

Derby City Council: PPG17 Study

A report by pmpgenesis
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Derby City Council

Open Space Study Explanatory Note

In 2009, Derby City Council commissioned consultants to undertake an assessment of open space in accordance with the now superseded Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and recreation (PPG17). The importance of an up-to-date assessment is still recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework which recognises its importance in informing both the emerging Core Strategy and planning applications relating to the provision of open space.

In summary, this document provides a snapshot of the provision of various types of open space in Derby, looking at quality, quantity and accessibility. It provides a picture of open space provision across the City and highlights where there may be deficiencies and where there may be a surplus. It concludes by suggesting standards which the Council could implement to improve provision across the City, especially as the Derby grows over the next fifteen years.

Unfortunately, as the consultants were concluding the study, prior to handing it over to the Council, the company went into administration. There then followed protracted negotiations with the administrators to recover the Study. Although this was successful, much of the supporting information such as the Appendices and the survey results were inadvertently destroyed as the consultant's IT system was dismantled.

It must be noted that without the background information, the Study isn't complete. The information produced the study has, however, assisted in the preparation of draft Core Strategy policies, but this has also been supplemented by further specific consultation on open space and consideration of the wider evidence base.

The Council does, however consider that the study still has some value in informing planning decisions relating to the provision of open space and thus is publishing the document 'as is'.

The Draft Core Strategy indicates that a review of open space will take place as part of the preparation of the 'Part 2' Local Plan.

Derby City Council PPG17 Study: Executive Summary

Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy, Derby's 2020 vision and the Local Area Agreement (as well as the City Council's Physical Activity Strategy) aim to make Derby the Country's most active City, and a healthy City where people enjoy long, healthy and independent lives. Open space, sport and recreation facilities can play an important role in the achievement of this objective. As a result, in August 2009, pmpgenesis was commissioned to undertake an assessment of open space and recreational facilities in Derby in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) and its Companion Guide (September 2002) as well as the Best Practice Guidance for the preparation of open space strategies (CABE Space and Mayor of London May 2009).
- 1.2 The study evaluates both existing and future provision of open space across the City and includes:
 - an audit of existing sites (both public and private);
 - an assessment of local needs and community aspirations relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities;
 - the creation of local quantity, quality, accessibility standards;
 - an evaluation of the adequacy of existing open space, sport and recreation provision in relation to the local standards set, for both current and future years; and
 - a framework for future actions to protect and improve open space, sport and recreation facilities in the City and to maximise the role of open space in increasing physical activity.

Benefits of Open Space

- 1.3 PPG17 states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, including:
 - supporting an urban renaissance;
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
 - enhancing health and well being; and
 - promoting more sustainable development.
- 1.4 The value of open space is not just recreational. The strategic contribution that open spaces can make to the wider environment include:
 - defining local landscape character and providing an appropriate context and setting for built development and infrastructure;

- helping to achieve a softer interface between urban and rural environments;
- emphasising the presence of particular natural features within the landscape;
- supporting habitats and local wildlife;
- promoting and protecting biodiversity and habitat creation; and
- adapting to climate change and reducing flood risk.

1.5 As well as achieving national aims and objectives, the appropriate provision of open space will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of many wider strategies in Derby. Table 1 illustrates this.

Table 1: Links with Wider Context

Objectives for the future delivery of open space				
	Enhance the quality of open spaces across Derby	Ensure the quantity of open space is sufficient to meet local needs	Maximise access to existing open spaces	Promote, encourage and facilitate community Involvement
Strategic Documents				
East Midlands Regional Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 Cs Green Infrastructure Study	✓	✓	✓	✓
Derby City Council Sustainable Community Strategy – the 2020 Vision	✓	✓	✓	✓
Derby City Council Outline Leisure Facilities Study	✓	✓	✓	✓
Derby City Council Physical Activity Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓

Methodology

1.6 The study evaluates ten types of outdoor open space and sports facilities, namely:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi natural open space
- Amenity greenspace (such as grass verges)
- Provision for children
- Provision for young people
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Allotments and community gardens
- Green corridors
- Churchyards and cemeteries
- Civic spaces.

1.7 In addition, indoor facilities are also considered.

1.8 PPG17 and its Companion Guide set out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. The key components of each of the five stages of the process are summarised below.

- **Step 1 – Identifying Local Need** – consultations include
 - City wide household survey to 5,000 randomly selected residents
 - Neighbourhood ‘drop in’ sessions in the Market Place, Revive Healthy Living Centre, Derwent and Pear Tree Library, Normanton
 - Internet survey for children and young people
 - Workshop with external agencies for example, Sport England and Natural England
 - Sports club surveys
 - Disabled People’s Diversity Forum, Gender and Sexuality Forum and Minority Communities Diversity Forum
 - Discussion session and survey for Neighbourhood Managers
 - One-to-one consultations and an online survey with Council officers.
- **Step 2 – Auditing local provision** - A detailed audit of provision of open space was carried out across the City. Updating the audit will be an ongoing process and the audit will be constantly refined in response to change. This will include the addition of new sites and changes to the classification of existing sites where appropriate. Visits evaluating quality, quantity and accessibility were also carried out to each site over 0.2 hectares.

- **Step 3 – Setting Local Standards** - PPG17 states that standards for open space should be set locally and recommends that national standards should not be used to assess local circumstances. It recommends that local standards should include:
 - quantitative elements (how much provision is needed in each area. Also enables calculations relating to the impact of new development and/or population growth);
 - a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities as well as provide criteria for new facilities); and
 - accessibility (set in the form of distance thresholds, representing the maximum distance that residents are prepared to travel).
- Further details on the process can be found in Appendices E and F of the main report. Table 2 overleaf summarises the recommended standards.
- **Step 4 – Applying Standards** - 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. Standards have been applied to evaluate provision across the city.
- **Step 5 - Recommendations and Strategic Priorities** - In accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide, this study considers the need for quality enhancements, protection of existing provision, increasing provision, redesignation, disposal of facilities and enhancing access routes.

1.9 The recommendations and key issues raised will provide evidence for policies in the Local Development Framework as well as more detailed guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Development Plan Documents (DPD). The full report outlines all key issues and recommendations across the city.

Table 2– Recommended Standards - Derby City Council

Type of Open Space	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
Parks	City Parks – No standard set, existing sites to be protected	City Parks – 10 minute drive time	<p>Essential – Clean and litter free, flowers, trees/shrubs, well-kept grass and seating.</p> <p>Desirable – parking facilities, footpaths, wardens and dog free areas. Cafes are also desirable in city and neighbourhood parks.</p>
	District Parks – 0.54 hectares per 1000 people	District Parks – 15 minute walk time	
	Neighbourhood Parks – 0.66 hectares per 1000 people	Neighbourhood Parks – 10 minute walk time.	
Natural and Semi Natural Open Space	0.87 hectares per 1000 people	10 minute walk time	<p>Essential – Clean and litter free, footpaths, flowers/trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Desirable – Natural features, water features and well-kept grass</p>
Green Corridors	No standard set	No standard set	<p>Essential – clean and litter free, accessible footpaths, natural features, perception of safety and overall continuity of route.</p> <p>Desirable – well-kept grass, flowers, trees and shrubs, level surface and appropriate access and entrance.</p>
Amenity Green Space	0.83 hectares per 1000 people	5 minute walk time	Essential – clean and litter free, well-kept grass, flowers, trees and shrubs.

Type of Open Space	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
			Desirable – Seating, litter bins, dog walking facilities and other recreational facilities, for example a playground.
Provision for Children	0.44 facilities per 1000 people	10 minutes walk (400 metres)	<p>Essential – clean and litter free, appropriate facilities for the young (meeting LEAP criteria as a minimum). RoSPA Play Standards should also be met, well-kept grass and well maintained equipment, appropriate design and location, involvement of children in the design of facilities and appropriate site boundaries</p> <p>Desirable – dog free area, seating, secure and safe location, facilities for disabled children and appropriate main entrance</p>
Provision for Young People	0.34 facilities per 1000 people	<p>480 metres to local facilities (equivalent to a 10 minute walk)</p> <p>720 metres to larger facilities (equivalent to 15 a minute walk)</p>	<p>Essential – facilities for young (meeting NEAP criteria as a minimum). RoSPA Play Standards should also be met, clean and tidy, appropriate design and location and Involvement of young people in the design of facilities.</p> <p>Desirable – lighting, appropriate main entrance, adequate site boundaries and challenging and exciting facilities.</p>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.54 hectares per 1000 people	<p>10 minute walk time to grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens</p> <p>10 minute drive time to synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and athletics tracks</p>	<p>Essential – clean and litter free, good site access, parking facilities and appropriately maintained.</p> <p>Desirable – appropriate specification for key users, changing facilities, toilets and accessible pricing.</p>

Type of Open Space	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
Allotments	0.30 hectares per 1000 people	720 metres (equivalent to a 15 minute walk)	<p>Essential – high quality boundaries, accessible water supply, clean, tidy and well maintained, safe and secure features.</p> <p>Desirable – parking facilities, notice boards at site entrances, toilets and access for disabled residents.</p>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Not applicable although 3.38 hectares of burial space will be required up to 2026.	Not applicable	<p>Essential – clean/litter free, well-kept grass, flowers, trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Desirable – footpaths, seating and disabled access.</p>

Key findings and implications

- 1.10 Several issues relating to the management of open spaces across the City were highlighted during consultation. In order to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of open space across the City, the following issues should be considered as part of the future delivery strategy:
- there is a need to ensure that open spaces and sport and recreation facilities are designed and managed in such a way that is sustainable and to facilitate ongoing and continuous improvement. Voluntary sector groups are able to access different types of external funding. Creation of, and empowerment of, such voluntary groups would improve the ongoing sustainability of parks and open spaces. The support of voluntary groups has been particularly successful across the city in recent years, with the majority of allotment sites now run by associations and a high number of friends groups facilitating ongoing improvements at parks;
 - there is a need to maximise the use of resources in order to provide local facilities in all parts of the city. School facilities provide an important opportunity to improve the quantity of facilities;
 - there are many examples of good practice across the City and it will be essential to create a culture of knowledge sharing and partnership working to ensure that such facilities and spaces can be replicated. In particular, knowledge sharing between associations, friends groups etc will be of particular significance; and
 - the increasing importance of sustainable transport, as well as the compact urban nature of Derby City, mean that green linkages and greenways are an essential component of the open space network. In many parts of the city, access routes between residential areas, public areas and existing open spaces are as important, if not more important, than the provision of new open spaces.
- 1.11 The key findings and priorities for each type of open space are:

Parks and Gardens

- Parks are highly valued open spaces in Derby. They are the most frequently used type of open space in the City by both residents and people travelling outside of the city. Improvements to the access routes to these sites is therefore of particular importance.
- Parks, particularly larger parks, were perceived to be of high quality. Sites were perceived to be well maintained however, the need for increased infrastructure, particularly at parks which attract a large number of visitors, was identified as an area for improvement. The distribution of existing facilities is even although there are some areas where residents are outside of the catchment for provision. In most of these areas, residents are able to access large amenity spaces and these should be upgraded to formal parks. There is also an opportunity to provide a new city park in Blagreaves. Outside of areas where new provision is required, focus should be placed on maintaining and improving these sites.

Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

- Natural and semi natural open space is one of the most frequently used types of open space and provides both recreational and environmental benefits for residents in the City. The need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development was a key theme throughout consultation. It is important that enhancements to the recreational opportunities provided by natural open space are balanced with conserving and promoting biodiversity.
- A large number of residents in the Central area (which comprises the wards of Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton) do not have access to natural open space, particularly in central

parts and in Mackworth, Chaddesden, Mickleover and Littleover. Incorporating natural open space within other types of open space, such as parks, will be key to reducing deficiencies. The quality of natural and semi natural open space is varied and there are a number of sites that require significant qualitative enhancement. Improving the basic infrastructure of sites, particularly the provision of footpaths, will be important, and improving access to existing sites will also help maximise their value to the community.

- The Green Wedges prevent the coalescence of neighbourhoods and also provide significant recreational, ecological and environmental opportunities. As the population of the city increases, their role will become increasingly important.

Amenity Green Space

- Amenity space was perceived to offer local access to informal recreational opportunities and is frequently used by residents in Derby with a quarter of residents using these sites at least once a week. The aesthetic/landscape value of such sites was also recognised. In the short term; improvements to quality are more important than additional provision. Opportunities for increased provision should however be considered in light of the large expected future shortfall of amenity green space in the City.
- Increasing the provision of amenity green space in a dense urban environment like Derby, in particular the city centre, will be extremely challenging and therefore alternative solutions such as green roofs, green walls, home zones and street trees may need to be considered alongside the provision of new spaces in areas that are deficient in provision.

Facilities for Children and Young People

- Facilities for children and young people were key discussion points during local consultation. The need to increase the provision of facilities in addition to enhancing the quality of existing facilities was highlighted. Specifically, the need to provide inclusive, high quality and exciting facilities for children and young people was identified. Areas of deficiency include Chaddesden, Allestree and Mickleover.
- The quality of facilities in the City is varied and site assessments reveal that there is a need for qualitative enhancements to a number of sites, as well as ensuring that a variety of play opportunities are provided. Involvement of children and young people in the design of facilities is particularly important.

Allotments

- Consultation and analysis of waiting lists indicate that the existing provision is insufficient to meet local demand. Demand has risen steadily in recent years and the number of inquires about new allotment plots has grown significantly. 42% of respondents to the household survey stated that they would be interested in using an allotment but do not currently rent one. This highlights the value of existing allotments to residents and the potential latent demand and there is consequently a need to protect such sites from residential development.
- The demand led nature of allotments means that the need for new provision should be determined through consultation and evidence of latent demand, as well as the application of local quantity, quality and accessibility standards. The key priorities for new provision are currently Mackworth, Littleover, Oakwood. There is also evidence of latent demand in Allestree, Chellaston, Boulton and Mickleover (all of which are also deficient when measured against the local standard).

- While new provision is a key priority, there are also qualitative improvements required at some sites, in particular updates to the infrastructure and provision of a water supply.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- Site visits indicate that the quality of existing cemeteries and churchyards is high and a generally positive perception regarding the quality of this type of open space was portrayed throughout local consultation. There is a need to keep under review the opportunities for the reuse, expansion or acquisition of suitable land to ensure the continued and sustainable provision of cemeteries. Improvements to this type of open space should however be supported.

Green Corridors

- Consultation indicates that green corridors are well used and are a key priority for residents. The network is however relatively restricted and there are gaps across the city, particularly in the more central areas and inner suburbs. Consultations reveal that residents believe that increasing the amount of public rights of way is important, and that new footpaths, cycleways and bridleways are required. Residents wish to travel into the city centre, as well as to sustainably access the natural countryside on the periphery of the city.
- The quality of existing corridors was perceived to be relatively good, although issues with safety, uneven surfaces, litter, dog fouling and maintenance were identified and improvements should focus on these areas. There are also opportunities to further promote these facilities and capitalise on the role that they can play in improving levels of physical activity and contributing to reducing the reliance on the private car.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- The key issues arising from analysis of the current provision and consultation with regards to outdoor sports facilities are as follows:
 - Tennis Courts –There would be merit in increasing public access to facilities on school sites. Demand for more publicly accessible tennis courts was highlighted from consultation;
 - Bowling Greens –the current quantity of bowling greens is sufficient to meet demand and the quality of existing provision is good;
 - Synthetic Turf Pitches – The quantity of STPs is in line with what would be expected in a city the size of Derby. Demand for additional provision in the future should be monitored;
 - Athletics Tracks – There is one dedicated athletics track in Derby at Moorways. This needs to be either refurbished or replaced within the next 1-2 years;
 - Golf Courses – There are no golf courses located in the east of the City which means that a large number of residents in this area of Derby are outside the catchment of a site. However, residents are generally satisfied with current provision of golf courses; and
 - Grass Pitches – The current provision of grass pitches is perceived to be adequate with a good spread of pitches. Future improvements should focus on qualitative enhancements.

Indoor Facilities

- Building on the Outline Leisure Needs Business Case, the key facility needs identified are as follows:
 - 50m pool – new
 - Network of smaller pools to replace ageing stock – new and refurbished
 - Large sports hall (10-12 courts) – retention of or replacement of Moorways
 - Network of smaller sports halls to replace ageing stock – new & refurbished
 - Health & fitness provision – increase in size of public sector provision
 - Velodrome - new
 - Closed road cycling circuit – new
 - Athletics track and associated facilities - retention of (and upgrade) or replacement of Moorways
 - Indoor bowls hall – new.

Planning Implementation

- 1.12 This study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, informing the preferred options for the Core Strategy as well as subsequent Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).
- 1.13 It will be material consideration for planning applications which involve the loss and / or creation of open space, sport and recreation facilities as well as for any major housing developments.
- 1.14 The findings of the assessment will also be used to inform more detailed guidance on contributions towards open space, sport and recreation facilities as part of new development. In addition, the evidence will be of value in developing a parks strategy and helping to develop park management investment plans.

1. Introduction and Background

01

- 1.1 Derby's 2020 Vision, the Sustainable Community Strategy, and Local Area Agreement for Derby City seek to progress the environmental, social and economic well being of Derby City. The 2020 Vision seeks to ensure that

'Derby will be a place where people of all ages and from all walks of life will feel they belong to Derby and that Derby offers them everything they need – for work, education, housing, leisure and a safe and healthy lifestyle.'

- 1.2 The 2020 Vision and the City Council's Physical Activity Strategy aims to make Derby the Country's most active City, and for Derby to be a healthy City where people enjoy long, healthy and independent lives is key to this vision. Open space, sport and recreation facilities can play an important role in the achievement of this objective. As a result, in August 2009, pmpgenesis was commissioned to undertake an assessment of open space, and recreational facilities across Derby City.

Scope

- 1.3 The study evaluates both existing and future provision of open space across the City and includes:
- an audit of existing sites (public and private);
 - an assessment of local needs and community aspirations relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities;
 - the creation of local quantity, quality, accessibility and design provision standards;
 - an evaluation of the adequacy of existing open space, sport and recreation provision in relation to the local standards set, for both current and future years; and
 - a framework for future actions to protect and improve open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough and maximise the role of open space in increasing physical activity.
- 1.4 This document sets out the key findings of the open space, sport and recreation assessment and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide (September 2002) as well as the Best Practice Guidance for the preparation of open space strategies (CABE Space and Mayor of London May 2009). It provides and evidence base for the Core Strategy and other development plan documents that are produced as part of the Local Development Framework.
- 1.5 In addition, the document also guides a proactive approach to the future provision and sustainable management of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the City, taking into account the projected future growth in the city.

Why Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision?

- 1.6 The findings of the 2008 Place survey, undertaken by the Audit Commission, indicate that satisfaction within Derby as an area is below the national average (at 78% compared to 79%). This does however demonstrate an increase in satisfaction from 2006, when satisfaction levels were 73%. Perceptions of anti-social behaviour and community cohesion are also improving.
- 1.7 Satisfaction with parks and open spaces is above the national average as well as above the average for unitary authorities. The Place Survey concludes that satisfaction with the provision of public open space is directly related to overall levels of satisfaction with the local authority. This serves to emphasise the influence that public open space has on overall perceptions of quality of life.
- 1.8 In contrast, there has been a significant decline in the satisfaction with sport and leisure facilities from 57% in 2006 to 36.9% in 2008 – a decrease of more than 20%. These statistics are substantiated by Sport England's Active People survey which shows that satisfaction levels with sports facilities have fallen significantly from when the first survey was undertaken in 05/06, to 07/08. This puts Derby in the bottom 25% nationally for resident's satisfaction with local sports provision.
- 1.9 The varying levels of satisfaction, and the role that open space, sport and recreation facilities have in creating an attractive environment to live and improving quality of life emphasise the importance of working towards the provision of high quality and sustainable open spaces and facilities.
- 1.10 Recognition of the role that open spaces play in supporting the implementation of both national and local objectives is essential if the benefits that can be derived from open spaces are to be maximised.
- 1.11 The profile of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities is becoming increasingly high profile on the national stage and the value placed on open spaces by 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.
- 1.12 On a national level, PPG17 states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, including:
- supporting an urban renaissance;
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion;
 - enhancing health and well being; and
 - promoting more sustainable development.
- 1.13 The value of open space is not just recreational. The strategic contribution that open spaces can make to the wider environment includes:
- defining the local landscape character and providing an appropriate context and setting for built development and infrastructure;
 - helping to achieve a softer interface between urban and rural environments;
 - emphasising the presence of particular natural features within the landscape;

- supporting habitats and local wildlife;
- promoting and protecting biodiversity and habitat creation; and
- adapting to climate change and reducing flood risk.

1.14 The foreword to the recently produced guide to the production of open space strategies (CABE Space and Mayor of London 2009) states that:

‘Open space has never been more important than it is today. In the face of new environmental, social and economic challenges, it is essential to our quality of life, our health and well-being and to ensuring a more sustainable future for all. Creation, protection and improvement of a high quality open space network should be at the heart of every authority’s vision for an area.’

1.15 Green Spaces, Better Places: Final Report of the Urban Green Space Taskforce (September 2006), Living Places: Cleaner, safer, Greener (September 2006), LGA Report – Realising the Potential and Urban Green Nation: Building the evidence base (CABE) further reinforce the role that open spaces in improving quality of life and emphasise the popularity of these spaces. The importance of the creation of a framework for the future delivery of parks and open spaces and of partnership working is also emphasised.

1.16 The abundance of guidance on the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities reinforces the importance of consideration of these spaces within the planning system. The Government White Paper (May 2007) highlights that minimising climate change and the protection of the environment are two of the key challenges to be addressed. Adapting Public Space to Climate Change (CABE Space 2009) states that adaptation to climate change means making towns and cities more resilient and advises that well-designed, flexible public spaces offer the most effective opportunity to adapt to threats. The document goes on to highlight that:

‘Spaces that are softer, greener, more organic and natural will store water and are critical to modifying urban temperatures. Green spaces with a generous planting of trees link to form a network offering cooler, cleaner air...Urban green spaces form a natural infrastructure that is as critical to support urban life as streets, railways, drainage and sewers’.

1.17 Further details on the key priorities raised in the above documents can be found in Appendix D, National Strategic Context. The Derby City Council Core Strategy Issues and Ideas Paper identifies adapting to and mitigating climate change as one of the key challenges facing the City over the Local Development Framework period. It indicates that almost 20% of land in the City is categorised as falling within the Environment Agency’s Flood Zones 2 and 3.

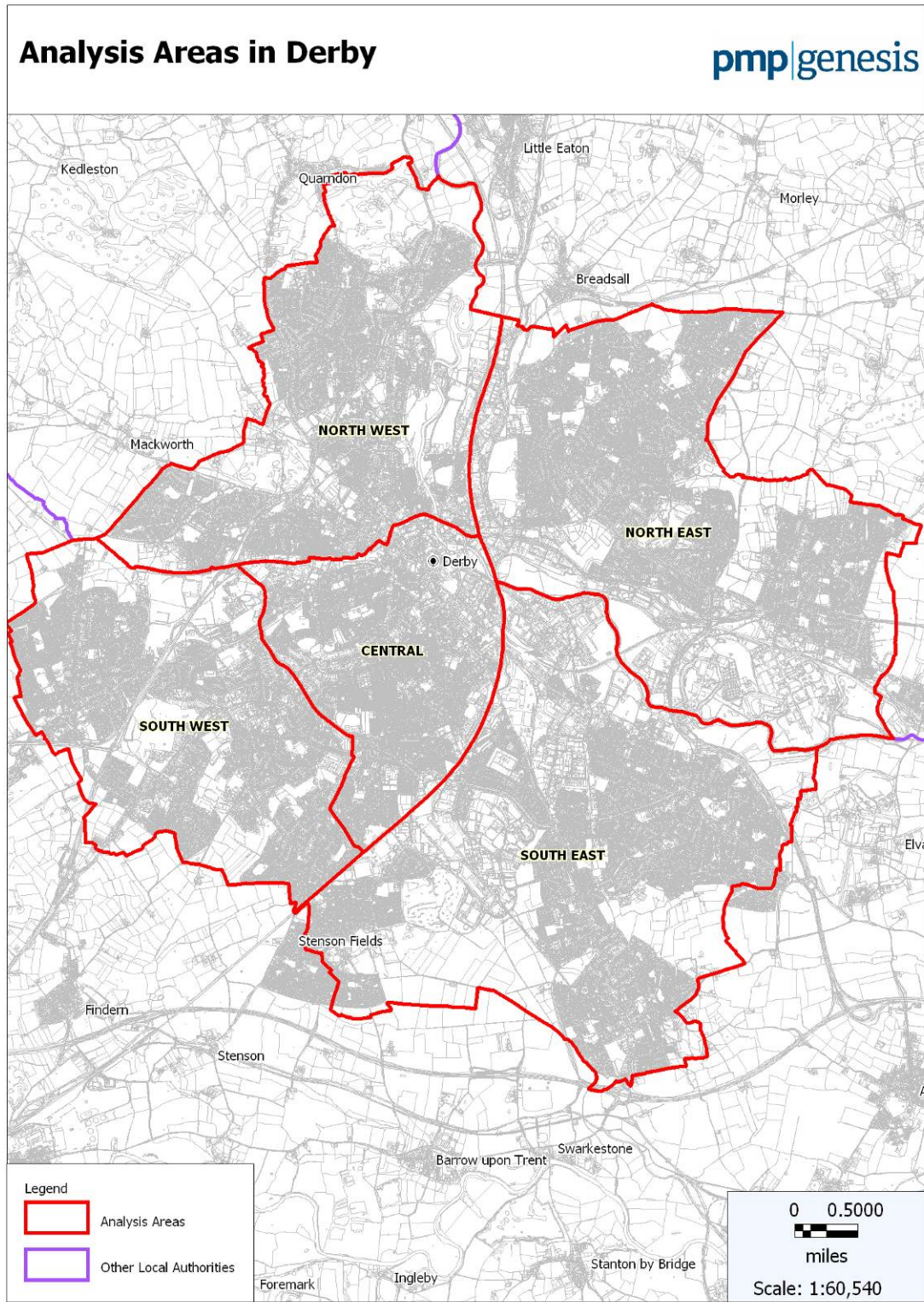
- 1.18 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (DCLG, 2008) reinforces the importance of spatial planning in creating strong and prosperous communities. Consideration of the green infrastructure and the creation of a positive framework for the protection, development and enhancement of open space will contribute to the overall achievement of sustainable development. Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) (DCLG, 2006), Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (PPS6) (DCGL, 2005) Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) (DCLG, 2005) and Planning Policy Statement 25: Planning and flood risk (PPS25) (DCLG, 2006) all specifically reference the importance of appropriately designed open space in the creation of sustainable communities.
- 1.19 Changing social and economic circumstances, changing 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 meet the needs of large numbers of residents. While the provision of open spaces can be challenging, they can promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.20 The benefits of open space are further outlined in Appendix A.

The local context

- 1.21 The current population of Derby is 243,200 (Office of National Statistics (ONS) sub-national population projections 2006). Future population projections indicate that the population of Derby is expected to increase to 273,400 by 2026. This represents an increase of approximately 12%. Ensuring that the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities is sufficient to accommodate future population increases is therefore important.
- 1.22 Derby has an ageing population. Although there are proportionately more young people in Derby compared to the national average, the proportion of older people (aged 55 and above) in Derby is set to increase, while the number of young people is expected to decline (Source: ONS sub-national population projections 2006). The high number of young people currently, is, in part, influenced by the significant amount of students based in the City, which includes over 12,600 at the University of Derby (Source: 2009 University of Derby figures for students based at Derby City) and more than 4,500 full-time students at Derby College.
- 1.23 Although Derby has a strong identity as a City, there are a number of varying neighbourhoods each with their own identity and character. Recent population growth means that previously distinct villages such as Mickleover, Spondon and Allestree have now been absorbed within the City and these areas function as suburban communities. Green wedges remain, providing opportunities for recreation as well as defining the extent of these communities.
- 1.24 As in many urban areas, nearly a third of Derby's population lives in deprived areas with multiple problems such as unemployment, poverty and poor health. These issues are particularly focused in areas such as Arboretum, Rosehill and Normanton, as well as in Derwent and Osmaston.
- 1.25 Derby lies on the River Derwent to the north of the Trent Valley and south of the Peak District. It is the third largest regional centre in the East Midlands, and has strong links with the nearby cities of Leicester and Nottingham. It is the destination for many commuters from outside areas and also has close connections within communities in the adjoining districts of South Derbyshire, Amber Valley and Erewash. There is a comprehensive network of public transport on the radial routes into the City centre and the number of cycle ways and footpaths is increasing. Derby contains a wide variety of retail and leisure facilities which attract residents from further afield.

- 1.26 The City covers an area of 7,803 hectares, of which circa two thirds is developed land. The remainder of land is undeveloped and contains parks, green space, wildlife areas and farmlands, this is referred to as the Urban Countryside. The River is an important feature within the City and is of both cultural and environmental value. 24 kilometres of the River corridor is designated as a World Heritage site (UNESCO), the southern part of which lies within Derby City boundaries running from Darley Abbey Mills and Darley Abbey Park into the heart of the City.
- 1.27 The City, along with the adjoining areas of South Derbyshire and Amber Valley is designated as a Growth Point for the period 2006-2021. The newly adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) sets out that between 2006-2026 provision for 14,400 houses should be made within Derby. The need, for new housing, cannot entirely be met within the City of Derby boundaries and therefore a significant amount of new development will take place adjoining the built up area of Derby in South Derbyshire and Amber Valley. 21,400 dwellings are required within or adjoining the Derby Principal Urban Area (PUA). The proposed scale of this development will place significant demands on existing open space, sport and recreation resources.
- 1.28 Map 1.1 overleaf illustrates the geographical location of Derby and areas within the City.

Map 1.1 – Geographical Location of Derby



Report structure

1.29 As highlighted, this report summarises the assessment of open space sport and recreation facilities across Derby City. It is split into 14 sections. The first sections outline the methodology adopted to undertake the study and the methods of interpretation used, while sections 4 - 13 evaluate the key issues across the City for each type of open space, specifically:

- Section 2 – Methodology
- Section 3 – Strategic Context
- Section 4 – Parks and Gardens
- Section 5 – Natural and Semi Natural Open Space
- Section 6 – Amenity Green Space
- Section 7 – Provision for Children and Young People
- Section 8 – Indoor Sports Facilities
- Section 9 – Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Section 10 – Allotments
- Section 11 – Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Section 12 – Green Corridors
- Section 13 – Civic Spaces
- Section 14 – Summary and Planning Implementation

2. Methodology

02

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 As highlighted in Section 1, this study has been undertaken in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide as well as the Best Practice Guide to the preparation of Open Space Strategies (CABE Space and Mayor of London 2009). PPG17 emphasises the importance of making decisions based on local needs and aspirations as opposed to following national trends and guidelines.
- 2.2 The recently released consultation draft (Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment), which brings together policy on the protection of open spaces from a range of other Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Statements (PPS 9: Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation maintains the key principles set out under PPG17. It does however seek to integrate and balance the recreational and ecological functions of open spaces and takes a green infrastructure approach to open space provision.
- 2.3 The existing PPG17 Companion Guide indicates that the four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
 - (i) understanding that local needs will vary 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; and
 - (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.
- 2.4 PPG17, 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.
- 2.5 Setting local standards through the PPG17 process therefore ensures that the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities is tailored to the needs and aspirations of local residents as well as to the characteristics of the different neighbourhoods within the city.

Types of open space

2.6 The overall definition of open space within PPG17 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.’

2.7 PPG17 identifies 10 typologies which includes nine types of green space and one type 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.

2.8 Table 2.1 sets out the typologies used for this assessment of open space across Derby City.

Table 2.1 – Types of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Derby

Typology	Description and Examples	Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks Subdivided into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Parks - Allestree Park and Markeaton Park • District Parks - Alvaston Park, Chaddesen Park, Darley Abbey Park (including Derwent Park), Darley Playing Fields, Oakwood Park and Chaddesen Wood, Racecourse Ground and Sinfin Park • Neighbourhood Parks - Small, more localised parks and formal gardens e.g. Allestree Recreation Ground, The Arboretum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal recreation • Community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife conservation • Biodiversity • Environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal activities close to home or work • Enhancement of the

Typology	Description and Examples	Purpose
	recreation green spaces.	appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children and Teenagers	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipped play areas • Ball courts • Outdoor basketball hoop areas • Skateboard areas • Teenage shelters and 'hangouts'.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor sports pitches • Tennis and bowls • Golf courses • Athletics • Playing fields (including school playing fields) • Water sports.
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing vegetables and other root crops <p>N.B. does not include private gardens</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet contemplation • Burial of the dead • Wildlife conservation • Promotion of biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, cycling or horse riding • Leisure purposes or travel • Opportunities for wildlife migration.
Indoor Sport and Recreation	Opportunities for participation in indoor sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports halls • Swimming pools • Indoor bowls • Indoor tennis.
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced areas predominantly located within the city centre.	Recreation and public gatherings.

- 2.9 These typologies are based on the primary purpose of a site, that is the main function of the site. Where a site has more than one function (for example it may be a sports facility that also serves as a local park), the secondary function of a site has also been recorded. This ensures that the multi-functionality of different types of open space is captured.
- 2.10 Although not a type of open space, PPG17 also highlights the importance of evaluating the provision of indoor sports facilities. Sports halls, swimming pools, indoor tennis, indoor bowls are all discussed within Section 9 of this report. The findings draw on the research and conclusion of the City Council's Sports Strategy (2007) as well as the recently completed Outline Business Case for Leisure Facilities in Derby (2009).

The Geographical Area

- 2.11 Analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken across the City and issues have also been considered at a sub area level.
- 2.12 There are 17 Neighbourhood Forum areas in Derby, representing the 17 electoral wards. For the purposes of this assessment, these neighbourhood forums have been amalgamated into five sub areas. These five Areas are illustrated on Map 1.1.
- 2.13 Although the sub areas have been used to guide the standard setting and analysis process, the application of local standards will enable the identification of priorities at neighbourhood level where appropriate.
- 2.14 Table 2.2 details the areas falling into each of the Areas.

Table 2.2 – Areas of Derby

Area	Neighbourhood forum included
Central	Abbey, Arboretum, Normanton
North East	Chaddesden, Derwent, Oakwood, Spondon
North West	Allestree, Darley, Mackworth
South East	Alvaston, Boulton, Chellaston, Sinfin
South West	Blagreaves, Littleover, Mickleover

PPG17 – five step process

- 2.15 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a five-step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space.

- 2.16 The Best Practice Guidance note for the preparation of open space strategies advocates a six stage approach which includes scoping of the document as the first stage and the development of a strategy and action plan.
- 2.17 The key stages that have been followed as part of this assessment are compliant with PPG17 and therefore include:
- Step 1 – identifying local needs
 - Step 2 – auditing local provision
 - Step 3 – setting provision standards
 - Step 4 – applying provision standards
 - Step 5 – developing strategy and informing policies
- 2.18 The tasks included within each step are detailed below.

Step 1 - identifying local needs

- 2.19 PPG17 states that community consultations are essential to identify local attitudes to existing provision and local expectations for additional or improved provision. The guidance relies less on the implementation of national standards and places increased emphasis on local needs. The guide to the preparation of open space strategies further supports the need to identify community aspirations.
- 2.20 A balance of statistical and subjective consultations was carried out in order to ensure that a wide variety of opinions were heard. Subjective consultation provides an opportunity to test the key themes arising from the statistical evidence.
- 2.21 Consultations carried out included:
- Household questionnaires
 - Internet survey for children and young people
 - Workshops with key stakeholders and community groups
 - Sports club questionnaire
 - Drop in sessions
 - One-to-one consultations with Council officers and an online officer consultation survey
 - Council Members
- 2.22 The following paragraphs provide more detail on each of the key elements of the consultation.

Household survey

- 2.23 The household survey provides an opportunity for randomly selected households to comment on the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing open spaces as well as to identify their aspirations for future provision.

- 2.24 5,000 questionnaires were distributed to households to capture the views of both users and non-users of open spaces. Residents were randomly selected from the electoral register.
- 2.25 Random distribution of questionnaires to a geographically representative sample ensures that representatives from all age groups, ethnic groups and genders were provided with the opportunity to give their views. In order to promote an even response rate that is representative of the population profile, 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.
- 2.26 401 postal surveys were returned completed to a satisfactory standard. Obtaining more than 400 responses means that the results are accurate to +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval. This data source therefore provides a reliable evidence base that can be used as the basis for setting standards.
- 2.27 Surveys were distributed with an identifier in the bottom corner to enable identification of which area each resident lives in and postcodes of respondents were also recorded. This means that it is possible to identify how views vary according to where people live. All returns were put into an Access 2000 database.

Internet survey for children and young people

- 2.28 Children and young people are frequent users of open space, sport and recreation facilities it is therefore important to understand their views.
- 2.29 Two questionnaires were posted on the internet: one aimed at children of a primary school age and one aimed at older children and young people. All schools within the City were notified of the website address by post and asked to encourage their pupils to complete the questionnaires. A copy of surveys and accompanying guidance notes can be found in Appendix B.
- 2.30 80 survey responses were received from children and 12 responses from young people.

Workshops

- 2.31 Workshops were designed to provide an opportunity to provide more detailed input into the study and provide their opinions on the current and future provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities across Derby.
- 2.32 The workshops help to test the findings of the statistical consultations and provide further detail on some of the issues arising. The following workshops were held:
- Monday 12 October 2009 – 10am for external agencies and key stakeholders
 - Disabled People's Diversity Forum – 19 November 6.30pm
 - Gender and Sexuality Forum – 24 November 6.30pm
 - Minority Communities Diversity Forum – 28 January 2010 6.30pm
- 2.33 All those unable to attend the workshops were offered the opportunity to participate in the study by completing a questionnaire.

Sports Clubs

- 2.34 Surveys were distributed to all known sports clubs across the City. One survey specifically targeted clubs participating in pitch sports while the other focused on those which use other outdoor and indoor venues. These surveys were also posted online to maximise the response rate and provide clubs with several opportunities to participate.
- 2.35 Three sports clubs and five pitch sport clubs returned the questionnaire.

Drop in sessions

- 2.36 Three drop in sessions were held across the city, specifically
- The Revive Healthy Living Centre - 09 October 2009
 - Pear Tree Library – 12 October 2009
 - Market Place – Derby City Centre – 13 October 2009
- 2.37 These sessions provided members of the public with an opportunity to give their views on open space, sport and recreation facilities and also enabled the views of visitors to the local area to be recorded.

City Council officers

- 2.38 Consultations with Council officers were held in order to understand the work, focus and key priorities of the Council and to provide a detailed strategic and practical overview to put the study in context.
- 2.39 In addition, an online survey was circulated to Council officers. This offered the opportunity to express views from both a personal and professional perspective and provides an insight into the views of people who work but perhaps don't live in the area as well as those who reside within the City. 121 officers completed this online survey.
- 2.40 A selection of Council officers was also invited to the workshop session for external agencies.

Council Members

- 2.41 A postal survey was distributed to all 51 Council Members and the survey was also available online. This survey sought views on the existing provision within each ward as well as provided an opportunity to identify any key issues that should be considered as part of the assessment.
- 2.42 In addition, Council officers attended a workshop for Members on the 18 October 2009. These workshops explored open space, sport and recreation issues and opportunities in more detail and also identified priorities for the future improvement of these facilities.
- 2.43 A further presentation was made to Members and senior Council officers on the 13 July 2010 to present the findings and recommendations of the draft open space study. Comments were invited on the content on the study before the final Study was produced.

Neighbourhood Area Managers

- 2.44 In every part of Derby, a partnership of services and organisations has been formed to create Neighbourhood Teams. Each team reflects the neighbourhood's needs and is committed to

working with residents to improve quality of life in the community. There are 17 Neighbourhood Managers and associated neighbourhood boards, each representing one area of the city.

- 2.45 A pmppgenesis consultant attended a Neighbourhood Managers monthly meeting on 17 October in order to provide background on the study and the process that was being carried out. Following this, an online questionnaire was issued to all Neighbourhood Managers for completion in relation to open space, sport and recreation facilities within their neighbourhood area.

Step 2 - auditing local provision

- 2.46 PPG17 states that audits of provision should encompass all existing open space and sport and recreation facilities irrespective of ownership. The logic for this is that all forms of provision can contribute to meeting local needs.
- 2.47 A detailed audit of provision of open space was carried out by pmppgenesis in line with the typologies summarised earlier in this section. The audit work began by compiling existing data sources provided by the Council and continued with a detailed desk top exercise using a variety of sources of information.
- 2.48 The multi functionality of open space presents a challenge to the auditing process. In order to address this issue, 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.
- 2.49 Where there is a definitive facility within a larger site (for example a play area or sports pitch within a park) this site has been subdivided to ensure that the various opportunities offered are all considered.
- 2.50 Sites offering more than one type of recreational open space (for example parks containing natural areas) have been classified under their primary purpose, although the multidimensional nature of the sites will be recognised within the individual sections of this report.
- 2.51 In line with PPG17, grass verges and farmland are excluded from consideration. Private gardens are also excluded.
- 2.52 Following the desk based audit, site assessments were carried out at each site above 0.2 hectares to check the typology of the site and to identify the quality of provision. The threshold of 0.2 hectares was chosen in-line with PPG17. Play areas and sports facilities under 0.2 hectares were however considered. School sites were not visited as part of the assessments however details of provision on site were verified and these sites are included within the audit of provision. Sites were not visited as the vast majority are not accessible to the community at the current time.
- 2.53 In addition to verifying the audit, it is also important to evaluate the quality of existing sites. Audits of quality are particularly important as they allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and maintenance.
- 2.54 Sites were evaluated against a matrix enabling comparisons between sites in the same typology and across typologies. Sites were rated against the following attributes:
- Accessibility
 - Quality
 - Wider benefits

- 2.55 Definitions of these attributes are provided in Paragraphs 2.62 to 2.72. The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site in addition to ratings for each individual factor. The site assessment sheets used are contained within Appendix C.
- 2.56 Following the completion of a first phase of site visits, a meeting was held on 27 October providing Council officers with an opportunity to check the audit of provision. At this meeting, additional sites were identified and other potential sites were highlighted for further investigation. Following this meeting, a second phase of site visits was completed in order to obtain a full audit of facilities.
- 2.57 While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the audit, it must be noted that the omission of a site does not necessarily mean that it is not considered to be green space and that policies relating to green space are not applicable. Updating the audit will be an ongoing process for the City Council and the audit will be constantly refined in response to changes in the character of the City.

Steps 3 and 4 - setting and applying provision standards

- 2.58 PPG17 states that open space standards should be set locally and recommends that national standards should not be used to assess local circumstances.
- 2.59 Local authorities use information gained from the assessment of needs and opportunities (stage 1) to set local standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. In order to ensure that the recommended local standards are directly representative of local needs across Derby, standards have been derived directly from the findings of the consultations as well as the analysis of existing provision.
- 2.60 PPG17 recommends that local standards should include:
- Quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed)
 - A qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities)
 - Accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility)
- 2.61 Table 2.3 briefly summarises the process that has been adopted for setting local standards. Standards were set during a workshop that was attended by representatives from a range of Council departments.

Table 2.3 – Standard Setting Process

Process Stage	Methodology
National standards	Analysis of any existing national standards for each typology. These are usually provided by national organisations, for example, Fields in Trust for playing pitches. It is important to ensure that national standards are taken into account as part of determination of local standards.
Existing local standards	Consideration of existing local standards for each typology that are currently applied by the Council. These include standards set out in local planning documents and in other adopted strategies.

Process Stage	Methodology
Current provision (quantity standards only)	Assessment of the current quantity of provision within the local authority area as a whole and within each of the analysis areas
Benchmarking	Figures detailing local standards set by pmppgenesis for other open space projects to provide a benchmark.
Consultation (household survey)	Consideration of the findings of the household survey with regards the provision of each type of open space. This analysis provides a robust indication (at the City 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.
pmppgenesis recommendation	pmppgenesis recommendation of a local standard. The standard is based on an assessment of the local community need and will be in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity – x hectares per 1000 population • Accessibility – a distance threshold in metres • Quality – a list of essential and desirable features
Justification	Full justifications for the recommended local standard based on qualitative and quantitative consultations are provided for each typology.

2.62 A brief explanation of the purpose of setting each type of standard is set out below and overleaf.

Accessibility

2.63 Accessibility is a key criterion for open space sites. Without good access, the provision of high quality open space would be of limited value. The overall aim of accessibility standards is to identify:

- how accessible sites are;
- how far people are willing to travel to reach open space; and
- areas that are deficient in provision (identified through the application of local standards).

2.64 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.

2.65 Accessibility standards are set in the form of distance thresholds (such as the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport). Application of these standards will then facilitate the identification of areas where residents do not have appropriate access to facilities. An example of the application of standards is provided in Section 14, summary and planning implementation.

Quantity

- 2.66 The open space audit gives an understanding of the quantity of provision for each type of open space in the City. This level of detail enables the calculation of the amount (hectares) of each type of open space per 1,000 population. An example of the application of standards is provided in Section 14, summary and planning implementation.
- 2.67 Quantity standards are developed in conjunction with accessibility standards. The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
- provide an understanding of the adequacy of existing provision for each type of open space;
 - establish areas suffering from deficiency of provision of each type of open space; and
 - provide a guide to developers as to the amount of open space expected in conjunction with new development.
- 2.68 This assessment measures the quantity of provision against the current population. The implications of future population growth (both within Derby City and also on the periphery as part of the growth point housing allocations in South Derbyshire and Amber Valley) are also considered.

Quality

- 2.69 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; and
 - 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 its low quality.
- 2.70 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:
- different geographical areas; and
 - specific types of open space.
- 2.71 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 such as litter bins and seats.

- 2.72 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. For example, a site achieving 4 ratings of good (4 points each) will achieve 16 points out of a possible 20, which is 80%. If the site achieved only three ratings of good (12 points) and the final criteria was considered not applicable, the percentage score would be calculated out of 15 and not 20 and the score would still be 80%. This ensures that a site is not penalised for lacking in a feature that would not be expected at the site. The database that accompanies the study will calculate these scores automatically.
- 2.73 Following the calculation of the total scores achieved during site visits, sites can then be benchmarked against each other. The quality of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities will be evaluated in the later sections of this report.

Application of Local Standards

- 2.74 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.
- 2.75 In accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide, a strategic framework or Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy for the planning, delivery, management and monitoring of open space, sport and recreation facilities should have four basic components, specifically:
- geographical areas where existing provision is protected - where the existing level of provision is below or the same as the recommended quantity standard, sites should be protected. Sites of high value to the community should also be protected;
 - areas where existing provision should be enhanced - there are two discrete instances where existing provision may be in need of enhancement. In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues the Council may wish to increase the capacity of existing provision. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, enhancements will be required. Site assessments will inform qualitative improvements;
 - areas where existing provision should be relocated or redesignated - in order to meet local needs more effectively or make better overall use of land it may be necessary to relocate or re-designate some existing sites; and
 - areas where new provision should be considered - new sites should be located either in areas within the accessibility catchments of existing provision but where there is a quantitative deficiency or in areas outside of catchments. The proposed quantity and location of population growth should be taken into account when determining the most appropriate location for new facilities.
- 2.76 In addition to the above four key components, the potential for disposal of open spaces will be considered. Areas where accessibility improvements are required will also be highlighted.
- 2.77 The findings of this study should also be used to guide the levels of contribution required for each type of open space within new developments.

- 2.78 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology and in the specific settlement hierarchies. They should be used to inform future policy and site allocations as well to inform the creation of proactive strategies for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the City.

3. Strategic Context

03

Introduction

- 3.1 This strategic context provides background on the national, regional and local picture relevant to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Whilst this review is not exhaustive it provides details on the context considered important within this study.
- 3.2 For the purposes of this study, Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and the Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities are the key overarching documents. All documents reviewed within this report influence the provision of facilities in Derby and the strategic priorities of the Council. The recently released consultation draft (Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment), which brings together policy on the protection of open spaces from a range of other Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Statements (PPS 9: Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas and PPG20: Coastal Planning) will have significant impact on the future planning of open space sport and recreation facilities. While the key principles of PPG17 remain, the document advocates a green infrastructure approach to open space, sport and recreation facility planning and seeks to harness the wider benefits that the provision of open space brings and to balance the recreational and environmental functions of open space.
- 3.3 In addition to PPG17, there are numerous other national documents and agencies that shape the strategic context to open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the country and as such influence the provision of facilities and the findings of this report.
- 3.4 Appendix D sets out the national strategic context, including Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer Greener which was produced by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in 2002 and led to the creation of CABI Space, a national government agency which has the overall aim “to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities”.
- 3.5 The following sets out the regional and local strategic context for Derby considering overarching documents and their relationship to this study. Documents specific to one type of open space will be reviewed within typology specific Sections 4 – 14.

Regional policy documents

East Midlands Regional Plan (2009)

- 3.6 The aim of this regional plan is to ensure that all development in the area enhances the East Midlands to become a region where communities are sustainable and environmental, social and economic well-being is evident. The strategy identifies the provision of a green infrastructure as an essential element of delivering sustainable communities.
- 3.7 The document supersedes RPG8. The policies in RSS8 will set the context for the preparation on Derby's Local Development Framework and help in the development of related policy.

- 3.8 Policy 1 highlights the role of green infrastructure in sustainable development to:
- protect and enhance the environmental quality of urban and rural settlements;
 - achieve a step change in biodiversity;
 - reduce the impact of climate change; and
 - minimise environmental impact of new development.
- 3.9 Policy 3 of the strategy identifies that new developments in the region will be concentrated within the region's five Principal Urban Areas, one of which is Derby. Policy 13a states that 14,400 houses are required within Derby over the period of 2006 – 2026. It requires 21,400 houses within and adjoining the Derby Principal Urban Area. Ensuring that the provision of open space, sport and recreation provision is sufficient to accommodate future population increases will be a key challenge.
- 3.10 Policy 28 highlights priorities for environmental and green infrastructure to:
- protect and enhance green infrastructure and increase access to green space and ensure that development does not increase pressure on sensitive sites;
 - protect national designated sites;
 - avoid damage to natural and historic assets or their settings;
 - ensure that unavoidable damage is minimised and clearly justified by a need for development in that location which outweighs the damage that would result;
 - ensure unavoidable damage which cannot be mitigated should be compensated for; and
 - ensure that there is a net increase in the quality and active management of natural and historic assets across the Region in ways that promote adaptation to climate change, and an increase in the quantity of environmental assets generally.
- 3.11 Policy 26 relates to the need to protect and enhance cultural heritage reinforcing that sustainable development should see the protection, management and enhancement of natural assets.
- 3.12 Policy 27 relates to the protection of the historic environment, stating that growth should promote sensitive change to the historic environment and give regard to green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- 3.13 Policy 29 relates to the need for protecting and enhancing biodiversity; promoting partnership working to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of and protection of networks of natural open space.
- 3.14 Policy 30 relates to maintaining and increasing woodland cover - highlighting that opportunities to increase woodland cover through new development and other mechanisms should be taken.
- 3.15 The plan, in paragraph 3.3.103, suggests that provision should be based on standards derived from assessments carried out in line with PPG17. This study will develop standards based on local needs and make recommendations in line with all contextual national, regional and local planning documentation.

6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 3.16 The 6Cs Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy is currently being developed to provide a long term vision and strategic framework for delivery of green infrastructure across the 6Cs Growth Point - focussed on the three Counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire plus the three Cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.
- 3.17 The strategy will aim to protect, enhance and extend networks of green spaces and natural elements in and around the three cities, connecting with their surrounding towns and villages. The Strategy also aims to facilitate a major step-change in the scale, quality and connectivity of green infrastructure assets across the 6Cs area, to match the scale of new growth proposed and provide a focus for attracting and retaining sustainable development and investment. This will be achieved by protecting and enhancing existing assets and creating extensive new green infrastructure, and finding suitably resourced mechanisms for the long term management of both.
- 3.18 The strategy is being driven via a partnership of local authorities and environmental organisations called the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Project Board with support of external consultants, Chris Blandford Associates. A strategic planning framework and action plan have also been developed.
- 3.19 The strategy proposes a series of sub regional corridors for the connectivity of the Derby principal urban area. Of particular relevance to Derby City are the plans for the Derwent Strategic River Corridor – which include linking Derby and Long Eaton as well as with existing country parks. The creation of this corridor would bring access and movement, cultural, biodiversity and landscape benefits as well as support the management of floodrisk.
- 3.20 As well as the interventions of sub regional significance, a series of plans for local new and enhanced green infrastructure are referenced, including:
- Derby Urban Fringe – Kedleston to Derby Countryside Gap (includes links with Allestree Country Park);
 - Lower Derwent Floodplain – Derby City Centre – Elvaston Country Park; and
 - Derby Urban Fringe – Findern to Derby Countryside Gap – includes links between Findern and Normanton.
- 3.21 The key priorities of this 6Cs strategy will be instrumental in the delivery of many of the local priorities set out in this PPG17 assessment for Derby City.

East Midlands Regional Plan for Sport

- 3.22 The planned priorities set out in this document are:
- to build a more efficient and effective sporting system within the East Midlands;
 - to increase participation in sport and active recreation to meet National Government targets;
 - to make the East Midlands the most successful sporting region in England and to maximise its' Contribution Towards National (England and UK/GB) success;
 - to tackle inequality by increasing participation in sport and active recreation by under-represented groups and communities;

- to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and well being of the inhabitants of the East Midlands;
 - through sport and active recreation make communities in the East Midlands stronger and safer;
 - maximise the contribution of sport and active recreation to and from education and lifelong learning; and
 - to benefit the local economy and realise the potential sport and active recreation has to contribute to the development of the Regional and Local Economy, 'the East Midlands Development Agency has produced a regional economic strategy 'Destination 2010' which sits under the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS).
- 3.23 The strategy has two high-level aspirations of equal weight – to deliver a 'competitive region' and at the same time to ensure that the region has 'sustainable communities'.
- 3.24 The implication the strategy has for the provision of open space in Derby encompasses the wider benefits which sports participation can provide to the local community such as sport and community development and improving health and well being. As such, enhanced open spaces and amenity/informal recreation and sports provision will be vital.

County Built Facility Strategy (2007)

- 3.25 A County Built Facility Strategy was produced in 2007 which sets out a vision for the County to:

“Create a network of high quality community and specialist sports facilities within Derbyshire that will enhance the quality of life of people within existing, new communities and visitors.”

- 3.26 The strategy covers built facilities in Derby City as well as in all other local authorities within Derbyshire.
- 3.27 The document states that compared with other counties, Derbyshire has a lack of facilities suitable for the higher levels of performance sport. Facilities and programming of facilities are considered to be inadequate to support the needs of talented athletes and current facilities are not capable of staging or supporting major sporting events.
- 3.28 It also recognises that much of the supply of local sports provision in Derbyshire is of a low quality and requires urgent investment to modernise, improve and expand facilities. The strategy states that an integrated plan for investment in school sports provision through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and the modernisation, improvement and expansion of Council owned sports facilities is lacking and should be given the highest priority by Derbyshire Sport, Local Authorities and the governing bodies of sport.
- 3.29 The Countywide strategy specifically identifies a number of key themes that are central to achieving the vision for the County. These should be taken into account in decision making in Derby City. These are:

- development must be underpinned by need, both current and future;
 - facilities development must be supported by sports development to ensure that the desired impacts in terms of increased physical activity and participation are achieved;
 - the delivery of this sporting infrastructure must examine innovative solutions, new partnerships and funding methods;
 - the County should aspire to a series of key landmark sporting projects;
 - opportunities presented by planning policy changes (planning obligations, County levy's and planning gain supplement) to fund major sporting infrastructure developments should be maximised to the full;
 - the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics present a unique opportunity for sport;
 - there is a need for a high quality network of facilities to meet with NGB aspirations that can see the creation of an Olympic legacy for Derbyshire, before, during and after the Games;
 - key agencies and stakeholders must work in partnership and show clear leadership to drive the strategic recommendations forward; and
 - the County needs to develop a Sports Tourism Marketing Strategy; existing sports tourism events should be supported; new events identified; existing facilities upgraded; and new facilities developed where there is an identified need. In short, Derbyshire needs to establish and continuously reinforce and authenticate its reputation for being a County with true sporting pedigree.
- 3.30 Proposals for the future sporting and physical infrastructure for Derby have been developed in the context of these key themes, recognising the gaps in provision and the opportunities that are presented.
- 3.31 The countywide strategy also makes a number of recommendations in relation to specialist facility requirements. It recommends that the four county priorities to be pursued are:
- A 50m pool
 - Indoor athletics facilities
 - Outdoor athletics facilities
 - Indoor tennis provision
- 3.32 It also states that, when considering the population increase across the County and the requirement to increase participation, the current portfolio of facilities for sports halls and swimming pools needs to be maintained as a minimum. Where existing sites may be lost, through development or closure, facilities of the same or improved standard should be provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- 3.33 In addition to setting out recommendations and key themes for future facility development across the county, the strategy also identifies a number of issues and opportunities specific to Derby City. These include:
- the opportunity to provide a rationalised and enhanced sports infrastructure through Building Schools for the Future;
 - the opportunity to provide a 50m pool with a moveable bulkhead and floors to replace existing local authority provision;

- to support discussions to provide for a replacement for the Moorways athletics track;
- to investigate the feasibility of dedicated indoor training facilities for athletics;
- to consider development of an indoor bowls facility; and
- to open discussions with Derbyshire LTA with regards to finding a new location for the LTA Indoor Centre in Derby.

3.34 To an extent, this document has now been superseded by the Outline Business case for new Leisure Facilities in Derby (2010) which identifies a series of more localised priorities. The key priorities emerging from this document are set out in Sections 8 and 9 – Indoor and Outdoor Sports.

Local policy documents

3.35 Key local policy documents and strategies relevant to open space, sport and recreation provision in Derby are summarised in the table overleaf. Only overarching documents are shown within this table. Documents relating specifically to one type of open space will be discussed within the Typology specific sections 4 – 13. The key implications of these documents with regards quantity, quality and access to different types of open space will also be drawn out in the Recommendations in these sections.

Document	Document outline	Implications for the open space, sport and recreation study
<p>City of Derby Local Plan Review (2006)</p>	<p>Policy GD2 indicates that development should protect and where possible, enhance the City's environment, natural resources and built heritage.</p> <p>Policy GD4 states that development should encourage sustainable travel and create an attractive environment, including open spaces.</p> <p>Policy GD5 highlights that planning permission will only be granted for development that provides a satisfactory level of amenity within the site and does not cause harm to existing nearby areas.</p> <p>Policy GD8 states that new development needs to make provision for appropriate infrastructure, including sustainable transport and public space, sport and recreation provision.</p> <p>Policy E1 indicates that planning permission will only be granted in the Green Belt for essential facilities including outdoor sports and outdoor recreation ground.</p> <p>Policy E2 states that development will only be permitting in Green Wedges for purposes including outdoor sport and recreation (including allotments), nature conservation areas and cemeteries.</p> <p>Policy E4 prohibits development that is likely to destroy or adversely affect sites of national importance for nature conservation.</p> <p>Policy E5 indicates that development on sites which have features of nature conservation interest where provision is made for the retention of those features. Where loss is unavoidable the Council may seek suitable mitigation to compensate for that loss.</p> <p>Policy E6 states that planning permission will not be granted for development which would severe or undermine the value of wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Policy E7 highlights that development which would affect sites supporting wildlife interest will only be permitted where disturbance is minimised or</p>	<p>This study will seek to protect and enhance open space, sport and recreation facilities in the City.</p> <p>This study will provide evidence required to support and update the policies set out in this local plan and provide guidance for the Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The study will also inform key decisions made for site by site planning applications.</p>

alternative habitats are created.

Policy E8 indicates that the Council will implement and encourage schemes to enhance natural history value open land, including public open space. Schemes will include the creation of Local Nature Reserves.

Policy E9 states that planning permission will not be granted for development which would damage, destroy or compromise the long term retention of trees and areas of woodland.

Policy E16 highlights that planning permission will only be granted near to the Green Belt, Green Wedges and wildlife corridors if adequate landscaping is provided.

Policy E22 states that development will not be permitted which harms the character or setting of registered historic parks and gardens. The Council will seek to retain, restore, maintain and encourage use of historic parks and gardens.

Policy L1 indicates that within areas of public space, planning permission will not be granted for any proposal, other than for the provision of leisure or recreational uses, unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space is surplus to requirements.

Policy L2 states that when considering applications for planning permission, a minimum standard of 3.8 hectares per 1000 population of parks and public open space will be taken into consideration.

Policy L3 indicates that new developments of 10 dwellings or more will need to provide incidental open space and major open space will be sought for developments of 25 dwellings or more and will normally be provided off-site.

Where suitable public open space land is not available, the Council may accept an indexed payment based on the cost of acquiring, laying out and equipping land. Open space standards will usually not be relaxed. However, requirements may be reduced where higher quality development would be facilitated and higher densities on previously developed sites, particularly in close proximity to the City Centre. In such circumstances, very high quality

open space will be required.

Policy L4 identifies a number of sites that are allocated for new or extended public open space.

Policy L5 indicates that planning permission will be granted for leisure and recreational use on a number of sites, including public open space.

Policy L6 states that planning permission will not be granted for development which would involve the loss of previously or currently used land for sport or recreational purposes, including school playing fields, unless:

- the facilities provided can be fully retained or enhanced through the development of a small part of the site;
- another site of the same or better facilities in terms of community benefit can be provided before the commencement of the development; or
- it is demonstrated that the site is not required for sport or recreational purposes and there is an excess of suitable sports pitch and open space provision within the area.

Policy L8 indicates that planning permission will only be granted for leisure and entertainment facilities, including major outdoor grounds, provided that:

- there would be no unacceptable loss in quantitative or qualitative terms of land allocated in the Plan for other uses; and
- the site is well served by public transport and is accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

Policy L10 states that development that will result in the loss of allotments will only be permitted if:

- it is demonstrated that there is insufficient demand for allotments and the land is not required for other open space uses; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council is satisfied that the need for development outweighs the need to protect the allotments and alternative provision of another site of the same standard is made in the same locality. <p>Policy L13 identifies two sites are allocated for use as cemeteries.</p>	
<p>Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (2008)</p>	<p>For developments of over 10 dwellings, 14m² of incidental open space per person is required. It is assumed that incidental open space is required on site. In certain circumstances a financial contribution in lieu of on-site provision may be acceptable.</p> <p>Play areas are required as part of on-site open space for development containing over 50 or more family houses. The following standards are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developments of 50 or more dwellings – one or more equipped play area to NPFA LEAP standard for children up to 8 years old (minimum area 400m²); developments of over 100 dwellings – provision for the above and provision for junior children up to the age of 11 (total area required is 600m²); and developments of over 350 dwellings – provision of the above and provision for children aged 12 – 16 (total area required is 1000m²). <p>Where playing fields are being provided and there is insufficient facilities, changing facilities will be required.</p> <p>The developer will be required to maintain any open space provided or responsibilities can be transferred to the Council, with the developers required to pay a commuted sum.</p> <p>Contributions secured from development sites within the central area will be spent on public realm instead of traditional open space.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence required to update the standards of provision where appropriate.</p> <p>The study will also enable the analysis of up to date evidence on a site by site basis to determine local needs and priorities for specific developments.</p>
<p>Derby City Centre Open Space Audit (2008)</p>	<p>The audit identified a total of 26 open spaces, which includes six sites under development by Derby Cityscape. The majority of open space within the city centre was identified as amenity green space. The city centre does contain</p>	<p>This study will evaluate the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the city centre.</p>

	<p>parkland. However, there is a lack of natural and semi natural open space.</p> <p>The audit found that there are limited green linkages between sites, however, opportunities to develop sites for nature conservation and habitat creation was identified.</p> <p>Consultation identified perception of safety, anti-social behaviour, litter and dog fouling as barriers to usage.</p>	<p>Increasing access to open space through the development of green linkages will be a priority.</p>
<p>Derby City Centre Public Realm Strategy (2007)</p>	<p>The main objective of the strategy is to enhance the unique identity of the city by providing it with the best possible public realm.</p> <p>The strategy sets out the design and delivery plan for high quality public realm in accordance with Masterplan.</p> <p>A key theme of the strategy is the regeneration of the River Derwent. The River Derwent is identified as offering a number of opportunities in the city centre, including increasing access to open space.</p> <p>The strategy outlines a number of plans to enhance the public realm in the city centre and identifies the importance of Bass's Recreational Ground.</p>	<p>This study will evaluate the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the city centre.</p> <p>Increasing access to open space within the city centre will be a key priority.</p>
<p>Lower Derwent Flood Risk Strategy (2008)</p>	<p>The strategy covers the City of Derby and surrounding villages between Milford and the River Derwent.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is to identify how flood risk can be managed. The strategy follows the four key aims of sustainability, maximising environmental benefit, developing safe schemes and securing value for money.</p> <p>The preferred strategy is to reduce flood risk over the next 100 years. To reduce flood risk in Derby the strategy plans to align a new route for defences this would open up the river corridor in the City providing greater opportunities for recreation and environmental impact.</p>	<p>The study will take into account the role that open space plays in counteracting flood risk.</p>
<p>Nature Conservation Strategy (2006)</p>	<p>The objective of the strategy is, "to protect and significantly enhance the wildlife and geological heritage of the City of Derby, to promote people's access..."</p> <p>The aims of the strategy include, to:</p>	<p>This strategy will seek to enhance the recreational opportunities provided by open space in addition to conserving the biodiversity, wildlife and habitat value of sites.</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing the Urban Countryside</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the most important natural heritage features in the City; • retain a healthy biological network in the City which links wildlife sites and biodiversity features to the wider countryside; • maintain the stock of natural heritage features; • increase the quantity and quality of wildlife features, sites and corridors in the City; and • seek to provide reasonable access to all natural heritage sites and features. 	<p>in Derby will be a key challenge.</p>
<p>Derby Play Strategy (2007 – 2012)</p>	<p>The vision of the strategy is, “to provide and promote inclusive play for all children and young people by giving them high quality play opportunities which will benefit them throughout their lives”.</p> <p>Consultation undertaken as part of the strategy found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the majority of children play at parks; • a significantly number of young people go to the park and youth centre; • accessibility and sites being located too far away is the main barrier to access for children; • ‘nothing to do’ was the biggest issue that affects young people; • disabled children and children with additional needs require a wider range of play provision and specialist provision; and • no specialist play and local provision were the main barriers to play for children with disabilities. <p>The objectives of the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the number of good quality, innovative and inclusive play provision across the City; 	<p>The findings of the play strategy have been used to inform the development of this study.</p> <p>The findings of this study will help inform the development of the subsequent Play Strategy.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve access; and • provide more adventurous play opportunities in local areas across the City. 	
<p>2020 Vision: Derby's Sustainable Community Strategy – the 2020 vision</p>	<p>The vision of the strategy is, "People...feel they belong to Derby and Derby offers them everything they need...leisure and a safe and healthy lifestyle".</p> <p>The strategy outlines a number of priorities for Derby. Relevant objectives of these priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce anti-social behaviour; • develop health promotion initiatives in the city centre; • improve the quality and range of sporting activities in the city centre; • improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities; • protect and enhance the natural and built environment; • provide varied and attractive sporting opportunities for all; • increase the number of young people participating in sport and physical activity; and • improve sporting and leisure facilities. 	<p>Effective and appropriate provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can generate significant wider benefits which will contribute to the achievement of the priorities of the community strategy.</p>
<p>Getting Derby Active Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>The strategy identifies that here is a need to make better use of existing facilities in schools, community centres, children's centres and private health and fitness facilities, public open space, allotments and natural environments.</p> <p>Traditional facilities are not necessarily the most appropriate for local communities.</p> <p>Facilities need to be more multi-functional and offer choice within their programming to cater for as wide a range of potential user as possible.</p>	<p>The effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can promote participation in sport and recreation and contribute to a healthy lifestyle.</p>

	Awareness of healthy lifestyles promotion and cultural and disability requirements need to be addressed within facilities.	
Indoor Sport and Recreational Facilities Strategy (2005)	<p>The key findings of the strategy were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all of the key Council sports facilities (with the exception of Springwood) are in need of significant modernisation/refurbishment; • the feasibility of a new build at Moorways should be explored; • a full intrusive condition survey of City Council Sports and Leisure Facilities is required to ascertain the cost of modernisation and improvement; • the extended schools programme and community centres should be used to provide opportunities for local communities to participate in physical activity and sport; • a number of specific facility needs have also been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more fitness stations - indoor athletics training facilities - replacement of existing athletics track - better training and playing facilities for basketball - an indoor bowls facility - access to more water space for swimming clubs. • strategic planning – there is an opportunity to develop a hierarchy of provision across the city, based on the provision of a number of key strategic facility locations; • facilities must meet local need - a smaller number of key facilities across the City will ensure that all residents are able to access a range of activities and facilities; • better quality facilities will encourage and facilitate increased participation; and 	The findings of the Indoor Sport and Recreational Facilities Strategy have been used to inform the development of this study.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnership working is key for future facility provision. 	
Outline Business Case (2009)	<p>The business case was developed to inform and support the Council to make decisions in relation to the future of its facilities for sport, active recreation and physical activity.</p> <p>The business case identified a number of opportunities for new or refurbished facilities, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 metre pool – new • network of smaller swimming pools to replace ageing stock –new & refurbished • large sports hall (10-12 courts) – retention of or replacement of Moorways • network of smaller sports halls to replace ageing stock – new & refurbished (via Building Schools for the Future) • health & fitness provision – increase in size of public sector provision • velodrome – new • closed road cycling circuit – new • athletics track and associated facilities - retention of (and upgrade) or replacement of Moorways. <p>The business case outlined a proposed hierarchy of facilities to enable the Council to prioritise investment.</p>	<p>The findings of the Outline Business Case have been used to inform the development of this study.</p>
Sport City, Active City – Derby’s Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2010 – 2015	<p>The aim of the strategy is to make Derby the most active city by 2015. The objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to create the next generation of sport and recreation facilities to inspire, enable and motivate people; • Derby will become a sport city; • every child and young person in Derby will have a healthy and active 	<p>Open spaces, such as parks, can play an important role in increasing physical activity and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The provision of sufficient, high quality open spaces can contribute to making Derby the most active city by 2015.</p> <p>The effective provision of open space can</p>

	<p>start in life by having an entitlement to sport and physical activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will help every adult in Derby take part in sport and physical activity; • a city lifestyle and wellness service will be established focusing on treatment and prevention services; • we will create active neighbourhoods across the City; • we will create active environments that encourage people to become more active; and • we will celebrate major national sporting events such as London 2012 and England 2018. 	<p>significantly contribute to creating active environments within Derby.</p>
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Summary

- 3.36 The provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives, such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting healthy and enjoyable lifestyles. In addition, the effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities will be instrumental in the delivery of local priorities, including those set out in the Community Strategy and Derby City Centre Public Realm Strategy.
- 3.37 Any development of open spaces (such as the provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account biodiversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation. Consideration should also be given to the implications of future changes to the area, including the priorities set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan.
- 3.38 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in Derby are as follows:
- the green environment (such as parks, natural and semi natural open space and amenity space as well as the green wedges) is particularly important in a compact city such as Derby, providing many recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a key aim for the Council and is also important to residents and tourists across the authority;
 - increasing access to existing open space in Derby, particularly within the city centre is a priority;
 - 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; and
 - the increased focus on improving the health of local residents will raise the profile of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Open space can provide alternative opportunities for physical activity and contribute to making Derby the country's most active city by 2015.
- 3.39 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within Derby. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.
- 3.40 Specific issues relating to different types of open space, as well as the need for new spaces will be referenced directly in Sections 4 to 13.