

6. Amenity Green Space

06

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 Amenity green space is most commonly found in residential areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, green spaces and village greens in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity green space is also often used for landscaping purposes.
- 6.2 The function of this type of open space overlaps with many others, in particular parks and gardens and natural areas, and it can also provide informal opportunities for children's play where there are no other facilities. It is important therefore to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the context of other types of open space.
- 6.3 There is much research relating to the links between the provision of high quality open space and a reduction in crime. Given that amenity space is perhaps the most local type of open space provided, high quality and well designed spaces are essential to discourage misuse and encourage a culture of respect.
- 6.4 This section sets out the strategic context, key findings of the consultations and recommended local standards. The standards are then applied to evaluate the adequacy of the existing amenity green space and the associated demand for these spaces. Standards are also applied in the context of other open spaces with overlapping functions.

Context

- 6.5 Policies L2 and L3 of the *City of Derby Local Plan Review 2006 Review* outline standards for quantity and accessibility relating to amenity green space, specifically: a quantity standard of 3.8 hectares per 1,000 population (which includes parks and public open spaces) of which 1.4 hectares is incidental open space (includes amenity green space). A 200 metre catchment for incidental open space less than 2 hectares is recommended.
- 6.6 A lack of comments relating to amenity green space was received during consultation. However, the importance of this type of open space in providing informal play opportunities for children and young people was recognised. Furthermore, the importance of ensuring that amenity green space is functional and provides a recreational resource to local residents was identified.
- 6.7 Amenity green space is a well used resource by Derby residents. A quarter of respondents to the household survey indicated that the use amenity green space at least once a week

Current Position

- 6.8 Amenity green space is the most common type of open space found in the City, with a total of 434 sites.
- 6.9 The provision of amenity green space in Derby is summarised in Table 6.1 overleaf.

Table 6.1 – Provision of amenity green space across Derby

Area	Current provision (hectares)	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	Current population	Provision per 1000 population
Central	11.55	40	0.03	1.43	39,573	0.29
North East	57.05	120	0.03	12.23	52,201	1.09
North West	27.85	75	0.02	3.89	38,277	0.73
South East	50.38	110	0.03	7.90	53,280	0.95
South West	34.27	89	0.03	5.46	38,301	0.89
Overall	181.10	434	0.02	15.00	221,632	0.82

6.10 The key issues emerging from Table 6.1 and consultations relating to the quantity of amenity green space include:

- the current provision of amenity green space equates to 181.10 hectares or 0.82 hectares per 1000 population. The greatest provision per 1000 population is found in the North East Area (1.09 hectares). Not surprisingly, given the urban nature of the area, the least provision per 1000 population is found in the Central Area;
- a difference in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space is evident from responses to the household survey. 45% of respondents indicate that provision is insufficient while 42% of residents state that provision is sufficient. 13% of respondents had no opinion;
- this difference in opinion is reflected in all areas. The greatest level of dissatisfaction is found in the Central Area. It is within this area of the City where the lowest provision of amenity green space is found;
- other consultation findings also give an inconclusive picture of the provision of amenity green space. 38% of respondents to the children's survey felt that there are lots of grass areas near their home and 27% of children felt that there are some grass areas but that there could be more. Elected members also reflected this difference in opinion with the provision of amenity green space perceived to be sufficient in the Chaddesden, Blagreaves and Oakwood wards, but insufficient in the Mackworth, Mickleover and Derwent wards; and
- a lack of amenity green space within their locality was the main reason given by those residents who indicated that the provision of amenity green space is insufficient. This suggests that local access to amenity green space in some areas of the City may be limited and may also explain the difference in opinion emerging from local consultation.

- 6.11 Full consultation findings are set out in Appendix E.

Setting quantity standards

- 6.12 The recommended local quantity standard for amenity green space has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix E.
- 6.13 The recommended local standard has been set slightly above the existing level of provision to reflect the current dissatisfaction with the quantity of amenity green space exhibited by some residents.

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

Current Provision	Recommended Standard
0.82 hectares per 1000 people	0.83 hectares per 1000 people

Justification

A difference in opinion regarding the quantity of amenity green space was evident during local consultation. 45% of respondents to the household survey felt that the provision of amenity green space is insufficient and 38% indicate that the provision of amenity green space is sufficient. This difference in opinion was reflected in all five areas. Other consultations also identified a split in opinion regarding the provision of amenity green space.

The main reason given by those residents who stated that provision was insufficient was a lack of amenity green space in their locality. This suggests that deficiencies may be evident at various locations in the City.

Based on the above, the local standard has been set slightly above the existing level of provision. Setting a standard slightly above the existing level of provision will ensure that sites are protected and that new provision can be sought in areas of deficiency.

Quality

Current position

- 6.14 The quality of amenity green space was assessed through site visits undertaken by pmpgenesis and is summarised in Table 6.2 overleaf.

Table 6.2 - Quality of amenity green space in Derby

Area	Range of quality scores	Average Quality Score	Highest quality Site (ID)	Lowest Quality Site (ID)
Central	36% to 80%	66%	Church Street (664)	Holmfield (651)
North East	35% to 80%	66%	Oregon Way Recreation Ground (156)	Craddock Avenue (119)
North West	52% to 80%	65%	Cheviot Street Recreation Ground (456)	Queensway / Markeaton Street (2121)
South East	40% to 80%	66%	Rockbourne Close (815)	Brighton Road Upper (779)
South West	40% to 80%	64%	Meadow Brook Close (498)	Parkstone Court (463)
Overall	35% to 80%	66%	Oregon Way Recreation Ground (156)	Craddock Avenue (119)

6.15 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 and consultations relating to the quality of amenity green space are as follows:

- over half of respondents to the household survey consider the quality of amenity green space to be average (52%). Just over a quarter of residents (27%) indicate that the quality of amenity green space is good. This suggests that overall there are positive perceptions of the quality of provision although residents are less positive about amenity spaces than they are in relation to parks;
- the city wide findings are reflected in the areas with the majority of respondents in each area indicating that the quality of amenity green space is average. The greatest level of satisfaction is portrayed in the North West Area;
- other consultations support the findings of the household survey. Respondents to the officers' survey indicated that the quality of amenity green space is either average or good. Respondents to the elected members' survey portrayed a positive perception regarding the quality of amenity green space;
- site assessment findings support the findings arising from consultation with the quality of amenity green space generally rated as average (mean quality score 66%). The average quality score of a site (66%) is lower than scores achieved for other types of open space, indicating that there are opportunities to improve the quality of provision;

- litter was identified as a minor problem experienced by frequent users of amenity green space. Elected members identified fly tipping as a problem at some sites. Site assessments support this perception with litter found on a number of amenity green space sites in the City. The need to improve the functionality of amenity green space expressed during consultation was also supported by site assessments, which found many amenity green spaces lacking in basic infrastructure such as bins and benches; and
- supporting this, site assessments reveal that site infrastructure and security and safety are the factors that require most improvement at amenity green space. Many sites were identified as lacking in bins and benches and in need of more clearly defined boundaries.

Setting quality standards

- 6.16 The recommended local quality standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation for the local standard is provided within Appendix E.
- 6.17 The quality standard summarises the features that residents consider to be important determinants of the quality of provision. The target quality score is set at 74%, the score required to fall within the top quartile.

Quality Standard (see Appendix E)

Recommended Quality Standard

Local consultation, national guidance and best practice therefore suggest that the vision for amenity green space should incorporate:

Essential	Desirable
Clean & litter free	Seating
Well kept grass	Litter bins
Flowers, trees & shrubs	Dog walking facilities
	Other recreational facilities (for example, a playground)

Accessibility

- 6.18 The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 6.19 Current users of amenity green space walk to access a site (91%) with a journey time of less than 5 minutes most commonly experienced (64%). This suggests that residents use sites that are very local to their home.

- 6.20 Consistent with the travel patterns of current users, respondents to the household survey would expect to walk to access an amenity green space (85%). The average travel time expected by respondents is 8 minutes and the most common travel time indicated by residents is slightly lower at 5 minutes. The most common response is consistent in all five Areas. Local access to amenity green space was identified as a key determinant of usage by residents.
- 6.21 Site assessments indicate that access to amenity green space is generally perceived to be average or good.

Setting accessibility standards

- 6.22 The recommended local accessibility standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix E.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix E)

Recommended Accessibility Standard

5 minute walk time (240 metres)

Justification

Current (91%) and expected travel patterns (85%) highlight a clear preference for walking to amenity green space.

The average travel time expected by residents is 8 minutes and the most common expected travel time is slightly lower at 5 minutes. The most common response is mirrored in all areas and indicates that amenity green space is expected in close proximity to the home.

Based on the above, a 5 minute walk time standard has been set. This reflects the expectation that amenity green space is expected to be provided in close proximity to the home.

Applying provision standards

- 6.23 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards provides an understanding of the existing distribution of amenity green space. Table 6.3 overleaf summarises the application of the quantity standard for amenity green space by area.
- 6.24 Surpluses and deficiencies are calculated by applying the recommended standard to the existing and projected populations. Calculations on future provision against the local standard assume that no further amenity green spaces will be provided. The quantity standards should be used to guide the amount of provision required, however an accessibility led approach should be taken in order to determine where new amenity green space should be provided.
- 6.25 Given the uncertainties that still exist around the levels and location of new housing developments, it has been assumed for the purposes of projecting open space need that population will grow uniformly across the city. The figures used consider only the impact of population growth within the city boundaries.

- 6.26 It is however acknowledged that plans to provide new housing on the edge of the city boundary within the South Derbyshire and Amber Valley Districts will also impact on demand for open space, as it is likely that these residents will travel into the city to use open spaces and sports facilities. The lack of clarity on the likely scale and location of development means that this impact cannot be quantified at the current time, but should be taken into account as part of the planning process for any new development.

Table 6.3 – Application of the quantity standard

Area	Current Shortfall / Surplus when measured against local standard (hectares)	Future Shortfall / Surplus when measured against local standard (hectares)
Central	-21.30	-28.97
North East	13.72	3.59
North West	-3.92	-11.30
South East	6.16	-4.19
South West	2.48	-4.95
Overall	-2.85	-45.82

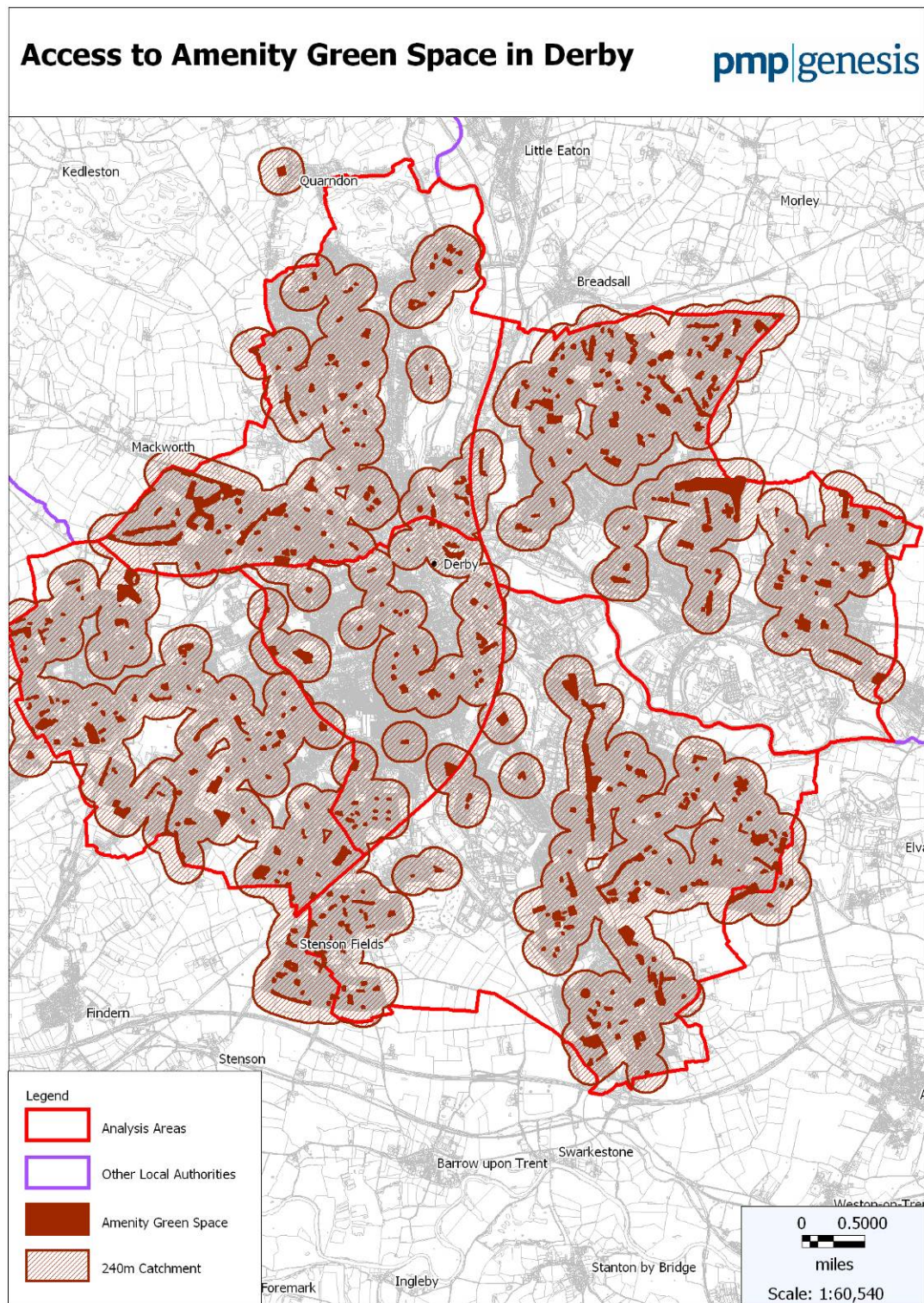
- 6.27 Table 6.3 indicates the following:
- the current provision of amenity green space is insufficient to meet demand. Based on future population increases there will be a large expected shortfall of over 45 hectares. This suggests that new provision may be required to accommodate future demand;
 - the greatest shortfall of amenity green space is located in the Central Area. This is unsurprising given the urban nature of this area; and
 - only within the North East Area is the provision of amenity green space sufficient to meet demand.
- 6.28 The above findings indicate that there may be a requirement to increase the provision of amenity green space within the City. Due to the nature of the Central Area, which contains Derby City Centre where land is at a premium and housing is perhaps at its most dense, alternative solutions such as green roofs and tree planting may need to be considered within this area. This will be returned to later in this section.

Accessibility

- 6.29 The application of the accessibility standard for amenity green space is outlined in Map 6.1 on page 132.

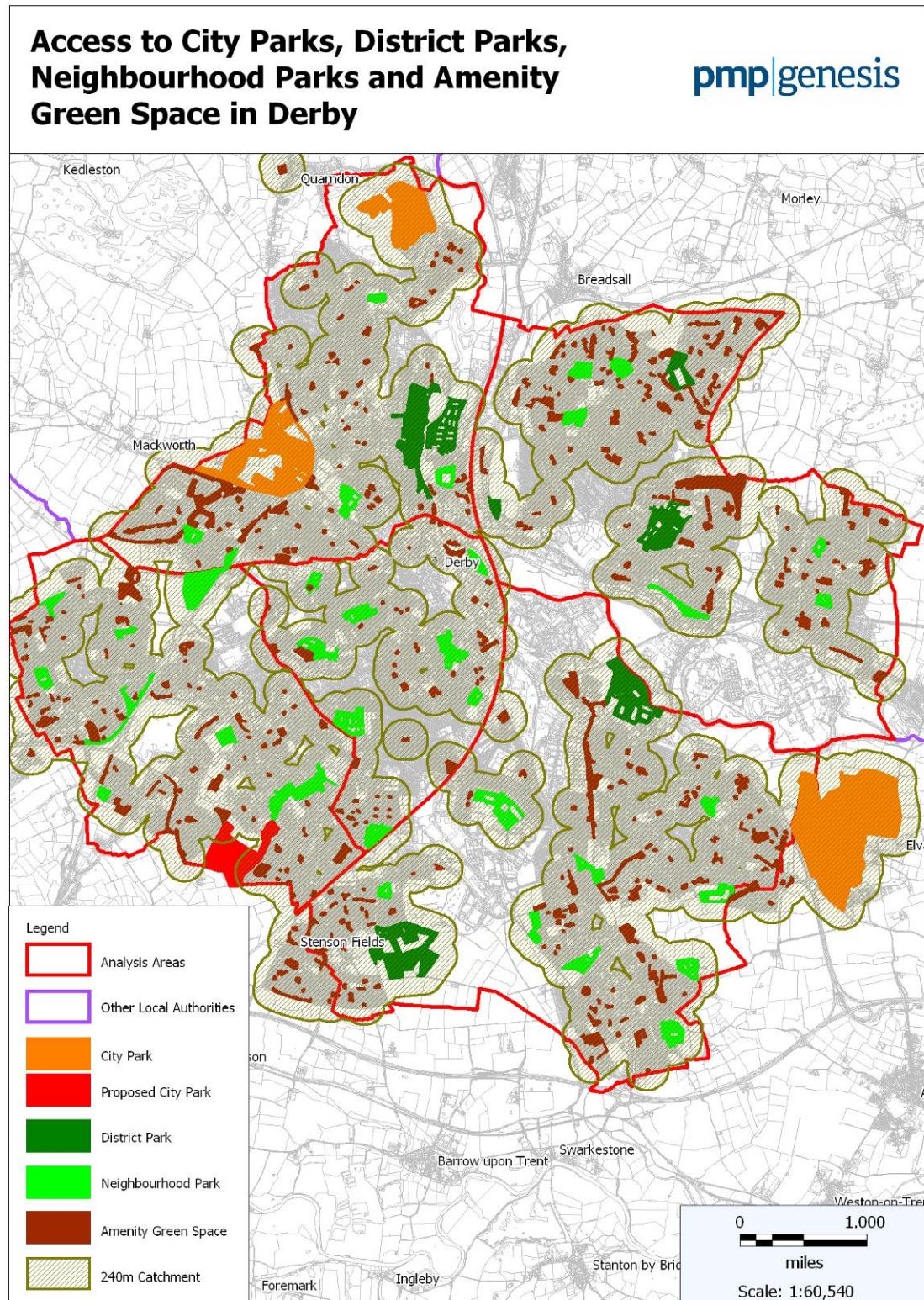
- 6.30 Map 6.2 considers the interrelationship between amenity green space and parks. Where residents are within 240 metres of a park (the recommended catchment for amenity green space), as a higher order facility, the park negates the need for amenity green space.

Map 6.1 – Amenity Green Space in Derby



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Map 6.2 – Parks and amenity green space in Derby

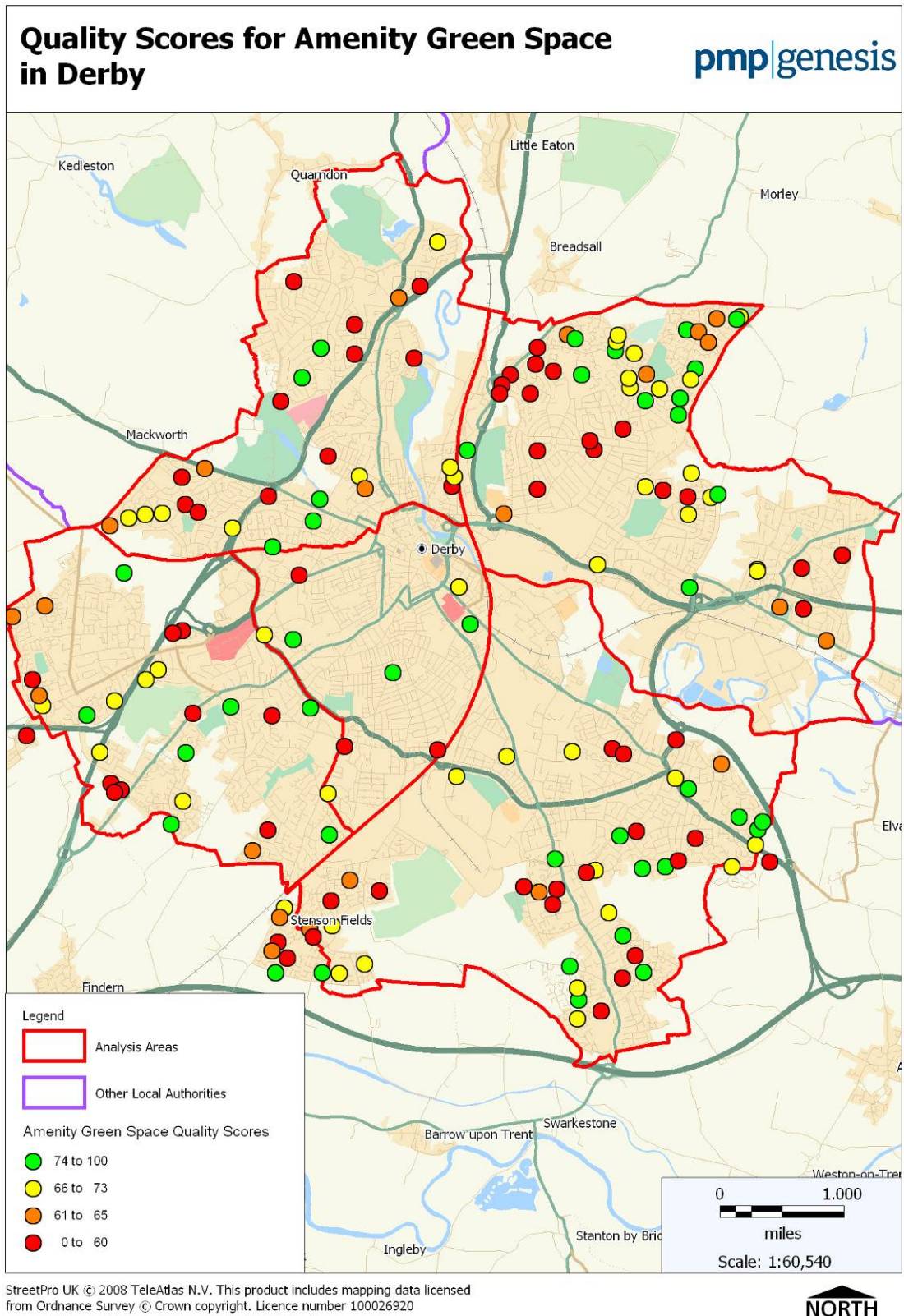


- 6.31 Map 6.1 indicates that amenity green space is relatively evenly distributed across Derby. This means that the majority of residents have access to a site within the recommended 240 metre catchment. However, despite a good distribution of provision, areas of deficiency are located to the north of Shelton Lock and west of Chaddesden.
- 6.32 Map 6.2 reveals that while some residents are outside the catchment of an amenity green space nearly all residents have access to either a park or amenity green space. This means that nearly all residents have access to some form of informal open space and the location of parks in areas deficient in amenity green space negates the need for amenity green space. Although deficiencies appear to remain in some parts of the city, particularly in the south of the South East area, these areas of land are non-residential and are therefore of limited significance.

Quality

- 6.33 The quality scores for amenity green space across the City, based on site assessments, have been divided into quartiles to simplify interpretation. Map 6.3 overleaf illustrates the quality of amenity green space in Derby, identifying the distribution of low quality and high quality sites.
- 6.34 Map 6.3 also indicates that there are clusters of poor quality sites distributed across Derby. Clusters are particularly evident in the west of Oakwood, Chellaston and Stenson Fields. This suggests that significant qualitative enhancements are required to amenity green space in some parts of Derby.

Map 6.3 – Quality of Amenity Green Space in Derby



Priorities for Future Delivery

- 6.35 This section considers the city wide issues that need to be addressed. Consideration is also given to issues within specific parts of the city where appropriate.
- 6.36 In line with the principals of PPG17, the priorities are set out under the headings of:
- Quality enhancements
 - Protection of existing provision
 - Redesignation and disposal
 - New provision
 - Enhancing access routes

Quality Enhancements

- 6.37 The need for a balance between the quantity and quality of amenity green space was identified during local consultation. Amenity green space was only perceived to be valuable if it was well maintained and the need to improve the functionality of amenity green space was identified during consultation. It was indicated that amenity spaces can easily become misused and attract anti-social behaviour if they are not adequately maintained.
- 6.38 Amenity green spaces falling below the recommended quality score should be enhanced. In particular, the lowest scoring sites are in need of improvement. Improvement to the quality of facilities is particularly important where sites serve unique catchments.
- 6.39 The recommended quality vision, based upon local consultation, identifies effective maintenance and a range of flowers, trees and shrubs as essential features of a high quality amenity green spaces. Site assessments found that ancillary accommodation, security and safety are the factors that require most improvement at amenity green spaces.

AGS1	<p>Enhance the quality of amenity green spaces in the City to achieve a minimum quality score of 74%. Increased ancillary accommodation and an improved security and safety (for example, lighting and boundaries) will significantly increase the overall value of sites to local residents.</p> <p>Priorities for improvement should be those sites which fall in the bottom quartile and in particular, sites which provide the only informal recreation opportunity in the area.</p>
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Central Area

- 6.40 River Gardens (80%), St Clares Close (80%), Church Street (80%) and Barlow Street (75%) are the only sites in the Central Area that achieved a quality score that exceeds the target of 74%. These sites were perceived to be well maintained and have clearly defined boundaries.

- 6.41 Although there are some high quality sites in the Central Area, five sites achieved quality scores of 60% and below, highlighting the need for significant enhancement. These sites are outlined in Table 6.4 overleaf.

Table 6.4 – Lowest Scoring Sites in the Central Area

Site Name	Quality Score	Site Comments
Holmfield	36%	Maintenance at this site was rated as very poor.
Sherwood Recreation Ground	54%	Lots of litter was found on this site and there is a need to increase the provision of site infrastructure, such as bins and benches.
Rowditch Recreational Ground	60%	This site was perceived to be in need of increased maintenance and ancillary accommodation.

North East Area

- 6.42 12 amenity green space sites in the North East Area achieved quality scores that exceeded the recommended target of 74%. These sites were generally perceived to be well maintained, well lit and contain sufficient ancillary accommodation such as bins and benches.
- 6.43 18 sites achieved quality scores of 60% and below and are consequently in need of significant enhancement. The lowest scoring sites are outlined in Table 6.5 below.

Table 6.5 – Lowest Scoring Sites in the North East Area

Site Name	Quality Score	Site Comments
Craddock Avenue	35%	This site was overgrown and contained no ancillary accommodation.
Borrow Wood Recreational Ground	40%	Litter was found on this site and equipment was vandalised. The need for increased ancillary accommodation was highlighted.
Wiltshire Road	53%	A lack of maintenance was evident with vegetation overgrown at this site.
Lathkill Road	53%	The cleanliness and maintenance of this site was rated as poor.

North West Area

- 6.44 Five sites achieved quality scores that exceed the target quality score of 74%. These sites were generally considered to be clean and tidy and have clearly defined boundaries.
- 6.45 14 amenity green space sites achieved quality scores of 60% or below highlighting the need for significant qualitative enhancement. The lowest scoring sites in the North West Area are outlined in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 – Lowest Scoring Sites in the North West Area

Site Name	Quality Score	Site Comments
Queensway/Markeaton Street	52%	Litter was evident at this site and the need for increased ancillary accommodation (for example bins and benches) was highlighted.
Kingsley Road	53%	Security and safety at this site was rated as poor and the need for increased maintenance was highlighted.
Weirfield Road	55%	This site was neglected with the overgrown grass. No ancillary accommodation was found at this site.
St Pancras Way	60%	This site was generally rated as average. No specific issues were noted.

South East Area

- 6.46 11 sites in the South East Area achieved quality scores in line or above the target quality score of 74%. These sites were clean and well maintained and had clearly defined boundaries, such as fences and shrubs.
- 6.47 18 sites achieved quality scores of 60% or below. These sites are in need of significant qualitative enhancement. The lowest scoring sites in the South East Area are identified in Table 6.7.

Table 6.7 – Lowest Scoring Sites in the South East Area

Site Name	Quality Score	Site Comments
Brighton Road Public Open Space (Upper and Lower sites)	40%	Maintenance at these sites was particularly poor. Litter and dog foul were found on these sites and vegetation was overgrown. No ancillary accommodation was found at these sites.
The Chase	55%	This site was generally rated as average. No ancillary accommodation, such as bins and benches, is located at this site.
Maple Drive	55%	This site was generally rated as average. No ancillary accommodation, such as bins and benches, is located at this site.

South West Area

- 6.48 Seven sites achieved quality scores in line with or above the recommended target quality score of 74%. These sites were well maintained and contain good provision of ancillary accommodation.
- 6.49 13 sites achieved quality scores of 60% or below highlighting the need for qualitative enhancements. The lowest scoring sites in the South West Area are outlined in Table 6.8.

Table 6.8 – Lowest Scoring Sites in the South West Area

Site Name	Quality Score	Site Comments
Parkstone Court	40%	A lack of maintenance was evident at this site. The need for increased ancillary accommodation was highlighted.
Gray Close	40%	Lots of litter was found on this site and a lack of bins and benches was noted.
Cascades Grove	48%	A significant amount of litter was found on this site, litter bins were overflowing and graffiti was found on the bench.

Protection

- 6.50 Amenity green space is a valued type of open space within Derby, providing residents with access to local informal recreation opportunities. They are also used frequently - a quarter of residents use amenity green space at least once a week. This type of open space is particularly important in areas such as Stenson Fields where there is a lack of other forms of informal open space. In light of the importance of amenity green space, valuable sites - those which serve unique catchments and those which are frequently used - should be protected from development.
- 6.51 Like parks, as well as providing a recreational function, amenity green spaces are particularly valuable from an environmental perspective. These spaces help to counteract flood risk and also promote urban cooling. The aesthetic/landscape value of such provision was also recognised frequently during consultation and these spaces are particularly valuable when located in areas of dense housing development.

AGS2	Planning policy should protect valuable amenity green spaces from development. Valuable amenity green spaces include those which serve unique catchments and those which are frequently used.
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Redesignation and Disposal

- 6.52 There are a number of amenity green spaces within the City that are located in close proximity to one another and serve similar catchments. Specifically, overlapping catchments are evident across Derby, particularly in Mickleover and Mackworth. In particular, where these sites are also of poor quality, they may be of limited value to residents.
- 6.53 Where the value of a site is considered to be limited, consideration should be given to the disposal of this site and the proceeds used to enhance the quality of a nearby site. Application of the quantity standards does however indicate that there are shortfalls in some areas in Derby. While these sites are not required to meet accessibility standards, prior to the disposal of sites, consideration should be given to the adequacy of the remaining sites to meet the needs of residents, particularly with regards to accommodating future population increases.
- 6.54 Before considering the disposal of an amenity green space site it will be important to contemplate alternative uses for the site. For example, although the site may not be valuable in its current form as an amenity green space for recreational purposes, there may be a deficiency of natural open space and therefore the site could be designated as natural open space to alleviate existing deficiencies. Alternatively, the site could be used to meet deficiencies in allotments or outdoor sports. Consideration of the need for the site to fulfil different functions prior to disposal is in line with recommendations in PPG17. As well as the recreational function of sites, consideration should also be given to the wider role that the site plays in adapting to climate change, mitigating flood risk and also in the connectivity of the green network of the city.

AGS3	Consideration of the disposal of an amenity green space proven surplus to requirements should only be given if the site is not required for alternative use for either environmental or recreational purposes.
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- 6.55 There are a number of locations in Derby where residents are outside the recommended catchment of a park but are in close proximity to amenity green space. In these circumstances, should demand be sufficient, consideration should be given to upgrading an amenity green space to a park. Section 4 identified a number of amenity green space sites that should be upgraded to park standards. These sites are:
- Riverside Gardens (Central Area); and
 - Derby Canal Walk and Coleman Street Meadow (South East Area).
- 6.56 Upgrading these sites for the purpose of a park will decrease access deficiencies for parks in these areas of the City and, as a higher order facility, negate the need for amenity green space in these locations.

New Provision

- 6.57 The local quantity standard for amenity green space has been set above the existing level of provision, indicating that there is a need for additional amenity green space in some parts of the City.
- 6.58 Application of the quantity standard indicates that there is currently a minor shortfall of amenity green space in Derby (2.85 hectares). In order to identify specific areas of deficiency it is important to take an accessibility led approach.
- 6.59 Future population projections suggest that pressure on existing amenity green space will increase significantly, creating an overall shortfall of over 45 hectares by 2026. It will therefore be important to ensure that amenity green space is provided as part of new developments.

AGS4	Ensure that policy requires contributions towards amenity green space as part of new development in line with the standards set out in this report. Promote an accessibility led approach to determine levels of provision required as part of new development.
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- 6.60 The requirement for new provision with Derby is summarised by area below.

Central Area

- 6.61 The greatest quantitative shortfall of amenity green space is located in the Central Area. Based on future population projections there will be a shortfall of 28.97 hectares by 2026. Quantitative analysis supports the findings of the consultation with the greatest dissatisfaction with the provision of amenity green space identified by residents in this area of the City.
- 6.62 Despite a large shortfall in quantitative terms, accessibility mapping reveals that there is a good distribution of amenity green space in the Central Area which means that the majority of residents have access to a site within the recommended 240 metre catchment. Pockets of deficiency are however evident in Normanton and to the west of the city centre.
- 6.63 When considering the provision of parks in the Central Area nearly all residents have access to either a park or amenity green space within a 240 metre catchment. As a higher order facility, the presence of a park therefore negates the need for amenity green space. The only clear remaining deficiency is located in Derby City Centre.

- 6.64 Due to the nature of Derby City Centre, increasing the provision of amenity green space will be extremely challenging and therefore the Council will need to consider alternative solutions such as green walls, green roofs and street trees to improve the green infrastructure of the city centre. Such solutions can help adapt to the effects of and mitigate climate change and create an attractive landscape in dense urban areas, where the provision of a recreational space is not possible. Where there is a particular gap in recreational provision, the creation of home zones should be considered. This involves evolving the design of the street environment to ensure it promotes safe play (for example pedestrianisation, tree lined streets and seating).

AGS5	Consider alternative solutions such as green roofs, green walls, home zones and street trees to improve green infrastructure in the city centre.
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- 6.65 As previously identified, future population projections suggest that there will be a large shortfall of amenity green space by 2026. It will be important to ensure that existing provision is able to accommodate future population increases. Demand for amenity green space in the Central Area should be monitored and opportunities to increase the provision of amenity green space as part of housing developments should be considered.

North East Area

- 6.66 Application of the accessibility standard indicates that there is a good distribution of amenity green space in the North East Area which means that the nearly all residents have access to a site within the recommended catchment. However, a key area of deficiency is evident in Chaddesden to the north of Nottingham Road Cemetery.
- 6.67 Quantitative analysis supports the findings of the application of the accessibility standard indicating that the current provision of amenity green space is sufficient to meet current and future demand.
- 6.68 In addition to the lack of access to amenity green space in the area of deficiency, residents are also outside the catchment of a park and natural open space. This means that there is a lack of access to informal open space in this area of the City. As previously highlighted in Section 4, the majority of residents do have private gardens, which means that the need for amenity green space is not a priority. However, in light of the lack of access to this type of open space within this area, opportunities to provide new amenity green space to the north of Nottingham Road Cemetery should be seized.

AGS6	Seize opportunities to increase the provision of amenity green space to the north of Nottingham Road Cemetery.
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North West Area

- 6.69 Application of the quantity standard indicates that the current provision of amenity green space is insufficient to meet demand, with there being a shortfall of 3.92 hectares. This shortfall is expected to increase significant and based on future population increases there will be an expected shortfall of 11.30 hectares.
- 6.70 Although there is a quantitative shortfall of amenity green space, accessibility mapping reveals that this type of open space is well distributed across the Area which means that nearly all residents

have access to a site within the 240 metre catchment. Only pockets of deficiency are evident in the east of Darley Abbey and west of Allestree (near Woodlands Community School).

- 6.71 When amalgamating the provision of amenity green space other forms of informal open space (parks and natural open space) nearly all residents have access to at least one of these types of open space within a 240 metre catchment. Only a small area of deficiency remains in the west of Allestree.
- 6.72 Although residents in the west of Allestree are outside the catchment of informal open space, houses in this area do have large private gardens and they are located in close proximity to Allestree Park (a city park). Increasing the provision of amenity green space in this area of the City is therefore not a priority. Focus should therefore be placed on increasing access to Allestree Park through the improvement of public transport and sustainable transport routes (for example cycleways and walkways).

AGS7	Seek to increase access to Allestree Park through the development of public transport routes and sustainable transport routes.
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- 6.73 Policy L4 (18) of the *City of Derby Local Plan Review 2006* indicates 5.9 hectares land to the rear of Kedleston Grange in Allestree has been allocated for open space. This open space is located in the area of existing deficiency in the west of Allestree and these plans should therefore be supported.

AGS8	Support the proposal to increase the provision of open space to the rear of Kedleston Grange in Allestree as outlined in policy L4 (18) of the <i>City of Derby Local Plan Review 2006</i>.
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- 6.74 In consideration of the large future expected shortfall of amenity green space in the Area (11.64 hectares) demand for increased provision should be monitored. It will be important to ensure that the capacity of existing provision is able to accommodate future population growth.

AGS9	Monitor demand for increased provision of amenity green space in the North West Area. Should demand be sufficient, seek to increase the provision of amenity green space.
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South East Area

- 6.75 Quantitative analysis indicates that the current provision of amenity green space is sufficient to meet demand. However, based on future population projections there will be an expected shortfall of 4.19 hectares. This indicates that pressure on existing provision will increase significantly in the future.
- 6.76 Accessibility mapping supports the findings of the application standard illustrating that the majority of sites are located in the east which means that areas of deficiency are evident in the west of the area. A key area of deficiency is located in the south of Chellaston.
- 6.77 When considering the provision of amenity green space and parks, all residents have access to at least one of these types of open space within a 240 metre catchment. The location of a park in existing areas of deficiency negates the need for amenity green space. Increasing the provision of

amenity green space in the Area is therefore not a priority. However, in consideration of the large expected shortfall of amenity green space by 2026 (4.19 hectares) demand for increased provision should be monitored and amenity green space provided should demand be sufficient.

AGS10	Monitor demand for increased provision of amenity green space in the South East Area. Should demand be sufficient, seek to increase the provision of amenity green space.
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South West Area

- 6.78 Application of the accessibility standard indicates that nearly all residents have access to an amenity green space within the recommended 240m catchment. Supporting the findings of the application of the accessibility standard, the provision of amenity green space is sufficient to meet current demand.
- 6.79 In addition to the good level of access to amenity green space there is also a good distribution of parks in the South West Area. Based on the high level of access to informal open space and sufficient provision of amenity green space in the Area there is no requirement for increased provision of amenity green space in this area of the City. Increases in the population will however require additional provision to ensure that the overall quantity of space remains adequate, with there being an expected shortfall of 4.95 hectares by 2026.

Increasing Access to Sites

- 6.80 There is currently a good distribution of amenity green space in the City and the majority of residents have access to a site within the recommended 240 metre catchment. However, increasing access to amenity green space within areas of the City, such as Stenson Fields, where there is a lack of other forms of informal open space is particularly important.
- 6.81 Amenity green space forms an important part of the green infrastructure network in Derby and can play an important role in providing linkages to other larger open spaces, such as parks and natural open space. Improving footpaths, disabled access and ensuring safe routes will be priorities for increasing access to amenity green space.

AGS11	Seek to increase access to amenity green space, particularly in locations of the City where this type of open space is the only local form of informal open space. Improving footpaths, disabled access and ensuring safe routes will be important.
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- 6.82 Amenity green space is an important form of local open space in Derby. In order to maximise access to amenity green space in the City, it is important that this type of open space links with the Public Rights of Way Network and is accessible to residents living in all parts of villages. The creation of connections between amenity green spaces and larger green spaces in Derby will be essential if an overall joined up network of green space is to be created.
- 6.83 There is a large network of footpaths, cycle routes and river walkways within Derby and utilising these natural resources could increase access to amenity green space and to other larger spaces significantly. There are a number of proposals within the *6C's Green Infrastructure Study* that support the development of the green infrastructure network and increase the use of sustainable travel in Derby. The strategy identifies the River Derwent Greenway as a significant opportunity to

develop the green infrastructure network in Derby. The *6C's Green Infrastructure Study* and the green infrastructure network in Derby are discussed in further detail in Section 12.

Summary

- 6.84 The value of amenity green space was recognised during consultation. This type of open 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 this amenity green space at least once a week. The aesthetic / landscape value of such sites was also recognised.
- 6.85 Application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards indicate that there is a need for significant qualitative enhancements to this type of open space in Derby and opportunities for increased provision should be considered in light of the large expected future shortfall of amenity green space in the City. It will therefore be important to ensure that new developments include the provision of amenity green space to meet the needs of the projected future population.
- 6.86 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 will need to be considered.
- 6.87 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of amenity green spaces in Derby should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are to:
- seek to enhance the quality of amenity green spaces in the City, aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 74%;
 - protect valuable amenity green space from residential development, protecting sites where usage is particularly high and /or the site is the only green space within a catchment area. Only consider disposal where the site is surplus to requirements and not required for any other use as open space;
 - ensure new developments contribute to the provision of amenity green space;
 - consider alternative solutions such as green roofs, green walls and street trees in Derby city centre to address existing deficiencies;
 - seize opportunities to increase the provision of amenity green space to the north of Nottingham Road Cemetery; and
 - support the proposal to increase the provision of open space to the rear of Kedleston Grange in Allestree as outlined in policy L4 (18) of the City of Derby Local Plan Review 2006.