

9. Outdoor Sports Facilities

09

Introduction and definition

- 9.1 PPG17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, indoor and outdoor are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities in Derby.
- 9.2 Outdoor sports facilities are a wide ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are either publicly or privately owned.
- 9.3 Facilities included within this category are:
- Natural turf playing pitches (including football, rugby, cricket and hockey)
 - Synthetic turf pitches
 - Tennis courts
 - Bowling greens
 - Athletics tracks
- 9.4 Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point of a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of pitches, which often have a secondary function of dog walking and 'kickabout' areas. In particular, outdoor sports facilities in some of the outlying areas of the City are particularly multifunctional.
- 9.5 The effective provision of formal and informal facilities for sports will be instrumental if participation is to increase in line with national and local targets, which seek to get one million people more active by 2012.

Context

- 9.6 As mentioned in the previous section, the County Built Facility Strategy identifies the need for increased and improved athletics facilities (indoor and outdoor). In addition to this, the Leisure Facilities Business Case Study also identifies a demand for cycling facilities including a velodrome and closed road cycle circuit.
- 9.7 The need for additional outdoor facilities in Derby, as well as required improvements to existing facilities will be considered in this section.

Local Context

- 9.8 The City of Derby Local Plan Review 2006 emphasises the importance of protecting outdoor sports facilities from development, with Policy L6 indicating that planning permission will not be granted for development which would involve the loss of land previously or currently used for sport or recreational purposes unless a series of criteria are met.

- 9.9 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.
- 9.10 Other policies relating to outdoor sports facilities currently include:
- Policy E1 which indicates that planning permission will only be granted in the Green Belt for essential facilities including outdoor sports and outdoor recreation grounds; and
 - Policy E2 which states that development will only be permitting in Green Wedges for purposes including outdoor sport and recreation, nature conservation areas and cemeteries.
- 9.11 The aim of Derby's Physical Activity Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy is to make Derby the most active city by 2015. Objectives of the strategy include creating active communities and environments, increasing physical activity and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. The effective provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities can contribute significantly to achieving the objectives of this strategy.
- 9.12 The strategy also identifies that Derby will celebrate major national sporting events such as London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and England 2018 World Cup bid. These major sporting events have the potential to significantly increase participation in Derby and it will be important that potential future increases in demand are taken into account.
- 9.13 Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand led and although over two thirds of respondents to the household survey indicated that they don't use any facilities, 18% of respondents use outdoor sports facilities at least once a week. Outdoor sports facilities are therefore highly valued in Derby.

Quantity of provision

- 9.14 The total amount of land dedicated to outdoor sports facilities is 342.01 hectares (excluding golf courses). Golf courses have been excluded from calculations due to their tendency to skew figures. These facilities include public, private (for example sports clubs) and school facilities.
- 9.15 Where facilities are located within parks, the overall area dedicated to each pitch or court has been deducted from the size of the park. This avoids double counting of site area but ensures that the presence of sports facilities within the parks is taken into account.
- 9.16 The provision of outdoor sports facilities within Derby is summarised in Table 9.1 overleaf.

Table 9.1 – Outdoor Sports Facilities in Derby

Area	Current provision (hectares)*	Number of sites*	Smallest site (hectares)*	Largest site (hectares)*	Current population	Provision per 1000 population*
Central	20.20	30	0.04	6.22	39573	0.51
North East	90.80	39	0.07	27.60	52201	1.74
North West	65.60	42	0.11	7.17	38277	1.71
South East	97.72	57	0.06	10.06	53280	1.83
South West	67.69	37	0.09	10.04	38301	1.77
Overall	342.01	205	0.04	27.60	221,632	1.54

* excluding golf courses

9.17 The key issues emerging from Table 9.1 are:

- the current provision of outdoor sports facilities within the city equates to 1.54 hectares per 1000 population;
- the highest current provision (97.72 hectares) and provision per 1000 population (1.83) is found in the South East; and
- the lowest levels of provision are found in the central area, by a significant margin.

Consultation – assessing local needs

9.18 Responses from the household survey that relate to the quantity of outdoor sports facilities across the City are as follows:

- outdoor sports facilities are very much demand led and the typology encompasses a wide variety of different facilities. Due to the demand led and specialist nature of these facilities there is a high proportion of residents that have no opinion regarding the provision of outdoor sports facilities;
- of those that do have an opinion, there is a high level of satisfaction with the current provision of outdoor sports facilities, with the majority of residents indicating that the quantity of all types of outdoor sports facilities, except Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs), is about right. It must be noted that many of these residents are not regular users of sports facilities and will be referring to the facilities from an informal use perspective as opposed to their function for competitive sport; and
- of the five geographical areas, residents in the North West of the City portray the greatest level of satisfaction with the provision of all types of outdoor sports facilities. The highest level of dissatisfaction is found in the Central area and primarily relates to grass pitches,

synthetic turf pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts. This may reflect the fact that residents have to travel to access a number of facilities due to the urban nature of the area. The greatest level of dissatisfaction with tennis courts and golf courses is portrayed in the North East.

- 9.19 Other consultation feedback including from drop-in sessions, focus groups, elected members, and a number of surveys (children and young people, sports clubs and officers) highlighted that:
- a number of grass pitches within the City are being over used which is reducing the quality of the pitches;
 - STPs are well used and regularly full to capacity at peak times and therefore difficult to access;
 - there is a perceived lack of outdoor sports facilities in Spondon;
 - several bowling greens have been lost to development and as a consequence there are fewer facilities than in recent years;
 - elected members have higher levels of dissatisfaction with outdoor sports facilities than other consultees - there is perceived to be not enough outdoor sports facilities in the Derwent, Mickleover and Oakwood wards;
 - there is a need for additional adult provision and the current quantity of this type of facility was suggested as being poor currently;
 - priorities for the future improvement of outdoor sports facilities are split between quantity and quality;
 - the majority of children (56%) have some outdoor sports facilities near their home, but think there could be more. Almost a quarter (24%) of children feel that there are a lot of outdoor sports facilities near to where they live;
 - 55% of young people think that there are not enough outdoor sports facilities in their local area. Young people appear to feel more strongly about the lack of provision than children; and
 - tennis courts would be the one new facility that most children would like to see near their home.
- 9.20 The remainder of this section summarises firstly the quantity of outdoor sports facilities as a whole and then the supply of each of the different types of facility.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 9.21 The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation and an audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix E.
- 9.22 This standard represents a broad standard only which can be used to determine the levels of contribution required from new development. The provision of specific facilities and the adequacy of those facilities to meet local needs will need to be interpreted through specific studies, such as a playing pitch strategy. Localised demand for each type of facility is discussed later in this section and standards to determine the adequacy of each type of facility required are suggested.

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

Current Provision	Recommended Standard
1.54 hectares per 1000 people	1.54 hectares per 1000 people

Justification

Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand led and the outdoor sports facility typology encompasses a wide variety of different facilities including athletics tracks, pitches, golf courses and bowling greens. In order to understand the demand for outdoor sports facilities in a greater level of detail, it is therefore essential to consider each type of sports facility separately.

Household survey findings highlight satisfaction with the provision of all facilities except STPs. However, the current provision of STPs is above national and regional averages (based on Active Places Power). The Business Case Study recommends that the current provision of STPs is retained.

In light of the evident level of satisfaction with the provision of outdoor sports facilities, it is recommended that the local standard is set at the existing level of provision. Setting a standard at the existing level of provision will allow for a focus on enhancing the quality of, and increasing access to, existing facilities.

Current provision - quality

- 9.23 The quality of existing outdoor sports facilities was assessed through site visits undertaken by pmpgenesis. Outdoor sports facilities located on school sites were not assessed as part of the site visit programme although they are considered within this assessment of outdoor sports. The key issues emerging from site assessments are discussed later in this section within the sports specific commentary.
- 9.24 The site visits undertaken assess the outdoor sport site as a whole and do not specifically consider the degree to which a facility can be considered fit for purpose. Assessments considering this issue would be required as part of more detailed facility specific studies. The site visits do, however, provide an indication as to potential issues arising at sites and specific comments are made where sites are perceived to be particularly good or particularly poor.
- 9.25 Issues arising from consultation with regards to the quality of outdoor sports facilities include:
 - the quality of outdoor sports facilities is generally perceived to be average (43%) or good (30%) by respondents to the household survey. 22% of residents hold the contrasting viewpoint, considering the quality of facilities to be poor;
 - the citywide findings are reflected in the five geographical areas, with the quality of outdoor sports facilities identified as either average or good. The greatest level of satisfaction is found in the South East, where 45% of residents rate the quality of facilities as good;
 - other consultations generally reflect the findings of the household survey. The quality of outdoor sports facilities was considered to be average by respondents to the elected members' survey. However, at the elected members workshop it was stated that the quality

of facilities is varied. The quality of outdoor sports facilities was considered to be relatively high by respondents to the officers' survey, with respondents considering the quality of facilities to be average (34%) or good (23%);

- almost half of respondents (47%) to the children's survey indicated that outdoor sports facilities are sometimes unclean, with litter. Young people were perhaps more negative in their perceptions of the quality of outdoor sports facilities. 36% of young people stated that the quality of outdoor sports facilities is average, but could do with some improvements and 36% of respondents felt that the quality of facilities is poor and in need of extensive improvement;
- the quality of athletics facilities was considered to be average or good by responding athletics clubs. High specification facilities, organised coaching, changing facilities and keeping prices low were identified as the features that clubs would prioritise if new facilities were provided;
- Three quarters of responding clubs indicated that the quality of facilities for cricket is average. All responding clubs stated that the quality of facilities was the main issue affecting their club. The majority of responding clubs (75%) stated that they get value for money in relation to the quality of facilities and 50% of responding clubs indicated that they would be willing to pay more for hiring facilities if the additional costs went to improving facilities; and
- at the neighbourhood drop in sessions MUGAs within the City were highlighted as poor quality and it was stated that there is a lack of use of high quality MUGAs (floodlit) located on school sites. Schools run community programmes in line with the Extended Schools agenda. School governing bodies have responsibility for managing community access to their sites and therefore the level of access outside of school hours varies. The football pitches at the Racecourse were identified as high quality. It was stated that the site has recently had upgraded changing facilities. However, a lack of changing facilities for junior teams across the City was highlighted. A number of grass pitches within the City were identified as being over used, with three or four matches being played on both Saturday and Sundays. This was perceived to reduce the quality of the pitches due to overuse.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 9.26 The recommended local quality standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix E.
- 9.27 The recommended target quality score for outdoor sports facilities has been set at 81%.
- 9.28 There are two key components to the effective provision of outdoor sports facilities in Derby, specifically:
- ensuring that facilities are fit for purpose in terms of the construction of the pitch, court or green; and
 - ensuring that the management of these facilities is effective and meets local aspirations.
- 9.29 The quality standard below highlights the key aspirations for sports facilities emerging from public consultation. In addition to this, facilities should meet National Governing Body and Sport England quality criteria. These criteria are summarised in Appendix G.

Quality standard (see Appendix E)

Recommended Quality Standard

Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the vision for outdoor sports facilities should incorporate:

Essential	Desirable
Clean/litter free	Appropriate specification for key users (designed in accordance with National Governing Body guidance)
Good site access	Changing facilities
Parking facilities	Toilets
Appropriately maintained.	Accessible pricing

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 9.30 The accessibility of sites is important for maximising usage. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived from the findings of the local consultations.
- 9.31 The preferred mode of travel to an outdoor sports facility varies by type of facility with a preference towards driving to STPs, golf courses and athletics track and a preference towards walking to tennis courts, bowling greens and grass pitches. The latter may be influenced by those residents who wish to use pitches for informal use, as well as for competitive football.
- 9.32 Although the majority of residents would expect to drive or walk to outdoor sports facilities, access to outdoor sports facilities by public transport and by bicycle was also identified as important.
- 9.33 Continuing to increase usage of schools that are open to the community was identified as a key priority by consultees at the Derwent Revive Healthy Living Centre drop in session. It was reported that there are variations in the degree to which schools currently open up their facilities for community use.
- 9.34 Elected Members highlighted opportunities to increase community use of school facilities as well as the university facilities to maximise the use of resources. Increasing access to school facilities will be important particularly if standards with regards grass pitches are to be met.
- 9.35 The cost of outdoor sports facilities was identified as a barrier to access by residents at the Derwent Revive Healthy Living Centre drop in session.
- 9.36 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix E. The recommended standard reflects the different aspirations for different types of facility.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix E)

Recommended Accessibility Standard

10 minute walk time to grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens

10 minute drive time to synthetic turf pitches, golf courses and athletics tracks

Justification

Residents expressed a willingness to drive to access more strategic facilities, with the majority of residents expecting to drive to golf courses, athletics tracks and STPs. The expectations of residents with regards grass pitches are perhaps influenced with those expecting to travel to reach pitches for competitive sport purposes and those wishing to use pitches for a kick about. Residents also expressed a preference to have tennis courts and bowling greens within walking distance from their home.

The recommended travel times are based on the preferred travel mode and mean expected travel time indicated by respondents to the household survey. These standards reflect the expectation that grass pitches are expected to be provided in close proximity to the home and the expectation to travel to more specialised facilities, such as synthetic turf pitches. Whilst a walk time standard for grass pitches will be applied, it is recognised that for competitive sport, residents will still need to travel further and often drive to reach appropriate facilities.

Applying provision standards

Quantity

- 9.37 In order to provide an overview of sports provision in Derby, the quantity standard can be applied. This provides an understanding of the likely impact of population growth on the demand for sports facilities. This is set out in Table 9.2 overleaf. The application of the standard at a geographical area level should be treated as indicative only.
- 9.38 It must be noted, however, that this does not take into account participation increases, or consider changes in the participation profile of different facilities.
- 9.39 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.
- 9.40 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 9.2 – Application of quantity standard

Area	Current Shortfall / surplus when measured against local standard (hectares)	Future Shortfall / surplus when measured against local standard (hectares)
Central	-40.74	-54.99
North East	10.41	-8.40
North West	6.65	-7.03
South East	15.67	-3.53
South West	8.71	-5.08
Overall	0.70	-79.03

9.41 Table 9.2 highlights the following:

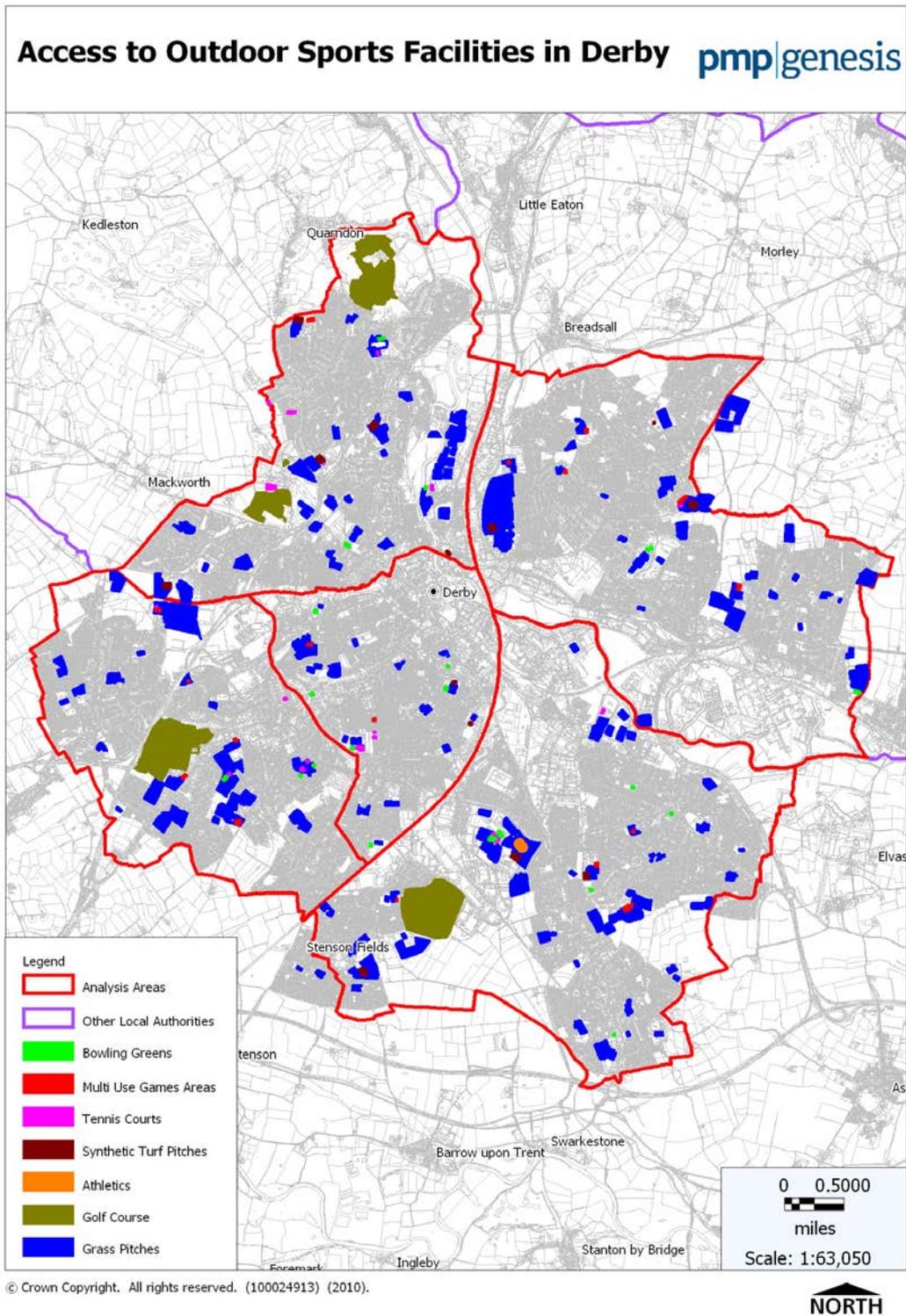
- the current provision of outdoor sports facilities is above the recommended minimum standard. Projected population increases, however, will generate a large shortfall of 79.03 hectares of outdoor sports facilities by 2026;
- despite that the overall the amount of provision citywide almost meets the recommended standard, there is a significant shortfall in provision in the central area which will increase in the future; and
- the provision of outdoor sports facilities is insufficient to meet future demand in all areas of the City. Population increases are likely to see additional facilities required to meet demand in all other areas. Population growth is likely to be particularly high in the south of the City.

9.42 These calculations do not take into account the targeted 1% increase in participation per annum or potential impact of major sporting events, such as London 2012 and England 2018. If these increases in participation were to occur, pressure on existing facilities would increase significantly.

Accessibility

9.43 Map 9.1 overleaf summarises the distribution of outdoor sports facilities in Derby.

Map 9.1 - Outdoor sports facilities in Derby



9.44 Map 9.1 indicates that:

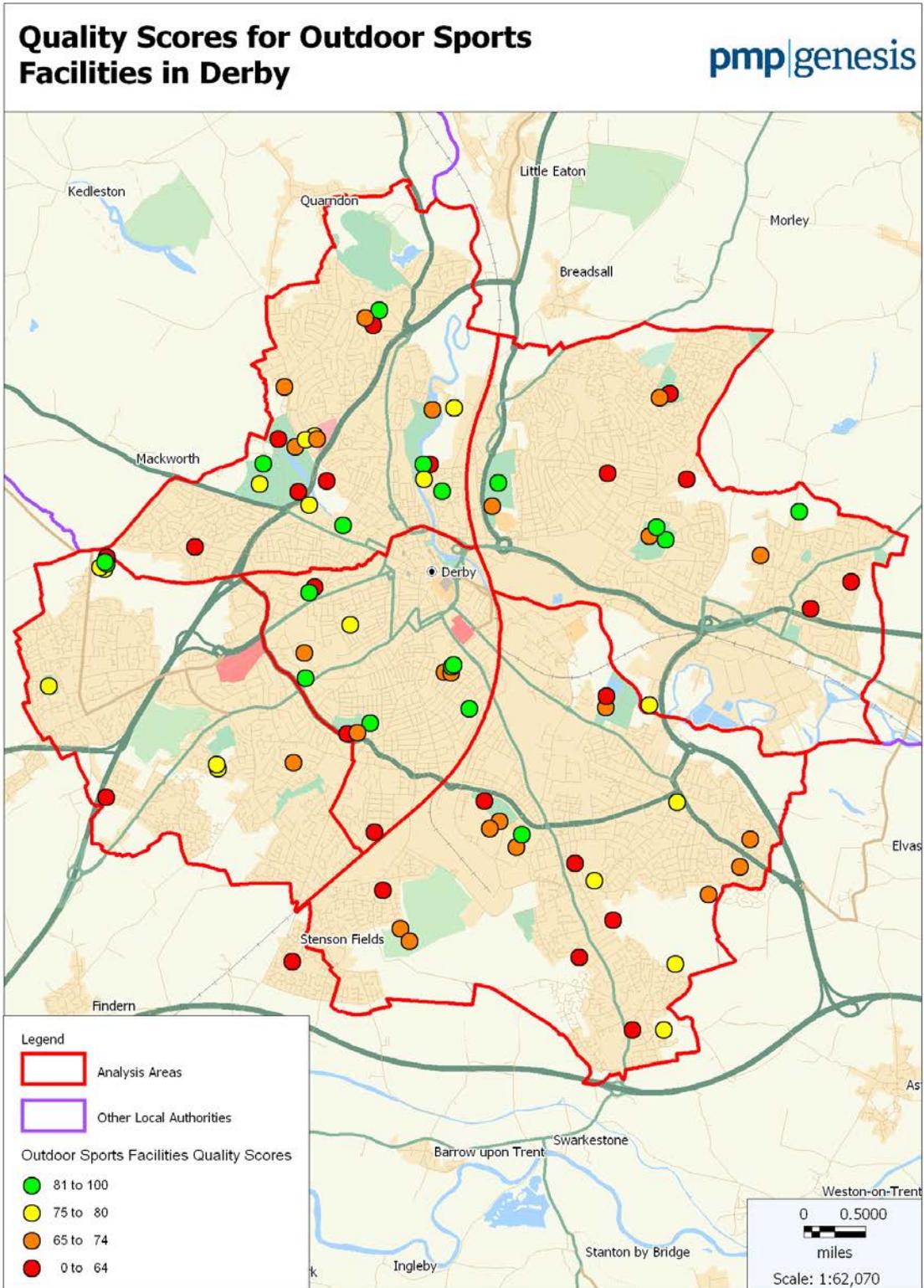
- there is a good distribution of grass pitches, which means that the majority of residents have access to grass pitches within the recommended catchment;
- there is at least one synthetic turf pitch in each geographical area with the exception of the South West. However, there is a Synthetic Turf Pitch to the south of the North West area which easily serves this area of the City;
- provision of bowling greens is fairly well spread across the City whereas the provision of tennis courts and MUGAs is not as strategically located; and
- the City's only athletics track is located at Moorways in the South East of the City which means that residents have to travel to access this type of facility.

9.45 The distribution of each type of facility will be discussed further later in this section.

Quality

9.46 The quality scores for outdoor sports facilities across the City, based on site assessments, have been divided into quartiles. Map 9.2 overleaf illustrates the quality of outdoor sports facilities in Derby, identifying low quality and high quality sites.

Map 9.2 – Quality of Outdoor Sports Facilities in Derby



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- 9.47 Map 9.2 illustrates that there are no clear patterns in the distribution of high quality and low quality sites. More detailed analysis of the quality of outdoor sports facilities will be provided within the sports specific sections.

Priorities for future delivery

- 9.48 This section highlights the main city wide issues that need to be addressed followed by sport specific issues and priorities.

Facilitation and co-ordination

- 9.49 The Leisure Facilities Business Case Study highlights the need to provide a hierarchy of provision, consisting of strategic hub facilities, satellite facilities (in the north, east, south and west of the city) as well as more local community facilities. In order to achieve this target, partnership working by a range of providers will be essential. Such providers will include the City Council, schools and voluntary clubs/groups. A coordinated approach to this provision will be essential.

OSF1	The Council should seek to support and coordinate all partners and providers of outdoor sports facilities in order to promote a coordinated approach to facility provision.
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Protection

- 9.50 The local quantity standard has been set at the existing level of provision to reflect current levels satisfaction with the provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- 9.51 In light of the importance of outdoor sports facilities to residents, and their role in increasing physical activity, it will be important to ensure that all sites are protected from development unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to demand, or that development of one site will result in improved facilities at a nearby site.
- 9.52 Paragraph 10 of PPG 17 requires that before any open space can be lost to residential development, it must be demonstrated that it is surplus to requirements, not only in terms of its existing use, but also in respect of any other functions of open space which it can perform. Sport England planning guidance highlights this point and reinforces that this requirement should be considered prior to the recommended disposal of any site.
- 9.53 Sport England places an emphasis on the protection of playing pitches and it is their policy to object to any planning application which will result in the loss of a playing field unless it meets one of the five exceptions defined in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. The five conditions are:
- a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport;
 - the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use;
 - the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the

playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site;

- the playing field or playing fields, which would be lost as a result of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development; and
- the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields

9.54 These principles should be incorporated through the provision of appropriate policies in the Local Development Framework (LDF) and are referenced further in Section 13.

9.55 There are currently no recommendations for disposal or redesignation of any sports facilities.

OSF2	Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless criteria set out in Sport England policy are met. This should be carried out through the incorporation of appropriate policies in the Local Development Framework.
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Increasing Access

9.56 Due to the urban nature of the city, access to outdoor sports facilities is not as big an issue as in more rural authorities. However, maximising access to the outlying communities through effective access routes is essential, particularly in areas of deficiency.

9.57 To maximise the usage of existing outdoor sports facilities, it is important that they are accessible by public transport. The development of the green infrastructure network (including the effective provision of footpaths and cycle routes) and improvements to public transport routes will be important if this is to be achieved.

OSF3	Seek to increase access to outdoor sports facilities within Derby. Developments to the green infrastructure network (including footpaths and cycle routes) and improvements to the public transport system will be important if this is to be achieved.
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9.58 A lack of outdoor sports facilities in certain wards was highlighted by elected members. It was suggested that greater usage could be made of school facilities in these areas. School facilities were identified as a vital resource to local residents and it was suggested that they should increase community access as part of the Extended Schools agenda.

9.59 Community use of school facilities provides a means of ensuring that residents in smaller communities still have access to local sports facilities. Use of school facilities by the community will be a key determinant of the role that schools play in community life. Successful models involving the use of schools outside of school hours have seen such facilities becoming the hub of community life.

- 9.60 In consideration of the importance of school facilities, particularly within the City's outlying areas, the Council should seek to work with school governing bodies to further encourage community use of facilities and increase access to outdoor sports facilities at all schools in the city, focusing particularly on those located in areas of deficiency (highlighted within the sport specific sections that follow).

OSF4	Continue to work with school governing bodies to further encourage community use of facilities and increase access to outdoor sports facilities at all schools.
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Sport Specific Issues

- 9.61 The remainder of this section considers sport specific issues arising from the application of standards.
- 9.62 Table 9.3 summarises the distribution of grass pitches, STPs, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks and golf courses and across Derby.

Table 9.3 – Specific Sports Sites within Derby

Area	Tennis Court sites	Grass Pitch sites	Synthetic Turf Pitch sites	Bowling Green sites	Athletics tracks	Golf courses
Central	2	18	2	6	0	0
North East	1	29	3	2	0	0
North West	6	28	5	3	0	1
South East	2	42	3	6	1	1
South West	5	25	0	2	0	1
Overall	16	142	13	19	1	3

- 9.63 Table 9.3 indicates that the highest number of facilities are located within the South East of the City. All geographical areas, however, have a good range of outdoor sports facilities. The only area without an STP is the South West.

Tennis courts

Context

- 9.64 In order to facilitate tennis development, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) intend to develop a hierarchy of provision which will include international High Performance Clubs (10 nationally), High Performance Clubs and County Accredited clubs, which will be the satellite and feeder clubs. The LTA are now focussing their investment in facilities around a club structure through their 'Club Vision' initiative.
- 9.65 The key objectives of the strategy in underpinning and enhancing the overall vision of the LTA are:
- to develop a comprehensive network of training and competition facilities;
 - continue developing all year round playing facilities – emphasising covered courts and floodlighting;
 - accelerate the building of acrylic and clay courts – the LTA's preferred performance surfaces; and
 - assist development programmes at a local level by supporting the provision of enhanced facilities.
- 9.66 Priority facility types identified include:
- Covered courts
 - Day courts
 - Floodlighting
 - Practice walls

Current Provision

- 9.67 There are currently 67 tennis courts in the City across 16 sites. This equates to 0.3 courts per 1,000 population or one court for every 3,308 residents. The largest public site is Markeaton Park which has 14 courts. Rolls Royce has 10 courts but these are not accessible to the general population.
- 9.68 The majority of courts are either located at public sites or at tennis clubs. There are a number of school sites that are available for community use.
- 9.69 In addition to the provision of tennis courts, 17 multi use games areas (MUGAs) have been identified on school sites which can also be used for tennis. There are also four public sites that provide MUGAs (three are located in parks and one at a leisure centre). MUGAs, whilst they can be used for tennis, can also be used for basketball, football, netball and more informal ball games.

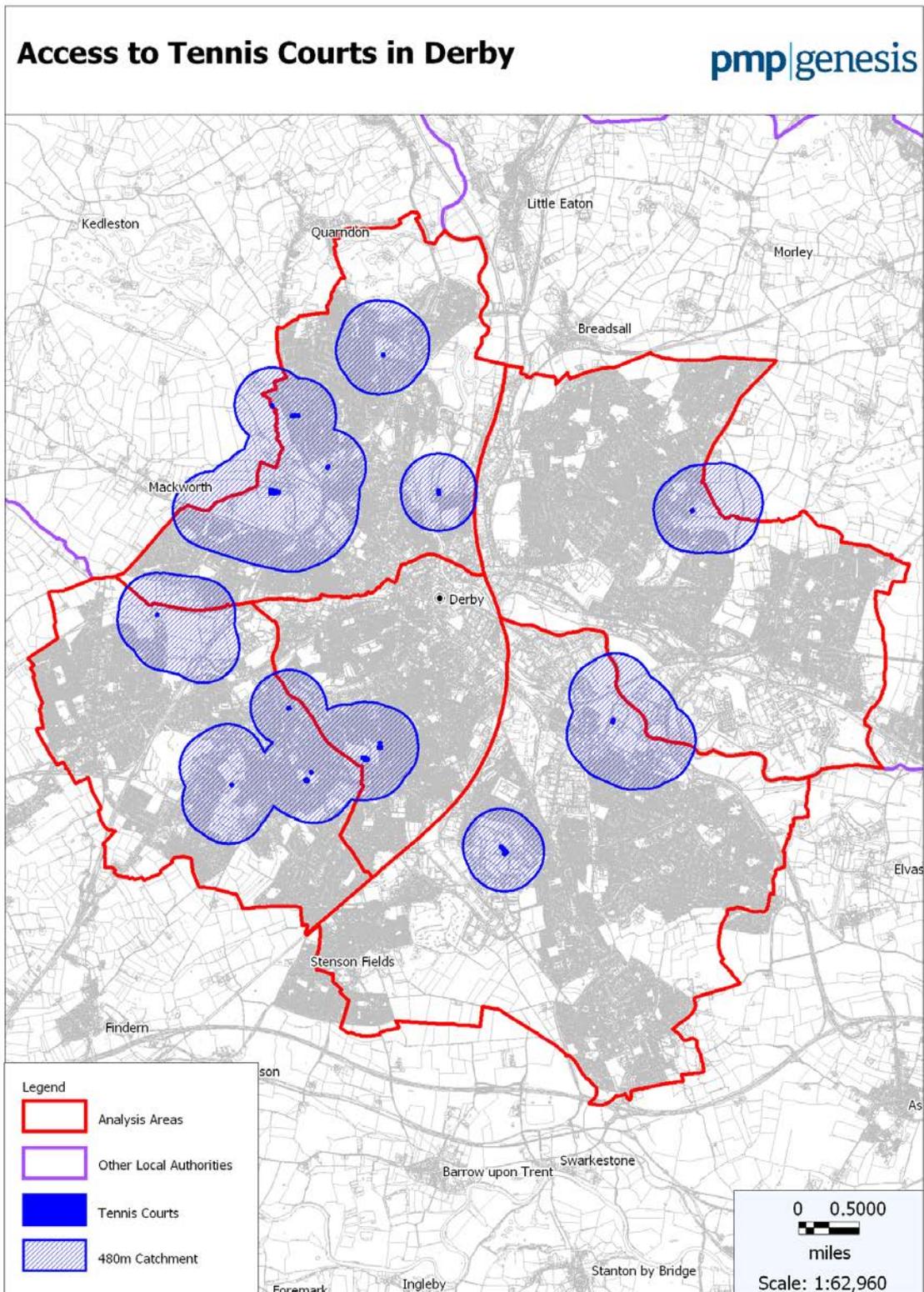
Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 9.70 The majority of household respondents had no opinion on the quantity of tennis court provision. Of those that did, a fifth said the amount of provision was about right but 18% indicates that there was not enough.
- 9.71 A difference in opinion is highlighted by survey results within the geographical areas. The majority of residents in the Central area, North West and South East feel that the provision of tennis courts is about right. However, the majority of respondents in the North East and South West indicate that there are not enough tennis courts. Large proportions of residents do not have an opinion on

the quantity of tennis courts. 10% of children indicated that tennis courts would be the one new facility they would like near their home.

- 9.72 Accessibility mapping (Map 9.3 overleaf) reveals that all not all residents have access to a tennis court within the recommended 10 minute walk time (480 metre catchment). Large areas of deficiency are evident in all geographical areas of the City.

Map 9.3 – Tennis courts in Derby



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- 9.73 The map shows that there are several overlapping catchments which means that tennis courts are not strategically located across the City. However, as identified previously there are a number of MUGAs on school sites and in public parks/leisure centres which could address some of these gaps. This emphasises the need to increase access to school sites for community use, particular those schools in areas outside the recommended catchment.
- 9.74 Whilst there are significant gaps in provision in terms of local access, the public facilities that do exist are fairly substantial, for example Markeaton Park has 14 courts. Other public parks have between one and four courts each.
- 9.75 The limited quantity of accessible tennis court facilities within the recommended walk time, alongside the levels of dissatisfaction in certain areas of the City, means that an increase in the quantity of publicly accessible pay and play tennis courts may be required. However, in the first instance, this should be achieved by providing public pay and play access to tennis courts and MUGAs located on educational sites, particularly in areas outside the recommended 10 minute walk time.
- 9.76 In consideration of the existing dissatisfaction with the current provision of tennis courts in the City (which in the case of the South West might be due to the lack of public access as much as the fact that facilities are not provided), evidence suggests that opportunities for new public tennis courts should be considered in areas of the City where there is an identified demand for tennis but only when existing facilities are fully accessible.

TENNIS1	<p>Seek to increase the provision of publicly accessible tennis courts in the City by firstly increasing access to tennis courts and Multi Use games Areas (MUGAs) located on educational sites.</p> <p>Opportunities to increase the provision of public tennis courts in areas of deficiency should be considered once existing facilities are fully accessible and demand remains.</p>
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- 9.77 Almost half (49%) of household survey respondents rated the quality of tennis court facilities as average whilst and 31% perceive the quality of them to be good or excellent. However, 20% of residents rated the quality of tennis courts as poor. This suggests that there may be a need to enhance the quality of tennis courts in Derby.
- 9.78 Site assessment findings provide a positive perception regarding the quality of tennis courts, with the quality of these sports facilities is generally rated as good (average quality score 69%). Markeaton Park Tennis Courts (90%) and Derbyshire Tennis Centre (87%) achieved quality scores that exceed the recommended quality target of 81%. The poorest quality tennis courts (that were assessed through site visits are:
- Alvaston Park Tennis Courts (49%) – This site was perceived to be poorly maintained. The site was in poor condition and there were no nets; and
 - Allestree Recreational Ground Tennis Courts (49%) – This site was also perceived to be poorly maintained with moss growing on the courts. Parking is a long walk (uphill) away from the site.

- 9.79 In addition to providing public access to facilities, consideration of the poor quality of sites and dissatisfaction with the quality of existing tennis courts, providers should enhance the quality of existing tennis courts in the city. All sites should aim to achieve a quality score of 81%. Site assessments indicate that increased ancillary accommodation and the refurbishment of equipment, such as fencing and nets, plus improved maintenance are important.

TENNIS2	Seek to enhance the quality of tennis courts across Derby. All sites should achieve a minimum quality score of 81%.
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Bowling greens

Context

- 9.80 There are 35 affiliated Counties to the English Bowling Association (EBA), to which a total of 2,700 clubs are in membership nationwide. The current national priority remains to generate interest in the game from, and increase participation figures of, young people. The scheme is a partnership initiative with the purpose of providing a pathway to enable children and young people to participate in the sport of bowls and to develop their potential to whatever appropriate level they so wish. The EBA are anticipating that all Counties will be involved during this next year so there is no reason why any young person with potential to progress in the sport should not be afforded an opportunity to be considered for these events.
- 9.81 The main rationale behind encouraging young people to the game is the declining membership figures across the country.

Current Provision

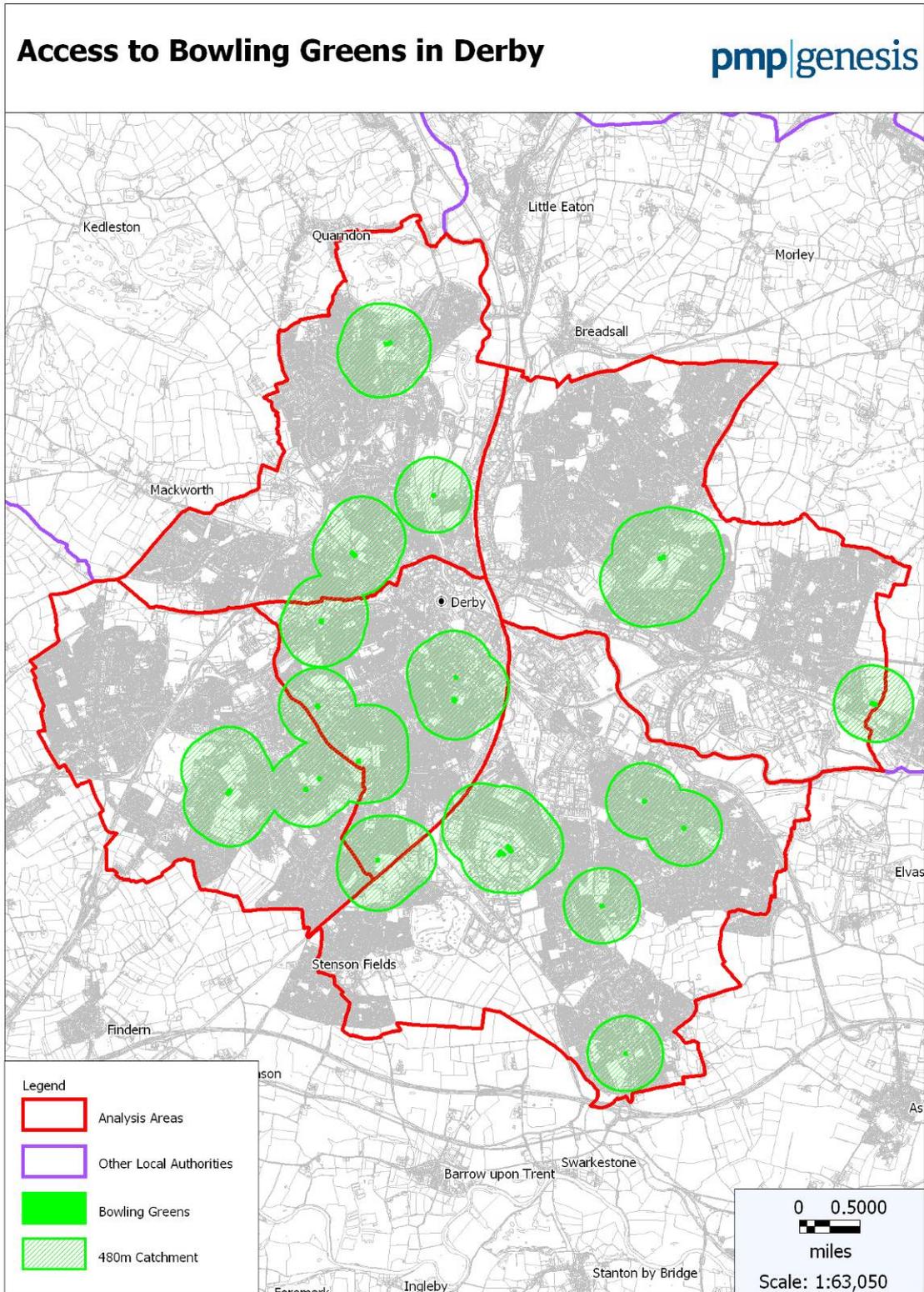
- 9.82 There are 19 sites containing bowling greens within Derby. 13 of the 19 sites are public facilities, and 6 are club/private sites.
- 9.83 11 sites contain one green, seven sites contain two greens and one site (Rolls Royce) contains three. In total therefore there are 28 greens serving the population of Derby. This means that the current provision of bowling greens equates to 0.13 greens per 1,000 population or one green for every 7,594 residents.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 9.84 An inconclusive view regarding the quantity of bowling greens was evident from responses to the household survey with 63% of respondents indicating that they have no opinion regarding the provision of bowling greens in the City.
- 9.85 Of those respondents to the household survey, the majority of residents in all areas of the City indicate that the provision of bowling greens is about right. A significantly higher level of satisfaction is portrayed in the North West, where 39% of respondents state that provision is about right.
- 9.86 Only one bowling club (Spondon) responded to the sports club survey. The club considered the provision of bowling greens to be good. Consultation findings therefore suggest that, on the whole, the provision of bowling greens is perceived to be sufficient and there is insufficient demand to increase provision.

- 9.87 The application of the accessibility standard, however, (Map 9.4 overleaf) indicates that not all residents in Derby have access to a bowling green within the recommended 10 minute walk time.

Map 9.4 – Bowling greens in Derby



9.88 Despite the fact that some residents are outside of a 10 minute walk time of a bowling green, the coverage of facilities across the City is good. Consultation suggests that while no additional sites are required at the current time, future population increases may increase demand for bowling greens in the City and therefore demand should be monitored in the future. This is particularly important given the make up of the City's population. As Sport England market segmentation indicates that Elsie and Arnold, who are one of the dominant population groups in Derby, enjoy less strenuous activities which may include bowling. New facilities may be a particular priority within areas of significant population where there is a lack of provision.

9.89 The opportunity to promote the sport of bowling should be taken. The population profile of the City means that bowling provides a key opportunity for more people to become active. Support should therefore be given to bowling clubs to facilitate this activity.

BOWLING1	<p>In consideration of future population increases, monitor demand for bowling greens in the City.</p> <p>Should demand be adequate, seek to increase public access to private facilities in Derby.</p>
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BOWLING2	<p>In order to promote physical activity and encourage people to participate, provide support to Bowls Clubs to promote the opportunities that are available.</p>
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9.90 Positive perceptions regarding the quality of bowling greens were evident from household survey respondents with 50% rating the quality of bowling greens as good or excellent and 39% of residents stating that the quality of bowling greens is average. Only 12% held a contrasting view and felt that the quality of bowling greens is poor. The quality of bowling greens was highlighted as average by Spondon bowls club. The clubs stated that their current facilities meet their requirements.

9.91 Site assessments reveal that the quality of bowling greens in the City is very good, with the average quality score of a site being 83%. Chester Green Bowling Green (100%), Rykneld Bowling Club (100%) and Rowditch Recreation Ground Bowling Club (100%) and Allestree Recreational Ground Bowling Greens (88%) achieved quality scores that exceed the target of 81%.

9.92 The lowest scoring site was Normanton Park Bowling Green (52%) which was rated very poor in terms of cleanliness and maintenance and comments suggested that the site looks disused.

BOWLING3	<p>Seek to maintain the quality of bowling greens to meet national governing body standards, aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 81%</p>
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Synthetic Turf Pitches

- 9.93 A total of 13 Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) are located within Derby. Nine of these are full size pitches and four are smaller 5-a-side pitch sites. Five are local authority facilities and the remaining are located on school/education sites, although the STP at Derby College is managed by the local authority on a dual use basis.
- 9.94 Of the full sized pitches, three are third generation pitches (most suitable for football), the remaining are sand based (suitable for multi sports).
- 9.95 Active Places Power reveals that the current provision of STPs in the City equates to 0.05 pitches per 1000 population. Table 9.4 illustrates the provision of STPs in comparison to national and regional averages and indicates that provision in Derby is above both national and regional averages.

Table 9.4 – Active Places Power Comparison

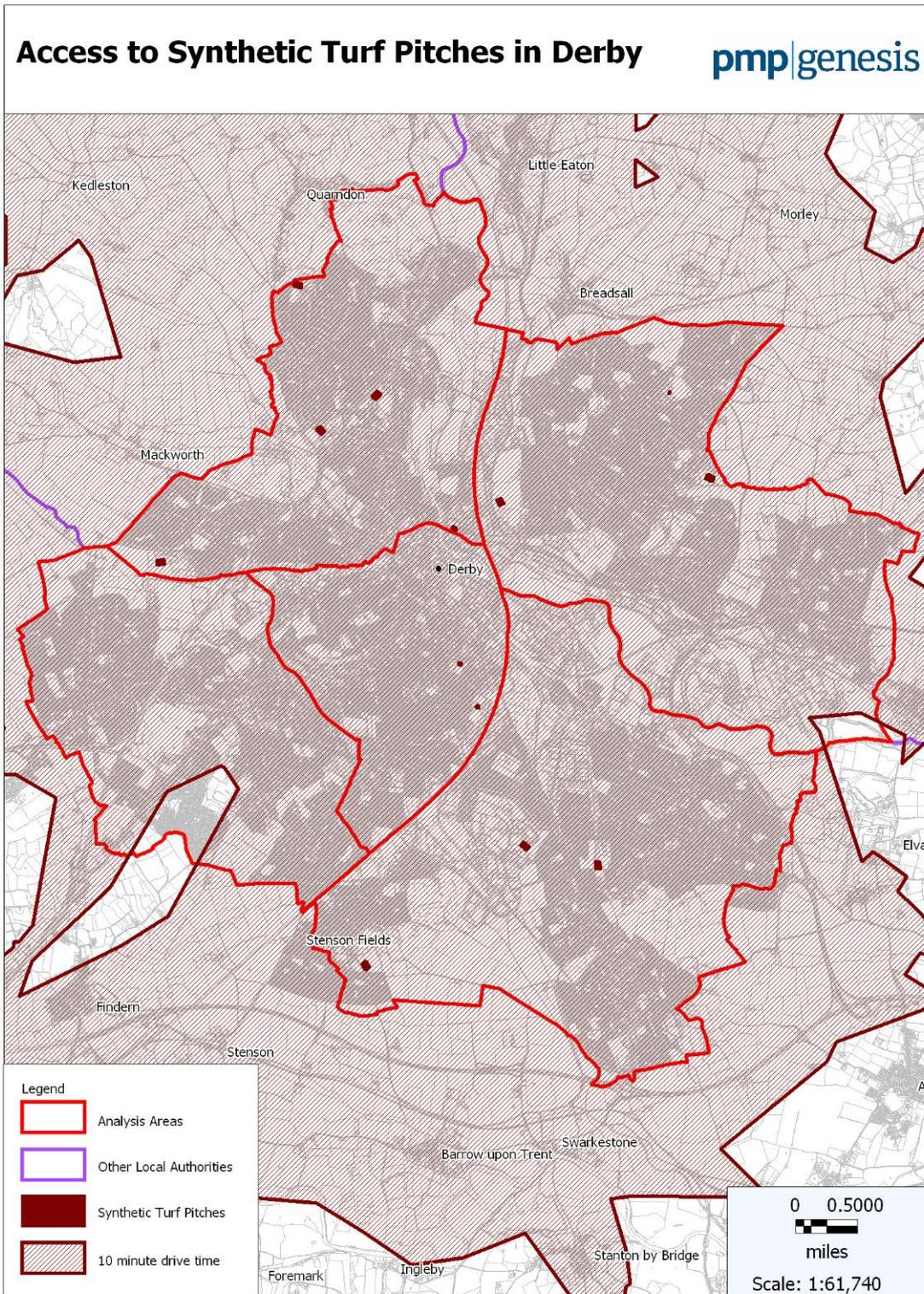
Geographical Area	STPs per 1000 population (pitches)
National	0.03
East Midlands	0.04
Derby	0.05

- 9.96 The table shows that the amount of STP provision in Derby is above the national average and regional average. The Leisure Business Case Study also compared the provision of STPs in Derby with that of its nearest neighbours. This showed that Derby has more provision than three out of four of the authorities which suggests that the number of STPs per 1000 people is in line with/slightly above what would be expected for an authority of its type.
- 9.97 Contradictory to this, however, the 1 pitch per 25,000 population calculator used by the FA suggests that Derby should have 10 full size synthetic pitches to meet the demand in 2025. This would suggest demand for one additional pitch by 2025.
- 9.98 Neither of these calculations include smaller pitches or commercial 5-a-side provision such as the JJB Soccerdome at Pride Park. Clearly these facilities provide an important role for 5-a-side play, training, recreational play.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 9.99 The response to the household survey was inconclusive with regards to the quantity of STPs in the City with 63% of residents indicating that they had no opinion regarding the provision of STPs. A fifth of responses however stated that there is not enough STP provision.
- 9.100 In the contrary, the Leisure Business Case Study states that the number of STPs per 1000 people is above the national average and is in line with or slightly above what would be expected for an authority of its type.
- 9.101 Map 9.5 overleaf illustrates the distribution of STPs in Derby and indicates that all residents have access to a site within the recommended 10 minute drive time.

Map 9.5 – Synthetic Turf Pitches in Derby



- 9.102 In consideration of the provision of STPs in the City being above national and regional averages and the findings of the Leisure Business Case Study, evidence suggests that no new STPs are required in the short term.
- 9.103 Longer term, population growth, as well as changing patterns in participation may mean that additional facilities are required. In particular, the growth in the use of third generation (3G) pitches may mean that more of these types of facility are required in the City.

STP1	In consideration of future population increases, monitor demand for Synthetic Turf Pitches in the City.
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- 9.104 The majority of respondents to the household survey have positive perceptions regarding the quality of existing STPs in the City, with 41% of respondents rating them as good or excellent and 44% as average. However, 15% of respondents consider the quality of STPs to be poor.
- 9.105 Site assessments provide a more positive perception than the findings of the household survey, with the quality of STPs generally perceived to be good (average quality score 78%). None of the STPs were rated as poor quality. Only three sites scored significantly lower than the target quality score of 81%.

STP2	Seek to enhance the quality of Synthetic Turf Pitches in the City, aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 81%. Changing facilities, parking facilities and spectator benches were identified as a key priority for improvement. Provision should be made (potentially through a sinking fund – a fund set up into which money is paid over a period time to pay for large scale repairs or improvements) to ensure that ongoing refurbishments of facilities can take place.
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Athletics

- 9.106 There is one dedicated athletics track located in Derby at Moorways Sports Complex. The Council currently owns and manages the athletics track and field facility and stadium at Moorways. It comprises a 400 metre eight lane floodlit international standard track, outside throwing areas, a practice sprint track, seating for 650 people and additional space for several thousand spectators.

Adequacy of Current Provision

- 9.107 The track was first built in 1974 and refurbished in 2004. The track itself is in need of renewal or replacement as the surface is disintegrating. This is required to retain the track licence and certification from England Athletics to allow it to continue to host national athletics meetings. If the track is not replaced or renewed then it is likely that Moorways (and therefore Derby City) will lose its certification to host this level of event. If the track is not replaced or renewed by spring 2011, then competitions and training may also be in jeopardy.
- 9.108 There is a clear need for an athletics track of an equivalent standard to Moorways if the City wishes to continue to host national level competition. The Leisure Facilities Business Case study identifies the need for either a refurbished Moorways facility or a replacement facility elsewhere in the City.

- 9.109 Around two thirds of respondents to the household survey had no opinion on the quantity of provision for athletics tracks in Derby. 17% stated that provision is about right and 16% stated that there is not enough provision.

ATHLETICS	As outlined in the Leisure Business Case Study, explore opportunities to retain and upgrade provision at Moorways or provide a replacement facility elsewhere in the City.
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Golf courses

Context

- 9.110 The vision for golf in England is the result of a partnership between the English Golf Union, English Ladies Golf Association and Professional Golfers Association developed to meet the challenges faced in the game. The vision is:

“To allow England to become the leading golfing nation in the world by providing more opportunities for participants to start, stay and succeed in the game.”

- 9.111 The following are identified as the key challenges for golf in England:
- the need to overcome perceptions that golf is time consuming;
 - the need to maximise club membership – there is the target to grow the active members of affiliated clubs by 50,000 over the next five years;
 - retention of 18 to 30 year olds – perceived as low when compared to other groups;
 - the need to constantly review the impact of introductory programmes – golf ranges are acknowledged as crucial facilities within the ‘start’ or FUN-damentals phase of the development pathway as identified by the Long Term Athlete Development Model. The ELGA views them as important facilities in increasing female participation levels; and
 - in overall terms the target is to attract an additional 400,000 golfers into the game over the next five years – a 10% increase on the current 4.2 million, to 4.9 million by 2009.

English Golf Union: Golf Development Strategic Plan – A Framework for Golf in England 2004 to 2014

- 9.112 At present there is no facility strategy for golf in England although a Golf Development Strategy has been produced to feed into the Whole Sport Plan for golf.
- 9.113 The main aims of EGU golf development include:
- to promote the game of golf and increase people's awareness;
 - to introduce more people to golf regardless of age, gender or background;
 - to provide opportunities for people to sustain their involvement and regularly participate in golf; and

- to make it easier to join a golf club by improving accessibility and affordability.
- 9.114 In the context of Sport England's objectives, this strategy encompasses 'start' (recruitment) and 'stay' (retention). The EGU define three main sections in golf development:
- junior golf (under 18) – promotion and developing opportunities;
 - 18 to 30 year olds – retention of golfers and sustaining participation; and
 - introducing people of any age – 'Get into Golf' structure.
- 9.115 Specifically in relation to facility provision, the strategy is looking to strengthen the accessibility, affordability and quality of affiliated golf clubs in England and to develop relationships with golf ranges and other golfing facilities.
- 9.116 The Derbyshire Golf Partnership (DGP) which is made up of the Derbyshire Union of Golf Clubs, Derbyshire Ladies' County Golf Association and Derbyshire PGA aims to increase participation in golf and create opportunities for players from grass roots to county representation.
- 9.117 The Partnership adopts the national priorities and delivers them on a regional level. The DGP relies heavily on co-operation from affiliated clubs to promote grass roots golf and participation amongst target groups such as women and children.

Current Provision

- 9.118 There are three 18 hole golf courses within Derby – Mickleover, Sinfin (Derby Golf Club) and Allestree. Allestree and Sinfin golf courses are managed by the local authority and allow pay and play access. Mickleover is a commercial membership club. In addition, there is a driving range at Derby Golf Centre and a pitch and putt and mini golf course in Markeaton Park.
- 9.119 In addition to providing residents with the opportunity to play golf, golf courses are particularly important in terms of biodiversity.

Adequacy of Current Provision

- 9.120 Active Places Power reveals that the current provision of golf courses in the City is equivalent to 0.24 holes per 1000 population. When comparing this figure to national and regional averages, Table 9.5 indicates the provision of golf courses in Derby is significantly below national and regional averages.

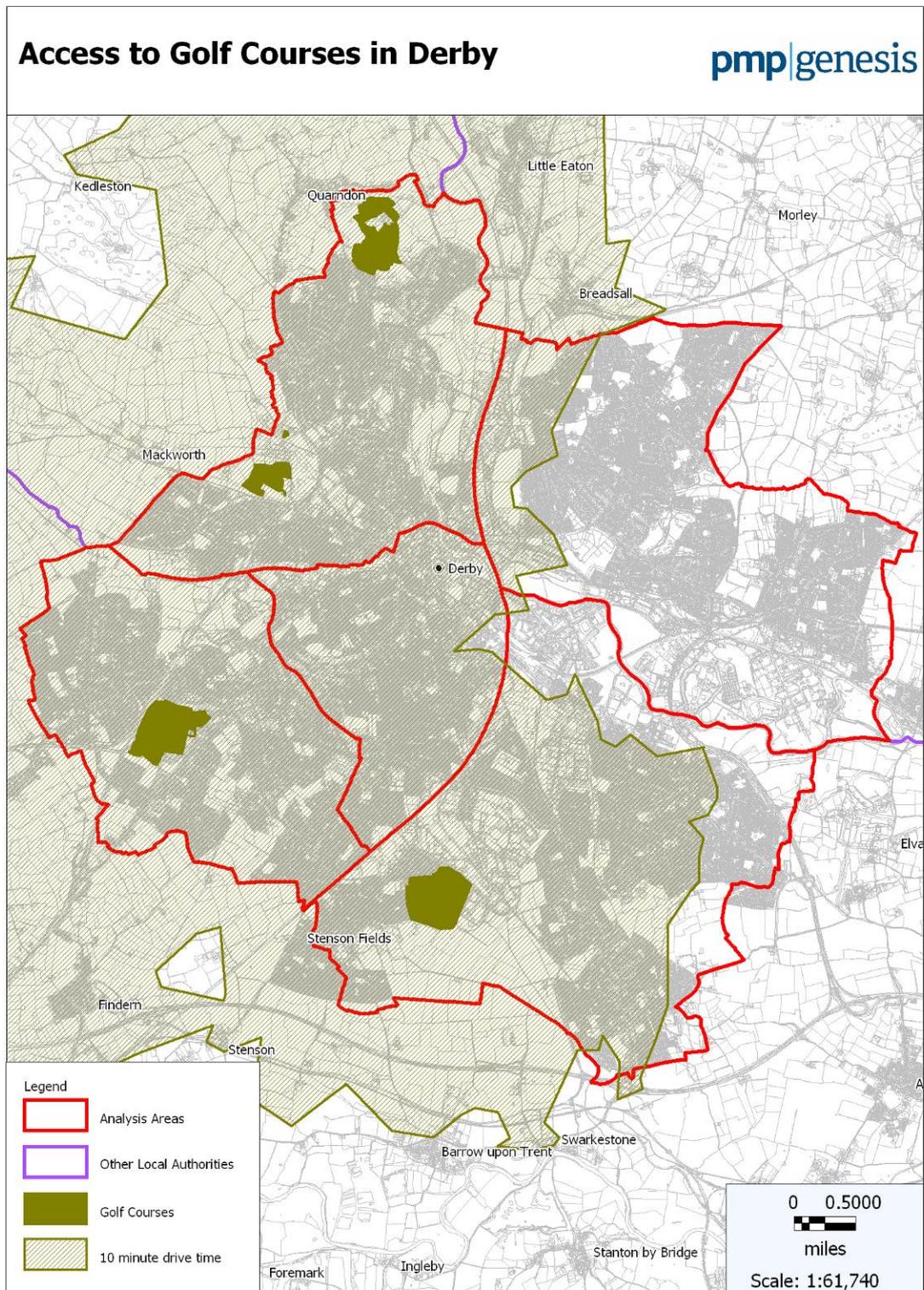
Table 9.5 – Active Places Power Comparison

Geographical Area	Golf Courses per 1000 population (number of holes)
National	0.68
East Midlands	0.71
Derby	0.24

- 9.121 Findings from the household survey provide inconclusive views regarding the quantity of golf courses, with 58% of residents having no opinion. A quarter (26%) of residents stated that provision is about right and 11% of respondents indicated that there are not enough golf courses in the City.

9.122 Map 8.6 below illustrates the distribution of golf courses in Derby.

Map 9.6 – Golf Courses in Derby



- 9.123 The map shows that there are no golf courses in the east of the City. This means that a large proportion of residents in the east of Derby cannot access a golf course within the recommended 10 minute drive time. Consultation also identified that slightly more residents in the North East indicated that there are not enough golf courses compared to residents in other areas of the City.
- 9.124 However, despite a lack of access to golf courses in the east of the City, residents are within close proximity to golf courses in Erewash, such as Maywood Golf Centre and Erewash Valley Golf Club (approximately seven miles from Derby centre city). This means that the majority of residents who can't access a facility within the City do have access to golf courses located outside of the City.
- 9.125 Given the distance that residents are required to travel to reach golf courses, plus the lack of provision within the east of the City, maximising access to existing facilities will be of increased priority. In order to widen the user base of golf courses and ensure that such facilities are used by all community groups, these facilities should be accessible by public transport.

GOLF1	Strive to ensure that all golf courses are located on public transport routes.
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- 9.126 The majority of respondents to the household survey consider the quality of golf courses to be good (50%) or average (36%). 11% of residents indicate that the quality of golf courses is poor. These findings highlight positive perceptions regarding the quality of golf courses in the City. Ongoing maintenance and improvement of these facilities will be important if additional users are to be attracted to the facilities.

GOLF2	Ensure that the provision of high quality facilities across the City.
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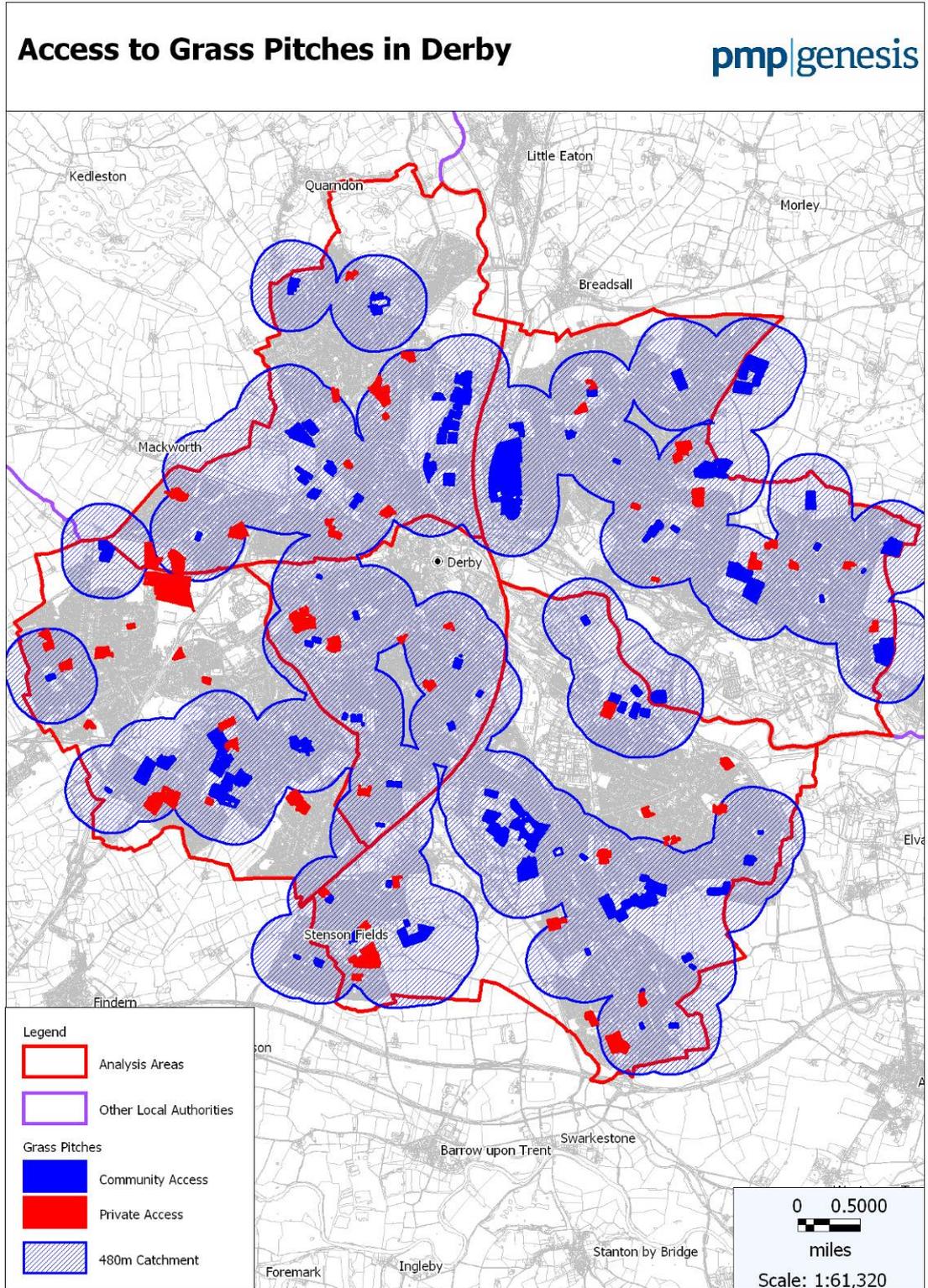
Grass pitches

- 9.127 Grass pitches serve not only a sporting purpose but are also instrumental in providing informal recreational opportunities. In Derby, many grass pitches are important components of public parks are used frequently for informal play as well as for competitive matches.

Current provision

- 9.128 A total of 142 sites in Derby contain grass pitch provision. The type of pitches located at these sites varies both in terms of sport and size. A large proportion of these sites are educational establishments, which means that public access to them may be limited. Map 9.7 overleaf shows the distribution of grass pitches.

Map 9.7 – Grass Pitches in Derby



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The map shows that grass pitches are evenly distributed across the City. It can be seen that when including pitches at school sites, almost all residents are within the suggested accessibility standard of a grass pitch, even though this standard is set at a walk time, a particularly challenging catchment. This serves to highlight the importance of continuing to increase the role that school sites play in local community provision.

Adequacy of Current Provision

- 9.130 The majority of respondents to the household survey (49%) had no opinion regarding the amount of grass pitches in the City. More than a third of respondents consider the quantity of grass pitches to be about right (35%) whilst only 13% of residents felt that there are not enough pitches.
- 9.131 Other consultation findings support the household survey results. Consistent with the overall results, findings indicate that provision is perceived to be about right in all geographical areas. The greatest level of satisfaction is portrayed in the North West, where 40% of respondents state that provision is about right.
- 9.132 The majority of cricket clubs that responded to the sports club survey indicated that the quantity of cricket pitches is good (75%). No cricket clubs indicated that the quantity of facilities is the greatest issue affecting their club. Despite this, cricket clubs indicated that access to pitches in the city is a problem. This suggests that there may be some quantitative issues with current provision.
- 9.133 Application of the accessibility standard (Map 9.7) supports the quantitative findings, with the majority of residents having access to a grass pitch within the recommended 480 metre catchment. Only pockets of deficiency are evident. Furthermore, consultation with sports clubs did not identify access to grass pitches for competitive play as an issue.
- 9.134 Based on the above evidence, there is no requirement to increase the provision of grass pitches in the City at the current time. However, in order to provide a complete assessment of the adequacy of grass pitch provision, and to comply with Sport England policy, a playing pitch strategy should be undertaken in line with Towards a Level Playing Field. Whilst there is no evidence in quantitative terms to provide new facilities, where localised demand is expressed this should be considered further. Providing localised facilities may increase the number of residents participating in the game and have positive impacts for the overall health and levels of physical activity in the City.

PITCHES1	Undertake a playing pitch strategy in line with Towards a Level Playing Field, to provide a robust assessment of the adequacy of grass pitch provision in the City.
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- 9.135 Positive perceptions regarding the quality of grass pitches were portrayed by household survey respondents, with 57% indicating that the quality of grass pitches is excellent or good and 34% average. Only 10% of residents felt that the quality of grass pitches is poor.
- 9.136 Consultation and site visits identified that the quality of football pitches is varying across the City. The football pitches at the Racecourse were identified as being of particularly high quality as are the recently upgraded changing facilities. However, a lack of changing facilities for junior teams across the City was highlighted.
- 9.137 A number of grass pitches within the City were identified as being over used by residents at the Derwent Healthy Revive drop in session, with three or four matches being played on both Saturday and Sundays. This was perceived to reduce the quality of the pitches due to overuse.

- 9.138 Of those children who identified sports pitches as their favourite place, litter and untidy facilities (40%) were identified as the main thing they did not like.
- 9.139 Site assessments reveal that the quality of grass pitches is generally good, with the average quality score of a site being 69%. It is important to note that site assessments were not based upon guidance set out in Towards a Level Playing Field and did not specifically consider whether sites were fit for purpose for example drainage, safety margins. The timing of the site visits (the majority were undertaken at the beginning of the season) would also have impacted upon the perceived quality of these pitches.
- 9.140 Despite site visits revealing that the quality of pitches is generally good, 17 sites achieved quality scores that fall below 65%, highlighting the need for qualitative enhancements. When looking within the geographical areas, the average quality score of a site is consistent across three areas (71% in the Central area and North West and 69% in the North East) whilst the quality of grass pitches is higher (78%) in the South West and lower in the South East (63%). The lowest scoring sites in the City are:
- Sandringham Drive Football Pitch (40%) – Poor cleanliness and maintenance, pitch had only one goal set up, it was not marked out and there were lots of litter and vandalism apparent;
 - Chellaston Rec Football Pitch (40%) - Poor cleanliness and maintenance, poor security and no ancillary provision;
 - Knightsbridge Park Football Pitch (42%) - Football goals but no pitch marked out and grass not cut. No benches or toilets; and
 - Chesnut Avenue Football Pitch (42%) – Lots of litter, no bins or benches.

PITCHES2	Seek to enhance the quality of grass pitches in the City in line with National Governing Body guidance, aiming to achieve a minimum quality score of 81%.
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Summary

- 9.141 Outdoor sports facilities are a wide ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation. Facilities can be owned and managed by councils, sports associations, schools and individual sports clubs, with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports. Examples include:
- Playing pitches
 - Athletics tracks
 - Bowling greens
 - Tennis courts
- 9.142 A local standard has been set for outdoor sports facilities in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. Whilst the key issues with regards to each type of facility are considered at an overview level, the demand-led nature of outdoor sports facilities means that specific studies (such as a playing pitch strategy) should be undertaken in order to accurately define shortfalls and surpluses. The local quantity standard should be used for broad planning purposes only.

9.143 The key issues arising from analysis of the current provision and consultation with regards to outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- Tennis Courts – Not all residents have access to a tennis court within the recommended catchment. There would be merit in increasing the availability of tennis courts on school sites. Demand for more publicly accessible tennis courts was highlighted from consultation;
- Bowling Greens – Not all residents have access to a bowling green within the recommended accessibility standard. However, consultation suggested that 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 in the City is in line with what would be expected of an authority of this type. 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 to 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 across the city. Future improvements should focus on qualitative enhancements.

9.144 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for outdoor sports facilities in Derby that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework include:

- seek to, as a minimum, maintain the current level of provision of all types of outdoor sports facilities;
- protection of all outdoor sports facilities from development in line with Sport England policies and exception criteria;
- focus on improving the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria;
- seek to increase community use of all school outdoor sports facilities by working with school governing bodies to encourage community use of facilities and increase access to outdoor sports facilities;
- seek to increase access to outdoor sports facilities across the City through the development of the Green Infrastructure Network and improvement of public transport routes;
- refurbish or replace the athletics facility at Moorways; and
- review the implications of population growth and changes in the participation profile on the demand for facilities.