

# Wyre Forest

## Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment



## A Final Report by PMP

October 2008

strategy finance delivery



**Wyre Forest**  
District Council

**DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST**

**OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION  
ASSESSMENT**



**A**

**FINAL REPORT**

**BY**

**PMP**

**OCTOBER 2008**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### Background

- i. During July 2007 Wyre Forest District Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002) and its Companion Guide. This report sets out the findings of this study and includes an assessment of local needs and existing open space, sport and recreation provision.
- ii. The study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will help to shape the strategic direction of the Wyre Forest District Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and other LDF documents, including the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), the Site Allocations DPD and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD.
- iii. The study was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
- iv. The Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, many stages were undertaken in parallel.
- v. The five step process is as follows:
  - Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
  - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
  - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
  - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
  - Step 5 – Drafting Policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.
- vi. The study considers eleven typologies of open space and sports facilities, namely:
  - town parks
  - local parks
  - natural and semi natural open space
  - amenity greenspace
  - provision for children
  - provision for young people
  - outdoor sports facilities
  - indoor sports facilities
  - allotments and community gardens
  - green corridors
  - churchyards and cemeteries.

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

### **Current position**

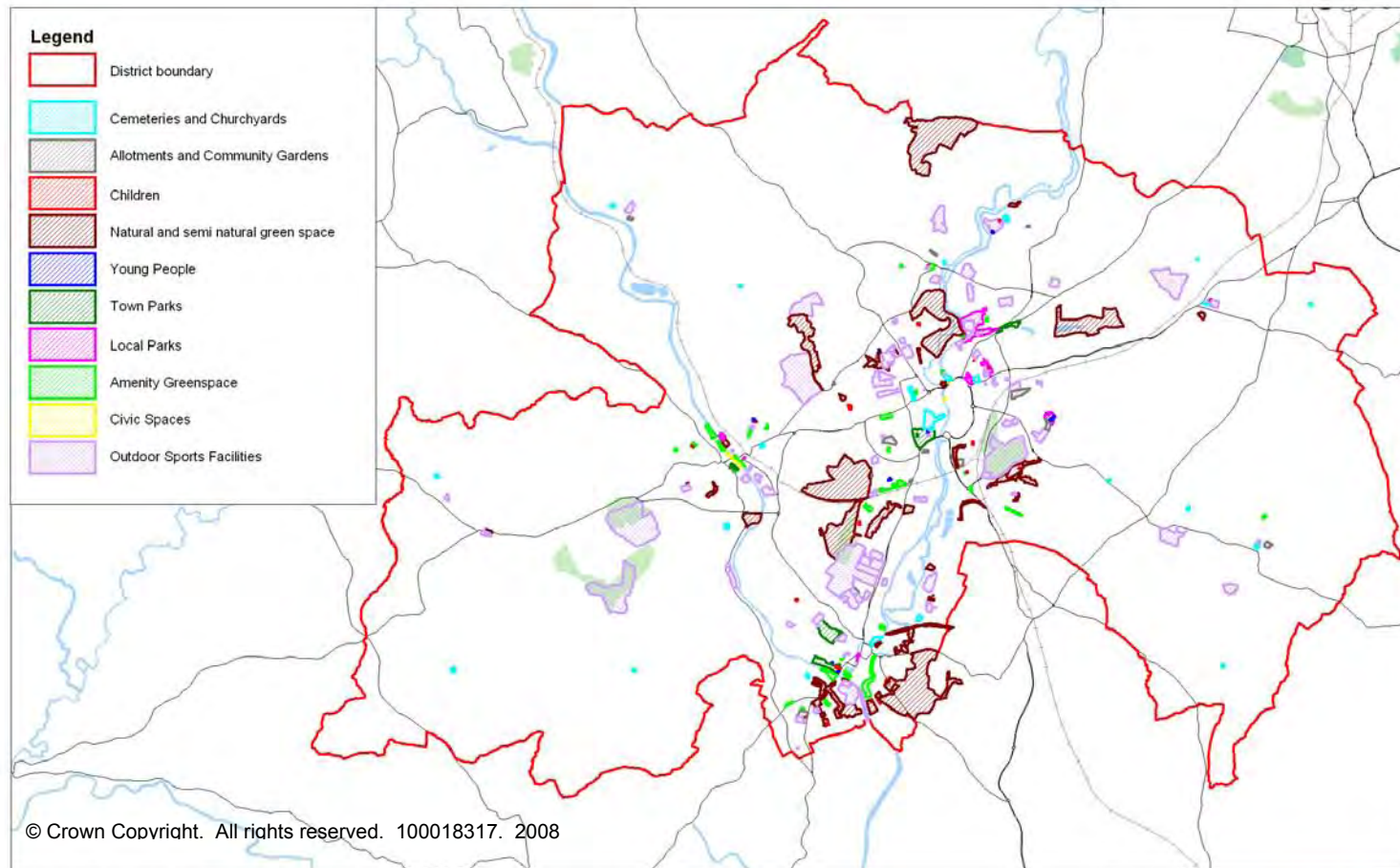
- ix. Consultation and site visits regarding the different types of open space in Wyre Forest highlights the following key issues:
- parks and gardens are highly valued across Wyre Forest, with residents and visitors to the district using them frequently. There is a particular emphasis from public consultation for the provision of local parks and gardens, with residents at drop in sessions and respondents to the household survey highlighting their value to the local community, particularly for children. Parks are seen as a focal point of the community and also perceived to offer significant landscaping and environmental benefits, particularly within the urban areas of the district
  - natural and semi natural open space is the most popular of all typologies in Wyre Forest. Natural and semi natural open spaces, alongside areas of countryside, are perceived to be a key part of the character of the district and highly valuable. The need to protect these sites from development is a key theme that developed throughout consultation. Residents and visitors recognise the benefits they draw from the excellent provision of nature reserves and large natural and semi natural sites in the area
  - the value of amenity green spaces within close proximity to residents is highlighted through local consultation. The importance of achieving a balance between quantity and quality is reinforced by residents, with amenity green space perceived to be valuable to the local community if it is maintained
  - equipped provision for children and young people is the overriding theme of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many

facilities is insufficient. Facilities are perceived to be unimaginative and not challenging. The lack of youth clubs and facilities available for use at night for young people is a key issue across the district

- allotments are seen as a valuable open space in the district offering residents opportunities for informal recreation. This type of open space is considered to be particularly important for older residents in Wyre Forest
- the importance of outdoor sports facilities is emphasised by residents, with many viewing the protection of this type of open space as essential. Residents identified both quantitative and qualitative issues with regards to outdoor sports facilities. The quantity and quality of changing facilities in particular is perceived to be a key issue

x. The distribution of sites in Wyre Forest is illustrated in Map 1 overleaf.

**Map 1 – Distribution of all open space sites across Wyre Forest**



**Distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Wyre Forest**

Based on MapInfo Streetpro data. Crown Copyright PMP Ltd.





**Setting local standards**

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

**Table 1 – Locally derived standards**

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quantity standard (hectares per 1000)</b>	<b>Accessibility standard</b>	<b>% Score achieved</b>
Town parks	0.33	Urban - 15 minute walk (720m) Rural - 20 minute drive	70%
Local parks	0.24	Urban - 10 minute walk (480m) Rural - 15 minute drive	70%
Natural and semi natural	2.30	10 minute walk (480m)	60%
Amenity green space	0.29	10 minute walk (480m)	70%
Children's play areas	0.05	10 minute walk (480m)	70%
Provision for young people	0.03	15 minute walk (720m)	66%
Outdoor sports facilities	1.91	10 minute walk (480m – grass pitches) 15 minute drive time – tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic pitches and golf courses	70%
Allotments	0.191	10 minute walk (480m)	64%

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

### **Access**

- xiii. The accessibility of all open space sites is discussed throughout the report. In summary the application of the accessibility standards highlights that:
- there is a good level of access to parks and gardens in the rural area of the district, with the majority of residents located in the rural settlements able to access a park within the recommended drive time. In contrast, there are a number of key areas of deficiency in the urban area. A large proportion of residents in the Kidderminster West analysis area and Stourport analysis area are outside the accessibility threshold of a park
  - access to natural and semi natural open space is high across all areas of the district. The majority of residents in Wyre Forest are able to access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended 10 minute walk time
  - amenity green space is poorly distributed across the district. Key areas of deficiency exist in the Kidderminster East analysis area, in the north of the Kidderminster west analysis area and the north of Stourport analysis area. Only in the Bewdley analysis area can the majority of residents access an amenity green space within the recommended 10-minute walk time
  - although a lack of children's play areas was emphasised throughout consultation these facilities are evenly distributed across the district. However, despite this equitable distribution of facilities, there remain some key areas of deficiency, particularly in Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas
  - there is a good distribution of young people's facilities across the district, however, predominantly due to the lack of facilities for young people in Wyre Forest, a number of areas are outside the recommended distance threshold of a facility. This is particularly evident in the Kidderminster analysis areas and in the north of the Stourport analysis area
  - there is an even distribution of outdoor sports facilities across both the urban and rural areas of the district. Analysis of the spread of different types of outdoor sports facilities indicates that pitches are evenly distributed and that the majority of residents are able to access local provision. In contrast, bowling greens, tennis courts and larger sites containing multiple facilities are focused predominantly within the Stourport analysis area
  - increasing access to school facilities is a key issue for residents, particularly in the rural areas of the district
  - despite an even distribution of allotments in Wyre Forest there are a number of areas of deficiency. Clear accessibility deficiencies are evident in the Bewdley analysis area, centre of Stourport analysis area, centre of Kidderminster West analysis area and north of Kidderminster East analysis area.

### **Quantity**

- xiv. Consultation regarding the quantity of different types of open space in Wyre Forest highlights that:
- overall the quantity of parks is perceived to be sufficient. This is supported by findings within each analysis area. Enhancing the quality of parks is considered to be more important than increasing the quantity of this typology
  - there is an overall satisfaction with the quantity of natural and semi natural open space. The need to protect this type of open space from development was a key theme and the local quantity standard has been set at the existing level of provision
  - perceptions regarding the quantity of amenity green space are varied and a standard has been set marginally above the existing level of provision in order to enable the identification of locational deficiencies as well as placing an emphasis on opportunities to enhance the quality of provision
  - the quantity of provision for children and young people was the overriding theme throughout consultation, with increasing the provision of these types of open space regularly emphasised. The local quantity standards have been set above the existing levels of provision to reflect the need for increased provision
  - the lack of provision of allotments is the most conclusive finding across all types of open space in the district. Analysis indicates that there is increasing demand for allotments in the district and a number of sites in Wyre Forest currently have waiting lists. The local quantity standard has been set above the existing level of provision
  - overall the quantity of outdoor sports facilities is perceived to be sufficient. However, dissatisfaction with the provision of tennis courts and synthetic turf pitches is highlighted. With regards to the provision of local facilities high levels of satisfaction are shown with the quantity of grass pitches. Although the quantity standard has been set at the existing level of provision, increasing access to school facilities will be key in meeting future demand
- xv. Application of the quantity standards demonstrates that:
- across all typologies, the greatest quantitative shortfall is found in provision for young people. In order to meet the recommended standard an increase of 58% of current provision will be required
  - overall, across the district there is a shortfall of open space, sport and recreation provision in quantitative terms and there are particular quantitative shortfalls relating to provision for young people, children, allotments and natural open space. As specified throughout the report, the quantity standards need to be applied in conjunction with the accessibility standards in order to identify the location of any deficiencies.

### **Quality**

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

- the quality of parks is perceived to be good by residents. Recent improvements at Brinton Park were regularly commended by residents. Site assessments reveal the quality of town parks is good and local parks average
  - the quality of natural sites is perceived to be important to residents and the wider benefits of these sites are recognised. The aesthetic and recreational values this type of open space offers to local residents is perceived to be particularly important
  - the quality of amenity green space in Wyre Forest is varying, with quality scores ranging from 30% - 68%. The quality scores for amenity green space sites indicate the quality of this type of open space is average
  - although the quantity of children's play areas and provision for young people was the main focus for these typologies a number of quality issues also emerged. Comments from residents particularly focus on the lack of imaginative facilities available for children and young people
  - the quality of allotments is perceived to be average by residents and this was reflected in the quality scores of allotments in Wyre Forest
- xvii. The actions that are required to enhance the overall provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities across Wyre Forest are set out below. Full rationale is provided within the main report.

### **Parks and gardens**

- all parks should be protected from development
- seek to create a network of high quality town and local parks within the District. Improvements to local sites should focus firstly in areas where there is a lack of town parks
- seek to increase access to all parks in the district, particularly to the strategic parks in the district, such as Brinton Park, Memorial Park and Jubilee Gardens
- upgrade existing amenity green spaces in areas deficient in parks in the Bewdley analysis area
- prioritise the development of a new local park within Areley Kings, Spennells and within the south of the Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas.

### **Natural and semi natural open spaces**

- identify opportunities for improving the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces both in terms of the wildlife and habitat values of the site, but also for recreational purposes
- maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces
- seek to increase access to natural and semi natural open space in the Bewdley, Stourport and Kidderminster West analysis areas

- consider opportunities to provide new provision within the Bewdley analysis area, in the north of the Kidderminster East analysis area and in the Kidderminster West analysis area
- protect natural open spaces in the Bewdley and Stourport analysis areas from development
- enhance the quality of natural and semi natural open space in the rural analysis areas. Should the opportunity arise, consider the provision of more formal natural or semi natural open spaces in larger settlements in the area, such as Far Forest and Rock.

### **Amenity green space**

- seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 70%
- focus on the qualitative enhancement of existing facilities within Bewdley analysis area
- should the opportunity arise, provide new amenity green space within Franche and Habberley
- monitor the demand for amenity green space in the rural analysis areas.

### **Children's play areas**

- incorporate the findings from the quality assessments to inform decisions on sites requiring investment. Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard
- investigate opportunities to provide new sites in areas where residents are unable to access play facilities within the recommended catchment. Key priorities for new provision include Bewdley and Offmore and Comberton
- consider the value of play facilities serving similar catchments, particularly those which are of poor quality, seek opportunities to redistribute existing play areas sites in close proximity to each other in order to enhance the quality of the remaining site. This approach should be adopted specifically in the north of Kidderminster town centre
- protect all play areas in the rural settlements and support the ongoing maintenance programmes undertaken by the Parish Councils
- identify opportunities to provide new facilities in the larger rural settlements
- continue to develop the 'Play Ranger Project' in deprived and more rural areas of the district.

### **Provision for young people**

- seek to enhance the quality of facilities for young people and encourage young people to be involved in the design of new facilities

- seek to increase access to existing young people's facilities in the area. Should the need arise, consider the provision of a new young people's facility within Greenacres Lane amenity green space
- consider the provision of a new young people's facility within the centre of the Kidderminster West analysis area, Bewdley, Areley Kings, Aggborough, Offmore and Memorial Park (Stourport)
- encourage the development of 'The Wild Walshes Play Project' within Stourport
- protect all facilities for young people located in the rural areas of the district.

### **Allotments**

- monitor and regularly review demand for allotment provision
- investigate and address any potential demand for additional allotments in all urban areas of the district
- support Parish Councils in the provision of new allotments in the rural area, where there is demand
- protect existing allotment sites from any future developments
- seek to improve the quality of allotments in Wyre Forest.

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

- protect all outdoor sports facilities from development
- seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities across the district to ensure that all sites are fit for purpose
- identify potential adult pitches that could be redesigned for the use of junior football and junior rugby. Consider the development of a new synthetic turf pitch to be used for hockey at a strategic location within the district
- opportunities for the new provision of a grass pitch should be considered in the Bewdley, Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas
- maximise access to local school sites, particularly within the rural areas, to meet demand

### **Cemeteries and churchyards**

- recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards
- seek to increase access and enhance the quality of cemeteries and churchyards, particularly in areas when there is limited open space provision.

### **Green corridors**

- maximise linkages between open spaces through the development of green corridors and create a network of multifunctional open spaces

- work in tandem with key partners to maximise the use of green corridors
  - aspire to achieve the quality vision at all green corridor sites.
- xviii. Enhancement of the links between open spaces will be instrumental in both maximising the benefits of the network of open space and also in achieving the wider sustainable transport objectives.
- xix. As well as considering the provision of open space within settlement boundaries, it is essential to also acknowledge the role of the wider countryside and the importance of this asset to local residents. Within the district there are many large areas of informal countryside, such as Wyre Forest that provide many informal recreation opportunities to residents and visitors alike.
- xx. The open space, sport and recreation study is also an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.
- xxi. The study provides the tools in which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development and for pre-empting growth implications as part of the LDF.
- xxii. The provision of swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis facilities was also considered as part of the study. The key outcomes of this assessment included:
- there are sufficient swimming pools to meet current and future demand in quantitative terms. Pools are ageing and focus should be placed on improving the quality of facilities and providing public transport linkages
  - the supply of sports halls is in balance with demand. Changes to the current levels of participation and population growth may see demand become greater than supply. New provision may therefore be required. Any new facilities should be linked to school sites in order to maximise the use of resources
  - there are no indoor bowls facilities in the district and the need for a facility was a key theme of consultation. New provision should therefore be considered. This is of particular importance in light of the profile of the population which indicates that one of the dominant population groups has a strong propensity to participate in bowls
  - there are no indoor tennis facilities in the district. Consultation did not uncover the need for a facility within Wyre Forest and demand should therefore be monitored on an on-going basis.

## **SECTION 1**

### **INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**



## **Introduction and background**

### **The study**

- 1.1 During July 2007 Wyre Forest District Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002) and its Companion Guide. This report sets out the findings of this study and includes an assessment of local needs and existing open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.2 The study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will help to shape the strategic direction of the Wyre Forest Core Strategy and other LDF documents, including the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), the site allocations DPD and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD.
- 1.3 Other key objectives of the study include:
  - to assess existing green space across Wyre Forest
  - to identify local needs and aspirations through consultation, a strategic review and a review of existing provision standards
  - to recommend standards of provision (quantity, quality and accessibility) in accordance with PPG17
  - to inform the future enhancement and management of green spaces.
- 1.4 The Council currently manage almost 600 acres of public open space in the District including a range of parks, sports pitches and play areas. The findings of this work will enable the Council to adopt a clear vision and priorities for the future (based on local need) and establish a direction for the allocation of resources.

### **Why public open space?**

- 1.5 Open space and recreation provision in Wyre Forest has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of both national objectives and more locally in the achievement of key Council priorities including enhancing cultural life, regeneration and the health of the local community.
- 1.6 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities is becoming increasingly important and the contributions it can bring to both national and local priorities are recognised. The benefit to local communities is reflected in the Park Life Report (Greenspace, June 2007), which indicates that 92% of all those questioned had visited a park within the last month.
- 1.7 PPG17 states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, which include:
  - supporting an urban renaissance



- supporting a rural renewal
  - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
  - health and well being
  - promoting more sustainable development.
- 1.8 The May 2007 White Paper highlights minimising climate change and the protection of the environment as some of the key challenges to be addressed through the planning system in future years. The provision and protection of green space will be instrumental in the achievement of these objectives.
- 1.9 The importance of promoting health is emphasised through recent pressure on Local Planning Authorities to combat rising obesity through the appropriate design of buildings and the local environment, including open spaces.

### **Function and benefits of open space**

- 1.10 Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of towns and villages, for example, opportunities for play and informal recreation, a landscaping buffer within and between the built environment and/or a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity.
- 1.11 While all sites have a primary purpose, many open spaces perform secondary functions, for example outdoor sports facilities offer an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.
- 1.12 There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local aspirations. Local aspirations may vary from place to place and change over time.
- 1.13 Changing social and economic circumstances, different work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers. While the provision of open spaces can be challenging, open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.14 Parks and open spaces are more accessible to a wide range of people than many other sport and leisure facilities and are better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation provision is therefore key to an ideal, sustainable and thriving community. The Park Life Report (Green Space June 2007) highlighted that 83% of those surveyed feel that parks are the focal point of a community.
- 1.15 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live and can result in a number of wider benefits. These are highlighted in Appendix A.

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

- 1.16 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities (paragraph 1). It encourages local authorities to proactively plan for the future delivery of appropriate open space, sport and leisure facilities.
- 1.17 The document suggests that local authorities should undertake audits of existing provision, the use of existing facilities, access in terms of location and identify the need for new open space and sport and recreation facilities (paragraph 2).
- 1.18 Paragraph 7 states that “local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas”. PPG17 sets out the Government’s belief that national standards are inappropriate, as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development. PPG17 therefore places significant emphasis on meeting local needs and expectations and adapting provision to the local context.
- 1.19 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:

- assessing needs and opportunities
- undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
- setting local standards
- maintaining an adequate supply of open space
- planning for new open space.



- 1.20 The Companion Guide recommends a process that should be followed and outlines the key objectives of an open space, sport and recreation needs assessment.
- 1.21 This PPG17 study has been undertaken following the recommended process and guides the effective provision of open spaces across Wyre Forest District. It recommends local standards based on an analysis of current provision and local community need. The application of the recommended local standards highlights key areas of deficiency and priorities for enhancement.

### **Local features and demographics**

- 1.22 The District of Wyre Forest is located in the north of the county of Worcestershire, bordering Shropshire and covering an area of 75 square miles. The District contains three towns, with Kidderminster being the principal town and Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn smaller urban areas. A series of small villages and hamlets surround these towns, making up a total of ten parishes. The varying landscapes and characteristics of Wyre Forest ensure a variety of different open space provision and expectations in the different geographical areas of the District.

## **SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

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- 1.23 The outlying rural areas present a different challenge for the Council in terms of providing access to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Parish Councils are important providers in these areas. In contrast, most of the facilities within the urban areas of the District are under the management of the District Council.
- 1.24 56% of the District falls within the West Midlands Green Belt and there is therefore an abundance of countryside. Access to this countryside is integral to the character of the area.
- 1.25 According to the 2001 Census, the population of Wyre Forest District was 96,981. Mid year estimates for 2005, detailed in the 2006 Annual Monitoring Report, indicate that the population had risen to 98,510. Population growth provides challenges for the Council in terms of maintaining and improving open space provision across the District in line with increased demand, while simultaneously combating increased pressures on land for development.
- 1.26 Population projections up to 2011 indicate that the population is likely to fall again. As a consequence, it is likely that demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities will fluctuate and it will be essential that providers are responsive to changes in demand. While the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) targets high levels of house building in some areas of Worcestershire, implications in Wyre Forest are likely to be limited and will primarily be accommodated on brownfield sites. Population increases may however arise as a result of inward migration and some redistribution of the population is likely to occur.
- 1.27 The population structure of the District is also anticipated to change, with the proportion of residents over 65 rising and the number of people below the age of 18 falling. Demand for different open space, sport and recreation facilities is influenced by the age and population profile of the District.
- 1.28 While deprivation levels in Wyre Forest are lower than the national average, there remain pockets of deprivation. For example, life expectancy in Oldington & Foley Park ward is 2.4 years below the England average. This ward encompasses the Birchen Coppice and Riffle Range areas of the District, areas of high deprivation. Local, accessible facilities and good links to public transport routes may be crucial to the effective delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities in this area. The Sustainable Community Strategy highlights the importance of addressing issues in these areas.
- 1.29 The RSS indicates that although Wyre Forest is not part of a large regeneration zone, some more deprived areas will be subject to local regeneration proposals over the RSS period. Local and accessible provision of open space will assist in meeting social inclusion targets and improving the health and wellbeing of residents. Kidderminster is undergoing significant regeneration and acts as a strategic centre for the area.
- 1.30 According to the Active People survey, 20.1% of the Wyre Forest adult population take part regularly in sport and active recreation. This is in line with the national average. In light of the drive to increase participation and health nationally, improvements to green spaces and playing fields could play a key role in further raising levels of physical activity, as well as driving forward other key agendas. Increases in participation would also result in demand for additional facilities.

### **Structure of the report**

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

**SECTION 2**  
**UNDERTAKING THE STUDY**

### Undertaking the study

#### Introduction

- 2.1 As detailed in Section 1, this study has been undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The key emphasis of PPG17 is the importance of understanding local needs and making decisions based on local aspirations, as opposed to following national trends and guidelines.
- 2.2 The Companion Guide indicates that the four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) understanding that local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
  - (ii) recognising that the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
  - (iii) considering that delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
  - (iv) taking into account that the value of open space will be greater when local needs are met. It is essential to consider the wider benefits that sites generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.3 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The process set out in PPG17 has therefore been adopted to ensure that the needs and expectations of residents in Wyre Forest are adequately addressed.

#### Types of open space

- 2.4 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:  
*“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”.*
- 2.5 PPG17 identifies ten typologies, including nine types of green space and one category of urban open space. It states that when preparing assessments of needs and audits of existing open space and recreation facilities, local authorities should use these typologies, or variations of it.
- 2.6 Table 2.1 overleaf sets out the types of open space included within this study in Wyre Forest. It is important to note that only those sites within settlement boundaries have been included in the audit, in line with guidelines set out in PPG17. The significance of sites outside of these boundaries, alongside areas of nearby natural countryside will be considered throughout this report. This is particularly important in light of the nature of many of the rural settlements in the District where there may be limited dedicated provision within the boundaries of the settlements but extensive areas of countryside in close proximity to the home. In some instances, increasing access to existing open space will be as or more important than the development of new spaces.

**Table 2.1 – Typologies of open space, sport and recreation facilities within Wyre Forest District**

Type	Definition	Primary purpose
<b>Town parks</b>	<p>Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. PPG17 states that large or high quality spaces (or facilities) tend to attract users from a wider area than small or poor quality ones and tend to have a higher local profile. This gives rise to the concept of a hierarchy of provision. For this reason parks and gardens in Wyre Forest have been split into “town parks” and “local parks” in recognition of the different size of sites, range of facilities and the anticipated catchments of these sites.</p> <p>Town parks are therefore defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strategically significant</li> <li>• having a large effective catchment</li> <li>• accessed by public transport or car</li> <li>• large and more expensive to develop and maintain</li> <li>• planned using national data and strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informal recreation</li> <li>• community events.</li> </ul>
<b>Local parks</b>	<p>As with town parks, the local parks category includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. In comparison to town parks, local parks are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locally significant</li> <li>• smaller effective catchment</li> <li>• accessed on foot or bicycle</li> <li>• smaller/cheaper</li> <li>• planned using local data/views</li> <li>• smaller range of facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informal recreation.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural and semi-natural green spaces</b>	<p>Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wildlife conservation</li> <li>• biodiversity</li> <li>• environmental education and awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>Amenity green space</b>	<p>Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informal activities close to home or work</li> <li>• children’s play</li> <li>• enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Provision for children</b>	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below the age of 12. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for children exist (including play schemes and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children’s play.</li> </ul>



## SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Type	Definition	Primary purpose
	considers only those spaces containing equipped play facilities.	
<b>Provision for young people</b>	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for young people exist (including youth clubs and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose) as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teenage shelters</li> <li>• skateboard parks</li> <li>• BMX tracks</li> <li>• Multi Activity Play Areas (MAPA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• activities or meeting places for young people.</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor sports facilities</b>	<p>Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outdoor sports pitches</li> <li>• tennis courts and bowls greens</li> <li>• golf courses</li> <li>• athletics tracks</li> <li>• playing fields (including school playing fields)</li> <li>• water sports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities for formal sports participation.</li> </ul>
<b>Allotments</b>	<p>Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms. Private gardens are not included.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing vegetables, fruit and flowers.</li> </ul>
<b>Cemeteries &amp; churchyards</b>	<p>Cemeteries and churchyards, including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• burial of the dead</li> <li>• quiet contemplation.</li> </ul>
<b>Green corridors</b>	<p>Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walking, cycling or horse riding</li> <li>• leisure purposes or travel</li> <li>• opportunities for wildlife migration.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic spaces</b>	<p>Hard surfaced areas usually located within town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community events</li> <li>• setting for civic buildings.</li> </ul>

### The geographical area

- 2.7 Analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities across the District has been undertaken both District wide and also by six sub areas across the local authority area (referred to as analysis areas in this report). These areas were discussed and

## SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

agreed with the Council at the outset and are made up primarily by the amalgamation of wards.

- 2.8 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, enabling an understanding of the geographical distribution of open spaces and ensuring that differences in perception and opinion of open spaces across the District are understood.
- 2.9 Although these analysis areas have been used to guide interpretation, the application of local standards will enable the identification of priorities at neighbourhood level where appropriate.
- 2.10 Table 2.2 details the geographical areas that have been used for analysis and interpretation during this study.

**Table 2.2 – Analysis areas in Wyre Forest**

Area name	Population	Wards included
Bewdley	9,178	Bewdley Town Council area
Stourport	19,713	Stourport, Areley Kings, Mitton and Lickhill
Kidderminster East	29,206	Broadwaters, Greenhill, Offmore, Comberton and Aggborough and Spennells
Kidderminster West	29,976	Franche, Habberley and Blakebrook, Sutton Park, Oldington and Foley Park
Rural East	10,197	Wolverley, Cookley, Blakedown and Chaddersley and Bewdley and Arley addresses which fall outside Bewdley Town Council area
Rural West	2,711	Rock and Bewdley and Arley addresses which fall outside Bewdley Town Council area.

### PPG 17 – Five step process

- 2.11 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a logical five-step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities. This process was followed in this assessment and although presented as a linear process below, in reality, steps 1 and 2 were undertaken simultaneously.
- 2.12 The five step process is as follows:
- Step 1 – identifying local needs
  - Step 2 – auditing local provision
  - Step 3 – setting provision standards
  - Step 4 – applying provision standards
  - Step 5 – drafting policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.

### Our process

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

### **Step 1 - Identifying local needs**

- 2.14 PPG17 states that consultation with the local community is essential to identify local attitudes to existing provision and local expectations for additional or improved provision.
- 2.15 The assessment of needs should result in essential and desirable quality features, quantity and accessibility standards that reflect the type and amount of open space, sport and recreation facilities that local communities want. It is essential that the local standards set are directly reflective of local needs and expectations.
- 2.16 In order to identify local needs in Wyre Forest, a series of consultations were carried out including:
- household questionnaires
  - neighbourhood 'drop in' sessions
  - internet survey for children and young people
  - consultation with external agencies
  - one-to-one consultations with Council officers
  - Council officer survey
  - parish council consultations
  - Council members questionnaire and drop in session.
- 2.17 Background is provided on each of the key elements of the consultation in the paragraphs that follow.

### **Household survey**

- 2.18 The household survey provides an opportunity for residents to comment on the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open space provision as well as identifying their aspirations for future provision.
- 2.19 5000 questionnaires were distributed to households across the District to capture the views of both users and non-users of open spaces. Residents were randomly selected using the electoral register.
- 2.20 Random distribution of questionnaires to a geographically representative sample (based on the populations living in each of the identified analysis areas) of households ensures that representatives from all age groups, ethnic groups and gender were given the opportunity to participate. In order to promote an even response rate across ages and gender, residents with the next birthday in each household were asked to complete the questionnaire. A copy of the household survey and accompanying covering letter can be found in Appendix B.
- 2.21 551 postal surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to assume responses for the remaining population across the District. Obtaining more than 400 responses means that the results are accurate to +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval.

### **Neighbourhood ‘drop in’ sessions**

2.22 Neighbourhood ‘drop in’ sessions were held in three locations within Wyre Forest, specifically:

- Stourport Civic Hall, Stourport
- Kidderminster Market, Kidderminster
- Bewdley Museum, Bewdley.

2.23 These sessions were advertised to the public through the display of information at local sports centres and libraries in the three main conurbations of the area. The sessions were also advertised via Wyre Forest District Council website. It was intended that the drop in sessions would provide an informal opportunity for residents to give their views on open space, sport and recreation issues. Local interest groups were also formally invited to the sessions. The drop in sessions were well attended and the key issues arising from discussions have fed directly into the recommended local standards.

### **Internet survey for children and young people**

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

2.25 To reflect the importance of children and young people, two questionnaires were therefore posted on the internet. One questionnaire was intended for pupils of a primary school age and one for young people of secondary school age. All schools within the Council boundaries were notified of the website address and asked to encourage their pupils to complete the questionnaires.

2.26 The level of response to the surveys was reasonably good with 100 responses received in total.

2.27 The information obtained through the distribution of these questionnaires has been instrumental in the development of the local standards and ensures that the views of young people and children are represented.

### **External agencies questionnaire**

2.28 Questionnaires were distributed to key regional and local agencies with the aim of obtaining their views and ensuring that local standards and emerging priorities dovetail with the work of other agencies.

### **Internal Council officers**

2.29 Internal consultations with Council officers were undertaken in order to understand the work, focus and key priorities of the Council and to provide a detailed strategic and practical overview. An internet survey was also distributed to Council officers, examining their views on open space, sport and recreation facilities from their perspective as residents and people who work within the District. This survey received 45 responses.

### **Parish Council Questionnaires**

- 2.30 A questionnaire was distributed to all Parish and Town Councils in the District in order to gain an understanding of localised issues and priorities. Questionnaires explored issues including the perceived quality and quantity of facilities in the area and issues experienced with existing facilities and/or access to facilities.

### **Members**

- 2.31 A questionnaire was sent to all Members of the Council providing them with an opportunity to comment on provision within their wards as well as to discuss wider issues across the District. Members were also invited to a consultation drop in session for one to one discussions with representatives of PMP.

### **Step 2 - Auditing local provision**

- 2.32 PPG17 states that audits of provision should encompass all existing open space and sport and recreation, irrespective of ownership and the extent of public access. The logic for this is that all forms of provision can contribute to meeting local needs. Audits should also include all primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions and should focus on provision within settlement boundaries.
- 2.33 Audits should consider both the quantitative and the qualitative elements of open space, sports and recreation facilities. Audits of quality are particularly important as they allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and maintenance.
- 2.34 The multi functionality of some types of open space presents a challenge in the audit. In order to address these issues, all spaces have been classified by their primary purpose. This ensures that all spaces are counted only once, but does not negate the need to consider the relationships between different types of open space as part of the study.
- 2.35 Additionally, some types of open space are located within a larger space. Where this occurs and the primary purpose is clearly defined, these sites are considered to be two separate sites and have been subdivided. A good example is the location of a children's play area within a park. It is important that these sites are considered separately as they have different roles and fall into different typologies, although it is recognised that the colocation of sites of many different typologies may in itself be an attraction to local residents.
- 2.36 The Council compiled a detailed audit of provision of open space across the District. This audit was then verified and refined by PMP in order to ensure that only those sites falling within the PPG17 typologies were identified and that no sites, apart from those under 0.2 ha (excluding children and young people), were omitted. In line with PPG17, grass verges and farmland were excluded from consideration, as well as sites located outside of settlement boundaries.
- 2.37 285 sites were identified during the audit. Each site was classified into a relevant typology and site assessments were then carried out at each site.
- 2.38 Site assessments were undertaken using a matrix developed in conjunction with Council Officers, enabling comparisons both between sites in the same typology and across typologies. For consistency purposes, all sites were assessed by the same person. Sites were rated against the following categories:

- accessibility
- quality
- wider benefits.

2.39 The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site in addition to ratings for each individual factor. A full list of sites and their scores can be found in Appendix C along with the matrix used to evaluate sites.

### **Steps 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards**

2.40 PPG17 states that open space standards should be set locally and recommends that national standards should not be used to assess local circumstances.

2.41 PPG17 recommends that local authorities use information gained from the assessment of needs and opportunities (stage 1) to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. These local standards should include:

- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed)
- a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities)
- accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

2.42 The local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities should relate directly to the local consultation undertaken and should therefore be reflective of local needs. PMP has produced locally based standards using the findings of the household survey and other consultations undertaken where appropriate.

2.43 Table 2.3 overleaf briefly summarises the process adopted for setting each of the local standards.

**Table 2.3 – The setting standards process**

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

2.44 A brief explanation of the purpose of setting each type of standard is set out overleaf.

### **Quantity**

- 2.45 The open space audit gives an understanding of the quantity of provision for each type of open space in each area of the District. This level of detail enables the calculation of the amount of each type of open space per 1,000 population. This information is provided within typology specific sections 4-13.
- 2.46 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
- provide an understanding of the adequacy of existing provision for each type of open space in the District
  - establish areas of the District suffering from deficiency of provision of each type of open space
  - provide a guide to developers as to the amount of open space expected in conjunction with new development.
- 2.47 This assessment measures the quantity of provision against the current population of 96,981 (taken from the 2001 Census).
- 2.48 Consideration is also given to the likely implications of future population growth up to 2026 using population projections developed by the Office of National Statistics (2004).
- 2.49 In order to ensure that any standards set are reflective of local community needs and opinions, key themes emerging from consultations in each analysis area relating to the quantity of each type are analysed. The key issues for each type of open space are assessed within sections 4 – 13. Local standards are subsequently set, taking into account the current level of provision compared to the perceived community need.

### **Accessibility**

- 2.50 Accessibility is a key criterion for open space sites. Without good access, the provision of good quality open space would be of limited value. The overall aim of accessibility standards should be to identify:
- how accessible sites are
  - how far people are willing to travel to reach open space
  - areas of the District that are deficient in provision (identified through the application of local standards).
- 2.51 Similar to quantity standards, accessibility standards should be derived from an understanding of community views, particularly with regards to the maximum distance that members of the public are willing to travel.
- 2.52 Distance thresholds (ie the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographic Information System (GIS). PPG17 suggests that open spaces should be accessible by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.



### **Quality**

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

2.59 Following the calculation of the total scores achieved during site visits, sites can then be benchmarked against each other. The application of the process for each typology can be found in typology specific Sections 4 – 13.

**Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities**

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

2.61 Based on this analysis, strategic options can be devised considering space to be protected, existing provision to be enhanced, opportunities for relocation and proposals for new provision.

2.62 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology. An example is provided below. These recommendations do not constitute formal policies, but should guide the production of policies in the LDF and other related strategy documents.

<b>P&amp;G1</b>	Given the low number of sites within the District, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection from development.
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**SECTION 3**  
**STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

### Strategic context

- 3.1 This section reviews the strategic context and provides background on the national / regional and local context relevant to open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- 3.2 All documents reviewed influence the provision of facilities in Wyre Forest and the strategic priorities of the Council. Provision of open space is also a key vehicle for the achievement of many of the priorities outlined.
- 3.3 Local strategic documents of particular relevance to one typology have been reviewed within the individual typology sections.
- 3.4 A full review of national strategic documents is contained within Appendix E.

### Regional Policy Documents

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

- 3.5 The Regional Spatial Strategy guides the preparation of local authority development plans and local transport plans and provides a coherent framework for regional development.
- 3.6 The overall vision is for the West Midlands to be:
- ‘an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life for future generations’.*
- 3.7 The key outcomes for the region are highlighted as:
- improved quality of life
  - an advanced, thriving and diverse economy occupying a competitive position
  - successful urban and rural renaissance
  - development of diverse and distinctive cities, towns, sub-regions and communities
  - recognition for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment
  - an efficient network of integrated sustainable transport facilities and services
  - partnership working for a commonly agreed sustainable future.
- 3.8 Policies contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy of specific relevance to this open space, sport and recreation study include:
- **Policy QE1** - Environmental improvement is a key component of the Spatial Strategy. Environmental improvement underpins the overall quality of life of all areas and supports wider economic and social objectives

- **Policy QE4** - local authorities and other agencies should ***undertake assessments of local need and audits of provision***, and develop appropriate strategies for greenspace to ensure that there is adequate provision of accessible, high quality urban greenspace with an emphasis on:
  - i) significantly improving the overall quality of public space, especially in city centres
  - ii) enhancing the setting of local residential neighbourhoods in built up areas
  - iii) increasing the overall stock of urban trees
  - iv) improving accessibility and community safety
  - v) maintaining and enhancing sports, playing fields and recreation grounds.
  
- **Policy T3** - Development plans and local transport plans should provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling by:
  - i) developing safe, secure, direct, convenient and attractive networks which connect town centres, local facilities, educational premises, public transport interchanges, residential and employment areas
  - ii) giving pedestrians and cyclists priority in residential areas and town centres
  - iii) providing links between smaller settlements and centres and developing greenways and quiet roads
  - v) making the most effective use of canal towpaths
  - vi) expanding 'cycle & ride' and cycle carriage on public transport
  - vii) ensuring that new developments and infrastructure proposals improve walking and cycling access.

### ***The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands – Phase 2 Revision Draft Submission – Preferred Option***

- 3.9 The preferred option for Phase 2 of the Regional Spatial Strategy, which extends up to 2026 was submitted to the Secretary of State during December 2007. In light of the Government's agenda to increase house building across the country, Baroness Andrews (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government) has expressed concern about the levels of housing growth proposed by the Preferred Options. As a result, consultants Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners have been appointed by Government Office for the West Midlands to develop options for further housing growth to be considered at the Examination in Public which is expected to be developed to be held in Spring 2009.
- 3.10 The underlying spatial strategy seeks to focus house building within the conurbation and a number of growth points across the region. The document aims to enable all parts of the Region (not necessarily individual settlements or local authorities) to meet their own needs, in a mutually supportive and sustainable way. The strategy

indicates that 3400 new dwellings will be required within Wyre Forest up to 2026. Approximately 170 new dwellings will therefore be required each year. New development will be phased across the region to ensure that there is a steady increasing supply of housing.

- 3.11 The house building which will take place over the next 15 years will at the very least re-distribute concentrations within and around the District and therefore have a major effect on the demand for open space.
- 3.12 The scale and location of house building across Wyre Forest up to 2026 will have a significant impact on open space, sport and recreation requirements in the District. One of the greatest challenges the Council faces is ensuring that the quality of life for existing and new communities in the area is improved. Fundamental to achieving this is the need to enhance existing infrastructure, including open space, sport and recreation to support the scale of growth proposed.
- 3.13 The implications of population growth on the open space, sport and recreation network in Wyre Forest are highlighted throughout this report.

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

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

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

- 3.15 Sport England as the national agency driving sports development takes a strategic lead on the provision of sport.
- 3.16 Sign Up For Sport is a plan for sport and physical activity in the region. Its formulation has involved national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors that fully understand the strategic issues and local needs of the region. It has been facilitated by Sport England under the guidance of the new West Midlands Sports Board.
- 3.17 The aim of the plan is:
- ‘to significantly increase participation in sport within all age and social groups, leading to improvements in health and other social and economic benefits and providing the basis for progression into higher levels of performance for those with talent and the desire to progress.’*

- 3.18 The plan has seven main outcomes:
- increase participation in club and community sport
  - improve levels of sport performance
  - widen access to sport
  - improve the health and well being of people through sport

- create safer and stronger communities through sport
- improve education through PE and sport
- benefit the economy through sport.

3.19 The appropriate provision of facilities for sport and active recreation in Wyre Forest will contribute to the achievement of many of the objectives within the Sport England Regional Framework.

### **Local strategic documents**

3.20 The key principles of local strategic documents in Wyre Forest and their links to this study are summarised in Table 3.1 overleaf. Documents relating specifically to one type of open space are summarised within typology specific Sections 4 – 13.

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

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</p>	<p>The plan sets out detailed land use policies to guide development in the District until 2011. It will be superseded by policies in the LDF.</p> <p>The key aim of policies within the leisure and tourism section is, “<i>to enable the provision of high quality and accessible leisure and tourist facilities</i>”.</p> <p>Policies of specific relevance to this study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy LR1- proposals for development that will lead to the loss or reduction of parks, public open spaces or other open space areas will not be allowed, except when the equivalent or increased provision is provided. Development that will have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted</li> <li>• Policy LR2 – Development proposals must, where appropriate, include provision for amenity space (including LAPs) for the recreation and enjoyment of users. S106 obligations may be sought for contributions to the provision and enhancement of amenity spaces. Development that will have an adverse impact on the provision of amenity space will not be permitted</li> <li>• Policy LR3 – proposals for residential development should include the provision of children’s play space. This should meet the NFPA Six Acre Standard, including LEAPs and NEAPs, as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. on sites providing 75 – 200 child bed spaces, a Local Equipped Area for Play</li> <li>2. on sites providing 200+ child bed spaces, a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>This study will inform the Council in future planning decisions and provide an evidence base that will outline where new facilities should be provided.</p> <p>The study will provide evidence to support the Council’s policies including the protection and enhancement of open space.</p>



**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>3. if there is nearby play space, off-site improvements may be required under Section 106 obligations</p> <p>4. development that will have an adverse impact on the quality or quantity of play space will not be permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy LR4 – The Council will safeguard allotment sites shown on the proposals map. Any development that will cause loss of these sites will not be permitted unless similar or increased provision is provided</li> <li>• Policy LR5 – Proposals for the development of Informal Countryside Facilities will be permitted provided that they:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. enable easy and safe access</li> <li>2. contain adequate provision for future maintenance</li> <li>3. do not have an adverse impact on the quality of recreation opportunities</li> <li>4. do not have an adverse impact on the surrounding land uses</li> <li>5. do not have an adverse effect on wildlife and ecology.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Policy LR6 – The Council will safeguard the areas shown on the proposals map in the Stour Valley north of Kidderminster for future development as a Country Park</li> <li>• Policy LR7 - The Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map around Hurcott Pool and Woods for future development as a Local Nature Reserve</li> </ul>	

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy LR9 – Private playing fields, together with sports pitches situated within educational establishments, will be safeguarded to protect their contribution to sports pitch provision in the District and as valuable urban amenity open spaces. Section 106 obligations may be required to secure playing fields as an integral part of larger new developments. Developments that will result in the loss of these playing fields will not be allowed, unless:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the proposal is for minor development required in the connection with the use as playing fields</li> <li>2. alternative or improved provision of at least equivalent community benefit is made available</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Policy LR10 – The Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map north-west of Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn for outdoor sports use. Proposals for outdoor sports facilities will be encouraged within this area</li> <li>• Policy LR14 – Proposals for golf development will only be permitted where:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. there will be no adverse impact on the character and appearance of the landscape</li> <li>2. there will be no adverse impact on areas of conservation or ecological importance</li> <li>3. access can be gained from suitable roads without an adverse impact of road safety.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	

## SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy LR17 – Proposals for major new commercial leisure developments will only be permitted in sustainable locations within Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres</li> <li>• Policy GB3 – Within the Green Belt, the use of land for outdoor sport and recreation will normally be allowed unless there is an adverse impact on the use or amenity of neighbouring land and buildings, including residential properties.</li> </ul>	
Local Development Scheme	<p>The scheme sets out a detailed programme of documents that form the Local Development Framework up to 2026.</p> <p>The Council are in the process of preparing the Core Strategy and the Preferred Options are currently being developed.</p>	<p>The findings of this study will feed in to the Preferred Options and inform the Wyre Forest Core Strategy. The key issues arising from this study will also inform the Planning Obligations SPD and the Site Allocations DPD.</p>
Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy 2002	<p>The ratio of pitches to adults in Worcestershire currently exceeds the national average at 1:843.</p> <p>Within Wyre Forest there is 105.5 ha of playing pitches, 75% of which are available for community use.</p> <p>Analysis of supply and demand indicates that there is currently a surplus of 30.9 pitches, however there are shortfalls of pitches for junior football (-0.1), junior rugby (-2.6) and hockey (-0.8).</p> <p>The estimated surplus in 2009 for Wyre Forest is 31.4 pitches.</p>	<p>This assessment will consider the overall supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities and will include a local standard of provision.</p> <p>The key findings of the playing pitch strategy will be integrated within this document and the findings of the consultation phase of this study can inform an update of the playing pitch strategy.</p> <p>This assessment of outdoor sports facilities will aid in the identification of areas of shortfall and provide the</p>

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
		evidence base for the provision of new facilities and the enhancement of existing sites.
Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2014	<p>The vision of the strategy is, <i>“Making a Real Difference: Wyre Forest is a vibrant District where all our communities enjoy a high quality of life, and people value themselves and one another. Residents of all ages receive efficient services and play an interactive part in the success and well-being of the District. Our distinctive and beautiful rural landscape is preserved; our three uniquely identifiable riverside towns and the outlying villages thrive, socially and economically. Wyre Forest District is a safe, prosperous and healthy place to live, work and play”</i>.</p> <p>The vision focuses upon six key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communities that are safe and feel safe: Wyre Forest District is an even safer place to live, work, visit and do business. Crime and disorder are low, and our residents feel safe</li> <li>• a better environment for today and tomorrow: the built and natural environment of the Wyre Forest District provides an accessible, attractive, enjoyable, healthy and wildlife-rich place to be, now and in the future. Biodiversity and heritage assets are protected and enhanced. Our varied natural habitats and diverse landscapes are thriving, offering a range of outdoor interests, contributing to local educational opportunities and sustainable tourism</li> <li>• economic success that is shared by all: Wyre Forest District has a thriving and sustainable urban and rural economy, with the infrastructure and a skilled population in place to support it. It</li> </ul>	<p>Provision of open space will be critical in delivering several of the key themes of the community strategy, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the health benefits of participating in a range of sport and recreational activities can be achieved through the use of open space</li> <li>• effective provision of open space will enhance the quality of the natural environment. This study will ensure that well valued sites are protected from development</li> <li>• provision of opportunities to participate in sport and recreation activities can lead to a reduction in crime. Indirect participation can challenge and provide a purpose for young people</li> <li>• the increased provision of open</li> </ul>

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>offers its businesses and investors attractive, accessible and high quality employment locations, particularly around Kidderminster and the Stourport Road Employment Corridor. Kidderminster benefits from sustainable brownfield regeneration which emphasises its unique carpet and industrial heritage. The riverside towns of Stourport and Bewdley offer many opportunities to draw in visitors, and Kidderminster supports a vibrant tourist economy, providing a choice of quality commercial leisure facilities, restaurants and cultural opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving health and wellbeing: by working in partnership with local people and organisations, the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our communities is promoted, sustained and improved</li> <li>• meeting the needs of children and young people: all children and young people in Wyre Forest District are healthy, safe, enjoy life and achieve success, make a positive contribution and benefit from economic wellbeing</li> <li>• stronger communities: all our communities, rural and urban, experience high quality of life. Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley and the larger outlying villages serve their communities' needs with quality leisure, learning, healthcare and shopping facilities and appropriate services and support are available to all those who need them. Everyone has the opportunity to have fun, learn and develop through culture and recreation</li> <li>• our neighbourhoods are regenerated and residents are community spirited and actively engaged in shaping services. Kidderminster town centre is attractive and accessible, inspiring community pride. The unique public realm of Stourport is</li> </ul>	<p>space in the Wyre Forest District can increase participation in physical activity. Learning and skills can also be developed through the use of various types of open space.</p>

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>enhanced through the restoration of the canal basins and the regeneration of Bridge Street, and Bewdley remains a thriving market town whose historic character is preserved and its flourishing riverside environment enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• everyone is able to sustain a good quality lifestyle. The District’s local population has a choice of housing which caters for a variety of needs. Attractive, affordable housing is accessible in the three towns and larger rural settlements. The entire District is well served by a sustainable transport network, so local residents benefit from a variety of transport choices and no longer rely on the private motor car</li> <li>• Wyre Forest District has a strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector, which provides first class services and is supported by a large number of volunteers.</li> </ul>	
<p>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</p>	<p>The strategy identifies the importance of play and highlights the elements needed to ensure comprehensive play opportunities are provided for children and young people living in Worcestershire.</p> <p>The values underpinning the strategy, of relevance to this study, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to contribute to the five outcomes for children and young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; achieving economic well being</li> <li>2. to recognise the importance of play for children and their families both in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety</li> </ol>	<p>This assessment will investigate local community need in terms of provision for children and young people and will provide information relating to current views and aspirations for children’s play facilities.</p> <p>The findings will be considered in the context of the play strategy. Although this study considers only the provision of equipped play areas, it will be important this is evaluated in the wider context of</p>

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. to be prepared to offer challenge, whilst managing risk</li> <li>4. to acknowledge that every child needs and has the right to play and that play is an essential part of growing up</li> <li>5. to provide facilities and services that meet all children’s needs, encouraging social inclusion and embracing people with disabilities</li> <li>6. to ensure that children and young people have safe and easy access to a range of play opportunities within a reasonable distance of their homes</li> <li>7. to extend the choice and control that children have over play opportunities. To recognise a child’s need to push boundaries, to be independent and have self esteem</li> <li>8. to use play positively to foster respect for and amongst children and young people</li> <li>9. to strive to achieve the best quality possible for the greatest number of people.</li> </ol> <p>The four outcomes of the strategy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. children and young people to have increased opportunity to access and enjoy a variety of play</li> <li>2. increased inclusive play opportunities</li> <li>3. a greater understanding of the importance of play</li> <li>4. children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play.</li> </ol>	<p>play opportunities.</p> <p>Site visits will provide an indication of the quality of existing facilities and identify potential areas for improvement.</p> <p>The completion of the Children and Young People Survey will generate a greater understanding and awareness of the importance of play and will help to develop ownership.</p>

## SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Wyre Forest Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008	<p>The community safety strategy has four strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anti-social behaviour – to reduce recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• drugs and alcohol – to reduce problematic drug and alcohol use and the resulting effect on individuals, families and communities within the Wyre Forest District</li> <li>• public perception of crime – to increase public reassurance in those wards and town centres where crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour is most prevalent</li> <li>• violent crime – to reduce the number of recorded incidents of violent crime by 18% by March 2008.</li> </ul>	<p>Appropriate provision of open space can reduce drug and alcohol use by keeping young people occupied and appealing to their interests.</p> <p>The provision and enhancement of open space in areas where crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour is prevalent can reassure the public that a possible solution is being provided.</p>
Best Value Performance Plan 2007	<p>The best value performance plan incorporates the aims of the community strategy and corporate plan.</p> <p>The priority for 2007/2008 of relevance to this study is crime reduction.</p> <p>The improvement plan for 2007/2008 focuses on environment and economic regeneration. The Council achieved 65% of its Best Value Performance Indicators and 70% of its Local Performance Indicators.</p>	<p>Effective provision of open space will assist the Council in the achievement of several key priority objectives and performance indicators.</p>
Wyre Forest District SPD Planning Obligations 2007	<p>The objective of the document is to ensure sustainable development and reduce pressure on existing infrastructure. Chapter 5 covers open space, sport and recreation facilities and recognises their importance to quality of life in the District.</p> <p>The SPD outlines current Council policy, suggesting that:</p>	<p>This study will provide a key evidence base for decision making in the planning obligations process and will encourage the collection of contributions towards the provision of open space from new</p>



**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is important to protect existing open space and play provision and upgrade facilities where appropriate</li> <li>• the council uses the NPFA standards for the provision of outdoor playing space (2.4 ha per 1000 people)</li> <li>• the Council requires maintenance payments covering a 20 year period</li> <li>• contributions towards improving the quality of the District's open space are required from residential developments of 5+ dwellings</li> <li>• if a development scheme includes affordable housing, open space contributions will be reduced by 50%</li> <li>• it is considered good practice to seek geological and biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul> <p>It is stated that Section 106 agreements will be sought for biodiversity and geodiversity enhancement in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• major planning applications</li> <li>• residential developments of 10+ dwellings</li> <li>• buildings whose floor space is 1000 sq ft</li> <li>• site areas of 1.0 ha +</li> <li>• any other application which is in close proximity or impacts on such sites.</li> </ul>	<p>developments.</p> <p>The study will consider the national standards currently used by Wyre Forest and set local standards which are reflective of current need.</p>
Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy	The Wyre Forest Cycle strategy aims to promote cycling as a sustainable form of transport and provides a framework for this to be achieved.	This study will provide information on existing linkages and encourage the use of sustainable transport through the production of local

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>The strategy attempts to increase the modal split of journeys undertaken by bicycle.</p> <p>The objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. create safer cycle routes</li> <li>2. ensure new developments meet cyclists needs</li> <li>3. improve the provision of facilities for cyclists at transport interchanges and to promote links between cycling and public transport</li> <li>4. support the creation of Safer Routes to Schools</li> <li>5. implement Sustrans Route 45 and associated regional routes within the District</li> <li>6. increase cycle parking provision within Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley</li> <li>7. promote cycle routes for leisure and sustainable tourism purposes</li> <li>8. promote environmental and health benefits of cycling</li> <li>9. provide quality and useable cycle infrastructure through regular consultation with local cyclists</li> <li>10. work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, the Highways Agency, Wyre Forest Cycle Forum and local residents to meet or exceed government targets of trebling cycling for 2000 – 2010.</li> </ol>	<p>accessibility standards.</p>

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper</p>	<p>The key findings of the consultation for the Issues and Options paper included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• higher densities can result in poorer and smaller gardens; this increases the demand for allotments</li> <li>• there is an under provision of swimming facilities within the District</li> <li>• the River should be made more of a feature in Kidderminster</li> <li>• the canals should be used to attract visitors., the winding Brindley canals in this area are some of the best waterways in the Country – but boaters don’t want to come to Kidderminster for the bad name that the town has for abusing boat traffic</li> <li>• increase maintenance, and presence of wardens around for play and for safety. Increase provision of public toilets. More modern public toilets available and maintained at high quality</li> <li>• Bewdley needs a swimming pool for locals and visitors alike</li> <li>• open spaces should be preserved</li> <li>• cycle ways and walkways protected by CCTV can help to provide access to green spaces</li> <li>• increase entertainment in parks. school bands could perform, open air theatre, local radio broadcasts in local open spaces. The Council should sponsor more festivities like the local ‘party in the park’</li> <li>• improve access to greenspace by providing footways and cycleways, footpaths and cycle paths including bridges, e.g. a footbridge over canal from Springfield Park to the tow path can help to improve access to green spaces in the urban areas of the District</li> </ul>	<p>These findings will be integrated within the local needs assessment for this study and will guide the recommended local standards.</p>

## SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve wildlife corridors, especially in town centres it is vital to maintain or even expand wildlife corridors into town centres</li> <li>• provide a link from the old town to new development (Weavers Wharf)</li> <li>• reserve areas vulnerable to flooding areas for social 'greenspace' use</li> <li>• improve access and signage.</li> </ul>	
Public Realm Design Guide for Stourport-on-Severn 2006	<p>The document provides design guidance for the implementation of public realm improvements within key areas of the towns.</p> <p>The guide sets out design codes for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. street furniture</li> <li>2. surfacing</li> <li>3. lighting</li> <li>4. soft lighting</li> </ol> <p>The design codes must be adhered to when providing new facilities.</p>	This study will outline priorities for areas of new provision in the District. Any new facilities should meet the set design guidelines.
Wyre Forest District Council, Park Lane Kidderminster Public Realm Framework Final Report – June 2006	<p>The report outlines the Council's plan to reduce the barriers around the Park Lane area between the town centre and Park Street residential area.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is to create a coherent street of residential character and draw together the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. town centre</li> <li>2. canal square</li> </ol>	This study will take into account the key principles of this framework and ensure that the priorities of the strategy are reflected within this PPG17 needs assessment and analysis.

## SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
	<p>3. canal</p> <p>4. Timber Yard housing area</p> <p>5. New Park Lane Neighbourhood Park.</p> <p>The plan aims to create an attractive neighbourhood of strong visual character and amenity that has clear links to the town centre.</p> <p>The wooded greenspace to the west of Park Lane is identified as the site for the new town park.</p> <p>The three main aims of the strategy are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. improve the pedestrian environment</li> <li>2. make the area more visually attractive</li> <li>3. improve access.</li> </ol>	
Design Quality – Supplementary Planning Guidance 2004	<p>The document provides guidance on securing high quality design in the Wyre Forest District. A set of rules are specified for the design of new developments.</p> <p>The three main themes of the document are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. inclusive design and accessibility</li> <li>2. sustainable design</li> <li>3. safer by design.</li> </ol>	All new open spaces provided should adhere to the guidelines set out within this document.
North Midlands Facility Plan 2005/08	The plan identifies the overall facility investment within the North Midlands Rugby Football Union area.	

**SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

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<b>Document reviewed</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Links to open space, sport and recreation study</b>
	<i>The purpose of the plan is, “to ensure, where possible, a clear local infrastructure for rugby union which allows the game to be played, where playing includes training, coaching, officiating and competitive play, on a regular basis by any person who wishes to take part”.</i>	

### **Summary and conclusions**

- 3.21 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting a healthy and enjoyable life. Any development of open spaces (i.e. provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.22 Many organisations are willing to work in partnership together to manage and develop existing open spaces and share similar aims and objectives e.g. protecting, enhancing and maximising usage and nature conservation value of open spaces. The importance of enhancing biodiversity across the region as well as maintaining and improving the green network is a key feature of many regional strategies.
- 3.23 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in Wyre Forest include:
- improvements and continuing enhancement of the local environment are an important feature of the region, providing a tool to achieve many wide-ranging issues impacting on health levels as well as increasing the well-being of residents, workers and visitors
  - housing developments and geographical allocations driven by national planning policies, and employment land allocations will have a direct impact on open space, sport and recreation provision and sustainability. Population growth will place increasing demands on existing open spaces as well as generating higher needs for recreational open space provision.
- 3.24 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within Wyre Forest. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.

**SECTION 4**  
**PARKS AND GARDENS**



### Parks and gardens

#### Introduction and definition

- 4.1 This type of open space (as defined by PPG17) includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events. Only sites falling within settlement boundaries are included.
- 4.2 Parks often contain a variety of facilities and amenities, including some that fall within different classifications of open space, eg children's play facilities, sport pitches and wildlife areas. For classification purposes, the different open spaces within parks have been separated according to the PPG17 typology under which they most appropriately fall. Large green areas, footpaths, lakes and less dense woodland will provide the park area (total hectares) and the other facilities will be calculated separately under their own classification. This ensures that open space sites are not counted twice within the PPG17 assessment.
- 4.3 Parks provide a sense of place for the local community and help to address social inclusion issues within wider society. According to the recently published Park Life Report (June 2007), 83% of those questioned feel that parks are a focal point of community life. Parks also provide an important recreational resource, and many residents enjoy visiting parks to walk or to undertake more physical exercise. The Active People (Sport England 2007) survey reveals that walking is the most popular recreational activity for people in England. Over 8 million adults aged 16 and over completed a recreational walk for at least 30 minutes in the last four weeks. Provision of parks therefore represents a key opportunity to increase levels of physical activity across the local population.
- 4.4 In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by parks, these large green spaces provide structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding local area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas. The provision of parks to break up urban landscapes is becoming increasingly important, particularly in light of growing fears regarding climate change. Green space can contribute to reducing the impact of climate change.
- 4.5 Within Wyre Forest there are a number of key strategic parks located within each of the main towns (Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley). Brinton Park, located in Kidderminster, is the largest park in the District and offers a wide range of facilities for residents. The park has recently been regenerated and attracts a large number of visitors to the District. Riverside Park in Stourport offers a wide range of recreational opportunities to residents and visitors alike and is viewed as an excellent facility for children and young people. Due to its location the site also attracts a large number of visitors to the area, particularly in the summer months. Jubilee Gardens, located in Bewdley, is the only park in the District to have Green Flag status. The park is widely recognised for its aesthetic benefits and although there is not a wide range of facilities provided, the park attracts residents and visitors from all areas of the District. Broadwaters Park has received a Green Pennant Award consecutively from 2005 to 2007.
- 4.6 For the purpose of this study, parks and gardens have been divided into two hierarchies: town parks and local parks. It is important to consider each hierarchy separately and in context with one another. Both types of parks will be discussed later in this section.

**Figure 4.1 – Brinton Park**



### **Strategic context**

4.7 The key issues for parks and gardens arising from a review of strategic documents include:

- Policy LR1 of the **Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan** states that proposals for development that will lead to the loss or reduction of parks, public open spaces or other open space areas will not be allowed, except when the equivalent or increased provision is provided. Development that will have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted
- the **Annual Monitoring Report 2006** highlights that Broadwaters Park has received a green pennant for the second year running – this indicates that a consistently high quality is maintained at this site.

### **Consultation – Assessing Local Needs**

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

- residents emphasised the value of town parks, identifying them as a vital facility for children. This was reinforced through the commendation of the improvements made to a number of town parks in the District
- the importance of local parks was also recognised, with many residents reinforcing the value of local parks that are accessible on foot from their homes. These sites were perceived to be a key community asset
- 55% of children identified parks as their favourite open space. Parks were also the second most popular open space for young people, emphasising the importance of this typology to children and young people. It must be noted that in some instances, children and young people refer to play provision as parks, and there is therefore a significant cross over between the two different types of open space
- parks were seen as a focal point of the community, providing many benefits to residents and visitors alike. Large town parks, such as Brinton Park and Riverside Park, offering a wide range of facilities, were viewed as essential to the character of the District. The wider benefits offered by local facilities were also recognised.

## SECTION 4 - PARKS AND GARDENS

<b>PG1</b>	<p>Maximise the role that parks can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the District by effectively promoting these opportunities.</p> <p>Consider providing activities and alternative means of exercise such as organised health walks and trim trails to maximise usage.</p>
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### Quantity of provision

4.9 The quantity of parks and gardens across Wyre Forest is summarised in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

**Table 4.1 – Provision of town parks across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.88	1	-	0.88	9,697	0.09
Stourport	16.89	2	6	10.89	20,811	0.81
Kidderminster East	2.76	1	-	2.76	30,827	0.09
Kidderminster West	11.6	1	-	11.76	27,419	0.42
Rural East	0.00	0	-	-	10,772	0.00
Rural West	0.00	0	-	-	2,874	0.00
Overall	32.13	5	0.88	11.76	102,400	0.31

4.10 The key issues emerging from Table 4.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of town parks across the District include:

- respondents to the household survey expressed an overall satisfaction with the provision of town parks. 66% of residents felt that the quantity of provision was about right and only 15% not enough – this indicates that overall, the provision of town parks is sufficient to meet the needs of residents
- this perception was reflected across the individual analysis areas, where the significant majority of respondents in each area indicated provision was about right. However, in the rural area, 21% of residents had no opinion regarding the provision of town parks. This lack of interest regarding the provision of town parks could be due to the location of town parks in urban areas of the District which means that residents in the more rural areas are required to travel to access these facilities

## SECTION 4 - PARKS AND GARDENS

- the greatest level of provision is located in the Stourport analysis area (16.89 ha) and this is supported by high levels of satisfaction, with 71% of residents in this area indicating provision is sufficient.

**Table 4.2 – Provision of local parks across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.99	2	0.10	0.89	9,697	0.10
Stourport	0.25	2	0.12	0.13	20,811	0.01
Kidderminster East	22.83	4	1.80	16.95	30,827	0.74
Kidderminster West	0.00	0	-	-	27,419	0.00
Rural East	0.00	0	-	-	10,772	0.00
Rural West	0.00	0	-	-	2,874	0.00
Overall	24.07	8	0.10	16.95	102,400	0.24

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

- the majority of respondents to the household survey perceived the provision of local parks to be about right (54%). However, 22% of residents also felt there was not enough provision – while this is a slightly higher level of dissatisfaction than with the provision of town parks, it suggests that overall, the quantity of provision is about right
- within the individual settlement areas a similar perception was portrayed, with over 46% of respondents in each area stating provision was about right
- surprisingly the highest level of satisfaction (71%) was located in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where there is currently no provision of local parks. It is worth noting that residents in this area were satisfied with the provision of town parks, therefore there may have been some crossover between the two typologies leading to a high satisfaction with the provision of parks generally
- consistent with the findings for town parks, the lowest level of satisfaction is found in the rural areas of the District. This corresponds with the actual levels of provision, which is the lowest of all areas in Wyre Forest.

**Setting provision standards – quantity**

- 4.12 The recommended local quantity standards for town parks and local parks have been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F.
- 4.13 In line with consultation, the standards are set at the existing level of provision, reflecting the overall satisfaction with the quantity of parks.

**Quantity standard – town parks (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.33 ha per 1000 population	0.33 ha per 1000 population
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The value of town parks to local residents was reinforced throughout consultation. The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the provision of parks to be sufficient (66%) and this perception is reflected within all areas of the District.</p> <p>Findings from local consultation place a greater emphasis on improving the quality, rather than quantity of parks. Therefore, the local standard has been set at the existing level of provision, putting an emphasis on the qualitative improvements of this typology and the protection of existing provision. This standard will also enable the identification of any locational deficiencies and combined with the application of the accessibility standard, will ensure that residents have access to a town park within the recommended distance of their homes.</p>	

**Quantity standard – local parks (see Appendices E and F – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.24 ha per 1000 population	0.24 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Similar to the findings for town parks, the general perception gathered from consultation is that the provision of local parks is sufficient. The importance of the provision of local parks in close proximity to communities was widely recognised by residents in Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Throughout consultation there was a focus on the quality of parks with many quality issues raised by residents. A local standard set at the existing level of provision will protect the existing local parks as a valued local resource to the community and allow for qualitative enhancements to local parks across the District. A challenging accessibility standard has been set and combined with the application of the quantity standard, any locational deficiencies will be identified.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

- 4.14 The quality of existing town parks and local parks in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Tables 4.3 and 4.4. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 4.15 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation (as discussed in Section 2). Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of a park have been weighted higher. This ensures that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.
- 4.16 The Green Flag Award is a national standard for parks and greenspace. Jubilee Gardens achieved this Green Flag status in 2007, and Broadwaters has been awarded the Green Pennant three times, from 2005 to 2007. Jubilee Gardens has also received Green Flag accreditation for 2008/09 and Broadwaters Park has been awarded a Green Pennant for 2008/09.

**Table 4.3 – Quality of town parks across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	1	88	-	-	Jubilee Gardens – ID 309
Stourport	2	56 – 60	58	Stourport Memorial Park – ID 91	Riverside Park – ID 104
Kidderminster East	1	60	-	-	Broadwaters Park – ID 148
Kidderminster West	1	66	-	-	Brinton Park – ID 191
Rural East	0	-	-	-	-
Rural West	0	-	-	-	-
Overall	5	56 – 88	68	Stourport Memorial Park – ID 91	Jubilee Gardens – ID 309

4.17 The key issues emerging from Table 4.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of town parks are:

- respondents to the household survey demonstrated a reasonable level of satisfaction regarding the quality of town parks. 57% of respondents rated the quality of town parks as good and 40% average
- across the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed and the highest satisfaction is found in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where 65% of residents feel the quality of town parks is good. No respondents rated the quality of town parks as poor, which is reflective of the overall high perception of the quality of provision in the District
- the average quality score of town parks in the District is 68% and site scores vary from 55% to 88%, with the highest scoring site being Jubilee Gardens in Bewdley. This indicates that there is some variation within the overall quality despite high public satisfaction across the District.

**Table 4.4 – Quality of local parks across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	2	60 - 66	63	Garden of Rest – ID 568	Northwood Lane – ID 548
Stourport	2	56 – 62	59	Stourport War Memorial Garden – ID 136	Villeneuve-Le-Roi Gardens – ID 178
Kidderminster East	4	52 – 60	56	St George’s Park – ID 109	Borrington Park – ID 10
Kidderminster West	0	-	-	-	-
Rural East	0	-	-	-	-
Rural West	0	-	-	-	-
Overall	8	52 – 66	59	St George’s Park – ID 109	Northwood Lane – ID 548

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

- similar to responses for town parks, findings from the household survey reveal a general satisfaction regarding the quality of local parks. 55% of residents feel the quality of this open space is good and 39% average. Like town parks, very few residents perceive the quality to be poor, reinforced by the positive perceptions expressed at drop in sessions
- responses within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings. However, a significantly higher level of satisfaction is highlighted in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where 81% of residents rate the quality of local parks as good. This is influenced by the presence of Brinton Park, which although is classified as a town park, fulfils the functions of a local park for residents in this area
- the quality scores within each individual area are consistent, suggesting an even distribution of quality across the District
- the average quality score of all local parks across the District is 59%. This is marginally below that achieved for town parks, suggesting that the overall quality of the local facilities is lower.



**Setting provision standards – quality**

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

**Quality standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – TOWN PARKS</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/litter free	Flowers and trees	
Toilets	Facilities for the young	
Well kept grass	Seating	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to town parks, the relative importance of the key components is shown below. These scores have been used to weight the site assessments.		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	<b>16%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>46%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>23%</b>	<b>3</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>20%</b>	<b>2</b>

**Quality standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – LOCAL PARKS</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/litter free	Seating	
Flowers and trees	Water features	
Well kept grass	Litter bins	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to local parks, the relative importance of the key components is shown below. These scores have been used to weight the site assessments.		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	<b>11%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>45%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>35%</b>	<b>3</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>17%</b>	<b>2</b>

**Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 4.21 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 4.22 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits, where information and signage, transport and general access issues were assessed.
- 4.23 Consultation and analysis has shown that the key issues with regards accessibility are:
- there is a split in opinion regarding the most appropriate mode of travel to reach town parks. 48% of users currently drive while 46% walk. The majority of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk to a town park (55%), however 38% would prefer to drive – this is influenced by residents in the rural area, who expect to travel further to reach parks

## SECTION 4 - PARKS AND GARDENS

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- the findings from the IT young people survey indicate that of those 55% of children who identify parks as their favourite open space, 43% walk and 33% cycle – this reinforces the perception that these sites should be available locally
- respondents felt that there is a requirement for not only large, centrally located parks and gardens but also smaller facilities, accessible on foot to local communities
- site assessments reveal that access to town parks and local parks is average. Information and signage were the main areas identified for improvement.

<b>PG2</b>	Consider the location of public transport links when identifying appropriate sites for the future provision of parks and gardens across Wyre Forest. Additionally, attempts should be made to improve access to public parks, particularly through improvements to the information and signage.
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- 4.24 The recommended local accessibility standard for town parks and local parks is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. The standard reflects the difference in aspiration between residents in the urban and rural areas.

**Accessibility standard – town parks (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>15 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN) 20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>There is an emphasis in favour of walking to town parks both in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. The standard for urban areas is therefore set at 15 minutes (720 metres) walking to local parks and gardens, based on the 75% threshold level District wide (as advocated in the PPG17 companion guide). This encompasses all areas and is representative of the viewpoint of residents within each analysis area (due to the number of responses this information can be said to be statistically robust).</p> <p>Given that parks tend to be larger more strategic facilities offering a range of activities it would not be realistic to expect this type of facility within a shorter walking time and also within each village, therefore, a drive time of 20 minutes has been set for the rural areas, in light of the findings from the household survey. This is supported by the consultation undertaken in the rural area, where it can be seen that residents expect to travel by car, with the 75% level being 20 minutes.</p> <p>Setting separate accessibility standards is reflective of the fact that further provision should be made within the urban areas that are currently outside of the proposed accessibility catchment due to the density of population in these areas. This is not to suggest that the Council should not be pursuing improvements to the accessibility for rural residents (such as public transport networks), but rather offers an approach that facilitates the usage of these areas and increases their value locally.</p> <p>Setting a standard at this level will enable the Council to strike a balance between quantitative improvements in accessibility deficient areas and also on improving the quality of existing sites.</p>

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

**Accessibility standard – local parks (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN) 15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of walking to local parks. Usage patterns indicate 77% of current users walk to local parks and 68% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to this typology. The importance of local parks being in close proximity to communities and accessible on foot was emphasised at drop in sessions. Therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set for the urban areas of the District. Responses from residents in rural areas highlighted an acceptance of the need to travel by car to access a local park, with 77% of respondents stating they expect to travel by car. Based on this a drive time has be set for the rural areas of Wyre Forest.</p> <p>A local standard of a 10 minute walk time (480m) is recommended based upon the 75% threshold level (recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide). The recommended standard for the rural area is a 15 minute drive time. This has been set following the modal response of 15 minutes. A drive time of 15 minutes has been set due to the importance of local parks being in close proximity to communities. The local standard set for the rural areas is not challenging and therefore the Council should consider the development of pocket parks in these areas to increase provision in the rural areas and combine with natural and semi natural open space.</p>

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

**Applying provision standards**

- 4.25 The application of the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of parks and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 4.26 The application of the local quantity standard for each area is seen in Tables 4.5 and 4.6: The interrelationship between town and local parks will be discussed later in this section.

**Table 4.5 – Application of quantity standard - town parks**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.33 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.33 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	-2.15	-2.32
Stourport	10.38	10.02
Kidderminster East	-6.88	-7.41
Kidderminster West	3.03	2.55
Rural East	-3.37	-3.55
Rural West	-0.89	-0.95
Overall	0.13	-1.66

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

4.27 As can be seen in Table 4.5:

- overall, the current provision of town parks is sufficient to meet the local standard, however based on the application of the quantity standard a small deficiency in the provision of town parks (-1.66 ha) is expected by 2026
- there will be deficiencies in most areas of the District by 2026, with the exception of the Stourport and Kidderminster West analysis areas
- the greatest under supply of town parks is located in the Kidderminster East analysis area (-7.41 ha).

4.28 In light of the wide catchment of town parks, locational quantitative deficiencies should be treated as being of limited significance unless the deficiency is sufficiently large to justify the development of a new park. It is also important to consider the interrelationship between town and local parks.

**Table 4.6 – Application of quantity standard - local parks**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.24 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.24 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	-1.21	-1.34
Stourport	-4.48	-4.74
Kidderminster East	15.82	15.43
Kidderminster West	-6.23	-6.58
Rural East	-2.45	-2.59
Rural West	-0.65	-0.69
Overall	0.79	-0.51

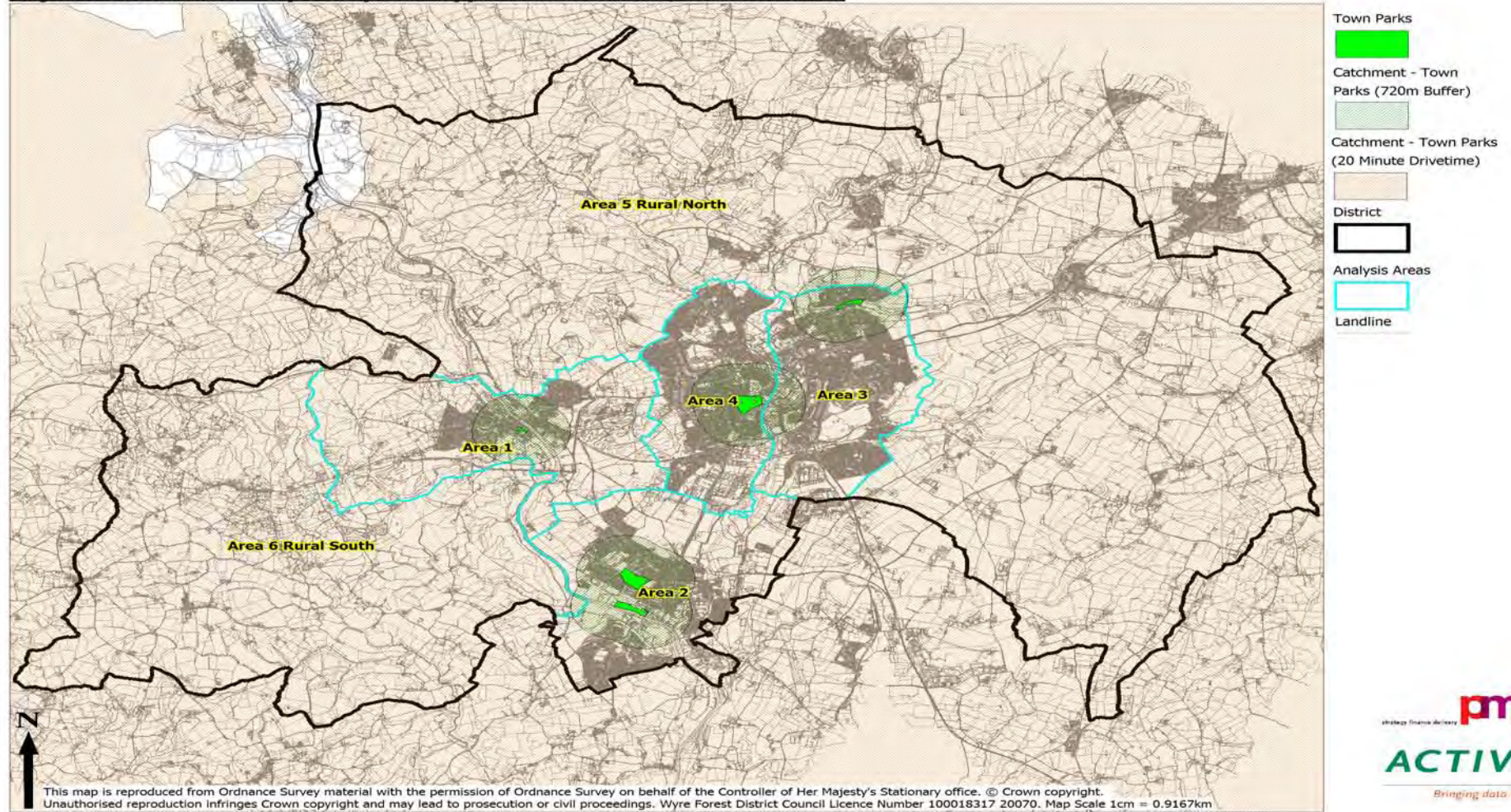
4.29 Table 4.6 illustrates that:

- currently there is sufficient provision of local parks to meet demand, however there will be shortfalls in the provision of local parks within all areas of the District, with the exception of Kidderminster East analysis area, by 2026. This illustrates the importance of considering the provision of town parks in the context of local parks, as the Kidderminster East analysis area contained the greatest shortfall of town parks
- the greatest shortfall in provision of local parks will be located in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where there will be a future shortfall of – 6.58 hectares. However, in contrast, provision of town parks in this area was slightly above the minimum standard.

4.30 The application of the local accessibility standards for town parks and local parks is set out overleaf in Maps 4.1 – 4.4. Consideration is given to the distribution of both town and local parks, as well as to the interrelationship between parks and amenity green spaces (Map 4.7).

Map 4.1 - Provision of town parks in Wyre Forest (urban and rural standards)

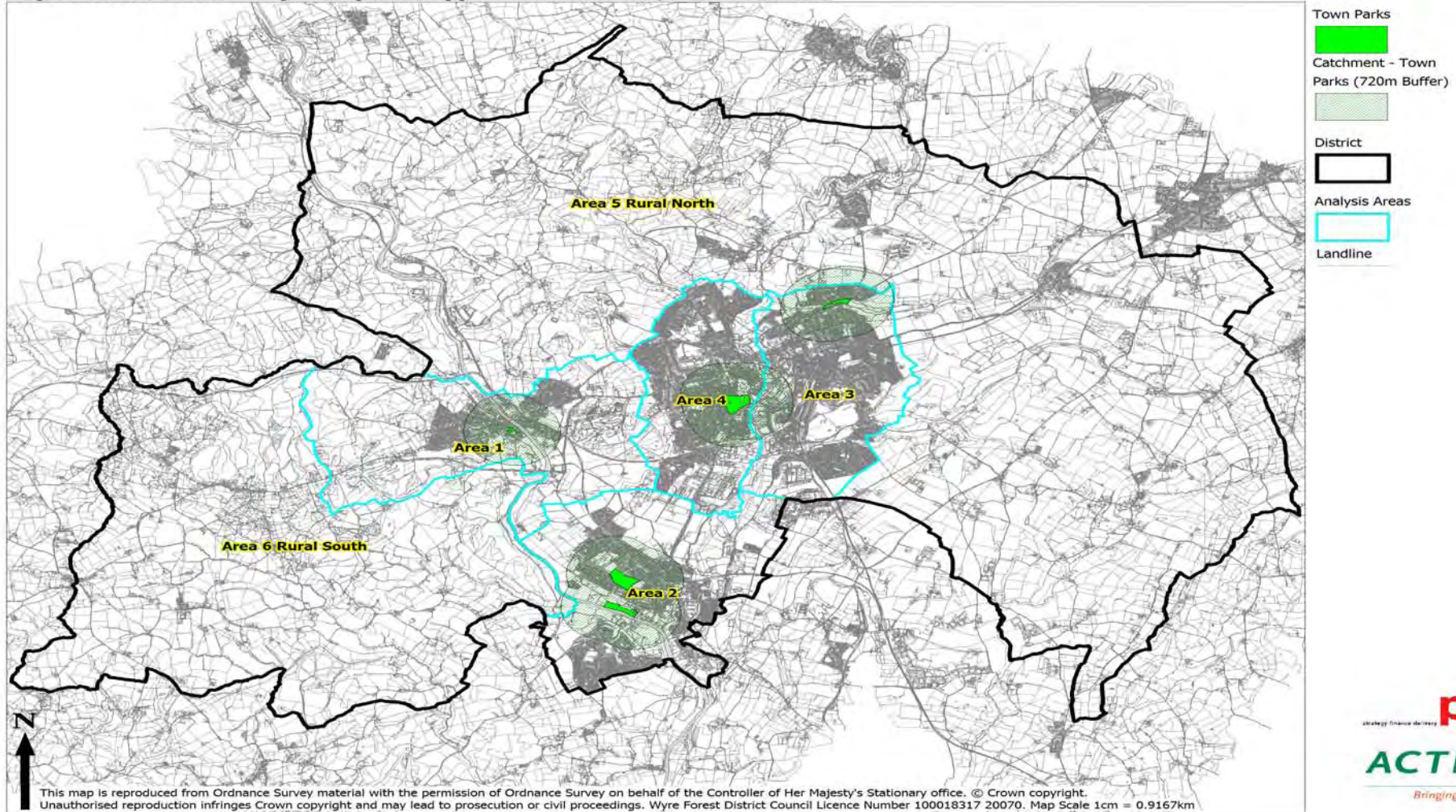
**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Town Parks**





Map 4.2 - Provision of town parks in Wyre Forest (urban standard)

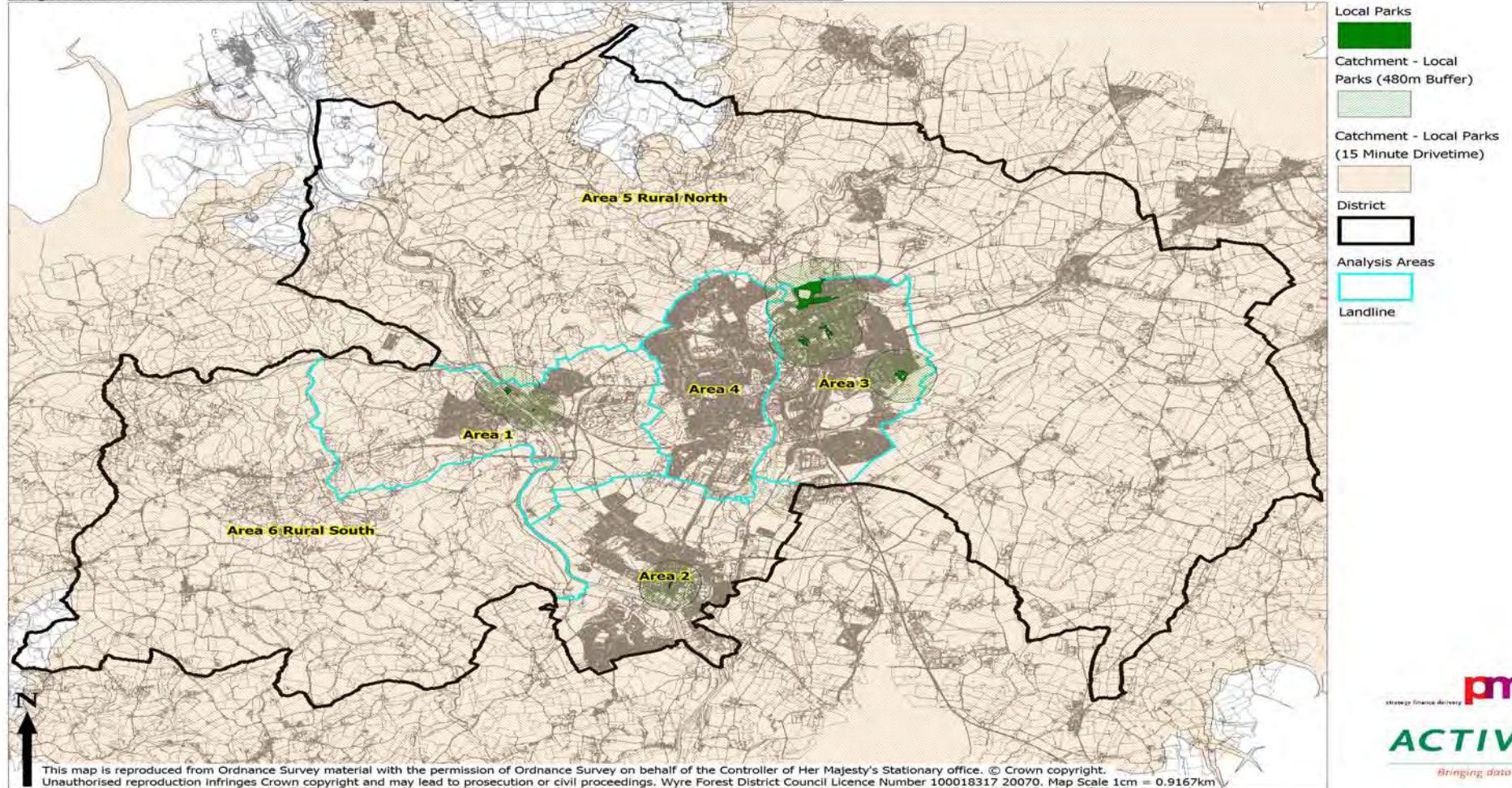
**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Town Parks**



**SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS**

**Map 4.3 - Provision of local parks in Wyre Forest (urban and rural standards)**

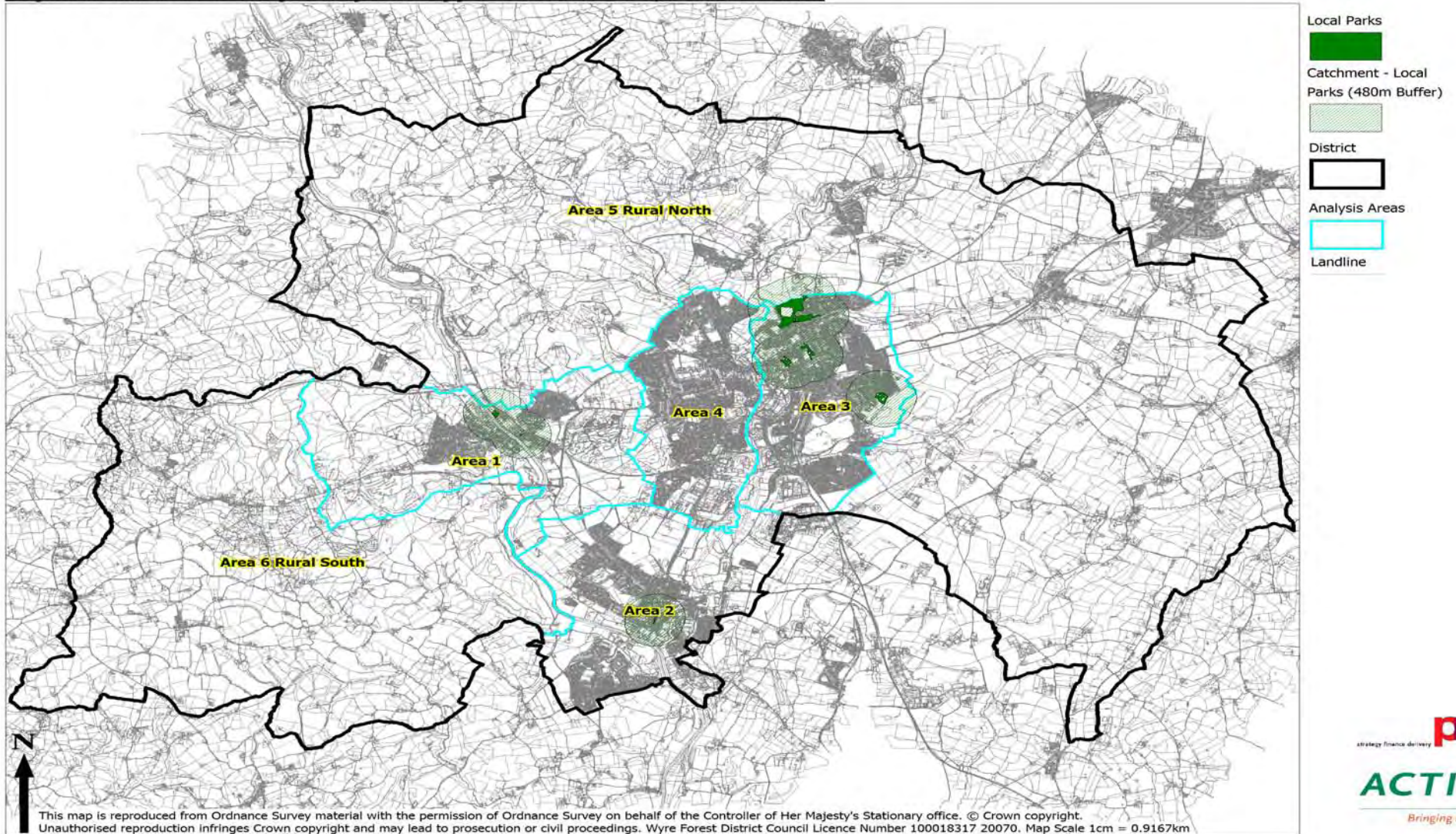
**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Local Parks**



## SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

### Map 4.4 - Provision of local parks in Wyre Forest (urban standard)

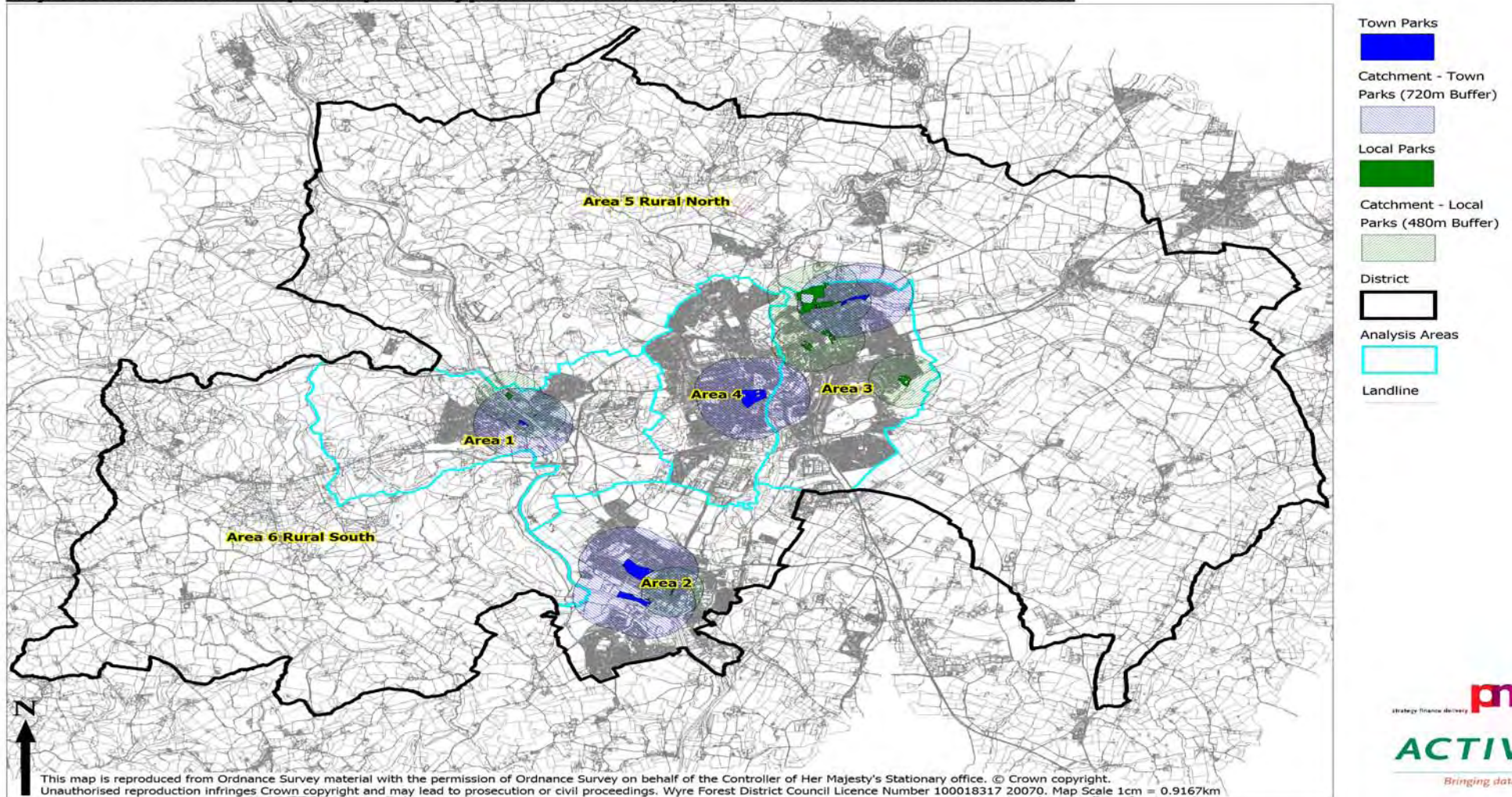
#### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Local Parks



## SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

Map 4.5 - Provision of town parks and local parks in Wyre Forest (urban standards)

### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Town Parks and Local Parks



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- 4.31 As can be seen in Map 4.1, application of the local accessibility standard (for the rural area) indicates that the majority of all residents living in the rural analysis areas are within the recommended 20-minute drivetime of a town park. Map 4.3 illustrates that residents in the rural analysis areas also have access to a local park within the recommended accessibility catchment.
- 4.32 In contrast, Map 4.2, which considers the provision of parks in the urban areas of the District highlights a number of key areas of deficiency. A large proportion of residents in the Kidderminster West analysis area and Stourport analysis area are outside the threshold of a town park.
- 4.33 This is also reflected in Map 4.4, which considers the provision of local parks. Areas of key deficiency can be found in the Kidderminster West analysis area, Stourport analysis area and Kidderminster East analysis area.

### Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 4.34 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where there is potential unmet demand we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.

### Quality of parks and gardens

- 4.35 Although quantitative and accessibility deficiencies have been identified, the quality of sites was perceived to be particularly important to local residents. The quality standard and the scores achieved when measured against this standard provide a guide as to sites that may require improvement.
- 4.36 Security and safety was a consistent issue for residents at both town parks and local parks. A number of residents identified security concerns when accessing a park. The role of park wardens was viewed as an ideal solution to this problem.

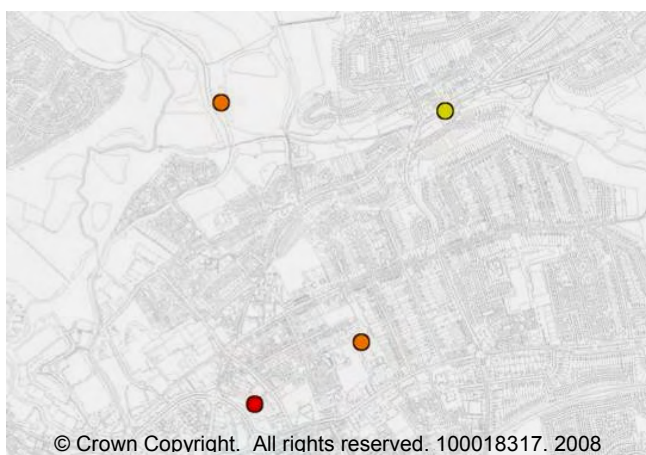
<b>PG3</b>	Identify opportunities to increase security and safety in parks. Consider the role of park wardens in achieving this aim.
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- 4.37 Jubilee Gardens and Brinton Park are examples of good practice that were frequently commended by residents and visitors. Jubilee Gardens was recognised for its aesthetic benefits and Brinton Park was acknowledged as a site offering a wide range of facilities. In particular, the recent improvements and regeneration at Brinton Park were widely recognised. These parks should be seen as examples of good practice and investment should be placed into other strategically located parks to replicate the quality of these sites.
- 4.38 Improvements should focus on sites of particular importance to local residents and in strategic locations across the District. Provision of at least one high quality facility in each of the main urban areas of the District (ie Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport) should be targeted. These should be supplemented by a network of high quality local parks. The local standard should be used to guide investment.

<b>PG4</b>	Seek to create a network of high quality town and local parks within the District. Improvements to local sites should focus firstly in areas where there is a lack of town parks. The quality vision should be used to guide investment, with a target of a minimum score of 72%. This is the score required to achieve the top quartile level, calculated from the existing quality scores for town parks.
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- 4.39 The application of the quality standard for parks and gardens is set out overleaf in Map 4.6.
- 4.40 Map 4.6 highlights a good distribution of average to good quality facilities across Wyre Forest. Despite a good distribution of higher quality facilities, there is a concentration of poor facilities in the north west of the Kidderminster East analysis area (Figure 4.2).

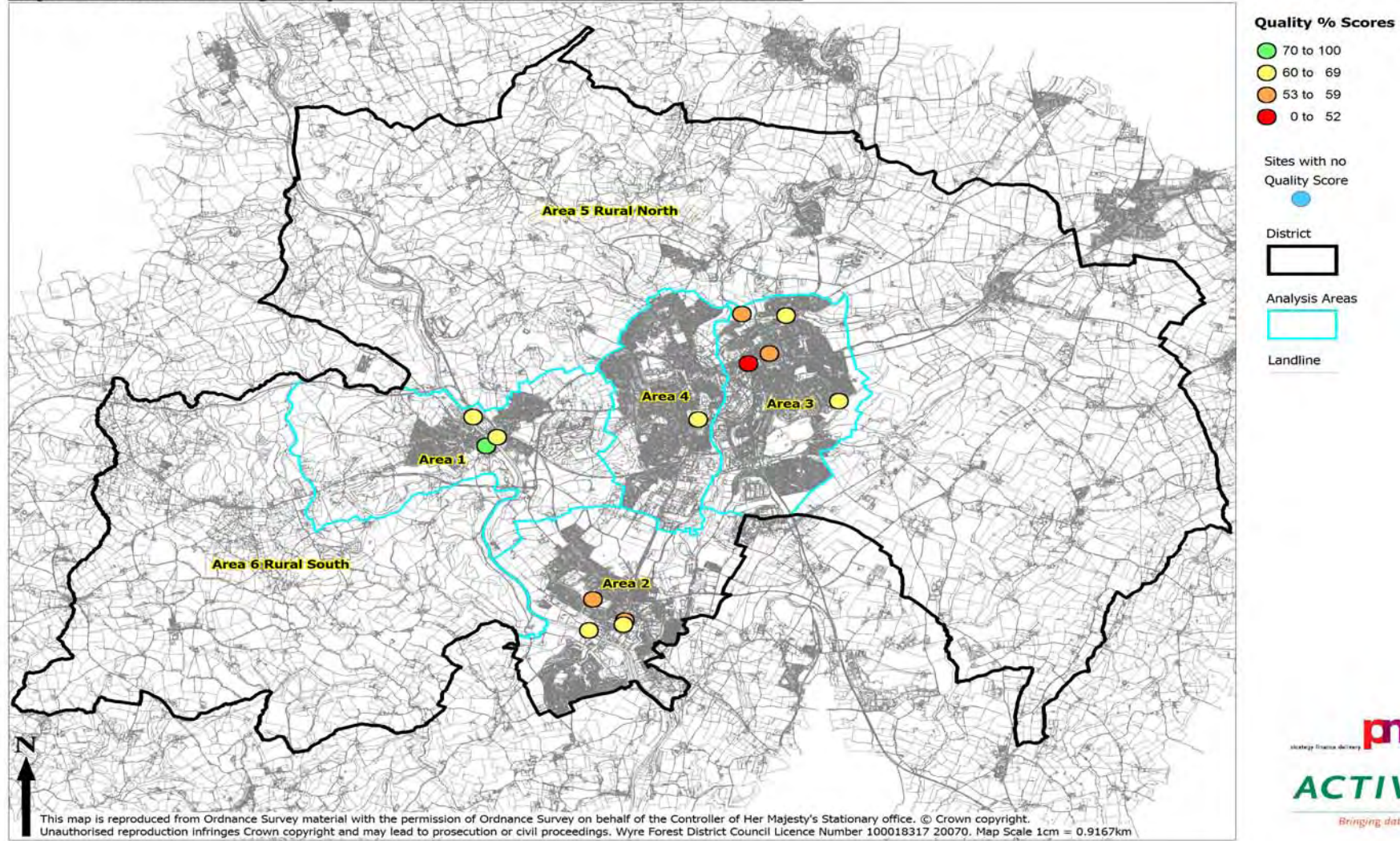
**Figure 4.2 – Poor quality sites in the Kidderminster East analysis area**



**SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS**

**Map 4.6 – Quality of parks and gardens in Wyre Forest**

**Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Town Parks and Local Parks**



### Areas of deficiency

- 4.41 The supply of both town parks and local parks is sufficient to meet current needs and the initial focus is therefore upon qualitative improvements. Application of the quantity standard however reveals a future requirement (to 2026) for increased provision of both hierarchies of parks.
- 4.42 Town parks serve a wider catchment area than local parks and therefore attract residents from further afield. Despite this, it is also important that residents have access to local parks. As a higher order facility, the presence of a town park within the recommended catchment of a local park would negate the need for the provision of an additional local park (for example, those residents within a 10 minute catchment of Brinton Park would not also require a local park). Local provision would however still be required for those residents outside of a 10-minute catchment of this facility (even if they were within the 15 minute catchment of a strategic park).
- 4.43 When combining the provision of town parks and local parks, Map 4.5 (shown earlier) highlights a number of areas of deficiency, particularly in the Kidderminster analysis areas. The value of parks to residents was emphasised through consultation, where parks emerged as one of the most valued types of open space.

<b>PG5</b>	Given the low number of sites within the District and the presence of some areas of deficiency, all parks should be afforded protection.
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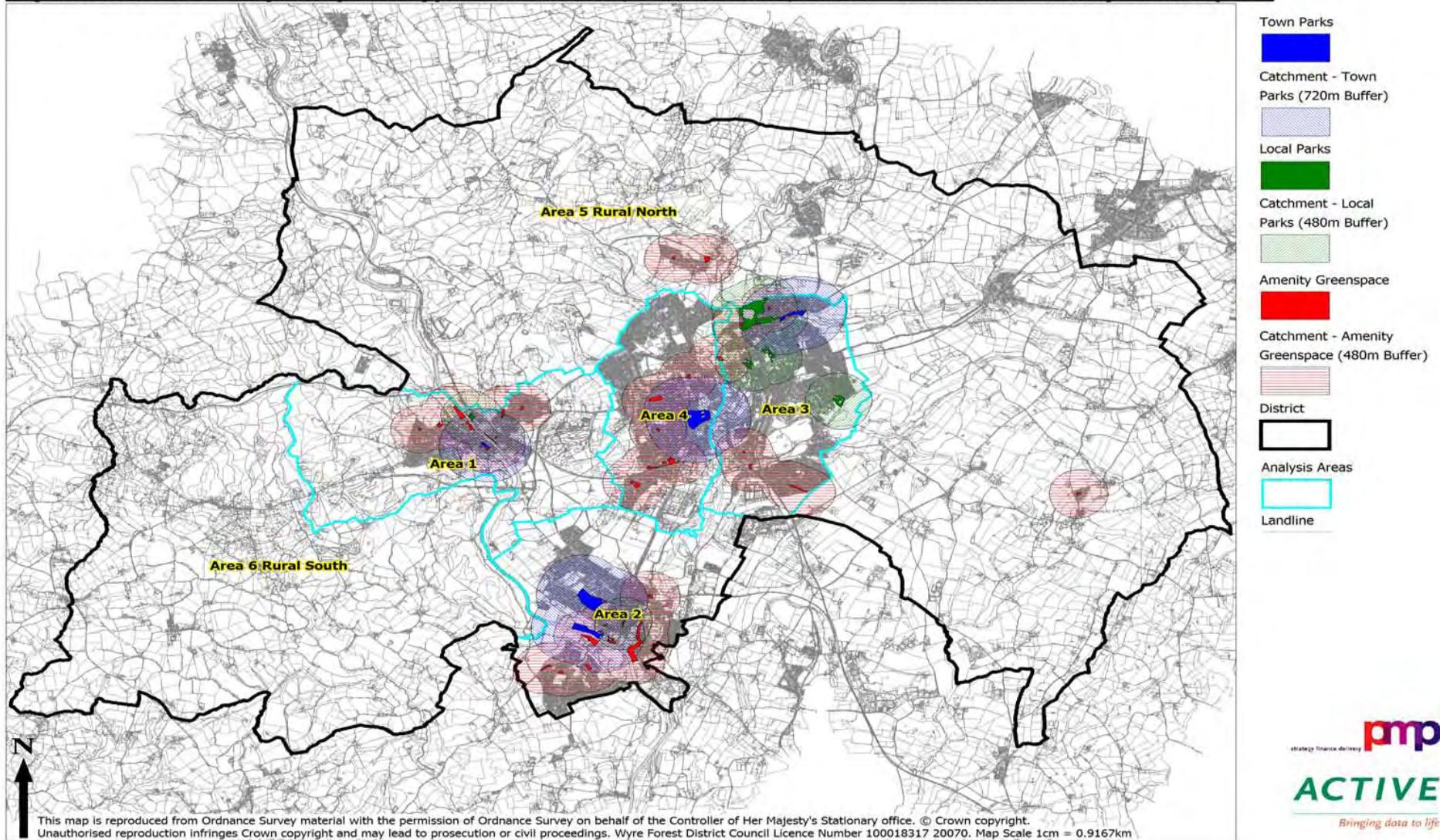
- 4.44 In order to maximise the benefit of new parks, any new facilities should be targeted in locations that are currently lacking in provision. Moreover, in order to ensure that the maximum number of residents are within the accessibly catchment of parks and gardens, any new site should be located so that there is no overlap with the catchment of existing parks.
- 4.45 Map 4.7 overleaf illustrates the provision of parks in the context of amenity green space in the area. The presence of amenity green space in areas deficient of parks provides an opportunity to formalise these spaces and better meet the needs of local residents.



**SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS**

**Map 4.7 - Provision of town parks, local parks and amenity green space in Wyre Forest (urban standards)**

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Town Parks, Local Parks and Amenity Greenspace**



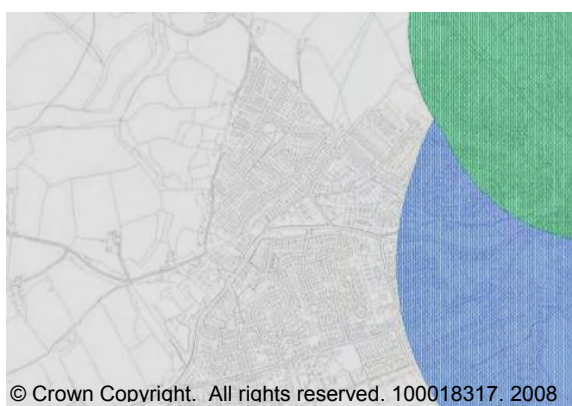
## SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 4.46 Where parks are provided within a 10-minute catchment (the recommended distance threshold for amenity green space – set in Section 6) they may negate the need for further provision of amenity green space (as a higher order facility they provide a greater range of facilities) as they fulfil similar roles. This is discussed in Section 6.
- 4.47 The analysis that follows considers the provision of parks within each of the geographical areas of the District and highlights where future priorities should lie.

### Bewdley analysis area

- 4.48 Application of the quantity standard reveals a future shortfall in the provision of both town parks (-2.32 ha) and local parks (-1.34 ha). Accessibility mapping illustrates this shortfall with residents to the west and east of Bewdley town centre unable to access a park within the recommended distance threshold (Figures 4.3 and 4.4).

**Figure 4.3 – Deficiency to the west of Bewdley town centre**

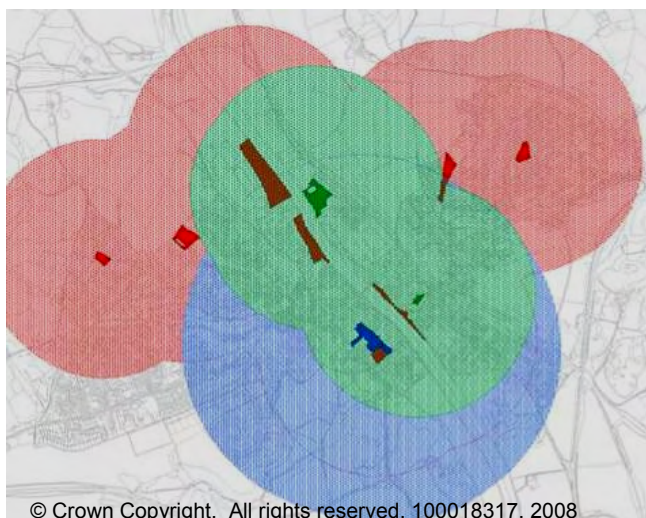


**Figure 4.4 – Deficiency to the east of Bewdley town centre**



- 4.49 Although there are deficiencies in the provision of parks in the Bewdley analysis area, quantitative analysis reveals there is sufficient provision of amenity green space in the area. When amalgamating the provision of amenity green space and parks in this area, nearly all residents have access to at least one type of open space (Figure 4.5). Only a small number of residents in the south west of Bewdley cannot access either an amenity green space or local park. Jubilee Gardens, being a strategic park, has a wider catchment and residents outside of the area of deficiency for local parks are able to access this site.

**Figure 4.5 – Provision of parks and amenity green space in Bewdley analysis area**



- 4.50 Jubilee Gardens is the only town park located in this analysis area. This park has a quality score of 88% and is the highest rated quality park in Wyre Forest.
- 4.51 In consideration of the good provision of amenity green space and the location of Jubilee Gardens in the analysis area, focus should be placed on increasing access to existing sites through the provision of green linkages, as well as maximising the role of amenity green spaces in areas that are deficient in parks.

<b>PG6</b>	Seek to increase access to existing parks in the Bewdley analysis area, particularly access to Jubilee Gardens through the development of green linkages. Upgrade existing amenity green spaces in areas deficient in parks and improve the quality of local parks.
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### Stourport analysis area

- 4.52 The Stourport analysis area has the greatest provision of town parks in the District (17 ha) and this is reflected in the application of the quantity standards, which show there is sufficient provision to meet current and future demand. Although there is sufficient provision in the analysis area, accessibility mapping reveals both sites are located in close proximity to one another and therefore have overlapping catchments. Due to poor distribution of sites, clear areas of deficiency can be found in the north west of Stourport town centre and in Areley Kings (Figures 4.6 and 4.7).

**Figure 4.6 – Deficiencies to the north west of Stourport town centre**



**Figure 4.7 – Deficiencies in Areley Kings**



- 4.53 Within the Stourport analysis area there is a large future shortfall of local parks (-4.74 ha). There are only two local parks in the analysis area and these sites are located in close proximity to one another and fall within the catchment of town parks in Stourport. Therefore, these two sites do not alleviate deficiencies in areas where residents are outside the 15 minute walk time of a town park.
- 4.54 Analysis of the provision of amenity green space indicates that there is sufficient supply to meet current and future needs. Sites are mainly distributed in the south of the analysis area. Provision of amenity green space in an area does not negate the need for a park (as a park is a higher order facility) but it provides significant opportunities for the conversion of amenity green spaces to develop new parks.

## SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS

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- 4.55 While there is a good distribution of amenity green space in Areley Kings, there are significant accessibility issues for parks. In light of the application of the quantity standards, provision of a new local park to meet the needs of residents in Areley Kings should therefore be considered a priority.
- 4.56 There are two amenity green space sites within Areley Kings that could be formalised to provide a local park, Erneley Close (0.76 ha) and Dunley Road (0.56 ha). Both sites are located in close proximity to one another and furthermore, site assessments reveal both sites have a poor quality score (54%) and could therefore benefit from improvement.

<b>PG7</b>	Prioritise the development of a new local park within Areley Kings. This could be delivered through the enhancement of an amenity green space. The new site should encompass the recommendations set out within the quality vision.
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- 4.57 To alleviate deficiencies in the north west of Stourport town centre, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality and increasing access to Memorial Park. This site is the second largest park in the District (10.89 ha) and throughout consultation residents highlighted that improvement in the current facilities and range of activities would provide many opportunities at Memorial Park if investment was provided.

<b>PG8</b>	Seek to enhance the quality of Memorial Park in Stourport and focus on increasing access to this park through the development of green linkages to unlock its potential as a highly valuable site in the District.
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### **Kidderminster East analysis area**

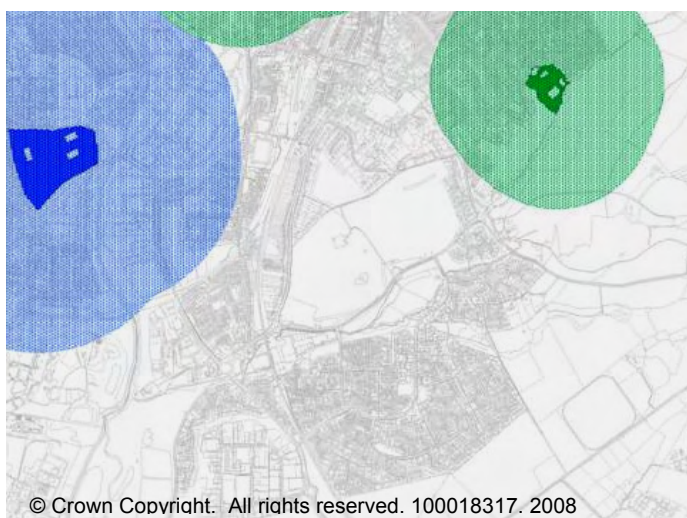
- 4.58 Application of the accessibility standard for town parks highlights large areas of deficiency in the Kidderminster East analysis area, with the majority of residents unable to access a town park within the recommended accessibility threshold (Figure 4.8). This shortfall is further highlighted with the Kidderminster East analysis area expected to have the largest quantitative deficiency in the District by 2026 (-7.41 ha per 1000 population).

**Figure 4.8 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster East analysis area**



- 4.59 Application of the quantity standard reveals the Kidderminster East analysis area has the greatest provision of local parks. However, as with town parks, accessibility is limited, with the majority of residents in the south of the analysis area outside the recommended catchment of a local park. When combining the provision of town parks and local parks, application of the accessibility standard reveals deficiencies in Greenhill, Offmore, Comberton, Aggborough and Spennells (figure 4.9).

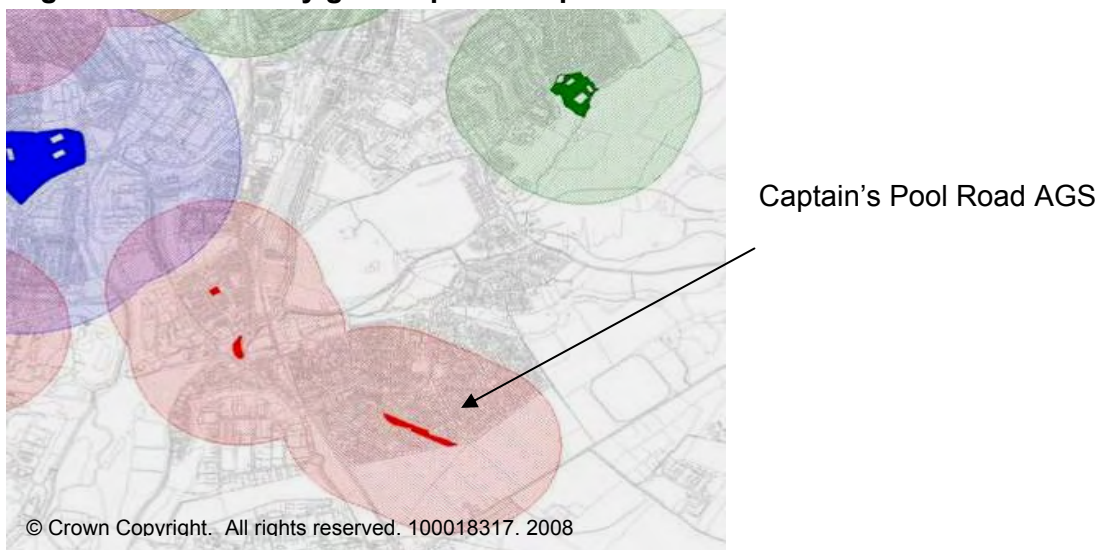
**Figure 4.9 – Provision of town parks and local parks in Kidderminster East analysis area**



- 4.60 Although the provision of amenity green space in the analysis area is insufficient in quantitative terms, accessibility mapping reveals that a large proportion of residents outside the recommended catchment of a park in Spennells and Aggborough have access to an amenity green space. While this means these residents have access to recreational open space, it also provides opportunities for the conversion of an amenity green space to a park.
- 4.61 Captain's Pool Road AGS, located in Spennells, is a large site (1.1 ha) that could be converted into a new park (Figure 4.10). This site is considered to be a poor quality amenity green space, achieving a quality score of just 50% and the site could

therefore benefit from investment. Provision of additional facilities on this site would maximise the value of this site to the local community.

**Figure 4.10 – Amenity green space in Spennells**



<b>PG9</b>	<p>Prioritise the development of a new local park within Spennells. This could be delivered through the enhancement of an amenity green space. The new site should encompass the recommendations set out within the quality vision.</p>
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4.62 The distribution of amenity green space in the analysis area is poor and although it provides recreational opportunities for residents in the south of the Kidderminster East analysis area, it does not reduce deficiencies in the centre and north east of the analysis area. Residents in these areas do not have access to a park, amenity green space or natural and semi natural open space (Figure 4.11).

**Figure 4.11 – Deficiencies in the north of Kidderminster East analysis area**



- 4.63 Due to the density of this area there are limited opportunities for new provision. Development of green linkages between residential areas and new sites should therefore be prioritised. Investment should be targeted at nearby parks to increase their value to the community.

<b>PG10</b>	Prioritise investment in parks located in the north of the Kidderminster East analysis area. Use the findings from the site assessments to prioritise those sites in need of enhancement. Develop green linkages between residential areas and existing sites. Opportunities for new provision should be seized.
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**Kidderminster West analysis area**

- 4.64 Unlike provision in the east of Kidderminster, the provision of town parks in the Kidderminster West analysis area is sufficient to meet demand. However, although the provision of town parks is sufficient, application of the accessibility standard highlights clear deficiencies to the north and south west of Kidderminster town centre (Figures 4.12 and 4.13). The reason for these deficiencies is due to the fact that only one town park, Brinton Park, is located in this area of the District.



**Figure 4.12 – Deficiencies to the north west of Kidderminster town centre**

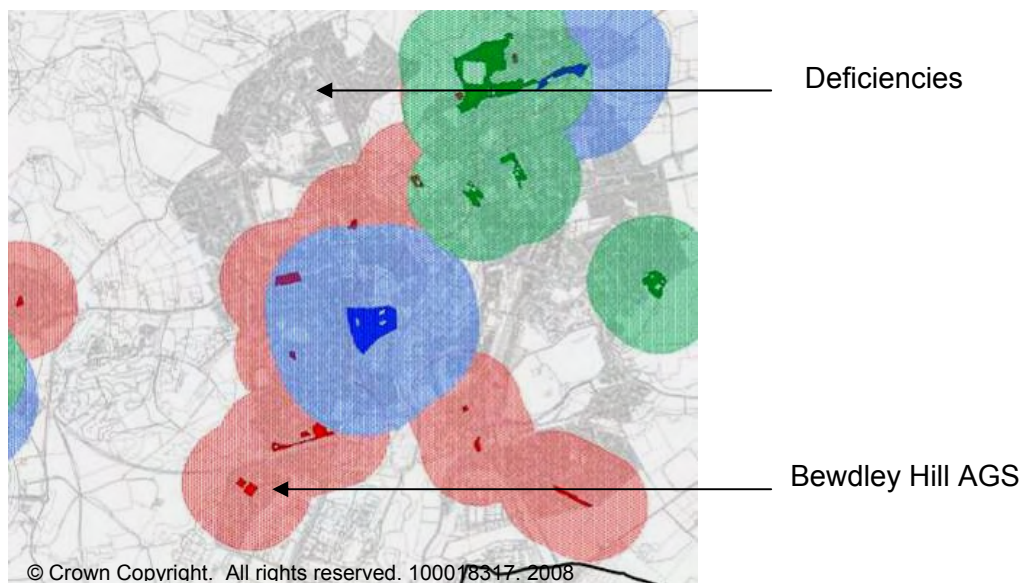


**Figure 4.13 – Deficiencies south west of Kidderminster town centre**



- 4.65 Analysis of the provision of local parks reveals there is insufficient provision within the analysis area, with no local parks at all. Provision of amenity green space in the area is also below the minimum standard, however accessibility mapping illustrates that sites are evenly distributed, with a large proportion of the population able to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time (Figure 4.14). Despite this good distribution, residents in Franche, Habberley and Blakebrook are outside the recommended catchment of both parks and amenity green space.

**Figure 4.14 – Provision of parks and amenity green space in Kidderminster West analysis area**



4.66 Although a number of residents outside the recommended catchment of a park can access an amenity green space, this does not negate the need for a park. Bewdley Hill AGS is a large amenity green space (1.77 ha) that is well used by local residents. This site is of good quality in comparison to other amenity green spaces in the District and provides an excellent opportunity for the provision of a local park.

<b>PG11</b>	Prioritise the development of a new park within the south of the Kidderminster West analysis area. This could be delivered through the enhancement of Bewdley Hill AGS. The new site should encompass the recommendations set out within the quality vision.
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4.67 Provision of a park at Bewdley Hill would not meet the needs of these residents in the north of the analysis area who are outside of the catchment of both parks and amenity green spaces. These residents have access to a wide range of open space within the area, including allotments, outdoor sports facilities and natural and semi natural open space. Due to the provision of these facilities and density of housing in the area there is limited scope to provide a new park. The closest park to these residents is Brinton Park, the largest park in the District. In the event that the provision of a park is not achievable, linkages should be developed to connect residents from the area to Brinton Park and to sites of other typologies.

<b>PG12</b>	Seek to increase access and enhance the quality of Brinton Park and to link this site with other sites in the District as well as local residential areas.
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**The Rural analysis areas**

- 4.68 No parks are located within the rural analysis areas and application of the quantity standard reveals shortfalls in the provision of both town and local parks within the Rural East and Rural West areas of the District. In reality, the provision of formal parks is not expected within the rural areas, and this is reinforced through the accessibility standards, which indicate that residents in these areas should expect to travel to an urban area for this type of open space.
- 4.69 Analysis of the application of the accessibility standard illustrates that virtually all residents within the rural analysis areas have access to a park within the recommended 15-minute drive time.
- 4.70 In light of the above, focus should be placed on improving access to all parks and gardens in the District. The enhancement of transport links, for example regular bus journeys, could be key to increasing access to parks and gardens for residents of the rural settlements of Wyre Forest.

<b>PG15</b>	Seek to improve access to all parks within the District. Consider the enhancement of transport links, including an increase in safe walk ways and cycle paths, as a way of increasing access to parks for residents within the rural analysis areas.
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**Summary**

- 4.71 Parks and gardens are particularly highly valued across Wyre Forest, with residents and visitors to the District using them frequently. There was a particular emphasis made during public consultation for the provision of local parks and gardens, with residents at drop in sessions and respondents to the household survey highlighting their value to the local community, particularly for children.
- 4.72 Based on the household survey, parks and gardens are one of the most frequently visited open spaces in Wyre Forest, indicated by 17% of respondents for local parks and 13% of respondents for town parks. Over 35% of residents also visit parks and gardens more than once a month.
- 4.73 The wider benefits of parks are far reaching, and it is evident that many residents use parks for informal recreation and walks, reinforcing the health benefits that these spaces offer. Parks were also perceived to offer significant landscaping and environmental benefits, particularly within the urban areas of the District. Parks were seen as a focal point of the community, encouraging social interaction and acting as a meeting place for the old and the young. The value of parks for children was regularly emphasised by residents.
- 4.74 The quality of parks is perceived to be good across the District although some problems with vandalism were identified, specifically at St Georges Park. Jubilee Gardens and Brinton Park were identified as examples of good practice, with the aesthetic benefits of Jubilee Gardens (a Green Flag park) widely recognised. Brinton Park was identified as a site of high importance to the District, offering a wide range of facilities and attracting residents and visitors to the area. Throughout consultation, residents regularly commended the recent improvements to Brinton Park.

## **SECTION 4 – PARKS AND GARDENS**

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- 4.75 Application of the quantity standard highlights the need for additional parks across the District. Priorities for new provision are identified within the Kidderminster and Stourport analysis areas.
- 4.76 With no parks located within the rural areas of the District, increasing access by all means of transport, including walking and cycling, to existing parks in the urban area is particularly important.

## **SECTION 5**

### **NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE**

### Natural and semi natural open space

#### Introduction and definition

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

#### Figure 5.1 – Devil’s Spittleful/Rifle Range Nature Reserve



#### Local context

- 5.6 The key issues for natural and semi natural open spaces arising from a review of strategic documents are:
  - various policy statements within the **Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan** relate to natural and semi natural open space. Policy LR6 states that the Council will safeguard the areas shown on the proposals map in the Stour Valley north of Kidderminster for future development as a Country Park. Policy LR7 states the Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals

map around Hurcott Pool and Woods for future development as a Local Nature Reserve

- Policy LR5 of the **Local Plan** states proposals for the development of informal countryside facilities will be permitted provided that they:
  - contain adequate provision for future maintenance
  - do not have an adverse impact on the quality of recreation opportunities
  - do not have an adverse impact on the surrounding land uses
  - do not have an adverse effect on wildlife and ecology
  - enable easy and safe access
- a key theme of the **Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy** is *“that the built and natural environment of Wyre Forest District provides an accessible, attractive, enjoyable, healthy and wildlife-rich place to be, now and in the future”*.

5.7 These strategic documents reinforce the role of natural and semi natural open space in the local community and the importance of providing high quality, easily accessible natural and semi natural open space.

### Consultation – Assessing local needs

5.8 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted the following key issues relating to natural and semi natural open space:

- 35% of respondents to the household survey indicated that they visit natural and semi natural open spaces more frequently than any other. 58% of respondents to the household survey visit this typology more than once a month, reinforcing the value of natural and semi natural open space in the District
- respondents to the IT survey for young people and children identified natural and semi natural open space as their second favourite type of open space in Wyre Forest. The main reason for this preference was the proximity of natural open space to the home
- natural and semi natural open space was recognised as a key feature of Wyre Forest by residents at drop in sessions. The need to protect these sites from development was a key theme throughout all consultations. Consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Issues and Options LDF paper emphasised the views of residents that natural sites are valuable for wildlife as well as recreational use, with some residents quoting the importance of maintaining and increasing wildlife corridors
- the recreational and walking benefits offered by this typology were widely recognised. The importance of providing links between different open spaces was also recognised during the issues and options consultation.

**Existing natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest**

**Quantity of existing provision**

- 5.9 The provision of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 5.1. Kingsford Country Park (ID 18) and Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve (ID 152) have been excluded from the calculations as a consequence of their size. Inclusion of such large sites would skew the findings and give a misleading picture as to the amount of local natural and semi natural open space.
- 5.10 These vast expanses have been excluded from the calculations, as their inclusion would result in an artificially high quantity standard across the District that would generate unrealistic expectations.
- 5.11 Although these sites have been excluded from calculations they remain important sites for the District and will be considered within the application of the local accessibility standards.

**Table 5.1 – Provision of natural and semi natural open space across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	3.64	2	0.01	1.87	9,697	2.23
Stourport	78.07	12	0.53	38.82	20,811	2.85
Kidderminster East	18.41	8	0.2	6.42	30,827	0.81
Kidderminster West	45.53	9	0.7	14.94	27,419	1.52
Rural East	70.11	4	1.18	42.92	10,772	6.51
Rural West	8.12	2	0.98	7.14	2,874	2.20
Overall	223.88	37	0.01	42.92	102,400	2.19

- 5.12 The key issues emerging from Table 5.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of natural and semi natural open space across the District include:
- based on the findings of the household survey there is an overall satisfaction with the provision of natural and semi natural open space, with 56% of respondents indicating that the quantity of provision is about right
  - this perception is similar across all analysis areas. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where 87% of residents feel that provision is about right (or more than sufficient). This is surprising given the urban nature of this area, however over 50% of respondents in each analysis area stated the provision of natural and semi



## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

natural open space was about right, suggesting a high level of satisfaction across the whole of the District

- the high levels of satisfaction corresponds to the actual levels of provision in the Rural East area, which has the highest level of provision (per 1000 population) and the second highest level of satisfaction. In contrast, despite high levels of satisfaction, provision in the Kidderminster West analysis area is lower than in other areas
- the lowest level of provision per 1000 is found in the Kidderminster East analysis area (0.8055 ha per 1000). Unsurprisingly residents in this area portrayed the greatest dissatisfaction with the current quantity of provision.

### Setting provision standards – quantity

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

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
2.30 ha per 1000 population	2.30 ha per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The overall perception established through local consultation was that the provision of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest is sufficient. A number of residents at the drop in sessions further emphasised the value of this typology, identifying natural and semi natural space as a key contributor to the character of the District.</p> <p>Both quantitative and qualitative issues were raised during local consultation, however the key theme established by residents was the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development. The local standard has therefore been set at the existing level of provision. This will enable a focus on the protection and enhancement of sites across Wyre Forest. In particular the Council should concentrate on the improvement of footpaths and access to sites, as this was one of the main issues raised by residents. Accessibility to sites will be a key area for improvement and a challenging accessibility standard has been set.</p> <p>The green nature of Wyre Forest is enhanced by several extremely large natural and semi natural open spaces across the District. These vast expanses have been excluded from the calculations, as their inclusion would result in an artificially high quantity standard across the District that would generate unrealistic expectations.</p>	

### Current provision - quality

- 5.14 The quality of existing natural and semi natural open space in the District was assessed through site visits and is summarised in Table 5.2 overleaf. Full details of

## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

all the scores achieved can be found in Appendix C. Each site was measured against a site assessment matrix (Appendix C).

- 5.15 It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 5.16 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being particularly important determinants of quality have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score achieved.
- 5.17 In particular, the quality and variety of the vegetation was perceived to be particularly important for natural and semi natural open spaces. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

**Table 5.2 – Quality of natural and semi natural open space across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	2	46 – 54	50	Riverside NSN – ID 311	Snuff Mill Walk – ID 308
Stourport	12	40 – 67	53	Power Station Road – ID 185	Leapgate Country Park – ID 206
Kidderminster East	8	38 – 56	48	Aggbrough Crescent – ID 42	Spennells Valley Nature Reserve – ID 170
Kidderminster West	9	40 - 56	51	Puxton Lane NSN – ID 114	Habberley Road – ID 34
Rural East	4	54 – 60	56	Bridge Road – ID 281	Blakedown Millenium Green – ID 208
Rural West	2	-	60	-	Blackstone Meadows Country Park – ID 147
Overall	37	38 - 67	52	Aggbrough Crescent – ID 42	Leapgate Country Park – ID 206

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

## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- the majority of respondents to the household survey feel the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good (66%). Very few residents perceive the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces to be poor
- findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses, with over 60% of respondents in each analysis area stating the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good. However, the average quality score (52%) and range of quality scores indicates that the quality of sites is poor and that there is a significant variation between the quality of sites, with some poor quality sites in the District scoring below 45%
- the poor maintenance of footpaths was a key issue for residents with many identifying this as a major barrier to access, sometimes prohibiting use of a site. Litter and dog fouling were also perceived to be problematic.

### Setting provision standards – quality

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

### Quality standard (see Appendix G)

<b>Recommended standard – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/litter free	Flowers and trees	
Nature features	Litter bins	
Footpaths	Parking facilities	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to natural and semi natural areas, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	<b>10%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>32%</b>	<b>3</b>
Vegetation	<b>39%</b>	<b>4</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>10%</b>	<b>2</b>

**Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 5.20 The local accessibility standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations. It considers the distance that residents are willing to travel to access different types of facilities as well as the mode of transport that they would anticipate using.
- 5.21 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed. Where access to specific sites is limited, this will impact on usage of the site.
- 5.22 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility include:
- findings from the household survey reveal 62% of current users walk to access this typology – this suggests that natural and semi natural open space is expected to be located relatively close to the home
  - similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel to natural and semi-natural open spaces are dominated by those residents who expect to walk (63%) – again this indicates that local provision is expected
  - site assessments reveal access to natural and semi natural open space is average. The main area of concern was a lack of access by appropriate public transport.
- 5.23 The recommended local accessibility standard for natural and semi natural open space is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

**Accessibility standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>Local consultation indicates the majority of current users walk to this typology (62%). Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, 63% of respondents expect to walk to natural and semi natural open space. Therefore, it is recommended a walk time is set across the District. This is deliverable in both the urban and rural areas of the District. It is also important to enhance access to areas of nearby countryside.</p> <p>75% of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk for 10 minutes (480m) on foot to access this open space, with a modal response of 10 minutes. Current user patterns also support a 10 minute walk time, with 65% of respondents currently travelling 10 minutes or less to a natural or semi natural open space. A 10 minute walk time is therefore recommended in line with both user expectations and current user patterns.</p>

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

**Applying provision standards**

- 5.24 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential to understand the existing distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities and identify areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 5.25 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 5.26 The application of the local standard for quantity is set out in Table 5.3 below.

**Table 5.3 – Application of quantity standard**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (2.30 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (2.30 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	0.53	-0.66
Stourport	14.07	11.54
Kidderminster East	-42.34	-46.07
Kidderminster West	-18.18	-21.50
Rural East	46.66	45.33
Rural West	0.09	-0.28
Overall	0.82	-11.64

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

- 5.27 It can be seen that the application of standards results in the following issues:
- the current provision of natural and semi natural open space is sufficient to meet the local standard, however, when taking into account projected population growth there will be a shortfall of –11.64 ha by 2026
  - four of the six analysis areas will be deficient in natural and semi natural open space based on projected population growth across the LDF period
  - the largest existing deficiency is in the Kidderminster East analysis area (42.34 ha) and this is expected to increase to -46.07 ha by 2026. In contrast, the provision of natural and semi natural open space in the Rural East analysis area is significantly above the recommended local standard (45.33 ha). This indicates an abundance of natural and semi natural open space in

## ***SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE***

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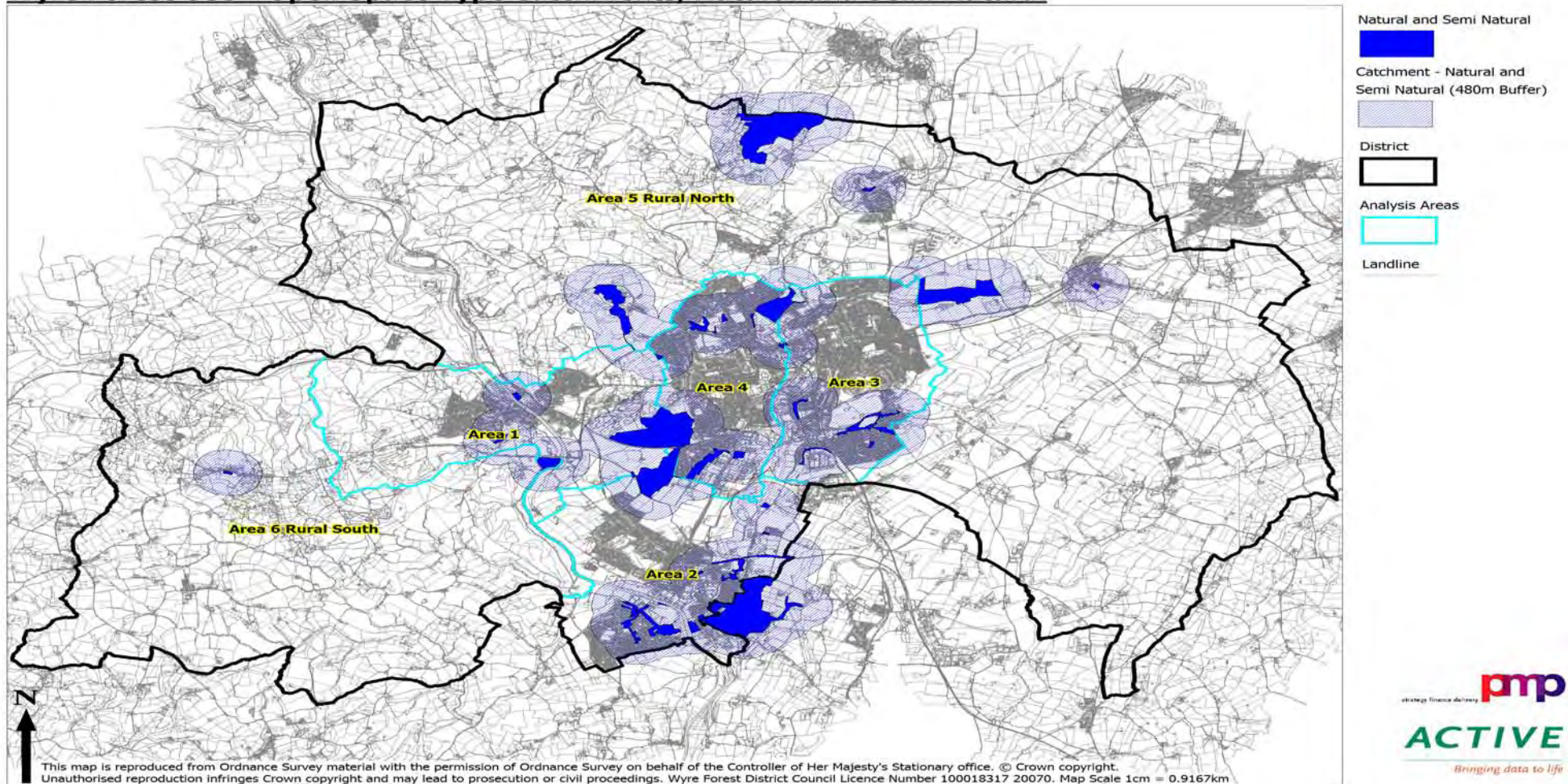
this area of Wyre Forest. Residents in this area are also likely to benefit from nearby areas of accessible countryside.

- 5.28 The application of the local accessibility standards for natural and semi natural open space is set out in Map 5.1 overleaf.

## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Map 5.1 - Provision of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest

### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Natural and Semi Natural



## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 5.29 Map 5.1 illustrates there is an even distribution of natural and semi natural open space within the District. The majority of residents in Wyre Forest are able to access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended 10 minute walk time.
- 5.30 Despite a good distribution of natural and semi natural open space, there are a number of areas of deficiency, predominantly in the urban areas. Key areas of deficiency exist in the north of Kidderminster East analysis area, the centre of Kidderminster West analysis area and the west of Stourport analysis area. These will be discussed later in the section.
- 5.31 The local quantity standard equates to the current District wide level of provision, indicating that currently there is sufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest. Although future population projections indicate there is expected to be a shortfall of this typology by 2026 (-11.64 ha), local consultation established an overall satisfaction with the provision of natural and semi natural open space. This suggests that the focus should be on the enhancement of the quality of existing sites in the short term, as opposed to encouraging the development of more natural open space.
- 5.32 The importance of qualitative enhancements is reinforced by the findings of the site assessments, which suggest that the quality of natural areas was significantly lower than many other types of open space, with an average score of just 52%. Future efforts should therefore be concentrated into improvements to the quality of natural and semi natural spaces.
- 5.33 Key aspirations for natural and semi natural open spaces identified by residents included a clean and litter free site, nature features and good footpaths. To improve the quality of existing sites in the District, these features should be enhanced. In particular the maintenance of footpaths is a key issue to be addressed, with many residents identifying the poor maintenance of footpaths as a key barrier to access.

<b>NSN1</b>	Identify opportunities for improving the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces both in terms of the wildlife and habitat values of the site, but also for recreational purposes. Key improvements should include increased maintenance of footpaths and cyclepaths. Enhancements should be informed by the quality scores.
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- 5.34 While enhancement of sites for recreational purposes is important, consideration should also be given to the ecological and conservation opportunities provided.

<b>NSN2</b>	Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes.
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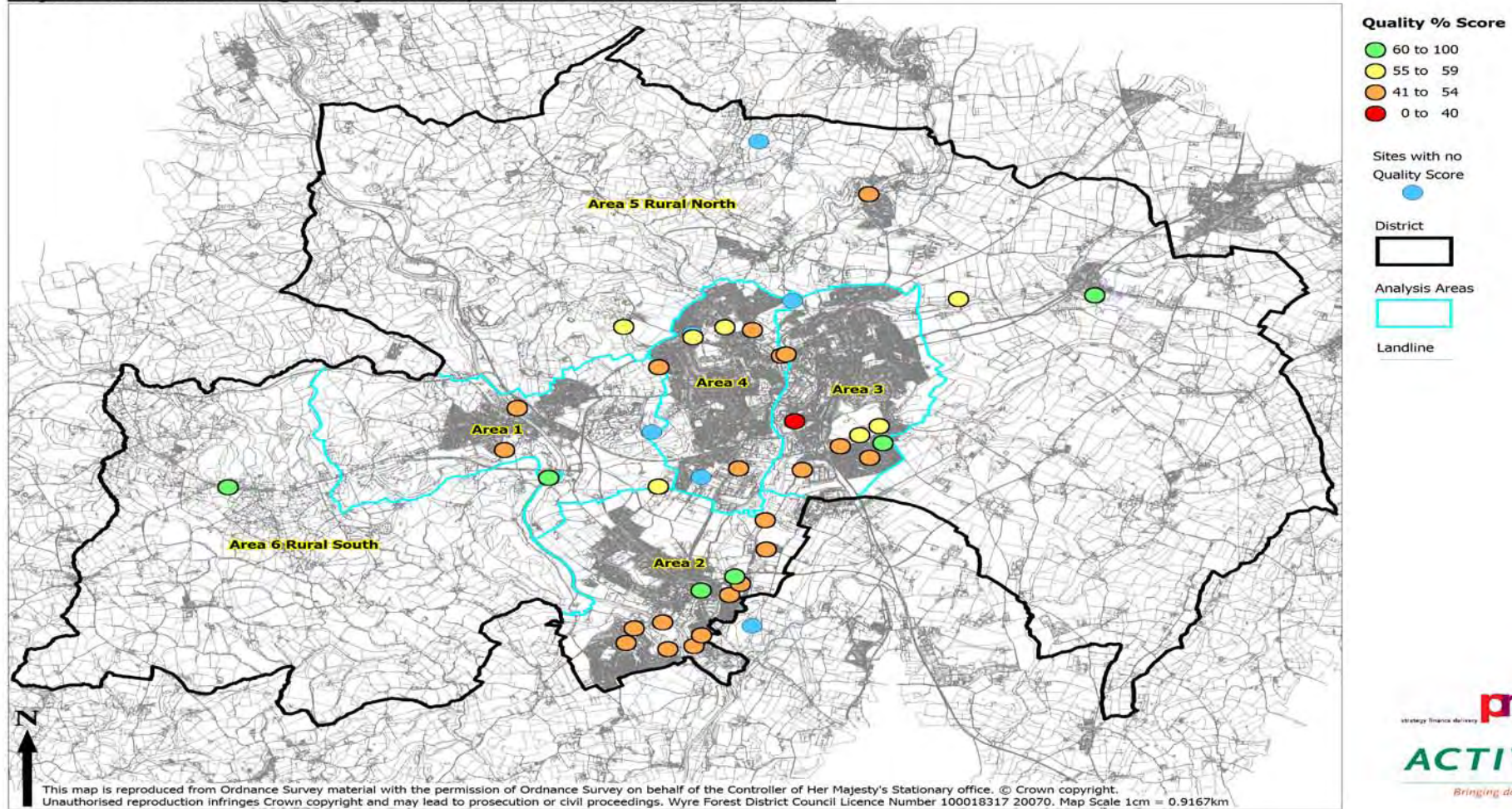
- 5.35 The application of the quality standard for natural and semi natural open space is set out in Map 5.2 overleaf.



## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

### Map 5.2 – Quality of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest

#### Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Natural and Semi Natural



## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

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- 5.36 Map 5.2 highlights the poor quality of existing natural and semi natural open spaces within Wyre Forest. Despite this, the distribution of high quality sites is good with one good quality site located in each of the analysis areas, except Kidderminster West.
- 5.37 As consultation highlights, natural and semi natural open spaces are the most popular of all the open spaces in the District. The nature of these spaces and the wildlife and habitat value offered within them means that balancing the recreational use of these sites and monitoring any impact of use is essential.

<b>NSN3</b>	Monitor the impact of recreational use on natural and semi natural open space sites and ensure that recreational opportunity is balanced with biodiversity.
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- 5.38 The provision of natural and semi natural open space in each area is outlined in the sections that follow.

### **Bewdley analysis area**

- 5.39 Application of the quantity standard reveals that the Bewdley analysis area will have a small shortfall in the provision of natural and semi natural open space by 2021 (-0.66 ha). Accessibility mapping reveals a poor distribution of sites in this area, with sites predominately focused in Bewdley town centre. The poor distribution of sites creates clear deficiencies to the west and east of Bewdley town centre. These deficiencies are highlighted in Figures 5.2 and 5.3.

**Figure 5.2 – Deficiency west of Bewdley town centre**



**Figure 5.3 – Deficiency east of Bewdley town centre**



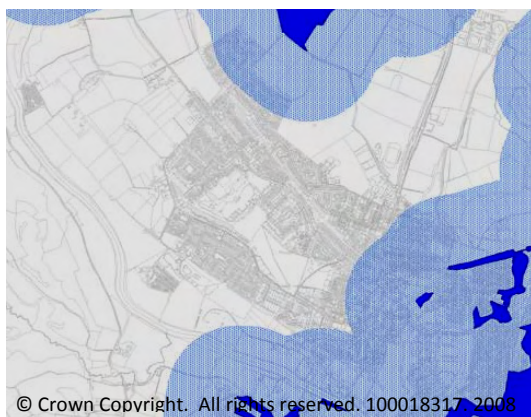
- 5.40 When measured against the local standard, Bewdley analysis area is deficient in the provision of natural and semi natural open space, however Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve is also located in this analysis area. This site is excluded from the application of the quantity standards, but is a large strategic site of importance (85 ha) and one of the few extensive areas of lowland heathland remaining in the county. Given the importance and opportunities presented by this site, it is likely that residents will be willing to travel further to access this site and its presence may alleviate demand for additional spaces.
- 5.41 Although there are deficiencies in natural and semi natural open space in the Bewdley analysis area, the quantity of amenity green space is sufficient to meet both current and future need. Furthermore, application of the accessibility standard reveals the majority of residents outside the recommended catchment for a natural and semi natural open space can access an amenity green space, although they are also outside of the catchment area for parks.
- 5.42 In consideration of the adequate provision of amenity green space in the area and the high level of satisfaction with the current provision of natural and semi natural open space (despite deficiencies in provision) the focus should be placed on protecting existing sites and increasing access both to natural areas and the nearby countryside. The residents to the west of Bewdley are in close proximity to woods which compensate to an extent for the lack of natural and semi natural space within the settlement.

<b>NSN4</b>	<p>Protect natural open spaces in Bewdley analysis area from development. Seek to improve access to existing sites in the area, particularly sites located outside Bewdley town centre and areas of nearby countryside.</p> <p>Opportunities to provide any new natural areas in areas currently deficient should be explored.</p>
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### Stourport analysis area

- 5.43 The Stourport analysis area has the greatest quantity of natural and semi natural open space in the District (78.07 ha). Application of the quantity standard further supports the abundance of this typology in the area, and there is sufficient provision to meet both the current and future needs of residents. Despite an abundance of natural and semi natural open space in this area of Wyre Forest, accessibility mapping reveals a poor distribution of sites, with sites primarily located in the southern region. Due to a poor distribution of sites, residents to the north west of Stourport town centre cannot access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended accessibility catchment (Figure 5.4).

**Figure 5.4 – Deficiency to the north west of Stourport town centre**



- 5.44 The area deficient in the provision of natural and semi natural open space is located close to Stourport Memorial Park. This park is the largest in the Stourport analysis area and provides a valuable resource to local residents.
- 5.45 The location of Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve on the edge of Stourport and Leapgate Country Park just outside the area boundary means residents have access to large strategic sites within and adjacent to the District. Due to the nature of these sites, their catchment areas may be larger, with residents willing to travel further to access these sites. While this does not negate the need for localised provision, these sites help alleviate demand, particularly Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve, located near the existing area of deficiency.
- 5.46 The protection of these valuable sites should be a priority, as well as increasing access and linkages for both recreational use as well as wildlife migration.
- 5.47 In light of the proximity of the area of deficiency to the Memorial Park, provision of new natural and semi natural open space should not be prioritised. In line with this, consideration should be given to the integration of natural open space within Memorial Park.

<b>NSN5</b>	Protect natural and semi natural open space in the Stourport analysis area, particularly larger sites of strategic importance. Increase access to existing sites in the area through the enhancement of linkages between open spaces.
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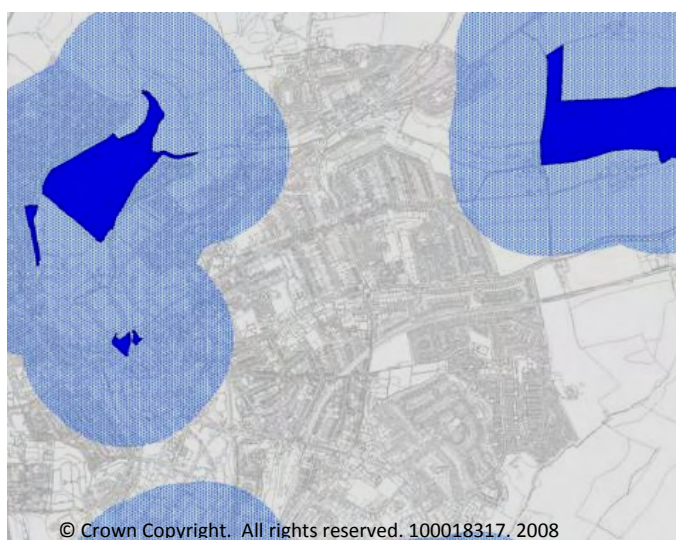
5.48 Much regeneration work is scheduled to take place in Stourport over the next 2 – 3 years. Plans include improvements to biodiversity being secured on an area of land adjacent to housing in The Walshes (an area of deprivation) and the adoption of land on the outskirts of the old power station for open space. While this scheme does not fall within the area of deficiency, these and other plans should be encouraged as a way of improving access to natural and semi natural open space and other types of space across the District. Linkages between and within spaces emerged as a key theme throughout consultation.

<b>NSN6</b>	Recognise schemes designed to link open spaces as examples of good practice.
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**Kidderminster East**

5.49 Application of the quantity standard reveals that Kidderminster East analysis area contains the greatest quantitative shortfall of natural and semi natural open space. Based on the current population there is an undersupply of -42.34 hectares and future population projections show this deficiency is set to increase to -46.07 hectares by 2026. Accessibility mapping supports the findings of the quantity standard, with the majority of residents in the analysis area outside the recommended catchment of a natural or semi natural open space (Figure 5.5). Provision of natural and semi natural open space is particularly challenging within an urban area.

**Figure 5.5 – Deficiency in Kidderminster East analysis area**



## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

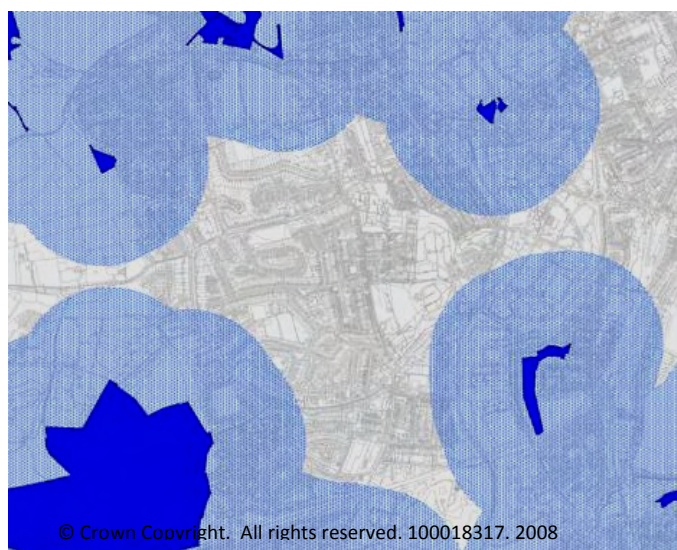
- 5.50 As well as having insufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space; Kidderminster East analysis area also has the greatest quantitative shortfall of amenity green space and town parks. The amenity green space sites in the south of the analysis area provide little access for residents in the area deficient in the provision of natural and semi natural open space. However, the excellent provision and good distribution of local parks and the location of Broadwaters Park in the north of the analysis area means the majority of residents in the area of deficiency have access to either a local park or town park.
- 5.51 In light of the existing large deficiencies in the provision of natural and semi natural open space and amenity green space in Kidderminster East analysis area, consideration should be given to the provision of new natural and semi natural open space sites in the area. Development of natural areas is both a lengthy process and challenging in an urban environment. Consideration should therefore be given to the integration of natural areas and other types of open space.

<b>NSN7</b>	Investigate opportunities to provide natural and semi natural open space in the north of Kidderminster East analysis area. Consider the provision of natural and semi natural open space within existing open spaces.
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### Kidderminster West

- 5.52 Similar to the Kidderminster East analysis area, within the Kidderminster West analysis area there is a large future quantitative shortfall in the provision of natural and semi natural open space (-21.50 ha). The existing deficiency in this area of the District is further highlighted through the application of the accessibility standards where it can be seen that there is a large deficiency in the centre of Kidderminster (Figure 5.6).

**Figure 5.6 – Deficiency in the centre of Kidderminster**



- 5.53 Analysis further reveals that this analysis area is deficient in the provision of amenity green space and local parks.

## SECTION 5 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 5.54 However, Brinton Park is located in the region of the analysis area where residents cannot access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended travel time. Due to the location of Brinton Park in the area of existing deficiency, all residents who cannot access a natural or semi natural open space are within the local accessibility catchment of Brinton Park. Brinton Park provides a wide range of facilities including sports facilities, children’s play area, skatepark and ornamental beds and gardens. The park is therefore an important resource to local residents and those living in other areas of the District, proving a number of opportunities for sport and recreation.
- 5.55 Despite a shortfall of natural and semi natural open space in Kidderminster West analysis area, the location of Brinton Park (in an area of deficiency) and the local access to Devils Spittleful Nature Reserve, means that focus should be placed on improving access to existing natural and semi natural open spaces in the analysis area. The distribution of sites provides the opportunity for a network of linked natural and semi natural open spaces within the area.

<b>NSN8</b>	Seek to increase access to existing natural and semi natural sites in Kidderminster West analysis area. Consider the possibility of providing a network of linked open spaces. Seize opportunities to increase the provision of natural and semi natural open space.
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### Rural East analysis areas

- 5.56 The Rural East analysis area has the greatest provision of natural and semi natural open space when applied against the local standard for 2026 (45.33 ha). Application of the accessibility standard further exemplifies this with nearly all residents in larger settlements in the area able to access a natural and semi natural open space within the recommended travel time. Only in Fairfield are residents outside the catchment of a natural or semi natural open space (Figure 5.7).

**Figure 5.7 – Deficiency in Fairfield**



- 5.57 Although residents in Fairfield are unable to access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended travel time, they are in close proximity to the proposed Stour Valley Country Park. The good provision of local countryside and woods also provides residents with access to natural and semi natural open space.

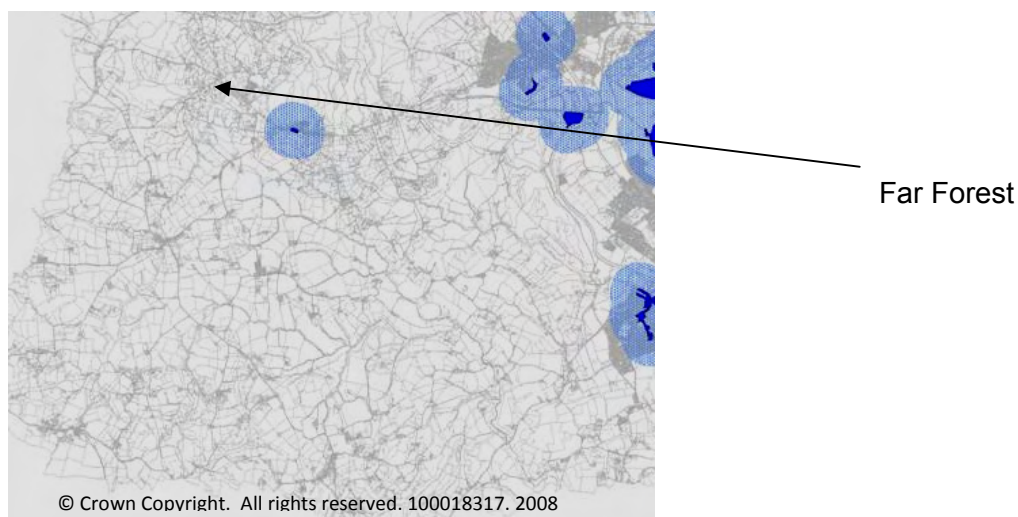
- 5.58 Two of the largest natural and semi natural open spaces in the District are located within the Rural East analysis area, Kingsford Country Park (81 ha) and Hurcott Pool and Woods (43 ha), which is classified as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
- 5.59 In consideration of the sufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space and the good distribution of high quality facilities in the analysis area, the focus should be placed on the qualitative enhancement of existing sites, particularly the larger strategic sites in the area. All opportunities to increase access to nearby sites should be seized.

<b>NSN9</b>	Seek to implement the recommended quality vision at all sites within the Rural East analysis area and target improvements at sites where quality does not reach this level.
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**Rural West analysis area**

- 5.60 Application of the quantity standard reveals the Rural West analysis area will have a minor shortfall in provision by 2026 (-0.28 ha). However, accessibility mapping reveals that only residents in Callow Hill can access a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended 10 minute walk time. The location of the only natural or semi natural open space in Callow Hill creates deficiencies in the settlements of Far Forest, Bliss Gate, Rock and Clows Top (Figure 5.8).

**Figure 5.8 – Deficiencies in Rural West analysis area**



- 5.61 Although there is a minor quantitative shortfall in the provision of natural and semi natural open space in the Rural West analysis area, the abundance of surrounding countryside means residents do have access to informal natural open space. Therefore focus should be placed on enhancing access to natural and semi natural open space within this area of Wyre Forest. Although increases in access to open space should be prioritised, opportunities to provide more formal spaces within the larger settlements such as Far Forest and Rock should be taken if they arise. There is potential for natural and semi natural open space to be integrated within the provision of other typologies.



<b>NSN10</b>	Seek to increase access to natural and semi natural open space within the Rural West analysis area. Should the opportunity arise, consider the provision of more formal natural or semi natural open spaces in larger settlements in the area, such as Far Forest and Rock.
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**Summary**

- 5.62 Natural and semi natural open space is the most popular of all typologies in Wyre Forest, with 35% of residents indicating they use natural and semi natural open space more frequently than any other open space in the District.
- 5.63 In addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also recognised the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation.
- 5.64 Natural and semi natural open spaces, alongside areas of countryside, were perceived to be a key part of the character of the District and the value placed on these sites was clear. The need to protect these sites from development was a key theme throughout the consultation process. Residents and visitors recognised the benefits they draw from the excellent provision of nature reserves and large natural and semi natural sites in the area.
- 5.65 Application of the recommended standards highlights that the key priority for natural and semi natural open space is improvements to the quality of sites. Maximising access to natural and semi natural sites both within settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside should also be a key future priority, as well as conserving and enhancing biodiversity.
- 5.66 While there is an even distribution of natural open space sites across the District, opportunities to address deficiencies in the Kidderminster area should be taken. Development of linkages between existing natural and semi natural open space sites, other open space typologies and the nearby countryside is also seen as a future priority, particularly within the more urban areas of the District.

## **SECTION 6**

### **AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

### Amenity green space

#### Introduction and definition

- 6.1 This type of open space is most commonly found in residential areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity green space is also often used for landscaping purposes.
- 6.2 Amenity green space is also often found in villages, in the form of village greens. Amenity green spaces can have an overlapping function with parks and gardens and natural areas and also provide informal opportunities for children's play where there are no other facilities. It is important therefore to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the context of other types of open space.
- 6.3 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the strategic context, key findings of the consultations and recommended local standards. The standards are then applied to evaluate the adequacy of the existing amenity green space and the associated demand for these spaces. Standards are also applied in the context of other open spaces with overlapping functions.
- 6.4 Policy LR2 of the **Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan** states that development proposals must, where appropriate, include provision for amenity green space (including LAPs) for the recreation and enjoyment of users. S106 obligations may be sought for contributions to the provision and enhancement of amenity green spaces. Development that will have an adverse impact on the provision of amenity green space will not be permitted.

#### Figure 6.1 – Example of an amenity green space



#### Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

- 6.5 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that:
- the value of amenity green space was not particularly recognised by respondents to the IT survey for young people. Only a minority of children and young people identified amenity green space as their favourite open space
  - amenity green space is one of the least frequently visited open spaces, with only 2% of respondents to the household survey stating they use this open space most frequently. However, 24% of respondents visit amenity green space more than once a month. These low levels of usage in comparison to

## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

other types of open space are perhaps reflective of the emphasis on amenity green space for landscaping purposes rather than recreational usage

- residents reinforced the importance of achieving a balance between the appropriate quality and quantity of provision.

### Existing provision - Quantity

6.6 The quantity of amenity green space in Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1 – Provision of amenity green space across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	5.40	8	0.22	2.14	9,697	0.56
Stourport	11.82	8	0.4	6.15	20,811	0.57
Kidderminster East	2.72	6	0.15	1.1	30,827	0.09
Kidderminster West	5.90	7	0.26	2.05	27,419	0.22
Rural East	1.54	3	0.23	0.97	10,772	0.14
Rural West	0.00	0	-	-	2,874	0.00
Overall	27.38	32	0.15	6.15	102,400	0.27

6.7 The key issues emerging from Table 6.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision of amenity green space across the District include:

- based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split in opinion regarding the provision of amenity green space, with 42% of respondents stating provision is sufficient while 44% indicate that there is insufficient provision. This split in opinion may be reflective of the interrelationship between quality and quantity highlighted earlier
- findings from the individual analysis areas also illustrate this split in opinion. The lowest level of satisfaction (and one of the only areas where the split in opinion is not evident) is located in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where only 28% of residents feel provision is about right. This is in contrast to the actual provision of amenity green space, with the Kidderminster West analysis area containing the second greatest quantity of this typology
- the greatest level of provision is located in the Stourport analysis area (11.82 ha) and this also results in the highest level of provision per 1000 of the population (0.5680 ha). 41% of residents from the household survey in the Stourport analysis area indicated that the level of provision is sufficient

- although the lowest level of provision is located in the rural analysis areas, residents are the most satisfied. It is likely that this is influenced by the abundance of natural and semi natural open space and countryside in this area of the District.

**Setting provision standards – quantity**

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

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.28 ha per 1000	0.29 ha per 1000
Justification	
<p>Local consultation findings highlight a split in opinion regarding the current provision of amenity green space, with 44% of residents indicating provision is insufficient and 42% stating provision is sufficient. Drop in session attendees further identified the need for balance between quantity and quality.</p> <p>In consideration of local consultation identifying a split in opinion with regards to the provision of amenity green space it is recommended the standard is set slightly above the current level of provision. Setting the standard at this level will enable the Council to identify priorities for new provision and also focus on enhancing the quality of existing sites within the District.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

6.9 The quality of existing amenity green space in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 6.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 6.10 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of amenity green spaces have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. In particular, the cleanliness and maintenance and ancillary accommodation was perceived to be important for amenity green spaces. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

**Table 6.2 – Quality of amenity green space across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	8	40– 67	55	Open Space adjacent to QEII Gardens – ID 581	Severn Side North AGS – ID 304
Stourport	8	42 – 60	55	River Stour AGS- ID 180	Riverside Walk AGS - ID 179
Kidderminster East	6	47 - 60	52	Upton Road – ID 200	Green adjacent to Viaduct Pub – ID 194
Kidderminster West	7	30 – 60	53	Jubilee Drive AGS – ID 65	Ferguson Drive AGS – ID 60
Rural East	3	-	54	-	The Green – ID 247
Rural West	0	-	-	-	-
Overall	32	30 – 67	55	Jubilee Drive AGS – ID 65	Severn Side North AGS – ID 304

- 6.11 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of amenity green space include:
- the general consensus of respondents to the household survey is that the quality of amenity green space is average – over half of all respondents hold this view. Site assessments indicate that the quality of amenity green space in Wyre Forest is poorer than many other typologies, with the average quality score of a site being 55%
  - the average quality score within each analysis area is similar. Despite this, the range of quality scores (30% - 67%) indicates that there is significant variation in the quality of provision. All areas contain some sites of low quality.

### Setting provision standards – quality

- 6.12 The recommended local quality standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the

## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

local standard is provided within Appendix G. Improvements to the quality of amenity green space were perceived to be particularly important to local residents.

### Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

<b>Recommended standard – AMENITY GREEN SPACE</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Well kept grass	Dog walking facilities	
Clean/litter free	Level surface	
Dog free area		
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to amenity green spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	4%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	56%	4
Vegetation	11%	2
Ancillary accommodation	15%	3
<b><i>Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of amenity green space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.</i></b>		

### Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 6.13 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 6.14 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits. Information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 6.15 78% of residents would expect to walk to amenity green spaces. This emphasises the expectation that these sites are perceived to be local resources.
- 6.16 The recommended local accessibility standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

**Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
A walk time standard has been set based upon the high level of expectation to travel by foot to access an amenity green space emphasised throughout consultation.
The 75% threshold level established from responses to the household survey is a 10 minute walk time. It is therefore recommended the local standard be set at a 10 minute walk time across the District. At least one site of recreational value should be provided within 10 minutes walk time of the home. Additional amenity green space may be required for landscaping purposes.

**Applying provision standards**

- 6.17 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 6.18 Table 6.3 summarises the application of the quantity standard both at the existing time and up to 2026.

**Table 6.3 – Application of quantity standard**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.29 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.29 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	2.78	2.64
Stourport	6.20	5.89
Kidderminster East	-5.60	-6.07
Kidderminster West	-1.50	-1.91
Rural East	-1.37	-1.53
Rural West	-0.77	-0.82
Overall	-0.26	-1.80

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



## **SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

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6.19 It can be seen that:

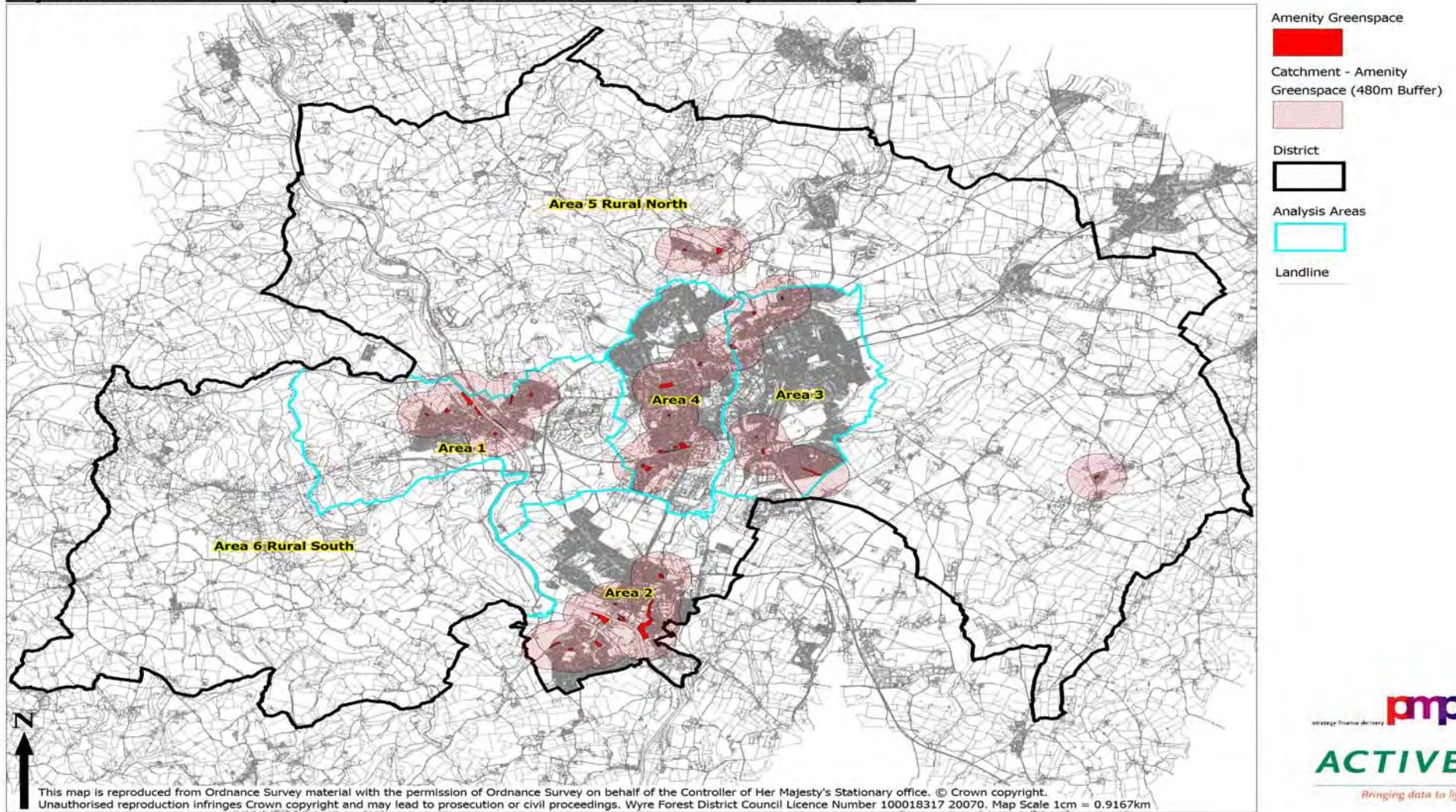
- the application of the quantity standard shows there is currently a small overall shortfall in the provision of amenity green space (-0.26 ha). Taking into account future population projections the overall shortfall in Wyre Forest will rise to -1.80 ha by 2026
- only Bewdley and Stourport will have sufficient provision of amenity green space by 2026. These areas are also the only areas where current provision is sufficient
- residents in Kidderminster West indicated the greatest dissatisfaction with the current provision of amenity green space. The provision of amenity green space in this area will be below the recommended quantity standard by 2026 (-1.91 ha). Other areas however exhibit greater deficiencies.

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

## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

### Map 6.1 – Provision of amenity green space in Wyre Forest

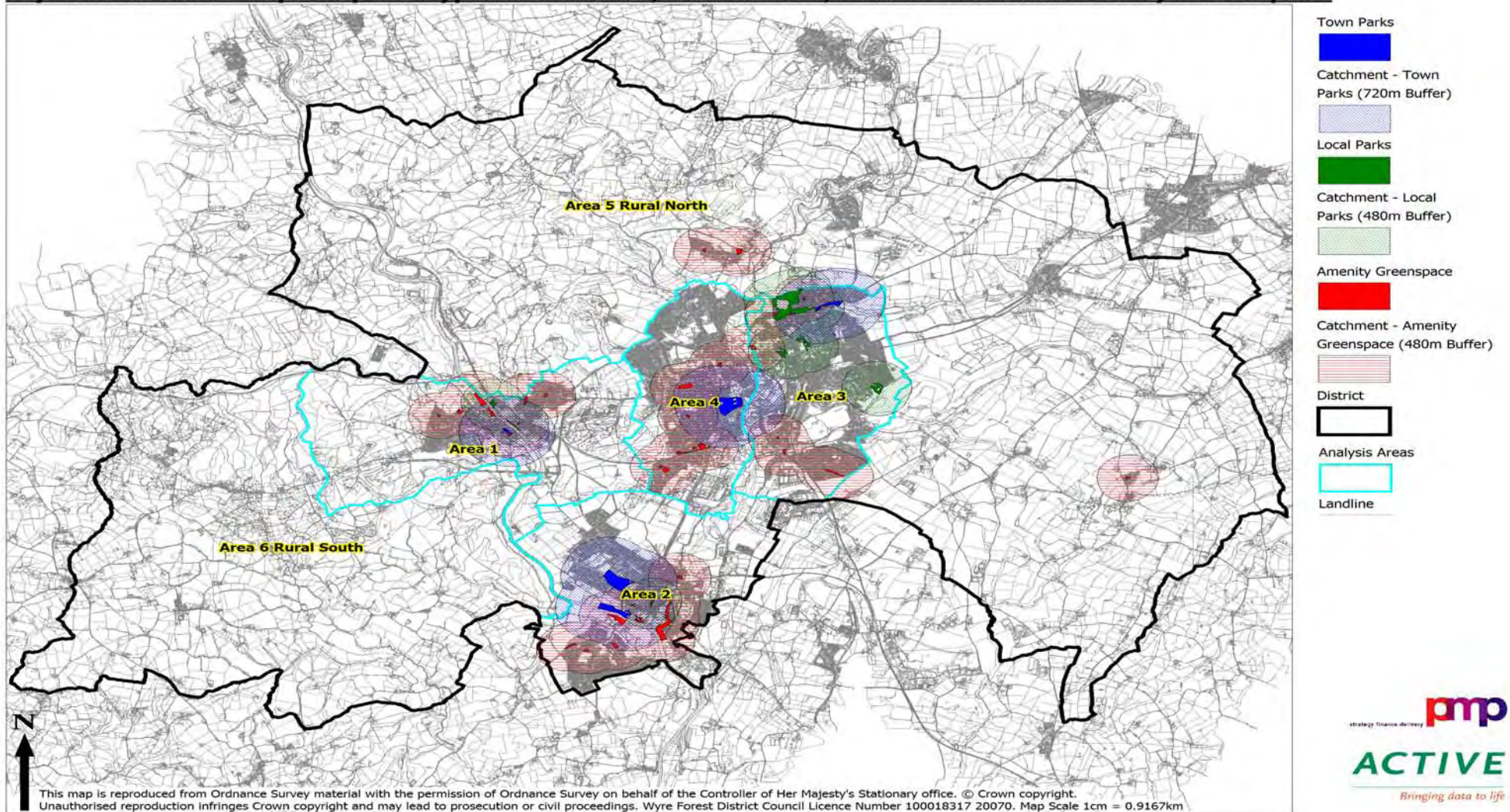
#### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Amenity Greenspace



**SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

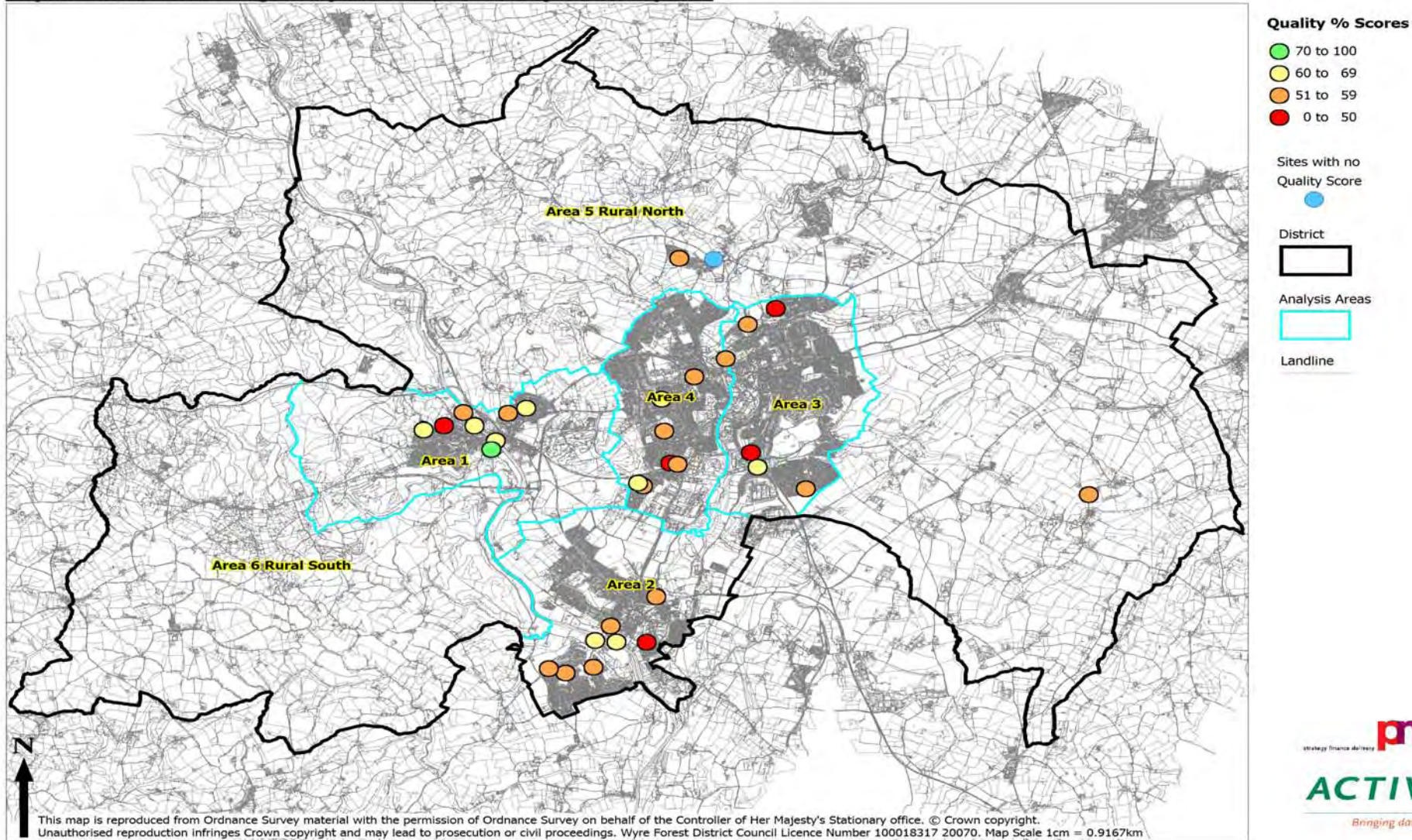
**Map 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space and parks and gardens in Wyre Forest**

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Town Parks, Local Parks and Amenity Greenspace**



Map 6.3 – Quality of amenity green space sites in Wyre Forest

**Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Amenity Greenspace**

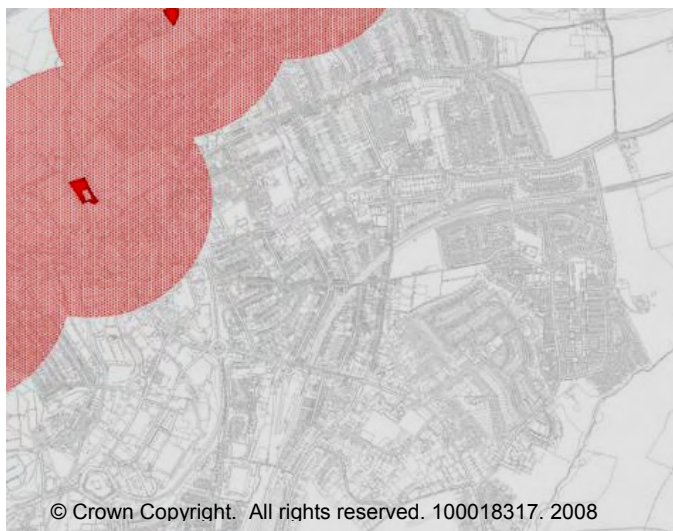


## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

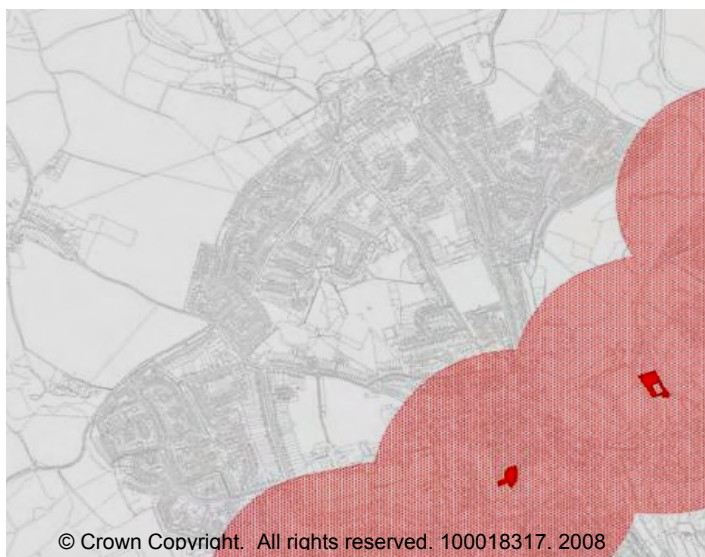
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- 6.21 Map 6.1 highlights that amenity green space is poorly distributed across the District. Only in the Bewdley analysis area can the majority of residents access an amenity green space within the recommended 10-minute walk time. Overlapping catchments are evident in all areas of the District, particularly within the Stourport and Kidderminster West analysis area. Key areas of deficiency exist in the Kidderminster East analysis area, in the north of the Kidderminster west analysis area and the north of Stourport analysis area and these are set out below in Figures 6.2 – 6.4.

**Figure 6.2 – Deficiencies in the Kidderminster East analysis area**



**Figure 6.3 – Deficiencies in the north of the Kidderminster West analysis area**



**Figure 6.4 – Deficiencies in the north of the Stourport analysis area**



6.22 The key issues emerging from the quality of existing amenity green space in Wyre Forest (Map 6.3) are:

- within the District there is generally an even distribution of similar quality sites
- in the Kidderminster East analysis area there is a large number of poor quality sites
- the only high quality site is located in the Bewdley analysis area.

### **Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards**

6.23 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where there is potential unmet demand we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.

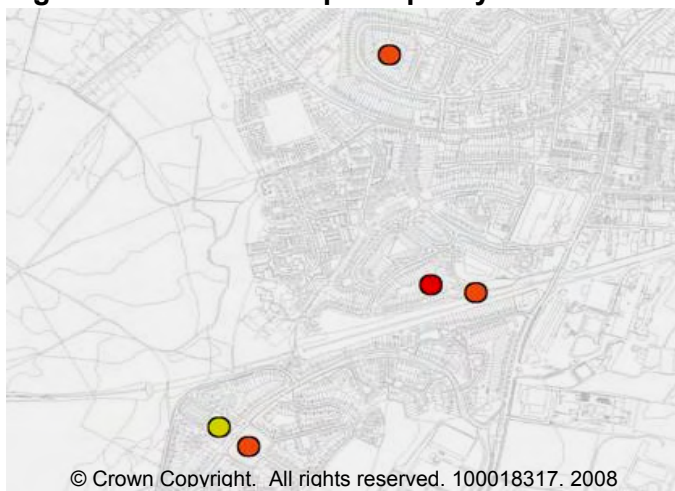
6.24 Consultation highlights the importance of obtaining a balance between the quality and quantity of amenity green space and the quality was considered to be of particular importance. The interrelationship between quality and quantity was clear.

6.25 The existing quality of amenity green spaces is variable, with all areas containing a mixture of poor and average quality sites. Three of the six poorest quality sites are located within the Kidderminster East analysis area, where the lowest levels of provision can be found. Examples of clusters of poor quality provision can be seen in Figures 6.5 and 6.6.

**Figure 6.5 – Cluster of poor quality sites in Kidderminster East analysis area**



**Figure 6.6 – Cluster of poor quality sites in Kidderminster West analysis area**



6.26 In light of the importance of the quality of amenity green spaces, sites have been divided into quartiles according to their quality in order to identify those sites where particular improvement is required. This analysis is set out in Table 6.4 overleaf and a selection of sites falling into each category are listed. A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix C. It can be seen that to fall within the top quartile, a score of 70% would be required.

<b>AGS1</b>	Seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 70% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity green space.
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**Table 6.4 – Detailed analysis of the quality of existing sites**

Above upper quartile	61% +	(67%) Severn Side North AGS – ID 304
Median – upper quartile	57% - 60%	(60%) Riverside Walk AGS – ID 179 (58%) Sion Gardens – ID 138
Lower quartile – median	51% - 56%	(54%) Dunley Road AGS – ID 143
Less than lower quartile	Below 50%	(50%) Captain’s Pool Road AGS – ID 46 (30%) Jubilee Drive AGS – ID 65

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

- only one site achieved a score of 61% or above (the quality standard) indicating that there is a need for improvements to the majority of sites
- seven sites scored 50% and below and consequently fall within the bottom quartile. These sites should be prioritised for improvement.

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

6.29 In addition to the required improvements to the quality of provision, the breakdown of provision by analysis area has revealed a requirement for additional amenity green space over the Local Development Framework period in all analysis areas except Bewdley and Stourport.

6.30 The most appropriate priorities for each area of the District are therefore discussed taking into account the relationship between quality, quantity and accessibility.

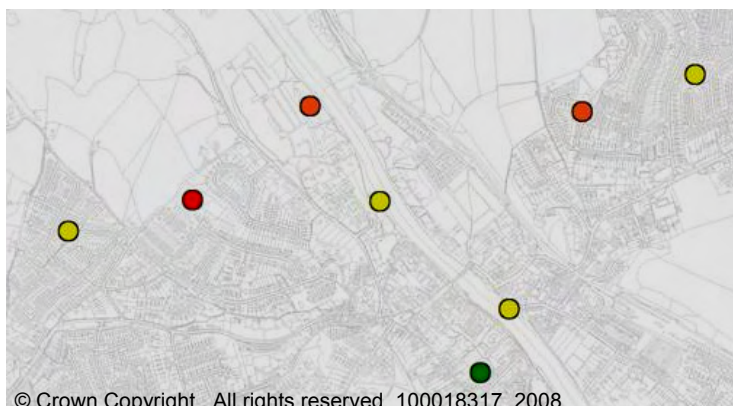
**Bewdley analysis area**

6.31 As indicated, the application of the local quantity standard suggests there is currently adequate provision within Bewdley analysis area. Accessibility mapping further reflects this, with the majority of residents able to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time.

6.32 The quality of amenity green space in the Bewdley analysis area is the highest in Wyre Forest with the average quality score being 60%. Despite this, Millennium Green Wribbenhall (54%), Greenacres Lane (54%) and Bark Hill Park (42%) are particularly poor quality sites (Figure 6.7). In light of the even distribution of sites, qualitative improvements should be prioritised in this area.



**Figure 6.7 – Poor quality sites in Bewdley analysis area**



- 6.33 Bark Hill Park and Greenacres Lane are located in close proximity to one another and provide valuable recreational resources to residents to the west of Bewdley town centre. These sites should be identified as priorities for improvement.
- 6.34 Although there are some residents of Bewdley outside the recommended catchment of an amenity green space, the provision of Jubilee Gardens in the analysis area alleviates deficiencies in this area, negating the need for additional amenity green space in this area of Bewdley.

<b>AGS2</b>	Focus on the qualitative enhancement of existing facilities within Bewdley analysis area. Use the findings of the site assessments to prioritise sites for improvement. Any improvements should take account of the quality vision, which identified maintenance and cleanliness as important to local residents.
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**Stourport analysis area**

- 6.35 Analysis of amenity green space in Stourport indicates that in quantitative terms, there is sufficient amenity green space to meet current and future needs. Despite this, accessibility mapping reveals that sites are unevenly distributed, with amenity green space predominantly concentrated in the south of the analysis area. Due to the poor distribution of amenity green space, residents in the north of the analysis area cannot access a site within the recommended 10 minute walk time (Figure 6.8).

**Figure 6.8 – Deficiencies in the north of Stourport analysis area**



- 6.36 When considering the provision of amenity green space in the context of parks it can be seen that nearly all residents in the Stourport analysis area have access to either a park or amenity green space within the recommended distance threshold. Only a small amount of residents in the north of the analysis area are outside the accessibility threshold of either a park or amenity green space (Figure 6.9).

**Figure 6.9 – Deficiency in the north of Stourport analysis area**



- 6.37 Due to the high density of housing in this area of Stourport it will be challenging to provide a new amenity green space. In addition, access to natural and semi natural open space and the location of Memorial Park provides many potential recreation opportunities. Green linkages from the area of deficiency to nearby open spaces should be developed.

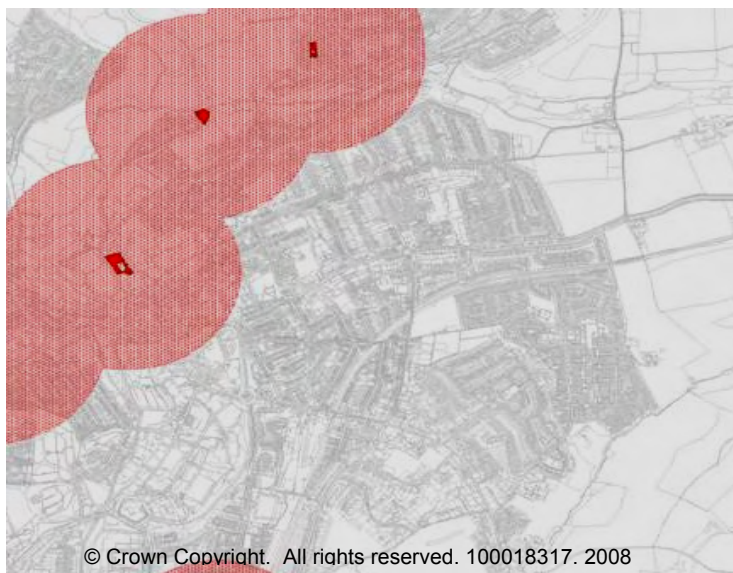
<b>AGS3</b>	Develop green linkages from the area of deficiency to Memorial Park and areas of nearby natural open space.
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**Kidderminster East analysis area**

- 6.38 The largest quantitative deficiency of amenity green space is located in the Kidderminster East analysis area (-6.07 ha). Application of the accessibility standard

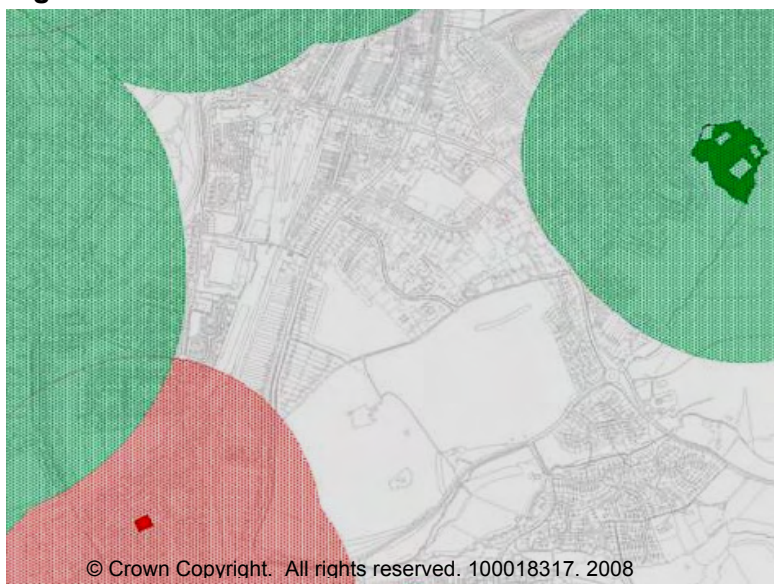
reveals that sites are located in close proximity to one another and concentrated in the south of the analysis area. As a consequence, there are large deficiencies in the centre and north of the analysis area (Figure 6.10).

**Figure 6.10 – Deficiencies in the Kidderminster east analysis area**



- 6.39 When considering the provision of parks in the area application of the accessibility standard illustrates parks are concentrated in the North East of Kidderminster meaning that a large proportion of residents outside the catchment of an amenity green space are able to access a park. Only residents in Offmore and to the west of Comberton do not have access to an amenity green space or park (Figure 6.11).

**Figure 6.11 – Deficiencies in Offmore and to the west of Comberton**



- 6.40 Although residents cannot access an amenity green space or park within the recommended accessibility standards there is good provision of other open spaces in the area that do provide many recreational and sporting opportunities. Due to the dense urban nature of this area of Kidderminster, there is little potential to provide new amenity green space sites. In light of this, focus should be placed on investing

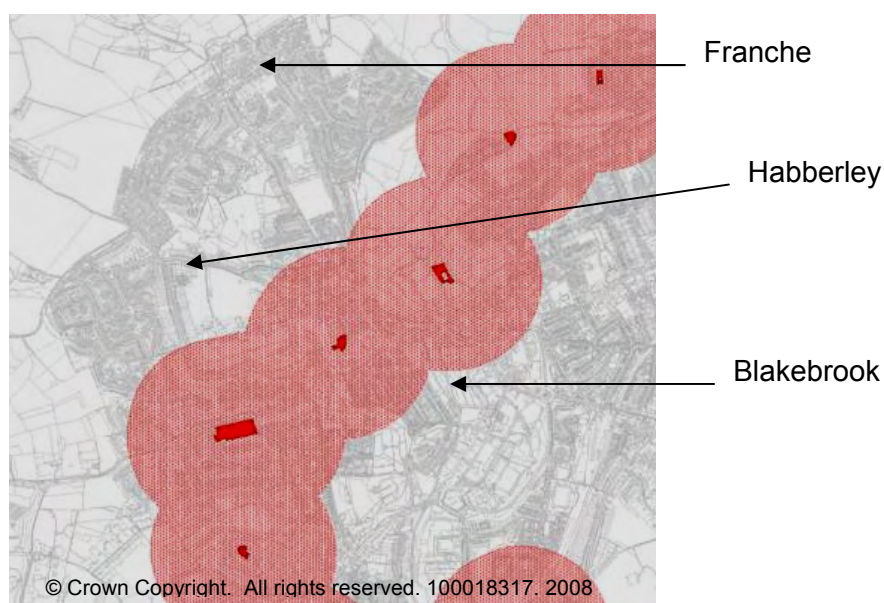
in near by parks to increase their value to the local community and developing green linkages to these sites.

<b>AGS4</b>	Prioritise investment in parks located in the north of the Kidderminster East analysis area. Use the findings from the site assessments to prioritise those sites in need of enhancement. Develop green linkages to provide access to these sites for residents in areas of deficiency. Seize opportunities to provide new open space in this area.
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**Kidderminster West analysis area**

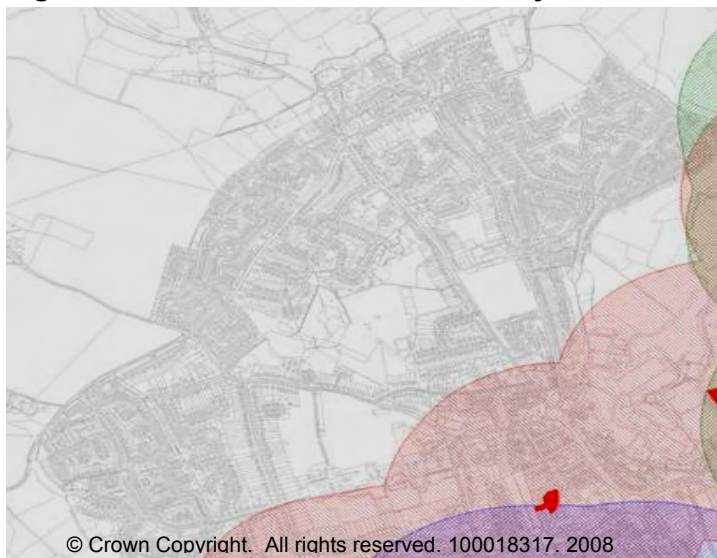
- 6.41 As with the Kidderminster East analysis area the Kidderminster West analysis area has insufficient provision of amenity green space. Application of the quantity standard highlights this shortfall with clear areas of deficiency located in Habberley, Franche and Blakebrook (Figure 6.12).

**Figure 6.12 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster west analysis area**



- 6.42 While the location of Brinton Park alleviates deficiencies in Blakebrook, residents in Franche and Habberley cannot access a park or amenity green space within the recommended local standard (Figure 6.13).

**Figure 6.13 – Deficiencies in Habberley and Franche**



- 6.43 As previously highlighted, the dense urban nature of Kidderminster provides little opportunity for the new provision of open space, however should the opportunity arise new amenity green space should be provided within Habberley and Franche to offset deficiencies in these areas. Alternatively, linkages should be developed to maximise opportunities for local residents.

<b>AGS5</b>	Should the opportunity arise, provide new amenity green space within Franche and Habberley. Develop linkages in these areas to existing green spaces.
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- 6.44 Although residents of Habberley and Franche are within relatively close proximity of Brinton Park and are likely to use this site (it attracts residents from a wider catchment due to the opportunities it offers), its presence does not negate the need for a local facility.

**Rural East analysis areas**

- 6.45 Application of the quantity standard highlights a shortfall in the provision of amenity green space in the Rural East analysis areas. Based on future population projections there is expected to be a deficiency of –1.53 ha by 2026 and accessibility mapping reveals a number of settlements, particularly Cookley and Blakedown, do not contain amenity green space.
- 6.46 Based on the local quantity standard and the average size of an amenity green space within the rural area (used to define the minimum size) it could be suggested that as a minimum, amenity green space should be provided in settlements where the population exceeds 1750. Those settlements without sufficient provision should therefore be prioritised for improvement. This links with the provision for children, where a slightly smaller population is required before an equipped facility should be provided.

## SECTION 6 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

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- 6.47 Although there are no settlements in the rural analysis areas with a population above 1750 demand for amenity green space within the larger settlements such as Cookley and Blakedown, where there are currently no formal amenity areas, should be monitored. Despite having access to natural and semi natural open space and the countryside, amenity green space can play an important role in village life and is frequently of significant value to the local community.

<b>AGS6</b>	Monitor the demand for amenity green space within areas currently devoid of this typology. Particular consideration should be given to Cookley and Blakedown.
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- 6.48 Where there is existing provision, support should be given to providers of facilities in the rural areas to enhance the functionality of their existing open spaces.

<b>AGS7</b>	Provide support to providers of amenity green spaces in village areas to make qualitative improvements to sites to enhance the functionality of spaces.
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### Rural West analysis area

- 6.49 There are no amenity green space sites located within the Rural West analysis area and unsurprisingly quantitative analysis of the provision of amenity green space in the Rural West analysis area reveals there is insufficient provision to meet current and future needs.

- 6.50 As previously mentioned there is no specific need to provide amenity green space in settlements with a population below 1750. However, in light of the quantitative shortfalls the Council should monitor demand in the area, particularly in larger settlements and consider the new provision of amenity green space if required.

<b>AGS8</b>	Monitor the demand for amenity green space within the Rural West analysis area. Consider the provision of new amenity green space where there is expressed demand.
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- 6.51 In many instances, improving access to the countryside is more important to residents than the creation of local amenity areas, although local provision is important to ensure that children have informal spaces. It is important to ensure an appropriate balance between local provision and maximising the use of natural resources.

<b>AGS9</b>	Improve links to areas of nearby countryside for residents in the rural areas through the enhancement of the public rights of way network and the maximisation of opportunities to further develop green corridors.
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### **Summary**

- 6.52 For many residents amenity green space will be the most accessible form of open space provision. The value of amenity green spaces within close proximity to residents was noted through the local consultation. While amenity green space often fulfils a similar role to larger informal open spaces (eg parks and natural areas) the local nature of this type of open space is of particular importance.
- 6.53 Local consultation highlighted the importance of the balance between quality and quantity.
- 6.54 Application of the local standards highlighted that there is an imbalance in provision, with large quantities of amenity green space located in the urban areas of the District, particularly within the Bewdley and Stourport analysis areas and a more sporadic distribution elsewhere across the District. In many instances those areas deficient in amenity green space also exhibit shortfalls in the provision of parks. Many of these areas are densely populated and there are therefore few opportunities for new provision. Linkages between existing green spaces and areas of deficiency will therefore be of particular importance.
- 6.55 While the overall direction should remain on enhancing the quality of amenity green spaces (particularly with regards cleanliness and maintenance and increasing the range of facilities provided), opportunities to address the identified deficiencies should also be taken. The priority for new provision should be focused within the Kidderminster East analysis area. Demand within the rural settlements should be monitored and new amenity green space sites provided where there is sufficient expressed demand to warrant provision.

## **SECTION 7**

### **PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**



### **Provision for children and young people**

#### **Introduction and definition**

- 7.1 PPG17 states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 7.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision, from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity greenspace) to large, multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically:
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
  - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
  - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 7.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. Provision of facilities for children does not necessarily negate the need for provision for young people and vice versa.
- 7.4 For this reason, this typology has been subdivided and provision for children and facilities for young people have been analysed separately.
- 7.5 Provision for children is taken to include equipped children’s play areas and adventure playgrounds that are perceived to cater for children under 12.
- 7.6 Facilities for young people includes the following types of provision:
- Multi-Activity Play Areas (MAPAs)
  - skateparks
  - youth shelters
  - informal kickabout areas
  - BMX tracks.
- 7.7 Within Wyre Forest, Brinton Park Play Area in Kidderminster, Riverside Park Play Facilities in Stourport and Northwood Lane Play Area in Bewdley are identified as sites of strategic importance. These are high quality sites in the District that offer a wide range of facilities and attract residents from across the District as well as visitors from further afield. These sites were regularly commended throughout consultation and were found to be a popular destination for residents and visitors alike.
- 7.8 This section of the report sets out the strategic context, key findings emerging from consultation and assessment of current provision for children and young people. Local standards have been derived from the consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of

these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and children.

**Figure 7.1 – Riverside Play Area, Stourport**



### Strategic context

7.9 The key issues for children and young people's facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are:

- Policy LR3 of the **Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan** states that proposals for residential development should include the provision of children's play space. This should meet the NPFA Six Acre Standard, including LEAPs and NEAPs, as follows:
  - on sites where 75 – 200 new child bed spaces will be produced, a Local Equipped Area for Play should be provided
  - on sites providing 200+ child bed spaces, a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play will be required
  - if there is nearby play space, off-site improvements may be required under Section 106 obligations
  - development that will have an adverse impact on the quality or quantity of play space will not be permitted.
- the values underpinning the **Worcestershire Play Strategy** are:
  - to contribute to the five outcomes for children and young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; achieving economic well being
  - to recognise the importance of play for children and their families both in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety
  - to provide facilities and services that meet all children's needs, encouraging social inclusion and embracing people with disabilities
  - to be prepared to offer challenge, whilst managing risk

- to extend the choice and control that children have over play opportunities. To recognise a child's need to push boundaries, to be independent and have self esteem
  - to use play positively to foster respect for and amongst children and young people
  - to acknowledge that every child needs and has the right to play and that play is an essential part of growing up
  - to ensure that children and young people have safe and easy access to a range of play opportunities within a reasonable distance of their homes
  - to strive to achieve the best quality possible for the greatest number of people.
- the four targeted outcomes of the strategy are:
    - increased opportunities for children and young people to access and enjoy a variety of play
    - provision of inclusive play opportunities
    - promote a greater understanding of the importance of play
    - involvement of children and young people in the design and delivery of play.
  - the **Wyre Forest District Planning Obligations SPD 2007** states that it is important to protect existing open space and play provision and upgrade facilities where appropriate. The council uses the NPFA standards for the provision of outdoor playing space (2.4 ha per 1000 people) and requires maintenance payments covering a 20 year period
  - the **Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy** identifies meeting the needs of children and young people as a key theme. The strategy seeks to ensure that all children and young people in Wyre Forest District are healthy, safe, enjoy life and achieve success, make a positive contribution and benefit from economic wellbeing.

### **Consultation – Assessing Local Needs**

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

- there is a need for more imaginative and exciting play in addition to increased provision for children
- the lack of youth clubs and facilities available for use at night for young people is a key issue across the District. This highlights the importance of considering equipped provision for children and young people in the context of wider facilities and opportunities
- in addition to providing young people and children with an opportunity to play, facilities for children and young people encourage social interaction and provide educational opportunities.

**Quantity of provision**

7.11 The quantity of provision for children and young people across Wyre Forest is summarised in Tables 7.1 and 7.2 below.

**Table 7.1 – Provision for children across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.40	4	0.05	0.17	9,697	0.0412
Stourport	1.15	9	0.02	0.32	20,811	0.0553
Kidderminster East	0.91	10	0.01	0.24	30,827	0.0295
Kidderminster West	1.28	7	0.01	0.46	27,419	0.0467
Rural East	0.35	3	0.08	0.15	10,772	0.0325
Rural West	0.02	1	-	0.02	2,874	0.0070
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>0.0412</b>

7.12 The key issues emerging from Table 7.1 above and consultations relating to the quantity of provision include:

- respondents to the household survey portray a split in opinion regarding the provision of play areas for children. 34% indicate provision is about right while 34% indicate there is insufficient provision. This is reflective of the distribution of facilities to an extent, as analysis of provision per 1000 residents highlights that the total supply varies from 0.007 ha per 1000 in the southern rural area to 0.05ha per 1000 in Stourport
- similar results are highlighted in three of the five analysis areas. However, higher levels of dissatisfaction are shown in Kidderminster West and the rural areas, where 40% of residents feel provision is insufficient
- surprisingly, despite dissatisfaction from residents, the greatest quantity of provision in terms of hectares is located in Kidderminster West (1.28 ha). Despite having the highest quantity of provision however, there are fewer sites in Kidderminster West and higher populations. This suggests that there may be accessibility deficiencies in this area
- the lowest provision per 1000 is found in the Rural West area and this corresponds to the household survey findings where dissatisfaction is high.

7.13 Table 7.2 summarises the quantity of facilities for young people across Wyre Forest.

**Table 7.2 – Provision for young people across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.33	4	0.04	0.16	9,697	0.0330
Stourport	0.38	4	0.07	0.17	20,811	0.0183
Kidderminster East	0.67	6	0.05	0.24	30,827	0.0217
Kidderminster West	0.42	4	0.05	0.23	27,419	0.0153
Rural East	0.14	1	0.01	0.14	10,772	0.0139
Rural West	0	-	-	-	2,874	0.0000
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>0.0189</b>

7.14 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 above and consultations relating to the quantity of provision for young people include:

- responses from the household survey indicate the majority of residents (65%) feel that the provision of open space for young people is insufficient. Only 12% of respondents stated provision was about right or more than enough, supporting the perception of insufficient provision in Wyre Forest
- analysis of provision per 1000 residents indicates that the spread of facilities is relatively consistent across the District, although it is notably lower in the rural areas. This is also supported by the analysis of the number of facilities in each area
- across the individual analysis areas findings are consistent with the overall responses to the household survey. Over 61% of residents in each area indicate there is not enough provision, supporting the perception that there is insufficient provision.

**Setting provision standards – quantity**

7.15 The recommended local quantity standards have been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and are summarised overleaf. Full justification for each of the standards is provided within Appendix F.

7.16 Both standards require an increase on existing levels of provision in light of the findings of the local needs assessment, where there was an overwhelming concern that provision is insufficient.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.04 ha per 1000 population	0.05 ha per 1000 population
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The general consensus established throughout consultation was that there is a lack of provision of children’s play areas. Furthermore residents at drop in sessions and respondents to the IT children’s survey identified the need for increased provision for children, particularly in Kidderminster.</p> <p>In light of the conclusive perception of insufficient provision for children in Wyre Forest, it is recommended the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. This would ensure that opportunities to provide new play areas are taken and would also mean that where appropriate, new developments include suitable provision for children. The provision of facilities of suitable quality is particularly important considering that only 31% of residents feel the quality of play areas is good.</p> <p>The main complaint identified during consultation was a lack of interesting and exciting facilities. Therefore, a key consideration for the Council should be the design of any new provision, ensuring that it is fit for its purpose. One of the outcomes of the Worcestershire Play Strategy is that children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play and the Council should look to adhere to this.</p> <p>Although setting the standard above the existing level of provision creates a focus on increasing provision in the District, all play areas should achieve the recommended quality standard. This will require qualitative improvements to a number of sites in Wyre Forest.</p> <p>While setting a quantity standard above the existing level of provision is reflective of local expectations for a greater quantity of provision of play areas, it is the application of the accessibility standard that should determine the value of existing sites and identify areas where new provision is required. Setting a quantity standard above the existing level alongside a challenging accessibility standard should ensure that provision is equitably distributed.</p>	

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.018 ha per 1000 population	0.030 ha per 1000 population
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The insufficient provision of facilities for young people was a key theme raised throughout consultation. The dissatisfaction with the provision of this typology was one of the three most conclusive of all typologies. The lack of provision, coupled with a lack of appropriate facilities was acknowledged to have a negative effect on the quality of other typologies in the District, for example parks.</p> <p>The local standard has been set above the existing level of provision to address the need for the increased provision of facilities for young people. When combined with the accessibility standard, this will allow the identification of any locational deficiencies in the District and establish priorities for increased provision.</p> <p>Although setting the standard at this level will prioritise the provision of new facilities, the Council should be aware of the requirement to enhance the quality of facilities in Wyre Forest. This is particularly important, considering the quality of young people’s facilities was considered to be poor by respondents to the household survey.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

- 7.17 The quality of provision for children and young people was assessed through site visits. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 7.18 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in appendix G. Cleanliness and maintenance was perceived to be the key issue for both facilities for children and young people in Wyre Forest. For young people, security and safety was considered to be more important than the actual facilities at the site. The range and type of facilities took on greater importance in the provision of sites for children.
- 7.19 The quality of provision for children is summarised in Table 7.3 overleaf. Issues arising from the assessment of facilities for young people are set out in Table 7.4.

**Table 7.3 – Quality of provision for children**

<b>Geographical area</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Range of quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Average quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Lowest quality sites</b>	<b>Highest quality sites</b>
Bewdley	4	40 – 68	55	Bark Hill Play Area – ID 162	North Wood Lane Play Area – ID 312
Stourport	9	40 – 60	50	Hanstone Road Play Area – ID 540	Riverside Play Area – ID 535
Kidderminster East	10	38 – 72	59	Upton Road Play Area – ID 521	Borrington Park Play Area – ID 506
Kidderminster West	7	32 – 72	54	Lister Road Play Area – ID 192	Brinton Park Play Area – ID 167
Rural East	4	44 – 60	54	Wolverley Memorial Play Area – ID 44	Cookley Playing Fields Play Area – ID 21
Rural West	1	-	60	-	New Forest Close Play Area Play Area – ID 577
<b>Overall</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32 – 72</b>	<b>55</b>	Lister Road Play Area – ID 192	Brinton Park Play Area – ID 167



**Table 7.4 – Quality of provision for young people**

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	4	56 – 64	60	St Annes MAPA – ID 519	Shaw Hedge Road MAPA – ID 536
Stourport	4	40 – 70	57	Hanstone Road – ID 539	Riverside Park Young People – ID 534
Kidderminster East	6	40 – 62	57	Dunlin Drive MAPA – ID 43	Borrington Park MAPA – ID 505
Kidderminster West	4	40 – 66	56	Jubilee Drive – ID 172	Brinton Park Skatepark – ID 516
Rural East	2	58 – 60	59	Shaw Hedge Road Skate park – ID 537	Cookley Skate park – ID 543
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Overall</b>	20	40 – 70	57	Jubilee Drive – ID 172	Riverside Park Young People – ID 534

7.20 The key issues emerging from Tables 7.3 and 7.4 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for children and young people are:

- findings from the household survey highlight a split in opinion concerning the quality of children’s play areas. 31% of respondents feel the quality of play areas are good, 44% average and 25% poor. Analysis of the findings of the site assessments reveals that the overall quality of facilities is average (55%)
- within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed in three of the five analysis areas. This is supported by analysis of the average score in each area, which suggests that the overall quality of facilities is consistent across the District. However, in Kidderminster East the majority of residents feel the quality of this typology is good (38%) and in Kidderminster West 37% of residents state the quality of play areas is poor. This is reflected in the findings of the site assessments, which highlight a particular variation in the scores of sites in Kidderminster West (scores range from 32% to 72%). This indicates that facilities are of varying quality in this area
- 66% of respondents to the household survey state the quality of young people’s open space is poor and only 8% of residents indicate the quality of

facilities is good, highlighting that there is negativity surrounding the quality of provision for young people

- findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses; with over 58% of respondents in each analysis area indicating that the quality of young people's provision is poor. Like the responses emerging from the household survey, the quality of sites is consistent across the District, with the average score of a facility being 57%. Despite this, the scores achieved vary from 40% – 67% indicating that facilities are of varying quality in each of the areas
- as with children's provision, the lowest level of satisfaction is shown in Kidderminster West, with 82% of residents stating that the quality of young people's provision is poor. Scores of between 40% and 70% were achieved in this area; Jubilee Drive being the poorest facility and Brinton Park skatepark achieving the highest score.

**Setting provision standards – quality**

- 7.21 The recommended local quality standard for provision for children and young people is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 7.22 The quality standard summarises the key aspirations of residents of Wyre Forest with regards provision for children and young people.

**Quality Standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – provision for children</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/litter free	Dog free area	
Facilities for the young	Litter bins	
Toilets	On site security	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	<b>18%</b>	<b>2</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>43%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>15%</b>	<b>1</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>18%</b>	<b>3</b>
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for children.		

<b>Recommended standard – provision for young people</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>		<b>Desirable</b>
Equipment		Equipment maintenance
Good access		Clean/litter free
Range of facilities		Litter bins
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to facilities for young people, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	<b>46%</b>	<b>3</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>52%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>29%</b>	<b>1</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>41%</b>	<b>2</b>
Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for young people.		

**Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 7.23 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing opportunities for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 7.24 Local access to provision for children and young people is particularly important in order to promote use of the site. In some instances, territorial issues prevent young people from using facilities that would appear to be in close proximity to their home.
- 7.25 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.
- 7.26 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards to accessibility of provision for children and young people include:

## **SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- current and expected travel methods highlight a clear preference for walking to children’s play areas – this reinforces the expectation that facilities are provided locally
- 65% of respondents to the household survey indicated they prefer to walk to young people’s facilities – again there is an expectation that these facilities would be located in close proximity to the home
- site assessments reveal that access to facilities for both children and young people is generally average. However, one significant area identified for improvement was signage.

7.27 The recommended local accessibility standards for children and young people are summarised below. It can be seen that residents expect to travel further to reach facilities for young people than they do for children, however provision of both types of facilities is expected to be in close proximity to the home. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

7.28 It is recognised that some facilities may attract users from a wider catchment and this will be discussed in the analysis that follows. While these facilities do not negate the need for local provision, they provide an additional and frequently used District wide resource.

### **Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard – Provision for Children</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
73% of current users and 89% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to a children’s play area. In light of this, it is recommended a walk time be set to meet the expectations of current and prospective users.
A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended in line with the 75% threshold level and modal response. Setting a standard at this level will ensure the provision of locally accessible children’s play areas and allow for a balance between quantity and quality.

<b>Recommended standard – Provision for Young People</b>
<b>15 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
The majority of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to young people’s facilities (65%). However, within the rural area residents indicate a willingness to drive to young people’s facilities, indicating an expected lack of access to local facilities within a rural settlement.
A 15 minute walk time has been set based upon the 75% threshold level indicated in findings from the household survey. Setting a local standard at this level will highlight deficiencies in the area and allow for some young people’s facilities to be provided in larger strategic sites, such as parks. The local standard is broadly representative of the opinions of all residents in all areas.

## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Applying provision standards

- 7.29 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space, sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 7.30 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately. The application of these standards is set out below in Table 7.5. In light of the significance of the proximity of facilities to the home, the application of accessibility standards is particularly important.
- 7.31 The findings of the application of these standards should complement the principles set out in the play strategy and inform future decision making.

**Table 7.5 – Application of quantity standard**

Analysis areas	Children	Children	Young people	Young people
	Current balanced against local standard - children (0.05 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard - children (0.05 hectares per 1000 population)	Current balanced against local standard – young people (0.030 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard – young people (0.030 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	-0.06	-0.08	0.04	0.03
Stourport	0.16	0.11	-0.21	-0.24
Kidderminster East	-0.55	-0.63	-0.21	-0.25
Kidderminster West	-0.02	-0.09	-0.36	-0.40
Rural East	-0.16	-0.19	-0.16	-0.17
Rural West	-0.12	-0.12	-0.08	-0.09
Overall	-0.74	-1.01	-0.97	-1.13

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

- 7.32 The application of the local standard for quantity results in the following issues:
- in terms of children’s facilities, the application of the local standard (0.05ha per 1000 population) generates an overall shortfall in provision across the District of –1.01 hectares by 2026. Shortfalls will exist in all areas with the exception of Stourport, where provision will be sufficient to meet the minimum standard
  - shortfalls of provision for children are greatest in Kidderminster East, where an additional 0.63 hectares will be required by 2026
  - for young people’s facilities, the local standard of 0.29ha per 1000 population shows that up to 2026 all areas, except Bewdley analysis area (0.03 ha), will experience a shortfall in provision
  - the total deficiency across the District equates to -1.13 hectares, with Kidderminster West having the greatest shortfall (-0.40ha). Provision in Bewdley will only just be sufficient to meet demand.
- 7.33 In light of the local nature of both facilities for children and facilities for young people, consideration has been given to the application of the quantity standard at a ward level. This further highlights shortfalls and surpluses and is set out in Table 7.6 (children) and Table 7.7 (young people) overleaf.

## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**Table 7.6 – Provision of facilities for children by ward**

Ward	Population	Provision for children (hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Aggborough and Spennells	7,225	0.210	0.05	0.0290657	0.36125	-0.15125
Areley Kings	6,041	0.300	0.05	0.0496607	0.30205	-0.00205
Bewdley and Arley	6,295	0.150	0.05	0.0238284	0.31475	-0.16475
Blakedown and Chaddesley	4,264	0.120	0.05	0.0281426	0.2132	-0.0932
Broadwaters	7,787	0.360	0.05	0.0462309	0.38935	-0.02935
Cookley	2,491	0.150	0.05	0.0602168	0.12455	0.02545
Franche	7,071	0.300	0.05	0.0424268	0.35355	-0.05355
Greenhill	7,293	0.040	0.05	0.0054847	0.36465	-0.32465
Haberley and Blakebrook	6,477	0.460	0.05	0.0710205	0.32385	0.13615
Lickhill	7,131	0.340	0.05	0.0476791	0.35655	-0.01655
Mitton	6,541	0.510	0.05	0.0779697	0.32705	0.18295
Offmore and Comberton	6,901	0.100	0.05	0.0144907	0.34505	-0.24505
Oldington and Foley Park	5,261	0.300	0.05	0.0570234	0.26305	0.03695
Rock	2,366	0.020	0.05	0.0084531	0.1183	-0.0983
Sutton Park	7,167	0.220	0.05	0.0306962	0.35835	-0.13835
Wolverley	2,096	0.080	0.05	0.0381679	0.1048	-0.0248
Wribbenhall	4,574	0.250	0.05	0.0546568	0.2287	0.0213

7.34 It can be seen that there are only five wards where the level of provision for children is sufficient to meet the needs of the local population. The greatest shortfalls exist in:

- Greenhill – 0.32 ha
- Offmore and Comberton – 0.24 ha
- Bewdley and Arley – 0.16 ha
- Aggborough and Spennells – 0.15 ha.



## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Table 7.7 – Provision for young people by ward

Ward	Population	Provision for young people (hectares)	Local Standard (ha/1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Aggborough and Spennells	7,225	0.05	0.03	0.0069204	0.21675	-0.16675
Areley Kings	6,041	0.02	0.03	0.0033107	0.18123	-0.16123
Bewdley and Arley	6,295	0.04	0.03	0.0063542	0.18885	-0.14885
Blakedown and Chaddesley	4,264	0	0.03	0	0.12792	-0.12792
Broadwaters	7,787	0.16	0.03	0.0205471	0.23361	-0.07361
Cookley	2,491	0.14	0.03	0.0562023	0.07473	0.06527
Franche	7,071	0	0.03	0	0.21213	-0.21213
Greenhill	7,293	0	0.03	0	0.21879	-0.21879
Habberley and Blakebrook	6,477	0.05	0.03	0.0077196	0.19431	-0.14431
Lickhill	7,131	0.07	0.03	0.0098163	0.21393	-0.14393
Mitton	6,541	0.29	0.03	0.0443357	0.19623	0.09377
Offmore and Comberton	6,901	0.46	0.03	0.066657	0.20703	0.25297
Oldington and Foley Park	5,261	0.23	0.03	0.0437179	0.15783	0.07217
Rock	2,366	0	0.03	0	0.07098	-0.07098
Sutton Park	7,167	0.14	0.03	0.019534	0.21501	-0.07501
Wolverley	2,096	0	0.03	0	0.06288	-0.06288
Wribbenhall	4,574	0.29	0.03	0.0634018	0.13722	0.15278

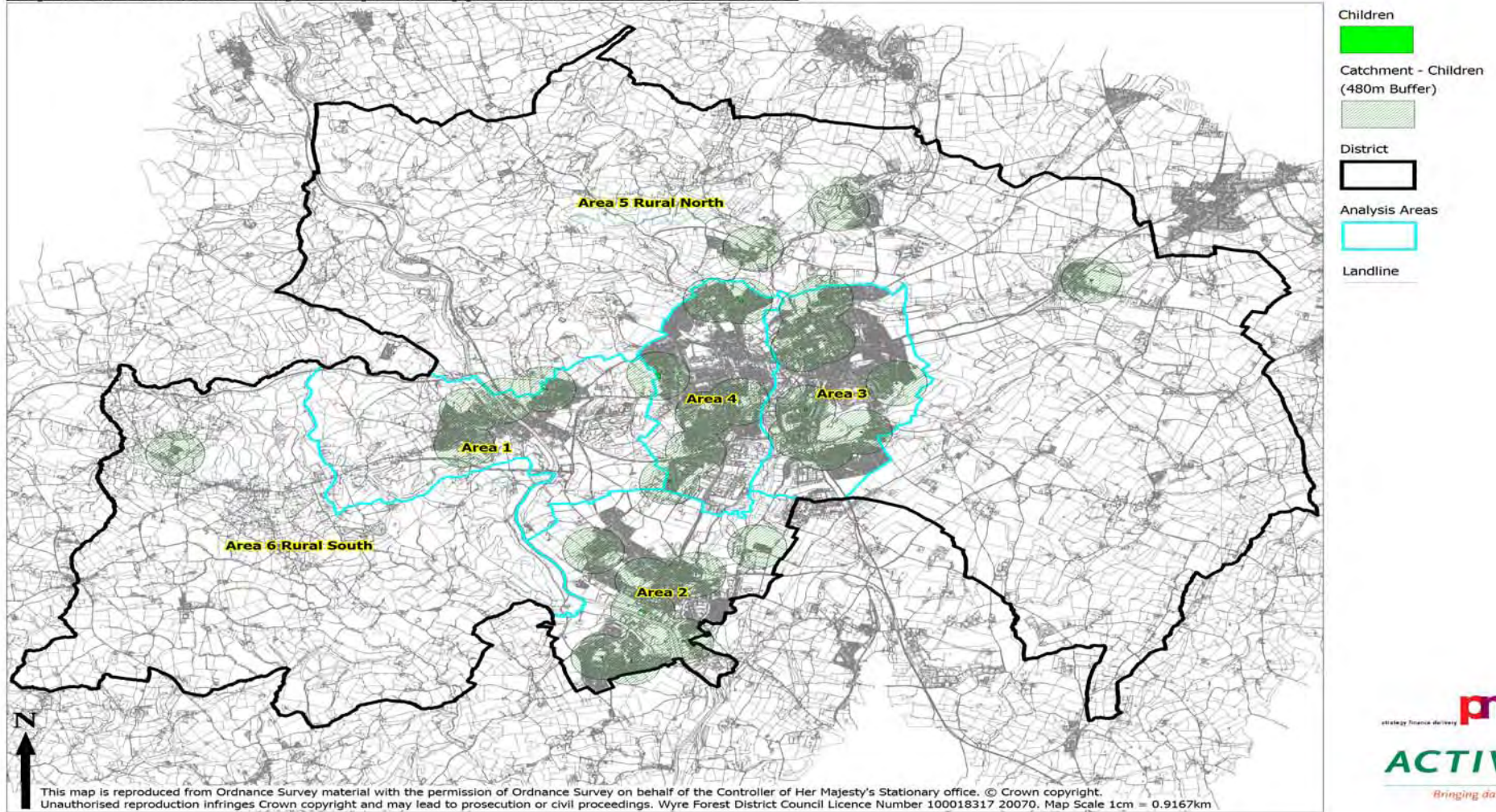
7.35 Similarly, there are only five wards where the level of provision for young people is sufficient to meet local needs. The wards that contain the largest deficiencies per 1000 population are:

- Greenhill – 0.22 ha
- Franche – 0.21 ha
- Aggborough and Spennells – 0.17
- Areley Kings – 0.16 ha.

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

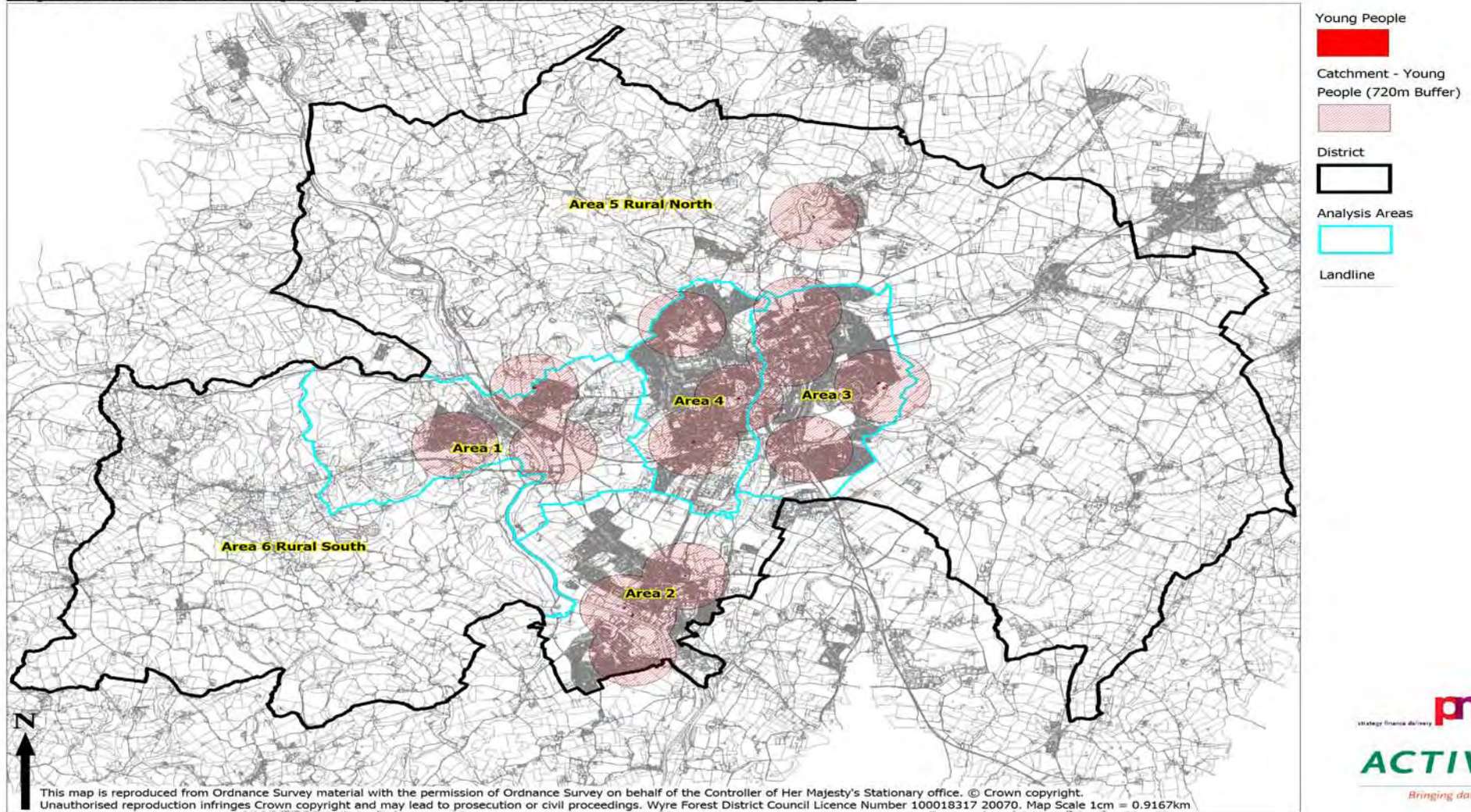
Map 7.1 – Provision for children in Wyre Forest

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Children**



Map 7.2 – Provision for young people in Wyre Forest

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Young People**



## **SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

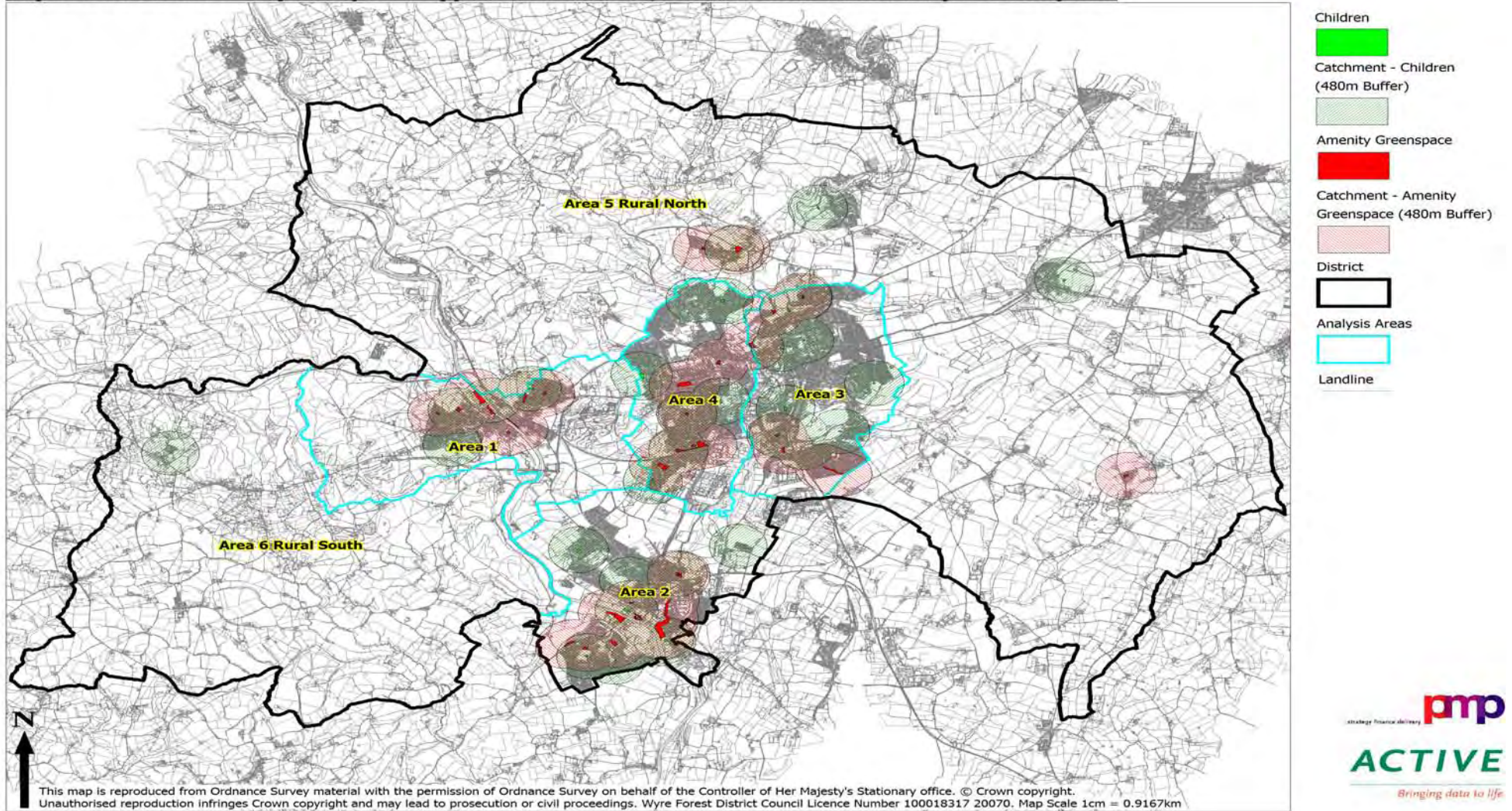
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- 7.37 Map 7.1 highlights that there is an even distribution of children's play areas across the District, with the majority of residents within the recommended 10 minute catchment of a play area. However, despite this equitable distribution of facilities, there remain some key areas of deficiency, particularly in Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas.
- 7.38 Additionally, it is clear from Map 7.1 that a number of facilities for children have overlapping catchments and are therefore serving similar residents. This suggests that there may be scope for the rationalisation of play areas in some parts of Wyre Forest (although it will be important to analyse the specific value of each site in detail).
- 7.39 Map 7.2 illustrates that there is a good distribution of young people's facilities across the District, however, predominantly due to the lack of facilities for young people in Wyre Forest, a number of areas are outside the recommended distance threshold of a facility. This is particularly evident in the Kidderminster analysis areas and north of the Stourport analysis area.
- 7.40 While this section focuses primarily on equipped areas for children and young people, it is also essential to consider the role that amenity green spaces play in reducing the need for the provision of facilities for young people and children. Areas deficient in both amenity space and formal facilities should be a particular priority for new provision, as this indicates that there is a distinct lack of opportunities. The provision of amenity green space in relation to facilities for children and young people is set out overleaf in Maps 7.3 and 7.4.

**SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

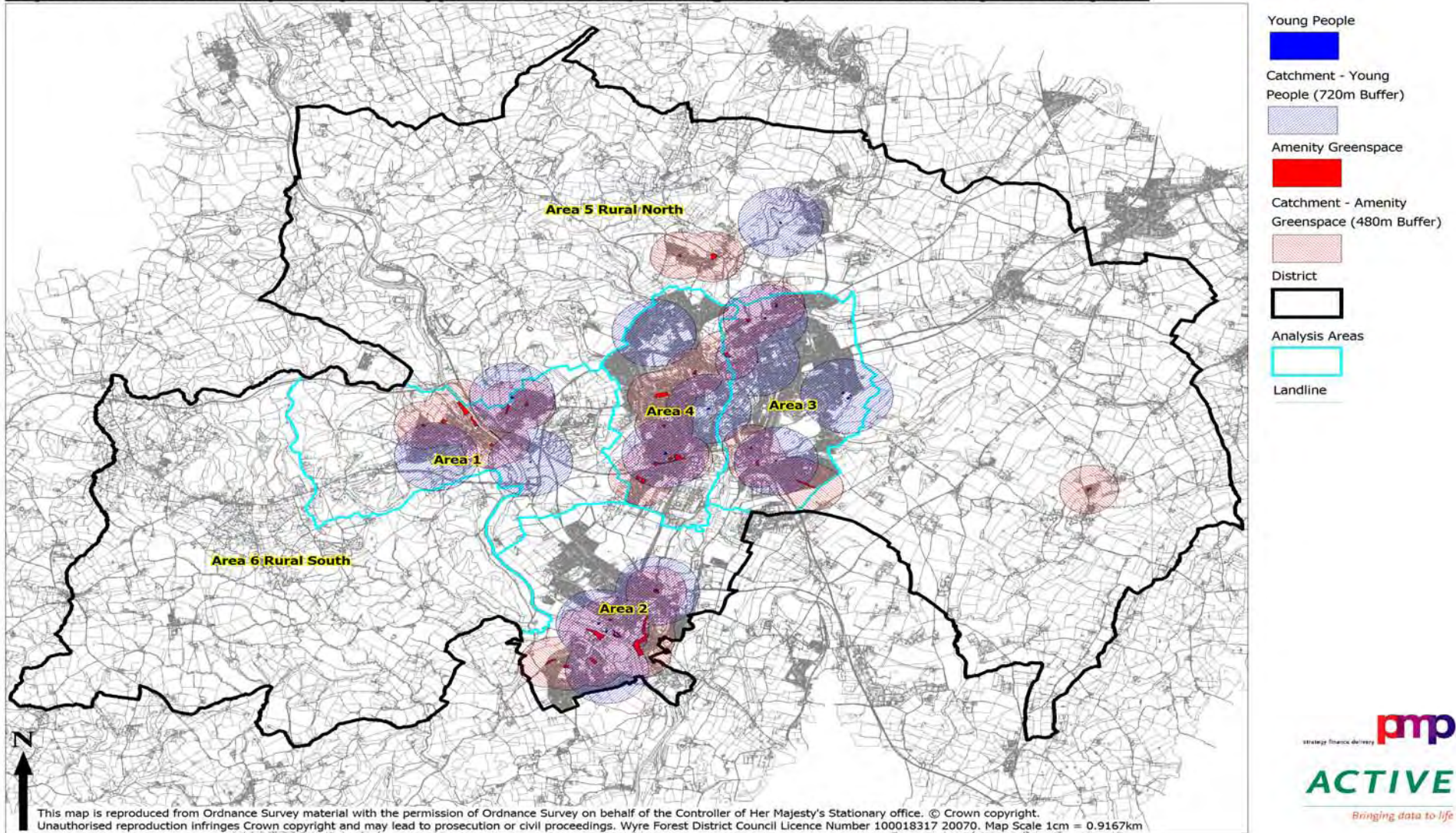
**Map 7.3 – Provision for children and amenity green space**

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Children and Amenity Greenspace**



Map 7.4 – Provision for young people and amenity green space

**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Young People and Amenity Greenspace**



## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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- 7.41 Map 7.3 illustrates that when combining the provision of children’s play areas and amenity green space the majority of residents have access to at least one of these typologies. However, despite this, key areas of deficiency in Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas remain.
- 7.42 Similar to the findings for children’s facilities, when the provision of amenity green space and young people’s facilities is amalgamated the majority of residents have access to at least one of these typologies. Despite this, a large proportion of residents in the north of the Stourport analysis area and west of the Kidderminster West analysis area are outside the recommended catchment of either typology. Specific deficiencies will be returned to later in this section.

### Quality of provision

- 7.43 While the quantity of provision was the overriding theme of consultations, the quality of provision was also considered to be important and many existing facilities were criticised for the lack of innovative and exciting play equipment.
- 7.44 The site assessments provide an indication of the quality of existing facilities and it is clear that there is significant variation across the District. The quality standard and related site assessments should inform a programme of improvements, highlighting sites in need of upgrading. Sites serving unique catchments that are considered to be of poor quality should be given particular priority.
- 7.45 The Worcestershire Play Strategy identifies the need to provide facilities containing an element of risk.

<b>C1</b>	Use the findings of the quality assessment to inform a programme of improvements across facilities for children and young people. Where the opportunity arises, priority should be given to poor quality play areas serving unique catchments. Consideration should be given to the provision of an appropriate variety of facilities.
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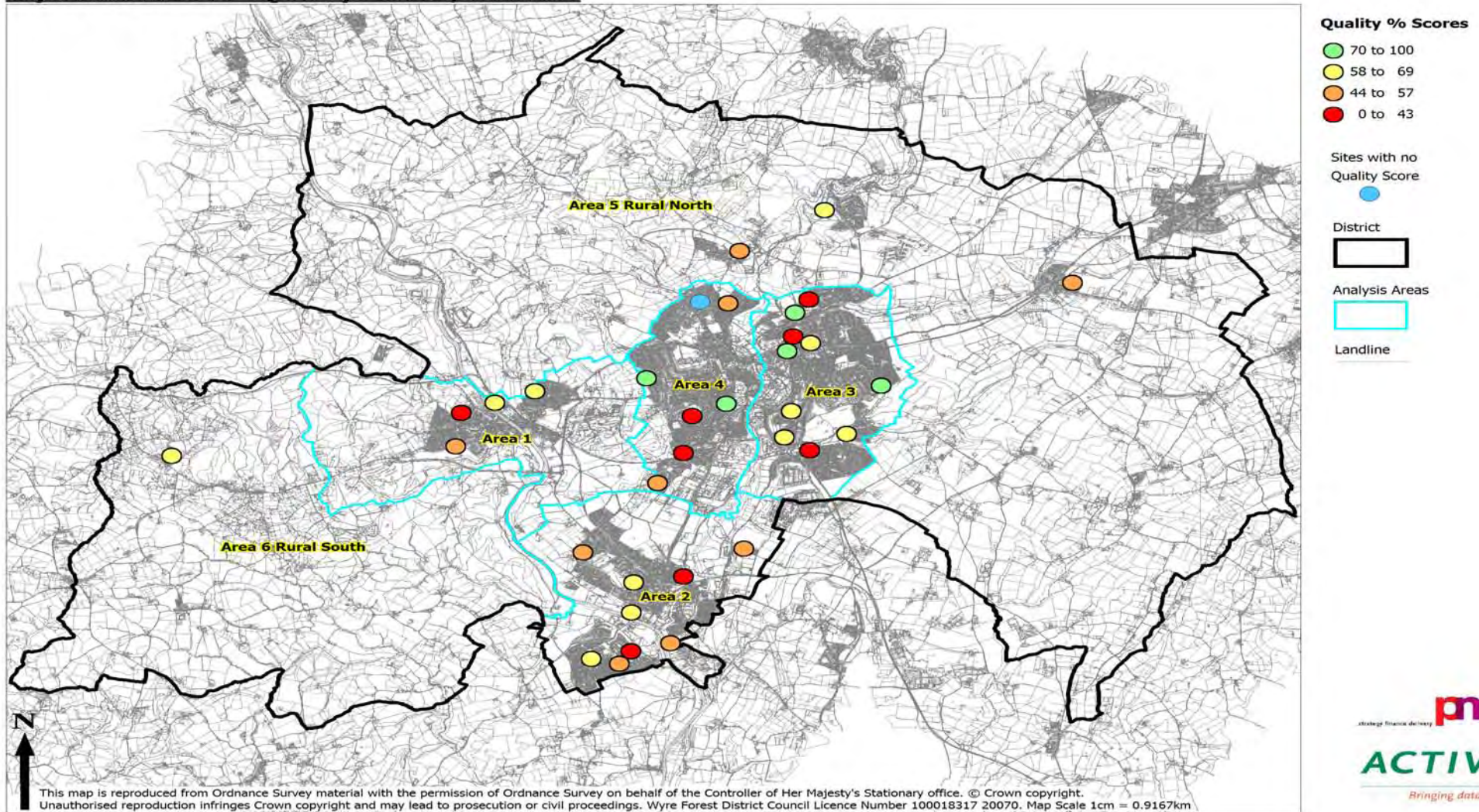
- 7.46 Further related to the development of high quality opportunities for play for both children and young people is the need to involve the target audience in the design and development of facilities. This will be particularly important in light of the overwhelming dissatisfaction with the quality and variety of existing sites and is also a key priority of the Worcestershire Play Strategy.

<b>C2</b>	Encourage and facilitate involvement of young people and children in the design and development of local facilities.
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- 7.47 The distribution of the quality of children’s play areas and young people’s facilities can be seen on Maps 7.5 and 7.6 overleaf. This highlights that there are clusters of high quality and poorer quality facilities.

Map 7.5 – Quality of children’s play areas in Wyre Forest

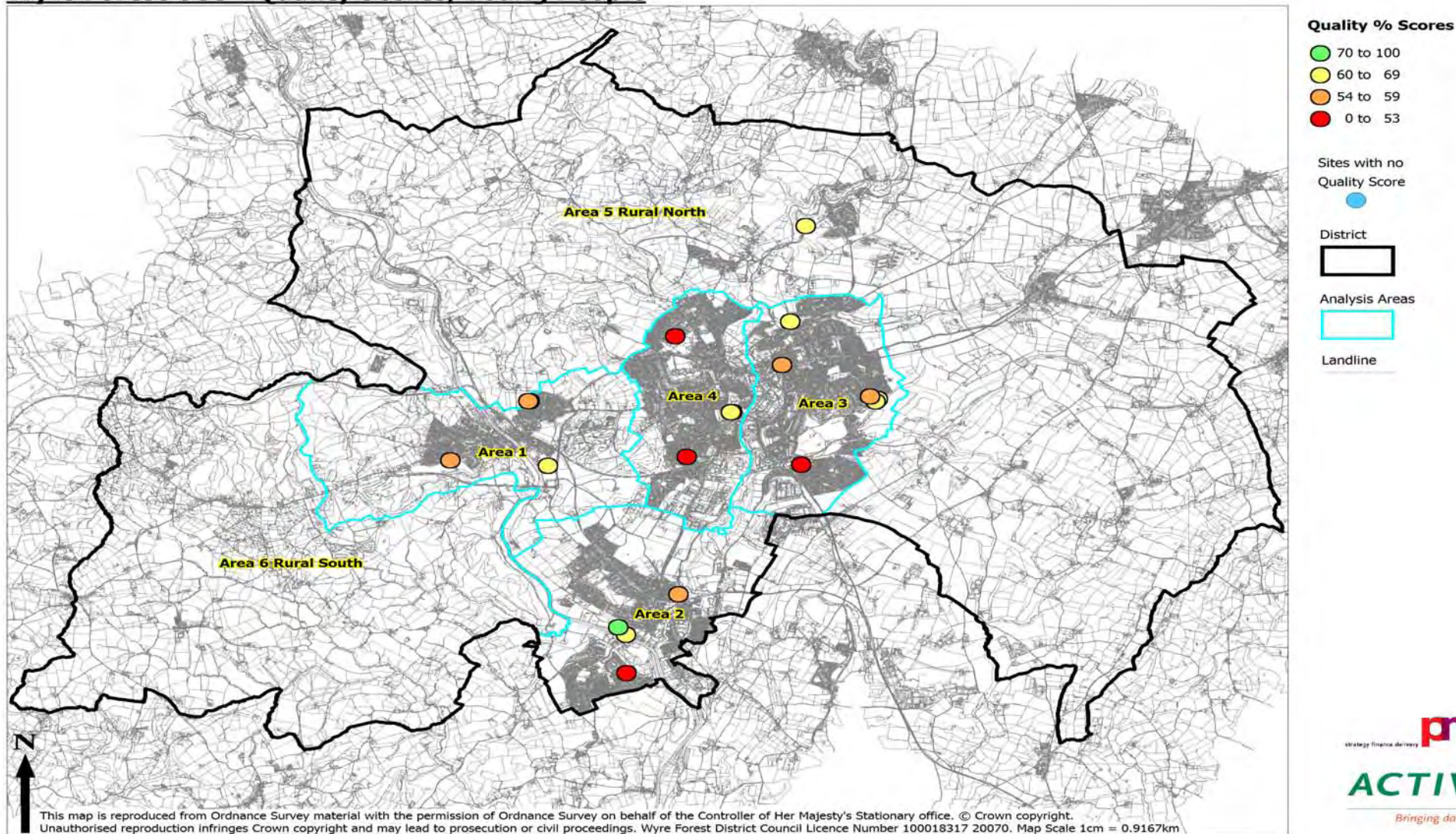
**Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Children**





Map 7.6 – Quality of young people’s facilities in Wyre Forest

**Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Young People**



## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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- 7.48 Map 7.5 illustrates the poor quality of children’s play areas within Wyre Forest, particularly evident in the Stourport analysis area. High quality facilities are concentrated in the Kidderminster analysis areas, highlighting a poor distribution of high quality facilities in the District.
- 7.49 Similar to the application of the quality standard for children’s play areas, map 7.6 shows the poor quality of young people’s facilities within Wyre Forest. The quality of sites within each analysis area is consistent, however the only high quality site is located within the Stourport analysis area.
- 7.50 As well as guiding the enhancement of existing sites, the quality standard should also drive new provision and all new sites should be developed taking into account the identified aspirations of the local residents.

<b>C3</b>	Any new facilities should meet the recommended quality standard. Provision of a range of facilities and effective maintenance were perceived to be of particular importance.
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- 7.51 Consideration should be given to the feasibility of delivering new sites in partnership with schools, to maximise usage of the facilities and ensure best possible use of resources.

<b>C4</b>	Investigate opportunities to deliver new facilities for both children and young people at school sites. These facilities would meet the needs of the community at the same time as optimising the use of resources.
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- 7.52 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each analysis area through the interpretation of the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments. In terms of locating priority areas for new facilities, new provision should be targeted at those areas outside the distance threshold where there are sufficient people to justify new provision. This emphasises the importance of access in determining the need for new provision for children.

### **Bewdley analysis area**

- 7.53 Analysis of the quantity standard for children’s provision indicates that by 2026 there will be insufficient provision to meet local need (-0.08 ha). Although there is a small quantitative shortfall in the provision of children’s play areas, application of the accessibility standard reveals that the majority of residents in this area of the District are within the recommended catchment of a site. Only Bewdley town centre is outside of the catchment area for a facility (Figure 7.2).

**Figure 7.2 – Deficiency in Bewdley town centre**



- 7.54 Although Severn Side South (located in Bewdley town centre) is primarily a residential area, Bewdley town centre is predominately a commercial area and therefore the provision of a play area in this part of Bewdley would have limited value.
- 7.55 Additionally, Northwood Lane Play Area is located in close proximity to this area of deficiency. This is a large play area that is of strategic importance to the District and has a wider catchment than many of the local facilities. As well as serving local residents, people are willing to travel further to use this facility.
- 7.56 In light of the location of this site in close proximity to the central area, along with the limited number of residents in the area of deficiency, increasing access from Bewdley town centre and maintaining the high quality standard of this site should be a priority. This may include maximising signage to the site to increase the awareness of visitors to the area.

<b>C5</b>	Seek to increase access and maintain the high quality standard of Northwood Lane Play Area.
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- 7.57 The provision of Jubilee Gardens in Bewdley, the only Green Flag park in the District, also provides many recreational opportunities for visitors to Bewdley town centre as well as local residents.
- 7.58 In consideration of the even distribution of children’s play areas and the location of Northwood Lane Play Area in the Bewdley analysis area, the future focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of current facilities.

<b>C6</b>	Seek to achieve the recommended quality standard at all play areas in Bewdley analysis area. Use the findings from the site assessments to identify specific sites in need of priority improvements.
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7.59 Quantitative analysis reveals that the Bewdley analysis area is the only area in the District that will have sufficient provision of young people’s facilities by 2026 (0.03 ha). Accessibility mapping illustrates that the majority of residents have access to a young people’s facility, however as with children’s provision, residents in Bewdley town centre are outside the recommended catchment for facilities for young people (figure 7.3).

**Figure 7.3 – Deficiency in Bewdley town centre**



7.60 As highlighted earlier, this area of Bewdley is not predominantly residential and therefore does not specifically require facilities for young people. The location of Jubilee Gardens (a strategic park in the District) and good provision of amenity green space in the area also means residents located in an area deficient in the provision of young people’s facilities have access to an amenity green space and park.

7.61 In consideration of the above, the Council should aim to increase access to existing young people’s facilities in the area. Should the need arise, consideration could be given to the new provision of a young people’s facility at one of the larger amenity green space sites, for example Greenacres Lane (2.14 ha).

<b>C7</b>	Seek to increase access to existing young people’s facilities in the area. Should the need arise, consider the provision of a new young people’s facility within Greenacres Lane amenity green space.
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**Stourport analysis area**

7.62 Application of the quantity standard indicates that the Stourport analysis area has sufficient provision for children to meet current and future needs. Stourport analysis area is the only area in Wyre Forest where there is sufficient provision of facilities for children to meet the minimum quantity standard. Accessibility mapping reinforces

this good level of provision, with nearly all residents able to access a children’s play area within the recommended travel time. The only clear area of deficiency can be found to the north west of Stourport town centre (figure 7.4).

**Figure 7.4 – Deficiency to the north west of Stourport town centre**



7.63 The majority of residents in the area deficient of provision for children, can access Memorial Park within the recommended catchment threshold. Within this park is a children’s play area, however due to the location of this site in the park residents are outside the accessibility threshold and therefore access to this play area and others in the District should be increased to provide opportunities for those residents located in an area of deficiency.

<b>C8</b>	Seek to increase access to children’s play areas in Stourport analysis area, particularly access to larger, valuable sites such as Memorial Park Play Area.
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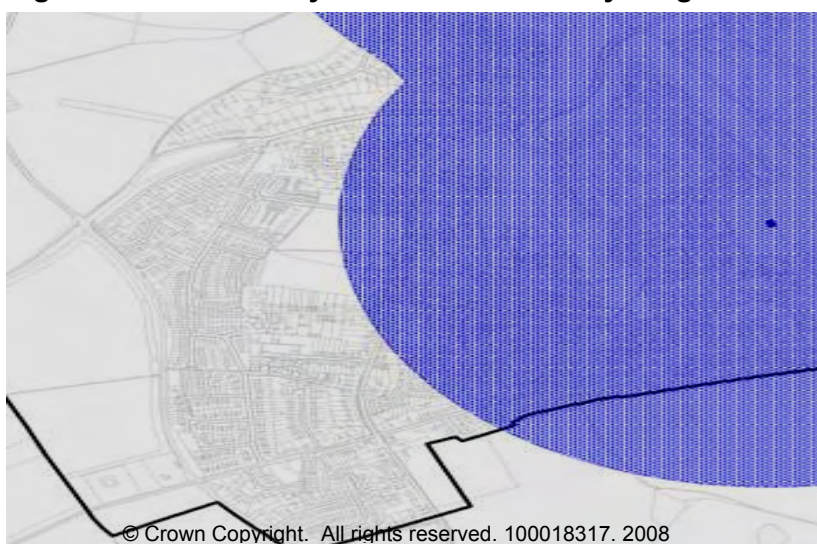
7.64 One other area of deficiency in the analysis area can be found to the east of Stourport town centre. Although residents in this area are outside the catchment of a children’s play area, an industrial works takes up a large proportion of this area and therefore there is no need for a facility in this location. This area is characterised by high density housing and there are therefore limited opportunities to provide a new facility. Despite this, consideration should be given to demand for further provision in this area, particularly in light of lack of green space in the area.

7.65 The provision for young people in Stourport analysis area is insufficient to meet current and future needs. Based on 2026 population projections there will be a shortfall of -0.24 hectares. Application of the accessibility standard reinforces this shortfall, with the key areas of deficiency located to the north west of Stourport town centre and to the west of Areley Kings (Figures 7.5 and 7.6) overleaf.

**Figure 7.5 – Deficiency to the north west of Stourport town centre**



**Figure 7.6 – Deficiency to the west of Areley Kings**



- 7.66 The majority of residents outside the accessibility catchment of a young people’s facility to the north west of Stourport town centre are within the catchment area of Memorial Park. This park is the largest park in Stourport (10 ha) and to alleviate deficiencies, consideration could be given to the provision of a new facility within this park.

<b>C9</b>	Consider the provision of a new young people’s facility within Memorial Park.
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- 7.67 The deficiency of young people’s provision to the west of Areley Kings is a key issue considering the majority of residents in this area cannot access a park or garden or amenity green space. In light of this, opportunities for new provision in this area should be seized.

<b>C10</b>	Seize opportunities to provide new young people’s facilities in Areley Kings.
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7.68 The lack of innovative play opportunities was a key theme throughout consultation. ‘The Wild Walshes Play Project’ will ensure the development of natural play at Layamon Walk in Stourport. As part of the project a BMX track, stone monoliths and seating and landscaping will be included. The project will also increase access to Redstone Marsh Nature Reserve, reconnecting people with natural open space. The project will provide excellent opportunities for both children and young people.

<b>C11</b>	Encourage the development of ‘The Wild Walshes Play Project’ within Stourport to ensure maximum benefit for children and young people is gained from this project.
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**Kidderminster East analysis area**

7.69 The Kidderminster East analysis area has the greatest quantitative shortfall of children’s play areas in the District (-0.63 ha). Application of the accessibility standard exemplifies this shortfall with a large proportion of residents in the centre of the analysis area outside of the recommended catchment of a children’s play area (Figure 7.7).

**Figure 7.7 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster East analysis area**



7.70 The deficiency of provision in this area is particularly important as the majority of residents are also outside of the catchment for an amenity green space or a park and garden. The location of the railway line also reduces the catchment of existing facilities in this area, particularly in Greenhill and Comberton, which further exacerbates existing deficiencies. New provision in this area of Wyre Forest should be a key priority.

<b>C12</b>	Provide a new facility for children within existing areas of deficiency in the Kidderminster East analysis area.
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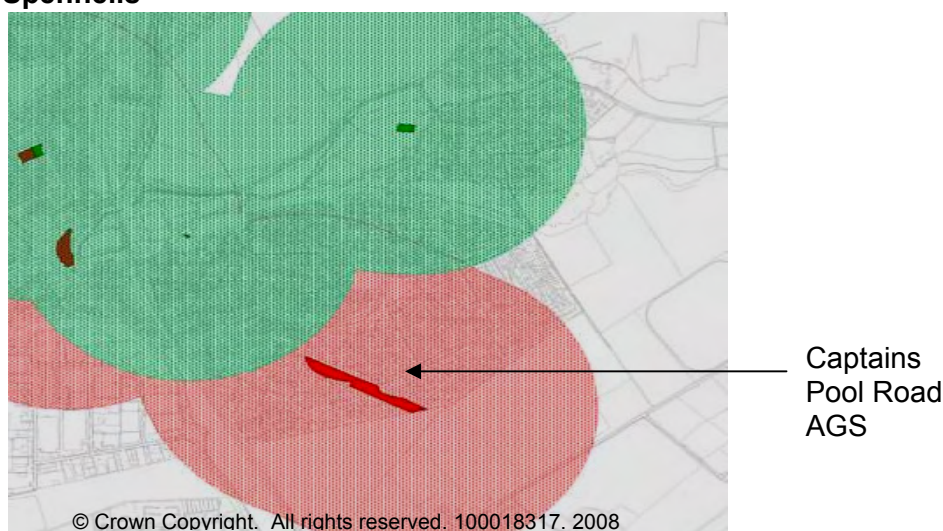
## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.71 Sites to the north of Kidderminster town centre are in close proximity to one another and serve the same population. This creates clear deficiencies in Greenhill and Offmore and consideration should be given to the redistribution of existing play areas to alleviate deficiencies in these areas of Kidderminster. Unsurprisingly, the application of the quantity standards reinforces this with the greatest shortfall in the provision of children's play areas being found in Offmore and Comberton ward.

<b>C13</b>	Consider the redistribution of children's play areas north of Kidderminster town centre to extend the catchments to residents located in areas of deficiency. Offmore and Comberton ward is a particular priority.
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- 7.72 Analysis on a ward-by-ward basis reveals that Aggborough and Spennells ward has the fourth highest deficiency in the District (-0.15 ha). Within Spennells, a large proportion of residents cannot access a children's play area, however when combining the provision of children's play areas and amenity green space it can be seen that all residents in this area have access to either an amenity green space or children's play area (Figure 7.8).

**Figure 7.8 – Provision of children's play areas and amenity green space in Spennells**



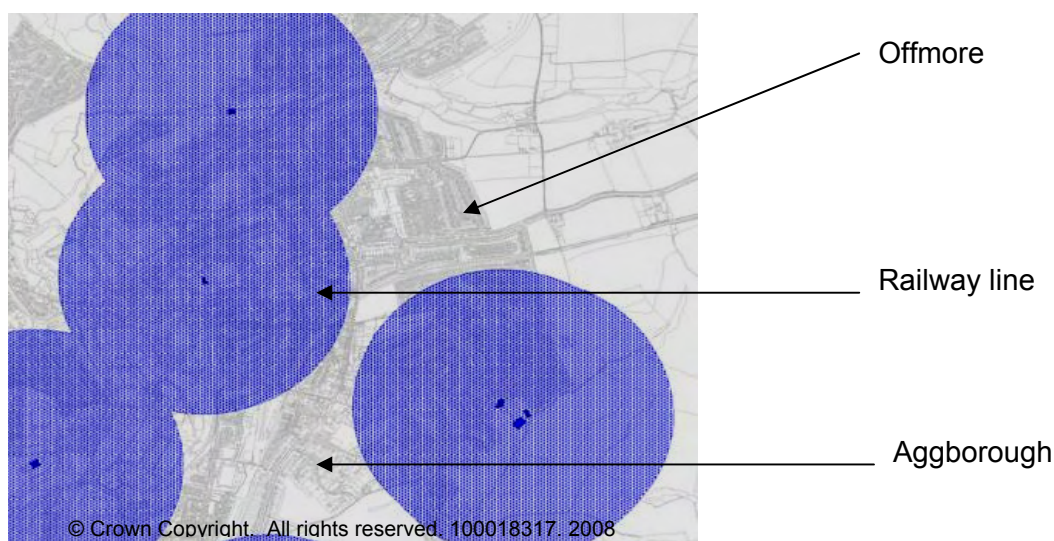
- 7.73 The location of Captains Pool Road, a large amenity green space (1.1 ha) provides a significant opportunity for a new children's play area in this area of deficiency.

<b>C14</b>	Consider the provision of a new facility for children within Captains Pool Road AGS.
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- 7.74 As with provision for children, the Kidderminster East analysis area has a large quantitative shortfall with the provision for young people (-0.25 ha). Application of the accessibility standard highlights similar areas of deficiency found with children's provision. A significant amount of residents located in Greenhill, Offmore and Comberton are unable to access a young person's facility within the recommended 15 minute walk time (Figure 7.9). Deficiencies are further extended with the location of the railway line creating a natural barrier to access and therefore reducing the catchment of a young people's facility.



**Figure 7.9 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster East analysis area**



- 7.75 The location of amenity green space and parks and gardens in the Kidderminster East analysis area means the majority of residents located in areas outside the catchment of a young people’s facility are also unable to access an amenity green space or park and garden.
- 7.76 The key areas of deficiency are located in Aggborough and Offmore (illustrated in Figure 7.9). In consideration of the lack of amenity green space and parks and gardens in these areas, the new provision of a young people’s facility should be a priority.

<b>C15</b>	Prioritise the new provision of young people’s facilities within Aggborough and Offmore.
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**Kidderminster West analysis area**

- 7.77 Application of the quantity standard reveals Kidderminster West will experience a shortfall in the provision of children’s play areas of -0.09 hectares by 2026. Accessibility mapping further illustrates this shortfall, with the majority of residents in the north of the analysis area outside the recommended accessibility catchment of a children’s play area (Figure 7.10).

**Figure 7.10 – Deficiency in the north of Kidderminster West analysis area**



## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 7.78 Brinton Park Play Area is located in close proximity. This play area is identified as a strategic site and attracts users from a far larger catchment than the local standard of a 10 minute walk time. While this does not negate the need for localised provision, this site serves the majority of residents located in this area of deficiency.

<b>C16</b>	Seek to increase access to Brinton Park Play Area to maximise the opportunities the site provides for residents located in areas of deficiency.
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- 7.79 The distribution of amenity green space in the analysis area means the majority of residents in the centre of the area of deficiency have access to an amenity green space (Figure 7.11 below). Within this area is Woodbury Road AGS and this site is a large site (2 ha) that could be considered for the provision of a new play area.

**Figure 7.11 – Provision for children and amenity green space in Kidderminster West analysis area**



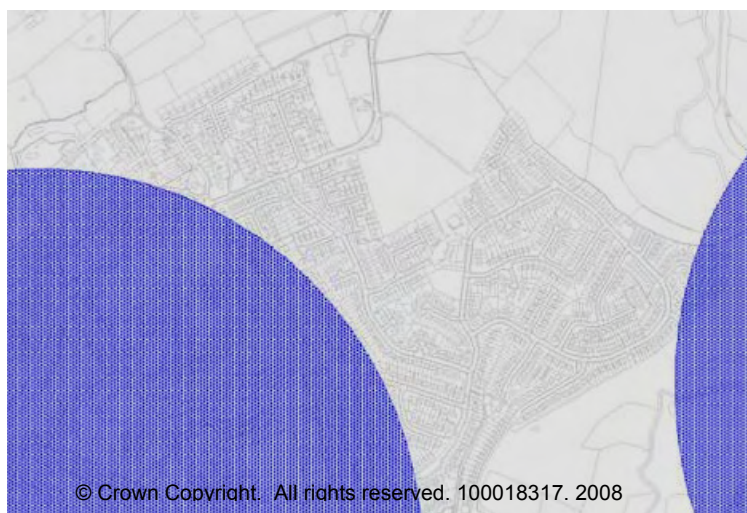
<b>C17</b>	Consider the provision of a new play area within Woodbury Road AGS.
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- 7.80 Although the provision of amenity green space helps alleviate deficiencies in the centre of the area of deficiency, the majority of residents in Franche and Habberley are outside the catchment threshold of a young people's facility and an amenity green space. Furthermore, consultation highlighted that a lack of facilities for young people is causing particular issues in Franche. Opportunities to address deficiencies in these areas should be seized.

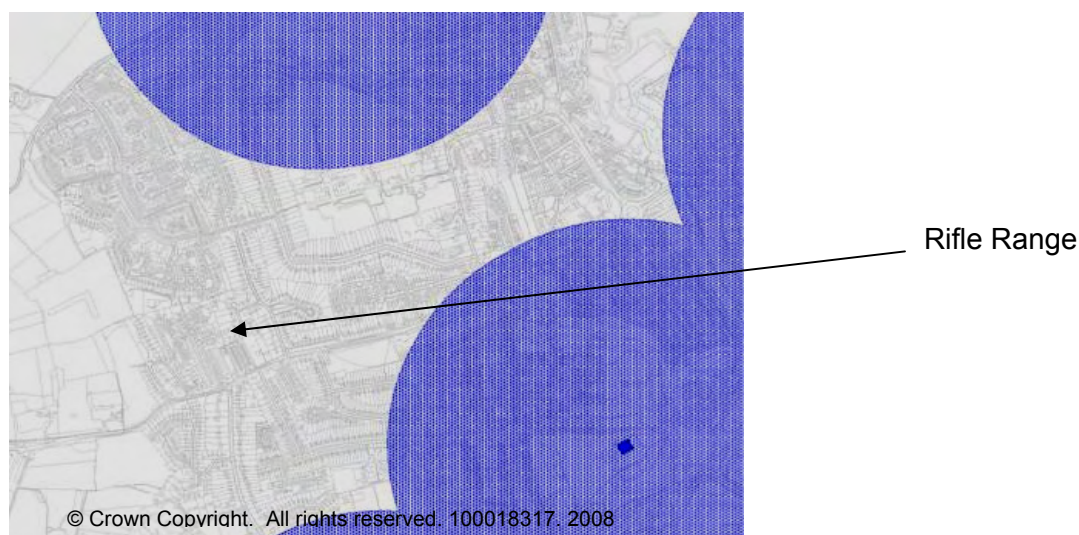
<b>C18</b>	Seize opportunities to provide a new facility for young people within Franche and Habberley.
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7.81 Quantitative analysis of facilities for young people in the Kidderminster West analysis area highlights a shortfall of -0.40 ha by 2026. This shortfall is the greatest in the District and analysis on a ward by ward basis shows that the Aggborough and Spennells ward, located in this analysis area, has the third greatest deficiency of all wards in Wyre Forest (-0.17 ha). Application of the accessibility standard illustrates this shortfall, with clear areas of deficiency located in the north east and centre of the analysis area (Figures 7.12 – 7.13).

**Figure 7.12 – Deficiencies in the north east of the Kidderminster West analysis area**



**Figure 7.13 – Deficiencies in the centre of the Kidderminster West analysis area**



7.82 The majority of residents in these areas of deficiency are also outside the recommended catchment of an amenity green space, however the location of Brinton Park in the analysis area, a large strategic park, does in reality provide access to a park for all residents in the area. Within Brinton Park is a variety of young people's facilities and therefore focus should be placed on increasing access to Brinton Park. Consideration should also be given to the provision of a young people's facility within

## SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

the north east of the analysis area due to the fact that residents in this area do not have access to young people's facility or amenity green space.

<b>C19</b>	Focus on increasing access to Brinton Park. Consider any potential opportunities of new provision of a young people's facility within the north east region of the Kidderminster West analysis area.
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- 7.83 Within the centre of the Kidderminster West analysis area the Rifle Range is an area of significant deprivation. A large proportion of residents within this area of deprivation are outside the recommended catchment of a young people's facility. The location of Bewdley Hill AGS, in close proximity to this area, is a large amenity green space that provides potential opportunities for new provision. As highlighted in section 4, this amenity green space is recommended as a potential upgrade to a local park and therefore a young people's facility could be incorporated within this site.

<b>C20</b>	Prioritise the new provision of a young people's facility in the centre of Kidderminster West analysis area. Consider the location of a new young people's facility within Bewdley Hill AGS.
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### Rural East analysis area

- 7.84 Provision for both children and young people is particularly challenging within a rural area, as even residents living in small villages expect access to a facility. In order to effectively serve residents, it is therefore likely that the level of provision would exceed the recommended minimum standard.
- 7.85 There are frequently few opportunities to provide formal play facilities within villages, and any new development of facilities should take into account the demand from the local community.
- 7.86 Wyre Forest District Council is offering more play opportunities for children living in rural and deprived areas of the District through 'The Play Ranger Project'. This project enables children who have limited access or insufficient provision of play areas in the area, to play in close proximity to their homes by providing adult supervision for children. This scheme is expected to benefit thousands of children in Wyre Forest and is a particularly valuable resource to residents in the rural and deprived areas of the District.

<b>C21</b>	Continue the development of 'The Play Ranger Project' in deprived and rural areas of the District.
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- 7.87 Application of the quantity standard would suggest that based on the median size of existing facilities within Wyre Forest, a play area should be provided as a minimum if the population of a village exceeds 1480. Decisions regarding the provision of facilities in other smaller settlements should be based on demand from the local residents. Consideration should be given to the deliverability of play facilities on school sites to maximise the use of resources.

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- 7.88 It should be ensured that all villages have at least one type of informal open space where play can be promoted.

<b>C22</b>	Protect rural facilities and support parish Councils in the ongoing provision and maintenance of these sites. Provide new facilities in areas where there is sufficient population or where local demand is expressed.
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- 7.89 In a similar vein, effective provision for young people is challenging within the rural area and it would not be realistic to expect dedicated facilities for young people in every village. Alternative solutions should be explored to ensure that local needs are met, for example the provision of mobile facilities for young people or the Play Ranger project. Additionally, it will be essential to ensure good public transport links between villages and facilities to maximise opportunities for young people. Many residents also raised the opportunities arising through improvements to existing green corridor networks, which could allow young people to cycle to different settlements safely in order to reach facilities.

<b>C23</b>	Consider public transport links in the planning and development of new facilities for young people and ensure that facilities are accessible to young people within the rural area.
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- 7.90 While it is recognised that provision is particularly challenging in the rural area, key areas of deficiency are discussed below.
- 7.91 Application of the quantity standard reveals that the provision of children's play areas in the Rural East analysis area is insufficient to meet current and future needs. Although there is a quantitative shortfall in the area, accessibility mapping highlights that facilities are evenly distributed, with the majority of residents able to access a children's play area within the recommended accessibility catchment. There are a number of smaller settlements, such as Chaddesley Corbett, that do not have a children's play area, however based on the local standard (0.05 ha per 1000 population) the provision of a play area within these settlements would not be expected.
- 7.92 One area of concern is the location of the railway line in Blakedown, which reduces access to the only facility in this settlement, meaning residents in the west of Blakedown are outside the recommended catchment of a children's play area.
- 7.93 Based on the good distribution of children's play areas in the Rural East analysis area, focus should be placed on enhancing access to and improving existing facilities. It may necessary to adopt a partnership approach with other providers.

<b>C24</b>	Seek to improve access to existing children's play areas in the Rural East analysis area, taking into account natural barriers that may affect access.
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- 7.94 Consistent with the findings for children’s provision, there is a shortfall of young people’s provision in the Rural East analysis area. As highlighted, in the rural areas, in order to achieve an even distribution of facilities it is likely that provision above the minimum standard will be required, due to the dispersed nature of settlements.
- 7.95 Based on future population projections there will be a deficiency of 0.17 ha. Application of the accessibility standard further exemplifies this shortfall, with only residents in Cookley able to access a young people’s facility. Clear areas of deficiency are evident in larger settlements in the analysis area, such as Fairfield and Blakedown (Figures 7.14 and 7.15).

**Figure 7.14 – Deficiencies in Fairfield**



**Figure 7.15 – Deficiencies in Blakedown**



- 7.96 Local consultation revealed the highest dissatisfaction with the provision of young people’s facilities was in the rural areas of the District and although based on the local quantity standard there is no specific requirement to provide a dedicated facility in both Blakedown and Fairfield, opportunities to provide new facilities (or alternative play opportunities) within these areas of the analysis area should be investigated.

<b>C25</b>	Investigate opportunities for the provision of facilities (or alternative play opportunities) for young people in Fairfield and Blakedown. As highlighted, links with other settlements will be of particular importance in these areas.
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**Rural West analysis area**

- 7.97 Only one children’s play area, New Forest Close Play Area, is located within the Rural West analysis area and application of the local standard indicates there is a shortfall of children’s provision within this area of the District. Accessibility mapping illustrates that only residents in Far Forest have access to a children’s play area.
- 7.98 Despite only residents in Far Forest being within the recommended accessibility catchment of a children’s play area, based on the quantity standard, there is no need to provide a dedicated facility within any other settlement in the analysis area. Therefore, demand for new provision within villages such as Rock should be monitored and new facilities provided where there is sufficient demand to warrant one. The provision of alternative opportunities through the Play Rangers Scheme should also be explored.

<b>C26</b>	Monitor the demand for new provision within various settlements in the analysis area. Consider the provision of a new play area in settlements that indicate sufficient demand.
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- 7.99 A significant undersupply of young people’s provision in the Rural West analysis area is evident, with no facilities located within the analysis area. Application of the quantity standard further illustrates this deficiency, highlighting a future requirement of 0.09 ha by 2026. As with the northern rural area, while no single settlement is sufficiently large to justify a facility when measured against the quantity standard, it will be important to monitor demand for facilities and consider opportunities for alternative play.
- 7.100 In light of this undersupply of young people’s facilities within this area of the District, appropriate locations for new provision within larger settlements should be identified.

<b>C27</b>	Identify appropriate locations for the provision of young people’s facilities within the Rural West analysis area. As highlighted, links with other settlements will be of particular importance in these areas.
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**Summary and recommendations**

- 7.101 Equipped provision for children and young people was the overriding theme of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

## **SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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- 7.102 The recommended local standards address these issues, setting challenging criteria that can be used to identify priority areas. Analysis of existing facilities highlight that there is significant variation in the quality of sites although sites are distributed relatively evenly across the District.
- 7.103 Application of the standards highlights particular priorities for new provision in the Kidderminster East and Kidderminster West analysis areas. In contrast, residents in the Bewdley analysis area have a greater access to facilities for young people and children and there are fewer accessibility and/or quantity deficiencies.
- 7.104 Any new facilities developed should meet the suggested quality criteria and should provide exciting play opportunities for children and young people. Site assessments carried out at existing facilities should also be used to inform decisions on those facilities in need of enhancement.
- 7.105 Effectively providing facilities in the rural area is an important challenge and it will be essential to ensure that public transport links are maximised.
- 7.106 Consideration should be given to delivering facilities for young people and children at school sites to maximise resources and ensure that all residents are able to access at least one facility.



## **SECTION 8**

# **OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

### Outdoor sports facilities

#### Introduction and definition

- 8.1 PPG 17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, these amenities are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest.
- 8.2 'Outdoor sports facilities' is a wide-ranging category which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation and considers all facilities regardless of ownership. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses. The primary purpose of all sites within the outdoor sports typology is facilitating participation in formal sports.
- 8.3 PPG17 considers the overall provision of all the different types of outdoor sports facilities and does not break down the typology into more detailed assessments for each sport. Sub strategies, considering the specific supply and demand for each sport, should be undertaken in order to fully understand localised demand for each facility type. The Worcestershire County Playing Pitch Strategy provides specific information regarding shortfalls and surpluses of pitches in the District and will be used to inform the development of the local standards contained within this report.
- 8.4 PPG17 states that the provision of outdoor sport facilities is normally demand-led and therefore it is possible to develop and use a population-based quantity standard. The use of this standard will help to ensure that there is an adequate supply of outdoor sport facilities over the LDF period. Participation will not only be dependent on the number of facilities but also on the degree to which facilities are accessible and of sufficient quality to persuade people that they are worth using. Therefore as with the other typologies covered by this report, quantity issues need to be considered alongside the locally derived quality and accessibility standards.
- 8.5 Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point of a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of pitches, which may have a secondary function of a local dog walking and kickabout area.
- 8.6 The effective provision of formal and informal facilities for sports will be instrumental if Wyre Forest District Council is to increase participation rates in line with national and local targets.
- 8.7 The recent Active People Survey (Sport England 2007) highlights that Wyre Forest currently falls in the middle quartile nationally in terms of participation in sport and active recreation, with 20.1% of residents participating on at least three occasions weekly. This is below the national average.
- 8.8 The Active People survey indicates that when compared with the other authorities in Worcestershire, participation in Wyre Forest is low, with only residents of Redditch participating less frequently. The number of residents who volunteer in sport is also higher than Redditch, but lower than other authorities. 24% of adults are members of clubs.

- 8.9 In contrast to the participation figures, satisfaction with existing leisure facilities in Wyre Forest is high (76.5%). This is higher than all other authorities in Worcestershire with the exception of Wychavon.

**Figure 8.1 – Baxter Gardens Tennis Courts**



### Strategic context

- 8.10 The key issues for outdoor sports facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are:
- the **Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands** sets out the context of sport in the region and outlines the priorities for the future investment in sport and active recreation facilities. It considers the period up to 2021 and assesses the impact of population change, and the facility requirements that will be needed if the targets for participation in sport and active recreation are to be met and support is to be given to the highest levels of elite sport. As well as highlighting key priorities across the region the strategy proposes a network of facilities at a local and regional level. This document should guide the delivery of facilities within Wyre Forest and ensure that facilities are planned taking into account those in adjacent authorities and wider region
  - the framework indicates that the key issues facing the Hereford and Worcestershire CSP relate to the age of facilities. The key conclusions for the area include that across the CSP there is sufficient provision of sports halls and swimming pools, although there are shortfalls in some areas. Additionally, there are good levels of health and fitness provision and commercial sector provision is particularly high in Worcestershire. There may be a need for additional athletics, synthetic pitches and specialist indoor bowls facilities across the CSP area up to 2021. Wyre Forest is not listed as a specific priority for any new provision although the role that the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme can play in the improvement of existing facilities is highlighted
  - **Sign up for Sport**, the regional plan for sport outlines seven main outcomes, specifically:
    - increase participation in club and community sport

- improve levels of sport performance
  - widen access to sport
  - improve the health and well being of people through sport
  - create safer and stronger communities through sport
  - improve education through PE and sport
  - benefit the economy through sport.
- the provision of appropriate indoor and outdoor sports facilities will be essential in the achievement of these objectives in Wyre Forest
  - the **Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy** indicates that the ratio of pitches to adults in Worcestershire is currently better than the National average at 1:843. Within Wyre Forest, there is 105.5 ha of playing pitches, 75% of which are available for community use. Of these pitches there is a surplus of 30.9, however there is a shortfall of pitches for junior football (-0.1), junior rugby (-2.6) and hockey (-0.8). The Playing Pitch Strategy estimated that by 2009, there would be a surplus of 31.4 pitches in Wyre Forest
  - the **North Midlands Facility Plan** for rugby identifies 6 key areas for improvement, specifically pitches, changing facilities, training and coaching facilities, social areas, floodlighting and spectator facilities. The facility plan sets out a four tier structure. Kidderminster RUFC is a tier three club (has a well established junior section and should have floodlit training facilities and more than one pitch). Stourport RUFC, Chaddesley Corbett RUFC and Bewdley RUFC are tier four clubs offering recreational rugby. The plan identifies the need for training lights at Kidderminster as well as improved changing facilities at Stourport
  - the **Worcestershire Cricket Board Draft facilities strategy** outlines the minimum expected standards for cricket provision and identifies key priorities. Bewdley CC, Kidderminster Victoria CC and Stourport on Severn CC are all focus clubs. Following a full audit of provision, the strategy will identify gaps and then will prioritise projects across the district.
  - the **Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan** contains a number of policies relating to outdoor sports facilities:
  - Policy LR9 states that private playing fields, together with sports pitches situated within educational establishments, will be safeguarded to protect their contribution to sports pitch provision in the District and their value as urban amenity open spaces. Section 106 obligations may be required to secure playing fields as part of larger new developments:
    - developments that will result in the loss of playing fields will not be allowed, unless; the proposal is for minor development required in the connection with the use as playing fields **or** alternative or improved provision of at least equivalent community benefit is made available

- Policy LR10 states that the Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map north-west of Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn for outdoor sports use. Proposals for outdoor sports facilities will be encouraged within this area
- Policy LR14 only permits proposals for golf development where there will be no adverse impact on the character and appearance of the landscape and areas of conservation or ecological importance **and** access can be gained from suitable roads without an adverse impact of road safety
- Policy GB3 states that within the Green Belt, the use of land for outdoor sport and recreation will normally be allowed unless there is an adverse impact on the use or amenity of neighbouring land and buildings, including residential properties.
- the **Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy** one of the key themes of the strategy is to improve health and wellbeing by working in partnership with local people and organisations, to promote, sustain and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the local community.

### Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

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

- 64% of respondents to the household survey do not use outdoor sports facilities. This reinforces the specialist nature of these facilities and is reflective of a participation rate similar to that suggested by the 2007 Active People Survey
- residents identified both quantitative and qualitative issues with regards to outdoor sports facilities. Changing facilities in particular were perceived to be a key issue
- the importance of outdoor sports facilities was emphasised by residents, with many viewing the protection of this type of open space as essential.

### Quantity of provision

8.12 The quantity of outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 8.1 overleaf. Calculations include all outdoor sports facilities regardless of their primary purpose. Consideration will be given to the specific type of facility provided during the application of local standards.

**Table 8.1 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest**

Analysis areas	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	9.55	7	0.06	3.63	9,697	0.98
Stourport	56.81	22	0.1	12.86	20,811	2.73
Kidderminster East	28.54	20	0.07	4.82	30,827	0.93
Kidderminster West	32.50	16	0.06	10.20	27,419	1.19
Rural East	52.33	17	0.1	10.48	10,772	4.86
Rural West	5.89	3	0.67	4	2,874	2.05
<b>Overall</b>	<b>185.62</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>1.81</b>

8.13 The key issues emerging from Table 8.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of outdoor sports facilities across the District include:

- analysis of the provision of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 population illustrates that facilities are not equitably distributed across the District – the number of facilities ranges from 22 in the Stourport analysis area to seven in the Bewdley analysis area and just three in the southern rural settlements
- the highest level of outdoor sports facilities is found in the Stourport analysis area, where there are currently 22 sites equating to 56.81 hectares. When calculating provision per 1000 population, the level of outdoor sports facilities in the Stourport analysis area equates to 2.73 ha per 1000, while the Rural East analysis area contains 4.86 hectares per 1000
- of the facility types surveyed, dissatisfaction was shown with the provision of synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts. The highest level of satisfaction was shown for grass pitches, with 46% of respondents indicating that provision is about right. This supports the overall findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy, although this document identified that in some instances the balance between senior and junior pitches did not meet local need
- within the individual analysis areas residents in Kidderminster East demonstrated the highest level of satisfaction for synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. However, respondents in this area also portrayed the highest levels of dissatisfaction with the provision of grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens.

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

**Setting provision standards – quantity**

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

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.91 ha per 1000	1.91 ha per 1000
Justification	
<p>Due to the broad nature of the sports facilities included within this typology, it is recommended that this standard is used for planning need only. Detailed studies (such as a playing pitch strategy) should be used to ascertain the detailed provision required for each type of facility.</p> <p>Overall there is general satisfaction with the current level of provision. The findings from the Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy identify there is an overall surplus of pitches in Wyre Forest, with minor shortfalls in the provision of pitches for hockey, junior football and junior rugby. Furthermore there was an emphasis on the quality of outdoor sports facilities established throughout consultation, suggesting quality is more important than quantity.</p> <p>In light of the above evidence, it is recommended that the local standard is set at the existing level of provision. Golf courses are excluded from calculations due to the large area of these sites and their subsequent tendency to skew figures.</p> <p>Setting the standard at the existing level of provision will allow the Council to focus on improving access to existing/new facilities and identify any locational deficiencies that may exist. It will also ensure the quantity of outdoor sports facilities is sufficient to meet the needs of residents in Wyre Forest. This will support the Council in achieving increases in participation in line with national targets, but allow an overall focus on improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Respondents to the sports club survey highlighted a desire for the improvement of changing facilities and this should be a key priority for the Council. If new provision is required to meet future needs, the Council should explore the delivery of high quality facilities through access to school sites.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

- 8.16 The quality of existing outdoor sports facilities in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 8.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

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- 8.17 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of quality have been given a higher weighting to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G. The quality of both the playing surface and the ancillary accommodation were deemed to be particularly important for the provision of outdoor sports.

**Table 8.2 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest**

Geographical area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	7	52 – 74	60	Bewdley Bowling Club – ID 310	Bewdley Tennis Club – ID 313
Stourport	22	40 – 68	59	Gilt Edge Bowling Club – ID 562	Stourport Sports Ground STP – ID 528
Kidderminster East	20	40 – 78	57	Clensmore Street Basketball Court – ID 512	Chester Road Bowling Green – ID 122
Kidderminster West	16	54 – 70	60	Kidderminster Carolions RFC – ID 71	Sutton Park Community Primary School Playing Field – ID 296
Rural East	17	38 – 74	59	The Wolverley Memorial Bowling Green – ID 107	Heathfield School Playing Fields – ID 35
Rural West	3	58 – 72	63	Rock Sports FC – ID 225	Bewdley Town Football Club – ID 73
<b>Overall</b>	85	38 – 78	59	The Wolverley Memorial Bowling Green – ID 107	Chester Road Bowling Green – ID 122

- 8.18 The key issues emerging from Table 8.2 and the consultation relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities include:



## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- the majority of respondents to the household survey feel that the quality of outdoor sports facilities is average (46%). However, a significant amount of residents also regard the quality to be poor (34%). This suggests that in comparison to some other types of open space, sports facilities are perceived to be of lower quality
- the average quality score of an outdoor sports facility in Wyre Forest is 59%, indicating that overall, facilities are average – this is in line with many other types of open space. Despite this, the range of scores awarded to outdoor sports facilities highlights the significant variation in quality of facilities (38 – 78%)
- across the individual analysis areas results mirror the overall findings
- the highest level of satisfaction can be found in Kidderminster East, where 30% of respondents state that the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good. Surprisingly, the quality of sites is actually marginally poorer in this area than in some other areas of the District.

### Setting provision standards – quality

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

### Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

<b>Recommended standard – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/litter free	Changing facilities	
Well kept grass	Good site access	
Parking facilities	On site security	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and safety	24%	3
Cleanliness and maintenance	43%	4
Vegetation	12%	1
Ancillary accommodation	18%	2

### **Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 8.20 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 8.21 Minster Road Sports Ground is a large outdoor sports facility in the District that provides a wide range of facilities for residents in Wyre Forest. The site is a District wide facility that provides excellent access for residents in Wyre Forest due to its central location in the District. Although the local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities has been applied for this site, in reality, the size and location of this site means it serves a much larger catchment than identified.
- 8.22 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 8.23 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility were:
- findings from the household survey identify that the majority of residents expect to drive to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of grass pitches where residents expect to walk
  - information and signage was perceived to be poor at a number of sites.
- 8.24 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. The standard reflects the aspiration that pitches will be provided in close proximity to the home.

**Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME = GRASS PITCHES</b>
<b>15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES, BOWLING GREENS, GOLF COURSES</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (to which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Findings from local consultation suggest two standards should be set. A walk time standard has been set for grass pitches and a drive time for tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. These standards have been recommended in line with the expected travel methods and to reflect the specialist nature of this typology, with all facility types not expected to be provided locally.</p> <p>75% of respondents to the household survey indicated they would be willing to travel for 10 minutes to access a grass pitch. A local standard of a 10 minute walk time has therefore been set to reflect the expectation that these facilities would be provided locally. For the five facilities where there is an expectation to drive a standard of a 15 minute drive time has been set based upon the 75% threshold level. Although the 75% level was slightly higher for synthetic turf pitches at 20 minutes a 15 minute drive time has been set due to the perception that there is currently insufficient provision.</p>

**Applying provision standards**

- 8.25 Given the broad nature of the outdoor sports facilities typology within PPG17, standards should only be applied to give a broad indication of planning need. In light of the demand led nature of each type of facility, specific studies identifying the nature of facilities required should be carried out to provide a further basis for informed decision making.
- 8.26 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of outdoor sports facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 8.27 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

8.28 Table 8.3 below summarises the application of the quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities.

**Table 8.3 – Application of quantity standard**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (1.91 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (1.91 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	-7.98	-8.97
Stourport	19.16	17.06
Kidderminster East	-27.24	-30.34
Kidderminster West	-17.11	-19.87
Rural East	32.85	31.76
Rural West	0.71	0.40
<b>Overall</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>-9.96</b>

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

8.29 As can be seen on the previous page:

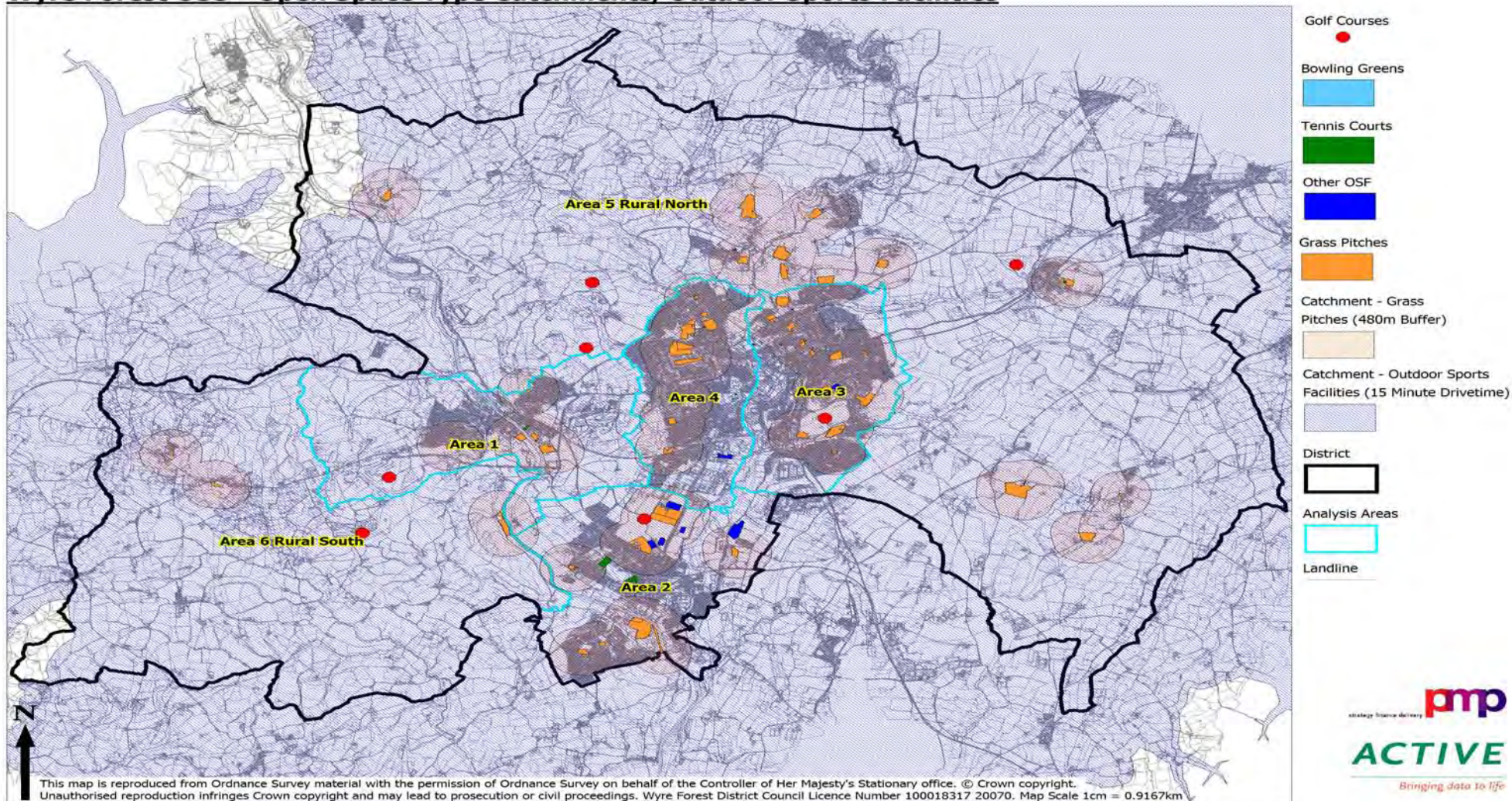
- the recommended local standard is set at the existing level of provision at 1.91 ha per 1000 population – this means that overall there is sufficient provision to meet local needs, although the quantity of facilities in Bewdley and Kidderminster fall below the minimum standard
- although current supply is sufficient to meet demand, application of the quantity standard based on population projections indicates that there will be a shortfall of –9.96 ha of outdoor sports facilities by 2026
- only provision in the rural areas and Stourport will exceed the recommended local standard. This indicates that as a minimum, new provision will be required in Bewdley and Kidderminster.

8.30 The application of the local accessibility and quality standards for outdoor sports facilities is set out overleaf in Maps 8.1 and 8.2.

**SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

**Map 8.1 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest**

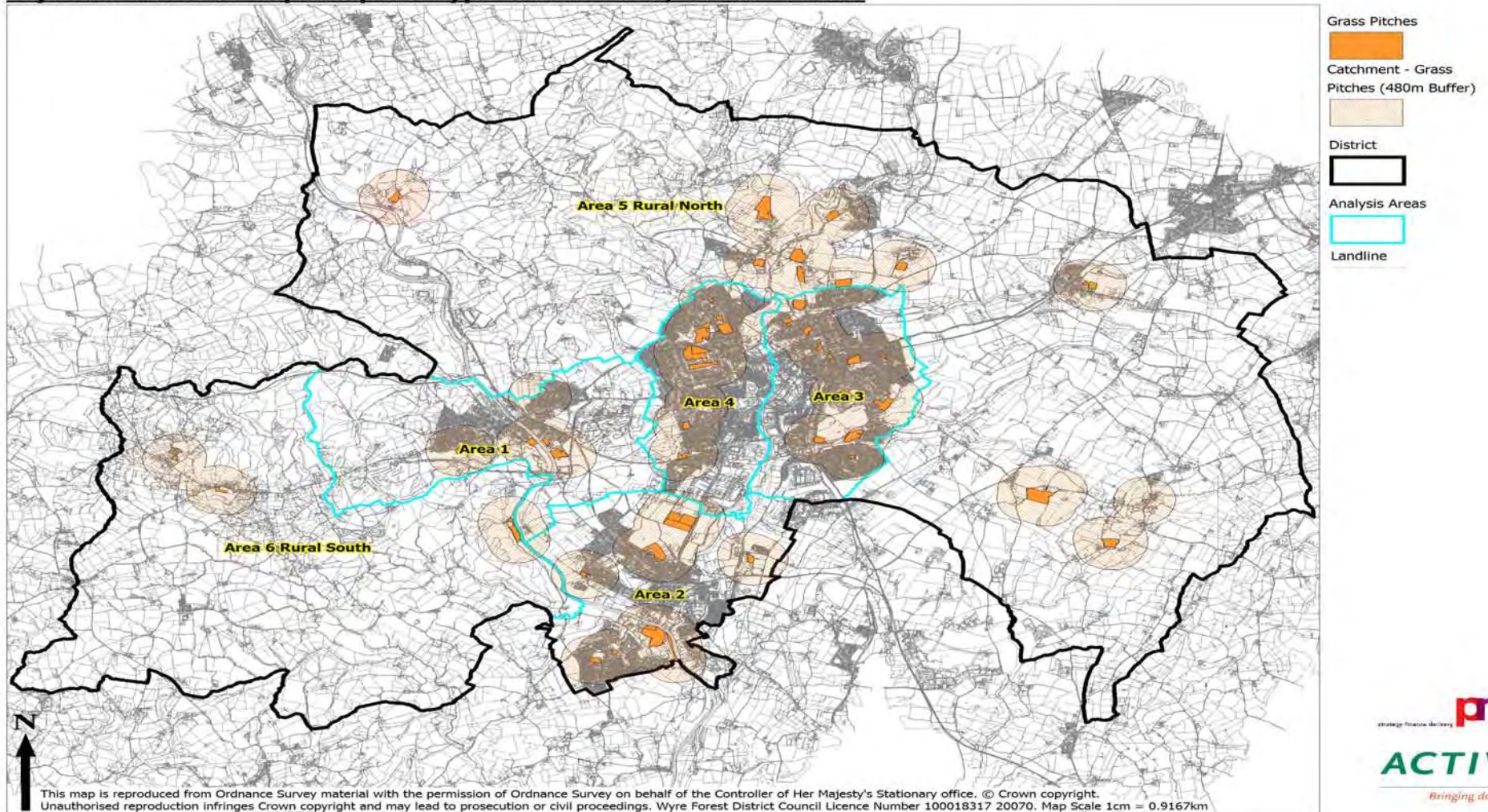
**Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Outdoor Sports Facilities**



## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

### Map 8.2 – Provision of grass pitches in Wyre Forest

#### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Grass Pitches



## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.31 The key issues arising from the accessibility mapping regarding the distribution of sites include:
- there is an even distribution of outdoor sport facilities across both the urban and rural areas of the District
  - all residents in Wyre Forest have access to at least one outdoor sports facility within the recommended travel time
  - school facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. The importance of enhancing access to school facilities was raised throughout consultations and this will be returned to later in this section
  - analysis of the spread of different types of outdoor sports facilities indicates that pitches are evenly distributed and that the majority of residents are able to access local provision. In contrast, bowling greens, tennis courts and larger sites containing multiple facilities are focused predominantly within the Stourport analysis area.
- 8.32 The distribution of the different facility types in Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 8.4 below.

**Table 8.4 – Distribution of different outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest**

Area	Bowling Greens (no. of sites)	Tennis Courts (no. of sites)	Pitches (no. of sites)	Golf Courses	Other facilities
Bewdley	1	1	5	2	0
Stourport	7	2	10	1	5
Kidderminster East	2	2	13	1	3
Kidderminster West	4	1	10	0	2
Rural East	3	2	13	3	0
Rural West	0	0	3	1	0

### Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 8.33 Quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Quality standards outline the key aspirations of local residents and provide an indication as to where sites may currently fall below expectations.
- 8.34 Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic in some areas, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected by the quantity standard, which was set at the existing level of provision.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.35 Site visits highlighted that existing facilities are currently average, with the mean score of a site being 59%, although there is a significant variation in the range of scores achieved. Respondents to the sports club survey indicated a desire for improved changing facilities and in some instances highlighted this as much as an issue as the quality of pitches. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.
- 8.36 Sites have therefore been divided into quartiles according to their quality. This analysis is set out in Table 8.5 below and a selection of sites falling into each category is listed. A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix C. To fall within the top quartile, a score of 70% would be required.

**Table 8.5 – Detailed analysis of the quality of existing sites**

Above upper quartile	70% +	(78%) Chester Road Bowling Green – ID 122 (70%) Churchill and Blakedown Sports Centre – ID 221
Median – Upper quartile	62% - 69%	(68%) Bewdley Cricket Club – ID 307 (62%) Gilt Edge Bowling Green – ID 561
Lower quartile – median	56% - 61%	(60%) Springfield Park OSF – ID 525 (56%) Areley Common Recreation Ground – ID 140
Less than lower quartile	55% and below	(54%) Bewdley Leisure Centre Playing Fields – ID 175 (38%) Wolverley Memorial Bowling Green – ID107

- 8.37 As highlighted in Table 8.5 above:
- only nine sites achieved a quality score of 70% or greater. The majority of these sites are grass pitches, indicating this facility to be of higher quality than the other outdoor facilities in the District
  - in contrast, 16 sites scored below 55%. A large amount of bowling greens were classified in this category, suggesting that bowling greens are of poorer quality than other outdoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest. All sites in this bottom quartile should be identified as priorities for improvement.



## **SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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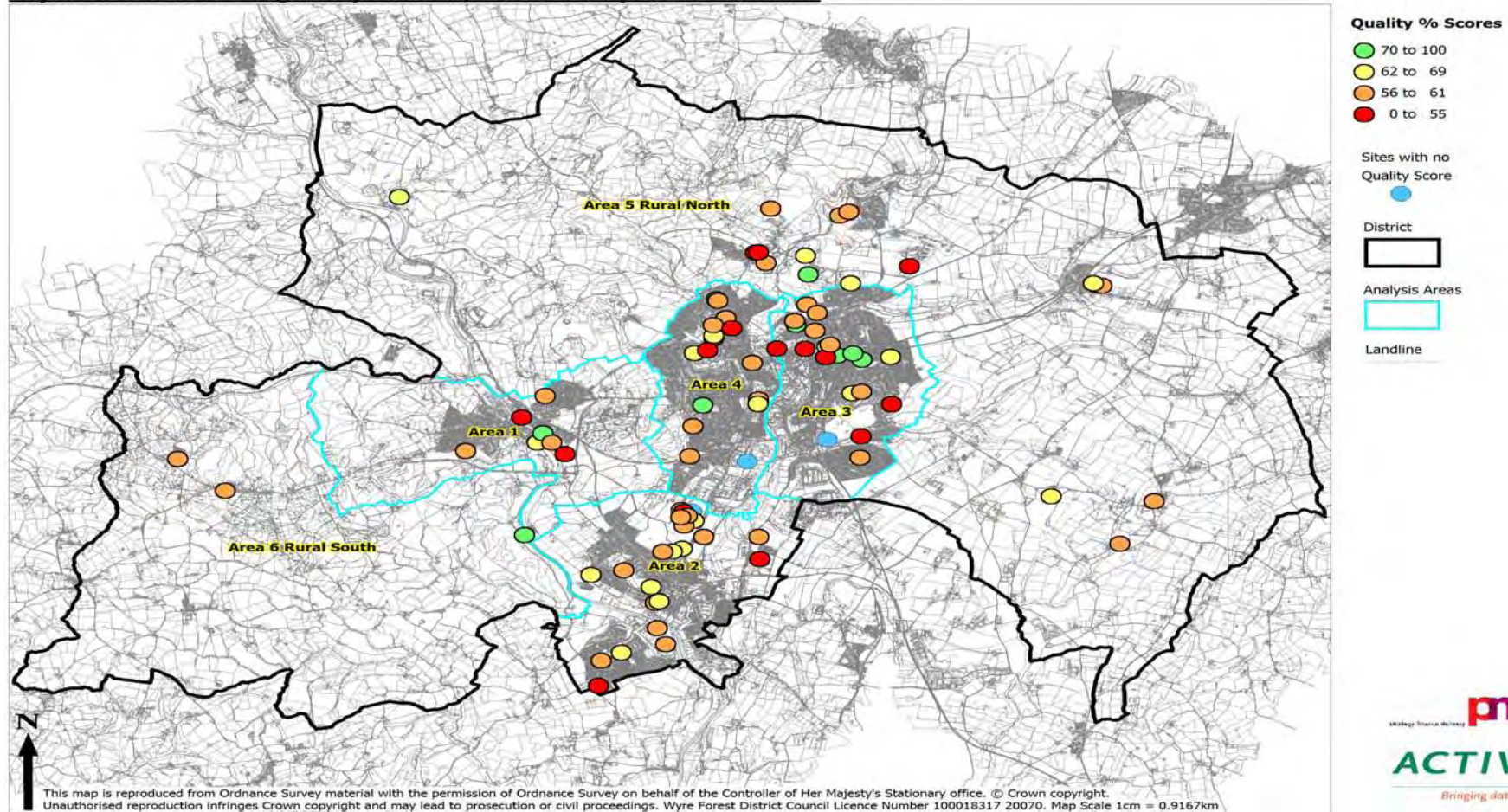
<b>OSF1</b>	<p>Seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve 70% (the score required to fall within the top quartile). This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.</p> <p>Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities.</p>
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8.38 Map 8.3 overleaf illustrates the application of the quality standard for outdoor sports facilities in the District.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

### Map 8.3 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest

#### Wyre Forest OSS - Quality Scores, Outdoor Sports Facilities



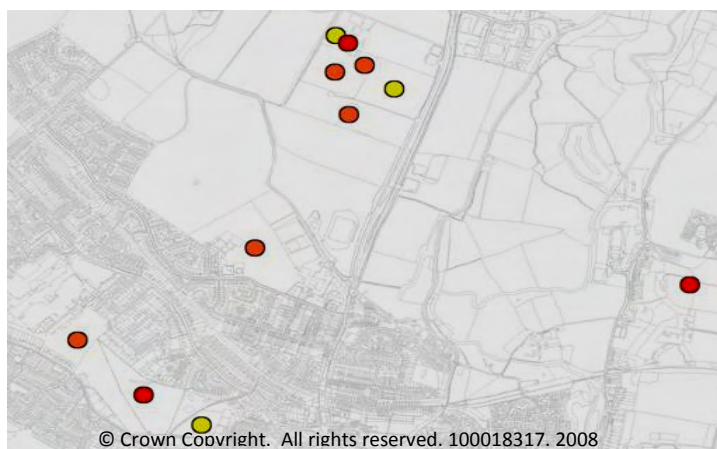
## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.39 Map 8.3 illustrates an even spread of facilities of high and low quality across all areas of the District. However, despite this even distribution the majority of high quality sites are focused in the north of the Kidderminster East analysis area.
- 8.40 Clusters of poor quality facilities are evident in Wyre Forest. These are particularly noticeable in the Kidderminster, Stourport and rural analysis areas (Figures 8.2 – 8.4).

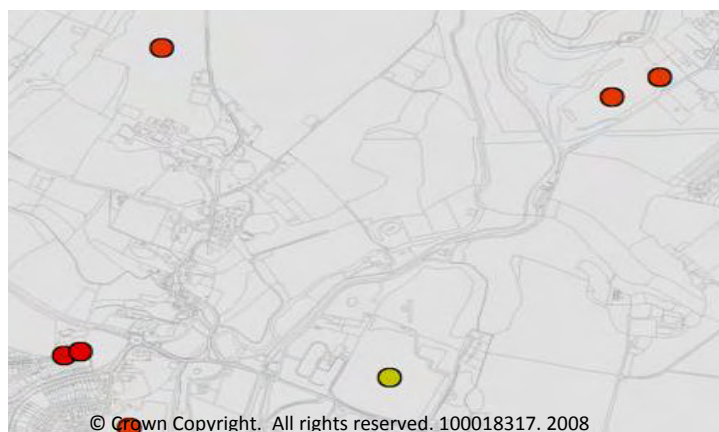
**Figure 8.2 – Clusters of poor quality sites within the Kidderminster analysis areas**



**Figure 8.3 – Cluster of poor quality sites within the Stourport analysis area**



**Figure 8.4 – Cluster of poor quality sites within the rural analysis areas**



## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

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- 8.41 In addition to the quality of outdoor sports facilities, consultation highlighted that the quantity of provision in some areas is problematic.
- 8.42 As previously highlighted, all residents have access to either a bowling green, tennis court or larger outdoor sports facility within the recommended 15 minute drive time. Although all residents in the District have access to one of these facilities the distribution of sites is poor.
- 8.43 Although PPG17 groups together all outdoor sports facilities, in order to appropriately understand the provision of different facilities, consideration is given to the location of each of the different types of facility provided. Table 8.3 summarised the distribution of different types of facility across the district. In light of the expectation that tennis courts and bowling greens will be provided within a drivetime distance and are not expected within close proximity of the home, consideration has been given to the provision of these facilities at a District wide level.

### Tennis courts

- 8.44 Tennis courts are concentrated in the urban areas of the District, with six of the eight stand alone tennis courts located within the urban analysis areas and at least one facility located within each of the three main towns. Although residents in the rural area have significantly fewer tennis courts than the urban area, the greatest level of satisfaction was portrayed within the rural analysis areas.
- 8.45 In consideration of this, focus should be placed on increasing access and enhancing the quality of existing tennis courts in the District. In areas where there is a demand for increased provision, the use of school sites should be considered to address this demand.

<b>OSF2</b>	Focus on increasing access and enhancing the quality of existing tennis courts in the District. Use the findings of the site assessments to identify poor quality sites in need of improvement.
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### Bowling greens

- 8.46 The provision of bowling greens is significantly higher within the Stourport and Kidderminster West analysis areas, with 10 of the 15 facilities situated in these areas. Overall, there was a general satisfaction with the current level of provision and unsurprisingly the greatest level of satisfaction was portrayed within the Kidderminster West analysis area.
- 8.47 There are a number of high quality bowling greens in the District; however the average quality score of a bowling green is 56% indicating that there are also some poor quality sites. Indeed, there is one bowling green that falls within the bottom quartile. Therefore the focus should be on the maintenance and enhancement of quality of the existing facilities. Consultation did not reveal any demand for new facilities.

<b>OSF3</b>	Seek to enhance the quality of bowling greens in the District aiming to achieve a quality score in the upper quartile level (70%). Use existing high quality sites as examples of good practice.
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**Other outdoor sports facilities**

8.48 Larger facilities containing various outdoor sports facilities are concentrated in the urban areas of the District, particularly within the Stourport analysis area. These sites offer significant recreational and sporting opportunities for residents in the District. Multi sports sites provide a variety of opportunities, as well as being more economically sustainable and these sites should therefore be protected from development.

<b>OSF4</b>	Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development.
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8.49 Due to the fact that all residents have access to a tennis court, bowling green or other outdoor sports facility within the recommended 15 minute drive time, these will not be discussed further in relation to each analysis area. The provision of grass pitches will be the main point of the discussion for the remainder of the application of the standards.

**Grass pitches**

8.50 The Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy identified three priorities for improvement:

- the protection of existing provision

<b>OSF5</b>	Protect existing pitches through a general presumption against developing on playing pitches unless it can be demonstrated under the terms of PPG 17 that the pitches are surplus to requirements. This should include marketing the pitches for a period of not less than 18 months for sport at the land value for this use. Evidence of these activities is to be submitted to the Local planning department. After this period consideration should be given to the use of the playing pitches as other forms of use with in the typology of PPG 17.
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- enhancement of existing provision

<b>OSF6</b>	Seek to enhance the quality of existing playing pitches in Wyre Forest. Use the findings from site assessments and consultation to identify priorities for improvement. Improvements should tie in with the priorities of the regional facility strategy and the sport specific regional governing body priorities.
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- overcoming identified deficiencies.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.51 The Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy estimates there will be a surplus of 31.4 ha of playing pitches by 2009. Despite a surplus of provision there is a shortfall of pitches for junior football (-0.1), junior rugby (-2.6) and hockey (-0.8).
- 8.52 In light of the findings of the playing pitch strategy full size adult pitches that could be redesignated for the use of junior football and junior rugby should be identified. To alleviate shortfalls in hockey, consideration should be given to the new provision of a synthetic turf pitch. If this is not feasible the Council should seek to obtain formal community use agreements with schools in the District.

<b>OSF7</b>	Identify potential adult pitches that could be redesigned for the use of junior football and junior rugby. Consider the development of a new synthetic turf pitch for the use of hockey at a strategic location within the District. If this is not feasible the Council should seek to obtain formal community use agreements with schools in the District.
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- 8.53 The Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy highlighted that the ratio of pitches to the adult population is higher in Wyre Forest than it is in the other areas of Worcestershire, as well as higher than the national average. There are 54 sites containing pitches, of which the majority are dedicated to football.
- 8.54 There are four main rugby clubs in the district (Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley and Chaddersley Corbett) as well as several cricket clubs. The largest cricket clubs are located in Kidderminster and Stourport.
- 8.55 Synthetic pitches are specialised pitches which primarily serve the needs of hockey clubs for competitive fixtures as well as football clubs for all weather training. Third generation facilities can also be used for rugby. The regional facilities strategy identifies that there is a need for additional synthetic pitches across the region.
- 8.56 There are currently two synthetic facilities located in Wyre Forest at King Charles Secondary School and Stourport High School. Active Places Power indicates that the provision per 1000 population is 0.03, which mirrors both the West Midlands and national average.
- 8.57 The existing two facilities are located in close proximity to two of the existing hockey clubs (Stourport and Kidderminster). The playing pitch strategy indicates that there is a shortfall of almost one pitch. Only Chaddesley Corbett Hockey Club does not have local access to facilities. In light of this, any new provision should be linked with this club or in the larger settlement of Bewdley, the only town in the district where residents do not have access to a synthetic turf pitch. Prior to the development of a facility, usage of existing sites and latent demand should be re-evaluated. In addition to investigating the need for an additional site, efforts should focus on ensuring that existing provision remains of sufficient quality to meet local needs and that the appropriate facilities are provided on site to encourage participation.

<b>OSF 8</b>	Monitor the demand for additional synthetic pitches in light of the shortfall identified in the playing pitch strategy and the lack of provision in Bewdley and to serve Chaddesley Corbett Hockey Club. Maintain and improve the quality of the existing sites.
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## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.58 The analysis below and overleaf considers the distribution of outdoor sports pitches in each of the four analysis areas. While this provides an indication of the distribution of facilities and the extent to which the provision of pitches meets community need, in light of the demand led nature of facilities, consideration should be given to updating the Playing Pitch Strategy, which currently runs up to 2009. This will enable the consideration of latent demand as well as providing an assessment of the potential impact of the achievement of the target of a 1% increase in participation on the demand for pitches.

<b>OSF 9</b>	Update the Playing Pitch Strategy ensuring that latent demand and the impact of a 1% increase in participation per annum is considered.
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### ***Bewdley analysis area***

- 8.59 Application of the quantity standard reveals there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand. Accessibility mapping highlights a poor distribution of facilities with sites located in close proximity to one another creating overlapping catchments. Despite a poor distribution of facilities the majority of residents do have access to a grass pitch within the recommended 10 minute walk time. Deficiencies do however exist predominately in Bewdley town centre, but also to the west and east of this area (Figure 8.5).

**Figure 8.5 – Deficiencies in Bewdley analysis area**



- 8.60 Only one grass pitch within the analysis area is publicly owned and consultation identified the need for increased provision of publicly accessible sports pitches within Bewdley. Opportunities for the provision of a new publicly accessible grass pitch should be seized.

<b>OSF10</b>	Seize opportunities to provide a publicly accessible grass pitch within the Bewdley analysis area.
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- 8.61 Due to the high density of housing and commercial buildings in these areas of existing deficiency there is currently little opportunity to provide a new grass pitch.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Therefore the focus should be placed on increasing access to school facilities in the area.

<b>OSF 11</b>	Maximise access for the community to schools in Bewdley, both state owned and private. School facilities can provide opportunities for both formal sports and informal recreation in areas that may be otherwise devoid of provision.
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- 8.62 Bark Hill AGS is located in an area deficient in the provision of sports pitches and provides opportunities for informal sport and recreation. Access to this site and other informal sites in the District should be increased through the provision of green linkages from residential areas.

### ***Stourport analysis area***

- 8.63 The provision of outdoor sports facilities is highest in the Stourport analysis area and quantitative analysis of the provision indicates there is sufficient supply to meet current and future demand. Although there is sufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities application of the quantity standard highlights a number of overlapping catchments, creating deficiencies within and to the east of Stourport town centre and in the north of the analysis area (Figures 8.6 and 8.7 below and overleaf).

**Figure 8.6 – Deficiencies within Stourport town centre**





**Figure 8.7 – Deficiencies in the north of Stourport analysis area**



- 8.64 Only Areley Kings Football Pitches and Areley Common Recreation Ground are publicly owned facilities, the remainder of facilities are located either at school sites or voluntary clubs. Increasing access to school sites should therefore be a key priority.

<b>OSF12</b>	Provide additional community facilities in Stourport by maximising access for the community to local school sites, both state owned and private.
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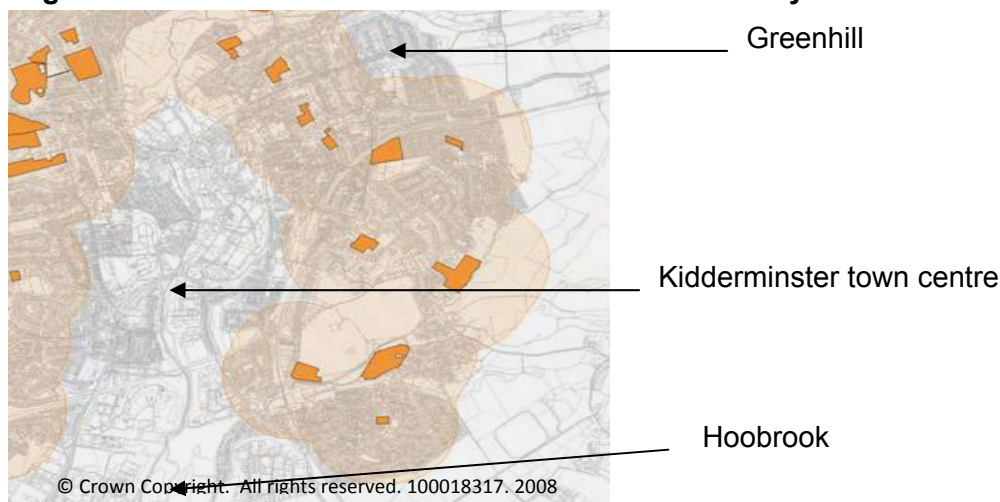
- 8.65 Residents within Stourport town centre outside the recommended catchment of a grass pitch do have access to a tennis court, bowling green and a large site containing a range of outdoor sports facilities. Memorial Park is also in close proximity to these residents offering various informal sport and recreation opportunities. Residents in the north of Stourport, outside the catchment of a grass pitch, have local access to a tennis court. Therefore, any new provision of pitches should be concentrated in the north of Stourport. With the exception of this, the future focus should be placed on increasing access to existing outdoor sports facilities and informal open space.
- 8.66 Policy LR10 of the Local Plan states that the Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map north-west of Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn for outdoor sports use and that proposals for outdoor sports facilities will be encouraged within this area. The Council should monitor demand in this area for increased provision of outdoor sports facilities.

***Kidderminster East analysis area***

- 8.67 Although application of the quantity standard reveals a large shortfall in the provision of outdoor sports facilities, accessibility mapping illustrates a good distribution of sites with the majority of residents able to access a grass pitch within the

recommended travel times. Despite this, a key area of deficiency is evident in Kidderminster town centre and pockets of deficiency are also evident in Hoobrook and Greenhill (Figure 8.8).

**Figure 8.8 – Deficiencies in the Kidderminster East analysis area**



8.68 The greatest shortfall in provision is located within the Kidderminster East analysis area and based on future population projections a large deficiency of –30.34 hectares is expected. Consultation reflects the large undersupply of provision in the area, with residents in the Kidderminster East analysis area demonstrating the greatest level of dissatisfaction with the provision of grass pitches. In consideration of the low level of provision and high levels of dissatisfaction in the area the Council should investigate demand in detail. New grass pitch provision within this area should be prioritised if demand is expressed. S106 agreements could provide opportunities for new provision.

<b>OSF13</b>	Prioritise the new provision of a grass pitch within the Kidderminster East analysis area. New provision should be located in an area where there is a lack of pitches and demand for a new facility.
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8.69 The balance of public and private outdoor sports facilities is even and public facilities are well distributed across the analysis area and are a valuable resource to the local community. It is important the Council ensures these sites are of high quality so they remain frequently used and provide benefits to local residents.

***Kidderminster West analysis area***

8.70 Similar to the findings the Kidderminster East analysis area, quantitative analysis indicates there is insufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities within Kidderminster West analysis area. Only one tennis court (Brinton Park Tennis Courts) is located in the area, however the provision of bowling greens is high (five sites). Accessibility mapping highlights a relatively good distribution of grass pitches with the only clear area of deficiency located on the eastern boundary of Kidderminster town centre (Figure 8.9 overleaf).

**Figure 8.9 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster West analysis area**



- 8.71 Publicly owned grass pitches are well distributed within the analysis area, with one facility located in each of the four wards in the area. The protection and enhancement of these sites is therefore crucial in providing a network of publicly accessible sports pitches.
- 8.72 Due to the urban density of Kidderminster there is limited opportunity to provide new grass pitches. Therefore, to alleviate existing deficiencies in the area the Council should seize any opportunities for new provision and seek developer contributions if required.

<b>OSF 14</b>	Seize potential opportunities to provide new sports pitches in the Kidderminster West analysis area. Consider the use of developer contributions to achieve this new required provision.
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***Rural analysis areas***

- 8.73 Application of the quantity standard indicates there is adequate provision of outdoor sports facilities in the rural analysis areas to meet current and future demand. This sufficient provision is further highlighted by the fact that the second greatest amount of provision is located in the Rural East analysis area (52.33 ha). The nature of the rural settlements means that in order to adequately serve residents and to ensure local provision of facilities, it is likely that provision will need to be significantly above the minimum quantity standard.
- 8.74 Accessibility mapping highlights this high level of provision with nearly all residents in the larger settlements able to access a grass pitch within the recommended 10 minute walk time. Although residents in Rock are not within the recommended catchment of a grass pitch, new facilities will only be required where there is an expressed demand.

## SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

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- 8.75 Outdoor sports facilities can also fulfil a similar role to informal open space in villages. In many villages, the outdoor sports provision is at school sites. Opening these facilities to the local community would maximise opportunities for residents.

<b>OSF15</b>	Maximise access to local school sites for the community within rural settlements. School facilities can provide opportunities for both formal sports and informal recreation in areas that may be otherwise devoid of provision.
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- 8.76 As previously mentioned the new provision of sports facilities should be demand led. Although only minor accessibility deficiencies exist within the analysis area, demand within these areas should be monitored and the Council should consult with Parish Councils and sports clubs to identify any demand for new facilities.

<b>OSF16</b>	Monitor the demand for new provision within the rural analysis areas. Consult with Parish Councils and sports clubs to identify if there is sufficient demand for increased provision within these areas.
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- 8.77 Within the Rural West analysis area all outdoor sports facilities are owned by schools and sports clubs and therefore offer limited casual access and pay and play opportunities. This reinforces the need to explore casual access to existing facilities.

### Summary

- 8.78 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are owned and managed by Town and Parish Councils, sports associations, schools and individual sports clubs. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- 8.79 This PPG17 study considers the provision of all the different types of outdoor sport facilities as one and does not break down the typology into more detailed assessments for each sport. If undertaken, a playing pitch strategy considers current and future pitch provision in detail as a bespoke element of outdoor sport facilities.
- 8.80 Consultation highlights issues with both the existing quality of facilities and the quantity of facilities. Analysis of the existing provision supports this, as there is a significant variation in the quality of facilities, with site assessment scores ranging from 38% to 78%. Particularly issues with the provision of changing rooms were constantly highlighted throughout consultation.
- 8.81 Within the District there are a significant amount of facilities at school sites. School facilities represent a key opportunity to provide additional sites maximising the use by the community, particularly in the rural areas. Access should be negotiated at both state and private schools.
- 8.82 The distribution of outdoor sport facilities across the District is uneven, with high levels of provision located in the Stourport and Kidderminster analysis areas. There is also a large difference in the amount of land dedicated to these facilities, which is reflective of the type of facilities in each area. To some extent this determines the level of quantitative shortfall/surplus in an area and it is essential that this is therefore only treated as an indication of demand.

## **SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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- 8.83 Analysis of the application of standards highlights key deficiencies with the provision of grass pitches within the Kidderminster analysis areas. The main reason for this is the dense urban nature of the area and a poor distribution of facilities. There are also deficiencies in Bewdley. While this should guide the provision of new facilities, it will be essential to firstly maximise the usage of existing sites. The impact of achieving a 1% increase in participation on the demand for pitches should be considered as part of the regular process of updating the playing pitch strategy. The current playing pitch strategy highlights deficiencies.
- 8.84 Synthetic pitches are specialised facilities which are used primarily for competitive hockey and football training. The playing pitch strategy identified a shortfall of facilities and new provision should therefore be considered. Bewdley is the only main town without a facility, while Chaddesley Corbett Hockey Club does not have a local facility. While demand for additional facilities should be monitored on an ongoing basis, the quality of the existing sites should be maintained and enhanced to ensure that the facilities adequately cater for the needs of the clubs.
- 8.85 Improvements to the provision for bowls across the district should focus on improving the quality of existing sites. There are several examples of good practice. Despite an uneven distribution of bowling greens, consultation did not reveal any demand for additional facilities.
- 8.86 Like bowls, enhancements to the quality of existing tennis facilities were perceived to be of greater importance than the provision of new facilities.
- 8.87 In light of the importance of sports facilities to local residents and the potential impact on demand should targets of a 1% increase in participation per annum be realised all sports facilities should be protected from development.

## **SECTION 9**

### **INDOOR SPORTS FACILTIES**

### Indoor sports facilities

#### Introduction

- 9.1 PPG17 states that it is essential to consider the role that indoor sports facilities play in meeting the needs of local residents. It states that the provision of swimming pools, indoor sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis should be considered as part of the local supply and demand assessment.
- 9.2 The methodology for the assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG 17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken using Sport England parameters and demand modelling tools.
- 9.3 For clarity, outdoor and indoor sports have been separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of indoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest.

#### Strategic context and consultation

- 9.4 The **2008 – 2011 Sport England Strategy** focuses on the improvement of the opportunities for sport in the run up to the London Olympics, targeting:
- 1m people doing more sport by 2012-13
  - a reduction in post-16 drop-off in at least five sports by 25% by 2012-13.
  - a quantifiable increase in satisfaction (actual measure to be determined<sup>1</sup>)
  - improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
  - a major contribution to the delivery of the Five Hour Sport Offer.
- 9.5 The **Regional Sports Facility Framework for the West Midlands** sets out the context of sport in the region and outlines the priorities for the future investment in sport and active recreation facilities. It considers the period up to 2021 and assesses the impact of population change, and the facility requirements that will be needed if the targets for participation in sport and active recreation are to be met and support is to be given to the highest levels of elite sport. As well as highlighting key priorities across the region the strategy proposes a network of facilities at a local and regional level. This document should guide the delivery of facilities within Wyre Forest and ensure that facilities are planned taking into account those in adjacent authorities and wider region
- 9.6 The framework indicates that the key issues facing the Hereford and Worcestershire Community Sports Partnership (CSP) relate to the age of facilities. The key conclusions for the area include that across the CSP there is sufficient provision of sports halls and swimming pools, although there are shortfalls in some areas.
- 9.7 Additionally, there are good levels of health and fitness provision and commercial sector provision is particularly high in Worcestershire. There may be a need for additional athletics, synthetic pitches and specialist indoor bowls facilities across the CSP area up to 2021. Wyre Forest is not listed as a specific priority for any new provision although the role that the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme can play in the improvement of existing facilities is highlighted.

### ***Sign up for sport - A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands (2004-2008) - Sport England (West Midlands)***

- 9.8 Sport England as the national agency driving sports development takes a strategic lead on the provision of sport.
- 9.9 Sign up for sport is a plan for sport and physical activity in the region. Its formulation has involved national, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders, agencies and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors that fully understand the strategic issues and local needs of the region.
- 9.10 The plan highlights the following seven main outcomes:
- increasing levels of participation in club and community sport
  - improving levels of sports performance
  - widening access to sport
  - improving the health and well being of people through sport
  - creating safer and stronger communities through sport
  - improving education through PE and sport
  - benefiting the economy through sport.
- 9.11 As a consequence of this adopted plan, the Council has the responsibility of becoming a partner agency in the delivery of these priorities, ensuring that the framework of the West Midlands plan for sport filters through into local sport and leisure strategy planning.
- 9.12 The provision of indoor sports facilities will also be instrumental in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy. One of the key themes of this strategy is to improve health and wellbeing by working in partnership with local people and organisations to promote, sustain and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the local community.
- 9.13 The recent Active People Survey found that the percentage of adults participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on three or more days a week in Wyre Forest is 20.1%. This indicates that levels of physical activity in the District are broadly similar to the national level. Local, regional and national objectives target an increase of 1% in participation per annum. The impact of the achievement of this target on the provision of facilities in Wyre Forest is significant and will be returned to later in this section.
- 9.14 The Sport England Choice and Opportunity Indicator, a measure of access to quality sports facilities, indicates that 42.12% of the population Wyre Forest reside within 20 minutes travel time of a **range of three different sports facility types** of which one has achieved a quality assured standard. This places Wyre Forest in the second to bottom quartile nationally. This analysis provides an indication of the choice and opportunity that residents have.
- 9.15 Sport England has subdivided the population into nineteen segments which all have different characteristics and consequently are likely to engage in sport in different ways. The dominant market segments in Wyre Forest are:



## SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

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- **Elsie and Arnold** - those that do participate tend towards low intensity activities, such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom), safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often
- **Roger and Joy** – are likely to participate in activities such as swimming, walking, sailing, golf, fishing and bowls
- **Philip** – prefers sports such as sailing, the gym, football, jogging, badminton, golf, cycling and cricket
- **Tim** – likes activities such as canoeing, skiing, cricket, golf, cycling, football and squash.

9.16 This population profile information provides an opportunity to tailor the leisure facilities provided to the likely aspirations of residents. It is important to ensure that facilities are appropriately designed to encourage participation. Of particular relevance to indoor facilities is the preference for those classified as “Elsie and Arnold” to play bowls and “Roger and Joy” who have the propensity to participate in swimming and bowls. Appropriate swimming and bowls facilities will be essential if participation levels in the district are to be maximised.

9.17 Wyre Forest are in Wave 7 of the Building Schools for the Future programme. This programme will see significant investment in all five secondary schools, including the sports facilities and will ensure that higher quality facilities are provided. In particular, schools will benefit from sports halls which are fit for purpose and are likely to be open to the community outside of school hours. This will mean that the stock of publicly accessible facilities will increase.

### Consultation

9.18 Consultation with residents identified the need for new and enhanced indoor sports facilities. In particular swimming pools and indoor courts were identified as being in need of improvement. There was an overall focus on the quality of facilities as opposed to the quantity.

9.19 A significant number of residents identified the need for an indoor bowls facility in the District, reflecting the profile of the population as summarised by the Sport England Market Segmentation.

9.20 The household survey identified that the cost of using a facility, as well as the cleanliness, maintenance and range of activities provided are important considerations for residents of Wyre Forest.

### Quality

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

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

9.22 The quality standard for indoor sports facilities should reflect the views and aspirations of the local community and should be linked to the national benchmark and design criteria. Residents considered the following key issues to be of particular importance in the provision of a high quality indoor facility:

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- Cleanliness and maintenance (15%) of changing facilities and toilet facilities
- Range of activities (14%)
- Maintenance (12%)
- Ease and security of parking (10%)
- Welcoming staff (8%).

9.23 Less than 5% of residents indicated that longer opening hours, childcare facilities, refreshments and cycle stands were of particular importance to them.

9.24 These findings have therefore been used to drive the recommended quality standard for indoor sports provision which are set out below.

<b>Recommended standard – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES</b>	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Safe and secure parking facilities	Good access
Clean toilets and changing facilities	Equipment maintenance
Range of facilities	Welcoming staff.

9.25 As demonstrated, improvements to the quality of existing facilities were highlighted as being of greater importance than increases in the overall quantity of provision. Further detail on the views and aspirations of the local community, alongside the recommendations for the local quality standard can be found in Appendix G.

### **Benchmarking and design specifications**

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

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

9.27 The quality standard is therefore split into two components:

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

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

### QS1: Quality standard (design and technical)

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

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

[http://www.sportengland.org/index/get\\_resources/resource\\_downloads/design\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_downloads/design_guidelines.htm)

- 9.30 The space requirement for most sports depends on the standard of play – generally the higher the standard, the larger the area required. Although the playing area is usually of the same dimensions, there is a need to build in provision for increased safety margins, increased clearance height, spectator seating, etc. Similarly, design specification varies according to level of competition with respect to flooring type and lighting lux levels, for example.
- 9.31 Sport England Design Guidance Notes are based on eight standards of play. Consideration should be given to the desired specification of the facility in question at the outset.

### QS2: Quality standard (facility operation and management)

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

### Supply and demand analysis – developing standards

- 9.32 In order to evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities, supply is compared to an estimated demand. The foundations of all demand assessments are analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population within the local authority. Consideration is also given to the impact of facilities in surrounding local authorities.
- 9.33 The findings of supply and demand models should inform the development of provision standards. Quantity standards should only be applied through the planning process where new facilities are required, and where part of the need for new provision is generated by the impact of the new development. The application of provision standards will be critical however in the event of significant population growth.
- 9.34 The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was updated following the 2001 census (in 2003) and a rerun was also undertaken in February 2008. The rerun is based on over 65,000 records collected as part of the National Benchmarking Service as well as specific surveys carried out across the country with the purpose of updating the FPM. The parameters used in the FPM are therefore directly representative of usage. This means that the use of the FPM for analysis of the provision of sports halls and swimming pools provides a robust understanding of supply and demand in an area and consequently of the adequacy of supply to meet demand.

**Current position**

- 9.35 A broad review of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken to guide future planning across Wyre Forest. This review was based on the Active Places database and the FPM.
- 9.36 This review considers the facilities managed by Wyre Forest District Council and also takes into account facilities owned by other providers, including schools and commercial operators.
- 9.37 Provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor tennis and indoor bowls has been considered in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. For clarity, the provision of each type of facility is considered individually.

### Sport halls

#### Context

- 9.38 Within Wyre Forest there are currently 11 sports facilities that contain sports halls, which equates to 44 courts across the district. Table 9.1 overleaf outlines detailed information on each of these sites.
- 9.39 Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre is the main provider of sports halls in the district, containing eight courts which are publicly accessible at all times. Stourport Sports Centre contains six courts and also offers full public access. As well as the publicly accessible facilities, Wolverley High School also offer pay and play community use of their 5 court school sports hall and Stourport High provide pay and play community use. There is limited access to the other schools.
- 9.40 Four sites contain halls of only one court in size. In light of the limited types of sport that can be played in a one court hall, these halls are excluded from demand modelling. The exception to this is where a site contains both a larger hall and a smaller hall. Both Wolverley High School and King Charles School contain a four court hall and a one court hall and provision at these sites is therefore included.
- 9.41 Baxter College contains a four court hall. The site is used by some clubs, including Kidderminster Badminton Club. The site was excluded from the national FPM run and will therefore be considered as an additional opportunity within this analysis.
- 9.42 The provision of sports halls in Wyre Forest is summarised overleaf.

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**Table 9.1 – Provision of sports halls in Wyre Forest**

Site Name	Ward	Number of courts	Ownership	Access	Management	Year built	Year refurbished
Holy Trinity School	Greenhill	1	Other Independent School	Sports Club / Community Association	Education (in house)	1965	-
Heathfield School	Wolverley	3	Other independent school	Private			2005
Stourport High School Club	Lickhill	1	Community school	Sports Club / Community Association	DC Leisure in partnership with WFDC	-	-
Bewdley Leisure Centre	Wribbenhall	3	Community school	Pay and Play	DC Leisure in partnership with WFDC	1990	2003
Baxter College		4	College	Sports Club / Community Association	Education (in house)		
Kidderminster Youth House	Greenhill	4	Other	Pay and Play	Local Authority (in house)	1975	-
Winterfold House School Sports Hall	Blakedown and Chaddersley	4	Other Independent School	Private Use	Education (in house)	2000	2006
King Charles I Secondary School (King Charles Sports Centre)	Offmore and Comberton	1 & 4	Voluntary Controlled School	Sports Club / Community Association	Education (in house)	1955 & 1978	- & 2006
Wolverley High School	Wolverley	1 & 4	Community school	Pay and Play	Education (in house)	1960 & 1960	-
Stourport Sports Centre	Areley Kings	6	Local Authority	Pay and Play	DC Leisure in partnership with WFDC	1974	2006

**SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre	Greenhill	8	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	1986	2008
<b>Total number of courts</b>		<b>44</b>					

### **Consultation**

- 9.43 49% respondents to the household survey feel that the provision of sports halls is sufficient. 21% of residents indicate provision is insufficient.
- 9.44 The individual analysis areas portray differing results to the overall findings, with respondents feeling there are not enough sports halls. The greatest dissatisfaction is shown in Stourport, where 26% of residents feel provision was insufficient.
- 9.45 General comments from residents focused on the need for new and enhanced indoor sports facilities. Indoor courts were perceived to be of poor condition and in need of refurbishment.
- 9.46 66% of respondents to the household survey expect to drive to a sports hall. 27% of residents prefer to walk to access this facility type. Similar perceptions are reflected in the individual analysis areas.
- 9.47 Based on the 75% threshold level (as advocated by PPG17 companion guide) residents in Wyre Forest would be prepared to travel for 15 minutes by car to access a sports hall.

### **Supply and Demand Analysis – Adequacy of existing provision**

- 9.48 In order to analyse the adequacy of the existing provision of sports halls across Wyre Forest, consideration has been given to the quantity, quality and access to existing sites.

### **Quality of existing provision**

- 9.49 The quality of facilities is particularly important to local residents. The age of facilities, along with the quality of the sites may influence how likely residents are to use facilities.
- 9.50 Analysis of the quality of sites demonstrates that:
- the most recently built facility in the district is Winterfold House School sports hall which does not offer public access at this point in time
  - of the four sites offering unrestricted public access, the most recently built facility is Bewdley Leisure Centre which was built in 1990
  - in total, five of the 11 sites have been refurbished since their initial development. Three of these sites are those which offer unrestricted public access and they have all been refurbished in the past five years. The most recently refurbished site in Wyre Forest is the Wyre Forest Glades in Kidderminster, which was refurbished in 2008. These recent refurbishments suggest that there are some high quality, publicly accessible sports halls in the district
  - while there are some high quality new sites, there are four sites over 20 years old which have not yet been refurbished. These sites are considered to be less attractive to residents and this is reflected within the FPM which suggests that Wolverley High School is the least attractive facility in the district (capacity 27%) followed by King Charles I Secondary School (capacity 47%) and Kidderminster Youth House (capacity 65%). Improving the attractiveness of these facilities would increase their theoretical capacity to meet the needs of residents
  - Stourport Sports Centre, one of the main public facilities has achieved Quest Accreditation, with a score of 83%. This means that the centre is highly commended. Of particular note with regards the quality of facilities, the centre is



perceived to have helpful and welcoming staff and to be well presented in terms of cleanliness and maintenance. Consultation identified that these features are particularly important to local residents. Furthermore, the range of activities offered was considered to be good

- Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre has also achieved Quest Accreditation with a score of 83% and the assessment concluded that the site offers high quality opportunities for residents, particularly for those who are from groups with traditionally low participation rates. The centre was also considered to be adequate in terms of cleanliness and maintenance.

### **Quantity of provision**

9.51 The FPM indicates that 14.2% of badminton courts in Worcestershire are located in Wyre Forest. Approximately 21% of the population in Worcestershire reside in Wyre Forest indicating that provision is perhaps disproportionate to the population. Wyre Forest contains 3.2 courts per 10000 residents. This compares poorly with both the regional figure (3.7 courts) and the national average (3.8 courts) again suggesting that provision in Wyre Forest is lower than in other areas. This is surprising given the rural nature of Wyre Forest. As a general rule, more facilities are required in rural areas to adequately meet the needs of the population.

9.52 The FPM measures the adequacy of the quantity of provision based on the demand (in terms of number of visits) compared to the capacity of the facilities in the area to accommodate these visits. It concludes that the existing facilities in Wyre Forest are capable of sustaining 5150 visits per week. Demand is equivalent to 4300 visits which equates to 27 courts. The facility at Baxter College is not included within these calculations. The overall supply is therefore marginally higher than recorded (this facility is accessible to clubs only and does not offer pay and play).

9.53 This indicates that in quantitative terms, existing facilities are just sufficient to meet demand. This supports the views expressed during consultation, where 49% of residents feel that supply is sufficient. In order to ensure that supply is sufficient to effectively meet demand it is necessary to ensure that supply is greater than demand.

### **Access to facilities**

9.54 Access to facilities is perhaps the most important determinant of the adequacy of facilities.

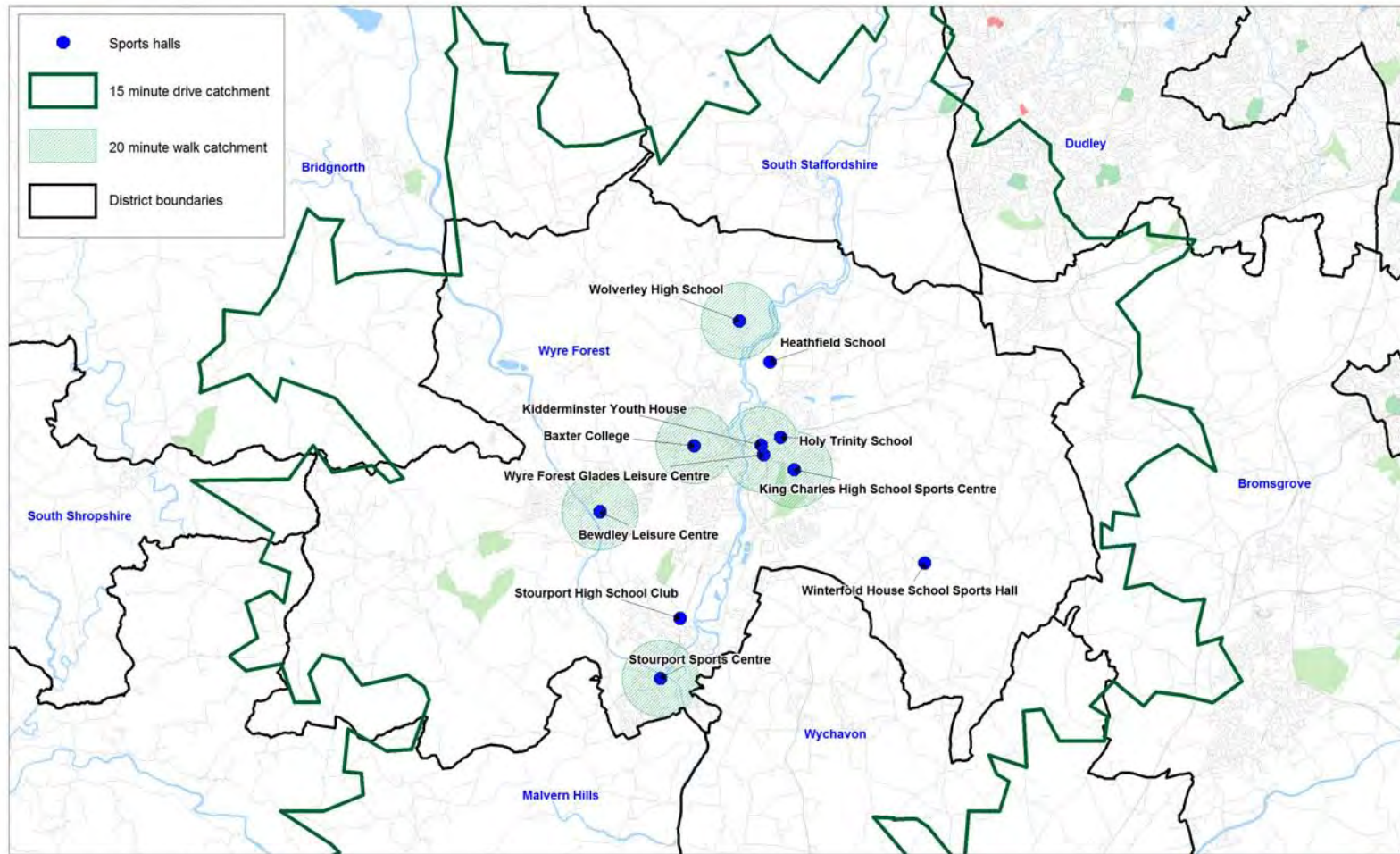
9.55 The findings of the household survey and other consultations suggest that residents in Wyre Forest expect to travel by car to reach a facility (65%). This is supported by the fact that only 13% of households are without access to a car compared to 19.5% in England. Only 27% of respondents indicated that they would expect to walk to indoor facilities. Despite the fact that only 27% of respondents would expect to travel on foot, it will still be necessary to ensure local access to facilities, particularly in areas of low car ownership.

9.56 Findings from the household survey demonstrate that for those residents who expect to drive to a facility, the 75% level is 15 minutes. The modal response is 10 minutes. For those who would expect to travel on foot, the 75% level is a 20 minute walk.

9.57 Map 9.1 overleaf therefore illustrates the distribution of existing sports halls and demonstrates the catchments, based on the above assumptions, which facilities in Wyre Forest serve.

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**Map 9.1 – Sports Hall Provision**



Sports halls



strategy finance delivery

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## **SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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- 9.58 It can be seen that when considering access by car, all residents are within a 15 minute drivetime of at least one facility. Access to facilities on foot is however more limited although the majority of residents in the three main towns of Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley are able to walk to a facility. It is in these areas where the majority of residents without access to a car are located. Facilities are particularly clustered around Kidderminster.
- 9.59 In order to assess the degree to which demand is met by the supply of facilities, the FPM takes into account the location of existing sports halls and the likely means of transport that people will use to reach the site. It also takes into account the profile of the population and the type of facilities that are provided to serve the population.
- 9.60 The national FPM run demonstrates that in terms of access to sports halls, 89.1% of residents are located within the catchment area of a facility. This is a high proportion of residents, although it falls marginally below the region (91.8%) and England (90.2%).
- 9.61 The FPM suggests that 91.3% of those who travel by road are satisfied, while only 8.7% are satisfied if they wish to travel on foot. 41.5% of unmet demand from those travelling by is due to a lack of capacity at facilities and only 3.1% is due to residents being outside of the appropriate catchment. This is reflected in Map 9.1
- 9.62 In contrast, for those wishing to walk to facilities, only 4.4% of unmet demand occurs because facilities do not have capacity and the remainder is a result of being outside of the catchment for facilities. The unmet demand therefore largely arises as a result of the rural nature of the district and the lack of access for some residents within the towns.
- 9.63 Analysis suggests that unmet demand is equivalent to 467 visits per week. This equates to circa 3 courts. Map 1 in Appendix I illustrates the level of unmet demand in the district and provides an indication as to the location of this unmet demand. It can be seen that there are no areas of the district where unmet demand is sufficiently high to warrant the provision of an additional facility. Map 2 (appendix I), which considers aggregated unmet demand in the district suggests that there are no locations where a potential facility would meet more than 2.7 courts of unmet demand. Furthermore, Baxter College is excluded from this analysis. This facility is located in Kidderminster, the area of highest unmet demand.
- 9.64 This suggests that while the supply and demand for sports halls is closely balanced, there are currently sufficient sports halls to meet the needs of the population at the current time. In addition to the larger sports halls, there are a range of smaller community halls which act as local facilities and can host a range of activities including dance and aerobics. Such facilities are particularly valuable in the more rural settlements. Key facilities in Wyre Forest include Stourport Community Centre, Wribbenhall Community Centre, Woodbury Centre, Broadwaters Centre, Kidderminster, Franche Community Centre and Wyre Forest Day Opportunities.

### **Summary – sports halls**

- 9.65 Analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports halls indicates that overall there is sufficient quantity to meet demand and that 89.1% of demand is met. Facilities are well distributed across the district and there are no areas of high unmet demand. The majority of unmet demand is from those who expect to walk to facilities. Analysis demonstrates that the existing facilities are at / almost at capacity (currently running at 79.9%). Wyre Forest Glades and Stourport Sports Centre are particularly busy.

## **SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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- 9.66 Given the quantity of demand that is met, the focus should be on maintaining the quality of sports halls. If the 1% increase in participation is achieved, in light of the close balance of demand with supply, consideration should be given to the adequacy of sports halls. This will also be in the case as the population increases in the district.
- 9.67 Sites with a lack of public access are excluded from calculations. Improved access to these sites may help to reduce any programming difficulties at key sites in the District where there is high demand. This will be particularly important over the LDF period. Improvements to the quality of existing facilities will also increase the capacity of these facilities.
- 9.68 As participation increases, consideration should be given to the maximisation of resources on school sites and access by the community. Programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and the extended schools programme offer significant opportunities. Wyre Forest are in Wave 7 of the Building Schools for the Future programme. This programme will see significant investment in all five secondary schools, including the sports facilities and will ensure that higher quality facilities are provided. In particular, schools will benefit from sports halls which are fit for purpose and are likely to be open to the community outside of school hours. This will mean that the stock of publicly accessible facilities will increase and will be more equipped to meet demand. This will be important in light of the close balance between supply and demand.
- 9.69 Providers of all indoor sports facilities should strive to achieve the quality vision and where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality. As highlighted, this has already been achieved by Wyre Forest Glades and Stourport Sports Centre.
- 9.70 It must be noted that while this analysis considers the amount of residents that are within the appropriate catchment of a sports hall, this differs from the Sport England Choice and Opportunity Indicator, which evaluates the number of residents within a 20 minute catchment of three facilities, one of which is quality assessed. This considers the range of different opportunities that residents have, rather than their access to each facility type.

### Swimming pools

#### Context

- 9.71 There are currently six large swimming pools within Wyre Forest, equating to 20 lanes and 2042m<sup>2</sup> of water space. There is also a learner pool located at the Sebastian Coe Health Club.
- 9.72 The main swimming pools in the district are outlined in Table 9.2 overleaf.
- 9.73 Table 9.2 reveals that two of the six pools allow unrestricted public access (Stourport Sports Centre and Wyre Forest Glades). Both of these facilities are owned by Wyre Forest Council (and managed by Wyre Forest Leisure Community Association Ltd) and although the pool at the Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre is predominantly used as a leisure pool, this pool is the largest in the district (1121.25m<sup>2</sup>).
- 9.74 The remaining provision of swimming pools in the district is made up of two school sites and two private membership clubs. Holy Trinity School offers access to sports clubs and organisations.
- 9.75 In addition to the pools mentioned above there are also small swimming pools at Winterfold School, Waves Health and Leisure Club and Little Lakes Golf Club (a lido). There is also a facility at King Charles 1 School, equivalent to 162m<sup>2</sup> of pool water. Due to the size and nature of these facilities they have been excluded from demand modelling calculations. There is no public access to any of these facilities.
- 9.76 In addition to the six larger swimming pools, there are three small swimming pools at primary schools in the district, specifically Franche Primary School, Cookley Sebright Primary School and Chaddesley Corbett Primary School. While these sites are too small to be included within demand modelling, they nevertheless offer opportunities for swimming lessons and for local schools to use their facilities. The facility at Franche Primary School is also available to hire for parties.
- 9.77 Table 9.2 overleaf summarises the provision of swimming pools in Wyre Forest.

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**Table 9.2 – Provision of swimming pools in Wyre Forest**

Site name	Ward	Number of lanes	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Ownership	Access	Management	Year built	Refurbished
Holy Trinity School	Greenhill	4	162	Other Independent School	Sports Club / Community Association	Education (in house)	1965	2006
JJB Fitness Club (Kidderminster)	Greenhill	1	180	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	2004	-
Sebastian Coe Health Club (Bewdley)	Wribbenhall	6	250	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	1990	-
Stourport Sports Centre	Areley Kings	5	312.5	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	1974	-
Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre	Greenhill	N/A	1121.25	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	1986	2006
Franch Primary School	Franch	N/A	Small Pool	School	Sports Club	Education		
Chaddesley Corbett Primary School	Blakedown and Chaddesley	N/A	Small Pool	School	School	Education		
Cookley Sebright Primary School	Cookley	N/A	Small Pool	School	School	Education		

### **Consultation**

- 9.78 43% of residents indicate that the quantity of swimming pools is adequate. 36% of residents feel provision is insufficient.
- 9.79 Across the individual analysis areas there is a split in opinion regarding the provision of swimming pools. The majority of residents in Bewdley and Kidderminster West feel provision is insufficient, however in the three remaining areas residents feel provision is about right.
- 9.80 General comments from residents focused on the need for new and enhanced indoor sports facilities. In particular swimming pools were identified as having poor changing facilities, especially family changing and as suffering from poor maintenance.
- 9.81 Swimming facilities across the district were considered to be good quality by attendees at drop in sessions.
- 9.82 The majority of residents expect to drive to a swimming pool (67%). Findings within the geographical areas are consistent with the overall findings.
- 9.83 Based on the district wide 75% threshold level, residents would be prepared to travel for up to 15 minutes to access a swimming pool.

### **Supply and Demand Analysis – Adequacy of existing provision**

- 9.84 In order to analyse the adequacy of the existing provision of swimming pools across Wyre Forest, consideration has been given to the quantity, quality and access to existing sites.

### **Quality of existing provision**

- 9.85 The quality of indoor swimming pools was a more frequently raised subject than the quantity during consultations. As previously highlighted, many residents felt that pools were of poorly maintained and sometimes lacking in cleanliness.
- 9.86 Analysis of the quality of existing sites across the district demonstrates that:
- the quality of the commercial facilities is higher than the public centres. Sebastian Coe Health Club was built in 1990 while the JJB Fitness Club pool was built during 2004.
  - the two public facilities are significantly older than these two facilities, with Stourport Sports Centre being built in 1974 and Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre in 1986. However, the pool at Wyre Forest Glades was refurbished in 2006
  - Stourport Sports Centre, one of the main public facilities has achieved Quest Accreditation, with a score of 83%. This means that the centre is highly commended. Of particular note with regards the quality of facilities, the centre is perceived to have helpful and welcoming staff and to be well presented in terms of cleanliness and maintenance. Consultation identified that these features are particularly important to local residents. Furthermore, the range of activities offered was considered to be good

- Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre has also achieved Quest Accreditation with a score of 83% and the assessment concluded that the site offers high quality opportunities for residents, particularly for those who are from groups with traditionally low participation rates. The centre was also considered to be adequate in terms of cleanliness and maintenance.

### **Quantity of provision**

- 9.87 The FPM indicates that 30.2% of swimming pool water is located in Wyre Forest. Approximately 21% of the population in Worcestershire reside in Wyre Forest and it can therefore be seen that the quantity of swimming pool water is good in comparison to other areas. Water space in Wyre Forest equates to 20.9m<sup>2</sup> per 1000. As anticipated in light of the ratio of pools to the population this is favourable compared to the regional average of 12.2m<sup>2</sup> / 1000 and the England average of 13m<sup>2</sup> per 1000.
- 9.88 Consultation demonstrates that 43% of residents believe that the quantity of swimming pools is adequate. 36% of residents feel provision is insufficient.
- 9.89 The FPM measures the adequacy of the quantity of provision based on the demand (in terms of number of visits) compared to the capacity of the facilities in the area to accommodate these visits. It concludes that the existing facilities in Wyre Forest are capable of sustaining 15286 visits per week. Demand is equivalent to 5257 visits.
- 9.90 This indicates that in quantitative terms, existing facilities are more than sufficient to meet demand, with demand equivalent to less than half of supply. Despite this, consultation demonstrated that in some areas, it was perceived that additional facilities were required (Bewdley).
- 9.91 The presence of the three small swimming pools at the school sites in the rural settlements further enhances the supply of facilities. These sites provide opportunities for small scale swimming lessons and therefore offset demand from other facilities.

### **Access to facilities**

- 9.92 Access to facilities is perhaps the most important determinant of the adequacy of provision of facilities. This is also reflective of the consultation findings, where some residents perceived there to be insufficient as there were no facilities located in close proximity to their home.
- 9.93 Consultation suggests that the majority of residents would expect to travel by car (66%). 25% would anticipate walking and the remainder would use either public transport or would travel by bike.
- 9.94 Consultation demonstrated that for those residents who expected to walk to a facility, the 75% threshold level was 20 minutes, i.e residents expect to walk up to 20 minutes to reach a facility. For those expecting to drive, a 15 minute drivetime was expected.
- 9.95 Map 9.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of existing facilities and demonstrates the catchments that facilities in Wyre Forest serve, using both the walk time and drive time catchment.
- 9.96 It can be seen that the majority of residents are outside of a walk time catchment for a swimming pool but are able to reach a facility within the suggested 15 minute



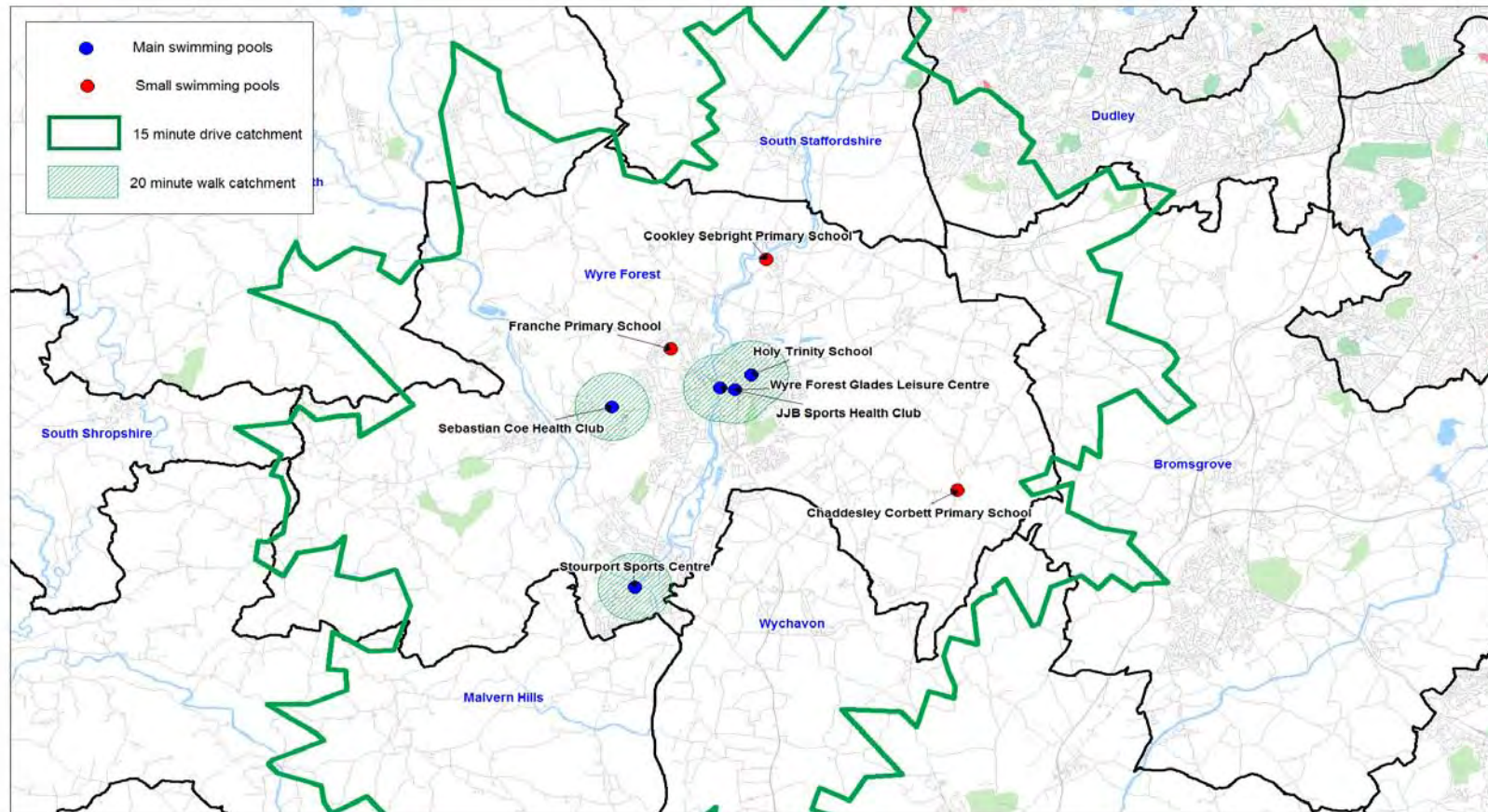
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drivetime. Like sports halls, swimming pools are predominantly clustered around the Kidderminster Area.

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**Map 9.2 – Swimming**



**Swimming pools**

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- 9.97 The Sport England FPM indicates that in Wyre Forest, 94.9% of demand is met. This means that 94% of residents live within the appropriate catchment of a swimming pool and that that facility has sufficient capacity to meet their needs.
- 9.98 Reflecting the distribution of facilities, 86.8% of residents travelling by car are satisfied. The use of swimming pools in Wyre Forest by those who travel by car is further reinforced when it can be seen that 50.4% of visits are imported i.e residents travel from other areas to use facilities in Wyre Forest. Over 80% of visits to all pools in the district are made by car. The Sport England FPM also takes into account the profile of the population and the type of facilities that are provided to serve the population. Only residents whose profile indicates that they would be able to afford to use commercial facilities are deemed to have potential to use those facilities.
- 9.99 The FPM therefore indicates that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate demand for swimming pools. Analysis of the amount of water space that each person in Wyre Forest has access to (personal share) reinforces this, demonstrating that each person in the district has access to a higher quantity of water than the national average. This is illustrated on Map 3 (Appendix I).
- 9.100 Analysis of unmet demand demonstrates that the amount of residents in the district with poor access to facilities is so low that there are no locations in the district where unmet demand exceeds 20m<sup>2</sup>. A standard sized swimming pool is 212m<sup>2</sup>. Although there is no swimming pool in Bewdley (where consultation demonstrates that dissatisfaction is highest) residents still have access to other facilities in and outside of the district. This is illustrated in Map 4 in Appendix I.
- 9.101 Given the low levels of unmet demand and the unused capacity in existing facilities it appears that population growth and / or increases in participation will not generate sufficient demand to warrant a new swimming pool.
- 9.102 As part of the initiatives to combat the culture of sedentary lifestyles, £140 million of investment has been set aside to provide free swimming for residents over the age of 60. It is intended that the money will support local authorities to provide free access to pools as well as providing free lessons and introducing swimming coordinators.
- 9.103 The fund aims to encourage local authorities to open up nearly 1,600 publicly owned swimming pools free to over 60s. More than 10 million older people in England stand to benefit from the move.

It will also be used as a challenge fund to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming and to rejuvenate and maintain pools. The fund will also support initiatives such as the provision of free lessons for adults who cannot swim, and the introduction of swimming coordinators to maximise and sustain uptake.

- 9.104 If Wyre Forest was to participate in this opportunity, demand for swimming may increase and as a consequence, the capacity at swimming pools would be reduced.

### **Summary – Swimming Pools**

- 9.105 Analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of swimming pools indicates that the key issue for swimming provision in Wyre Forest is the quality of facilities. 94% of demand is met and there is sufficient capacity within the facility stock to meet demand.
- 9.106 The public pools in the district are older than the commercial facilities. In particular, Stourport Sports Centre is an ageing facility. In addition to the additional revenue and

## **SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

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capital funding that ageing facilities require, this means that they may be less attractive to local residents.

- 9.107 Given that new provision is therefore not required; the future focus should be on improvements to the existing facilities. Public transport links to existing centres should also be maximised.
- 9.108 Demand for swimming and capacity at existing pools should be monitored, particularly in light of the free swimming initiative, which may generate additional demand from the over 60's population should this be implemented in Wyre Forest.
- 9.109 It must be noted that while this analysis considers the amount of residents that are within the appropriate catchment, this differs from the Sport England Choice and Opportunity Indicator, which evaluates the number of residents within a 20 minute catchment of three facilities, one of which is quality assessed. This considers the range of different opportunities that residents have, rather than their access to each facility type.

### **Indoor bowls**

- 9.110 Wyre Forest currently has no indoor bowls centre.
- 9.111 Active Places reveals the nearest indoor bowls centre can be found at Bromsgrove and District Indoor Bowls Club. There are an additional four facilities within a 20 mile radius of Wyre Forest including sites at Solihull, Erdington, Malvern and Stirchley.

#### **Consultation**

- 9.112 32% of residents feel the provision of indoor bowls facilities is insufficient. Only a small minority of residents indicate the provision of this type of indoor bowls facility is sufficient (9%). The remainder of residents had no opinion on the quantity of indoor bowls. Similar results are portrayed within the individual analysis areas.
- 9.113 General comments by respondents to the household survey identified the need for the provision of indoor bowls facilities in the District. This was reinforced by comments made at the drop in sessions.

#### **Supply and Demand**

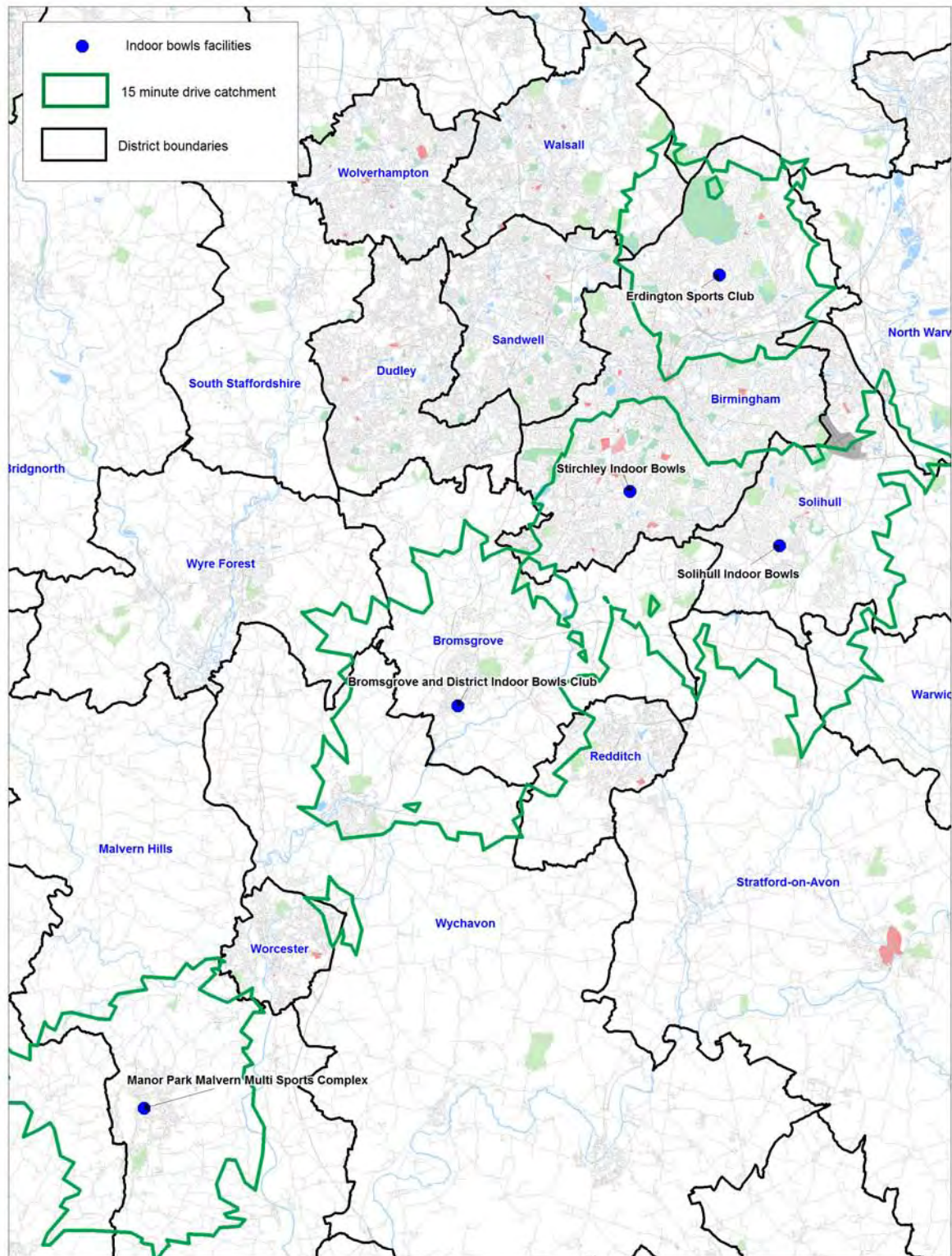
- 9.114 Active Places Power reveals that no demand for indoor bowls is met within Wyre Forest. This compares to 26% of demand met in the West Midlands and over 50% met nationally.
- 9.115 Local consultation undertaken reveals that 70% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor bowls rink. The 75% threshold level District wide was a 15 minute drive time. Findings within the geographical areas are consistent with the District wide result.
- 9.116 Map 9.3 illustrates that there are no bowls facilities in Wyre Forest and that the nearest facility in Bromsgrove is only accessible to a few residents in the south east of Wyre Forest. This reinforces the perceptions arising through consultation that there are insufficient indoor bowls facilities in the District.
- 9.117 In addition to meeting the demand expressed during consultation, the provision of more bowling rinks may contribute to increases in physical activity. 'Elsie and Arnold', one of the dominant population groups, enjoy activities such as bowls. Furthermore, the West Midlands Regional Sports Facility Strategy identified the need for an additional indoor bowls centre within Worcestershire.

#### **Summary – indoor bowls**

- 9.118 There are no indoor bowls centres in Wyre Forest and as a consequence, Active Places Power indicates that no demand in Wyre Forest is met. This is reinforced by the application of the accessibility standard which suggests that no residents have appropriate access to a facility.
- 9.119 The need for an indoor bowls facility within Wyre Forest was a key theme established throughout consultation. With no stand alone indoor bowls facility located in the District opportunities for the provision of a facility should be considered. This should be centrally located in the district to maximise the number of residents within it's catchment. The Sport England Facility Calculator indicates that a population the size of Wyre Forest would generate demand for circa 6 bowling rinks.

## SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

### Map 9.3 – Indoor Bowls in Wyre Forest



## Indoor bowls

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### Indoor tennis

#### Context

- 9.120 Wyre Forest currently does not have any indoor tennis facilities within the District. However, there are four clubs registered to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).
- 9.121 Active Places reveals the nearest indoor tennis centre is located in Bromsgrove at the David Lloyd Club. This means that residents have to travel a significant distance to reach their nearest facility. There are a further eight facilities located within a 20 mile radius of Wyre Forest.

#### Consultation

- 9.122 34% of respondents to the household survey feel that the provision of indoor tennis facilities is insufficient. 10% of residents indicate provision is sufficient. Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall result.

#### Current Provision

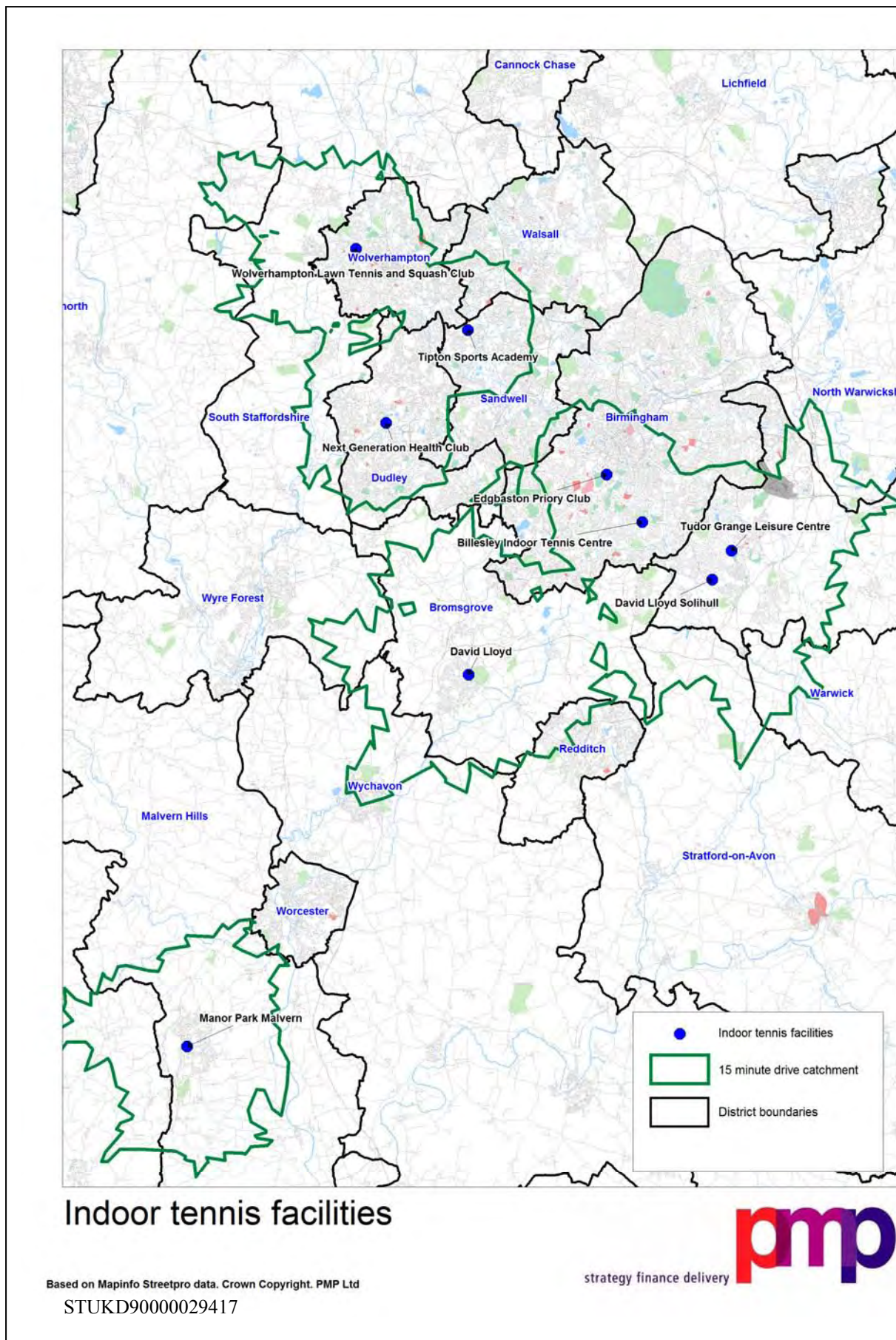
- 9.123 There are no facilities for indoor tennis in Wyre Forest. This compares poorly to both the national average (0.03 facilities per 1000) and the regional average (0.01 facilities per 1000).
- 9.124 In *'Priority Project Funding, Policy and Operational Procedures'*, the LTA states that one indoor court can serve 200 regular tennis players. We know from national LTA research that 5% of people in the UK play tennis and 2% of the population play regularly. It is therefore reasonable to assume that around 1970 (2%) of the local population play tennis regularly. This was reinforced in the recent Active People survey which indicated that nationally, just over 2% of residents play tennis regularly. Using these figures, the demand for indoor tennis courts within Wyre Forest would theoretically be 10 courts. This suggests that there is unmet demand of 10 courts.
- 9.125 70% of respondents would expect to drive to an indoor tennis facility. The 75% threshold level District wide was a 15 minute drive time. Findings within the geographical areas are consistent with the District wide result.
- 9.126 Map 9.4 overleaf demonstrates the location of indoor tennis facilities in Wyre Forest. It can be seen that most residents are outside of a 15 minute drive of an indoor tennis facility and only those in the far south east are within the appropriate catchment of a facility. This suggests that limited demand in the district is met.

#### Overall summary – indoor tennis

- 9.127 There are no indoor tennis facilities within Wyre Forest and the nearest facility is located in Bromsgrove, out of the suggested 15 minute catchment area. This suggests that there is unmet demand within the district.
- 9.128 While consultation expressed limited need for an indoor tennis facility, demand should be monitored and a facility provided within the district if required.

**SECTION 9 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

**Map 9.4 - Indoor Tennis Facilities - Wyre Forest**





### **The future provision of indoor facilities in Wyre Forest**

9.129 Analysis of the current supply and demand of indoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest concludes that:

- there are sufficient swimming pools to meet current and future demand in quantitative terms. Pools are ageing and focus should be placed on improving the quality of facilities and providing public transport linkages
- the supply of sports halls is in balance with demand. Changes to the current levels of participation and population growth may see demand become greater than supply. New provision may therefore be required. Any new facilities should be linked to school sites in order to maximise the use of resources
- there are no bowls facilities in the district and the need for a facility was a key theme of consultation. New provision should therefore be considered. This is of particular importance in light of the profile of the population which indicates that one of the dominant population groups has a strong propensity to participate in bowls
- there are no indoor tennis facilities in the district. Consultation did not uncover need for a facility within Wyre Forest and demand should therefore be monitored on an ongoing basis.

9.130 Other key issues raised that should be addressed in order to increase participation and use at leisure centres include:

- ensure that the pricing structure is attractive to all sections of the community
- ensure that facilities are inviting to the general public through effective maintenance and management regimes. The cleanliness and maintenance, along with parking and provision of a wide variety of facilities was considered to be particularly important.

9.131 From a planning perspective this therefore suggests that:

- Contributions may be required to improve the quality of public swimming pools in the district
- Population growth may generate the need for additional sports halls as there is insufficient capacity in the current stock to meet future demand. The Sport England Facility Calculator indicates that 0.28m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population should be requested
- Contributions may be required towards the provision of a new indoor bowls centre in the district – the Sport England Facility Calculator indicates that contributions equivalent to 0.07 rinks per 1000 population would be appropriate.

**SECTION 10**  
**ALLOTMENTS**

### Allotments

#### Introduction and definition

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

**Figure 10.1 – Example of an allotment**



**Quantity of provision**

10.7 The quantity of allotments across Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 10.1 below.

**Table 10.1 – Provision of allotments across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Current provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.00	0	-	-	9,697	0.0031
Stourport	3.72	2	1.73	1.99	20,811	0.1788
Kidderminster East	6.80	3	1.47	3.79	30,827	0.2206
Kidderminster West	5.07	6	0.12	2.9	27,419	0.1849
Rural East	2.36	4	0.17	1.19	10,772	0.2191
Rural West	0.00	-	-	-	2,874	0.0000
<b>Overall</b>	<b>17.95</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>0.1756</b>

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

- findings from the household survey reveal 66% of respondents feel the provision of allotments is insufficient. This perception of insufficient provision is the most conclusive of all typologies within the District. This is perhaps surprising given that the majority of these residents do not currently use allotments and is perhaps evidence of the growing demand and recognition of the role of these facilities
- within Wyre Forest there are 15 allotment sites and these are fairly well distributed across the District. There are no allotments within the Bewdley analysis area, although one site in the Kidderminster West analysis area is located on the border of Bewdley. This allotment does not serve the residents of Bewdley
- within the individual analysis areas a similar perception is evident and this is consistent across the District. The highest level of dissatisfaction with allotments is found in the Kidderminster West analysis area, where 76% of residents indicate that provision is insufficient. Although this area contains the largest number of sites, provision per 1000 is lower than in some other areas suggesting that there may be capacity issues at some sites

## SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

- when considering the amount of provision per 1000 population it can be seen that the greatest level of provision is in the Kidderminster East analysis area. There are no allotments in the Rural West analysis area
- the size of sites ranges significantly from 0.12ha to 3.79ha, indicating a varied amount of allotment plots in each site in Wyre Forest. Larger sites are frequently more popular than smaller sites as they offer a greater variety of amenities.

10.9 There are 15 allotment sites situated within Wyre Forest. Of these, nine are Wyre Forest Community Housing sites which currently have waiting lists, once again enforcing the growing popularity of allotments in the District. The site that currently has the highest demand is Greatfield allotments, with 15 people on the waiting list.

### Setting provision standards – quantity

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

10.11 The standard recommends an increase on the existing level of provision. This is based on the existing waiting lists in addition to expressed demand from local residents.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.184 ha per 1000	0.191 ha per 1000
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>A standard above the existing level of provision has been set to address the demand for the increased provision of allotments in Wyre Forest. The clear perception established through all consultations was that the existing provision of allotments is insufficient.</p> <p>There are currently 64 people on a waiting list for an allotment plot, equating to 9% of the current stock of allotments. Setting the quantity standard above the current level of provision will allow the Council to concentrate on the provision of new allotments to reflect current waiting lists. The increased provision of allotments will be particularly important in light of the growing demand for this typology, supported by the 14% of respondents to the household survey who indicate they would be interested in renting an allotment plot. In addition to meeting existing demand, it is likely that new development will generate additional demand for facilities.</p>	

**Current provision - quality**

10.12 The quality of existing allotments in the District was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 10.2 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.

10.13 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of allotments have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.

**Table 10.2 – Quality of allotments across Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	0	-	-	-	-
Stourport	2	56 – 60	58	Kingsway Allotments – ID 215	Abberley Avenue Allotments – ID 141
Kidderminster East	3	51 – 60	54	Chester Road Allotments – ID 13	Dunclent Crescent Allotments – ID 294
Kidderminster West	6	56 – 62	57	Dowles Road Allotments – ID 151	Northumberland Avenue Allotments – ID 79
Rural East	4	56	56	-	-
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Overall</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>51 – 62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Chester Road Allotments – ID 13</b>	<b>Northumberland Avenue Allotments – ID 79</b>

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

- 53% of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of allotments to be average. 26% of residents also indicate they are poor while 21% feel it to be good. This infers that the quality of sites may be varying

## SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

- findings across the individual analysis areas are consistent with the District wide perception, with the majority of respondents in each area indicating that the quality of allotments is average
- the average quality score of an allotment in Wyre Forest is 56% and the range of scores is 51% – 62%. This suggests that in fact there is little variation in the overall quality of sites in the District.

10.15 Rear Queens Head Allotments and Arley Lane Allotments are currently unused and therefore classified as closed allotment sites. These sites have however been assessed due to the potential recreation opportunities these sites could offer to local residents if they are made useable.

### Setting provision standards – quality

10.16 The recommended local quality standard for allotments is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.

10.17 The quality standard summarises the features that residents consider to be an important determinant of the quality of provision.

### Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

<b>Recommended standard – ALLOTMENTS</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Parking facilities	Toilets	
Well kept grass	Seating	
Good site access	Footpaths	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to allotments, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	13%	3
Cleanliness and maintenance	27%	4
Vegetation	7%	1
Ancillary accommodation	12%	2

**Setting provision standards – accessibility**

- 10.18 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 10.19 Site-specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the site visits and information and signage, transport and general accessibility issues were assessed.
- 10.20 Consultation and analysis highlights that 65% of residents expect to walk to their local allotment while 31% prefer to travel by car. This indicates that allotments are expected to be local to the home.
- 10.21 Site assessments indicate that the majority of allotments are poor in terms of general access and information and signage. Transport was rated as average.
- 10.22 The recommended local accessibility standard for allotments is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

**Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)**

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>The provision of allotments is very much a demand led typology and this should be reflected in the application of the accessibility and quantity standards. As such any deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p>A clear preference for walking is established through consultation and therefore a walk time standard has been set. Based upon the 75% threshold level the standard has been set at a 10 minute walk time.</p> <p>This represents a significantly challenging standard, however the sufficient provision of allotments in the District will provide an alternative form of recreation and physical activity for residents.</p>

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

**Applying provision standards**

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



**Table 10.3 – Application of quantity standard**

Analysis areas	Current balanced against local standard (0.191 hectares per 1000 population)	Future balanced against local standard (0.191 hectares per 1000 population)
Bewdley	-1.72	-1.82
Stourport	-0.05	-0.25
Kidderminster East	1.22	0.91
Kidderminster West	0.11	-0.17
Rural East	0.41	0.30
Rural West	-0.52	-0.55
<b>Overall</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-1.58</b>

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

10.25 Key issues arising from Table 10.3 include:

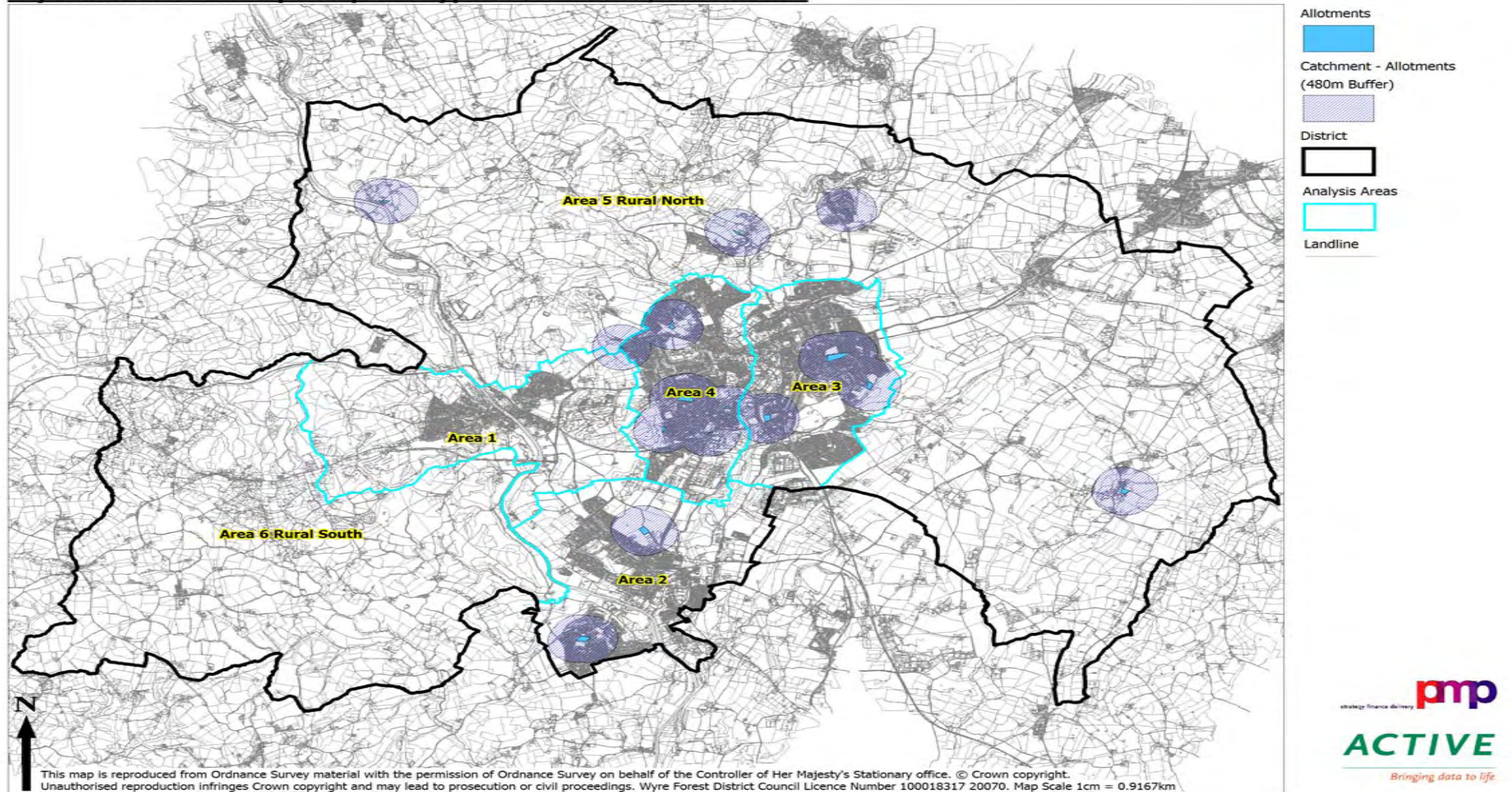
- the current provision of allotments in the District is insufficient to meet the recommended minimum standards. This is exemplified by the waiting lists present at over half of the sites. The quantity standard suggests that there are particular shortfalls in provision in the Bewdley, Stourport and Rural West analysis areas
- based on the local standard of 0.191 hectares per 1000 population, four of the six analysis areas will have a deficiency by 2026. Although there is currently sufficient provision in the Kidderminster West analysis area, this will be insufficient to meet local demand by 2026. Despite this current adequate provision, waiting lists are particularly high in the Kidderminster West analysis area
- the overall deficiency District wide will be –1.58 hectares by 2026.

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

## SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

### Map 10.1 – Provision of allotments in Wyre Forest

#### Wyre Forest OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Allotments



## SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS

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- 10.27 Map 10.1 highlights that allotments are evenly distributed across the District, with the exception of the Bewdley analysis area, where there is only one site located on the eastern border of the area.
- 10.28 Clear accessibility deficiencies are evident in the Bewdley analysis area, centre of Stourport analysis area, centre of Kidderminster West analysis area and north of Kidderminster East analysis area.

### Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

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

<b>ALL1</b>	Regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities where demand is increasing through ongoing evaluation of waiting lists. Ensure new housing developments allow for any increase in demand as necessary.
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- 10.31 As well as ensuring that the provision of allotments is sufficient in quantitative terms, consideration should also be given to the achievement of the qualitative standard. This will ensure that all allotments are of adequate standard to meet local need and to encourage new users.

<b>ALL2</b>	Seek to improve the quality of existing allotment sites in order to ensure that all sites are of adequate quality to meet the needs of local residents.
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- 10.32 The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has previously revealed that with the exception of the Kidderminster East and Rural East analysis area, there are significant deficiencies across the District and that all areas will have shortfalls by 2026 when measured against the minimum quantity standard. This is reinforced by current waiting lists. There are 64 people on the waiting list for an allotments plot, which equates to 9% of the current stock of allotments in Wyre Forest. Waiting lists are particularly high within the Kidderminster West analysis area.
- 10.33 In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District, the good distribution of facilities (where all allotments serve unique catchment areas) and the high levels of use at all allotment sites, all provision should be protected from development.

<b>ALL3</b>	Ensure continued support to allotment providers and associations across Wyre Forest and protect these sites from development.
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10.34 Demand in each of the geographical areas of the District is evaluated in the sections that follow. In some instances, extension of existing sites (or reduction in the size of plots to accommodate more residents) may provide an appropriate alternative to the development of new sites.

**Bewdley analysis area**

10.35 The largest quantitative deficiency is found within the Bewdley analysis area, with a shortfall of –1.82 ha expected by 2026. Accessibility mapping reinforces this shortfall with the only allotment site (Salisbury Road) located on the eastern border of the analysis area, meaning all residents in the Bewdley analysis area are outside the recommended catchment of an allotment plot (Figure 10.2). Furthermore, there are waiting lists at this site, indicating that there is latent demand within the area.

**Figure 10.2 – Deficiencies in Bewdley analysis area**



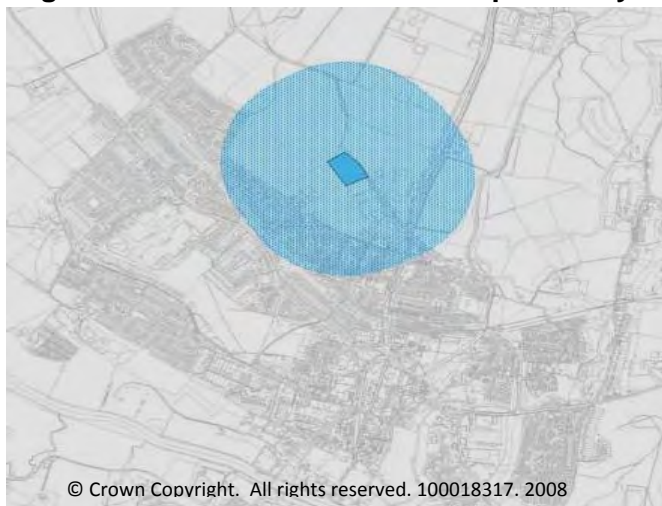
10.36 Based on the average size of an allotment plot (250m<sup>2</sup>) an additional 73 allotment plots would be required to meet the recommended quantity standard. In consideration of the large quantitative shortfall and accessibility deficiencies at least one new allotment site should be provided within the Bewdley analysis area.

<b>ALL4</b>	Investigate the demand for the provision of allotments in the Bewdley analysis area and provide a new site if demand is expressed. This should be centrally located in order to serve as many residents of the town as possible.
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**Stourport analysis area**

10.37 Application of the accessibility standard illustrates clear areas of deficiency in the central and southern areas of Stourport analysis area (Figure 10.3). Accessibility deficiencies in the area are reinforced by quantitative analysis of the provision of allotments, which shows that a shortfall of –0.25 ha is expected by 2026.

**Figure 10.3 – Deficiencies in Stourport analysis area**



10.38 The current deficiency in the Stourport analysis area indicates a requirement for only ten allotment plots. There are no waiting lists on existing sites and therefore demand within this area should be monitored to identify any requirements for increased provision.

<b>ALL5</b>	Monitor the demand for the provision of allotments in the Stourport analysis area and examine the need for additional sites across the area as the population grows.
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**Kidderminster east analysis area**

10.39 The provision of allotments within the Kidderminster East analysis area is sufficient to meet current and future demand. Despite the adequate levels of provision, accessibility mapping highlights clear deficiencies in the north and south of the analysis area. These deficiencies are illustrated in Figure 10.4 below.

**Figure 10.4 – Deficiencies in the Kidderminster east analysis area**



**SECTION 10 – ALLOTMENTS**

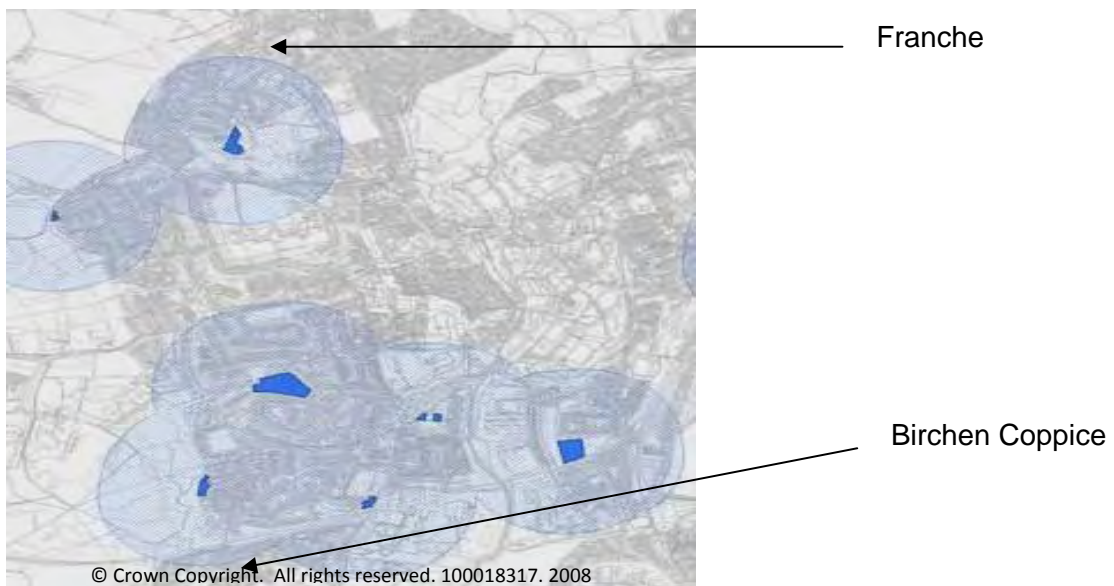
- 10.40 Current waiting lists exist at all allotment sites in the area (Aggborough Crescent (10), Dunclent Crescent (6) and Chester Road (5)). The area may therefore benefit from further provision of allotment plots should the opportunity arise.
- 10.41 Existing sites should be afforded protection and opportunities for new provision should be considered.

<b>ALL6</b>	Protect existing allotment sites in the Kidderminster East analysis area and consider the opportunities for new provision, ideally located within the area of existing deficiency.
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**Kidderminster West analysis area**

- 10.42 Application of the quantity standard reveals that provision is currently sufficient to meet demand. However, based on future population projections there will be a future requirement for 0.17 ha (7 plots). Accessibility mapping enforces this minor shortfall with the majority of residents in Birchen Coppice, Summerhill, Blakebrook and Franche unable to access an allotment site within the recommended 10 minute walk time (Figure 10.5 overleaf).

**Figure 10.5 – Deficiencies in Kidderminster West analysis area**



- 10.43 A large number of sites within the area currently have waiting lists and Tomkinson Drive allotments have the largest waiting list in the District (15 people). This indicates that there is latent demand and opportunities for new provision (or the extension of existing provision) should be considered.

<b>ALL7</b>	Assess the demand for the increased provision of allotments within the Kidderminster West analysis area.
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**Rural East analysis area**

10.44 Based on current and future population projections there is adequate provision of allotments within the Rural East analysis area to meet demand. Accessibility mapping reinforces this, with nearly all residents in the larger settlements able to access an allotment site within the recommended 10-minute walk time. Only residents in Blakedown and the south of Fairfield do not have access to an allotment (Figures 10.6 and 10.7).

**Figure 10.6 – Deficiencies in Blakedown**



**Figure 10.7 – Deficiencies in the south of Fairfield**



10.45 Due to the fact that all residents in Blakedown cannot access an allotment, the demand for allotments in this area should be considered.

<b>ALL8</b>	Focus on maximising access and maintaining and improving the quality of existing allotment sites in the Rural East analysis area. Assess the demand for the increased provision of allotments within Blakedown.
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**Rural West analysis area**

- 10.46 Analysis of the quantity of provision in the Rural West analysis area indicates that there is expected to be a large shortfall in the provision of allotments by 2026 (-0.55 ha). No allotment sites are situated in this area of the District and application of the accessibility standard further illustrates this with no residents within the outlying villages within the recommended catchment of an allotment. Despite this, it would be unreasonable to suggest that all villages should contain allotments and opportunities for new provision should therefore be demand led.

<b>ALL9</b>	Support Parish Councils in the provision of new allotment sites where specific demand is identified.
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**Summary**

- 10.47 The current provision of allotments in Wyre Forest is 17.95 ha. Waiting lists in the District equate to 9% of the current stock.
- 10.48 The provision of allotments per 1000 population is greatest in the Kidderminster East and Rural East analysis areas, highlighting a good distribution of allotments in both the urban and rural areas of the District.
- 10.49 Results from the household survey reveal a large dissatisfaction with the current provision of allotments in the District.
- 10.50 The quality of allotments in the District is average with the mean quality score of a site being 56%. This highlights the need for qualitative improvements in Wyre Forest.
- 10.51 The local accessibility standard has been set at a 10 minute walk time, indicating the desire for the local provision of allotments in Wyre Forest. Application of the accessibility standard highlights key deficiencies within the Kidderminster analysis areas, Stourport analysis area and particularly in the Bewdley analysis area.



## **SECTION 11**

### **CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS**

## **Cemeteries and churchyards**

### **Introduction**

- 11.1 This typology encompasses both churchyards contained within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries outside the confines of a church. These include private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. Although the primary purpose of this type of open space is burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, these sites frequently have considerable value for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
- 11.2 Some churchyards contain areas of unimproved grasslands and various other habitats. They can make a significant contribution to the provision of urban greenspace providing a sanctuary for wildlife in the urban settlements and often providing historic value to the more rural landscapes.
- 11.3 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in rural areas. In some instances, cemeteries and churchyards may be the only open space within a settlement.
- 11.4 In urban areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but can be important for nature conservation.

**Figure 11.1 – St George’s Church, Kidderminster**



### **Consultation**

- 11.5 Consultation on the provision of churchyards and cemeteries in Wyre Forest highlighted that:
- 49% of respondents to the household survey do not use churchyards and cemeteries. However, 23% of respondents use this typology more than once a month
  - 58% of respondents consider the quality of cemeteries and churchyards to be of average quality. However, a significant amount of respondents also rate their quality as good (36%)
  - respondents identified the ideal features of cemeteries and churchyards as well kept grass, clean and litter free and parking facilities.

**Current position**

11.6 There are currently 24 cemeteries and churchyards in Wyre Forest. The distribution of sites across the District is summarised in Table 11.1 below.

**Table 11.1 – Provision of churchyards and cemeteries in Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	LDF population (2026)	Provision per 1000 population (2026)
Bewdley	0.56	1	-	-	9,697	0.0577
Stourport	3.54	3	0.50	2.09	20,811	0.1701
Kidderminster East	2.50	2	1.15	1.35	30,827	0.0811
Kidderminster West	9.50	2	1.60	7.90	27,419	0.3465
Rural East	4.71	12	0.10	0.99	10,772	0.4372
Rural West	2.03	4	0.33	0.68	2,874	0.7063
<b>Overall</b>	<b>22.84</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>0.2230</b>

11.7 It can be seen from Table 11.1 that:

- there is an uneven distribution of sites across the District, with 12 of the 24 sites located in the Rural East analysis area of the District. However, despite this area having the greatest number of sites, Kidderminster West analysis area contains the largest quantity of provision in terms of hectares. This suggests that the sites in this area of the town are larger than some others across the District. The lowest level of provision per 1000 of cemeteries and churchyards is in the Bewdley analysis area where there is only one site (equivalent to 0.0577 ha per 1000 population)
- the size of sites is wide ranging with the smallest being 0.09ha and the largest 7.9ha. This is representative of the different functions of cemeteries and churchyards.

### Setting provision standards

#### Quantity standard

- 11.8 No quantity standards have been set for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG17 Annex states: *"many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."*
- 11.9 For cemeteries, PPG 17 Annex states: *"every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard."*

#### Quality

- 11.10 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a detailed pro forma described in section 2. This is provided in detail in Appendix G. It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records only the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of cemeteries across the District is set out in Table 11.2 overleaf.
- 11.11 The quality of cemeteries and churchyards can be particularly important in encouraging local residents to use these sites for recreational purposes.

**Table 11.2 – The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in Wyre Forest**

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
Bewdley	1	-	60	-	All Saints Church Wribbenhall – ID 555
Stourport	3	-	60	-	All Saints Church Wilden – ID 590
Kidderminster East	2	64 – 68	66	St Mary's Church – ID 100	St George's Churchyard – ID 99
Kidderminster West	2	50 – 86	68	St John The Baptist Churchyard – ID 76	Kidderminster Cemetery – ID 39
Rural East	12	42 – 78	60	St James Churchyard – ID 575	Holy Trinity Trimpley – ID 284
Rural West	4	54 – 68	65	Holy Trinity Church Far Forest – ID 584	St Giles' Church Heightington – ID 586
<b>Overall</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42 – 86</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>St James Churchyard – ID 575</b>	<b>Kidderminster Cemetery – ID 39</b>

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

- the majority of respondents to the household survey perceive the quality of churchyards and cemeteries to be average (58%). However, 36% of respondents also indicate the quality of this typology is good
- site assessments support the findings from the household survey with the quality of cemeteries and churchyards and the average score is 62%
- analysis of the scores achieved indicates that the overall quality of provision is consistent across the District, with similar averages in each area. Despite this, the range of scores (42% - 86%) reveals significant differences in the quality of provision. There are a number of high quality sites in the District, such as Kidderminster Cemetery (86%) and Holy Trinity Trimpley (78%).

**Quality standards**

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

**Quality Standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>		<b>Desirable</b>
Well kept grass		Toilets
Clean/litter free		Flowers/trees
Parking facilities		Footpaths
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to cemeteries and churchyards, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	9%	1
Cleanliness and maintenance	65%	4
Vegetation	16%	2
Ancillary accommodation	19%	3

**Accessibility standards**

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

**Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas**

11.15 Given that it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards it is also not appropriate to state areas of deficiency or need or examine the spatial distribution of these sites.

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

11.17 Sites scoring well in terms of quality should be considered examples of good practice. The value of cemeteries and churchyards in the promotion of biodiversity and provision of habitats should be reinforced.

<b>CC1</b>	Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and consider working towards developing more awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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11.18 In areas of limited open space provision (or where churchyards are the only open space type), churchyard and cemetery sites are of particular importance. In these areas, enhancement is particularly important to ensure local residents value them. This is particularly the case in the rural area where the provision of other types of open space is limited.

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

11.19 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas, particularly in rural areas. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land required, but are important for nature conservation.

11.20 Local standards for accessibility and quantity have not been set as it is not covered in the remit of this study. However, it is recognised that there is a need for an increase in the level of cemetery provision within the District, and it remains important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision, separate to this study.

11.21 The essential and desirable features set out in the quality standards should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the District. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the District is currently average. This is reflected in the findings of the household survey, with 58% of respondents thinking that the quality of sites is average. 36% of respondents also felt that the quality was good.

11.22 In some instances, cemeteries and churchyards are the only type of open space within a village, making them a particularly valuable element of the rural green space network. Enhancements to accessibility and quality should be prioritised in these areas.

11.23 The wider benefits of churchyards are key and it is wrong to place a value on churchyards and cemeteries focusing solely on quality and accessibility. In addition to offering a functional value, many cemeteries and churchyards have wider benefits including heritage, cultural and landscape values.

## **SECTION 12**

### **CIVIC SPACES**



### Civic spaces

#### Definition

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

**Figure 12.1 – Severn Side South, Bewdley**



#### Strategic context and consultation

- 12.2 Civic spaces can be important areas of open space in urban areas and town centres.
- 12.3 As PPG 17 states *'the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design led basis. Accordingly it is for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas'*.
- 12.4 Civic spaces are an important asset in towns and settlements across Wyre Forest. It is the only public open space that is not considered to be green open space.
- 12.5 27% of respondents from the household survey stated that they visit a civic space more than once a month. However only 3% of respondents identified this type of open space as the type they use most frequently. This does not necessarily suggest that residents do not use these open spaces, just that they visit other types on a more frequent basis.
- 12.6 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces. However, the Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan does make references to the provision of public open space.
- 12.7 Policy LR1- proposals for development that will lead to the loss or reduction of parks, **public open spaces** or other open space areas will not be allowed, except when the equivalent or increased provision is provided. Development that will have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted. This policy therefore recognises the role that civic spaces play in providing for the community.

### Setting provision standards

#### Quantity standard

- 12.8 Four civic spaces have been identified throughout the audit, specifically:
- Severn Side North – Site ID 305
  - Severn Side South – Site ID 306
  - St Mary’s Civic Space – Site ID 558
  - Weavers Wharf Civic Space – Site ID 559.
- 12.9 As may be expected, these sites are located within the urban areas of the District. Consultation suggests that the majority of residents consider the provision of civic spaces to be insufficient (66%). This perception was the second most conclusive in the District and is consistent across all analysis areas.
- 12.10 Analysis of the more qualitative elements of the household survey indicated that people value the use of civic spaces as meeting places and feel that they provide a “sense of belonging” to a place.
- 12.11 PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces in light of their specialist nature.
- 12.12 Therefore we recommend that **no provision standard** is set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres. The design and planning of new neighbourhoods in Wyre Forest should take into account the high demand for new civic spaces from local residents and ensure that such spaces are incorporated within master plans.

#### Quality standard

- 12.13 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit and the completion of a detailed pro forma described in Section 2. More detail is provided in Appendix G. It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records only the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of civic spaces across the District is set out in Table 12.1 overleaf.

**Table 12.1 – The quality of civic spaces in Wyre Forest**

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Range of quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Average quality scores (%)</b>	<b>Lowest quality sites</b>	<b>Highest quality sites</b>
Bewdley	2	70 - 73	72	Severn Side North – ID 305	Severn Side South – ID 306
Stourport	0	-	-	-	-
Kidderminster East	1	60	-	-	St Mary’s Civic Space – ID 558
Kidderminster West	1	60	-	-	Weavers Wharf Civic Space – ID 559
Rural East	0	-	-	-	-
Rural West	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60 – 73</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>St Mary’s Civic Space – ID 558</b>	<b>Severn Side South – ID 306</b>

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

- responses within the individual areas are consistent with the overall findings and the highest level of satisfaction is found in Kidderminster West analysis area, where 47% of residents feel the quality of civic spaces is good
- residents at drop in sessions identified dog fouling as the main issue at this type of open space
- the average quality score for a civic space in Wyre Forest is 66%. The range of scores from 60 – 73 suggests that the overall quality of sites is consistent
- a high level of satisfaction was also shown by residents in the Kidderminster East, analysis area where St Mary’s Civic Space is located. Residents in Kidderminster have access to a higher quantity of civic spaces than other residents of the District.

12.15 In setting local standards for civic spaces, it is only appropriate to set a quality standard. Full details of the consultation and justifications for the recommended local standard are provided within Appendix G. The recommended local standard, derived directly from consultation across Wyre Forest has been summarised below:

**Quality Standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – CIVIC SPACES</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Well kept grass	Toilets	
Clean/litter free	Flowers/trees	
Parking facilities	Footpaths	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to civic spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>9%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>65%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>16%</b>	<b>2</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>19%</b>	<b>3</b>

**Accessibility standard**

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

12.17 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.

12.18 Site-specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits and information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.

## SECTION 12 – CIVIC SPACES

- 12.19 Responses to the household questionnaire showed that more people would expect to walk to civic spaces as opposed to drive (51% walk compared to 42% drive). Despite an overall preference for walking, there is also a reliance on the use of the car (42%). This suggests that there are improvements that could be made to the accessibility of civic spaces in order to promote walking as a preferred travel method.
- 12.20 Site assessment ratings show all of the civic spaces are average in terms of transport links, general site access and information and signage. Access to these sites is often facilitated by their primary location within the key town centres.
- 12.21 The provision of civic spaces in rural areas is rare. Separate accessibility standards for urban and rural areas have therefore been set to reflect this.
- 12.22 The recommended local accessibility standard for civic spaces is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H.

### Accessibility standard (see Appendix H)

<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b>20 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN)</b> <b>20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</b>
<b>Justification</b>
<p>It is important to note that PPG17 states that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such a typology as it cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation. Therefore strict adherence to an accessibility standard (in terms of highlighting area inside and outside the catchment of existing provision) would be counterproductive. However, it is recommended that the Council consider the accessibility of civic spaces within a 20 minute walk time for the urban area and a 20 minute drive time or the rural area.</p> <p>Considering the location of civic spaces in the context of a 20 minute walk time in the urban area and 20 minute drive time in the rural area is consistent with the 75% threshold level as advocated in PPG17. A drive time for the rural area has been set due to the high level of dissatisfaction with the current level of provision, with 67% of respondents to the household survey indicating there is a lack of civic spaces.</p> <p>Whilst the accessibility standard can be used for broad planning need, it should not be adopted as policy to influence future civic space provision.</p>

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

### Summary

- 12.23 There are four civic spaces across the District, all of which are located in the urban areas. Throughout the consultation, the aesthetic importance of civic spaces was discussed and they were perceived to be regularly used by both visitors and residents.
- 12.24 The nature of this typology means that they are very specific to their locality. Whilst no quantity standard has been set, careful consideration should be given when new developments are designed to the opportunity to provide appropriate civic spaces.
- 12.25 An accessibility and quality standard has been set as a benchmark for new areas of civic space and the maintenance of existing areas across the District.

**SECTION 13**  
**GREEN CORRIDORS**

### Green corridors

#### Definition

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

**Figure 13.1 – Canal towpath, Kidderminster**



#### Strategic context and consultation

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

## **SECTION 13 – GREEN CORRIDORS**

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- 13.6 The rural nature of Wyre Forest lends itself to the provision of linear corridors which link open spaces (and settlements) together. The District contains a wide variety of canals and towpaths that form the basis of the green infrastructure.
- 13.7 In the main, the County Council (Worcestershire County Council) are responsible for the public rights of way (PROW) in the District. Worcestershire has a network of 3,000 miles of public rights of way and the Worcestershire Countryside Service has a statutory responsibility for these Public Rights of Way.
- 13.8 As a Highway Authority, Worcestershire County Council has a duty to assert and protect the rights of way network. However the responsibility for ensuring the paths are safe and convenient for the public to use is shared between a number of others including the District councils, landowners and users.
- 13.9 Worcestershire County Council's responsibilities include:
- signposting paths where they leave a metalled road
  - waymarking paths along the route of the path
  - clearance of undergrowth
  - ensuring landowners comply with their responsibilities.
- 13.10 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Worcestershire County Council was required to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan by 2007, outlining countryside access improvements over the next five years.
- 13.11 The Worcestershire County Council Rights Of Way Improvement Plan outlines a number of strategic aims for the County, including:
- to provide a rights of way network that meets the needs of the public
  - to ensure the rights of way network is easy to use
  - to balance the different needs of users and others with an interest in the rights of way network
  - to raise awareness of, promote and build confidence in the rights of way network
  - to manage resources and the rights of way network in an efficient and targeted manner.
- 13.12 As well as being a key partner in the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Wyre Forest District Council's commitment to the provision of green corridors is emphasised in several documents including the Adopted Local Plan and Cycling Strategy, in particular:
- Objective 44 of the Local Plan is to improve safety and enhance access and facilities for vulnerable road users
  - Objective 66 of the Local Plan promotes the formula of green transport plans in connection with existing or proposed developments that would create significant volumes of traffic or traffic problems that need to be addressed



## SECTION 13 – GREEN CORRIDORS

- Policy TR6 of the Local Plan forbids development that is likely to have a detrimental effect on the Wyre Forest cycle route network. Where appropriate, S106 obligations may be required for contributions towards off site cycle infrastructure
- Policy TR18 indicates that developments likely to have significant transport implications will be subject to a Transport Assessment
- Policy TR19 states that all new developments that would create significant transport problems must provide a transport plan
- the Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy aims to promote cycling as a sustainable form of transport and provides a framework for this to be achieved
- one of the key aims of the strategy is to treble the amount of residents cycling (in line with Governmental targets) by 2010.

<b>GC1</b>	The Council should work in tandem with Worcestershire County Council, the PCT and other key partners to help maximise the use of green corridors and Public Rights of Way in the District.
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### Consultation

13.13 Consultation on the provision of green corridors in Wyre Forest was undertaken through a variety of methods. The findings showed that:

- green corridors are used more frequently than all other open space in the District by 8% of residents. 49% of residents use green corridors once a month or more
- the quality of green corridors is perceived to be good by the majority of respondents to the household survey (49%). 40% of residents state the quality of this typology is average
- dog fouling and litter were considered to be the main problems experienced when using green corridors in Wyre Forest
- cycle paths and canal tow paths were particularly valued by residents in the District.

<b>GC2</b>	Building on the popularity of green corridors, the Council should look to enhance and develop pathways along the rivers and canals.
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### Current position

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

**Quality**

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

**Quality Standard (see Appendix G)**

<b>Recommended standard – Green corridors</b>		
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:		
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	
Clean/Litter free	Water features	
Footpaths	Well kept grass	
Nature features	Flowers and trees	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to green corridors, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>4%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>37%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>33%</b>	<b>3</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>14%</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>GC3</b>	Providers of green corridors in Wyre Forest should aspire to the essential and desirable quality features.
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**Quantity standard**

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

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

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

*“Instead planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to ‘plug in’ access to them from as wide an area as possible”.*

13.19 The Wyre Forest District is connected to the National Cycle Route via Sustrans Route 45. The route integrates Stourport, Kidderminster and Bewdley.

<b>GC4</b>	Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in the District should be a key priority for the Council. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces.
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**Accessibility standard**

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

**Applying provision standards**

13.21 Given that it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards, it is also not appropriate to state areas of deficiency or need.

13.22 The aim is to provide an integrated network of high quality green corridors linking open spaces together and opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport. Consideration should also be given to the provision of effective wildlife corridors, enabling the migration of species across the District.

13.23 Specific opportunities to develop increased linkages were discussed in earlier sections of this study. Particular priority should be given to the development of green corridors within the more urban areas of the District where there are deficiencies of open space, particularly Kidderminster.

<b>GC5</b>	Investigate the feasibility of a green infrastructure study to help maximise the linkages of open spaces with green corridors and help create a network of multi-functional greenspace in Wyre Forest. This should serve as an extension to this PPG17 Study.
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### **Summary**

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

## **SECTION 14**

### **PLANNING OVERVIEW**

## **Overview of open space, sport and recreation provision in Wyre Forest**

- 14.1 This study has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and its Companion Guide.
- 14.2 This section summarises the local standards set and the application of the local standards for all typologies in each area of the District. Consideration is then given to the implementation of the study in a planning policy and development control context. The findings of this report should be used as an evidence base for the development of a green space strategy as well as the LDF.

### **Current position**

- 14.3 The current provision of all open space, sport and recreation facilities in Wyre Forest is summarised in Table 14.1 overleaf. Detailed information on the provision of each type of space can be found throughout the individual sections and in Appendix E.
- 14.4 Areas where the quantity of each type of open space falls below the minimum standard are highlighted in red. All figures are presented in hectares.

**SECTION 14 – SUMMARY AND PLANNING OVERVIEW**

**Table 14.1 - Current total provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Wyre Forest**

Analysis Area	Town parks (ha)	Local parks (ha)	Amenity green space (ha)	Natural and semi natural open space (ha)	Provision for children (ha)	Provision for young people(ha)	Outdoor sports facilities (ha)	Allotments (ha)
Bewdley	0.88	0.99	5.40	21.64	0.40	0.32	9.55	0.03
Stourport	16.89	0.25	11.82	59.41	1.15	0.38	56.81	3.72
Kidderminster East	2.76	22.83	2.72	24.83	0.91	0.67	28.54	6.80
Kidderminster West	11.60	0.00	5.90	41.56	1.28	0.42	32.5	5.07
Rural East	0.00	0.00	1.54	70.11	0.35	0.15	52.33	2.36
Rural West	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.33	0.02	0.00	5.89	0.00
<b>Overall</b>	<b>32.13</b>	<b>24.07</b>	<b>27.38</b>	<b>223.88</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>185.62</b>	<b>17.98</b>
COMMENTS (District wide)	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard	Existing provision below recommended standard

### **Current provision – quality**

14.5 Analysis of the quality of open spaces across the District indicates that:

- the quality of parks within the District is average. Larger parks are generally of higher quality than local parks and Jubilee Gardens and Brinton Park are seen as examples of good practice. Parks are particularly valued within Wyre Forest and local parks are considered to be an important open space for children. Local Standards were set at the existing level of provision in order to encourage a focus on the enhancement of the quality of existing sites
- the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces is lower than some other typologies. Improvements to the quality of natural sites were considered to be of particular importance. Natural and semi natural open space within the District is highly valuable to local residents, particularly within the urban settlements. The abundance of nearby countryside combined with the provision of natural and semi natural open space is integral to the character of the District. Local standards were set at the existing level of provision in order to ensure a focus on qualitative enhancements
- the quality of amenity green space was perceived to be average by local residents. Amenity green space is one of least used typologies in the District and existing sites are perceived to be largely valued from a landscape perspective rather than for recreational use
- quantity was considered to be a greater issue than quality for children and young people, however quality also emerged as a key issue. Analysis of existing sites highlighted significant variations in the quality of existing facilities and this was also reflected through the findings of the local consultation, where the need for challenging and innovative facilities was raised. Recent improvements of young people's facilities were regularly commended and encouraged
- the quality of outdoor sports facilities is the most varied of all typologies, with some excellent examples and some poorer facilities. Improvements to the quality of facilities were perceived to be of particular importance to residents and sports clubs. A key issue identified by sports clubs was a lack of changing facilities at outdoor sports facilities
- local residents perceived addressing quantitative issues to be of greater priority than enhancing the quality of allotments in Wyre Forest. The quality of allotments in the District is consistent and consultation highlighted that cleanliness and maintenance are the two most valued features of a site.

### **Current provision – accessibility**

14.6 The accessibility of all open space sites is discussed throughout the report. Accessibility is central if deficiencies are to be appropriately understood. In summary, the key issues emerging from the analysis of accessibility are:

- while all residents of the rural areas are able to access parks and gardens, there are shortfalls within the urban areas. New provision should be considered in the Stourport and Kidderminster analysis areas



- the distribution of natural and semi natural open spaces is fairly even, however clear areas of deficiency are evident in the urban areas of the District. Providing green linkages to the nearby countryside will be essential to combat these areas of deficiency
- the distribution of amenity green space is poor, with sites concentrated in the urban areas of the District. The relationship between amenity green space, parks and provision for children was highlighted. Although improvements to the quality of provision should be prioritised, opportunities for new provision should be seized in the Kidderminster West analysis area. There are opportunities to upgrade existing amenity green space to meet deficiencies in parks in the Kidderminster East and West analysis areas
- reflecting the findings of the quantity standards, there are large clusters of residents who are unable to access facilities for children and young people. Several priorities for new provision were also identified
- the distribution of outdoor sports facilities is even and there are few deficiencies across the District. One issue however is the lack of publicly owned facilities in certain areas of Wyre Forest. Additionally, in some instances the balance of provision does not meet local need, with insufficient facilities for junior teams and surpluses of larger size facilities. Increased access to school sites for the local community will be instrumental in the effective delivery of outdoor sports facilities
- the distribution of allotments is even across the District, with the exception of the Bewdley analysis area. It is within this area where there is a priority for new provision.

14.7 In summary therefore, the key issues relating to quality, quantity and accessibility arising through this study which should be addressed as part of a green space strategy include:

- the need for access to local parks in some of the urban areas of the District
- the need for qualitative enhancements of natural and semi natural open space and amenity green space
- provision of additional opportunities for children and young people
- opportunities for increased provision of allotments
- opportunities to increase access to school sites.

9.1 Analysis of the current supply and demand of indoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest concludes that:

- there are sufficient swimming pools to meet current and future demand in quantitative terms. Pools are ageing and focus should be placed on improving the quality of facilities and providing public transport linkages
- the supply of sports halls is in balance with demand. Changes to the current levels of participation and population growth may see demand become greater than supply. New provision may therefore be required. Any new facilities should be linked to school sites in order to maximise the use of resources

- there are no bowls facilities in the district and the need for a facility was a key theme of consultation. New provision should therefore be considered. This is of particular importance in light of the profile of the population which indicates that one of the dominant population groups has a strong propensity to participate in bowls
- there are no indoor tennis facilities in the district. Consultation did not uncover need for a facility within Wyre Forest and demand should therefore be monitored on an ongoing basis.

### **The plan led system**

- 14.8 The overall conclusions of the report should be used to guide future planning policy and to inform development control decisions.
- 14.9 The Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan has an end date of 2011. This plan continues to form part of the Development Plan for the District, together with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) until it is superseded by the new plan for the District, the Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework. The key policies relating to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the existing Adopted Local Plan include:
- LR1 – outdoor recreational open space
  - LR2 – developer contributions to amenity green space provision within new developments
  - LR3 – developer contributions to children’s play space provision within new residential developments
  - LR4 - allotments
  - LR9 – outdoor sports facilities
  - LR14 – golf development
  - LR17 – major commercial leisure developments
  - GB3 – the Green Belt.
- 14.10 These policies have been saved until the adoption of the Local Development Framework for Wyre Forest. This Local Development Framework will provide the long term development vision for the District and will be made up of a series of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning documents (SPDs).
- 14.11 DPDs should include general policies on open space, sport and recreation facilities that are supported by the findings of this study and other relevant documents. This PPG17 study should be used as a supporting evidence base for all Local Development Documents and the policies within them.
- 14.12 Key issues emerging from this study which should be covered in planning policies within the Wyre Forest Local Development Framework include:
- in light of the value of open spaces to residents, the LDF should protect open space from development - this should include all types of open space

## **SECTION 14 – PLANNING OVERVIEW**

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- the LDF should facilitate the proactive planning and delivery of new open space where it is required through appropriate allocations and policies. Allocations for new sites may be required for allotments and parks
- the LDF should maximise opportunities arising from new developments through the inclusion of appropriate local standards – the Council should seek contributions towards all types of open space identified within this study.

14.13 The saved policies within the Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan cover many of the above issues. These should be updated in the new LDF to reflect the findings of this study.

14.14 The remainder of this section provides guidance on the use of this PPG17 study, particularly with regards the determination of developer contributions and identification of strategic priorities for open space.

### Strategic context and overview

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

- 14.15 PPG17 emphasises the importance of undertaking robust assessments of the existing and future needs of local communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities.
- 14.16 Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.
- 14.17 Assessments of need undertaken in relation to PPG17 should drive the future provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Planning contributions can be a key source of funding to ensure that provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities meets the aims and objectives of current and future residents.
- 14.18 With regards the use of planning obligations, paragraph 33 of PPG17 states; *“Planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreation provision. Local Authorities will be justified in seeking planning obligations where the quantity or quality of provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs. It is essential that local authorities have undertaken detailed assessments of needs and audits of existing facilities, and set appropriate local standards in order to justify planning obligations.”*

#### Assessing needs and opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17

- 14.19 Whilst the advice within the Companion Guide was written at a time when the guidance on developer contributions was contained within Circular 1/97, its recommendations on the implementation of developer contributions are still highly relevant.
- 14.20 Diagram 1 of the Companion Guide shows how to deal with the redevelopment of an existing open space or sports/recreation facility, using developer contributions and planning conditions.
- 14.21 Crucially, paragraph 9.1 states that provided authorities have undertaken assessments of need and audits of existing facilities compliant with PPG17, locally determined provision standards will meet the tests of reasonableness set out in paragraph 7 of Department of the Environment Circular 1/97, Planning Obligations. Whilst Circular 05/2005 has superseded this circular, the reference to “reasonableness” remains.
- 14.22 The Companion Guide states that additional provision will be needed when the total amount of provision within the appropriate distance threshold of the site is or will be below the amount required in the area following the development. The decision as to whether on-site provision or a contribution to off-site provision is more appropriate depends primarily on whether the total quantity of each form of new provision required as a result of the proposed development is above the minimum acceptable size in the adopted provision standards. If it is, then new provision should normally be on-site; if not, the developer should be required to contribute to off-site provision.

- 14.23 Before seeking contributions to off-site provision, authorities should be satisfied that they will be able to use them within an appropriate distance threshold of the proposed development site. If they do not use them within an agreed time frame, developers are able to submit an S106 application for their return. This underlines the importance of ensuring planning obligations are implemented or enforced in an efficient and transparent way, in order to ensure that contributions are spent on their intended purposes and that the associated development contributes to the sustainability of the areas. This will require monitoring by the Local Planning authority.
- 14.24 Whilst the Council will be justified in seeking contributions for the full range of open space, sport and recreation facilities for which they have adopted provision standards, in practice they will have to be realistic and in many instances prioritise within the findings of the local needs and audit assessment. This will vary depending on the location of the planning application.

### **Circular 05/2005: Planning obligations**

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

### **Developer Contributions in Wyre Forest**

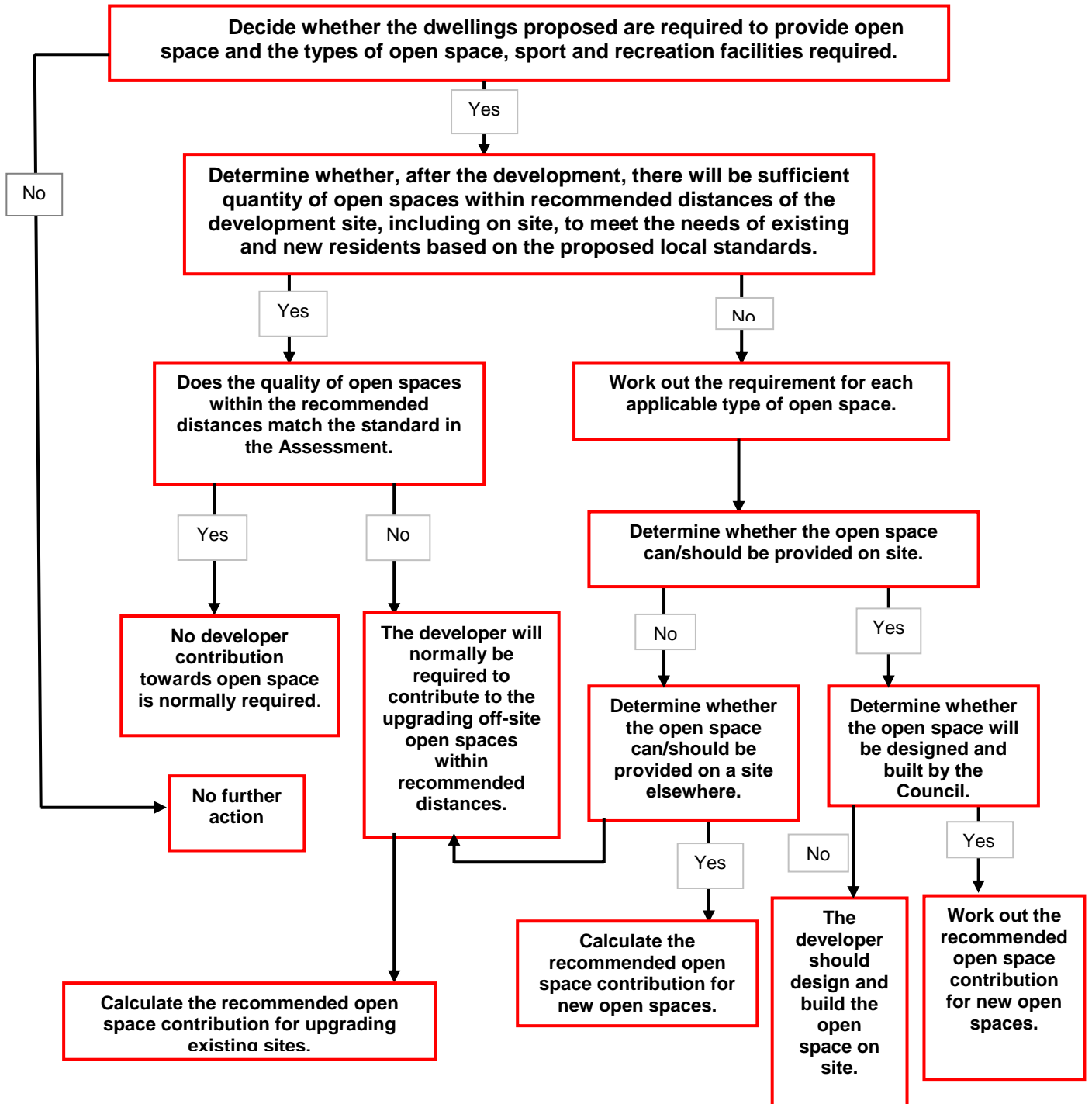
- 14.28 The plan led system ensures that Local Planning authorities clearly define requirements for contributions and the type of development that will be permissible.
- 14.29 As well as outlining the general policies for the future delivery of open space, DPDs should also consider the principles and use of planning obligations. For example, matters to be covered by planning obligations and factors to take into account when considering the scale and form of contributions.

- 14.30 Planning obligations can be in kind or in the form of financial contributions. Policies on the types of payment, including pooling and maintenance payments, should be set out within Local Development Frameworks and developers should be able to predict as accurately as possible the likely contributions they will be asked to pay. Many local authorities now include a S106 contributions calculator on their website ensuring that the system is transparent to all developers.
- 14.31 More detailed policies applying the principles set out in the Development Plan Document, for example, specific localities and likely quantum of contributions, ought to then be included in Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). Dependent of the scope of the SPD, the Council may wish to also consider the development of codes of practice in negotiating planning obligations, so as to make clear the level of service a developer can expect.
- 14.32 The Wyre Forest Planning Obligations SPD was adopted during February 2007 and outlines the current requirements for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. This is based on the saved policies in the Adopted Local Plan which are derived from the National Playing Fields standards.

### **Determining Developer Contributions – good practice**

- 14.33 The flow diagram overleaf provides more detail on the process for determining developer contributions using the local standards recommended as part of this study. It is based on a review of best practice and national guidance. A worked example is also provided later in this section.
- 14.34 It is intended as a guide for Wyre Forest District Council on how to use the information contained within this report to effectively plan existing and future provision. It is intended to guide the Council in the implementation of the Planning Obligations SPD and in future reviews of this document.

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



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

- 14.35 The first stage in the flow diagram is to determine whether the dwellings proposed are required to provide open space and which types of open space, sport and recreation facilities will require developer contributions.
- 14.36 Policies LR2, LR3 and LR4 within the Adopted Adopted Local Plan currently consider the provision of open space within residential and employment development. These policies use national standards to determine the required contributions and indicate that contributions/on site provision will be required as part of new development. Policy LR2 states that development proposals must, where appropriate, include provision for amenity space (including LAPs). S106 agreements may be sought for the provision and enhancement of amenity space. Policy LR3 specifically indicates that developments resulting in 75 - 200 child bedspaces will be required to contribute towards on site provision of a LEAP. If the development results in over 200 child bedspaces a NEAP will be required. The policy further states that if there is a nearby play space, off site improvements may be required under S106 obligations.
- 14.37 Where a development includes affordable housing, the contribution towards open space/play area provision will be reduced by 50%.
- 14.38 Based on the review of the existing SPD and good practice guidance, it is recommended that the following approach be taken:
- continue to base the nature and scale of obligations sought from development on the size of development and the impact on open space, sport and recreation provision
  - clearly set out the circumstances under which contributions would be required towards other types of open space as well as parks
  - consider whether contributions are required from industrial, commercial and employment development.

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

- 14.39 The determination of shortfalls/surpluses relies on the use and application of appropriate standards of provision.
- 14.40 The existing Adopted Local Plan and SPD relies on national standards within existing policies on sport and recreation facilities.
- 14.41 These national standards should be replaced by the local standards set out within this PPG17 report. The Council should determine for which types of open space they would like to receive contributions and should set out these local standards within the Local Development Framework. This should include quantity, quality and accessibility standards.
- 14.42 The use of these locally derived standards ensures that contributions requested are directly in line with proven local need and that there is full justification and rationale for the standards set.



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- 14.43 These standards should then be used to determine the contributions required. In order to ensure that the requirement on developers is fair and consistent, contributions should be applied based on the increased level of demand only. This ensures that the developer is paying directly for the associated impact of the development rather than it being dependent on what open space happens to be around the development. It is still essential to consider the existing provision within the area in order to understand the impact that the new development will have.
- 14.44 If there is no quantitative or accessibility deficiency there may be a qualitative deficiency that needs to be addressed.
- 14.45 A detailed worked example is set out at the end of this section.
- 14.46 To identify the level of quantitative, qualitative and accessibility deficiency within the area of the development, the PPG17 study should be applied for each of the types of open space. In simple terms, this is as follows:
- estimate the number of residents living in the proposed development (being explicit about assumed occupation rates)
  - calculate the existing amount of open space within the agreed accessibility threshold of the new development. For example, there may be an existing quantitative undersupply of parks and gardens, provision for young people and children and allotments in the area of the development site
  - estimate the existing population within the relevant accessibility threshold and combine this with the estimated population of the new development
  - compare the existing amount of open space and the total population with the quantity standards developed for that typology in the PPG17 study to decide if after the development there will be sufficient quantity within recommended distances of the development site to meet local needs.
- 14.47 If when assessed against the relevant PPG17 quantity standards, there is a sufficient amount of that type of open space in the local area to meet the needs of the total population, the Council may expect developer contributions to enhance the quality of open spaces within that accessibility threshold.
- 14.48 Where it has been decided that a contribution is required to improve provision locally, reference should be made to the quality standards for each typology and the assessment against these standards. Contributions should only be considered necessary where the quality of local provision is considered below the quality standard as outlined in the PPG17 assessment.

<b>PLAN1</b>	Set out the local standards produced within the PPG17 document within the LDF. These should be used as a basis for determining the contributions required.
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<b>PLAN2</b>	Apply these local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area
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**3. Determine whether the open space can/should be provided on site.**

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

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

***Pooled contributions***

- 14.52 Where the combined impact of a number of developments creates the need for infrastructure, it may be reasonable for the associated developer contributions to be pooled. In addition, where individual development will have some impact but is not sufficient to justify the need for a discrete piece of infrastructure, Local Planning authorities may seek contributions towards specific future provision. This can be determined through the application of the quantity standards and the agreed accessibility thresholds developed in the study (see para 14.47). However, a degree of certainty is needed that cumulatively sufficient developments will come forward in that locality within an agreed time frame or else the contributions may need to be returned to the developer. This should be closely linked to emerging Local Development Framework work on site-specific allocations and knowledge of areas of significant development.
- 14.53 Alternatively, in cases where an item of infrastructure necessitated by the cumulative impact of a series of developments is provided by a local authority before all the developments have come forward, the later developers may still be required to contribute the relevant proportion of costs.

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

- 14.54 The level of developer contributions for off-site provision will depend on whether it includes the costs of land acquisition. Standard costs towards the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces (across all typologies) should be clearly identified and revised annually. They should be based on local circumstances.

14.55 The cost of open space can be difficult to determine based on what elements of open space provision to include within the costing. For example, whether the cost of a facility should include site preparation, eg levelling, drainage, special surfaces and what ancillary facilities to include within costings, what level of equipment and land costs. A guide can be found on the Sport England website: [http://www.sportengland.org/kitbag\\_fac\\_costs.doc](http://www.sportengland.org/kitbag_fac_costs.doc) and the NPFA Cost Guides for Play and Sport.

<b>PLAN4</b>	Calculate local costs for each type of open space (per person) so that an appropriate contribution towards the provision of off site open space can be determined.
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**Worked example – calculating the requirement for new provision from a development in Wyre Forest**

14.56 A worked example, contribution towards amenity green space, is provided as follows:

- a housing development for 70 dwellings has been submitted to the Council. The development consists of 30 four-bed dwellings, 30 three-bed dwellings and 10 two-bed dwellings. This will result in 230 additional residents living in the locality
- the agreed accessibility catchment for amenity green space in this example is a 10 minute walk time or 480 metres. Within this distance of the housing development there is currently 0.27 hectares of provision
- the estimated population within 480 metres of the housing development is 800 people. Combined with the estimated population from the new development (230), this gives a total population of 1030
- the quantity standard for amenity green space is 0.29 hectares per 1000 population. Multiplied by the total population (1030) produced a requirement for 0.299 hectares of amenity greenspace. The existing amount of amenity greenspace is 0.27 hectares
- 0.27 hectares of amenity green space within 480 metres is a lower level of provision than the required 0.299. The developer will therefore be required to provide further provision
- the size requirement can be calculated by multiplying the quantity standard per person by the population of the new development. In this example this represents 0.00029 hectares per person multiplied by 230 people, producing a requirement for 0.0667 hectares. Given the shortfall in provision is 0.0667 hectares, in order to meet the needs of the people who will be living in the new housing development; the full quantity provision should be secured
- reference should be made to the agreed minimum size standards to determine whether the requirement should be on site or off site. In this example the minimum acceptable size is 0.2 hectares, so either there should be on site provision of a single piece of land at least 0.2ha in area, or a contribution towards off site provision should be sought.

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

- if the open space were to be provided off-site, the estimated cost for the provision of amenity greenspace is £8,200 on the basis of a site being 0.2ha (2000m<sup>2</sup>) in size and the cost per hectare being £41,000 (example only)
- the agreed local standard for provision is 0.29 ha per 1000 population, or 0.00029 ha per person
- using the formula set out above, the contribution required for a 70 dwelling development is:
  - 230 (number of people in development in terms of increased demand over capacity within accessibility catchment of the development) X 0.00029 (requirement per person) X £41,000 (cost of provision per hectare)
  - the contribution required towards amenity greenspace is **£2734.47**.

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

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

### **Maintenance**

14.60 Maintenance sums are also an important element of any Section 106 process. The Wyre Forest District Council SPD sets out the current policy for maintenance, stating that the Council will require a maintenance payment covering a 20 year period, payable upon the adoption of the on-site play area facility. If a play area is not provided for within the development, alternative arrangements should be put in place for the long term maintenance of the facility. With regards to off site provision, for developments where there are existing play spaces within the distances specified by the NPFA, developers will be required to provide an appropriate commuted sum payment for off site improvements.

14.61 Contributions towards all open space types should give consideration to the long-term maintenance requirements.

14.62 In addition to the use of the recommended local standards for determining the required level of developer contributions, these standards should also be used to determine the recreational value of an open space site and inform decisions on individual planning applications and priorities for investment.

### **Summary and recommendations**

14.63 The open space, sport and recreation study is an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancement of existing open space and the framework for developing planning obligations.

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- 14.64 The study provides the tools in which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development and for pre-empting growth implications as part of the LDF.
- 14.65 The use of a standard formula for open space provision in new housing developments based on the cost of provision will greatly aid the negotiation process and provide a transparent approach in line with Circular 05/2005. This formula should be based on the recommended local standards contained within this report.
- 14.66 There are many other factors to consider in administering planning obligations such as determining occupancy rates, costings and on versus off site provision. The Council's approach is set out in a Supplementary Planning Document. This should be updated to reflect the new standards produced as part of this study.
- 14.67 Maintenance sums are an important element of open space provision. It is not considered reasonable to expect maintenance in perpetuity, however the authorities reviewed are typically securing maintenance for up to 20 years.
- 14.68 More generally, it is important to note that the provision standards are only the starting point in negotiations with developments. High quality environments will not result simply from applying them in a mechanical way. It is desirable also to complement provision standards with design guidance that concentrates on effective place making.

**APPENDIX A**  
**BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE**

## **Wider Benefits of Open Space**

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

## **APPENDIX B**

### **HOUSEHOLD SURVEY COVER LETTER**





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

Dear Resident,

We very much **hope you can spare 10-15 minutes to complete the attached survey**. The study, which is being undertaken by PMP on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council, will investigate whether the current level of open space provision is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility to meet the needs of Wyre Forest residents now and in the future. The findings of this study will be used to influence decisions on the future planning and provision of your local open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. Your household is one of 5000 randomly selected in order to provide us with an insight into residents' opinions on open space within Wyre Forest. Even if you don't use open spaces we are keen to hear your views. All the answers you give will be treated as confidential.

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

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

### **Who should complete the survey?**

You will notice that the survey has not been addressed to any particular individual in your household. This is because we would like to hear the views of the widest possible range of people, therefore we ask that the person in the household who's birthday occurs next in the year answers the questionnaire. If you have any questions or need any help completing the questionnaire please phone myself or Steven Sinclair at PMP on 0161235 5570. Alternatively, you can email your views to:

wfopenspace@pmpconsult.com

Please return your completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Many thanks for your help with this important survey.

Yours sincerely

**Jon Holland  
Researcher  
PMP**

Enc.

**APPENDIX C**

**SITE ASSESSMENT SCORES &**

**SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX**

# WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL DETAILS

Site ID:  Date of Visit:

Site Name:

Site Address:

Boundary of Site Check:  Changed? - (✓) or (x)

Other Sites within the site? (e.g. play area in a park)  No  Yes → - complete other site assessment and draw on map and label with new site ID

Specific Facilities:

**Type of Open Space (please circle) :**

- |                            |                                |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Town parks                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Green Corridors    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Local Parks                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Amenity Greenspace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Natural and semi natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Children           |

Map No

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7  | Young People/teenagers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | Outdoor Sports Facilities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | Allotments                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Cemeteries and Churchyards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | Civic Spaces               |

**'Typology Changed:**

(✓) or (x)

## QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	not applicable
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

Cleanliness and Maintenance										
Includes: Vandalism and Graffiti Equipment	Litter problems Maintenance	Dog Fouling	Noise	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

x3

Security and Safety										
Includes: Lighting	Equipment	Boundaries (e.g. fencing)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

x2

Vegetation										
Includes: Planted areas	Grass areas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

x3

Ancillary Accomodation										
Includes: Toilets	Parking	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter Pathways (within the open space sites)	Seats / Benches	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

x2

# SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	not applicable
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

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

x3

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

x2

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

x1

# WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Wider Benefits

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

Assessor's Comments


Site ID	Site Name	Open Space Type	Analysis Area	Quality Percentage	Accessibility Percentage
73	Salisbury Drive Allotments	Allotments and Community Gardens	Bewdley	60	56.7
80	AGGBOROUGH CRESCENT ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster East	50	46.7
13	CHESTER ROAD ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster East	54	43.3
294	DUNCLENT CRESCENT ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster East	60	53.3
127	Goldthorn Road Allotments	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster West	54	53.3
82	TOMKINSON DRIVE ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster West	56	46.7
117	WILTON AVENUE ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster West	56	46.7
151	DOWLES ROAD ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster West	56	53.3
79	NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Kidderminster West	64	43.3
19	LIONFIELDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Rural East	56	46.7
217	ARLEY LANE ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Rural East	56	40
244	HEMMINGWAY ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Rural East	56	46.7
274	REAR QUEENS HEAD ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Rural East	56	40
213	KINGSWAY ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Stourport	56	46.7
141	ABBERLEY AVENUE ALLOTMENTS	Allotments and Community Gardens	Stourport	58	46.7
158	BARK HILL PARK	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	42	46.7
159	GREENACRES LANE	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	54	0
570	MILLENIUM GREEN, WRIBBENHALL	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	54	0
298	QUEENSWAY	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	60	
300	TANNERS HILL AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	60	
569	BEALES CORNER RIVERSIDE	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	60	0
304	SEVERN SIDE NORTH AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	68	
581	OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO QEII GARDENS	Amenity Greenspace	Bewdley	40	0
200	Upton Road	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	44	
514	FORESTER WAY AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	48	46.7
46	CAPTAINS POOL ROAD AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	50	60
112	Oxbow Way	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	54	
595	CLENSMORE STREET AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	58	0
194	GREEN ADJACENT TO VIADUCT PUB	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster East	60	0
65	JUBILEE DRIVE AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	30	
119	BENTONS COURT	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	54	0
320	MERIDITH GREEN	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	54	
594	LISTER ROAD AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	54	0
553	WOODBURY ROAD AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	56	0
155	BEWDLEY HILL AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	60	63.3
321	FERGUSON DRIVE AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Kidderminster West	60	
247	THE GREEN	Amenity Greenspace	Rural East	54	
276	SEBRIGHT GREEN	Amenity Greenspace	Rural East	54	
180	RIVER STOUR AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	42	0
55	ERNELEY CLOSE	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	54	
142	WENLOCK WAY AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	54	
143	Dunley Road AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	54	0

92	MANOR FARM PARK	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	56	50
138	SION GARDENS	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	58	
52	CANAL BASINS OPEN SPACE	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	60	0
179	RIVERSIDE WALK AGS	Amenity Greenspace	Stourport	60	
555	ALL SAINTS CHURCH WRIBBENHALL	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Bewdley	60	60
100	ST MARYS CHURCH	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Kidderminster East	64	66.7
99	St George's Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Kidderminster East	68	66.7
76	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCHYARD	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Kidderminster West	50	66.7
39	KIDDERMINSTER CEMETERY	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Kidderminster West	86	76.7
575	ST JAMES CHURCHYARD	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	42	60
576	ST JAMES CEMETERY	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	42	56.7
223	ST PETERS CHURCHYARD, BROOME	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	54	60
273	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	54	60
564	ST PETERS CHURCHYARD, COOKLEY	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	54	56.7
218	ST PETERS ARLEY	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	60	60
587	ST JAMES THE GREAT, CHURCHILL	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	60	60
245	ST CASSIANS CHADDESLEY CORBETT CHURCHYARD	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	66	60
588	ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH RUSHOCK	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	68	60
589	ST MARY'S CHURCH STONE	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	68	60
252	Harvington Hall Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	72	53.3
284	Holy Trinity Trimpley	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural East	78	60
584	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FAR FOREST	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural West	54	53.3
541	ST LEONARDS RIBBESFORD	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural West	68	53.3
585	ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH ROCK	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural West	68	60
586	ST GILES' CHURCH HEIGHTINGTON	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Rural West	68	60
64	St Bartholomews Church	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Stourport	60	60
94	ST MICHAELS CHURCH	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Stourport	60	60
590	ALL SAINT'S CHURCH WILDEN	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Stourport	60	66.7
162	BARK HILL PLAY AREA	Children	Bewdley	40	46.7
157	WYRE HILL PLAY AREA	Children	Bewdley	54	46.7
299	SHAW HEDGE ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Bewdley	58	60
312	NORTH WOOD LANE PLAY AREA	Children	Bewdley	68	60
521	UPTON ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	38	46.7
160	Grasmere Close Play Area	Children	Kidderminster East	40	46.7
600	DUNLIN DRIVE PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	40	56.7
503	SPENNELLS VALLEY PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	58	56.7
14	FORESTER WAY PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	60	56.7
295	HOO ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	68	63.3
501	BAXTER GARDENS PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	68	46.7
522	Springfield Park Play Area	Children	Kidderminster East	70	46.7
506	BORRINGTON PARK PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	72	76.7
509	ST GEORGES PARK PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster East	72	60
192	LISTER ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster West	32	43.3

187	Woodbury Road Play Area	Children	Kidderminster West	42	36.7
154	Willowfield Drive Play Area	Children	Kidderminster West	52	60
103	KINVER AVENUE PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster West	54	60
123	Truro Drive Play Area	Children	Kidderminster West	72	43.3
167	BRINTON PARK PLAY AREA	Children	Kidderminster West	72	76.7
549	WOLVERLEY MEMORIAL PLAY AREA	Children	Rural East	44	
546	BLAKEDOWN PLAY AREA	Children	Rural East	54	53.3
299	SHAW HEDGE ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Rural East	58	60
21	COOKLEY PLAYING FIELDS PLAY AREA	Children	Rural East	60	60
577	NEW FOREST CLOSE PLAY AREA	Children	Rural West	60	60
540	HANSTONE ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	40	40
531	MANOR PARK FARM PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	42	50
58	HERMITAGE WAY PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	44	40
133	GARLAND ROAD PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	44	46.7
538	BRITANNIA GARDENS PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	46	50
131	Wilden Top Play Area	Children	Stourport	56	56.7
153	ARELEY KINGS PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	60	46.7
533	STOURPORT MEMORIAL PARK PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	60	60
535	RIVERSIDE PLAY AREA	Children	Stourport	60	60
305	SEVERN SIDE NORTH	Civic Spaces	Bewdley	70	60
306	SEVERN SIDE SOUTH	Civic Spaces	Bewdley	72.5	60
558	ST MARYS CIVIC SPACE	Civic Spaces	Kidderminster East	60	60
559	WEAVERS WHARF CIVIC SPACE	Civic Spaces	Kidderminster West	60	60
568	GARDEN OF REST	Local Parks	Bewdley	60	46.7
548	NORTHWOOD LANE	Local Parks	Bewdley	66	53.3
109	ST GEORGE'S PARK	Local Parks	Kidderminster East	52	56.7
10	SPRINGFIELD PARK	Local Parks	Kidderminster East	56	46.7
163	Baxter Gardens	Local Parks	Kidderminster East	56	60
25	BORRINGTON PARK	Local Parks	Kidderminster East	60	76.7
136	STOURPORT WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN	Local Parks	Stourport	56	53.3
178	VILLENEUVE-LE-ROI GARDENS	Local Parks	Stourport	62	
311	RIVERSIDE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Bewdley	42.5	60
308	SNUFF MILL WALK	Natural and semi natural green space	Bewdley	50	56.7
66	Burlish Top Local Nature Reserve	Natural and semi natural green space	Bewdley	56	60
147	BLACKSTONE MEADOWS COUNTRY PARK	Natural and semi natural green space	Bewdley	60	53.3
42	AGGBROUGH CRESCENT	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	34	26.7
86	SPENNELLS VALLEY ROAD	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	40	52
323	ARTHUR DRIVE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	40	40
87	HERONSWOOD NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	48	60
116	CLENSMORE STREET	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	48	56
204	PINTAIL GROVE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	54	56.7
170	SPENNELLS VALLEY NATURE RESERVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	56	56.7
597	TEAL CRESCENT	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster East	60	60

47	VALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	40	52
114	Puxton Lane NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	40	28
2	SELBA DRIVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	48	52
31	Carpet Trades Way NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	52	48
32	FRANCHE ROAD	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	56	60
34	HABBERLEY ROAD	Natural and semi natural green space	Kidderminster West	56	52
281	BRIDGE ROAD	Natural and semi natural green space	Rural East	50	60
63	HURCOTT POOL AND WOOD NATURE RESERVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Rural East	56	53.3
102	HABBERLEY VALLEY NATURE RESERVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Rural East	56	60
208	BLAKEDOWN MILLENIUM GREEN	Natural and semi natural green space	Rural East	60	52
583	CALLOW HILL SHOW GROUND SSSI	Natural and semi natural green space	Rural West	60	63.3
185	POWER STATION ROAD	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	40	52
89	BIGBURY LANE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	42.5	52
17	REDSTONE MARSH NATURE RESERVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	48	40
97	HALF CROWN WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	48	0
54	ARELEY LANE	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	60
60	THE DELL NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	52
61	TIMBER LANE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	52
139	BRITANNIA GARDENS	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	52
196	RIVERSIDE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	52
529	WILDEN LANE NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	50	52
95	BALDWIN ROAD NSN	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	60	60
206	Leapgate Country Park	Natural and semi natural green space	Stourport	66	53.3
310	BEWDLEY BOWLING CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	52	43.3
175	BEWDLEY LC PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	54	60
303	ST ANNES SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	56	40
314	BEWDLEY HIGH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	58	60
557	BEWDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	60	56.7
307	BEWDLEY CRICKET CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	68	26.7
313	BEWDLEY TENNIS CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Bewdley	74	43.3
512	CLENSMORE STREET BASKETBALL COURT	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	40	43.3
511	ST GEORGES PARK TENNIS COURTS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	44	53.3
27	ST AMBROSE BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	48	26.7
193	SPENNELLS VALLEY PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	48	56.7
126	COMBERTON PRIMARY/ KING CHARLES LOWER SCHOOL PLAYI	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	54	56.7
118	Waterside Grange	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	56	46.7
5	SLADEN PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	53.3
45	HERONSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	60
110	BAXTER GARDEN TENNIS COURTS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	60
502	KING CHARLES SCHOOL ASTROTURF	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	60
525	Springfield Park OSF	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	46.7
582	SPRINGFIELD PARK FOOTBALL PITCHES	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	60	60
6	ST GEORGES C OF E PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	64	60



146	OFFMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	64	53.3
168	KING CHARLES SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	64	60
4	St Mary's C of E Primary School Playing Field	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	70	50
121	CHESTER ROAD CRICKET CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	70	60
7	HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	72	60
122	CHESTER ROAD BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster East	78	56.7
71	KIDDERMINSTER CAROLIONS RFC	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	54	60
72	HABBERLEY ROAD SPORTS GROUND	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	54	56.7
565	WHITE WICKETS BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	54	46.7
599	NAYLORS CLOSE PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	56	56.7
26	CROWTHER STREET/ ST JOHN'S BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	58	33.3
8	Marpool School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	60
9	FRANCHE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	60
28	Franche Village Bowling Club	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	40
30	King George VI Playing Field	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	60
149	BIRCHEN COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	66.7
515	BRINTON PARK TENNIS COURTS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	60	76.7
186	White Wickets	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	62	46.7
518	BRINTON PARK BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	62	56.7
1	Baxter College Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	66	76.7
296	SUTTON PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Kidderminster West	70	70
107	THE WOLVERLEY MEMORIAL BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	38	60
542	WOLVERLEY MEMORIAL TENNIS COURT	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	40	60
572	LEA CASTLE FOOTBALL FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	40	50
20	WOLVERLY C OF E SECONDARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	56	60
24	WOLVERLEY PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	56	40
222	Churchill and Blakedown Sports Centre	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	56	53.3
22	COOKLEY PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	60	53.3
544	COOKLEY PLAYING FIELDS 5 A SIDE	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	60	60
545	COOKLEY PLAYING FIELDS BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	60	60
551	CHADDERSLEY RUGBY CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	60	60
552	CHADDERSLEY CORBETT SCHOOL	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	60	60
3	Sion Hill Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	64	53.3
216	ARLEY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	64	60
571	BLAKEDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	64	60
550	WINTERFOLD HOUSE SCHOOL	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	66	53.3
108	BROWN WESTHEAD PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	68	53.3
221	Churchill and Blakedown Sports Centre	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	70	53.3
35	Heathfield School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural East	74	73.3
225	ROCK SPORTS FC	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural West	58	63.3
554	FAR FOREST SCHOOL	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural West	60	53.3
129	Bewdley Town Football Club	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rural West	72	50
562	GILT EDGE BOWLING CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	40	40

90	WILDEN VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	46	40
237	King's Arms Bowling Green	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	52	63.3
137	STOURPORT WORKING MENS CLUB BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	56	40
140	ARELEY COMMON RECREATION GROUND	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	56	46.7
176	MORGAN MATROC SPORTS GROUND	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	56	46.7
212	STOURPORT RUGBY CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	56	53.3
547	MOSTYN RANGERS FC	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	56	60
579	CHAINWIRE SOCIAL CLUB FOOTBALL PITCHES	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	58	50
16	STOURPORT SWIFTS FC	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	60	46.7
130	STOURPORT SECONDARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	60	46.7
563	CHAINWIRE BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	60	40
573	STOURPORT PISTOL AND RIFLE CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	60	40
580	WILDEN LANE BMX TRACK	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	60	36.7
561	GILT EDGE BOWLING GREEN	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	62	40
56	ST BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	64	60
135	STOURPORT TENNIS GROUND AND SPORTS CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	64	60
331	LICKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	64	60
195	STOURPORT BOWLING CLUB	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	66	46.7
326	ARELEY KINGS FOOTBALL PITCHES	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	66	60
526	ALAN MORETON TRACK	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	66	60
528	STOURPORT SPORTS GROUND STP	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Stourport	68	60
309	JUBILEE GARDENS	Town Parks	Bewdley	88	83.3
148	BROADWATERS PARK	Town Parks	Kidderminster East	60	53.3
191	BRINTON PARK	Town Parks	Kidderminster West	66	73.3
91	STOURPORT MEMORIAL PARK	Town Parks	Stourport	56	60
104	RIVERSIDE PARK	Town Parks	Stourport	60	60
519	ST ANNES MAPA	Young People	Bewdley	56	46.7
500	BEWDLEY LEISURE CENTRE MAPA	Young People	Bewdley	60	56.7
536	SHAW HEDGE ROAD MAPA	Young People	Bewdley	64	60
43	DUNLIN DRIVE MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster East	40	56.7
507	BORRINGTON ROAD MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster East	54	66.7
510	ST GEORGES PARK MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster East	56	46.7
504	BORRINGTON SKATEPARK AND BMX	Young People	Kidderminster East	60	66.7
505	BORRINGTON PARK MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster East	64	76.7
524	Springfield Park MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster East	66	46.7
172	JUBILEE DRIVE	Young People	Kidderminster West	40	60
508	WILTON AVENUE MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster West	48	56.7
516	BRINTON PARK SKATEPARK	Young People	Kidderminster West	68	76.7
517	BRINTON PARK MAPA	Young People	Kidderminster West	68	76.7
537	SHAW HEDGE ROAD SKATEPARK	Young People	Rural East	58	60
543	COOKLEY SKATE PARK	Young People	Rural East	60	60
539	HANSTONE ROAD	Young People	Stourport	40	40
532	MANOR FARM PARK MAPA	Young People	Stourport	56	50

333	RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK	Young People	Stourport	60	60
534	RIVERSIDE PARK YOUNG PEOPLE	Young People	Stourport	70	46.7

**APPENDIX D**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

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

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

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

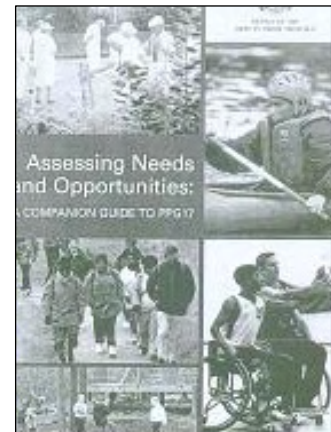
Paragraph 5 states that “The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and recreational facilities”. National standards are no longer considered to meet local needs as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs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

The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:

- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
- setting local standards
- maintaining an adequate supply of open space
- planning for new open space.

The companion guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:

- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
- promotes a consistent approach across varying types of open space.



**PPS1: Climate Change Supplement – December 17th 2007 (CLG 2007).**

Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.

Planning and Climate Change sets out how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation). It specifically refers to opportunities for open space and green infrastructure to contribute to urban cooling, sustainable drainage systems, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

A key message emerging from PPS1 is that development can (indeed should) be seen as a tool of environmental enhancement rather than as a source of environmental degradation, as in the past.

### **PPG15 – The Historic Environment**

PPG15 summarises government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment.

Part One of the PPG deals with those aspects of conservation policy which interact most directly with the planning system.

These include matters of economic prosperity, visual impact, building alterations, traffic and affect on the character of conservation areas. Part Two addresses the identification and recording of the historic environment including listing procedures, upkeep and repairs and church buildings.

### **PPG16 – Archaeology**

This PPG sets out the government's policy on archaeological remains on land and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside.

It gives advice on the handling of archaeological remains and discoveries through the development plan and development control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and planning conditions.

### **Crime and Disorder Act – 1998, Section 17**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 promotes the practice of partnership working to reduce crime and disorder and places a statutory duty on police and local authorities to develop and implement a strategy to tackle problems in their area. In doing so, the responsible authorities are required to work in partnership with a range of other local public, private, community and voluntary groups and with the community itself.

Section 17 highlights that local authorities, when carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area. It aims to ensure that crime prevention and safety is at the heart of local decision making and highlights the importance of working in partnership to maximise the opportunities to achieve these objectives.

Section 17 emphasises the duty that local authorities have to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder in their area.

The promotion of design and management of open spaces that give consideration to crime prevention and the creation of a safe environment is therefore of paramount importance for this open space assessment.

**DLTR**

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

The main messages to emerge from Green Spaces, Better Places are:

- urban parks and open spaces remain popular, despite a decline in the quality as well as quantitative elements
- open spaces make an important contribution to the quality of life in many areas and help to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits
- planners and planning mechanisms need to take better account of the need for parks and open spaces including related management and maintenance issues
- parks and open spaces should be central to any vision of sustainable modern towns and cities
- strong civic and local pride and responsibility are necessary to achieve the vision reinforced by a successful green spaces strategy
- there is a need for a more co-ordinated approach at the national level to guide local strategies.



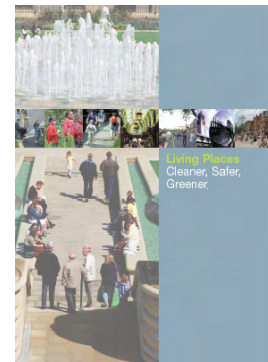
**Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)**

The Government stated that parks and green spaces need more visible champions and clearer structures for co-ordinating policy and action better at all levels.

Several existing national bodies have responsibilities or programmes with impact on various aspects of urban green spaces including English Heritage, Sport England, Groundwork, English Nature, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Instead of setting up a new body, the Government stated it would take action on three levels to improve co-ordination of policy and action for urban parks and green spaces. It will:

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



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

In May 2002 the DTLR produced this linked research report to Green Spaces, Better Places which looked at patterns of use, barriers to open space and the wider role of open space in urban regeneration.

The vital importance of parks and other urban green spaces in enhancing the urban environment and the quality of city life has been recognised in both the Urban Taskforce report and the Urban White Paper.



## Wider Value of Open Space

There are clear links demonstrating how parks and other green spaces meet wider council policy objectives linked to other agendas, like education, diversity, health, safety, environment, jobs and regeneration can help raise the political profile and commitment of an authority to green space issues. In particular they:

- contribute significantly to social inclusion because they are free and accessible to all
- can become a centre of community spirit
- contribute to child development through scope for outdoor, energetic and imaginative play
- offer numerous educational opportunities
- provide a range of health, environmental and economic benefits.

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

**Community Involvement** - Community involvement in local parks can lead to increased use, enhancement of quality and richness of experience and, in particular, can ensure that the facilities are suited to local needs.

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

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

**Urban Renewal** - Four levels of integration of urban green space into urban renewal can be identified, characterised by an increasing strategic synergy between environment, economy and community. They are:



- attracting inward economic investment through the provision of attractive urban landscapes
- unforeseen spin-offs from grassroots green space initiatives
- parks as flagships in neighbourhood renewal
- strategic, multi-agency area based regeneration, linking environment and economy.

## **Sport England**

### **Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)**

The main messages from Sport England within this document are:

- Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides 5 exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG 17 (paragraphs 10-15)
- Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years or is identified as a playing field in a development plan
- it is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and therefore increasing the importance of setting local standards
- in undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology '*Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies*'.



### **A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England / Playing Fields for Sport Revisited, Sport England (2000)**

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

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



## CABE Space

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### **The problem in England!**

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

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

### **Manifesto for better public spaces, CABE Space (2003)**

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



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

**The Value of Public Space, CABE Space (March 2004)**

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



- (a) The economic value of public spaces - A high quality public environment is an essential part of any regeneration strategy and can impact positively on the local economy. For example - property prices
- (b) The impact on physical and mental health - Research has shown that well maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health encouraging more people to become active.
- (c) Benefits and children and young people - Good quality public spaces encourage children to play freely outdoors and experience the natural environment, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.
- (d) Reducing crime and fear of crime - Better management of public spaces can help to reduce crime rates and help to allay fears of crime, especially in open spaces.
- (e) Social dimension of public space - Well-designed and maintained open spaces can help bring communities together, providing meeting places in the right context and fostering social ties.
- (f) Movement in and between spaces - One of the fundamental functions of public space is to allow people to move around with the challenge of reconciling the needs of different modes of transport.
- (g) Value from biodiversity and nature - Public spaces and gardens helps to bring important environmental benefits to urban areas, as well as providing an opportunity for people to be close to nature.

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

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

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



#### **Part 1: Planning the plan**

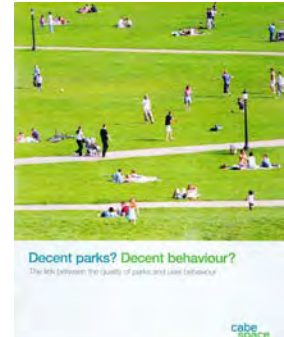
- the who, what, when, where and how questions that may arise in the preparation of a park and green space management plan.

#### **Part 2: Content and structure of the plan**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Easy Access to Historic Landscapes – English Heritage**

Easy Access to historic landscapes provides advice on improving access and reconciling access with conservation interests.

The publication was partly funded by Historic Scotland and the National Trust, the Countryside Agency and the Historic Houses Association advised on the development of the guidance.

The guidance promotes an inclusive approach to design and management of access, addressing the needs of all people, regardless of age, gender, background or disability. The publication looks at getting the balance between access and conservation and common problems and issues in parks and gardens that are barriers to access. It also includes sources of information on both improving access and conservation.

The key issues arising include:

- There is a need to ensure that solutions are specific to the site and not standard across an area
- Conservation management is of particular importance
- Improvements to the access of a site are likely to result in a higher number of repeat visits as well as new audiences
- Access improvements benefit millions of people – it is estimated that over one fifth of the population are disabled.

## **Sport England National Strategy 2008 – 2011**

The Sport England Strategy, 2008 – 2011 aims to maximise the legacy of the Olympics as well as capitalise on the interest generated by the event in the lead up to the games. The key outcomes of the strategy include:

- a substantial – and growing – number of people from across the community play sport;

- talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have the
- opportunity to progress to the elite level; and
- everyone who plays sport has a quality experience and is able to fulfil their potential.

The strategy states that Sport England will focus exclusively on sport. The key driver of the strategy is to ensure that appropriate resources are in place for sport across the country and to address the needs of sports participants.

It emphasises the role of Sport England's partners, with UK Sport focusing on elite sport while the Youth Sport Trust is responsible for school sport.

The strategy places significant emphasis on the delivery of sport through sport specific National Governing Bodies and also highlights the role of sports clubs.

The key aims and objectives of the strategy are:

- 1m people doing more sport by 2012-13
- a reduction in post-16 drop-off in at least five sports by 25% by 2012-13.
- a quantifiable increase in satisfaction (actual measure to be determined<sup>1</sup>)
- improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- a major contribution to the delivery of the Five Hour Sport Offer.



## **APPENDIX E**

### **QUANTITY STANDARD WORKSHEET**

# Wyre Forest District Council - Setting Quantity Standards

Category	Populations	Town Parks	Local Parks	Amenity Green Space	Natural and Semi Natural	Provision for Children (hectares)	Provision for Young People (hectares)	Allotments (in hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (jn hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities excluding golf courses (jn hectares)	
<b>Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)</b>											
Bewdley	9,178	0.88	0.99	5.40	21.64	0.40	0.32	0.03	80.1	9.55	0
Stourport	19,713	16.89	0.25	11.82	59.41	1.15	0.38	3.72	113.52	56.81	0
Kidderminster East	29,206	2.76	22.83	2.72	24.83	0.91	0.67	6.8	72.83	28.54	0
Kidderminster West	25,976	11.6	0	5.90	41.56	1.28	0.42	5.07	32.5	32.5	0
Rural East	10,197	0	0	1.54	70.11	0.35	0.15	2.36	131.09	52.33	0
Rural West	2,711	0	0	0.00	6.33	0.02	0	0	47.01	5.89	0
OVERALL	96,981	32.13	24.07	27.38	223.88	4.11	1.94	17.98	477.05	185.62	0.00
<b>Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)</b>											
Bewdley	9,178	0.0959	0.1079	0.5884	2.3578	0.0436	0.0349	0.0033	8.7274	1.04	0.00
Stourport	19,713	0.8568	0.0127	0.5996	3.0137	0.0583	0.0193	0.1887	5.7586	2.88	0.00
Kidderminster East	29,206	0.0945	0.7817	0.0931	0.8502	0.0312	0.0229	0.2328	2.4937	0.98	0.00
Kidderminster West	25,976	0.4466	0.0000	0.2271	1.5999	0.0493	0.0162	0.1952	1.2512	1.25	0.00
Rural East	10,197	0.0000	0.0000	0.1510	6.8756	0.0343	0.0147	0.2314	12.8557	5.13	0.00
Rural West	2,711	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.3349	0.0074	0.0000	0.0000	17.3405	2.17	0.00
OVERALL	96,981	0.3313	0.2482	0.2823	2.3085	0.0424	0.0200	0.1854	4.9190	1.91	0.00
<b>Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2026</b>											
Bewdley	9,697	0.0907	0.1021	0.5569	2.2316	0.0412	0.0330	0.0031	8.2603	0.98	0.0000
Stourport	20,811	0.8116	0.0120	0.5680	2.8547	0.0553	0.0183	0.1788	5.4548	2.73	0.0000
Kidderminster East	30,827	0.0895	0.7406	0.0882	0.8055	0.0295	0.0217	0.2206	2.3625	0.93	0.0000
Kidderminster West	27,419	0.4231	0.0000	0.2152	1.5157	0.0467	0.0153	0.1849	1.1853	1.19	0.0000
Rural East	10,772	0.0000	0.0000	0.1430	6.5085	0.0325	0.0139	0.2191	12.1695	4.86	0.0000
Rural West	2,874	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.2025	0.0070	0.0000	0.0000	16.3570	2.05	0.0000
OVERALL	102,400	0.3138	0.2351	0.2674	2.1863	0.0401	0.0189	0.1756	4.6587	1.81	0.0000
<b>Consultation (%)</b>											
<b>RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD</b>		<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.030</b>	<b>0.191</b>		<b>1.91</b>	
<b>Balance</b>											
Bewdley	9,178	-2.15	-1.21	2.78	0.53	-0.06	0.04	-1.72	80.10	-7.98	0.00
Stourport	19,713	10.38	-4.48	6.20	14.07	0.16	-0.21	-0.05	113.52	19.16	0.00
Kidderminster East	29,206	-6.88	15.82	-5.60	-42.34	-0.55	-0.21	1.22	72.83	-27.24	0.00
Kidderminster West	25,976	3.03	-6.23	-1.50	-18.18	-0.02	-0.36	0.11	32.50	-17.11	0.00
Rural East	10,197	-3.37	-2.45	-1.37	46.66	-0.16	-0.16	0.41	131.09	32.85	0.00
Rural West	2,711	-0.89	-0.65	-0.77	0.09	-0.12	-0.08	-0.52	47.01	0.71	0.00
OVERALL	96,981	0.13	0.79	-0.26	0.82	-0.74	-0.97	-0.54	477.05	0.39	0.00
<b>Future Balance 2026</b>											
Bewdley	9,697	-2.32	-1.34	2.64	-0.66	-0.08	0.03	-1.82	80.10	-8.97	0.00
Stourport	20,811	10.02	-4.74	5.89	11.54	0.11	-0.24	-0.25	113.52	17.06	0.00
Kidderminster East	30,827	-7.41	15.43	-6.07	-46.07	-0.63	-0.25	0.91	72.83	-30.34	0.00
Kidderminster West	27,419	2.55	-6.58	-1.91	-21.50	-0.09	-0.40	-0.17	32.50	-19.87	0.00
Rural East	10,772	-3.55	-2.59	-1.53	45.33	-0.19	-0.17	0.30	131.09	31.76	0.00
Rural West	2,874	-0.95	-0.69	-0.82	-0.28	-0.12	-0.09	-0.55	47.01	0.40	0.00
OVERALL	102,400	-1.66	-0.51	-1.80	-11.64	-1.01	-1.13	-1.58	477.05	-9.96	0.00

Quantity Calculations

**APPENDIX F**  
**QUANTITY STANDARDS**

## Wyre Forest District Council - Setting Quantity Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. National Playing Fields Association for playing pitches
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	This is the current provision in hectares per 1,000 population within the Local Authority area
Existing Local Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Benchmarking	These are figures detailing actual provision and local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities. This is provided as a separate sheet.
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire and needs to be applied and reported per analysis area to provide some detailed local analysis.
Consultation Comments (Quantity)	A summary of reasons behind people's choices of whether they feel their provision is about right or not enough in some areas. PPG 17 indicates that where local provision is regarded as inadequate it is important to establish why this is the case. The feeling of deficiency can sometimes be due to qualitative issues of existing open space sites rather than actual quantity issues. Any other qualitative consultation / information that has been extracted on local needs in terms of quantity of provision e.g. from neighbourhood drop-in sessions and local strategic documents
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in hectares per 1,000 population
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION OF TOWN PARKS**

<b>National Standards</b>	No National Standards																																												
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	0.33 ha per 1000 population – no provision in rural areas, greatest provision in Stourport.																																												
<b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR1- proposals for development that will lead to the loss or reduction of <u>parks</u>, public open spaces or other open space areas will not be allowed, except when the equivalent or increased provision is provided. Development that will have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted.</p> <p><b>Wyre Forest District Council Best Value User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07</b></p> <p>The survey found satisfaction with parks and open spaces had risen 4% since 2003/04 to 75%.</p>																																												
<b>BENCHMARKING</b>	Telford – 44% about right	North Shropshire – 53% about right	Shrewsbury – 59% about right																																										
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<b>Consultation Comments (quantity)</b>	The majority of residents at drop in sessions identified the provision of parks as being good and emphasised the value of parks, identifying them as a vital facility for children. Specific reference was made to the high usage of Riverside Park in Stourport and many residents stated it provides excellent facilities for children and young people as well.																																												

	<p>The general consensus established from Parish Council and member consultation was that the provision of parks is about right. Members for Bewdley and Arley in particular stated they had very good provision and Brinton Park was specifically mentioned as an excellent site that is well used within the District.</p> <p>Friends of Broadwaters, who manage Broadwater's Park, identified this area as having a problem with litter and graffiti.</p>
<b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b>	<b>0.33 ha per 1000 population</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>The value of parks to local residents was reinforced throughout consultation. The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the provision of parks to be sufficient (66%) and this perception is reflected within all areas of the District.</p> <p>Findings from local consultation identify a greater emphasis on improving the quality, rather than quantity of parks. Therefore, the local standard has been set at the existing level of provision placing an emphasis on the qualitative improvements of this typology and also the protection of town parks. This standard will also enable the identification of any locational deficiencies and combined with the application of the accessibility standard will ensure that residents have access to a town park within the recommended distance of their homes.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION FOR LOCAL PARKS AND GARDENS**

<b>National Standards</b>	No National Standards																																												
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	0.24 ha per 1000 population – no provision in Kidderminster West or Rural areas. Kidderminster East has greatest provision.																																												
<b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR1- proposals for development that will lead to the loss or reduction of <u>parks</u>, public open spaces or other open space areas will not be allowed, except when the equivalent or increased provision is provided. Development that will have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted.</p>																																												
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	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey perceived the provision of local parks and gardens to be about right (54%). However, 22% of residents also felt there was not enough provision.</p> <p>Within the individual settlement areas a similar perception was portrayed, with over 46% of respondents in each area stating provision was about right. The highest level of satisfaction was found in Kidderminster West, where 71% of residents indicated provision was about right. However, despite this high level of satisfaction there is currently no provision of local parks in this area. Residents in Kidderminster West did also show a high level of satisfaction with the provision of town parks; therefore it can be assumed there may have been confusion over the two typologies leading to a satisfaction with the overall provision of parks.</p>																																												
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	<p>as well.</p> <p>The general consensus established from Parish Council's and members was that the provision of parks is about right. Members for Bewdley and Arley in particular stated they had very good provision and Brinton Park was specifically mentioned as an excellent site that is well used within the District.</p>
<p><b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b></p>	<p><b>0.24 ha per 1000 population</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>Similar to the findings for town parks, the general perception gathered from consultation is that the provision of local parks is sufficient. A significant amount of residents (29%) indicated provision was insufficient, however a reason for this may be the importance of the provision of local parks in close proximity to communities being widely recognised by residents in Wyre Forest. Therefore, locational deficiencies may exist, leading to the perception of insufficient provision.</p> <p>Throughout consultation there was a focus on the quality of parks, with many quality issues raised by residents. A local standard set at the existing level of provision will protect the existing level of provision as a valued local resource to the community and also allow for qualitative enhancements to local parks across the District. A challenging accessibility standard has been set and combined with the application of the quantity standard; any locational deficiencies will be identified.</p>



**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION OF NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL**

<p><b>National Standards</b></p>	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha</p> <p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population</p> <p>Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation</p>
<p><b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b></p>	<p>2.30 ha per 1000 population – greatest provision in Kidderminster West and Rural areas. Least provision in Bewdley.</p>
<p><b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR6 – The Council will safeguard the areas shown on the proposals map in the Stour Valley north of Kidderminster for future development as a Country Park.</p> <p>Policy LR7 - The Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map around Hurcott Pool and Woods for future development as a Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p><b>Wyre Forest Community Strategy 2004 – 2014</b></p> <p>A key theme of the strategy is a better environment – <i>“that the Wyre Forest’s built and natural environment is protected, improved and enhanced to provide an accessible, attractive, enjoyable and healthy place to be now and in the future”</i></p> <p><b>Annual Monitoring Report 2006</b></p> <p>A large proportion of housing developments have taken place on brownfield sites, with no developments occurring on greenfield sites in Kidderminster and Bewdley.</p> <p>57% of the district lies within the West Midlands Green Belt.</p> <p>There is 279.43 hectares of favourable SSSI’s in Wyre Forest. These sites represent a particularly important resource to enhance biodiversity.</p>

	<p><b>Wyre Forest SPD 2007</b></p> <p>The Council identifies it as good practice to focus on biodiversity and geological conservation.</p>																																														
<b>BENCHMARKING</b>	Telford – 44% about right	North Shropshire – 47% about right	Shrewsbury – 53% about right																																												
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<p><b>Consultation</b> (too much / about right / not enough)</p>	<p>Based on the findings of the household survey there is an overall satisfaction shown with the provision of natural and semi natural open space, with 56% of respondents indicating the quantity is about right. This typology is also the most frequently used open space of all typologies (35%) and 59% of residents use this open space more than once a month.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Overall</b></td> <td><b>11.1%</b></td> <td><b>56.3%</b></td> <td><b>11.5%</b></td> <td><b>17.7%</b></td> <td><b>3.3%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bewdley</td> <td>8.9%</td> <td>56.3%</td> <td>8.2%</td> <td>20.9%</td> <td>5.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stourport</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>54.8%</td> <td>17.7%</td> <td>20.2%</td> <td>2.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster East</td> <td>10.8%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>12.7%</td> <td>22.5%</td> <td>3.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster West</td> <td>24.2%</td> <td>62.9%</td> <td>6.5%</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>1.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural</td> <td>16.4%</td> <td>62.7%</td> <td>10.4%</td> <td>10.4%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Across the individual analysis areas there is a consistent opinion. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in Kidderminster West, where 87% of residents feel provision is about right or more than enough. This corresponds to the greatest level of provision in this area of Wyre Forest. Over 50% of respondents in each analysis area stated the provision of natural and semi natural open space was about right, suggesting a consistently high satisfaction across the whole of the District.</p>						More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	<b>Overall</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>56.3%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	Bewdley	8.9%	56.3%	8.2%	20.9%	5.7%	Stourport	4.8%	54.8%	17.7%	20.2%	2.4%	Kidderminster East	10.8%	50%	12.7%	22.5%	3.9%	Kidderminster West	24.2%	62.9%	6.5%	4.8%	1.6%	Rural	16.4%	62.7%	10.4%	10.4%	0%
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<p><b>Consultation Comments (quantity)</b></p>	<p>Drop in session attendees recognised the need to protect natural and semi-natural areas, recognising them as a key part of Wyre Forest. The Forests in Bewdley and Ribbesford walk were identified as nice places to walk and of great recreational value.</p> <p>Respondents to the young people survey stated a nature reserve would be one of the top two new open spaces they would like in there local area (20%).</p> <p>The provision of natural and semi natural open space was considered to be sufficient by respondents to the Parish Council and member’s questionnaire. Parishes within the rural areas of the District stated natural and semi natural space was easily accessible. The importance of green corridors, such as bridle ways, in linking open spaces, was also acknowledged. The high number of SSSI’s was recognised and valued. The role of these sites will however be</p>																																														

	considered during the application of the standard.
<b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b>	<b>2.30 ha per 1000 population</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>The overall perception established through local consultation was that the provision of natural and semi natural open space in Wyre Forest is sufficient, although there may be local deficiencies. A number of residents at the drop in sessions further emphasised the value of this typology, identifying natural and semi natural space as a key contributor to the character of the District.</p> <p>Both quantitative and qualitative issues were raised during local consultation, however the key theme established by residents was the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development. The local standard has therefore been set at the existing level of provision. This will enable a focus on the protection and enhancement of sites across Wyre Forest. In particular the Council should concentrate on the improvement of footpaths and access to sites, as this was one of the main issues raised by residents. Accessibility to sites will be a key area for improvement and a challenging accessibility standard has been set.</p> <p>The green nature of Wyre Forest has meant several extremely large natural and semi natural open spaces are found across the District. These vast expanses have been excluded from the calculations because the inclusion of these sites will set an artificially high quantity standard across the District that would be both unachievable and generate unrealistic expectations.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION FOR AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

<b>National Standards</b>	The NPFA Six acre standard includes some elements of amenity green space.																																												
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	<b>0.28 ha per 1000 – greatest provision in Stourport, least provision in the rural areas.</b>																																												
<b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR2 – Development proposals must, where appropriate, include provision for amenity space (including LAPs) for the recreation and enjoyment of users. S106 obligations may be sought for contributions to the provision and enhancement of amenity spaces. Development that will have an adverse impact on the provision of amenity space will not be permitted.</p>																																												
<b>BENCHMARKING</b>	Telford – 32% not enough	North Shropshire – 39% about right	Shrewsbury – 39% about right																																										
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<b>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</b>	Based on the findings of the household survey, there is a split opinion regarding the provision of amenity green space, with 36% respondents stating provision is about right and 29% indicating there is insufficient provision.																																												
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<b>Consultation Comments (quantity)</b>	Responses from the Parish Council and member's questionnaires suggest a high satisfaction with the provision of amenity greenspace. Councillors of Rock and Bewdley in particular identified the provision of amenity greenspace as excellent. The future provision of amenity space in Rock was highlighted, with land being purchased within one of the villages for the use of local residents.																																												

<b>PMP Recommendation</b> <b>(per 1,000 population)</b>	<b>0.29 ha per 1000 population</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>Local consultation findings highlight a split in opinion regarding the current provision of amenity green space, with 43% of residents indicating provision is insufficient and 42% stating provision is sufficient. Drop in session attendees further identified the need for balance between quantity and quality.</p> <p>In consideration of local consultation identifying a split in opinion in consideration of the provision of amenity green space it is recommended the standard is set slightly above the current level of provision. Setting the standard at this level will enable the Council to identify priorities for new provision and also focus on enhancing the quality of existing sites within the District.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION OF PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN**

<p><b>National Standards</b></p>	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p>
	<p>1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>
<p><b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b></p>	<p>0.04 ha per 1000 population – greatest provision in Stourport and Kidderminster West. Least provision in Bewdley and the rural areas.</p>
<p><b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR3 – proposals for residential development should include the provision of children’s play space. This should meet the NFPA Six Acre Standard, including LEAPs and NEAPs, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on sites providing 75 – 200 child bed spaces, a Local Equipped Area for Play</li> <li>• on sites providing 200+ child bed spaces, a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play</li> <li>• if there is nearby play space, off-site improvements may be required under Section 106 obligations</li> <li>• development that will have an adverse impact on the quality or quantity of play space will not be permitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p> <p>The values underpinning the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to contribute to the five outcomes for children and young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; achieving economic well being</li> <li>• to recognise the importance of play for children and their families both in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety</li> <li>• to be prepared to offer challenge, whilst managing risk</li> <li>• to acknowledge that every child needs and has the right to play and that play is an essential part of growing up.</li> </ul> <p>The four outcomes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young people to have increased opportunity to access and enjoy a variety of play</li> </ul>

- increased inclusive play opportunities
- a greater understanding of the importance of play
- children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play

**Wyre Forest District Council SPD 2007**

The SPD states that it is important to protect existing open space and play provision and upgrade facilities where appropriate.

The council uses the NPFA standards for the provision of outdoor playing space (2.4 ha per 1000 people).

This figure is subdivided into 1.6 – 1.8 ha for youth and adult use and 0.6 – 0.8 ha for children’s play.

An accessibility standard is also set:

LAP – 100m, LEAP – 400m, NEAP – 1000m.

The council requires maintenance payments covering a 20 year period.

**BENCHMARKING**

Telford – 46% not enough	North Shropshire – 36% not enough	Shrewsbury – 35% about right
Ryedale – 39% not enough	Wychavon – 39% about right	York – 38% not enough

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

Respondents to the household survey portray a split in opinion regarding the provision of play areas for children. 34% indicate provision is about right and 34% indicate there is insufficient provision. A further 14% feel that there are nearly enough facilities.

	More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
<b>Overall</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>
Bewdley	4.9%	35%	10.4%	32.5%	17.2%
Stourport	3.2%	37.6%	11.2%	37.6%	10.4%
Kidderminster East	7.1%	40.4%	21.2%	24.2%	7.1%
Kidderminster West	3.3%	23.3%	18.3%	40%	15%
Rural	7.4%	27.9%	11.8%	39.7%	13.2%

Similar results are evident in three of the five analysis areas. However, higher levels of dissatisfaction are shown in Kidderminster West and the rural area, where 40% of residents feel provision is insufficient. In contrast, residents in Kidderminster East portrayed the highest level of satisfaction; with 40% of residents indicating provision was sufficient. This suggests that there is dissatisfaction in both the rural and urban areas of the district.

**Consultation Comments**

The general consensus gathered from drop in sessions was the need for increased provision of children’s facilities.

<b>(quantity)</b>	<p>Residents emphasised the need for more imaginative and challenging play for children and a number of local people stated some play areas experienced vandalism and litter. Particular dissatisfaction was shown with provision in Kidderminster. The perception of a lack of children's provision during the holidays was also evident from resident's responses.</p> <p>42% of respondents to the children's survey stated felt there was some provision of play space near there home but that they would like more. When asked what improvement to an existing facility in the District they would like most, 29% of children identified the provision of more play equipment. A significant amount of children also stated they would like an indoor play space if they could have one new facility near there home (29%).</p> <p>Parish Council and member responses support the findings from the drop in sessions and the household survey, with a lack of children's provision identified. A reoccurring theme gathered was that provision was of a similar standard, suggesting the need for more imaginative play. Members particularly mentioned the provision of play areas in Habberley and Blakebrook as being inadequate and recently installed facilities were perceived to be inappropriate. However, provision in Sutton Park and Franche was considered to be adequate.</p>
<b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b>	<b>0.05 ha per 1000 population</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>The general consensus established throughout consultation was a lack of provision of children's play areas. Furthermore residents at drop in sessions and respondents to the IT children's survey identified the need for increased provision for children particularly in Kidderminster.</p> <p>In light of the conclusive perception of insufficient provision for children in Wyre Forest, it is recommended the local standard is set above the existing level of provision. This would ensure that opportunities to provide new play areas are taken and would also ensure that where appropriate, new developments include suitable provision for children. This is particularly important considering only 31% of residents feel the quality of play areas is good and therefore there should also be a focus on quality.</p> <p>The main complaint identified during consultation was a lack of interesting and exciting facilities. Therefore, a key consideration for the Council should be the design of any new provision, ensuring that it is fit for its purpose. One of the outcomes of the Worcestershire Play Strategy is that children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play and the Council should look to adhere to this.</p> <p>Although setting the standard above the existing level of provision creates a focus on increasing provision in the District all play areas should achieve the recommended quality standard. This will require qualitative improvements to a number of sites in Wyre Forest.</p> <p>While setting a quantity standard above the existing level of provision is reflective of local expectations for a greater quantity of provision of play areas, it is the application of the accessibility standard that should determine the value of</p>



	existing sites and identify any areas where new provision is required. Setting a quantity standard above the existing level alongside a challenging accessibility standard should ensure that provision is equitably distributed.
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<b>WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</b>	
<b>National Standards</b>	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas and does not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	0.020 ha per 1000 population – greatest provision in Kidderminster East, least provision in rural areas and Bewdley.
<b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p> <p>The values underpinning the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to contribute to the five outcomes for children and young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; achieving economic well being</li> <li>• to recognise the importance of play for children and their families both in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety</li> <li>• to be prepared to offer challenge, whilst managing risk</li> <li>• to acknowledge that every child needs and has the right to play and that play is an essential part of growing up.</li> </ul> <p>The four outcomes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young people to have increased opportunity to access and enjoy a variety of play</li> <li>• increased inclusive play opportunities</li> <li>• a greater understanding of the importance of play</li> <li>• children and young people are involved in the design and delivery of play</li> </ul> <p><b>Wyre Forest District Council Best Value User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07</b></p>

	The survey identified that the increased provision of activities for teenagers (43%) was a top priority.					
<b>BENCHMARKING</b>	Telford – 65% not enough		North Shropshire – 65% not enough		Shrewsbury – 57% not enough	
	Ryedale – 51% not enough		Wychavon – 62% not enough		York – 59% not enough	
<b>Consultation</b>  <b>(too much / about right / not enough)</b>	Responses from the household survey indicate the majority of residents (65%) feel the provision of open space for young people is insufficient and a small minority felt there was nearly enough (8%). Only 12% of respondents stated provision was about right or more than enough, supporting the perception of insufficient provision in Wyre Forest.					
		More than enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
	Bewdley	2.5%	8.9%	10.2%	60.5%	17.8%
	Stourport	3.3%	8.3%	7.5%	70.8%	10%
	Kidderminster East	0%	12.9%	7.9%	62.4%	16.8%
	Kidderminster West	1.6%	3.2%	9.5%	71.4%	14.3%
Rural	4.5%	14.9%	4.5%	65.7%	10.4%	
	Across the individual analysis areas findings are consistent with the overall responses to the household survey. Over 61% of residents in each area indicate there is not enough provision, supporting the perception of young people's provision in Wyre Forest being insufficient. Particular dissatisfaction was shown in Stourport. The greatest level of satisfaction was portrayed in Kidderminster East and this is supported by the greatest provision of young people's facilities found in this area of the District.					
<b>Consultation Comments</b> <b>(quantity)</b>	Comments gathered from drop in sessions revolved around providing more young people's open space. A significant amount of residents stated young people have nothing to do and highlighted the knock on effect of this, using parks and younger children's facilities, resulting in anti social behaviour and vandalism. Local people identified the need for more youth clubs and facilities available for use at night, emphasising supervised provision. The improvements in young people's provision, such as the new skatepark in Brinton Park, was widely recognised by residents in Wyre Forest and a number of teenage respondents at the drop in sessions stated it was well needed and well used.					
	The majority of respondents to the young peoples survey stated there were no facilities for young people where they live (36%). 23% of children stated that if they could have one new facility it would be a skate or BMX park.					
	Parish Council and member responses reinforced this, indicating that the provision of young people's facilities is inadequate. All Parish Council's and members reflected this view, with the exception of members of Sutton Park and particular dissatisfaction was shown by responses from Bewdley and Habberley and Blakebrook. Although a lack of provision was identified in Franche it was highlighted that a multi activity play area is planned for the near future. Within Franche problems with young people and teenagers using children's facilities was identified by members. A					

	lack of facilities in Marlpool Estate and Ferndale estate was perceived to be a specific cause of this.
<b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b>	<b>0.030 ha per 1000 population</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>The insufficient provision of young people's facilities was a key theme raised throughout consultation. The dissatisfaction with the provision of this typology was one of the three most conclusive of all typologies. The lack of provision and lack of appropriate provision was acknowledged to have a negative effect on other typologies in the District, for example parks.</p> <p>The local standard has been set above the existing level of provision to address the need for the increased provision of young people's facilities. Combined with the accessibility standard, this will allow the identification of any locational deficiencies in the District and establish priorities for increased provision.</p> <p>Although setting the standard at this level will prioritise the provision of new facilities, the Council should be aware of the requirement to enhance the quality of facilities in Wyre Forest. This is particularly important, considering the quality of young people's facilities was considered to be poor by respondents to the household survey.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

**National Standards**

NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (i.e. 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts, training areas and croquet lawns

**Existing Local Standards and strategic context**

**Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011**

Policy LR9 – Private playing fields together with sports pitches situated within educational establishments, will be safeguarded to protect their contribution to sports pitch provision in the District and as valuable urban amenity open spaces. Section 106 obligations may be required to secure playing fields as an integral part of larger new developments.

Developments that will result in the loss of these playing fields will not be allowed, unless:

- the proposal is for minor development required in the connection with the use as playing fields
- alternative or improved provision of at least equivalent community benefit is made available

Policy LR10 – The Council will safeguard the area shown on the proposals map north-west of Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn for outdoor sports use. Proposals for outdoor sports facilities will be encouraged within this area.

Policy LR14 – Proposals for golf development will only be permitted where:

- there will be no adverse impact on the character and appearance of the landscape
- there will be no adverse impact on areas of conservation or ecological importance
- access can be gained from suitable roads without an adverse impact of road safety

Policy LR18 – Proposals for dual-use developments for sport and recreation on existing educational sites will be permitted, subject to compliance with other policies in the plan.

Policy GB3 – Within the Green Belt, the use of land for outdoor sport and recreation will normally be allowed unless there is an adverse impact on the use or amenity of neighbouring land and buildings, including residential properties.

**Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy 2002**

The ratio of pitches to adults in Worcestershire is currently better than the national average at 1:843.

Within the Wyre Forest there is 105.5 ha of playing pitches and 75% are available for community use. This is high in relation to other areas.

Of these pitches there is a surplus of 30.9, however there is a shortfall of pitches for junior football (-0.1), junior rugby (-2.6) and hockey (-0.8).

The estimated surplus in 2009 for Wyre Forest is 31.4.

	<b>Wyre Forest District Council Best Value User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07</b>		
	Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities had increased by 13% from 2002/03 to 65% in 2006/07.		
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	<b>1.91 ha per 1000 population – greatest provision in Stourport, least provision in Bewdley.</b>		
<b>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</b>	<b>Grass Pitches:</b> 6% more than enough 46.3% about right 20% not enough 27.7% no opinion	<b>Synthetic Turf Pitches:</b> 0.5 % more than enough 15.6% about right 23.1% not enough 60.8% no opinion	<b>Tennis Courts:</b> 2% more than enough 22.8% about right 39% not enough 36.1% no opinion
	<b>Bowling Greens:</b> 2.2% more than enough 27.4% about right 26% not enough 44.4% no opinion	<b>Golf Courses:</b> 20.3% more than enough 32.7% about right 7.7% not enough 39.4% no opinion	

**Consultation Comments  
(quantity)**

Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand-led and the outdoor sports facility typology encompasses a wide variety of different facilities including grass pitches, golf courses and bowling greens. This means the standards should be applied for broad planning need only. The concurrent theme is the high proportion of residents having no opinion, highlighting the low level of interest regarding this type of open space. This disinterest is mirrored in responses to the level of use, which shows that 64% of residents in Wyre Forest do not use outdoor sports facilities.

Of the facility types surveyed, dissatisfaction was shown with the provision of synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts. The highest level of satisfaction was shown for grass pitches, with 46% of respondents indicating that provision is about right.

Within the individual analysis areas residents in Kidderminster East indicated the highest level of satisfaction with synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. However, respondents in this area also portrayed the highest levels of dissatisfaction with the provision of grass pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. This suggests there may be a poor distribution of sports facilities across the District.

At drop in sessions the importance of outdoor sports facilities was emphasised by residents, with many viewing the protection of this type of open space as essential. The provision of outdoor sports facilities across Wyre Forest was considered to be good, however a number of residents in Bewdley stated there is a lack of publicly accessible grass pitches in Bewdley, with Bewdley Football Club being private and suffering from flooding. Bewdley Bowling Club was considered to be of good quality and well used by many residents.

20% of young people stated an outdoor sports facility would be the one facility they would like most in the local area.

A split in the perception of the provision of outdoor sports facilities was identified from respondents to the Parish Council and member's questionnaire. Respondents for Bewdley, Habberley, Rock and Arley Kings regarded provision to be poor, with some Parishes having no sports facilities at all and in Habberley only school sports fields were available. However, in Kidderminster Foreign, Franche and Sutton Park provision was perceived to be good, with a wide range of facilities available. Specific reference was made to the excellent sports facilities available at Brinton Park. This reinforces the variation of opinions established from the household survey.

External consultation identified sufficient provision of pitches to meet the needs of rugby union in the District, with the exception of Chaddersley Corbett RFC who need two extra junior pitches. Kidderminster Carolians RFC and Chaddersley Sports Club were identified as examples of good practice for high quality facilities.

69% of respondents to the sports club survey felt the current provision of outdoor sports facilities was insufficient to meet their needs. When asked about membership 44% indicated it was increasing, 12% decreasing and 44% stable. This suggests more facilities may be required to meet the future demand and expansion of sports clubs in the District.

	<p><b>Grass Pitches:</b> Individual analysis areas indicate the provision of grass pitches is about right. The greatest dissatisfaction can be found in Kidderminster East, where 28% of residents feel provision is insufficient.</p>	<p><b>Synthetic Turf Pitches:</b> Results from the individual analysis areas support the perception that there is not enough provision. However, in Kidderminster East the majority of residents feel provision is about right (29%). A lack of interest in this facility type is highlighted in each analysis area; with over 51% of respondents having no opinion regarding the provision of synthetic turf pitches.</p>	<p><b>Tennis Courts:</b> The majority of residents across each individual analysis area indicate there is not enough provision of tennis courts. However, in the rural area the majority of respondents (38%) feel provision is about right. This suggests increased provision of tennis courts within the rural areas of the District.</p>
	<p><b>Bowling Greens:</b> Within the analysis areas there is split opinion regarding the provision of bowling greens, with three of the analysis areas stating provision is about right and the other two areas indicating there is insufficient provision. The highest level of satisfaction is located in Kidderminster West, where 48% of residents state provision is about right.</p>	<p><b>Golf Courses:</b> The majority of respondents in each analysis area felt the provision of golf courses is about right. Only up to 16% of residents in each analysis area state provision is insufficient.</p>	
<p><b>PMP Recommendation (per 1000 population)</b></p>	<p><b>1.91 ha per 1000 population</b></p>		



<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>Due to the broad nature of the sports facilities included within this typology, it is recommended that this standard is used for planning need only. Detailed studies (such as a playing pitch strategy) should be used to ascertain the detailed provision required for each type of facility).</p> <p>Overall there is a general satisfaction with the current level of provision. The findings from the Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy identify there is an overall surplus of pitches in Wyre Forest, with minor shortfalls in the provision of pitches for hockey, junior football and junior rugby. Furthermore there was an emphasis on the quality of outdoor sports facilities established throughout consultation.</p> <p>In light of the above evidence, it is recommended that the local standard is set at the existing level of provision. Golf courses are excluded from calculations due to the large area of these sites and their subsequent tendency to skew figures.</p> <p>Setting the standard at the existing level of provision will allow the Council to focus on improving access to existing/new facilities and identify any locational deficiencies that may exist. It will also ensure the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest are enhanced and therefore ensure facilities are sufficient to meet needs of residents for physical activity. This will support the Council in achieving increases in participation in line with national targets, but allow an overall focus on improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Respondents to the sports club survey highlighted desire for improvement of changing facilities and this should be a key area of improvement for the Council. If new provision is required to meet future needs, the Council should explore the delivery of high quality facilities through access to school sites.</p>
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION FOR ALLOTMENTS**

<b>National Standards</b>	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households (ie 20 allotments plots per 2,200 people (2.2 people per house) or 1 allotment plot per 200 people. With an average allotment plot of 250 sq/m this equates to 0.125 ha per 1,000 population  1970 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population																																												
<b>Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)</b>	<b>0.184 ha per 1000 population – greatest provision in Kidderminster West, least in Bewdley.</b>																																												
<b>Existing Local Standards and strategic context</b>	<b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b>  Policy LR4 – The Council will safeguard allotment sites shown on the proposals map. Any development that will cause loss of these sites will not be permitted unless similar or increased provision is provided.																																												
<b>BENCHMARKING</b>	Telford – 35% not enough	North Shropshire – 31% not enough	Shrewsbury – 28% about right																																										
	Ryedale – 28% about right	Wychavon – 31% about right	York – 36% about right																																										
<b>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</b>	<p>Findings from the household survey reveal 66% of respondents feel the provision of allotments is insufficient. This perception of insufficient provision is the most conclusive of all typologies within the District, alongside teenage provision.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than Enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Overall</b></td> <td><b>2.4%</b></td> <td><b>9.8%</b></td> <td><b>8.4%</b></td> <td><b>66.3%</b></td> <td><b>14.6%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bewdley</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>9.1%</td> <td>10.4%</td> <td>61.7%</td> <td>18.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stourport</td> <td>3.3%</td> <td>8.3%</td> <td>7.4%</td> <td>70.2%</td> <td>9.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster East</td> <td>0%</td> <td>12.9%</td> <td>7.9%</td> <td>62.4%</td> <td>16.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster West</td> <td>1.7%</td> <td>3.4%</td> <td>10.2%</td> <td>76.3%</td> <td>15.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural</td> <td>4.5%</td> <td>15.2%</td> <td>4.5%</td> <td>66.7%</td> <td>10.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Within the individual analysis areas a similar perception is established and the highest level of dissatisfaction with allotments is found in Kidderminster West, where 76% of residents indicate provision is insufficient.</p> <p>When asked if they were interested in renting an allotment plot 14% of respondents stated yes and 86% no. This emphasises the need for increased provision of allotments in Wyre Forest.</p>				More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>66.3%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	Bewdley	2.6%	9.1%	10.4%	61.7%	18.2%	Stourport	3.3%	8.3%	7.4%	70.2%	9.9%	Kidderminster East	0%	12.9%	7.9%	62.4%	16.8%	Kidderminster West	1.7%	3.4%	10.2%	76.3%	15.3%	Rural	4.5%	15.2%	4.5%	66.7%	10.6%
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<b>Consultation Comments (quantity)</b>	Responses at the drop in sessions highlighted the recreational benefits of allotments, especially for older people. Emphasis was placed on the protection of allotments.																																												

	<p>The general consensus established from responses to the Parish Council and member's questionnaire was that the provision of allotments is insufficient. Respondents for Stone, Rock, Bewdley and Arley and Kidderminster Foreign stated there is no allotments within their area and Habberley and Blakebrook indicated that although there are some allotment sites, they are insufficient. However, in Areley Kings the provision of allotments was considered to be good. Within Franche, allotments were mentioned as being well used, with many residents on a waiting list for a site.</p> <p>There are currently 64 residents on the waiting list for an allotment plot in Wyre Forest. The site with the longest waiting list is Greatfield allotments, which currently has 15 people waiting for a plot. This highlights the need for the increased provision of allotments in the District.</p>
<p><b>'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)</b></p>	<p><b>0.191 ha per 1000 population</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>A standard above the existing level of provision has been set to address the demand for the increased provision of allotments in Wyre Forest. The clear perception established through all consultations was that the existing provision of allotments is insufficient.</p> <p>There are currently 64 people on a waiting list for an allotment plot, equating to 9% of the current stock of allotments. Setting the quantity standard above the current level of provision will allow the Council to concentrate on the new provision of allotments to reflect current waiting lists for a plot. The increased provision of allotments will be particularly important in light of the growing demand for this typology, supported by the 14% of respondents to the household survey who indicate they would be interested in renting an allotment plot.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING QUANTITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION FOR CIVIC SPACES**

<b>National Standards</b>	None.																																										
<b>Existing local and strategic context</b>	None.																																										
<b>Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)</b>	Overall, 66% of respondents to the household survey feel the provision of civic spaces in Wyre Forest is insufficient. Only 10% of residents indicate provision is about right.																																										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>More than Enough</th> <th>About Right</th> <th>Nearly Enough</th> <th>Not Enough</th> <th>No Opinion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Overall</b></td> <td><b>2.4%</b></td> <td><b>9.8%</b></td> <td><b>8.4%</b></td> <td><b>66.1%</b></td> <td><b>14.5%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bewdley</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>9%</td> <td>10.3%</td> <td>60.9%</td> <td>17.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stourport</td> <td>3.3%</td> <td>8.1%</td> <td>7.3%</td> <td>69.1%</td> <td>9.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster East</td> <td>0%</td> <td>13.4%</td> <td>8.2%</td> <td>64.9%</td> <td>17.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidderminster West</td> <td>1.7%</td> <td>3.3%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>75%</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural</td> <td>4.5%</td> <td>15.2%</td> <td>4.5%</td> <td>66.7%</td> <td>10.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		More than Enough	About Right	Nearly Enough	Not Enough	No Opinion	<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>66.1%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	Bewdley	2.6%	9%	10.3%	60.9%	17.9%	Stourport	3.3%	8.1%	7.3%	69.1%	9.8%	Kidderminster East	0%	13.4%	8.2%	64.9%	17.5%	Kidderminster West	1.7%	3.3%	10%	75%	15%	Rural	4.5%	15.2%	4.5%	66.7%	10.6%
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Findings across the individual analysis areas support the overall perception of a lack of provision; with over 61% of respondents in each analysis area stating provision is insufficient. The highest level of satisfaction was located in Kidderminster West, however the greatest actual provision of civic spaces is located in Bewdley. A reason for this high level of satisfaction may be that the recent development of Weavers Wharf Civic Space which is located in this area of the District.																																											
<b>PMP Justification</b>	As a result of the nature of civic spaces, PPG17 recommends that it is inappropriate to set local quantity standards. It is therefore suggested that these spaces are considered in terms of their overall quality and distribution across the District.																																										

**APPENDIX G**  
**QUALITY STANDARDS**

## Setting Quality Standards / Vision – Wyre Forest District Council

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Green Flag criteria for parks produced by Civic Trust
Existing Local Quality Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Benchmarking against other authorities for satisfaction of quality	These are figures detailing satisfaction levels of other authorities to the quality of their open space
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Results from the household survey with regards to users of each typology in relation to their aspirations and needs and existing quality experiences
Consultation (other)	Results from all the consultations undertaken with regards the quality issues for each typology
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local quality standard for discussion and approval by the client

## Setting the Local Quality Standards – Explanation and Justification of the recommended approach

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

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

These lists therefore set out the quality vision (as required by PPG17) which should be applied to all new sites and should inform the enhancement of existing sites.

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

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Clean and litter free	Toilets
Provision of seats	A range of equipment
Provision of bins	An information board
Even footpaths	

In order to relate the recommended quality vision to the site assessments, those priorities derived from consultation have been used to inform the percentage scores achieved during site assessments. For each type of open space, those elements that have emerged as being of particular priority to local residents during consultation are given a greater weighting in the site assessments. This weighting ensures that those areas considered to be of higher relative importance have a greater influence on the overall score achieved.

The key aspirations of local residents with regards the quality of open spaces have therefore been categorised into the four overarching categories considered within the site assessments, specifically:

- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Vegetation
- Ancillary accommodation
- Security and safety.

These classifications are set out below:

<b>Cleanliness and maintenance</b>	<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Ancillary accommodation</b>	<b>Security and safety</b>
Well kept grass	Flowers/Trees	Changing facilities	Welcoming staff

Clean and litter free	Level surface	Parking facilities	Good access
Play equipment	Nature features	Footpaths	On site security
Well laid out		Toilets	
Range of facilities		Seating	
Equipment maintenance		Dog bins	
		Litter bins	
		Information boards	

For each typology, the number of responses received indicating that each of the above features is considered in addition to other comments made during consultations and national standards have been used to determine the relative importance of each of the four key areas.

Given that for each typology, respondents were able to select as many key features as they felt appropriate, the proportion of respondents prioritising each area is determined by calculating the total number of responses that could have been received and measuring this against the number of responses that were received.

The following example sets out the calculations using the above methodology, on the assumption that there were 100 respondents to the survey (who could all have ticked every box if they felt this was appropriate).

Site assessment classification	Number of features contributing to this area	Total Number of Possible Responses
Cleanliness and maintenance	6	600
Vegetation	3	300
Ancillary accommodation	8	800
Security and safety	3	300

The response rate for each of the four key areas is therefore derived by calculating the questions ticked as a percentage of the total number of responses that could have been received. A fictitious example, building on the previous example, is set out below:

Site assessment classification	Number of features contributing to this area	Total Number of Possible Responses	Responses Received	Percentage
Cleanliness and maintenance	6	600	400	66%
Vegetation	3	300	25	8%
Ancillary accommodation	8	800	400	50%
Security and safety	3	300	280	93%

The percentage response rates above (informed by other consultations) can then be used to determine the relative importance of each component of quality.



Using the example above, it can be seen that for this typology, security and safety are most important, cleanliness and maintenance is second and ancillary accommodation and vegetation are less important.

This relative importance will be reflected in the overall score of the site assessment through a weighting system whereby:

The score for the most valued element will be multiplied by 4

The score for the second most valued aspect will be multiplied by three

The score for the third most valued aspect will be multiplied by two

The score for the fourth element will be multiplied by one.

For each typology, all sites can therefore be measured against each other in order to determine which sites best meet public need.

This approach means that in line with PPG17, both the quality vision and the site assessment scores are directly correlated with the findings of the local consultation. The justification behind all of these standards is that they are directly reflective of local needs and the degree to which sites achieve the required standard can be measured using the findings of the site assessments.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
TOWN PARKS**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.		
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Annual Monitoring Report 2006</b></p> <p>Parks and open spaces – a management plan has been produced for Brinton Park. Broadwaters Park has received a green pennant for the second year running.</p>		
<b>Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction</b>	Telford – 36% good	North Shropshire – 53 % average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 86% good
	Ryedale – 58% good	Wychavon - 67% good	York – 62% good (parks)
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space – 13%)</b>	<p>The household survey reveals that the highest rated aspirations with regards to town parks in Wyre Forest are: clean/litter free (75%), toilets (57%), well kept grass (55%) and flowers and trees (39%).</p> <p>Significant problems experienced by users of town parks were misuse of site (34%), dog fouling (33%) and vandalism and graffiti (30%). Maintenance and grass cutting (67%) and safety and age of equipment (52%) were considered to be no problem.</p> <p>When asked whether they felt safe at town parks 71% of residents stated they did feel safe and 24% indicated they sometimes felt safe. Of the features that could improve security 51% of respondents stated staff on site and 33% adequate lighting.</p>		
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>Respondents to the household survey indicated a split in opinion regarding the quality of town parks. 57% of respondents rated the quality of town parks as good and 40% average.</p> <p>Across the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed and the highest satisfaction is found in Kidderminster West, where 65% of residents feel the quality of town parks is good and 0% poor. Surprisingly there was no difference between the rural and urban settlement areas, suggesting the provision of high quality town parks within the District.</p> <p>General comments from respondents to the household survey identified parks as being well maintained. Specifically the improvements to Brinton Park were mentioned as being excellent. However, a number of residents did comment on dog fouling problems at parks and many respondents highlighted a number of safety concerns associated with parks. Jubilee Gardens was specifically highlighted as a local park in need of monitoring.</p> <p>Gangs of youths at parks participating in anti social behaviour were the main safety concern to residents and the presence of a park warden was identified as a solution to this problem and a way of allaying safety concerns. Residents also made a number of suggestions on improvements to town parks. Facilities at parks such as food and beverage amenities and holding events, were the main two examples.</p>		

**Consultation (Other including IT  
Young People Survey)**

At drop in sessions residents identified security concerns when using parks in the district. A number of local people stated there is a lack of security at parks and that they suffer from vandalism, graffiti and anti social behaviour, with specific reference made to Brinton Park and Barnfield Park. Residents also highlighted many opportunities at Memorial Park if investment was provided. Although Brinton Park was perceived to be in need of increased security and suffering from vandalism, the park was acknowledged by many residents as a high quality open space. Many visitors travelled to Riverside Park for its range of facilities and residents identified Jubilee Gardens as an excellent open space with many aesthetic benefits, also experiencing many visitors from outside the district.

55% of children identified parks as the open space they visit most often. The main reasons they liked this open space was because it is close to home (61%) and a good place to meet friends (54%). However, the main dislike of parks was that the play facilities are boring, supporting consultation regarding children's play areas. Safety concerns at parks was a frequent issue raised by children, with many stating the reason for this was gangs of youths congregating in parks at night.

The quality of parks and gardens was perceived to be good by the majority of respondents to the Parish Council and member's questionnaire. However, members for Areley Kings perceived parks and gardens to be poor quality, suffering from poor maintenance. In particular the area by the River Severn was identified as a good quality garden that had become overgrown and now has no use in the area. Jubilee Gardens and Brinton Park were considered to be of good quality and well maintained.

External consultation identified Broadwaters Park as an example of good practice, with local residents taking responsibility for the general up keep of the park. Jubilee Gardens was also commended for its maintenance and Green Flag status.

**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Clean/litter free	Flowers and trees
Toilets	Facilities for the young
Well kept grass	Seating

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to town parks, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>16%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>46%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>23%</b>	<b>3</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>20%</b>	<b>2</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
LOCAL PARKS**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.		
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	<p><b>Annual Monitoring Report 2006</b></p> <p>Parks and open spaces – a management plan has been produced for Brinton Park. Broadwaters Park has received a green pennant for the second year running.</p>		
<b>Benchmarking other local authorities satisfaction</b>	Telford – 36% good	North Shropshire – 53 % average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 86% good
	Ryedale – 58% good	Wychavon - 67% good	York – 62% good (parks)
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space – 17%)</b>	<p>The highest rated aspirations for local parks in the Wyre Forest are: clean/litter free (75%), flowers and trees (53%) and well kept grass (49%).</p> <p>Frequent users of local parks experienced vandalism and graffiti (32%), misuse of site and dog fouling (27%) as significant problems. However, maintenance of grass cutting (51%) and maintenance of footpaths (49%) were considered to be no problem.</p> <p>13% of respondents stated they felt unsafe when using local parks and further safety concerns were raised by residents at drop in sessions. Similar to the responses for town parks users considered staff on site and adequate lighting as ways of improving safety.</p>		
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>Similar to responses for town parks, findings from the household survey reveal a split in opinion regarding the quality on local parks. 55% of residents feel the quality of this open space is good and 39% average.</p> <p>Responses within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings. However, a significantly higher level of satisfaction is found in Kidderminster West, where 81% of residents rate the quality of local parks as good. The higher level of satisfaction indicated by respondents in Kidderminster West for both town parks and local parks suggests residents feel they have access to good quality parks in this area of the District.</p> <p>General comments from residents revolved around safety concerns at local parks. Many residents identified local parks as being run down and unsafe.</p>		
<b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b>	<p>At drop in sessions residents identified security concerns when using parks in the district. A number of local people stated there is a lack of security at parks and that they suffer from vandalism, graffiti and anti social behaviour, with specific reference made to St George’s Park.</p>		

	<p>55% of children identified parks as the open space they visit most often. The main reasons they liked this open space was because it is close to home (61%) and a good place to meet friends (54%). However, the main dislike of parks was that the play facilities are boring, supporting consultation regarding children's play areas.</p> <p>The quality of parks and gardens was perceived to be high by the majority of respondents to the Parish Council and member's questionnaire. However, members for Areley Kings perceived parks and gardens to be poor quality, suffering from poor maintenance, In particular the area by the River Severn was identified as a good quality garden that had become overgrown and now has no use in the area. St George's park was given as an example of bad practice, suffering from low usage and anti social behaviour.</p>																							
<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Essential</b></th> <th><b>Desirable</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean/litter free</td> <td>Seating</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flowers and trees</td> <td>Water features</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Well kept grass</td> <td>Litter bins</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to local parks, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Component of quality</b></th> <th><b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b></th> <th><b>Weighting</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Security and Safety</td> <td><b>11%</b></td> <td><b>1</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cleanliness and maintenance</td> <td><b>45%</b></td> <td><b>4</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegetation</td> <td><b>35%</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ancillary accommodation</td> <td><b>17%</b></td> <td><b>2</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	Clean/litter free	Seating	Flowers and trees	Water features	Well kept grass	Litter bins	<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	Security and Safety	<b>11%</b>	<b>1</b>	Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>45%</b>	<b>4</b>	Vegetation	<b>35%</b>	<b>3</b>	Ancillary accommodation	<b>17%</b>	<b>2</b>
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL**

<p><b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b></p>	<p>Countryside Agency (now part of the Natural England Partnership) - land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs. GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Natural England highlights the need to conserve and protect the natural environment and promotes local community involvement and consultation. They also have a commitment to work with Local Authorities in developing Local Area Agreements (LAA) for improved community infrastructure to enhance access to high quality natural environments.</p>		
<p><b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b></p>	<p>Telford – 38% good</p>	<p>North Shropshire - 48% good</p>	<p>Shrewsbury &amp; Atcham - 60% good</p>
<p><b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b></p>	<p>Wychavon – 51% good</p>	<p>York – 44% average</p>	
<p><b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR5 – Proposals for the development of Informal Countryside Facilities will be permitted provided that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contain adequate provision for future maintenance</li> <li>• do not have an adverse impact on the quality of recreation opportunities</li> <li>• do not have an adverse impact on the surrounding land uses</li> <li>• do not have an adverse effect on wildlife and ecology.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated natural and semi-natural sites as their most frequently used open space – 35%)</b></p>	<p>Highest rated aspirations: Clean/litter free (71%), nature features (65%) and footpaths (45%).</p> <p>When asked about the quality of natural and semi-natural sites, 24% of residents indicated that they experience litter problems and 19% also felt that dog fouling was very problematic. Few residents highlighted frequent issues with maintenance problems.</p> <p>The majority of users did not experience safety concerns, with 82% of residents feeling safe when using natural and semi natural open space.</p> <p>General comments from respondents to the household survey highlighted issues with the maintenance of footpaths at natural and semi natural open space. Footpaths were perceived to suffer from poor maintenance, leading to them becoming overgrown and subsequently rendering an area inaccessible. Specifically Habberley Valley was an area identified as having blocked footpaths.</p>		

<p><b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b></p>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey feel the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good (66%). However, 29% of residents state their quality is average.</p> <p>Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses, with over 60% of respondents in each analysis area stating the quality of natural and semi natural open space is good.</p>
<p><b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b></p>	<p>Drop in session responses relating to this typology focused more on quantitative issues, however, residents showed an overall satisfaction with the quality of the natural and semi natural areas within Wyre Forest. Moreover, due to their aesthetic and recreational value, residents stated a desire to see the maintenance of this typology continue, with the provision of footpaths both within and leading to the natural areas perceived as key. Riverside Walk was identified as an example of good practice with many residents stating it is well used and has recently been improved.</p> <p>Natural and semi natural open space was the second favourite open space used by respondents to the children's survey. Children further stating the main reason they like this open space is that they can use it when they want to (58%).</p> <p>Respondents to the Parish Council and members questionnaire regard the quality of natural and semi-natural space to be average. Members for Habberley and Blakebrook identified natural and semi natural space as poor, however. Members of Kidderminster Foreign highlighted good walking areas and bridle ways within the area and identified Trimpley Reservoir as a site that experienced high usage. Puxton Marshes was also recognized as a site that experienced high usage, especially at weekends.</p> <p>The Wyre Forest Grazing Animals Project was highlighted as an example of good practice. It was seen to demonstrate good biodiversity, friendly management and team working amongst partner organisations.</p>



<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<p><b>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</b></p>															
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<p><i>Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of natural and semi natural open space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.</i></p>																

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management		
<b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b>	Telford – 48% average	North Shropshire - 57% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 56% average
	Ryedale – 49% average	Wychavon – 57% average	York – 50% average
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	No local quality standards.		
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated amenity green space sites as their most frequently used open space – 2%)</b>	<p>Amenity green space is one of the least frequently used typologies in Wyre Forest. The highest rated aspirations of those residents who do use this typology regularly are: well kept grass (67%), clean/litter free (67%) and dog free areas (44%). The lack of use of this type of open space suggests that these sites may have a primarily aesthetic role.</p> <p>The most significant problems experienced by users of amenity green space are litter and dog fouling. However, maintenance was not considered to be problematic.</p>		
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>The general consensus established from the household survey is that the quality of amenity green space is average. This is indicated by over half of the respondents; with the remaining residents stating the quality is good (23%). 22% feel it to be poor.</p> <p>Similar results are highlighted within the individual areas and the lowest level of satisfaction can be found in Bewdley, where 25% of residents regard the quality of amenity green space to be poor.</p>		
<b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b>	<p>The main issue identified by residents at drop in sessions was the need for a balance between quality and quantity.</p> <p>Amenity green space was considered to be good quality by Parish Councils. Members for Bewdley and Areley claimed amenity green space was very good quality and members for Sutton Park identified Tompkison Drive and Sutton Park Road as being well maintained amenity spaces.</p>		

**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Well kept grass	Dog walking facilities
Clean/Litter Free	Level surface
Dog free area	

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to amenity green spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>4%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>56%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>11%</b>	<b>2</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>15%</b>	<b>3</b>

***Analysis suggests the improvement in quality of amenity green space is considered to be more important than increasing its provision.***

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN**

<p><b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b></p>	<p>Criteria set out by the NPFA in relation to LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs provide some quality aspirations in terms of seating for adults, a varied range of equipment and meeting places for teenagers. GREEN FLAG CRITERIA are also relevant to play areas and include Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management</p> <p>CABE Space believes that the use of target hardening as a first response to anti-social behavior is resulting in the fortification of our urban environment, and highlights that there is a better solution: invest in place making and improving public spaces to prevent the onset and escalation of these problems. Evidence from CABE Space’s study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behavior, and result in long term cost savings. <i>CABE Space Policy Note: preventing anti-social behavior in public spaces</i></p>							
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Telford – 35% average</td> <td>North Shropshire - 44% average</td> <td>Shrewsbury &amp; Atcham - 43% average</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ryedale – 47% average</td> <td>Wychavon – 44% average</td> <td>York – 46% average</td> </tr> </table>			Telford – 35% average	North Shropshire - 44% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 43% average	Ryedale – 47% average	Wychavon – 44% average
Telford – 35% average	North Shropshire - 44% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 43% average						
Ryedale – 47% average	Wychavon – 44% average	York – 46% average						
<p><b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p> <p>The values underpinning the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide facilities and services that meet all children’s needs, encouraging social inclusion and embracing people with disabilities</li> <li>• to extend the choice and control that children have over play opportunities. To recognise a child’s need to push boundaries, to be independent and have self esteem</li> <li>• to use play positively to foster respect for and amongst children and young people</li> <li>• to strive to achieve the best <u>quality</u> possible for the greatest number of people.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated play areas for children sites as their most frequently used open space –</b></p>	<p>The aspirations of those residents who stated they use children’s play areas most frequently are: clean/litter free (82%), facilities for the young (73%) and toilets (48%).</p> <p>Significant problems experienced by users of this typology are vandalism and graffiti (38%), miss-use of site (36%) and dog fouling (34%). Users of children’s play areas did not consider maintenance to be no problem.</p>							

11%)	
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>Findings from the household survey highlight a split in opinion concerning the quality of children's play areas. 31% of respondents feel the quality of play areas are good, 44% average and 25% poor.</p> <p>Within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed in three of the five analysis areas. However, in Kidderminster East the majority of residents feel the quality of this typology is good (38%) while in Kidderminster West 37% of residents state the quality of play areas is poor. This suggests varying levels of quality of play areas within the Kidderminster area of the District.</p> <p>The misuse of children's play areas was the main issue established from general comments in the household survey. A number of residents commented on youths misusing children's play equipment, specifically in Bewdley. The Walshes play area was highlighted as having a problem with motorbikes using the site.</p>
<b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b>	<p>Residents at drop in sessions identified the quality of children's play facilities as being average but suffering from a lack of imaginative facilities. The Play Area in Bewdley and the Riverside Park in Stourport were recognised to be of good quality, with residents particularly commending the recent improvements in Stourport. The main issue established regarding play areas in Kidderminster was vandalism.</p> <p>The majority of respondents to the children's survey stated that play areas were sometimes unclean and could be made better with swings and slides (47%). However, 30% of children felt that play areas were safe and clean to use.</p> <p>The quality of children's provision was considered to be poor by respondents to the Parish Council and member's questionnaire. A number of comments relating to poor maintenance and a lack of imaginative play were raised.</p>

**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Clean/Litter Free	Dog free area
Facilities for the young	Litter bins
Toilets	On site security

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>18%</b>	<b>2</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>43%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>15%</b>	<b>1</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>18%</b>	<b>3</b>

***Analysis highlights the need for innovative and imaginative provision of facilities for children.***

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

<p><b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b></p>	<p>NPFA guidance relating to LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs provide some quality aspirations in terms of seating for adults, varied range of equipment and meeting places for teenagers. GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>CABE Space believes that the use of target hardening as a first response to anti-social behavior is resulting in the fortification of our urban environment. Investment: invest in place making and improving public spaces should be used to prevent the onset and escalation of these problems. Evidence from CABE Space’s study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behavior, and result in long term cost savings. <i>CABE Space Policy Note: preventing anti-social behavior in public spaces</i></p>		
<p><b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b></p>	<p>Telford – 39% poor</p>	<p>North Shropshire - 72% poor</p>	<p>Shrewsbury &amp; Atcham - 62% poor</p>
	<p>Ryedale – 57% poor</p>	<p>Wychavon – 65% poor</p>	<p>York – 64% poor</p>
<p><b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p> <p>The values underpinning the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide facilities and services that meet all children’s needs, encouraging social inclusion and embracing people with disabilities</li> <li>• to extend the choice and control that children have over play opportunities. To recognise a child’s need to push boundaries, to be independent and have self esteem</li> <li>• to use play positively to foster respect for and amongst children and young people</li> <li>• to strive to achieve the best <u>quality</u> possible for the greatest number of people.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated teenage facilities as their most frequently used open space – 0%)</b></p>	<p>66% of respondents to the household survey state the quality of teenage open space is poor. Only 8% of residents indicate the quality of facilities is good, highlighting an overall perception of poor quality teenage open space in the District.</p> <p>Findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses; with over 58% of respondents in each</p>		

	<p>analysis area indicating the quality of teenage provision is poor. As with children's provision, the lowest level of satisfaction is shown in Kidderminster West, with 82% of residents stating the quality of teenage provision is poor. This suggests that it is perceived that poor quality open space is available to the younger population within Kidderminster West.</p>
<p><b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b></p>	<p>Residents at drop in sessions highlighted a lack of provision and quality of teenage facilities. The new skatepark in Stourport was acknowledged as an excellent quality teenage facility and residents commended the recent improvements.</p> <p>Respondents to the young peoples survey regard the quality of teenage provision as average and in need of improvements by (45%). The two main improvements identified were a better range of facilities (33%) and increased safety at sites (33%).</p> <p>Similar to Parish Council and member responses for children's facilities, teenage open space was considered to be of poor quality. However, Brinton Park was mentioned as having excellent facilities for young people and good maintenance. Improvements planned for Lister Road were also highlighted.</p>



**PMP Recommendation**

Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Equipment	Equipment maintenance
Good access	Clean/Litter Free
Range of facilities	Litter bins

*Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to facilities for young people, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:*

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>46%</b>	<b>3</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>52%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>29%</b>	<b>1</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>41%</b>	<b>2</b>

*Analysis highlights the need for more innovative and imaginative provision for teenagers.*

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.		
<b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b>	Telford – 39% average	North Shropshire - 48% average	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 45% good
	Ryedale – 41% average	Wychavon – 52% average	York – 50% average
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	No existing local quality standards.		
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated outdoor sports facility sites as their most frequently used open space – 3%)</b>	<p>Of those people indicating that they use this open space most frequently the highest rated aspirations were: clean/litter free, well kept grass, parking facilities and changing facilities.</p> <p>The major problems experienced by users of outdoor sports facilities are maintenance of grass cutting and litter problems. Safety and age of equipment is not considered a problem.</p>		
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average (46%). However, a significant amount of residents also regard their quality to be poor (34%). This highlights a split in opinion in relation to the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Across the individual analysis areas results are consistent with the overall findings. The highest level of satisfaction can be found in Kidderminster East, where 30% of respondents state the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good.</p>		
<b>Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)</b>	<p>The majority of comments at drop in sessions regarding outdoor sports facilities revolved around quantitative issues, however, Memorial Park tennis courts were stated as in need of refurbishment.</p> <p>The majority of respondents to the young people’s survey identified sports facilities as their favourite open space (37%). The two main things teenagers liked about outdoor sports facilities were that they are close to their home (71%) and good for playing sport (57%). The main dislike of this type of open space was that teenagers felt unsafe when using the facility (60%).</p> <p>The quality of outdoor sports facilities was perceived to be average to poor by respondents to the Parish Council and member’s questionnaire. Members for the ward of Bewdley and Arley in particular emphasised the poor quality of facilities and members for Habberley and Blakebrook stated school facilities were average. Members for Sutton Park showed satisfaction with the sports facilities available at Brinton Park, claiming they were of excellent quality and Lister</p>		

	<p>Road was highlighted as experiencing improvements in the near future. Members for Kidderminster Foreign stated golf courses were well used and members for Franche indicated that the netball area in Franche estate was no longer used for netball.</p> <p>Respondents to the sports club survey regarded the quality of outdoor sports facilities to be average to good. A significant amount of respondents to the sports club survey expressed a desire for improved changing facilities. General comments from respondents revolved around a lack of changing and toilets facilities. Specifically Brown Westhead Park playing fields were highlighted as having six pitches but only changing accommodation for five pitches. White Wickets Sports Ground was also mentioned as having a similar problem. The pitch at King Charles School was stated as being near the end of its serviceable life and in need of replacement. In some instances ancillary facilities were perceived to be as important as the quality of the pitches.</p>																							
<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Essential</b></th> <th><b>Desirable</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clean/litter free</td> <td>Changing facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Well kept grass</td> <td>Good site access</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parking facilities</td> <td>On site security</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b><i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Component of quality</b></th> <th><b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b></th> <th><b>Weighting</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Security and Safety</td> <td><b>24%</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cleanliness and maintenance</td> <td><b>43%</b></td> <td><b>4</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegetation</td> <td><b>12%</b></td> <td><b>1</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ancillary accommodation</td> <td><b>18%</b></td> <td><b>2</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	Clean/litter free	Changing facilities	Well kept grass	Good site access	Parking facilities	On site security	<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	Security and Safety	<b>24%</b>	<b>3</b>	Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>43%</b>	<b>4</b>	Vegetation	<b>12%</b>	<b>1</b>	Ancillary accommodation	<b>18%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>																							
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Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>43%</b>	<b>4</b>																						
Vegetation	<b>12%</b>	<b>1</b>																						
Ancillary accommodation	<b>18%</b>	<b>2</b>																						

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
ALLOTMENTS**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.		
<b>Benchmarking other Local Authorities satisfaction</b>	Telford – 42% average	North Shropshire - 47% poor	Shrewsbury & Atcham - 48% average
	Wychavon – 54% average	York – 55% average	
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	No existing local quality standards.		
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated allotment sites as their most frequently used open space – 1%)</b>	<p>A small majority of residents (1%) use allotments more frequently than any other open space in Wyre Forest. Of those residents who do use allotments, parking facilities, well-kept grass and good site access are the key aspirations.</p> <p>The main problems experienced by frequent users of allotments are vandalism and graffiti and misuse of the site. Maintenance of footpaths was also considered to be a minor problem.</p>		
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>53% of respondents to the household survey regard the quality of allotments to be average. 26% of residents also indicate they are poor and 21% good.</p> <p>Findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall responses with the majority of respondents in each area stating the quality of allotments is average.</p>		
<b>Consultation (Other including IT Young people survey)</b>	Of those Parish Councils and members that have allotments in their area, respondents perceived their quality to be average. Members of Sutton Park specified allotments in the area were good quality and members of Habberley and Blakebrook stated sites within the Parish were average. White Wickets allotments were highlighted as a site that was used on a daily basis.		

**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Parking facilities	Toilets
Well kept grass	Seating
Good site access	Footpaths

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to allotments, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>13%</b>	<b>3</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>27%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>7%</b>	<b>1</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>12%</b>	<b>2</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
GREEN CORRIDORS**

<p><b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b></p>	<p>GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management.</p> <p>Natural England, the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation advocate providing a network of local health walks to promote the 'Walking the Way to Health Initiative', something that can easily be enhanced through the provision of quality green corridors and natural linkages with other open spaces.</p>
<p><b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b></p>	<p>No existing local quality standards.</p>
<p><b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated green corridors as their most frequently used open space – 9%)</b></p>	<p>Of those respondents who stated they use green corridors most frequently, their highest rated aspirations are: clean/litter free (64%), footpaths and nature features (40%).</p> <p>Dog fouling (35%) and litter (24%) were the most significant problems experienced by users of this typology. However, maintenance of grass cutting and footpaths were not considered to be a problem.</p>
<p><b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b></p>	<p>A split in opinion is highlighted by results from the household survey with 49% of respondents indicating the quality of green corridors is good and 40% average.</p> <p>Within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed and the highest level of satisfaction can be found in the rural area, where 64% of residents feel the quality of green corridors is good.</p>
<p><b>Consultation (Other including IT Young People Survey)</b></p>	

**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Clean/Litter free	Water features
Footpaths	Well kept grass
Nature features	Flowers and trees

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to green corridors, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>4%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>37%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>33%</b>	<b>3</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>14%</b>	<b>2</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
CIVIC SPACES**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	None.
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	No existing local quality standards.
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated civic spaces as their most frequently used open space – 3%)</b>	<p>The highest rated aspirations of those residents who use civic spaces more frequently than any other open spaces are: clean/litter free, toilets and seating.</p> <p>Significant problems experienced by users of civic spaces are vandalism and graffiti, litter problems and dog fouling. Maintenance of grass cutting and seating were not considered to be a problem.</p>
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>Civic spaces are perceived to be of average quality by 58% of respondents to the household survey. 26% of respondents also state their quality is good.</p> <p>Responses within the individual areas are consistent with the overall findings and the highest level of satisfaction is found in Kidderminster West, where 47% of residents feel the quality of civic spaces is good.</p>
<b>Consultation</b>	There were few comments regarding civic spaces during drop in sessions, however Severn Side in Bewdley was considered by many to be an excellent civic space with great recreational benefits. A number of visitors outside the district also made use of this open space, emphasising its importance.



**PMP Recommendation**

**Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Clean/Litter free	Flowers/trees
Toilets	Parking facilities
Seating	On site security

***Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to civic spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:***

<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>15%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>31%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>16%</b>	<b>2</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>16%</b>	<b>3</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING QUALITY STANDARDS / VISION  
CHURCHYARDS AND CEMETERIES**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	None.
<b>Existing Local Quality Standards and strategic context</b>	None.
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations) (Of those that rated indoor sports facilities as their most frequently used open space – 5%)</b>	<p>The highest rated aspirations of those people who use churchyards and cemeteries most frequently are: well kept grass and clean and litter free.</p> <p>Factors considered problematic by users of this typology are misuse of site and dog fouling. Maintenance of grass cutting was not considered to be a problem.</p>
<b>Consultation Household Survey - other</b>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey perceive the quality of churchyards and cemeteries to be average (58%). However, 36% of respondents also indicate the quality of this typology is good.</p> <p>Results across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings.</p>
<b>Consultation</b>	<p>The churchyard outside St Mary’s Church in Kidderminster was highlighted as being well maintained and well laid out by residents, however dog fouling was also perceived to be an issue at a number of cemeteries and churchyards.</p>

<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<b>Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:</b>	
	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
	Well kept grass	Toilets
	Clean/litter free	Flowers/trees
	Parking facilities	Footpaths
<i>Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to cemeteries and churchyards, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:</i>		
<b>Component of quality</b>	<b>Proportion of possible total responses received</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Security and Safety	<b>9%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cleanliness and maintenance	<b>65%</b>	<b>4</b>
Vegetation	<b>16%</b>	<b>2</b>
Ancillary accommodation	<b>19%</b>	<b>3</b>

**APPENDIX H**

**ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS**

## Setting Accessibility Standards – Wyre Forest District Council

Field	Comment
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Natural England make recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (set by PMP)</b>	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities.
<b>Consultation (Household Survey - establish 75% threshold catchments)</b>	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire - need to take the 75% level as recommended by PPG 17 Companion Guide (ie from a list of responses - what is the time 75% are willing to travel)
<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in time and/or distance
<b>PMP Justification</b>	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended
<b>CLIENT APPROVAL</b>	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis
<b>LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD</b>	Final Local Standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in time and/or distance

## Accessibility standards – assumptions

Walking	All areas	average of 3mph
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### Conversion (walking)

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

### Assumption

National Guidelines reduce actual distances into straight line distances by a 40% reduction. This is to allow for the fact that routes to open spaces are not straight-line distances but more complex. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
TOWN PARKS**

<b>Definition</b>	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them. Their primary purpose is informal recreation.		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	No national standards		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	None		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minute drive time (Town), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 20 minute walk time (City), 15 minute walk time (Local)

**Consultation**

**HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS**

Of those respondents who use town parks more frequently than any other open space in Wyre Forest, 48% drive and 46% walk.

When asked how far they currently travel to use town parks, times were split between 5 – 10 minutes (35%), less than 5 minutes (25%) and 11 – 15 minutes (20%). This indicates that town parks are used primarily as a local resource.

**HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL**

Results from the household survey reveal the majority of residents expect to walk to town parks (55%). However, 38% prefer to drive. Within the individual analysis areas similar results are portrayed, with the exception of the rural area, where 71% of residents expect to drive to town parks. This indicates that there is an acceptance by residents in the rural area that parks may not be located in close proximity to their homes.

Respondents who would prefer to walk to town parks expect a journey time of 5 – 10 minutes (54%). For those who prefer to travel by car a 5 – 10 minute journey time is also expected (70%). Findings across the individual analysis areas mirror the overall findings, with the exception of the rural area, where 56% of residents expect to travel between 16 – 30 minutes by car to access town parks. This again reveals lower expectations for local provision.

District wide results show 75% of residents expect to travel 15 minutes by foot and car to access a town park, with a modal response of 10 minutes. Findings for travelling by foot within the individual analysis areas are differing in Stourport and Kidderminster, where 75% of residents are prepared to travel 20 minutes. However, the modal response in each analysis area remains 10 minutes. When travelling by car 75% of residents in the analysis areas expect to travel for 10 minutes with the exception of the rural area, where residents are willing to travel for up to 28 minutes, with the modal response being 15 minutes.

**OTHER CONSULTATIONS**

Residents at drop in sessions felt that there is a requirement for not only large, centrally located parks and gardens but also smaller facilities, accessible on foot to local communities. A number of residents stated that the layout of Brinton Park was poor with facilities located too far apart from each other.



<b>Consultation Comments</b>	<p>Responses from the Parish Council and member's questionnaires indicate a general satisfaction with the level of accessible parks and gardens. The general perception was that access was average, however in Bewdley and Arley and Franche access was considered to be very good. Specifically Brinton Park was highlighted as having excellent access, with well maintained paths, however Jubilee Gardens was identified as having poor signage.</p> <p>External consultation highlighted signage to Jubilee Gardens to be particularly poor.</p>
<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<p><b>15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 METRES) - URBAN</b>  <b>20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME - RURAL</b></p>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>There is an emphasis in favour of walking to town parks and gardens both in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. The standard for urban areas is therefore set at 15 minutes (720 metres) walking to local parks and gardens, based on the 75% threshold level district wide (as advocated in the PPG17 companion guide). This encompasses all areas and is representative of the viewpoint of residents of all areas (due to the number of responses this information can be said to be statistically robust). While the mode is 10 minutes, setting the standard at 15 minutes provides a more realistic target and is in line with the 75% threshold,</p> <p>Given that parks tend to be larger more strategic facilities offering a range of activities it would not be realistic to expect this type of facility within a shorter walking time and also within each village, therefore, a drive time of 20 minutes has been set for the rural areas, in light of the findings from the household survey. This is supported by the consultation undertaken in the rural area, where it can be seen that residents expect to travel by car, with the 75% level being 20 minutes.</p> <p>Setting separate accessibility standards is reflective of the fact that further provision should be made within the urban areas that are currently outside of the proposed accessibility catchment due to the density of population in these areas. This is not to suggest that the Council should not be pursuing improvements to the accessibility of these areas for rural residents (such as public transport networks etc), but rather offers an approach that facilitates the usage of these areas and increases their value locally.</p> <p>Setting a standard at this level will enable the Council to strike a balance between quantitative improvements in accessibility deficient areas and also on improving the quality of existing sites.</p>
<b>Client Approval</b>	<b>Local Accessibility Standard</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
LOCAL PARKS**

<b>Definition</b>	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them. Their primary purpose is informal recreation.		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	No national standards		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	None		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minute drive time (Town), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 20 minute walk time (City), 15 minute walk time (Local)

## Consultation

### **HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS**

Local parks are the second most frequently used open space in the district. Of those respondents who regularly use local parks 77% walk and 22% travel by car.

Current travel times exhibited by current users were split between less than 5 minutes (44%), 5 – 10 minutes (25%) and 11 –15 minutes (18%).

### **HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL**

Similar to the findings for current users, 68% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to local parks and 28% expect to drive. Results within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings, with the exception of the rural area, where 77% of residents expect to drive to local parks. This supports the suggestion that residents in rural areas of the District do not expect parks to be located in close proximity to their homes. It is clear that there is an expectation in the urban area that facilities will be provided locally.

Of those who would expect to walk to local parks, 72% of residents would expect a journey to take 5 –10 minutes. For those people who prefer to drive to local parks a 5 –10 minute travel time is also expected. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the overall response, with the exception of the rural area, where 56% of residents expect to travel between 16 – 30 minutes by car to access local parks.

75% of respondents are willing to travel on foot for 10 minutes to access a local park. Findings within three of the five analysis areas replicate the District wide results, however in Kidderminster East (15 minutes) and the rural area (18minutes) residents are willing to travel for longer which suggests a lack of local parks within these areas of the District.

For those who prefer to travel by car 75% of residents are prepared to travel for 15 minutes to access a local park, with a modal response of 10 minutes. Respondents within the individual analysis areas portray conflicting responses, with residents in Bewdley and Stourport expecting to travel for 10 minutes and in Kidderminster East and the rural area, 18 and 20 minutes. There is a greater emphasis on local provision in Bewdley and Stourport.

### **OTHER CONSULTATIONS**

Residents at drop in sessions felt that there is a requirement for not only large, centrally located parks and gardens but also smaller facilities, accessible on foot to local communities. A number of residents stated that the layout of Brinton Park was poor with facilities located too far apart from each other.

<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480 METRES) – URBAN 15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME - RURAL</b>
<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>Consultation highlights a clear emphasis in favour of walking to local parks. Usage patterns indicate 77% of current users walk to local parks and 68% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to this typology. The importance of local parks being in close proximity to communities and accessible on foot was emphasised at drop in sessions. Therefore it is recommended that a walk time be set for the urban areas of the District. Responses from residents in rural areas highlighted an acceptance of the need to travel by car to access a local park, with 77% of respondents stating they expect to travel by car. Based on this a drive time has be set for the rural areas of Wyre Forest.</p> <p>A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended based upon the 75% threshold level (recommended by the PPG17 Companion Guide). The recommended standard for the rural area is a 15 minute drive time. This has been set following the modal response of 15 minutes. Although the 75% threshold level is slightly higher at 20 minutes, a drive time of 15 minutes has been set due to the importance of local parks being in close proximity to communities. The local standard set for the rural areas is not challenging and therefore the Council should consider the development of pocket parks in these areas to increase provision in the rural areas and combine with natural and semi natural open space.</p>

<b>Client Approval</b>	<b>Local Accessibility Standard</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL– SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE**

<b>Definition</b>	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha. Woodland Trust Access Standards recommend that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people’s homes</p> <p>Natural England have a commitment to champion preventative health solutions in the natural environment and have adopted an objective of providing accessible natural space within 300 metres (or 5 minutes walk) of every home in England for exercise, relaxation and wellbeing. <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/pdf/campaigns/Health_card.pdf">http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/pdf/campaigns/Health_card.pdf</a></p>		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004 – 2011</b></p> <p>Policy LR5 – Proposals for the development of Informal Countryside Facilities will be permitted provided that they enable easy and safe access.</p>		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 30 minutes drive time (Sites over 5ha), 15 minute walk time (Local)	Wychavon –15 minute walk time	York – 15 minute walk time

<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<p><b><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></b></p> <p>Natural and semi-natural open space is the most popular typology in Wyre Forest, with 35% of residents stating they use it more frequently than any other open space. Of these people who regularly use natural and semi natural open space walking is the most popular method of travel (62%), followed by driving (35%).</p> <p>The travel times indicated by current users of this typology are split between less than 5 minutes (36%), 5 –10 minutes (29%) and 11 – 15 minutes (24%).</p> <p><b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b></p> <p>Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, 63% of respondents expect to walk and 32% expect to travel by car to natural and semi natural open space.</p> <p>Respondents who prefer to walk to this typology expect a journey time of 5 – 10 minutes (63%). This is consistent across all the analysis areas. Of those people who prefer to drive a travel time of 5 – 10 minutes (50%) is also expected. Within the individual areas three out of the five settlements indicate similar results. However, in Stourport and Kidderminster East 46% and 52% respectively of residents expect to travel between 16 and 30 minutes to use natural and semi natural open space. This indicates there is a lack of natural and semi natural open space in close proximity to some urban areas of the District.</p> <p>It can be calculated that 75% of the total population would be willing to travel 10 minutes on foot to access this type of open space, with a modal response of 10 minutes. Findings within the individual analysis areas mirror the District wide response, with the exception of Bewdley and Kidderminster East where residents are prepared to travel for up to 15 minutes.</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Respondents to the Parish Council and member’s questionnaire specified natural and semi natural open space as having average accessibility. It was suggested that improvements could be made to enhance access to natural and semi natural open space.</p>
	<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>

<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>Local consultation indicates the majority of current users walk to this typology (62%). Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, 63% of respondents expect to walk to natural and semi natural open space. Therefore it is recommended a walk time is set across the District. This is deliverable in both the urban and rural areas of the District. It is also important to enhance access to areas of nearby countryside.</p> <p>75% of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk for 10 minutes on foot to access this open space, with a modal response of 10 minutes. Current user patterns also support a 10 minute walk time, with 65% of respondents currently travelling 10 minutes or less to a natural or semi natural open space. A 10 minute walk time is therefore recommended in line with both user expectations and current user patterns.</p>
<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
AMENITY GREEN SPACE**

<b>Definition</b>	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	No national standards		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	No existing local accessibility standards.		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 10 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 10 minute walk	Wychavon – 10 minute walk time	York – 5 minute walk time
<b>Consultation</b>	<b><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></b>		
	A small percentage of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently (2%), it is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided, a more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents. Analysis of the regularity of use of amenity spaces indicates that amenity spaces are less frequently used than other typologies, with many having a wider landscape value rather than recreational use.		
	<b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b>		
	When accessing amenity green space the majority of residents would prefer to walk (78%) highlighting the expectation of local provision. Of these people 72% expect to walk 5 –10 minutes. Across the individual analysis areas similar results are provided with over 67% of residents in each area stating their preferred mode of travel as walking, with the expectation of a 5 – 10 minute journey.		
	District wide results indicate 75% of residents are prepared to travel 10 minutes to access an amenity space, with a modal response of 5 minutes. These results are replicated in the individual analysis areas, with the exception of Kidderminster East and the rural areas where the modal response is 10 minutes.		
	<b><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></b>		
	The majority of respondents to the Parish Council Survey perceived accessibility to amenity green space as being very good. Within Bewdley and Arley, accessibility was believed to be excellent.		
<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<b>10 MINUTE (480 METRES) WALK TIME</b>		



<b>PMP Justification</b>	<p>A walk time standard has been set based upon the high level of expectation to travel by foot to access an amenity greenspace emphasised throughout consultation.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level established from responses to the household survey is a 10 minute walk time. It is therefore recommended the local standard be set at a 10 minute walk time across the District. At least one site of recreational value should be provided within 10 minutes drivetime of the home. Additional amenity green space may be required for landscaping purposes.</p>
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<b>Client Approval</b>	<b>Local Accessibility Standard</b>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN**

<b>Definition</b>	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below aged 12. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for children exist (including play schemes and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed as equipped play facilities. Within this study, play provision for children includes only equipped play areas (ie. LEAPS and NEAPS) which are designed for children.</p>		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	<p><b>NPFA</b> LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	<p><b>Worcestershire Play Strategy 2007 – 2010</b></p> <p>A target of the strategy is to ensure that children and young people have safe and easy access to a range of play opportunities within a reasonable distance of their homes.</p>		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 10 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 10 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 10 minute walk time	Wychavon – 10 minute walk time	York – 10 minute walk time

<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<p><b><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></b></p> <p>73% of regular users currently walk to this typology. Of these people journey times are split between less than 5 minutes (36%), 5 – 10 minutes (29%) and 11 – 15 minutes (25%).</p> <p><b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b></p> <p>Similar to the patterns exhibited by current users, 89% of respondents expect to walk to children’s play areas. However, unlike the travel times indicated by current users the majority of residents expect to travel for 5 – 10 minutes to access this typology (75%). Findings within the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings, with the exception of the rural area, where 31% of residents expect to drive to this open space. This highlights lower expectations in the rural areas of the District.</p> <p>75% of residents are willing to travel for 10 minutes by foot to access a children’s play area and identical results are shown in the individual areas with the exception of Bewdley and Stourport where the modal response is 5 minutes, slightly lower than the overall modal response of 10 minutes.</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></b></p> <p>Although the quantity of children’s provision was perceived to be poor by respondents to the Parish Council and member’s survey, accessibility was claimed to be average. A reason for this may be due to the location of some children’s play areas within larger, easily accessible sites, such as Brinton Park. However, in Habberley and Blakebrook access to children’s play facilities was claimed to be poor.</p>
<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>10 MINUTE (480 METRES) WALK TIME</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>73% of current users and 89% of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to a children’s play area. In light of this it is recommended a walk time be set to meet the expectations of current and prospective users.</p> <p>A local standard of a 10 minute walk time is recommended in line with the 75% threshold level and modal response. Setting a standard at this level will ensure the provision of locally accessible children’s play areas and allow for a balance between quantity and quality.</p>

<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

<p><b>Definition</b></p>	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for young people exist (including youth clubs and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose, as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teenage shelters</li> <li>• skateboard Parks</li> <li>• BMX tracks</li> <li>• Multi Use Games Areas.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>NPFA</b> LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
<p><b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b></p>	<p>No existing local accessibility standards.</p>		
<p><b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b></p>	<p>Telford – 15 minute walk time</p>	<p>North Shropshire – 10 minute walk time</p>	<p>Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time</p>
	<p>Ryedale – 15 minute walk time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)</p>	<p>Wychavon – 15 minute walk time</p>	<p>York – 15 minute walk time</p>

<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<p><b><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></b>  The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and the availability of the data collected on current usage through the household survey makes it difficult to assess given the small number of responses (2%). The statistically robust evidence base generated by the household survey enables detailed analysis and interpretation of the expectations and aspirations of local residents.</p> <p><b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b></p> <p>65% of respondents indicated they prefer to walk to young people’s facilities and the majority of these people expect a travel time of 5 –10 minutes (63%). The figures relating to preferred travel patterns and length of journey are similar in all areas, with the exception of the rural area, where the majority of residents expect to travel by car to access young people’s facilities (58%). Of those people in the rural area who prefer to travel by car, expected travel times are split between 5 – 10 minutes (37%), 16 – 20 minutes (26%) and 21 –30 minutes (21%).</p> <p>Using the District wide results, it can be calculated that 75% of the population are prepared to travel for 15 minutes to access young people’s facilities, with the modal response being 10 minutes. Differing results are highlighted in the individual areas, with 75% of residents in Bewdley and Stourport willing to travel 10 minutes and in Kidderminster West and the rural area 18 minutes. However, the modal response in four of the five areas is 10 minutes.</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></b></p> <p>Although the quantity of young people’s provision was perceived to be poor by respondents to the Parish Council and member’s survey, accessibility was claimed to be average. A reason for this may be due to the location of some young people’s facilities within larger, easily accessible sites, such as Brinton Park.</p>
<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>15 MINUTE (720 METRES) WALK TIME</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey expect to walk to young people’s facilities (65%). However, within the rural area residents indicate a willingness to drive to teenage facilities, indicating an expected lack of access to local facilities within a rural settlement.</p> <p>A 15 minute walk time has been set based upon the 75% threshold level indicated in findings from the household survey. Setting a local standard at this level will highlight deficiencies in the area and allow for some teenage facilities to be provided in larger more strategic sites, such as parks. The local standard is broadly representative of the opinions of all residents in all areas.</p>

<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

<b>Definition</b>	<p>Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outdoor sports pitches</li> <li>• tennis and bowls</li> <li>• golf courses</li> <li>• athletics</li> <li>• playing fields (including school playing fields)</li> <li>• water sports.</li> </ul>		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	<p>No national standards, although the Comprehensive Performance Assessment highlights “% of the population within 20 minutes of a range of 3 different sports facility types, one of which much be quality assured” as one of their key performance indicators. Sport England’s December 2006 Choice and Opportunity Scores reveal that the current figure is Wyre Forest is 21.81%.</p>		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	<p>No existing local accessibility standards.</p>		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	<p>Telford – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>	<p>North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>	<p>Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>
	<p>Ryedale –15 minute drive time (Urban), 20 minute drive time (Rural)</p>	<p>Wychavon –15 minute walk time (grass pitches and tennis courts), 15 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and bowling greens)</p>	<p>York – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)</p>

**Consultation**

**CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS**

The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and the availability of the data collected on current usage through the household survey makes it difficult to assess given the small number of responses (3%). The statistically robust evidence base generated by the household survey enables detailed analysis and interpretation of the expectations and aspirations of local residents.

**PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL**

Responses from the household survey regarding the preferred travel method for the different types of open space highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:

- Grass Pitches – **Walk (66%)**, Car (28%)
- Synthetic Turf – Walk (23%), **Car (64%)**
- Tennis Courts – Walk (39%), **Car (53%)**
- Bowling Greens – Walk (35%), **Car (57%)**
- Golf Courses – Walk (16%), **Car (80%)**

The above findings indicate the majority of residents expect to drive to outdoor sports facilities, with the exception of grass pitches where residents expect to walk. To access four of the facility types by car a 5 – 10 minute travel time is expected. For those people who prefer to walk to grass pitches a 5 –10 minute journey is also expected.

Looking across the analysis areas, the travel expectations followed a similar pattern to the results given at a District level, with the only exception indicated in Kidderminster West, where the majority of residents expect to walk to tennis courts and bowling greens. This indicates expectations of good access to these outdoor sports facility types in this area of the District.

For the facility types for which there is a preference for driving 75% of residents are willing to travel for 15 minutes to use bowling greens, golf courses and tennis courts. However, to access synthetic turf pitches a journey of 20 minutes is expected. To walk to grass pitches residents are prepared to travel 10 minutes.

Within the individual settlement areas residents in Bewdley are prepared to travel the least time to access bowling greens (10 minutes) and golf courses (10 minutes). A reason for this may be due to the provision of a bowling green and golf course in Bewdley, hence residents are influenced by sites already in existence. Residents in Kidderminster East are willing to travel the longest to access four of the five facility types, suggesting a lack of accessible facilities in this area as supported by the lack of provision highlighted by residents.

	<p><b><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></b></p> <p>A number of residents as drop in sessions highlighted a lack of publicly accessible facilities, highlighting a need for more community accessible facilities. In particular tennis courts and football pitches were identified.</p>
<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480 METRES) = GRASS PITCHES</b></p> <p><b>15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME = TENNIS COURTS, BOWLING GREENS, SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES, GOLF COURSES</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (to which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Findings from local consultation suggest two standards should be set. A walk time standard has been set for grass pitches and a drive time for tennis courts, bowling greens, synthetic turf pitches and golf courses. These standards have been recommended in line with the expected travel methods and to reflect the specialist nature of this typology, with all facility types not expected to be provided locally.</p> <p>75% of respondents to the household survey indicate they would be willing to travel for 10 minutes to access a grass pitch. A local standard of a 10 minute walk time has therefore been set to reflect the expectation of this facility to be in the locality of a settlement established through consultation. For the five facilities where there is an expectation to drive a standard of a 15 minute drive time has been set based upon the 75% threshold level. Although the 75% level was slightly higher for synthetic turf pitches at 20 minutes a 15 minute drive time has been set due to the perception that there is currently insufficient provision.</p>
<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>



**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES**

<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	<p>CPA targets measure the number of residents that are within a range of three different sports facility types.</p> <p>Sport England accessibility targets reinforce those measured within the CPA.</p>		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	<p>CPA accessibility target - 42.1% of the population within Wyre Forest reside within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quest</li> <li>• Green Flag</li> <li>• ISO 9001:2000</li> <li>• Investors in Excellence</li> <li>• Chartermark</li> </ul>		
Other Authorities - Benchmarking	Wychavon – 20 minute drive time	Wolverhampton – 20 minute walk time (urban areas)	Northampton – 15 minute drive time

### PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

Responses from the household survey regarding the preferred travel method for the different types of open space highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:

Swimming pools – Walk (26%), **Car (67%)**

Sports halls – Walk (27%), **Car (66%)**

Indoor Bowls – (23%), **Car (70%)**

Indoor Tennis – (23%), **Car (70%)**

The above findings show over 66% of residents expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. Similar perceptions are indicated in the individual areas and over 80% of residents in the rural area expect to travel by car to access indoor sports facilities. This suggests limited access to indoor sports facilities in the rural areas of Wyre Forest. However; in Kidderminster East the majority of residents expect to walk to swimming pools (58%) and sports halls (54%), indicating an expectation of local facilities in this area.

District wide results reveal 75% of residents are prepared to travel for 20 minutes on foot to access an indoor facility. However, the modal response for each facility type was lower at 10 minutes. Of those people who prefer to travel by car 75% of residents expect a journey time of 15 minutes to access all four facility types.

Below are the 75% threshold levels for the urban and rural areas for each facility type (split as recommended by the Sport England CPA Accessibility Indicator).

Swimming pools – Urban – 23 minute walk, Rural – 28 minute drive

Sports halls – Urban – 20 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive

Indoor Bowls – Urban – 22 minute walk, Rural – 25 minute drive

Indoor Tennis – Urban – 20 minute walk, Rural – 20 minute drive

Residents in Bewdley are willing to travel the longest on foot to access all four facility types. A reason for this may be the lack of indoor sports facilities in the area ie residents are influenced by the existing distribution of provision. In the rural area residents are willing to travel the longest by car to access three of the four facility types. Combined with the high expectation levels of car usage by residents in the rural area, this suggests a reliance on car ownership to access indoor sports facilities in Wyre Forest.

**Consultation**

<p><b>PMP Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>20 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN)</b>  <b>20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</b></p>
<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>In line with the CPA indicator, Wyre Forest has been split into a rural and urban area. As such, different modes of transport to access indoor facilities have been established. Within the rural areas, over 80% of residents expect to drive to indoor sports facilities. In line with the 75% threshold, of those respondents who suggested that they would drive to indoor sports facilities, it is recommended that the local accessibility standard should be set at a 20 minute drive time for both sports halls and swimming pools in the rural area.</p> <p>Within the urban area there was an emphasis on walking to both swimming pools and sports halls. In line with the 75% threshold, of those respondents who suggested that they would walk to indoor sports facilities (it is recommended that the local accessibility standard should be set at a 20 minute walk time.</p> <p>Both of the recommended standards are in line with CPA indicators and the aspirations of local residents across Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Sport England guidance on the implementation of the national CPA standards suggests that the range of facilities is essential in giving people a choice. Greater choice in the different types of facilities which people have access to and the proximity of these facilities to where they live will increase the likelihood that people will visit and become more active.</p> <p>The use of school facilities for community use will be particularly important if the recommended standards are to be delivered for all residents in the district.</p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
ALLOTMENTS**

<b>Definitions</b>	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms. This typology does not include private gardens.		
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	No national standards		
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	No existing local accessibility standards.		
<b>Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)</b>	Telford – 15 minute walk time	North Shropshire – 15 minute walk time	Shrewsbury – 15 minute walk time
	Ryedale – 15 minute walk (Urban), 15 minute drive (Rural)	Wychavon – 15 minute walk time	York – 15 minute walk time
<b>Consultation</b>	<p><b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b></p> <p>A respondent to the household survey state walking is the preferred mode of travel to access an allotment (65%). 31% of residents indicate they would favour travelling by car. The expected travel time for both modes of transport is 5 –10 minutes, as indicated by 71% of people who prefer to walk and 57% who would travel by car. . Results from the individual analysis areas support the overall results, with the exception of the rural area where the majority of residents would travel between 11 and 16 minutes by car (36%) to access an allotment. Like other facilities, there are lower expectations in the rural areas.</p> <p>Using the District wide results it can be calculated that 75% of residents are prepared to travel for up to 10 minutes on foot to use an allotment. Similar results are shown in three of the five analysis areas, however in Stourport and the rural area residents are prepared to travel for up to 20 and 15 minutes.</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></b></p> <p>Drop in session comments revolved around a lack of awareness of allotments, highlighting the need for improved information on the location of allotments in Wyre Forest and the means of renting a plot.</p>		

<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<b>10 MINUTE (480 METRE) WALK TIME</b>
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<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>The provision of allotments is very much a demand led typology and this should be reflected in the application of the accessibility and quantity standards. As such any deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p>A clear preference for walking is established through consultation and therefore a walk time standard has been set. Based upon the 75% threshold level the standard has been set at a 10 minute walk time.</p> <p>This represents a significantly challenging standard, however current waiting lists of 64 people support a challenging standard. The sufficient provision of allotments in the District will provide an alternative form of recreation and physical activity for residents.</p>
<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS  
CIVIC SPACES**

<b>Definitions</b>	Hard surfaced areas located usually located within Town centres.
<b>National Standards and/or Benchmarks</b>	No national standards
<b>Existing Local Accessibility Standards</b>	No existing local accessibility standards.
<b>Consultation</b>	<p><b><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></b></p> <p>Findings from the household surveys show that a minimal amount of respondents (3%) use civic spaces more than any other typology. It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided; a more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time.</p> <p><b><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></b></p> <p>Findings from the household survey reveal 51% of residents prefer to travel by foot and 42% by car to access civic spaces. With regards to the expected travel times for both methods of transport respondents indicate a 5 – 10 minute travel time.</p> <p>Across the individual areas similar results are portrayed. However, in the rural area the majority of residents state travelling by car as their preferred mode of transport (68%). Travel times indicated by respondents in the individual analysis areas are consistent with the overall findings with the exception of the rural area where travel times by car are split between 16 – 20 minutes (36%), 5 –10 minutes (33%) and 21 – 30 minutes (24%).</p> <p>75% of the total population are prepared to travel for 20 minutes on foot to access civic spaces, with the modal response being 10 minutes. For those people who prefer to travel by car 75% of residents expect a travel time of 15 minutes. Individual travel times for each area are similar to the overall findings with the exception of Kidderminster West where a journey time of 10 minutes is expected. However, the modal response in four of the five analysis areas is identical to the District wide figure of 10 minutes. The urban areas of the District are more likely to have access to local facilities.</p> <p>Of those people who prefer to travel by car 75% are willing to travel for up to 15 minutes to use a civic space. Individual area results reflect the overall findings, however in the rural area a drive time of 20 minutes is expected. This suggests an expectation of residents in the rural area that there is a need to travel further than residents in urban areas of the District to access a civic space.</p>
<b>PMP Recommendation</b>	<p><b>20 MINUTE WALK TIME (URBAN)</b>  <b>20 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (RURAL)</b></p>

<p><b>PMP Justification</b></p>	<p>It is important to note that PPG17 states that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such a typology as it cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation. Therefore strict adherence to an accessibility standard (in terms of highlighting area inside and outside the catchment of existing provision) would be counterproductive. However, it is recommended that the council consider the accessibility of civic spaces within a 20 minute walk time for the urban area and a 20 minute drive time or the rural area.</p> <p>Considering the location of civic spaces in the context of a 20 minute walk time in the urban area and 20 minute drive time in the rural area is consistent with the 75% threshold level as advocated in PPG17. A drive time for the rural area has been set due to the high level of dissatisfaction with the current level of provision, with 67% of respondents to the household survey indicating there is a lack of civic spaces.</p> <p>Whilst the accessibility standard can be used for broad planning need, it should not be adopted as policy to influence future civic space provision.</p>
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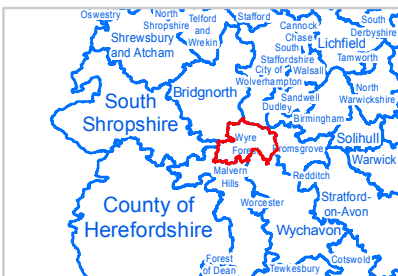
<p><b>Client Approval</b></p>	<p><b>Local Accessibility Standard</b></p>
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**APPENDIX I**  
**NATIONAL FPM RUNS**



Creating an active nation through sport

Aggregated Unmet Demand in 1km squares. Expressed as square meters of water (rounded to one decimal place). Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).

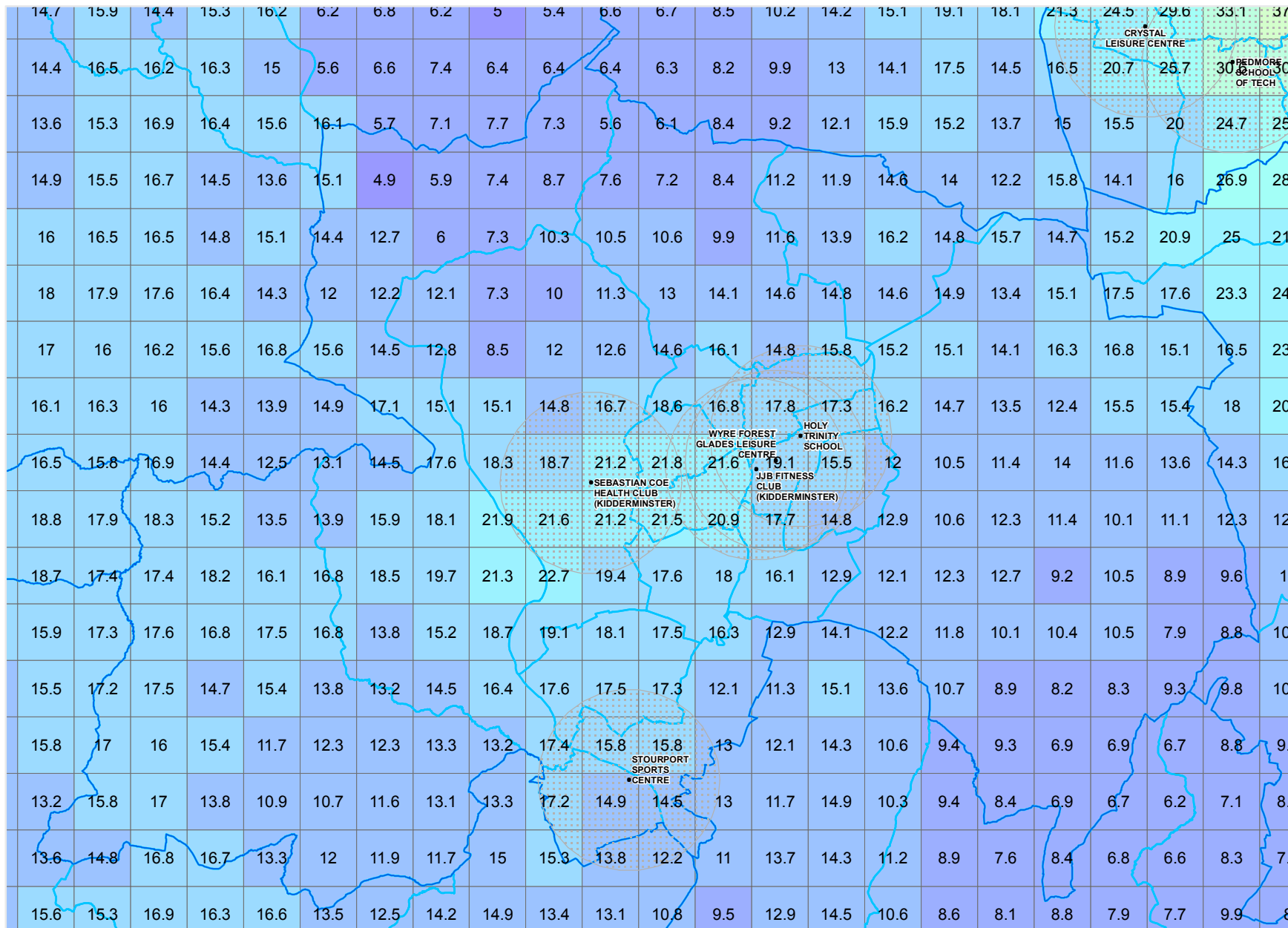
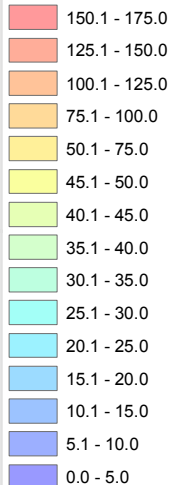


### Legend

- Swimming Pools - Active Places
- ◻ Swimming Pools - 1mile walking catchment
- ▭ Local Authorities (LAs)
- ▭ Wards

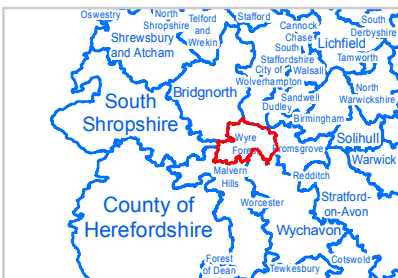
### 1km grid - colour

#### Aggregated Unmet Demand



Creating an active nation through sport

Aggregated Unmet Demand in 1km squares. Expressed as units of badminton courts (rounded to one decimal place). Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).

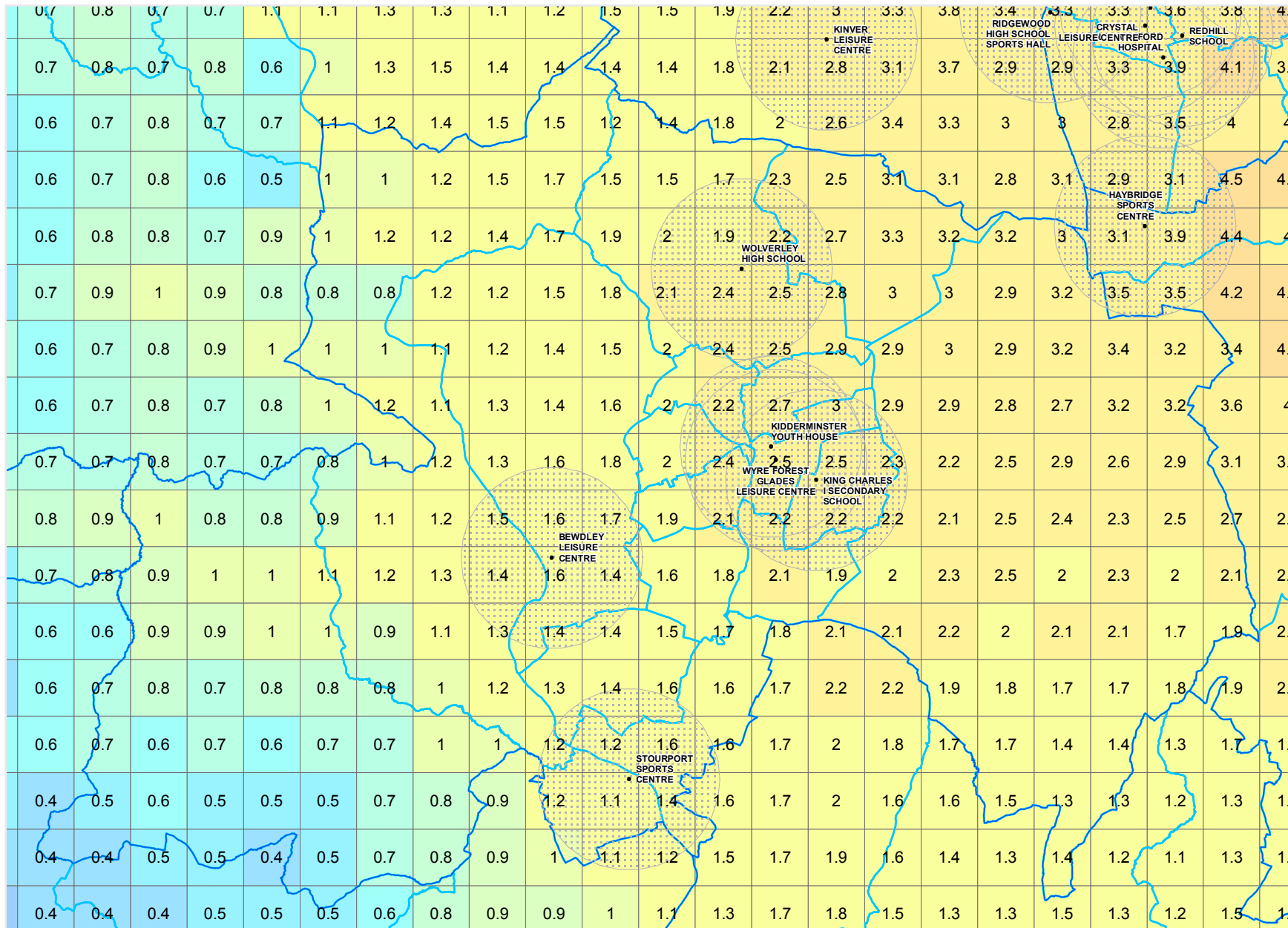
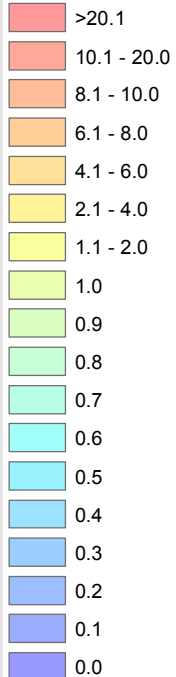


### Legend

- Halls - Active Places
- ▨ Halls - 1mile walking catchment
- ▭ Local Authorities (LAs)
- ▭ Wards

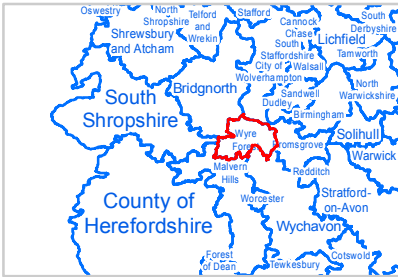
### 1km grid - colour

### Aggregated Unmet Demand



Creating an active nation through sport

Unmet Demand in 1km squares. Expressed as square meters of water (rounded to one decimal place).  
Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).



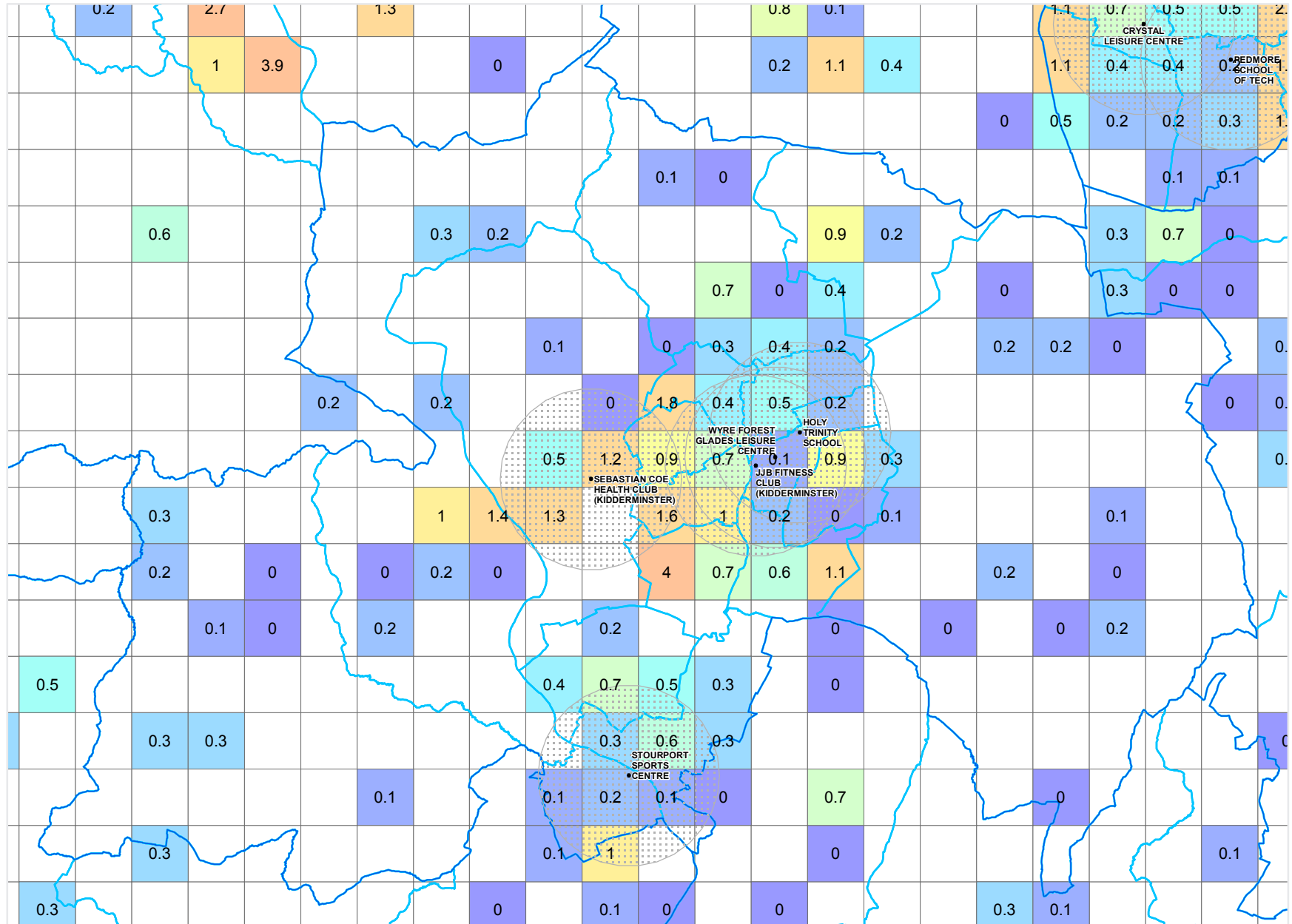
### Legend

- Swimming Pools - Active Places
- ◻ Swimming Pools - 1mile walking catchment
- ▭ Local Authorities (LAs)
- ▭ Wards

### 1km grid - colour

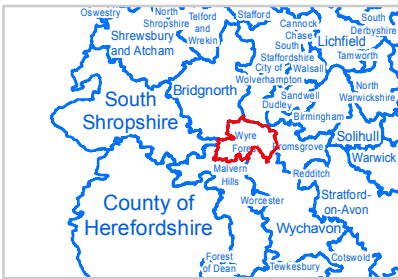
#### Unmet Demand

- 10.1 - 31.5
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 2.6 - 5.0
- 1.1 - 2.5
- 1.0
- 0.9
- 0.8
- 0.7
- 0.6
- 0.5
- 0.4
- 0.3
- 0.2
- 0.1
- 0.0



## Facility Planning Model - Relative Share National Run for Pools February 2008 for the Local Authority of Wyre Forest

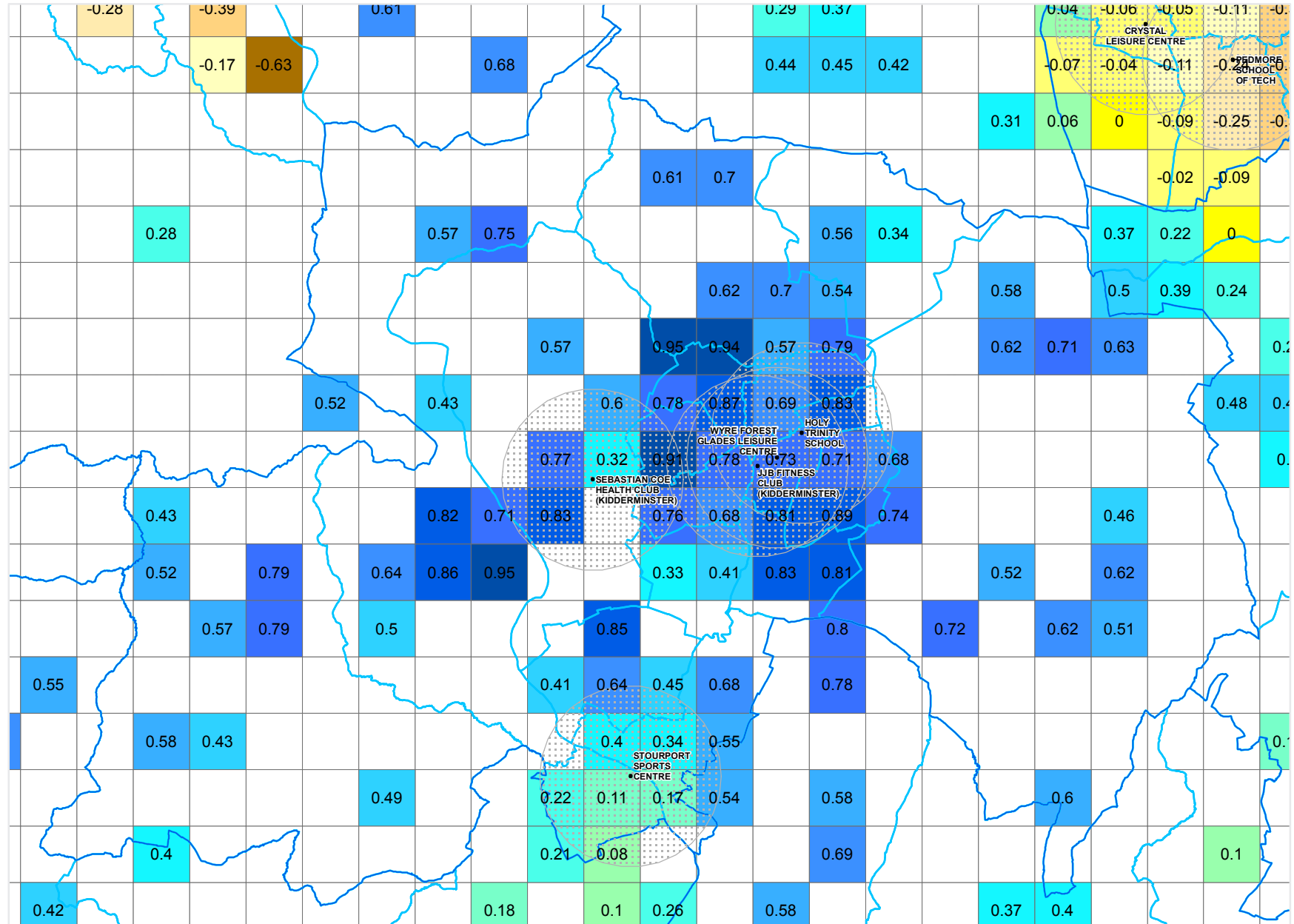
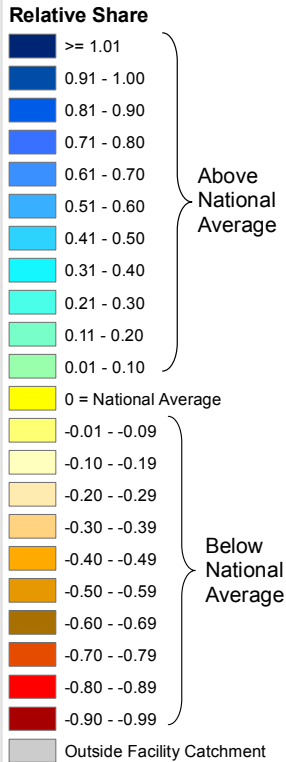
Share of water per 1Km square divided by demand within the square made relative to the National Average for this run (1.31 sqm per visit per week). All values have been rounded to 2 decimal places. Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).



### Legend

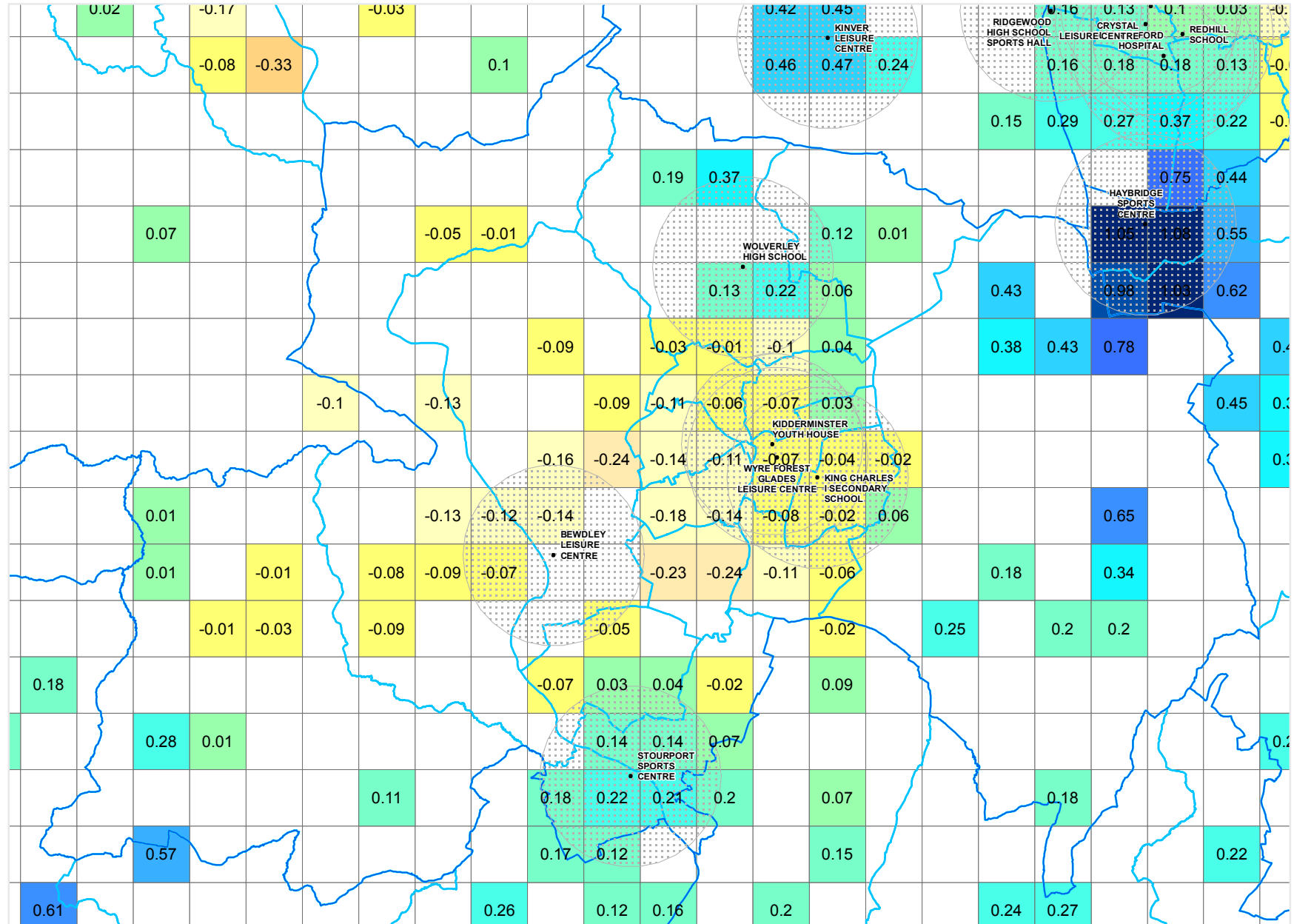
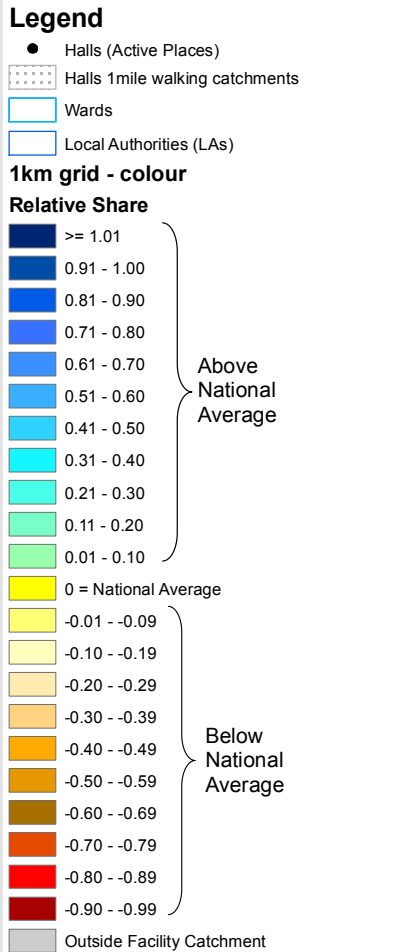
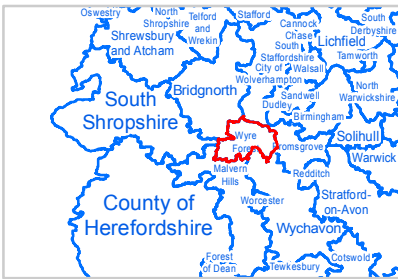
- Swimming Pools (Active Places)
- ◻ Swimming Pools 1mile walking catchments
- ▭ Wards
- ▭ Local Authorities (LAs)

### 1km grid - colour



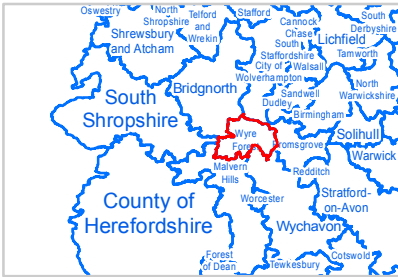
## Facility Planning Model - Relative Share National Run for Halls February 2008 for the Local Authority of Wyre Forest

Share of badminton courts per 1km square divided by demand within the square made relative to the National Average for this run (0.9 capacity units per demand unit). All values have been rounded to 2 decimal places. Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).



Creating an active nation through sport

Unmet Demand in 1km squares. Expressed as units of badminton courts (rounded to one decimal place). Map must not be used without accompanying Data Output (NFA '08).



### Legend

- Halls - Active Places
- ▨ Halls - 1mile walking catchment
- ▭ Local Authorities (LAs)
- ▭ Wards

### 1km grid - colour

#### Unmet Demand

