to improve quality and value of site.	Scores average for quality and low for value.

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n/k	Tennyson Road Open Space (2014-21) Explore potential to improve this amenity greenspace to become a Neighbourhood Park serving the Scotlands area.	
£150k (developer funded)	St Christopher's Community Park (2014-21) Explore potential to improve this amenity greenspace to become a Neighbourhood Park serving the Scotlands area.	
Outdoor Sports		
There is a large amount of outdoor sports space in the area, and the need to improve cricket pitch provision to accommodate future increases in participation has been partly met through improving changing facilities at Fordhouses Cricket Club. However, there is a current shortfall of junior and senior football pitches which will increase in the future. The area will benefit from installation of a £1M new community use artificial grass pitch at Our Lady and St Chad's Catholic School and Sports College, and will have access to a new multi-pitch site at Barnhurst Lane from 2015.		
£2.670M (£2.670M secured Council funding)	Barnhurst Lane (2013-15) Creation of a new multi-pitch site to serve the north of the City on land in South Staffordshire, adjoining Aldersley High School. To include up to 12 mini, junior and senior pitches, a running and bike track and changing rooms.	To mitigate for loss of playing fields through Building Schools for the Future projects and to create new pitches to meet shortfalls in the north of the City.
£1M (£1M secured Council funding)	Our Lady & St Chad Catholic School and Sports College (2014) Creation of a new 3G artificial grass pitch to serve a 10 mile radius of the school site. The pitch will accommodate football and touch rugby and replaces the artificial grass pitch lost due to the disposal of the Jennie Lee Centre.	To mitigate for the loss of an artificial grass pitch at the Jennie Lee Centre.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
There is generally good access to natural greenspace, but the majority of sites are of an average to poor quality. The area benefits from good access to the City's only Country Park - Northycote Farm and Country Park is a 35 ha site located on the urban/rural fringe with good public transport access and acting as a large visitor draw for the area, with capacity to expand its attractions. The area also has good access to Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve, in the Tettenthal Analysis Area, which is programmed for improvements.		
n/k	Northycote Farm Country Park (2014-16) The site currently provides a visitor centre, café, parking, accessible farm, signage, a variety of circular walks on naturally surfaced paths suitable for all users, and a variety of habitats, including woodland, parklands, pasture, and water features. It is under a higher level stewardship arrangement with Natural England, and investment is underway to introduce local cattle and sheep breeds and create hay meadows. The Council is currently working with the Friends of Northycote Farm group to introduce a sensory garden. Visitor promotion events take place regularly e.g. guided walks and festivals, and could be expanded subject to resources.	To increase access to good quality natural greenspace

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Small amount	Rakegate Wood (2014-15) Prepare management plan / tree survey and look at potential for community involvement in site management.	To increase access to good quality natural greenspace and promote community involvement
Provision for children and young people		
There is a gap in children's play provision in the north of the area, which is well served by amenity greenspace which could accommodate new facilities, and also a shortfall in quantity of young people's provision.		
n/k	Children's play facilities to serve the north of the area (2014-21) Take opportunities to create new play facilities on amenity greenspace to the north of the area e.g. Tennyson Road Open Space and green spaces within the Rakegate area such as Renton Road Open Space.	To address a gap in children's play provision.
n/k	Young people's provision (2014-21) Consider feasibility of creating new provision for young people at existing sites such as parks, when opportunities arise.	To address quantity shortfall of young people's provision.
Allotments		
There is generally good access to allotments across the analysis area, although the quantity of provision is below standard and the quality of allotment sites is generally average.		
n/k	Allotment quality (2014-21) Opportunities to address the deficiency in allotment provision particularly in terms of quality should be explored e.g. The Droveway Allotments	To address average quality of allotments in the area.
Total		
£5.8M (where known), including £1.8M developer contributions and £3.1M secured Council funding.		

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Tettenhall

Total ha's Open Space for the Tettenhall Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards
Tettenhall Analysis Area	234.2	50,334	41.3	47.8182	1.1	0.3	22.3	14.6	80.9	25.9
Wolverhampton	1129.3	239,350	238.1	319.6	6.2	4.3	134.1	35.4	322.4	62.8

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
<i>Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)</i>	4.424	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.018	0.56	0.15	1.35
Tettenhall Analysis Area	4.651	0.82	0.95	-0.005	0.006	0.44	0.289	1.61
Wolverhampton	4.945	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10

* No standards have been set for Cemeteries & Churchyards and Green Corridors

Tettenhall benefits from good access to the only Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Wolverhampton, Smestow Valley, which acts as a green lung extending throughout the area with a range of functions. A Management Plan is now in place for the LNR to guide future improvements. The Compton, Wightwick and Castlecroft areas do not have access to a Park, and also have poor access to amenity open space and provision for children and young people. Tettenhall Upper Green / Lower Green and Penk Rise do not provide the full range of facilities which would be expected for Neighbourhood Parks. There are few opportunities to provide new open space in the area, however disposal of small areas of surplus open space and new housing developments have the potential to fund improvements and provide new facilities. A Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for the Tettenhall area, which will incorporate proposals for protection and improvement of open space in the area. The table below provides an indication of the level of priority attached by the Neighbourhood Plan Group to actions falling within their area (1 = top priority).

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The area benefits from access to Aldersley Leisure Village, with a range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities including two recently resurfaced artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey. However, there is a lack of cricket and rugby pitches in the area and a lack of junior football pitches, meaning that junior clubs have to play on senior pitches. New junior pitches can be created by converting senior pitches and by looking to open up school pitches for community use. There is a need to protect cricket sites and increase the availability of non-turf wickets.

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing) – Neighbourhood Plan Group priority	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks		
£200k (developer funded)	Tettenhall Upper Green (2014-16) – 1 Improve pathways, access and landscaping and provide a flowering meadow and information displays, all in a manner which respects their local character and historic setting, so that the Upper Green can act as a Neighbourhood Park to serve the Tettenhall area.	To provide a quality Park serving the Tettenhall area
£200k (developer funded)	Penk Rise (2014-16) - 1 Improve the Neighbourhood Park at Penk Rise, including play facilities, to be funded through developer contributions from other sites. To secure Local Green Space status for the site to protect it in the long term, through Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan process.	To provide a quality Park to serve the Tettenhall Wood area
£18k (external funding)	Claregate Playing Fields (2014-15) - 2 Invest in fitness trail, following successful bid to “Fields in Trust”	To provide a quality Park serving the Tettenhall area
£200k (developer funded)	Henwood Road Open Space (2014-16) - 4 Develop a Pocket Park at Henwood Road Open Space, including provision of a play area and multi-use games area, to be funded through developer contributions from other sites. To be progressed through Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan process.	To address the lack of a Park / play facilities to serve the Compton / Wightwick area
£100k (developer funded)	Windsor Avenue Open Space (2014-16) Improve the Neighbourhood Park at Windsor Avenue, including play facilities to be funded through developer contribution.	To provide a quality park
n/k	Warstones Green Open Space (2014-16) Improve the Neighbourhood Park at Warstones Green, including play facilities, to be funded through developer contributions as available	

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Outdoor Sports	
Two Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) used for hockey have recently been resurfaced at Aldersley Leisure Village, at a cost of £430k, in line with the need identified in the Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy. The relocation of Wolves Academy from Aldersley Leisure Village to Wolves training ground at Compton, including a £700k upgrading of pitches, and transfer of use of the dome at Aldersley Leisure Village to Wolves Community Trust has also been completed. This was a key Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy project.	
n/k (BSF funded)	The Kings School (2013-14) Provision of additional senior football pitch and community use of outdoor sports facilities provided as part of redevelopment under Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	
£50k	Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve (2014-18) - 3 Improve quality and value for wildlife and visitors in line with recently completed Management Plan.
Fully funded by partners	De-culverting of Penk Rise (2014-16) Project to open up Penk Rise where it currently passes in a culvert beneath Penk Rise Open Space, to include some re-profiling of the open space. This will assist natural drainage and promote biodiversity. Project funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.
Fully funded by partners	De-culverting of Smestow Brook (2014-16) Investigate potential to open up part of the Smestow Brook where it currently passes in a culvert beneath Smestow Valley LNR, to include some re-profiling of the open space, in order to promote biodiversity. Project funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (on-going) Programme of surveys to recognise nature conservation value of some amenity greenspaces and amend management accordingly.
	<p>Wolverhampton Sport Development and Investment Strategy identifies the need to maximise community use of school sports facilities</p> <p>The site is the only Local Nature Reserve in Wolverhampton and also functions as a greenway network and amenity open space for local residents.</p> <p>To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity, as promoted in the Wolverhampton Surface Water Management Plan and Black Country Core Strategy.</p> <p>To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity, as promoted in the Wolverhampton Surface Water Management Plan and Black Country Core Strategy.</p> <p>Appropriate management may increase quality.</p>

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c. £200k	<p>Wolverhampton Environment Centre (2016-20) - 5 Investigate potential to integrate woodlands and pool into Smestow Valley and create community allotments.</p>	Lack of amenity greenspace and waiting list for allotments in the Castlecroft area.
Provision for children and young people		
c £50k	<p>Oak Street Open Space (2014-16) Improvements to play provision, to be funded through disposal of nearby Laburnum Street former Play Area site.</p>	Low quality open space / need for improved play provision
£82k (developer contribution)	<p>Multi-use Games Area to serve Castlecroft at Smestow School (2014-17) Provide a new multi-use games area within the school site which is available for community use, to address gaps in provision.</p>	Gap in provision for young people in the Castlecroft area
n/k	<p>Play Provision in the Blakeley Green / Palmers Cross Area (on-going) - 6 Take opportunities, as they arise, to provide new open space including play facilities as part of new development.</p>	Gap in open space / play provision in the north of the area
Total		
£1.1M (where known), including £0.8M developer contributions.		

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Wednesfield

Total ha's Open Space for the Wednesfield Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries and Church yards	Green Corridor
Wednesfield	176.240	46,310	43.4	27.6	1.1	1.5	31.0	5.0	60.0	3.8	3.0
Wolverhampton	1129.3	239,354	238.1	319.6	6.2	4.3	134.1	35.4	322.4	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
<i>Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)</i>	4.424	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.078	0.56	0.15	1.35
Wednesfield Analysis Area	3.81	0.94	-0.73	0.024	-0.002	0.67	0.108	1.29
Wolverhampton	4.945	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.10

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has below standard provision for open space generally and for all types of open space, with the exception of provision for young people and amenity greenspace.

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks There is a minor quantitative shortfall for parks, however the even distribution of District and Neighbourhood Parks means that all areas have good access to a park. Quality is average for some parks. Housing growth is planned in the Stafford Road Corridor, which will increase pressure on Fowlers Playing Fields, a District Park. Proposals in the North Analysis Area to develop a Neighbourhood Park at Tennyson Road Open Space will also benefit the north west part of the area.		
n/k (some)	Fowlers Playing Fields Park (2014-21) Improve to serve existing and new residents within the Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan.	To improve quality and meet the needs of new residents.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
developer contributions)	Improvements to include improved pedestrian and cycling access, improving links with the adjoining canal and security improvements, to increase use of the Park.	
n/k	Ashmore Park (2014-16) Increase quality through improving ancillary facilities on site. Look to improve habitat provision on site.	Park of average quality. Area with poor access to natural green space.
£139k (developer contributions)	Heath Town Park (2014-16) Complete planned future works to site, including removal of bungalow, creation of a community facility including café, toilets and changing rooms and other infrastructure improvements.	Park of average quality.
£600k (developer contributions)	Coleman Avenue Park (2015-17) Improvements to create a Neighbourhood Park to serve the area, including new pitches, improvements to play facilities, environmental improvements and a path network.	Park of average quality. Area with poor access to natural green space.
Outdoor Sports There is about the right amount of outdoor sports space in the area and pitch sites are well distributed. There is a surplus of senior pitches and the shortfall of junior football pitches identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy has been addressed through new community use pitches provided at Wednesfield High School through Building Schools for the Future. Outdoor sports space and pitch provision will also be increased in the next few years through creation of new pitches at Coleman Avenue Park and opening up the resurfaced AGP and other facilities at Heath Park Academy for community use. Fowlers Park requires improvements to maximise its ability to act as a multi-pitch "City Site" catering for a high level of play.		
n/k (BSF funded)	Heath Park Academy Community Use Sports Facilities (2014-15) Resurfacing of Artificial Grass Pitch to 3G standard provision of tennis pitches, multi-use games area and sports hall – all to be available for community use outside school hours.	To reprovide a quality AGP for community use
n/k	Fowlers Playing Fields Park (2014-21) Explore potential to improve quality of pitches and changing facilities to maximise use.	To maximise potential / increase quality of "City Site" for sports pitches.
Included in Coleman Avenue Park above	Coleman Avenue Football Pitch Creation (2015-17) Create three new junior football pitches.	To address local demand for junior pitches and compensate for loss of playing field at former Wednesfield High School site.
Funded as part of	Ashmore Park (2014-15) New changing rooms to be provided as part of the new Community Hub building adjoining the Park, to	To maximise the potential use of sports pitches.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
community hub	allow adult use of senior football pitches.	
<p>Natural green space The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the greatest shortfall in the City against the quantity standard for natural green space. There are also large areas with poor access to natural green space, particularly in the centre of the area, and there are few natural green space sites in total, with only one good quality site. However, this does not take into account the presence of the Wyrley and Essington Canal running through the area, which is potentially of SINC value and could provide better access to quality natural green space.</p>		
n/k	<p>Creation / access to natural green space (2014-21) Explore opportunities to create new areas of habitat within existing open space, particularly in the centre of the area (see Parks above). This could include improvements to Fowlers Playing Fields Park and exploring the potential for public access to Bowmans Harbour natural area.</p>	To address significant quantity / access / quality shortfalls in natural green space
n/k	<p>Wyrley and Essington Canal (2014-15) Carry out ecological survey and explore potential with the Canal & River Trust to designate and manage as a Local Nature Reserve, with potential links to the canal corridor in Walsall.</p>	To address significant access / quality shortfalls in natural green space
<p>Amenity green space The area has good access to amenity green space and has a surplus of amenity green space against the quantity standard. However, quality of amenity green space is variable with a number of sites of a poor quality. Prioritisation of existing provision should look to address these deficiencies in quality whilst helping to meet identified shortfalls in other typologies such as natural green space.</p>		
n/k	<p>Quality improvements to Amenity Green Space (2014-21) Explore potential to improve quality and create habitat on low quality amenity green spaces, or if not possible consider potential for disposal e.g. Johnson Avenue, Brackenwood Drive, Calver Crescent, Cambridge Street.</p>	To address poor quality of some amenity green spaces
<p>Allotments There is a shortage of allotment provision in the area and only one allotment site is of a high quality. Shortage of demand led to the closure of Lich Avenue allotments, which has since been reopened as a community garden. If demand increases in future, the potential to provide new sites as part of development should be explored.</p>		
n/k	<p>Lich Avenue Community Garden (2014-21) Retain site as a community garden or bring back into use as allotments if participation / demand increases in the area.</p>	To address lack of allotment provision in the area.
<p>Total £0.7M (where known), including £0.7M developer contributions.</p>		

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APPENDIX ONE: QUALITY AND VALUE SCORING METHODOLOGY

Site by site quality and value scoring has been carried out as a desk based exercise in partnership with the Wolverhampton City Council Parks Team and Open Space Steering Group. The scoring should be used by WCC to create a quality and value matrix for sites within the City. Quality and value scores are provided in a separate Excel database.

KKP developed specific quality and value criteria to assess sites against. To give a consistent and robust approach to scoring, workshop sessions were facilitated with Area Managers to score sites for quality. Value scoring was initially carried out by KKP and checked with WCC officers.

Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores as follows. This will also allow application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology in the future.

Analysis of quality

A desk based scoring system has been devised in order to provide sites with a quality score. The criteria used is derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales) and KKP's own site visit assessment pro-forma. The quality criteria used to allocate sites with a quality score are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space sites (score)

- ◀ Welcoming place e.g., safe, secure entrances that open onto busy areas with good natural surveillance.
- ◀ Information/signage e.g., visible, well located and maintained notice boards and directional sign posts.
- ◀ Provision of ancillary facilities e.g., sufficient presence of provision such as seats, benches, bins and toilets.
- ◀ Quality of ancillary facilities e.g., level of condition of ancillary provision.
- ◀ Conservation and biodiversity e.g., level of opportunities for wildlife habitats i.e. woodland areas, ponds and streams etc.
- ◀ Paths e.g., condition of pathways.
- ◀ Access for all e.g., level of access throughout the site for individuals with a disability.
- ◀ Overall maintenance and cleanliness e.g., general condition of site and features.



For the typologies of provision for children and young people, allotments and natural/semi-natural green space separate criteria are used to score the quality of sites. This is due to many of the criteria used to score general open spaces not being applicable to sites of this type. For example, it is not anticipated that biodiversity and conservation is a key component of the quality of a children's play area. Nor is it appropriate for ancillary facilities of allotments to be scored in the same way as ancillary facilities for other types of open space (i.e. parks, amenity green space). For natural green space the criteria of conservation and biodiversity has been used to establish a sites level of quality. This is as the category is the most appropriate to identify the level of wildlife opportunities and conservation status of a site. Other elements such as path and provision of ancillary facilities are often not applicable or relevant when considering a sites natural quality.

The desk based criteria to score quality of children's play areas looks at two elements. These are set out in the table below.

Quality criteria for play provision sites (score)

- ◀ Range of play equipment e.g., is there a wide variety of equipment which caters for different age groups.
- ◀ Quality of play equipment e.g., level of condition of the equipment found onsite.

A separate set of criteria is also used to score the quality of allotment sites. These are set out below.

Quality criteria for allotment sites (score)

- ◀ Water supply e.g., is there a source of water supply on site for plot holders to utilise.
- ◀ Toilet provision e.g., is toilets available onsite or off site.
- ◀ Parking availability e.g., is specific parking available for users of sites.

For allotments most sites are given a quality score with the exception of those which are outside of the Council's regular maintenance (it is assumed that these are of a high quality given their private ownership).

Analysis of value

Similarly to quality, a desk based scoring system, has also been created for assessing value. The more criteria a site meets, the higher the value is placed on a site. Value is defined in PPG17 guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its access, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

The value criteria set is initially derived from PPG17 guidance. However, this has been amended to reflect the desk based nature of the assessment. Therefore it focuses on elements that utilise GIS data available and local knowledge within WCC Parks Team. All sites within the audit have been assessed for value.



The criteria used is summarised as:

Value criteria for open space sites (score)

- ◀ Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank - sites in an area ranked as being more deprived receive a higher value mark than those sites of a lower ranking.
- ◀ Proximity of other greenspace - sites close to other sites of the same typology will score lower than sites which are the only one of their kind in the area.
- ◀ Access - site is within two minutes walk time (96m) of an identified bus stop.
- ◀ Sites with a designation - located within or adjacent to a SINIC or SLINC.
- ◀ Sites within a conservation area - located within or adjacent to an identified conservation area.
- ◀ Historic interest - site is identified as containing or being adjacent to a listed building or monument.
- ◀ Level of use - whether the site is popular and well used.
- ◀ Green Flag Award - site has achieved Green Flag Award status.
- ◀ Community interest - site has a formal group associated to it or it has a known strong community interest/ownership.
- ◀ Multi-functional benefit - site contains other open space features such as a play area or sports facility.
- ◀ Unique benefit - site offers or provides features or a role which is unique in the City such as hosting city wide events.

Quality and value thresholds

In order to determine whether sites are high, adequate or low quality/value (as recommended by PPG17 guidance); the results of the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green, amber being adequate and low being red).

The primary aim of applying a threshold or standard is to identify and justify sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed (particularly when compared with its respective value score/threshold).

Quality is scored on the basis of allocating good, adequate or poor to each element assessed. For example, if a park site scores poor for all elements it can only achieve a maximum of nine points out of 27 (33%). Similarly if it scores adequate for all criteria it can only achieve a maximum of 18 points (66%); and if it scores for all criteria it can achieve 27 points (100%).

Mean scores are used as a guide to set the thresholds to identify high, adequate or low quality (as summarised in Table 1) for each typology. Thresholds for amenity green space and natural green space are set lower to better reflect their characteristics; as sites of these typologies are anticipated to have fewer features compared to park provision, for example.

Baseline thresholds to identify high/low value are usually set at 20%. However, this is adjusted for some typologies (amenity green space, provision for children, parks and natural green space) depending on the amount of criteria used to assess the value of each typology.



For example, the maximum score a park and garden site can receive for value is 52. Whereas the maximum value a play area site can attain is 15. Therefore play sites have an overall higher level of percentage scores compared to other typologies (as demonstrated by the higher mean score). This means play sites only need to score once against the criteria in order to be rated as high for value. Subsequently, in a similar way to quality, value thresholds are set for each individual typology based on the mean and lowest scores recorded.

The following table provides a summary on the quality and value thresholds applied to identify low/adequate/high scores.

Table 1: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality thresholds			Value threshold
	Low	Adequate	High	
Allotments	< 40%	40-75%	> 75%	20%
Amenity green space	< 40%	40-75%	> 75%	15%
Provision for children and young people	< 50%	50-84%	> 84%	35%
Parks	< 55%	55-80%	> 80%	15%
Natural green space	< 35%	35-66%	> 67%	15%

Scoring summary

This section describes the findings from the quality and value assessment for each typology.

The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites		
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	Adequate	High
Allotments	5	20%	54%	80%	1	25	6
Amenity green space	24	0%	69%	100%	21	127	51
Provision for children & young people	6	33%	91%	100%	3	33	93
Parks	24	42%	81%	100%	1	24	29
Natural green space	3	0%	65%	100%	26	37	40
TOTAL	24	0%	-	100%	52	247	219

Most sites score either adequate (48%) or high (43%) for quality with only a small proportion of all sites (10%) receiving a low quality score.

Provision for children and young people scores well compared to other typologies; with 72% of such sites scoring high for quality. Play areas generally have a good range of



equipment. The three lowest scoring sites are St Chad's Recreation Ground Play Area, Stirling Road Play Area and Laburnum Street Play Area. All are identified as having a poor range and quality of equipment.

More natural and semi natural green space sites (25%) score low for quality compared to any other typology. This reflects the generally lower mark sites receive for conservation and biodiversity such as non designated SLINC and SINC sites.

The typologies of allotments, parks, amenity green space and natural green spaces are generally all of an adequate or high quality. In particular most allotments (78%) and amenity green spaces (64%) are rated as being of an adequate quality.

The one allotment site with a low quality score is Slim Avenue Allotments. This site has no toilet provision, water supply or onsite parking. Two allotment sites do not receive a quality score. These sites, Lich Avenue and Elmdon Close, are managed by the Council but are identified as currently being closed for allotment purposes.

Oak Street is the only park site to receive a low quality score. The site scores poorly on quality of paths and access for all. The site also has low scores for ancillary facilities, information, conservation and biodiversity and its general maintenance.

Value

The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton. All sites receive a value score.

Table 3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	30	17%	32%	53%	2	30
Amenity green space	37	11%	21%	46%	9	190
Provision for children & young people	15	33%	48%	93%	1	128
Parks	52	13%	28%	50%	1	53
Natural green space	35	9%	27%	51%	9	94
TOTAL	52	9%	-	93%	22	495

The majority of sites (96%) are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores, provision for children and young people is highly valued with nearly all sites (99%) being assessed as high value. This reflects the unique benefits such sites provide to local communities, particularly for children and families. A similar very high proportion of parks (98%) also score high for value. This is due to the number of sites identified as providing a range of different and popular uses.

A higher proportion of natural green space sites (9%) score low for value compared to any other typology. This is a reflection of the number of sites that do not have a particular designation, either historic or conservation, and/or lack a multi-functional role. However,



the value these sites play in providing a visual amenity and a break from the built form remains important in a wider context.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered of a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland or unattractive.

Quality and Value Matrix

The assessment of open space quality and value has been used to help develop the action plan by identifying sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised require enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space.

Typical issues to address in order to increase quality include examples such as increasing the regularity of maintenance at the site, provision of litterbins and provision of benches. Typical issues to address in order to increase value include widening the range of open space functions it performs, raising awareness of the site and increasing community engagement in the site.

If there is a choice of spaces or facilities of equal quality (e.g. low quality), and no need to use one or part of one site to remedy a quantity or access deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider disposing of the one with the lowest value. Similarly, if two sites are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to dispose of the one of lower quality.

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score (provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet) and in line with the criteria detailed above. This score allows each site to be placed in a high/average/low category for quality and a high/low category for value. This categorisation can then be used to inform recommended actions for each site, as detailed below:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should fall into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them. Sites in this category should be recognised as forming a key part of the open space network.

High quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater community involvement.

Average quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality where possible and to protect through the planning system.



Low quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality as a priority and to protect through the planning system.

Average quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater community involvement. Quality improvements may also be necessary to achieve increased value. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' if value cannot be increased.

Low quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to seriously consider if there is any potential to enhance both value and quality. If this is not practical or viable, the open space may then be considered 'surplus to requirements'. If the site is not suitable for any purpose other than open space in the long term, value and quality improvements may still need to be considered.



APPENDIX TWO: OPEN SPACE STANDARDS REVIEW

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STANDARDS REVIEW
JANUARY 2012**

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

OSANA STANDARDS REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) undertook an Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2007-8 as part of a Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the City. Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been appointed by the Council to produce a strategy and action plan for parks and open spaces in Wolverhampton up to 2026. As part of this (Stage 1), it is considered that there is a need and opportunity to re-appraise the provision standards recommended in OSANA, particularly given the time that has elapsed since it was completed, and in order to robustly develop its recommendations into a phased deliverable action plan.

This document sets out the proposed open space standards and the rationale behind them. The subsequent Open Space Strategy will prioritise the application of the standards in order to be deliverable within the current economic climate.

OSANA

The 2008 OSANA report provides an audit of all recreational open space within the City by type of use. It recommends local provision standards up to 2021 and makes recommendations based on the framework of open space provision, with the view to improving the quality, quantity and access of all types of recreational open space for the future. The study uses the five step methodology set out in PPG17 Companion Guide for undertaking an open space local needs assessment. In general, OSANA covers all the types or typologies set out in PPG17 guidance:

- Allotments
- Amenity green space
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Green corridors
- Natural green space
- Parks (Town/District, Neighbourhood)
- Provision for children
- Provision for young people
- Outdoor sports facilities

For the purposes of the 2008 OSANA, civic spaces were included within the typology of green corridors due to their often linear nature.

Identifying local needs

The previous OSANA report comprised a series of consultations to identify local needs. This included meeting with council officers and external partners as well consulting with members of the general public. A number of methods were used in order to gather individuals' views towards open space provision. For general public consultation the following took place:

- ◀ *Residents' consultation* – this involved an on-street survey in five different locations across the City. A total of 800 responses were generated with results used within the individual typology sections.

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- ◀ *Neighbourhood drop-in sessions* – five sessions were held throughout the City, enabling residents to voice their views on open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ *Workshops and focus groups* – these were held with a number of groups such as children and young people, over 50's forum, sports clubs and friends of groups.
- ◀ *Internet survey for young people* – this was a web-based questionnaire aimed at school children and sent to all schools within in the City. A total of 774 responses were received.
- ◀ *Other* – dedicated email, text and freepost addresses were created for anyone wishing to respond separately. These were advertised in local papers.

The access standards (i.e. maximum distances) set out in OSANA are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. Given the evidence to support them, we therefore recommend that these remain unchanged.

Audit

Following scrutiny, 1,055 sites were included within the audit, covering circa 1,084 hectares of recreational open space, including school playing fields. Golf courses and 16 sites located just outside the Wolverhampton City boundary were excluded from the analysis.

Several assumptions were made when the open space was identified and audited for the 2008 OSANA. These included:

- ◀ No application of a minimum size threshold. Therefore all publically accessible open space provision was audited.
- ◀ Open spaces were categorised using PPG17 typologies.
- ◀ Provision for young people included skate parks, BMX tracks, MUGAs, teenage shelters and informal kick-about areas.
- ◀ Provision for children included children's play areas and adventure playgrounds that are freely accessible.
- ◀ Parks provision was grouped into two classifications (i.e. town/district, neighbourhood (including newly created pocket).

As part of the process site assessments were undertaken for 613 (71%) open space sites. A standardised pro forma was used to gather the information for each site. The site assessment sheet looked at elements related to:

- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Site access
- ◀ Wider benefits

More details on the site assessment methodology can be viewed in the quality section detailed in the OSANA Review Report submitted in December 2011. The subsequent quality standards developed from the audit and consultation have been retained as there has been no further evidence to suggest amending them at this stage.

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The following quantity standards were originally derived from the audit:

Typology	OSANA standard
Parks	0.87
Natural green space	1.50
Provision for children	0.05
Provision for young people	0.05
Amenity green space	0.62
Allotments	0.15
Civic spaces	Not set
Outdoor sports facilities	1.50

The quantity standards have now been amended and updated to take account of changes to the audit as detailed in subsequent sections of this report.

QUALITY STANDARDS

The quality standards are provided on a typology basis and present a holistic approach to improving quality across the City. It is likely that more specific standards will be set within the Strategy to further help prioritise the need for investment, together with design guidelines to ensure that improvements are made to the highest possible standard.

Parks

“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility which is accessible to all and has a range of facilities and other types of open space within it. District Parks should be attractive, well designed and maintained, providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees, adequate lighting and other appropriate safety features, as well as suitable ancillary accommodation (including seating, toilets, litter bins and play facilities). Sites should be safe and secure and easily accessible.

Where appropriate, the Park Ranger scheme should be implemented to enhance the quality of the environment and facilitate community interaction. Encouraging community involvement through organised events should help to increase usage and activities. Sites should promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage and provide links to the surrounding green infrastructure”

“Striving to achieve a national standard for quality, all Neighbourhood Parks should be a facility serving the immediate needs of local people for active recreation. They should provide a welcoming, clean and litter free environment. Maintenance should focus on providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees and encourage wildlife to flourish with the use of varied vegetation through appropriate management. Park Rangers should work with the community and other organisations to provide a hub of interest, activities and local events as well as establishing a safe network of local open spaces. Good quality and appropriate ancillary facilities (toilets, litter-bins, dog-bins and benches) should be provided to facilitate the needs of users and encourage greater use.”

Natural and semi natural green space

“A clean and litter free site with clear and obvious pathways that provide opportunities to link other open spaces together and where appropriate link in to the outlying countryside. Sites should encourage wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness, maximised through appropriate natural features. Litter-bins, dog-bins, benches and picnic areas should be provided where possible and there should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, whilst ensuring public access to all. Increased community involvement through management, maintenance and promotion of these sites should be encouraged where possible. ”

Provision for young people

‘A well designed, high quality site that provides a meeting place for young people, encompassing the needs of all users with varied formal and informal equipment / space. The site should be located in a safe environment that is accessible to all, without compromising neighbouring land users. The focus should be on providing a well-maintained, clean and litter free area with appropriate lighting and shelter, promoting a sense of community ownership.’

Provision for children

“A well designed, well-maintained, clean site of sufficient size to provide imaginative formal equipment and / or an enriched play environment in a safe and convenient location. Equipped play spaces should be fun and exciting and should have clear boundaries with dog free areas and include appropriate ancillary facilities such as seating, litter-bins and toilets in the locality of larger sites. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety and safeguard the amenity of neighbouring land users. The site should also be accessible to all.”

Outdoor sport facilities

‘A well-planned, clean and litter free sports facility site that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should be well maintained to an appropriate match play standard, with good grass coverage and well-drained quality surfaces. Appropriate ancillary accommodation should be provided at sites with consideration given to providing toilets, changing rooms and car parking. Community-use synthetic turf pitches should be floodlit to comply with quality standards and maximise usage. Meeting places should be provided for both formal and informal sports pitch sites inclusive of sheltered areas and benches, encouraging participation and access for all. The site should be managed appropriately to ensure community safety and provide a local amenity that is close to people’s homes, contributing to the health agenda”.

Amenity green space

“A clean and well-maintained green space site that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate ancillary furniture (litter-bins, etc.), and pathways and landscaping designed to provide a safe secure and site with a spacious outlook that enhances the appearance of the local environment and provides a safe area for young people to meet. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus, while smaller sites should at the least provide an important visual amenity function.”

Allotments

‘A clean and well-kept secure site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education objectives, with appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. provision of water and toilets) to meet local needs, clearly marked pathways and good quality soils. The site should be spacious, providing appropriate access for all and clear boundaries.’

Cemeteries and churchyards

A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity (where appropriate), an area of quiet contemplation and a sanctuary for wildlife. Sites should have clear pathways and varied vegetation and landscaping and provide appropriate ancillary accommodation (e.g. facilities for flowers, litter-bins and seating).

Green corridors

Linear open spaces and canals should be clean and litter-free, safe and convenient corridors with clear pathways, linking major residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas, that promote sustainable methods of transport. Appropriate ancillary facilities such as litter and dog bins, seating in appropriate places and signage to and within the sites should be provided to encourage access for all. The corridor should also seek to encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats, enabling the movement of both wildlife and people between open spaces, linking in specifically with natural areas of open space.”

Civic spaces

“A clean, well-maintained and safe civic space that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate infrastructure for holding community events (i.e. electric points and access for vehicles), ancillary furniture (i.e. seats and bins, etc.), and landscaping designed to enhance the appearance of the predominately hard surface area.”

QUANTITY STANDARDS

The quantity standards are based on the amount of current provision per 1,000 head of population. A quantity standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries. This is in line with the guidance set out within PPG17. The guidance recommends no quantity standard is set for green corridors or cemeteries respectively due to their often linear form and requirement to be driven by burial need.

Standards are produced for individual typologies as opposed to grouping similar typologies together. This was done in order to recognise the different values placed on each typology identified during site visits and inferred by residents during consultation. However, on a local level some typologies such as amenity green space and parks will be viewed in context of one another and are recognised in some instances as fulfilling a similar function.

One standard is provided for all parks in Wolverhampton. This helps to simplify the setting of standards as opposed to having an individual standard for each sub-category of parks. This provides a greater level of flexibility in seeking developer contributions across the City for all forms of parks provision.

A citywide standard is provided in order to allow a greater level of flexibility in the setting of standards for each typology. By doing this, factors such as a residents ability to travel across the City to access/use certain types of sites can be recognised. This flexibility would be reduced if standards were provided on a catchment area basis.

Site size thresholds have been applied to amenity green space and natural green space. PPG17 guidance recommends that sites smaller than 0.2 hectares in total size, are generally of less recreation value and, as such, can be discounted from the quantity standards. The impact of reducing the total number of sites is most significant in the amenity green space typology; 250 sites, equating to circa 26 hectares has now been removed.

In addition to applying thresholds, there was also an opportunity to reduce the total hectares of provision classified as provision for young people. The typology previously included informal kick-about areas, which tended to be large sized areas within other typologies (e.g. amenity green space or parks). A process of applying a set universal site size of 0.045 hectares to all sites identified as an informal grass kick-about area (21) has been undertaken. The five additional sites initially identified as provision for young people have been re-classified as the same designation as their adjoining or surrounding typology.

The following table summarises the specific actions applied for each typology:

Typology	Action
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Retained sub categories of district, neighbourhood and pocket. Prioritise parks for investment within SPD. The action plan should also prioritise on this basis.
Natural green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Applied a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares and where possible merged sites within close proximity of each other. This reduced the number of sites by 22 and the total hectares by approx 2.8 ha. ◆ Sites perceived to be of high value to the community have been retained.

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Typology	Action
Provision for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explored areas of shortfall via catchment mapping to ensure robustness. Applied a set universal standard (0.1 ha) for the three adventure playground sites. Removed four sites identified as having closed.
Provision for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people's facilities consisted of skate parks, BMX tracks, informal kick-about areas, Multi-Use-Games-Areas (MUGAs) and teenage shelters. Applied a set universal standard (0.045 ha) for informal kick-about areas to reduce the significant contribution these sites made to the overall hectares. Five sites counted within amenity green space/parks provision in order to recognise value but not for their size to add to overall provision for young people. This reduced the total hectareage by approx 2 ha.
Amenity green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares and where possible merged sites within close proximity of each other. This reduced the number of sites by approx 230 (over 20 ha). Sites perceived to be of high value to the community have been retained. Applied a 10 minute access standard (so that it is consistent with the street survey findings). This increases the catchment of existing sites and the number of people living within a 10 minute walk of an amenity green space (see maps).
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to recalculate quantity standards taking account of demand by using waiting list figures as the data is considered unreliable.
Cemeteries & churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required. Should be led by the burial strategy.
Green corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed hard surface civic spaces from calculation of standards and provided a quantity standard for civic spaces.

In order to address the issues raised and to ensure the robustness of the standards, and in particular the open space quantity standards, we have revised the standards to ensure that they more accurately reflect current local needs and are achievable and sustainable.

The quantity standards provide a guideline as to how much open space, sport and recreation provision per 1,000 people is required in the City to meet current demand.

Typology	OSANA 2008 standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Proposed quantity standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Explanation of change
Parks	0.87 (District Parks and Neighbourhood Parks)	0.99	Increase due to reclassification of some sites previously in different typologies, including pocket parks and playing pitches.
Natural green space	1.50 (Actual: 1.47)	1.33	Decrease due to removal of small sites and setting standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.

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Typology	OSANA 2008 standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Proposed quantity standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Explanation of change
Provision for children	0.05 (Actual: 0.027)	0.026	Decrease due to redrawing of site boundaries and setting standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.
Provision for young people	0.05 (Actual: 0.03)	0.018	Decrease due to redrawing of site boundaries to more realistically reflect area available for play, and setting standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.
Amenity green space	0.62	0.56	Decrease due to removal of small sites and reclassification of some sites as Parks
Allotments	0.15	0.15	Remained same
Civic spaces	Not set	0.005	Newly created standard
Outdoor sports facilities	1.50 (Actual: 1.44) 0.53 of which should be pitch area (Actual: 0.54)	1.35 0.74 of which should be pitches available for community use ⁴	Decrease due to reclassification of some playing pitches as part of Parks
Total	4.74	4.43	Decrease due to reduction in total amount of open space in individual typologies and setting standards at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.

The proposed quantity standards are generally lower or have remained the same compared to the current OSANA standards for all typologies, with the exception of parks, which has increased due to reclassification of some sites previously in amenity green space and outdoor sports facility typologies.

⁴ From Playing Pitch Strategy (population figures based on 2001 Census data as it is only dataset with breakdowns for gender and age groups required. Also incorporates latent demand)

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Identifying future need

We would advocate use of the latest ONS population estimates to provide an indication of future trends by age and gender for the next 25 years. ONS based estimates supplied by the Council indicate a population increase of 6% between 2010 and 2026, resulting in a future population total of 253,700. In light of Council population estimates, the population percentage increase is applied to the citywide standard for each typology below to identify how much provision is required to service the future population.

The '*Total new provision 2026*' column substantiates the actual deficiency in terms of the difference in hectares between current provision and future provision in 2026 (based on future population figures and using the standards shown below). The total requirement is an additional 62.24 ha if standards are to be met by 2026.

Parks

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	238.09	0.99	253,700	13.07

Natural and semi/natural green space

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	319.58	1.33	253,700	17.84

Provision for children

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	6.23	0.026	253,700	0.36

Provision for young people

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	4.33	0.018	253,700	0.23

Amenity green space

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	134.11	0.56	253,700	7.96

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Allotments

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	35.43	0.15	253,700	2.62

Civic spaces

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	1.25	0.005	253,700	0.02

Outdoor sports facilities

Current population (ONS 2010)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
239,354	322.35	1.35	253,700	20.14

Total hectares of provision for the typologies of Cemeteries & Churchyards and Green Corridors are set out in the appendix. Totals are not provided above as no Standard is set for these open space typologies as explained earlier.

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ACCESS STANDARDS

Access standards are effectively the distance thresholds that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each typology using different modes of transport. Catchment areas are based on them and are a tool to identifying communities currently served/not served by existing provision. An access standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, as recommended by PPG17 guidance.

The access standards (i.e. maximum distances) set out in the OSANA are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. Given the evidence to support them, we therefore recommend that these predominantly remain unchanged. However, the challenging 5 minute walk time standard set for amenity green space has been increased to a 10 minute walk time standard, in accordance with survey results.

Typology	Access standard
Parks	District - 20 minute walk Neighbourhood - 10 minute walk Pocket – 10 minute walk
Natural green space	15 minute walk
Provision for children	10 minute walk
Provision for young people	20 minute walk
Amenity green space	10 minute walk
Allotments	15 minute walk
Outdoor sports facilities	15 minute walk 20 minute drive for STP and golf courses

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APPENDICES

Total figures by Analysis Area

Analysis area	Current population (2010)	Total open space (ha)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Civic space	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries and Church yards	Green Corridor
Bilston	41,587	245.453	41.1388	120.3472	1.1817	1.1573	27.2615	0.6285	-	42.7724	10.0992	0.8663
Central & South	63,845	250.269	56.0546	75.7790	1.7891	0.7721	26.6701	10.1914	1.0331	70.0409	7.9386	-
North	37,278	223.207	56.2310	48.0043	1.0690	0.5738	26.8847	5.0421	0.2150	68.9148	15.0213	1.2506
Tettenhall	50,334	234.153	41.2808	47.8182	1.0748	0.3000	22.3207	14.5526	-	80.8765	25.9295	-
Wednesfield	46,310	176.240	43.3825	27.6369	1.1190	1.5290	30.9732	5.0166	-	59.7461	3.8362	3.0007
TOTAL	239,354	1129.322	238.0877	319.5856	6.2336	4.3322	134.1102	35.4312	1.2481	322.3508	62.8248	5.1176

Breakdown of Standards by Analysis Area (below/above)

	Current population (2010)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Civic space	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Bilston	41,587	0.99	1.33	0.026	0.018	0.56	0.15	0.005	1.35
	0.99	0.00	2.89	1.56	0.028	0.10	0.015	-	1.03
Central & South	63,845	0.88	-0.14	0.002	-0.006	-0.14	0.159	0.016	-0.35
	0.88	-0.11	1.19	0.028	0.012	0.42	0.159	0.016	1.10
North	37,278	1.40	-0.04	0.003	-0.002	0.16	0.135	0.006	-0.25
	1.40	0.41	1.29	0.029	0.016	0.72	0.135	0.006	1.85
Tettenhall	50,334	0.82	-0.17	-0.005	-0.012	-0.12	0.289	-	0.50
	0.82	-0.17	0.95	0.021	0.006	0.44	0.289	-	1.61
Wednesfield	46,310	0.94	-0.05	-0.002	0.015	0.11	0.108	-	0.26
	0.94	-0.05	0.60	0.024	0.033	0.67	0.108	-	1.29
TOTAL	239,354	0.08	0.27	0.00	0.005	0.11	-0.044	0.012	0.10