

7. Provision for children and young people

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 PPG17 states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 7.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision, from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to large, multi purpose play areas. It considers equipped play areas only.
- 7.3 PPG17 notes that targeting all facilities at children often ignores the needs of older children. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. Provision of facilities for children does not necessarily negate the need for provision for young people and vice versa.
- 7.4 Fields in Trust (FIT, formally NPFA) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically:
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 7.5 In light of the differences between provision for children and young people, this typology has been subdivided and provision for children and facilities for young people have been analysed separately.
- 7.6 The above classifications do not directly correspond with the typologies used in this study although broadly, most LAPs are categorised as amenity spaces, while NEAPs are often targeted at young people.
- 7.7 For the purposes of this study, provision for children is taken to include equipped children's play areas and adventure playgrounds that are perceived to cater for children under 12.
- 7.8 Facilities for young people includes the following types of provision:
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - skateparks
 - basketball courts
 - youth shelters
 - informal kickabout areas
 - BMX tracks.
- 7.9 It is anticipated that these facilities would serve young people over the age of 12.

- 7.10 This section of the report sets out the strategic context, key findings emerging from consultation and assessment of current provision for children and young people. Local standards have been derived from the consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and children.
- 7.11 The majority of schools are currently inaccessible to the community outside of school hours so play areas at these sites have not been considered as part of this assessment. The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme looks to place schools at the heart of their community and therefore provides facilities local to each neighbourhood. The programme will ensure that a range of facilities are provided which reflect the needs of the community as well as curriculum needs. This will generate improvements to the overall quality and quantity of provision across Manchester.
- 7.12 In recognition of the importance of play for children and young people, Manchester City Council have recently been awarded £1m towards the development of play facilities across the City as part of the National Play Builder Scheme. This will generate significant improvements in the quality of provision for children and young people in the short term.

Strategic context

- 7.13 The key issues for children and young people's facilities arising from a review of strategic documents are set out in Table 7.1 overleaf.

Table 7.1 – Strategic context

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Influence on the provision of facilities for children and young people in Manchester
Play England Design For Play	<p>The strategy sets out the principles for creating imaginative, innovative and stimulating play spaces.</p> <p>The strategy outlines the ten principles for designing successful play spaces. Successful play spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are bespoke • are well located • make use of the natural elements • provide a wide range of play experiences • are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children • meet community needs • allow children of different ages to play together • build in opportunities to experience, risk and challenge • are sustainable and appropriately managed • allow for change and evolution. 	The study will take into consideration the key principles for designing successful play spaces.
Play England Managing Risk In Play Provision	<p>The document outlines practical ways on how risk can be managed in play provision.</p> <p>The document promotes the challenge of risk in play provision, whilst protecting against harm and encourages the provision of more challenging facilities rather than traditional play provision.</p>	The study will adhere to the guidance regarding managing risk in play provision.
Manchester Play Strategy (2007)	The strategy's vision is to enable Manchester's children and young people access to local, safe, exciting and challenging places to play. This stems from a strategic policy framework and achieving this vision is dependent on the availability of a range and quality of play provision that	This study will provide the evidence base for the further development of play facilities and the achievement of the key objectives of the play strategy.

SECTION 7 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Influence on the provision of facilities for children and young people in Manchester
	<p>takes into account the needs of local communities.</p> <p>The strategy looks at the role of play in other strategies, including those for regeneration, parks and open spaces, community engagement, culture, crime and disorder, health, extended Schools and Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).</p> <p>The overarching priorities for the Play Strategy, derived from consultation with children and young people are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing provision - increasing the range and type of play opportunities throughout the year• developing district capacity - so that decisions and quality assurance can be based on local needs; and• reducing barriers - working with families, increasing access and reaching out to children currently not using play facilities.	

Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

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

- residents highlighted issues with regards both quality and quantity
- the lack of facilities for young people was the primary issue raised throughout consultation. This was perceived to have a knock on effect for the misuse of other open spaces, such as children's play areas and parks and open spaces. Vandalism and graffiti, as well as groups of young people on street corners were attributed to a lack of facilities for young people
- surprisingly, only 13% of respondents to the survey for children indicated that they use play areas more frequently than any other type of open space. Despite this, it is clear that play areas are highly valued by children in Manchester, with respondents to the children's IT Survey identifying play areas with interesting equipment as the second favourite facility they would like near their home.
- children identified proximity to home (44%), an opportunity to meet friends (39%), an opportunity to play sport (28%) and somewhere that makes them feel safe (18%) as the things that were most important to them in choosing open spaces. 14% indicated that the main reason why they choose to use an open space / play area is that they like the equipment provided
- the key barriers to use of open spaces and play facilities were highlighted as lots of people using them (30%), litter and perception that facilities are unsafe (25%), boring play facilities (23%) and distance from home (20%)
- under used amenity green spaces were highlighted as preferred sites to provide dedicated open spaces for young people.

Quantity of provision

7.15 The quantity of provision for children and young people across Manchester is summarised in Tables 7.2 and 7.3 respectively.

7.16 It must be reinforced that this assessment considers only the provision of equipped facilities and does not take into account other activities offered.

Table 7.2 – Provision for children across Manchester

Area	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Current provision per 1000 (hectares)
City Centre	0	-	-	-	0.0000
East	2.17	27	0.01	0.19	0.0290
Central	1.71	16	0.01	0.40	0.0229
South	1.67	15	0.02	0.45	0.0124
North	1.64	19	0.004	0.21	0.0183
Wythenshawe	2.61	16	0.05	0.60	0.0370
Overall	9.80	93	0.01	0.60	0.0215

7.17 The key issues emerging from Table 7.2 and consultations relating to the quantity of provision are as follows:

- there are 93 play areas in the City. Sites are evenly distributed across the City, with the exception of the East area, where significantly more facilities are provided
- responses from the household survey suggest that there is an overall dissatisfaction with the quantity of provision for children. 70% respondents believe that provision is insufficient, opposed to 23% who indicate that the quantity of play areas is sufficient
- this dissatisfaction was evident across the whole City. The greatest level of dissatisfaction can be found in Wythenshawe where 79% of respondents indicate that the provision of children's play areas is insufficient. This corresponds to the number of sites, with the second lowest number of sites in the City located in this geographical area. Despite this, the greatest provision per 1000 population is found within Wythenshawe (0.037 hectares) – this suggests that there are fewer, but larger facilities
- residents at drop in sessions felt that the quantity of facilities for children is insufficient to meet current need, reinforcing the findings of the household survey. Wythenshawe and Crumpsall in particular were highlighted as areas of deficiency. A lack of provision (and a lack of quality provision) was also one of the key issues arising during workshop sessions
- children responding to the IT Survey were asked to rate the amount of local play areas/spaces near their homes. The most common response was that there are some places to play where they live but they would like more (47%)
- drop in sessions in the City Centre demonstrated a feeling that facilities for children should be provided in the City Centre.

7.18 Table 7.3 overleaf summarises the quantity of facilities for young people across Manchester.

Table 7.3 – Provision for young people across Manchester

Area	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Current provision per 1000 (hectares)
City Centre	0	-	-	-	0.0000
East	2.92	29	0.02	0.47	0.0403
Central	2.28	25	0.008	0.33	0.0305
South	2.26	16	0.02	0.75	0.0168
North	3.25	30	0.02	0.47	0.0363
Wythenshawe	2.46	16	0.02	1.30	0.0349
Overall	13.17	116	0.008	1.30	0.0291

7.19 The key issues emerging from Table 7.3 above and consultations relating to the quantity of provision for young people are as follows:

- there are 116 facilities for young people in Manchester. Provision is significantly higher in the North (30 sites), East (29 sites) and Central (25 sites) than in the South and Wythenshawe (which both contain 16 sites)
- due to the wide range of facilities included in this typology, the size of sites ranges significantly from 0.008 hectares to 1.30 hectares
- 84% of the respondents to the household survey indicated that the quantity of provision for young people is insufficient. This is the most conclusive of all typologies and suggests that there is widespread dissatisfaction.
- this level of dissatisfaction is evident in all areas of the City however like children's play areas, the greatest level of dissatisfaction is found in Wythenshawe, where 89% of respondents feel that provision for young people is insufficient. This corresponds to the actual level of provision, with the fewest number of sites (16) found in this area of the City, along with the South area
- general comments throughout consultation emphasised the need to maintain an adequate level of provision for young people to reduce instances of anti social behaviour and provide young people with something to do
- at workshops sessions the need for facilities that young people are interested in was highlighted as crucial. Consulting with young people with regards to new/enhanced provision was identified as a way of achieving this. Provision for young people was listed as the top priority in almost all events held across the City.

Setting provision standards – quantity

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

- 7.21 Both standards require an increase on existing levels of provision in light of the findings of the local needs assessment, where there is an overwhelming concern that provision is insufficient. These findings are consistent with the Manchester City Council Play Strategy. It must also be noted that the Play Builder funding will contribute towards addressing many of these deficiencies.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.0215 hectares per 1000	0.027 hectares per 1000
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.0215 hectares per 1000 population. In light of the emphasis on the need for greater levels of provision during both qualitative and quantitative consultations, it is recommended that a standard is set above the existing level of provision. Raising the standard to 0.027 ha per 1000 population would require the provision of an additional 20 - 25 facilities (based on the average existing size) – an increase of 22% on the current stock of facilities for children (currently 93 sites/0.02 ha per 1000 population).</p> <p>It is important that the provision of new facilities for children is balanced with the need to improve the quality of existing provision, including access to challenging play and risk play as advocated in the Manchester Play Strategy (2007) and recent Children's Plan published by the Government.</p> <p>Setting a standard just above the existing level of provision will ensure that new provision can be delivered where it is most needed, without requiring extensive additional facilities and limiting the qualitative improvements that can take place. This standard can be achieved through the creation of additional sites or through the extension (and therefore increases to the capacity) of existing facilities.</p>	

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.029 hectares per 1000	0.035 hectares per 1000
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.029 hectares per 1000 population. Similar to provision for children, there is an overriding emphasis on the need for more facilities for young people across Manchester. A standard above the existing level of provision is therefore suggested. The location of facilities was perceived to be particularly important to encourage young people to use facilities. The preference for facilities located in close proximity to the home places a greater demand on the quantity of facilities required.</p> <p>While quantity was the key concern emerging through consultation, the quality of facilities, and ownership of these sites was also frequently mentioned, particularly by young people themselves. In addition to setting a standard that recognises the need for increased provision across Manchester, it is important to ensure that the quality of facilities is also considered and that the need for community ownership is taken into account. This highlights the importance of balancing the quantity of provision with the need to provide quality and innovative facilities.</p> <p>The recommended standard will result in the need for the creation of additional 18 - 20 sites (based on the average existing size) over the LDF period. This represents an increase of 17% on existing provision.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 7.22 The quality of provision for children and young people was assessed through site visits. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 7.23 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality have been weighted higher to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in appendix G.
- 7.24 Each site assessed achieves a quality score which is then calculated as a percentage. Tables 7.4 and 7.5 below outlines the range of quality scores of sites, the average quality score of a site and the lowest and highest quality sites on both a City wide and regeneration area level.
- 7.25 The quality of provision for children is summarised in Table 7.4 overleaf. Issues arising from the assessment of facilities for young people are set out in Table 7.5.

Table 7.4 – Quality of provision for children

Area	Range of quality Scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
City Centre	-	-	-	-
East	53 – 93	73	Chippenham Court Mixed Age Play Area	Debdale Park Play Area
Central	65 – 98	74	Longsight Adventure Playground	Ardwick Green Mixed Play Area
South	60 – 100	77	Parkway Playing Fields Play Area	Platt Fields Park Play Area
North	22 – 80	65	Rosewood Play Area	Queens Park Play Area
Wythenshawe	53 – 94	77	Southwick Road Park Play Area	Wythenshawe Park Play Area
Overall	22 – 100	73	Rosewood Play Area	Platt Fields Park Play Area

7.26 The key issues emerging from Table 7.4 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for children are as follows:

- a difference in opinion regarding the quality of children’s play areas is evident in analysis of responses to the household survey. 33% of residents indicate that the quality of play areas is average, 32% poor and 21% good
- findings within the six geographical areas are consistent with the overall results. However, residents in the City Centre expressed the greatest level of dissatisfaction, with 50% of respondents rating the quality of play areas as poor. This may be influenced by the quantity of provision, with many residents (and visitors) feeling particularly strongly about a lack of provision in this area
- site assessments reveal that the quality of children’s play areas is average, with the average quality score of a site being 73%
- the quality of play areas is generally consistent across all areas of the City and the greatest quality of play areas are found in South Manchester and Wythenshawe, where the average quality score of a site is 77%
- general comments from respondents to the household survey highlighted safety concerns when using children’s play areas
- 44% of respondents to the Children’s IT Survey indicated that play areas are sometimes untidy with litter and could be made better. However, 31% of children felt that play areas are clean, safe and nice to use. This split in opinion may be reflective of the varying quality of facilities across the City.

Table 7.5 – Quality of provision for young people

Area	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
City Centre	-	93	-	Mancunian Way Skate Park
East	34 – 100	62	Holt Town Small Local Area Park	Debdale Park MUGA
Central	20 – 100	63	Grindlow Street Park 5 a side pitch	Plymouth Grove Park MUGA
South	60 – 100	76	Clinton Avenue Park MUGA	Platt Fields Park Skate Park
North	20 – 73	46	Highfield Street	Boggart Hole Clough MUGA
Wythenshawe	60 – 80	68	Baguley Park MUGA	Benchill Community Centre MUGA
Overall	20 – 100	61	Highfield Street	Platt Fields Park Skate Park

7.27 The key issues emerging from Table 7.5 and the consultation relating to the quality of facilities for young people are:

- the majority of respondents to the household survey indicate that the quality of facilities for young people is poor (52%). However, site assessments indicate that the quality of facilities for young people is average, with the average quality score of a site being 61%. This suggests that quality perceptions may be influenced by the lack of provision in Manchester. Alternatively, it may suggest that while facilities are in good condition, they do not meet the needs of users
- this high level of dissatisfaction is consistent across all six analysis areas and combined with high level of dissatisfaction with the current provision of facilities for young people, highlights facilities for young people as a key issue in Manchester
- the quality of facilities for young people is fairly consistent across all areas of the City, with the exception of North Manchester, where the average quality score of a site is 46%
- from the general comments given, parents seem to suggest that there is a distinct lack of facilities for their older children. Furthermore, safety concerns at existing sites are seen as an issue that prevents them from being used
- it was argued that current levels of provision for young people helps generate a feeling of exclusion amongst this age group and can lead to associated

behaviour and social problems. Territorialism was raised as a key issue by many stakeholders across the City

- Platt Fields Park skate area was perceived to be of good quality and was cited as an example of good practice
- a number respondents at drop in sessions felt that there needed to be a more holistic approach to the design and location of teenage facilities across Manchester. One suggestion referred to designating areas that could be used more productively, for example designated skate areas that link in with the urban environment and are less formalised. While it was acknowledged that this may conflict with public spaces, the need for facilities that are 'owned' by young people and incorporated into City environment was deemed important.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 7.28 The recommended local quality standards for provision for children and young people are summarised below and overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G.
- 7.29 The standards summarise the key aspirations of residents of Manchester with regards provision for children and young people. The quality standard for a children's play area is set at 85%, the minimum score required to fall within the top quartile. For young people, the quality standard is set at 80%. The importance of tailoring the facility to the needs and aspiration of the children within the catchment area cannot be underestimated.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Children's play areas

Recommended standard – provision for children	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
Essential	Desirable
Clean/Litter Free	Good Access
Well Kept Grass	Litter Bins
Well laid out	Flowers/Trees
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to play areas for children, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
Component of quality	Weighting
Security and Safety	4
Cleanliness and maintenance	3
Vegetation	2
Ancillary accommodation	1

Facilities for young people

Recommended standard – provision for young people	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
Essential	Desirable
Good Access	Clean/Litter Free
Changing Facilities	Well laid out
On site security	Range of facilities
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to facilities for young people, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
Component of quality	Weighting
Security and Safety	4
Cleanliness and maintenance	2
Vegetation	1
Ancillary accommodation	3

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 7.30 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing opportunities for people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 7.31 Local access to provision for children and young people is particularly important in order to promote use of the site. In some instances, territorial issues mean that young people will not travel long distances to use facilities. Consultation demonstrates this, with the IT survey demonstrating that over 44% of children and young people choose to use a facility because of its proximity to home. This was the most popular answer.
- 7.32 Site specific accessibility issues were also analysed as part of the programme of site visits where information and signage, transport and general issues were assessed.
- 7.33 Consultation and analysis highlights that the key issues with regards accessibility of provision for children and young people include:
- respondents to the household survey expect to walk to a children's play area (90%) and a facility for young people (70%) with the most commonly expected journey time of 5 – 10 minutes
 - attendees at drop in sessions and workshops highlighted the need for facilities to be within easy access for young people
 - the children's IT survey highlighted the importance of providing local facilities, with many local children indicating that the key determinant of which facilities they used was the location. Distance from home was perceived to be a far greater barrier to usage than cost or poor quality facility provision

- the IT young people survey highlighted the importance of the location of the facility, with most young people indicating that they are likely to use facilities near their home
- drop in session attendees also highlighted the need for localised provision for young people to reduce the levels of misuse of other sites and ensure that there are positive opportunities for young people to play and socialise.

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

7.35 It is recognised that some facilities may attract users from a wider catchment and this will be discussed in the analysis that follows. While these facilities do not negate the need for local provision, they provide an additional and frequently used City wide resource. It must be noted that localised provision will still be essential, unless these high quality and larger sites are within the recommended distance threshold of the home.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Children's play areas

Recommended standard – Play areas for Children	
10 MINUTE WALK TIME	
Justification	
<p>The majority of respondents to the household survey indicate that they would expect to walk to a children's play facility. However, the distances that parents are willing to let their children travel unaccompanied from their homes to play facilities has reduced as concerns over safety have grown. Analyses of current travel patterns, alongside expectations, demonstrate conclusively that a standard based on a walk time should be set.</p> <p>PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel. The second and third quartile figures were 10 minutes. This figure was consistent across all analysis areas, indicating an overall consensus of opinion. Furthermore the modal response was also a 10 minute walk time (consistent across all of the geographical areas with the exception of 5 minutes walk time in the East) and the mean response was a 10 minutes walk time.</p> <p>Moreover, a larger accessibility catchment is recommended in terms of striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative improvements in provision. A 5 minute catchment would place a greater emphasis on new provision, but local consultation revealed the importance of high quality sites and not just new facilities. The Council should continually seek to promote measures designed to improve accessibility, such as better public transport or cycling routes. Consideration should also be given to the specific location of sites in order to maximise usage.</p> <p>A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provides a realist target for implementation. Furthermore, this local standard encompasses all types of provision for children, including the larger, more strategic sites that people could be expected to travel further to visit. The provision of local facilities meets with the aspirations of children and young people and ensures that the use of these play facilities is maximized. It will be important to consider the provision of play facilities in the context of amenity open spaces, and other typologies providing</p>	

more informal play opportunities for children.

The standard of 10 minutes should also be considered in the context of other open space types, particularly amenity green spaces, which offer informal and unstructured opportunities for play.

Facilities for young people

Recommended standard – Provision for Young People	
15 MINUTE WALK TIME	
Justification	
<p>The majority of people (70%) stated that walking is the preferred method of travel to a facility for young people; therefore it is recommended that a walk time standard be adopted. A walk time is considered most appropriate as these facilities are for young people who do not have access to a motorised vehicle. Provision of localised facilities meets the needs of young people as identified within the IT young people survey and also helps combat issues such as territorialism which may prevent usage of sites.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time takes into account public opinion and also considers the need to provide appropriate high quality facilities. Setting a higher travel time threshold provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights areas of greatest need (priority for new provision). The standard also sits in line with the recommended accessibility standard for local parks, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for young people within this typology. This standard is a challenging standard however and it is important to note the implications in terms quantitative improvements.</p>	

Applying provision standards

- 7.36 The application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of facilities for children and young people and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local need.
- 7.37 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Applying the standards together is a much more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.
- 7.38 The application of the local quantity standards for each area is set out in Tables 7.6 and 7.7. The tables illustrate the application of the standards for children and young people against the current provision in each part of the City and also highlight the quantity of population growth that could be sustained before provision falls below the minimum standards (where applicable).
- 7.39 The findings of the application of these standards should complement the principles set out in the play strategy and inform future decision making.

Table 7.6 – Application of quantity standard - children's play areas

Area	Children - Current balanced against local standard (0.027 hectares per 1000 population)	Additional population growth that could be sustained
City Centre	-0.26	Below minimum
East	0.18	3,016
Central	-0.27	Below minimum
South	-1.90	Below minimum
North	-0.74	Below minimum
Wythenshawe	0.74	26,213
Overall	-2.18	Below minimum

7.40 The application of the local standard for quantity of facilities for children results in the following issues:

- overall, the current provision of children's play areas is insufficient to meet demand (shortfall of 2.18 hectares)
- only provision in East Manchester (0.18 hectares) and Wythenshawe (0.74 hectares) exceeds the minimum standard. Integration of these figures with the application of the accessibility standards later in this section is however essential as there may be areas where residents are outside of the appropriate catchment of facilities
- the largest shortfall is located in the South.

Table 7.7 – Application of quantity standard – facilities for young people

Area	Young people -Current balanced against local standard (0.034 hectares per 1000 population)	Additional population growth that could be sustained
City Centre	-0.34	Below minimum
East	0.46	11,121
Central	-0.26	Below minimum
South	-2.32	Below minimum
North	0.20	5,965
Wythenshawe	0.06	1,898
Overall	-2.20	Below minimum

7.41 The application of the local quantity standard for young people results in similar issues to those highlighted for children:

- Citywide, the quantity of facilities for young people is insufficient to meet current demand
- however, there is adequate provision in three of the six geographical areas (East, North and Wythenshawe) to meet demand and accommodate future population growth
- it is within East Manchester where the greatest population growth that can be accommodated (11,121 people). The largest shortfall is found in the South.

7.42 In light of the local nature of both facilities for children and facilities for young people, consideration has been given to the application of the quantity standard at a ward level. This further highlights shortfalls and surpluses and is set out in Table 7.8 (children) and Table 7.9 (young people) overleaf.

Table 7.8 – Provision of facilities for children by ward

Ward	Population	Provision for children (hectares)	Local Standard (hectares per 1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Ancoats & Clayton	13,675	0.690	0.027	0.0505	0.3692	0.320775
Ardwick	16,232	0.580	0.027	0.0357	0.4383	0.141736
Baguley	14,384	0.410	0.027	0.0285	0.3884	0.021632
Bradford	12,646	0.570	0.027	0.0451	0.3414	0.228558
Brooklands	12,713	0.560	0.027	0.0440	0.3433	0.216749
Burnage	14,694	0.000	0.027	0.0000	0.3967	-0.396738
Charlestown	12,580	0.180	0.027	0.0143	0.3397	-0.15966
Cheetham	17,327	0.420	0.027	0.0242	0.4678	-0.047829
Chorlton	12,974	0.050	0.027	0.0039	0.3503	-0.300298
Chorlton Park	12,795	0.310	0.027	0.0242	0.3455	-0.035465
City Centre	9,948	0.000	0.027	0.0000	0.2686	-0.268596
Crumpsall	14,870	0.210	0.027	0.0141	0.4015	-0.19149
Didsbury East	13,541	0.500	0.027	0.0369	0.3656	0.134393
Didsbury West	12,531	0.000	0.027	0.0000	0.3383	-0.338337
Fallowfield	14,660	0.120	0.027	0.0082	0.3958	-0.27582
Gorton North	14,409	0.210	0.027	0.0146	0.3890	-0.179043
Gorton South	15,617	0.340	0.027	0.0218	0.4217	-0.081659
Harpurhey	16,497	0.100	0.027	0.0061	0.4454	-0.345419
Higher Blackley	13,947	0.520	0.027	0.0373	0.3766	0.143431
Hulme	12,460	0.610	0.027	0.0490	0.3364	0.27358
Levenshulme	14,059	0.100	0.027	0.0071	0.3796	-0.279593
Longsight	14,532	0.120	0.027	0.0083	0.3924	-0.272364
Miles Platting and Newton Heath	16,060	0.370	0.027	0.0230	0.4336	-0.06362
Moss Side	17,427	0.290	0.027	0.0166	0.4705	-0.180529
Moston	14,402	0.220	0.027	0.0153	0.3889	-0.168854
Northenden	14,480	0.180	0.027	0.0124	0.3910	-0.21096
Old Moat	13,923	0.210	0.027	0.0151	0.3759	-0.165921
Rusholme	14,110	0.110	0.027	0.0078	0.3810	-0.27097
Sharston	15,013	0.710	0.027	0.0473	0.4054	0.304649
Whalley Range	14,076	0.210	0.027	0.0149	0.3801	-0.170052
Withington	11,539	0.170	0.027	0.0147	0.3116	-0.141553
Woodhouse Park	13,864	0.750	0.027	0.0541	0.3743	0.375672

7.43 It can be seen that there are 10 wards where the level of provision for children is sufficient to meet the needs of the local population. The largest shortfalls exist in:

- Burnage – 0.40 hectares
- Harpurhey – 0.35 hectares
- Didsbury West – 0.34 hectares
- Chorlton – 0.30 hectares
- Levenshulme – 0.28 hectares.

Table 7.9 – Provision for young people by ward

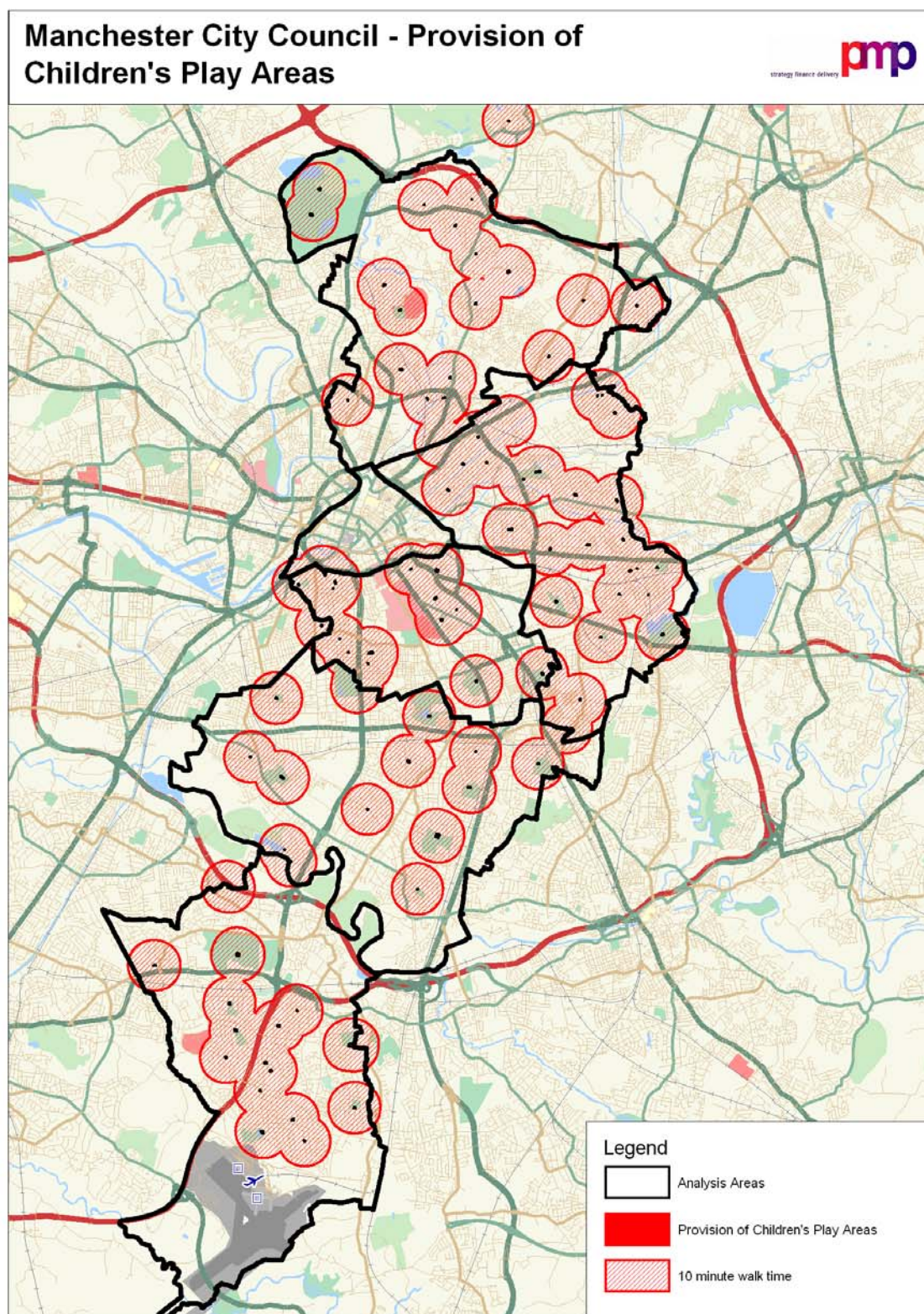
Ward	Population	Provision for young people (hectares)	Local Standard (hectares per 1000)	Per 1000 population current	TOTAL Requirement	Surplus / Deficiency
Ancoats & Clayton	13,675	0.880	0.034	0.0644	0.4650	0.41505
Ardwick	16,232	0.360	0.034	0.0222	0.5519	-0.191888
Baguley	14,384	0.130	0.034	0.0090	0.4891	-0.359056
Bradford	12,646	1.180	0.034	0.0933	0.4300	0.750036
Brooklands	12,713	0.390	0.034	0.0307	0.4322	-0.042242
Burnage	14,694	0.000	0.034	0.0000	0.4996	-0.499596
Charlestown	12,580	0.190	0.034	0.0151	0.4277	-0.23772
Cheetham	17,327	0.490	0.034	0.0283	0.5891	-0.099118
Chorlton	12,974	0.000	0.034	0.0000	0.4411	-0.441116
Chorlton Park	12,795	0.400	0.034	0.0313	0.4350	-0.03503
City Centre	9,948	0.000	0.034	0.0000	0.3382	-0.338232
Crumpsall	14,870	0.110	0.034	0.0074	0.5056	-0.39558
Didsbury East	13,541	0.230	0.034	0.0170	0.4604	-0.230394
Didsbury West	12,531	0.060	0.034	0.0048	0.4261	-0.366054
Fallowfield	14,660	0.900	0.034	0.0614	0.4984	0.40156
Gorton North	14,409	0.170	0.034	0.0118	0.4899	-0.319906
Gorton South	15,617	0.260	0.034	0.0166	0.5310	-0.270978
Harpurhey	16,497	1.570	0.034	0.0952	0.5609	1.009102
Higher Blackley	13,947	0.460	0.034	0.0330	0.4742	-0.014198
Hulme	12,460	0.350	0.034	0.0281	0.4236	-0.07364
Levenshulme	14,059	0.130	0.034	0.0092	0.4780	-0.348006
Longsight	14,532	0.240	0.034	0.0165	0.4941	-0.254088
Moss Side	17,427	1.220	0.034	0.0700	0.5925	0.627482
Moston	14,402	0.270	0.034	0.0187	0.4897	-0.219668
Miles Platting and Newton Heath	16,060	0.450	0.034	0.0280	0.5460	-0.09604
Northenden	14,480	1.430	0.034	0.0988	0.4923	0.93768
Old Moat	13,923	0.080	0.034	0.0057	0.4734	-0.393382
Rusholme	14,110	0.160	0.034	0.0113	0.4797	-0.31974
Sharston	15,013	0.210	0.034	0.0140	0.5104	-0.300442
Whalley Range	14,076	0.130	0.034	0.0092	0.4786	-0.348584
Withington	11,539	0.330	0.034	0.0286	0.3923	-0.062326
Woodhouse Park	13,864	0.290	0.034	0.0209	0.4714	-0.181376

7.44 It can be seen that there are only six wards where the level of provision for young people is sufficient to meet local needs. The wards that contain the largest deficiencies per 1000 population are:

- Burnage – 0.50 hectares
- Chorlton – 0.44 hectares
- Crumpsall – 0.40 hectares
- Old Moat – 0.39 hectares.

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

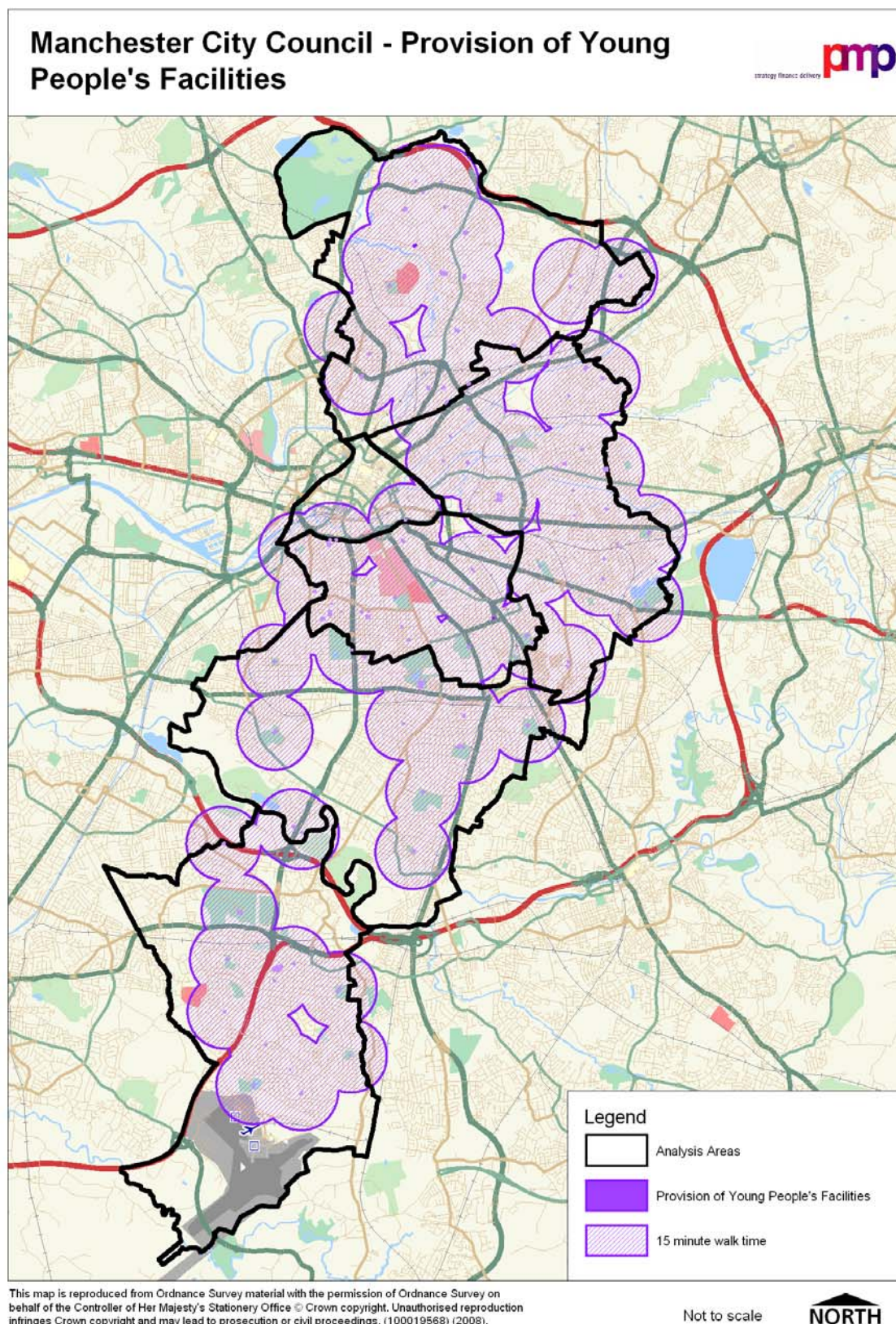
Map 7.1 – Provision for children in Manchester



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

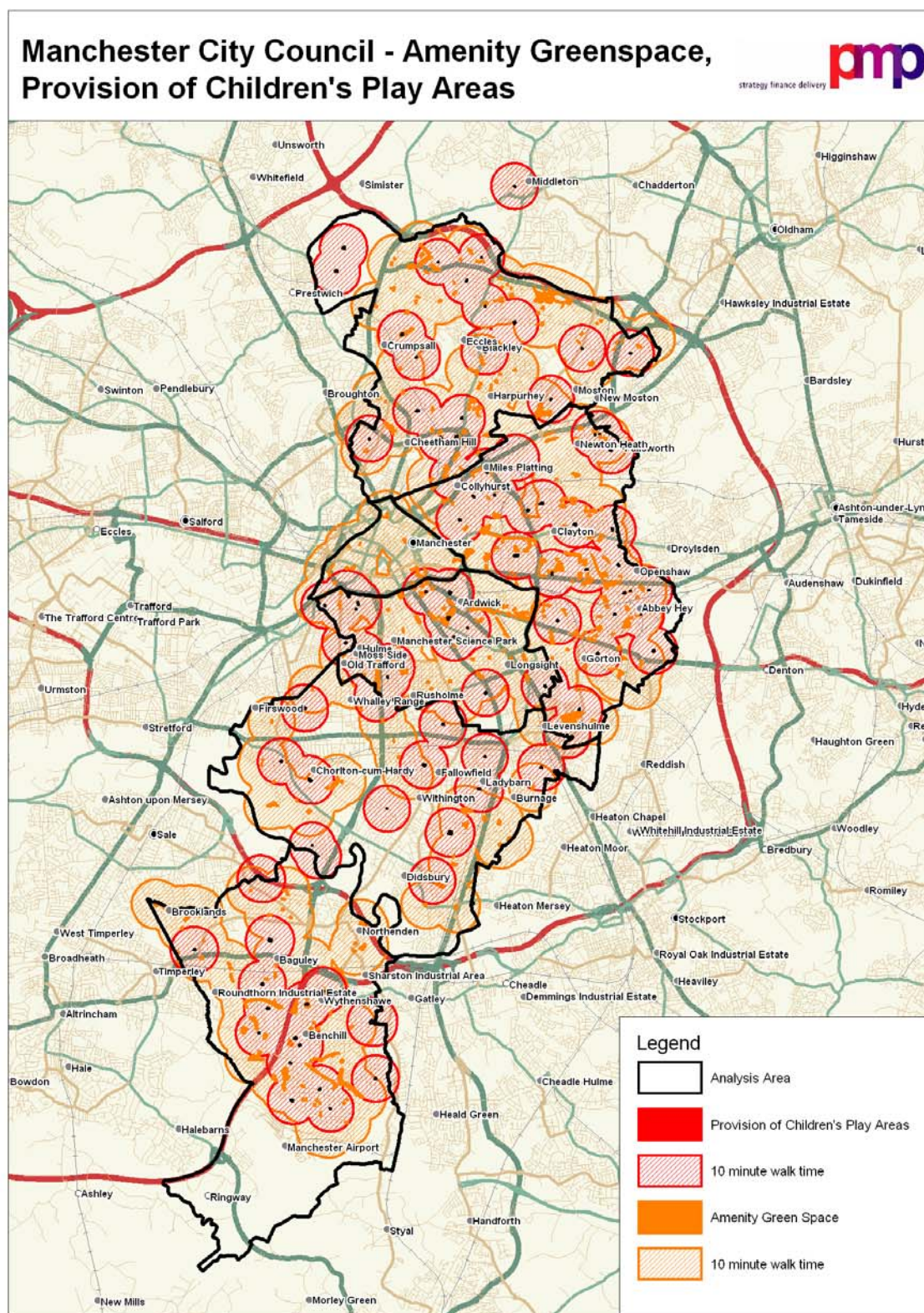


Map 7.2 – Provision for young people in Manchester



- 7.46 Map 7.1 highlights that there is an even distribution of children's play areas across Manchester. However, despite well dispersed facilities there are some facilities serving overlapping catchments and deficiencies are evident in all areas of the City. Key areas of deficiency are as follows:
- City Centre – no sites are located in this area of the City and nearly all residents are outside the catchment of a play area. This also means that there are no amenities for visitors to the City
 - East Manchester – the majority of residents have access to a play area within the recommended 10 minute walk time. However, residents in the Miles Platting and Newton Heath area are outside the catchment of a play area
 - Central Manchester – key areas of deficiency are evident across the area, particularly in Ardwick and Longsight
 - South Manchester – there are gaps in provision across the South of the City, particularly in Whalley Range, Moss Side and Chorlton Park
 - North Manchester – pockets of deficiency are evident, including Harpurhey and Cheetham
 - Wythenshawe – the majority of residents have access to a play area, however access is poor in Northenden and some parts of Brooklands.
- 7.47 Map 7.2 illustrates that the majority of residents have access to young people's facility within the recommended 15 minute walk time. However, particular areas of deficiency are evident in South Manchester and the City Centre. Areas of deficiency are as follows:
- City Centre – no facilities for young people are located in this area of the City and the majority of residents, particularly those in the north, do not have access to a facility for young people
 - South Manchester – a large number of residents in the centre of the analysis area are outside the recommended accessibility catchment of a young people's facility, particularly residents in Chorlton Park and West Didsbury
 - North Manchester – residents in Charlestown are unable to access a young people's facility within the recommended 15 minute walk time
 - Wythenshawe – provision is limited in Northenden and Brooklands.
- 7.48 While this section focuses primarily on equipped areas for children and young people, it is also important to consider the role that amenity green spaces play in providing informal play opportunities. Areas deficient in both amenity space and formal facilities should be a particular priority for new provision, as this indicates that there is a distinct lack of opportunities for informal recreation. The provision of amenity green space in relation to facilities for children and young people is set out overleaf in Maps 7.3 - 7.4.

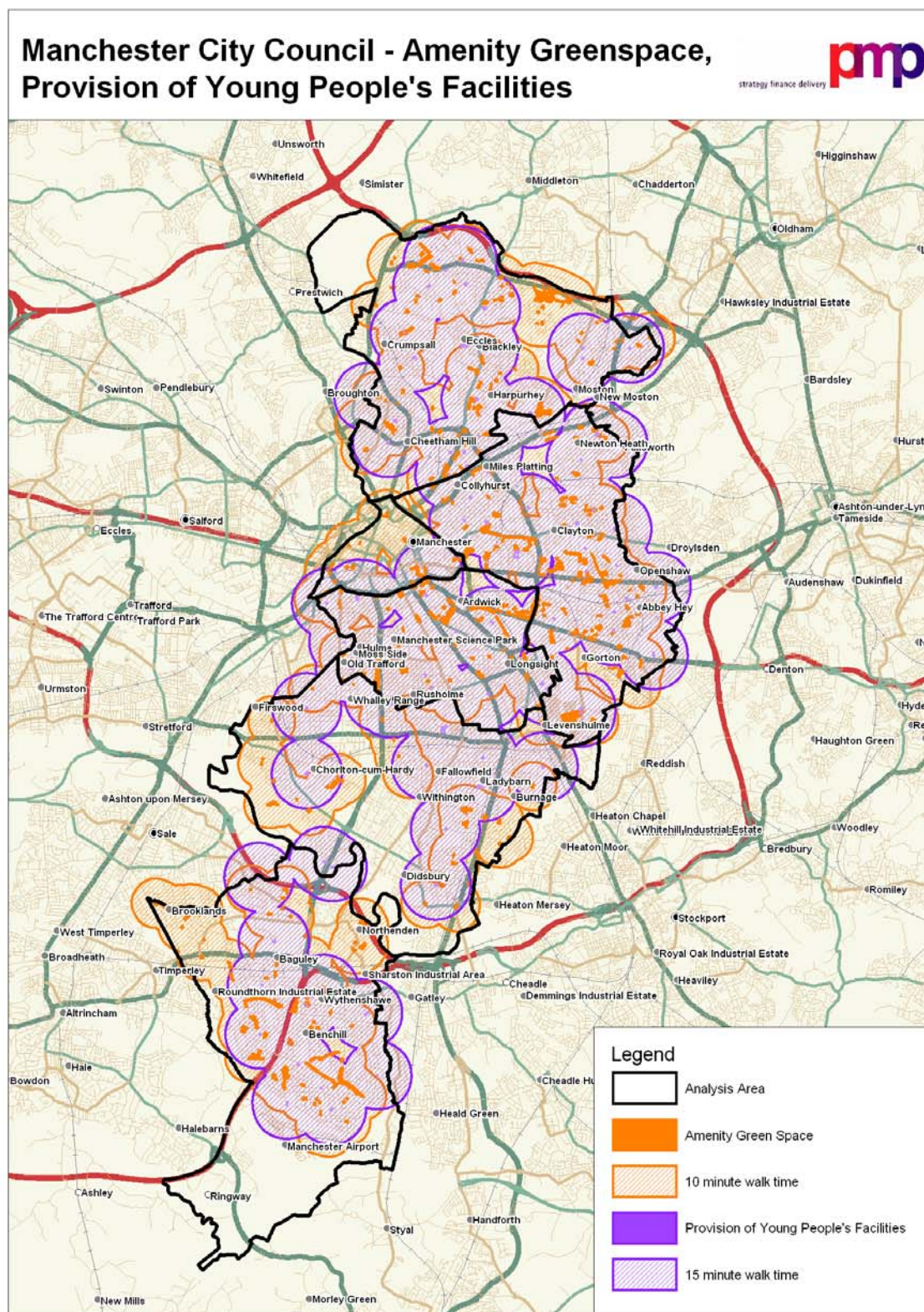
Map 7.3 – Provision for children and amenity green space in Manchester



StreetPro UK © 2008 TeleAtlas N.V. This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. Licence number 100026920



Map 7.4 – Provision for young people and amenity green space in Manchester



StreetPro UK © 2008 TeleAtlas N.V. This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. Licence number 100026920



- 7.49 Map 7.3 illustrates that nearly all residents have access to either and amenity green space or a play area within the recommended accessibility catchments. However, there are some residents with access to neither in South Manchester.
- 7.50 Similarly, Map 7.4 indicates that nearly all residents have access to a facility for young people or amenity green space, with the exception of South Manchester.

The future delivery of facilities for children and young people across Manchester

- 7.51 The remainder of this section outlines the key priorities for the delivery of facilities for children and young people across Manchester in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. It then highlights specific issues for each area of the City which arise as a result of the application of the local standards. The key priorities have been derived from the main themes arising from consultation, as well as the analysis of existing provision and the application of the standards.

Quality of provision

- 7.52 While the quantity of provision was the overriding theme of consultations, the quality of provision was also considered to be important. Analysis of consultation findings demonstrates that there is evidence that poor quality facilities influence perceptions on the quantity of provision.
- 7.53 Manchester's Play Strategy promotes children's entitlement to play and identifies that to achieve this aim there needs to be sufficient high quality play areas across the City which promote strong play values. The strategy further emphasises the need to provide exciting and challenging play areas. This supports guidance provided by Play England highlighted in the recent publications *Managing Risk in Play Provision and Design For Play*. The guidance moves away from the provision of traditional swings and slides and encourages the development of more innovative opportunities, including natural play environments. Adherence to this guidance is therefore likely to see a greater overlap and interrelationship between natural open spaces, informal open spaces and provision for children and young people in future years. 23% of children responding to the survey indicated that play facilities in Manchester are currently 'boring'. The Parktastic programme that has recently been introduced in Manchester provides opportunities for adventurous play in the setting of parks and other local open spaces.

Children's play areas

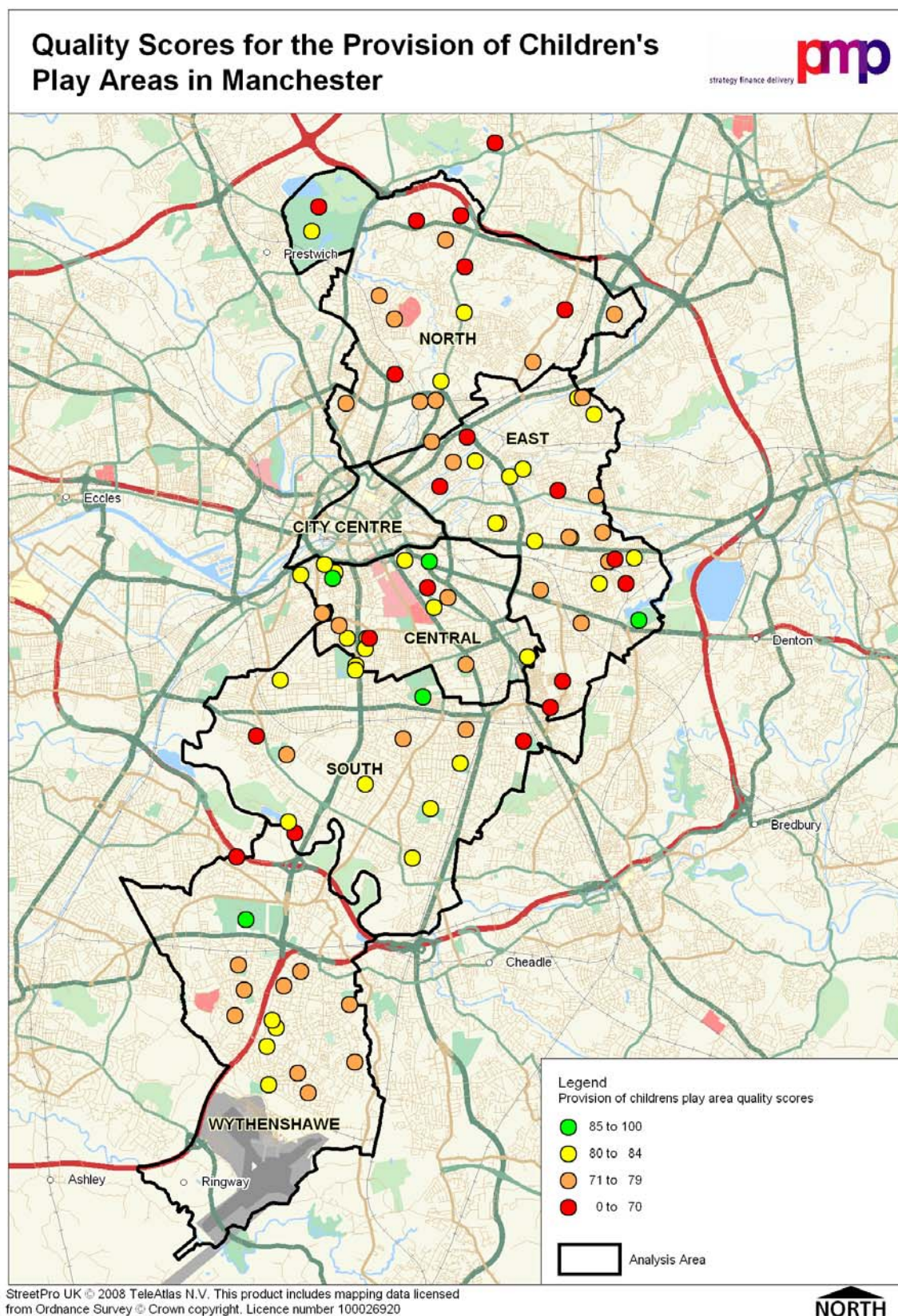
- 7.54 Site assessments reveal that the quality of children's play areas is average, with the average quality score of a site being 72%. The quality of play areas is consistent across all areas of the City, however quality scores do range from 22% - 100%.
- 7.55 Children's play areas have been divided into quartiles, based on the quality scores achieved during site assessments. These quartiles are as follows:
- poor quality – 0% - 72%
 - average quality – 72% - 80%
 - good quality – 81% - 85%
 - excellent quality – 86% - 100%.

- 7.56 The quality benchmark for children's play areas is set at 86%, the score required for a children's play areas to be categorised as excellent.
- 7.57 Only five sites achieved a quality score in the top quartile level (85% and above) and 14 sites achieved quality scores below 70% (the bottom quartile level). This indicates that there are qualitative improvements required to a number of sites.

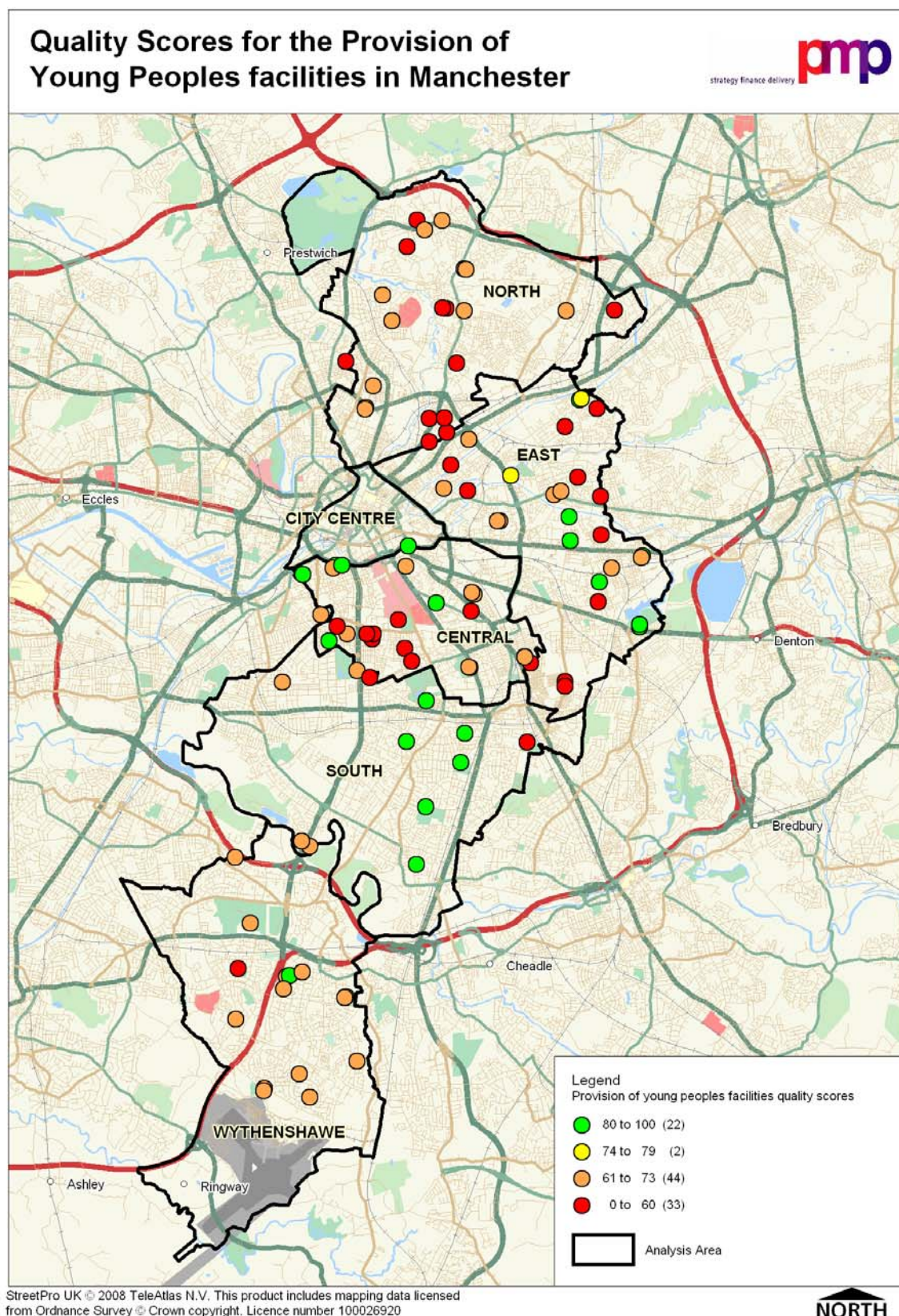
Facilities for young people

- 7.58 The average quality score of a facility for young people is 61%. This indicates that the quality of facilities is generally average. However, quality scores do range significantly from 20% - 100%.
- 7.59 Facilities for young people have been divided into quartiles, based on the quality scores achieved during site assessments. These quartiles are as follows:
- poor quality – 0% - 61%
 - average quality – 62% - 74%
 - good quality – 75% - 80%
 - excellent quality – 81% - 100%.
- 7.60 The quality benchmark for facilities for young people is set at 81%, the score required for a facility for young people to be categorised as excellent.
- 7.61 16 sites achieved quality scores which fall in the bottom quartile level (below 60%). This highlights the need for qualitative enhancements to a number of facilities for young people in Manchester.
- 7.62 Several consultees highlighted the importance of taking a more holistic approach to the design and location of facilities for young people across Manchester. They suggested that facilities should be provided as more informal and that they should integrate into the urban environment. The importance of safety and security at children's play areas was also emphasised. These factors should be taken into consideration when providing or enhancing facilities.
- 7.63 The distribution of the quality of children's play areas and facilities for young people can be seen on Maps 7.5 and 7.6 overleaf. These maps illustrate that:
- the quality of children's play areas is consistent across all areas of the City and no clusters of poor quality facilities are particularly evident
 - residents in South Manchester have access to considerably higher quality facilities for young people
 - clusters of poor quality sites for young people are evident in Central Manchester, East Manchester and North Manchester.

Map 7.5 – Quality of children’s play areas in Manchester



Map 7.6 – Quality of young people's facilities in Manchester



C1

Seek to upgrade traditional facilities with challenging and exciting play facilities for children and young people that encourage children to test their boundaries and balance risk and safety.

- 7.64 The Play Strategy promotes a strategic approach to the design of play and the action plan indicates that the Council aims to consult with key stakeholders, children and young people over the design and delivery of play. Consulting with children and young people will ensure that facilities are tailored to the needs and aspirations of local communities, linking in with the aim of the strategy to increase usage of facilities.

C2

Policy should promote the involvement of young people and children in the design of facilities intended for their local area.

- 7.65 As well as guiding the enhancement of existing sites, the quality standard should also drive new provision and all new sites should be developed taking into account the identified aspirations of the local residents.

C3

Planning policies relating to the provision of new facilities for children and young people should include comprehensive guidelines to encourage the provision of a wide variety of new facilities and to move away from traditional facilities. They should also reflect the importance of appropriate location of facilities.

Identifying areas where new provision is required

- 7.66 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each geographical area through the interpretation of the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments.
- 7.67 In terms of locating priority areas for new facilities, new provision should be targeted at those areas outside the distance threshold where there are sufficient people to justify new provision. This emphasises the importance of access in determining the need for new provision for children.
- 7.68 In order to effectively meet the needs of residents it is essential to ensure that residents have access to facilities of the appropriate quality within the required distance threshold. The accessibility standards therefore indicate that more facilities will be required for children than young people, as young people can be expected to travel further to reach a facility.
- 7.69 Key areas of deficiency are highlighted in the area specific sections that follow. In light of the numerous deficiencies and the number of residents currently outside of the appropriate catchment for a facility, it will be essential to maximise public transport links and where possible, to locate sites, particularly those for young people, on routes which are easily accessible by public transport.
- 7.70 In addition, in order to promote sustainable transport, green linkages and cycle routes between large residential neighbourhoods, play facilities and other green spaces should be developed. This is also central to the delivery strategy for other types of open space.

C4

Facilitate the development of green linkages and cycle routes between large residential neighbourhoods, play facilities and other green spaces.

Encourage the development of facilities on sites which are easily accessible by public transport.

- 7.71 As illustrated in the paragraphs that follow, there are a significant number of deficiencies in facilities for children and young people. The Building Schools for the Future programme looks to place schools at the heart of their community and therefore provides facilities local to each neighbourhood. The programme will ensure that a range of facilities are provided which reflect the needs of the community as well as curriculum needs. This will generate improvements to the overall quality and quantity of provision across Manchester.
- 7.72 In light of the high levels of deficiency, and the location of schools, consideration should be given to the provision of equipped facilities for children and young people at these sites. Full access for the community outside of school hours should be negotiated.

C5

Consider the location of facilities for children and young people at school sites. Ensure full access to these sites for the local community

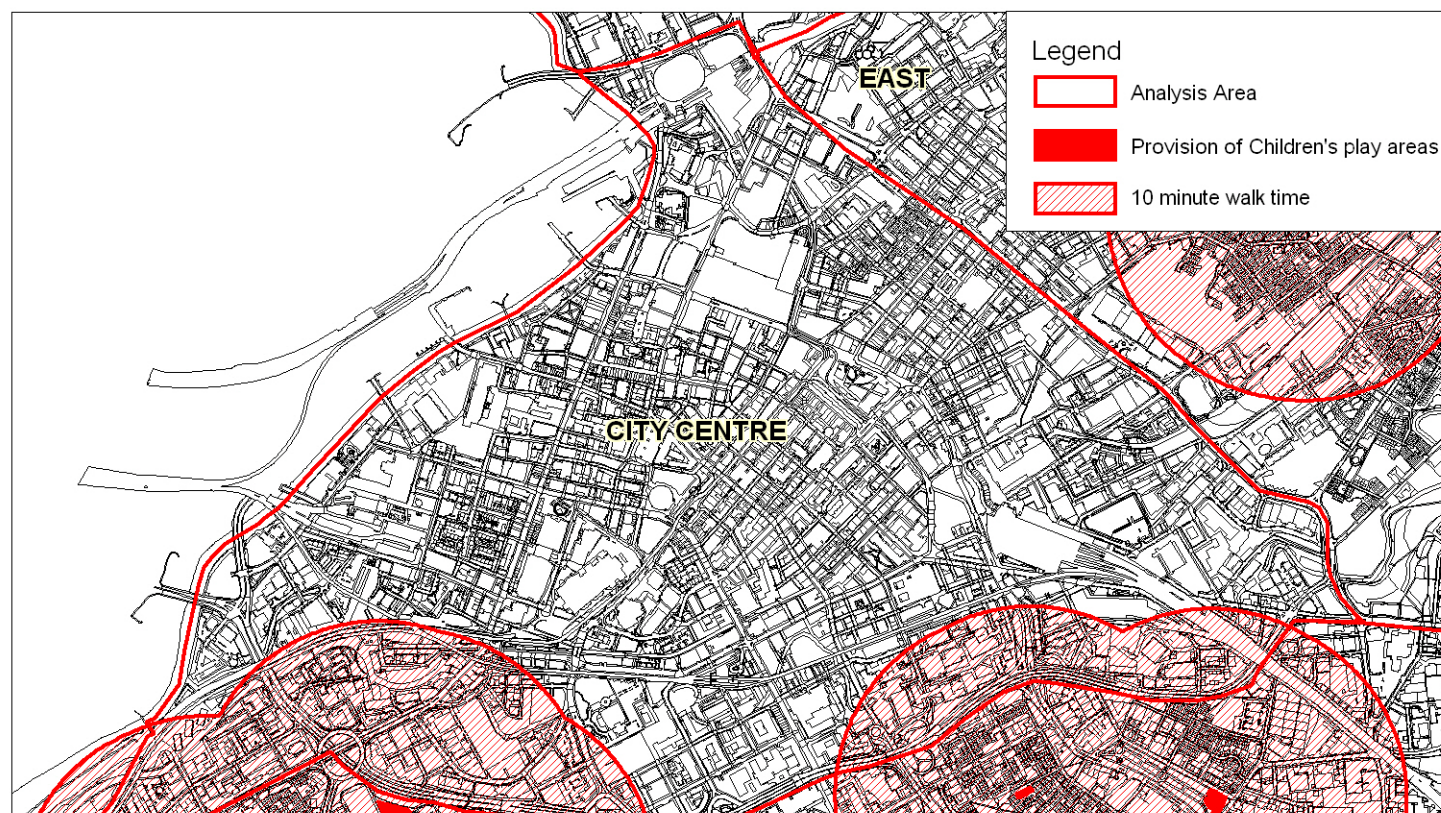
- 7.73 The key priorities in each area of the City are therefore as follows:

Manchester City Centre

Children's play areas

- 7.74 There are no children's play areas located within the City Centre and application of the quantity standard shows that there is a shortfall equivalent to 0.26 hectares. Based on the average size of a play area in Manchester, the current shortfall equates to over two facilities.
- 7.75 Accessibility mapping confirms this shortfall with only a small number of residents in the south of the City centre able to access a play area (Figure 7.1).

Figure 7.1 – Deficiencies of children’s play areas in the City Centre



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).



7.76 Although there are no formal play areas, the City centre is well served in terms of amenity green space and civic space, although this does not negate the need for equipped play facilities.

7.77 Priorities for the delivery of facilities in the City centre are therefore as follows:

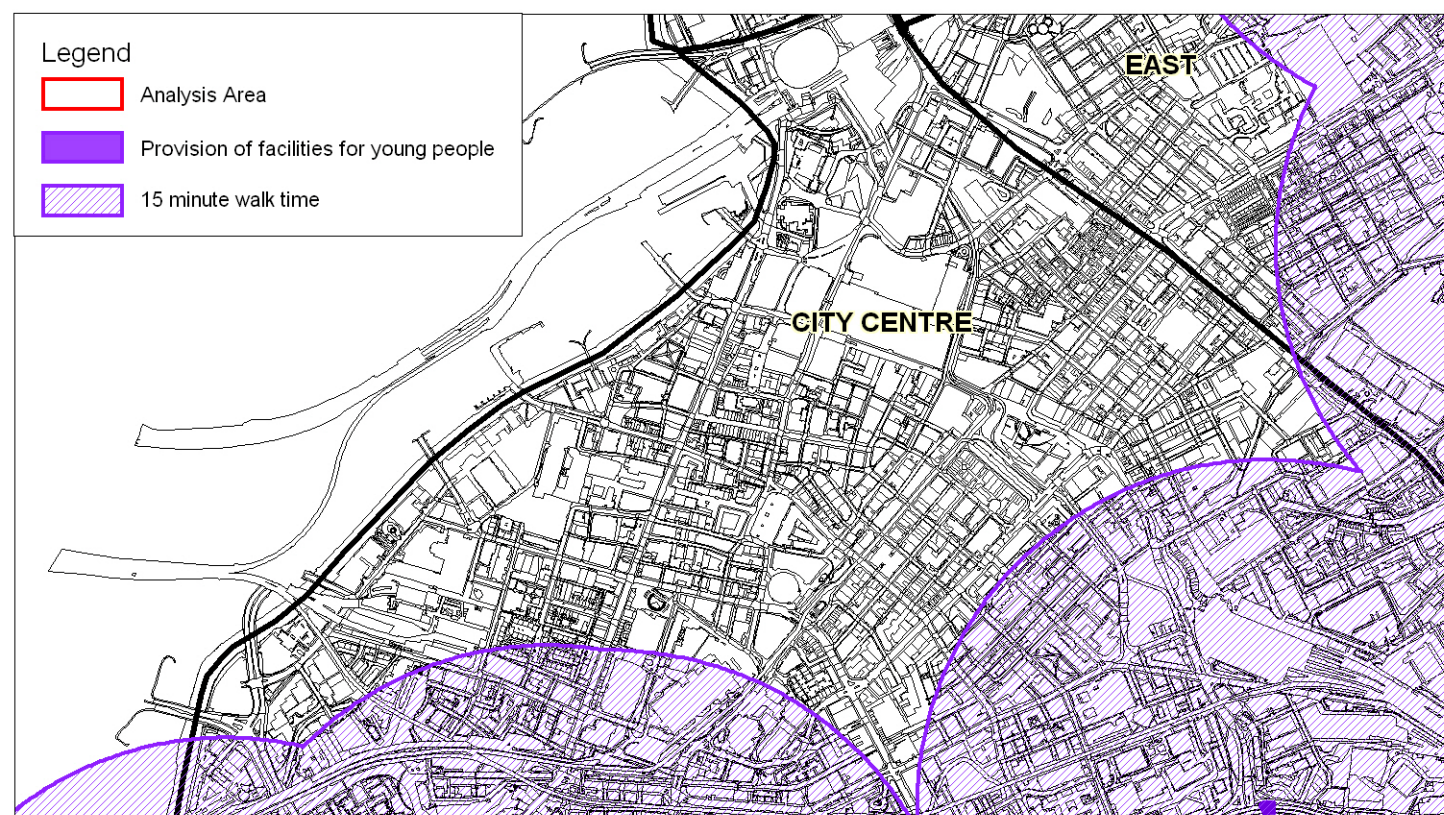
Short Term – facilities for children	Provide one or two new facilities for children in the City centre. These facilities should meet with quality design criteria and be large enough to sustain use by both residents and visitors
---	--

Facilities for young people

7.78 As with the provision of children's play areas, no facilities for young people are located within the City Centre. The total quantitative shortfall in the area equates to 0.34 hectares, which is approximately three facilities (based on the average size of one facility).

7.79 Like the provision for children, accessibility mapping illustrates this shortfall, with very few residents within the appropriate distance of a facility.

Figure 7.2 – Deficiencies of facilities for young people in the City Centre



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).



7.80 Despite shortfalls in provision for young people, civic spaces and amenity green spaces provide young people with informal areas to gather. This was a key cause for concern during consultations, and therefore dedicated facilities for young people in the City centre should be prioritised.

7.81 The priority for provision for young people in the City centre therefore is:

Short Term – facilities for young people	Provide at least two dedicated facilities / areas for young people within the City centre to cater for both residents and visitors and also to meet the needs of the growing population in this area. The sites should offer a range of opportunities in order to maximize usage of the sites and reduce the knock on impact on other open spaces.
---	--

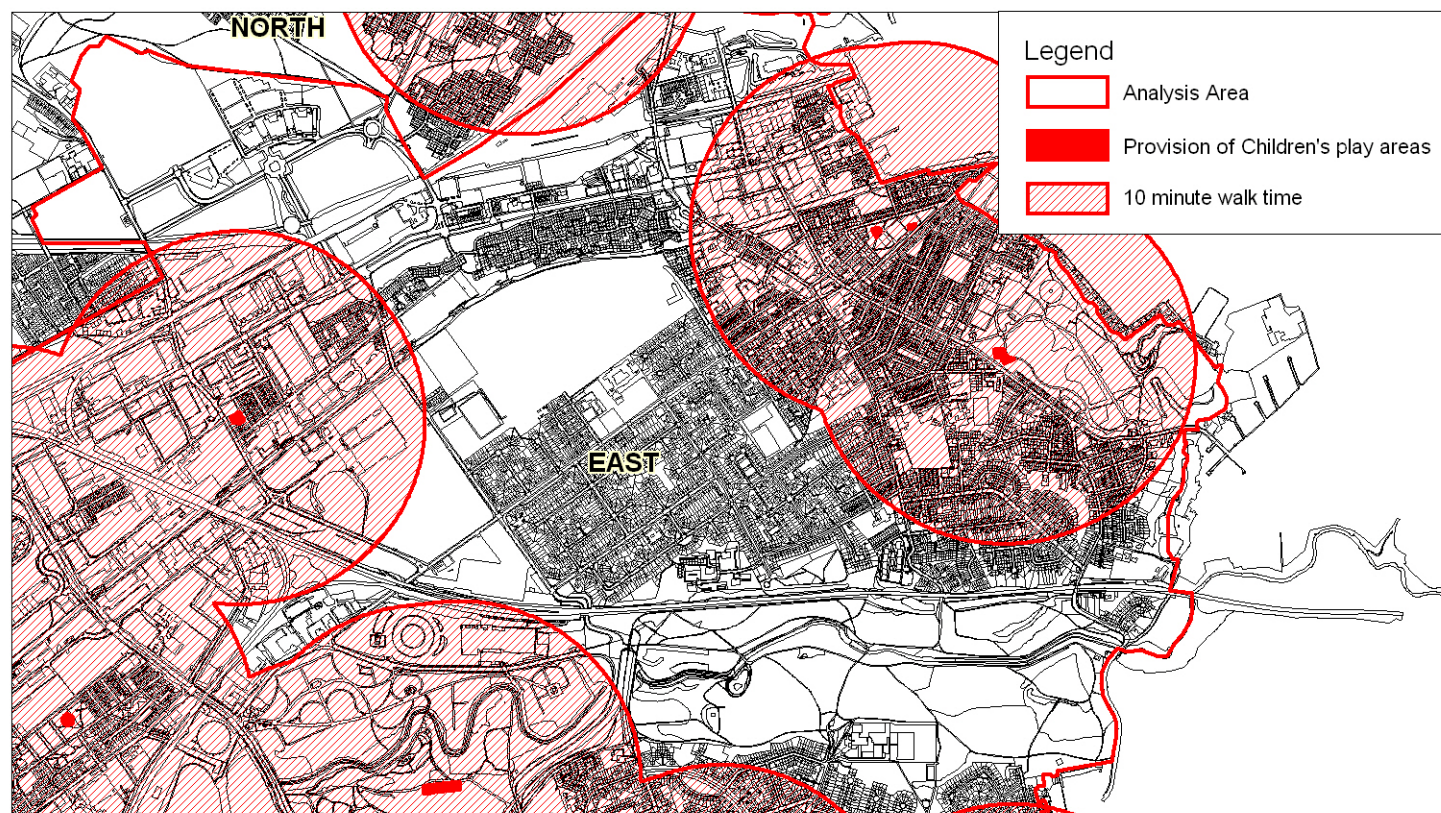
East Manchester

Children's play areas

7.82 Application of the quantity standard indicates that the provision of children's play areas is sufficient to meet demand. The current provision is sufficient to accommodate a population growth of 3,016.

7.83 Although provision exceeds the minimum standard, accessibility mapping highlights a number of overlapping catchments and several areas of deficiency. The key area of deficiency is found in Newton Heath and Miles Platting (Figure 7.3).

Figure 7.3 – Deficiencies of children’s play areas in Newton Heath and Miles Platting



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

pmp
strategy financial delivery

- 7.84 There are several amenity green space sites and parks located in the Newton Heath and Miles Platting area. In consideration of the lack of access to children's play areas in this area of East Manchester, consideration should be given to the provision of a new children's play area within one of these sites.
- 7.85 The quality of children's play areas in East Manchester is average, with the average quality of a site being 73%. Although the overall quality of sites is average, quality scores do range from 53% - 93%. Only Hulme Park Play Area (85%) and Debdale Park Play Area (93%) achieved quality scores within the top quartile level (85% and above) and one site achieved a quality score which falls within the bottom quartile (70% and below). This indicates that qualitative improvements are required to a number of play areas in East Manchester.
- 7.86 In addition to some facilities that are of poor quality, there are several sites serving overlapping catchments (particularly around Openshaw). In order to improve the quality of other sites, the removal of some of these sites to focus on qualitative improvements to nearby sites may be required.

Short Term – facilities for children	Provide a new facility for children in the Miles Platting / Newton Heath Area of the City to offset existing deficiencies
Medium Term – facilities for children	Review the value of sites with overlapping catchments and identify opportunities for disposal of sites if appropriate
Ongoing – facilities for children	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across existing facilities ensuring that facilities meet the needs of communities that they serve and provide a challenging play environment
Longer Term - facilities for children	Evaluate the need for play provision as part of new developments. New facilities will be required when developments are outside of the catchment for new facilities or provision is not sufficient to meet minimum standard. Across the East area as a whole, new provision will be required if population growth exceeds 3016.

Facilities for young people

- 7.87 Consistent with the findings for children's play areas, quantitative analysis indicates that the quantity of facilities for young people exceeds minimum standards. Accessibility mapping supports this, with nearly all residents able to access a facility for young people within the recommended 15 minute walk time.
- 7.88 There is a potential gap of one facility within the Gorton area of the City.
- 7.89 The quality of facilities for young people is average. The average quality score of a site is 62% and quality scores range significantly from 34% - 100%. Three sites achieved quality scores in the bottom quartile level and the quality scores of seven sites fall within the top quartile level.
- 7.90 The overarching focus should therefore be on improving the quality of facilities in East Manchester.

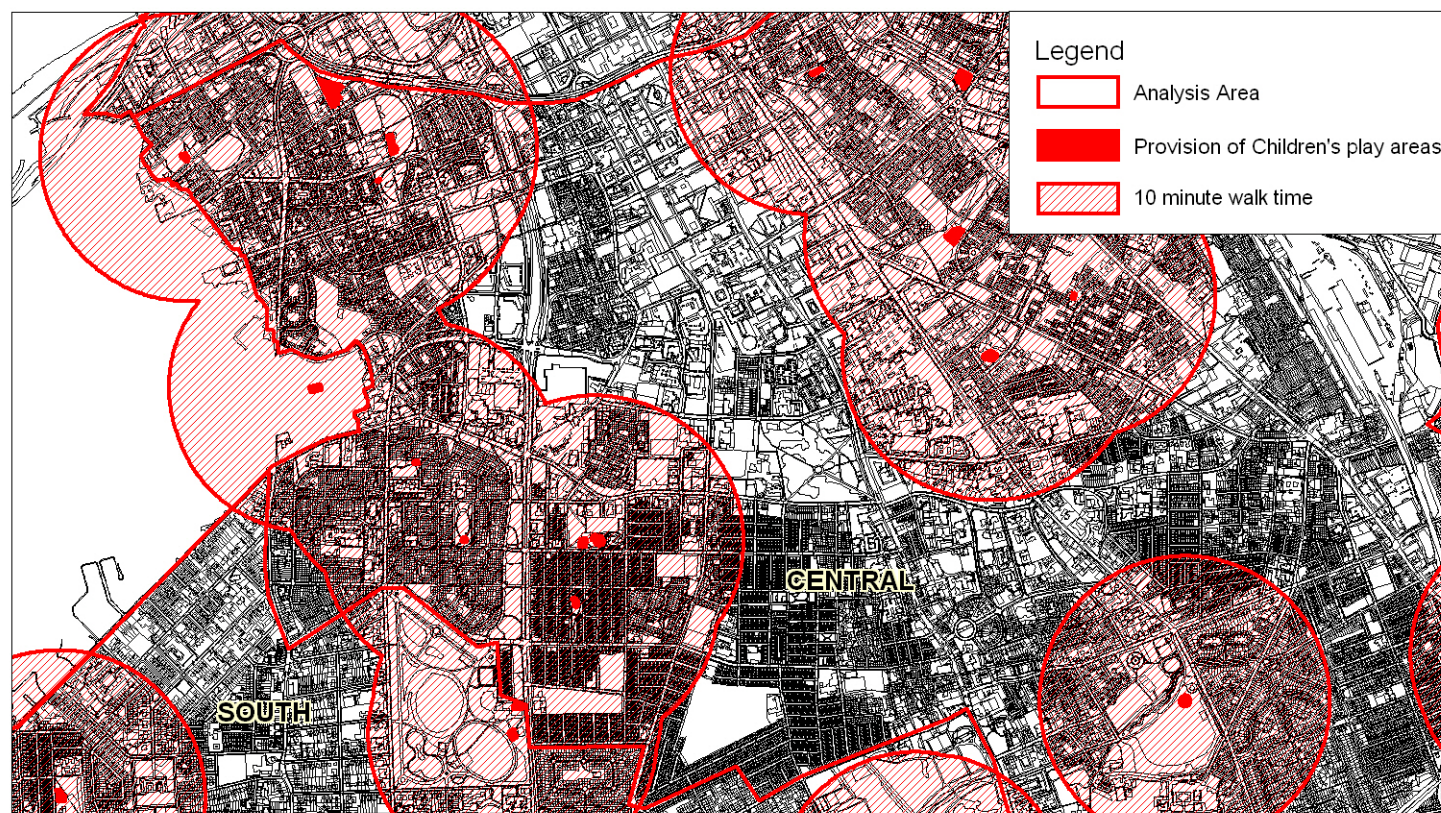
Short Term – facilities for young people	Provide a new facility for young people in the Gorton area to address the deficiency.
Ongoing – facilities for young people	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across existing facilities ensuring that facilities meet the needs of communities that they serve and provide a challenging play environment
Longer Term – facilities for young people	Evaluate the need for facilities for young people as part of new developments. New facilities will be required when developments are outside of the catchment for new facilities or provision is not sufficient to meet minimum standard.

Central Manchester

Children's play areas

- 7.91 Accessibility mapping illustrates that a large proportion of residents in the central area are outside of the appropriate catchment of facilities for children, in particular Ardwick and Longsight. (Figures 7.4 and 7.5). Application of the quantity standard supports these deficiencies, with a current shortfall of 0.27 hectares (two facilities).

Figure 7.4 – Deficiencies of children’s play areas in the west of Central Manchester

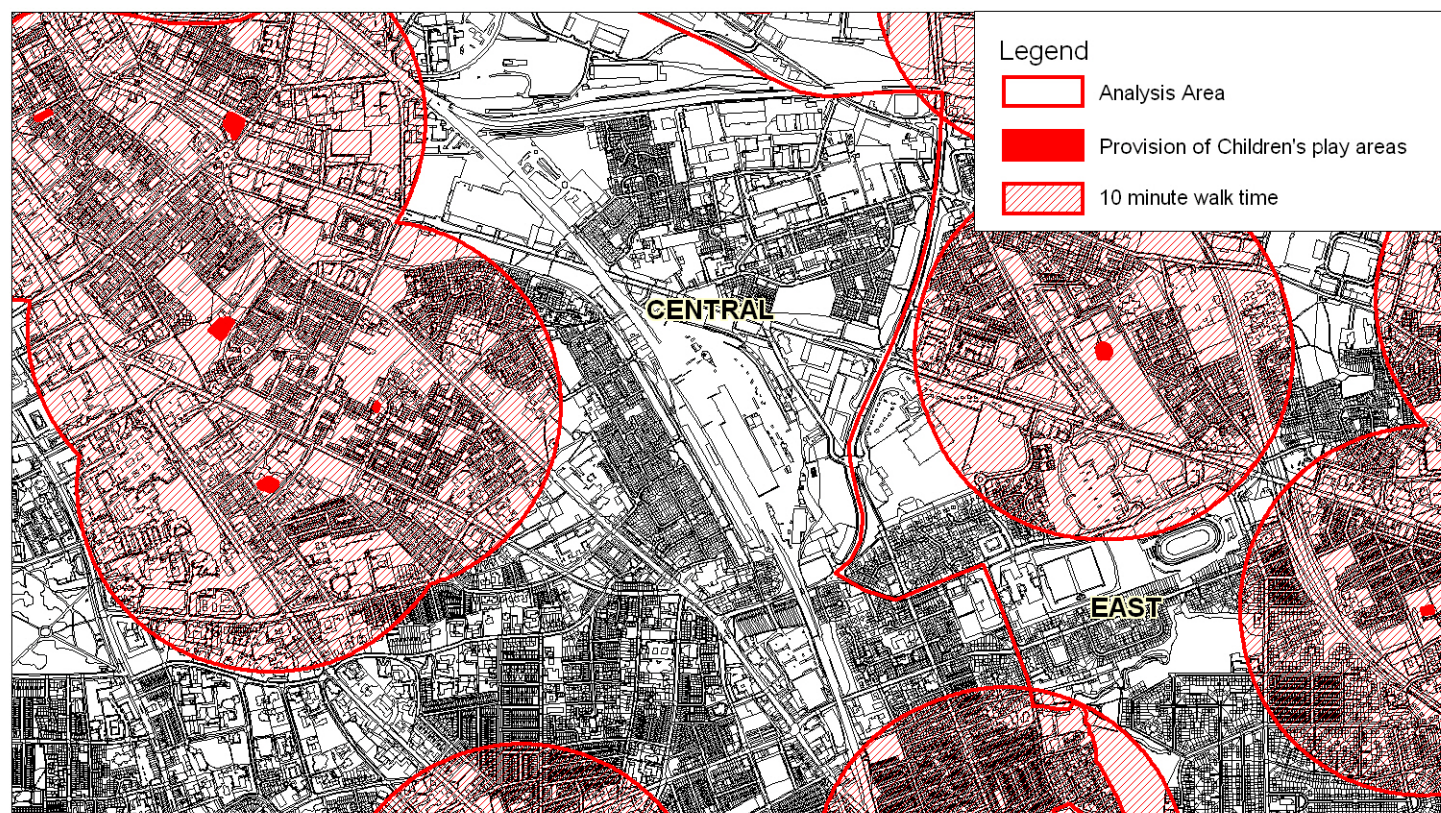


This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

strategy financial delivery **pmp**

Figure 7.5 – Deficiencies of children’s play areas in the east of Central Manchester



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

strategy financial delivery

- 7.92 When the provision of amenity spaces, parks and children's play areas is combined, nearly all residents have access to at least one of these types of open space within the recommended accessibility catchments. These sites may provide opportunities for the location of new facilities.
- 7.93 The quality of play areas in Central Manchester is average, with the average quality score of a site being 74%. One site scored below 70% and only two sites achieved quality scores in 85% or above (the top quartile level). This indicates that there is room for qualitative improvements in the area.
- 7.94 The focus for the improvement of facilities for children will therefore be a balance between qualitative improvements and new provision.

Short Term - facilities for children	Address deficiencies in the area by providing new facilities for children in Ardwick and Longsight. These facilities should meet with quality guidelines.
Ongoing – facilities for children	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across existing facilities ensuring that facilities meet the needs of communities that they serve and provide a challenging play environment.
Longer Term - facilities for children	Evaluate the need for facilities as part of new developments. New facilities will be required when developments are outside of the catchment for new facilities or provision is not sufficient to meet minimum standard. Even with the creation of new facilities to meet existing deficiencies, population growth will see provision fall below the minimum standard.

Facilities for young people

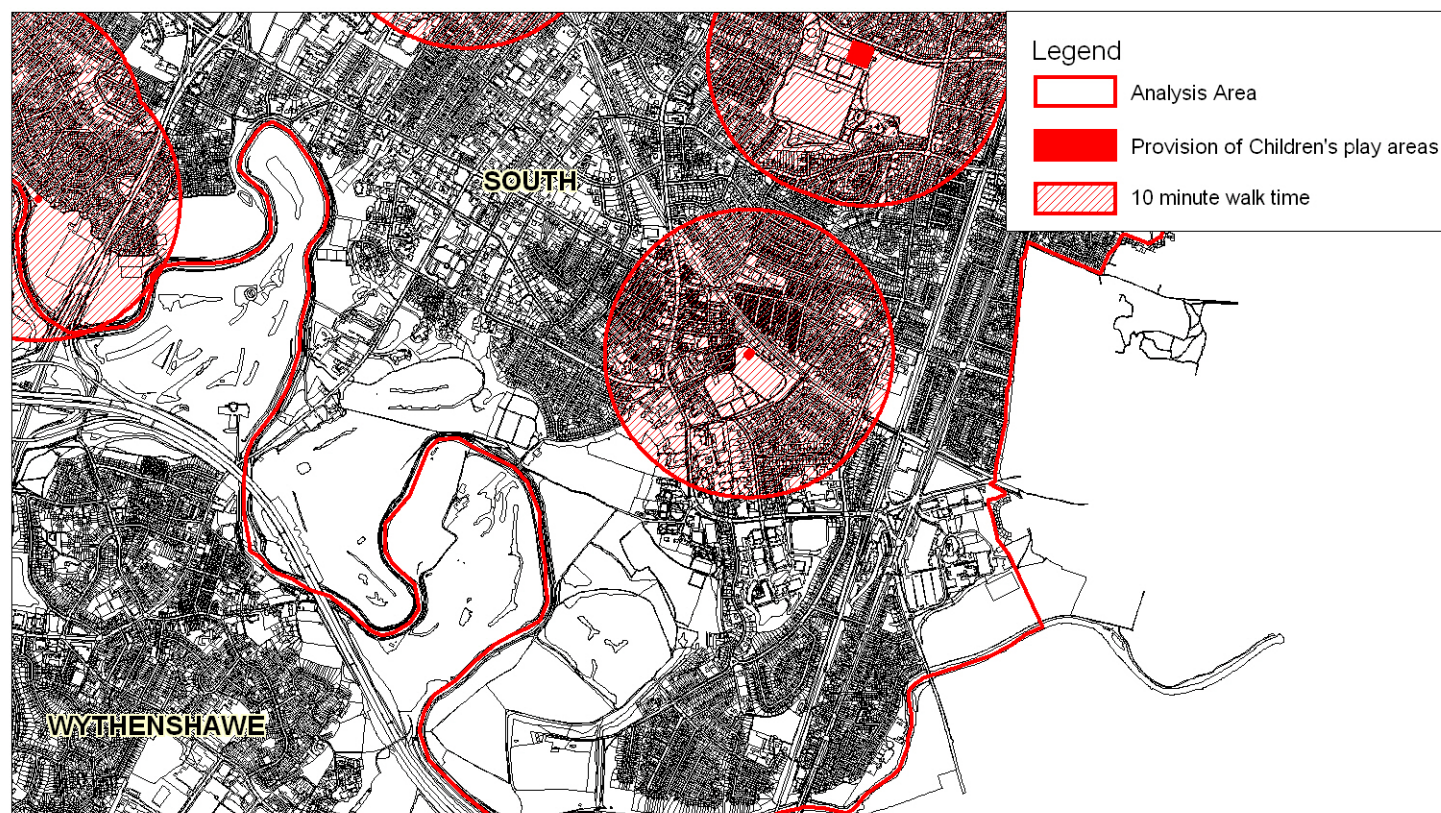
- 7.95 Quantitative analysis reveals that there is a shortfall of facilities for young people equating to 0.26 hectares (two facilities). Despite this quantitative deficiency, accessibility mapping indicates that all residents have access to a facility for young people within the recommended 15 minute walk time. There appears to be several small facilities, particularly around the Hulme area and the quantitative shortfall suggests that facilities in the central area may perhaps be smaller than in other areas of the City.
- 7.96 The average quality score of a facility for young people in Central Manchester is 63%. This indicates that on the whole, the quality of facilities is average. However, quality scores are wide ranging (20% - 100%) and four sites achieved quality scores which fall within the bottom quartile. This highlights the need for qualitative enhancements in the area.
- 7.97 In light of the even distribution of facilities across the central area, the initial focus should target qualitative improvements to facilities. Despite this, in light of the current quantitative shortfall it will be necessary to monitor the impact of population growth on the demand for new provision.

Ongoing – facilities for young people	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across existing facilities for young people ensuring that facilities meet the needs of communities that they serve and provide a challenging play environment.
Longer Term – facilities for young people	Evaluate the need for facilities for young people as part of new developments. New facilities will be required when developments are outside of the catchment for new facilities or provision is not sufficient to meet minimum standard.

South Manchester***Children's play areas***

- 7.98 The greatest quantitative shortfall of children's play areas is found within South Manchester (1.90 hectares). Based on the average size of a play area, this equates to approximately 19 facilities.
- 7.99 As may be expected in light of the high shortfalls in provision, accessibility mapping demonstrates several areas of deficiency, particularly around Whalley Range, Moss Side and Chorlton Park (Figures 7.6 and 7.7).

Figure 7.6 – Deficiencies of children's play areas

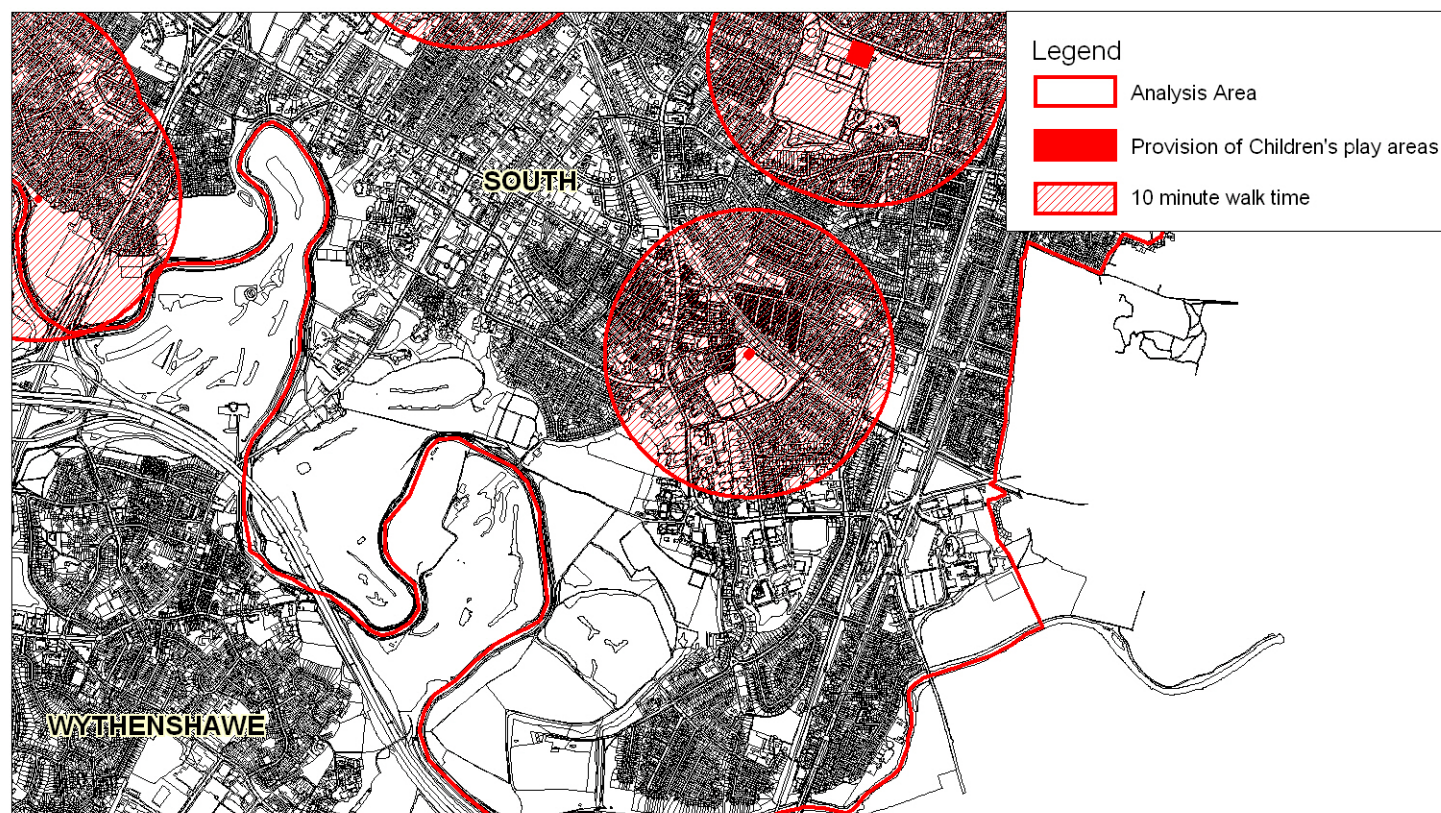


This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

strategy financial delivery **pmp**

Figure 7.7 – Deficiencies of children's play areas



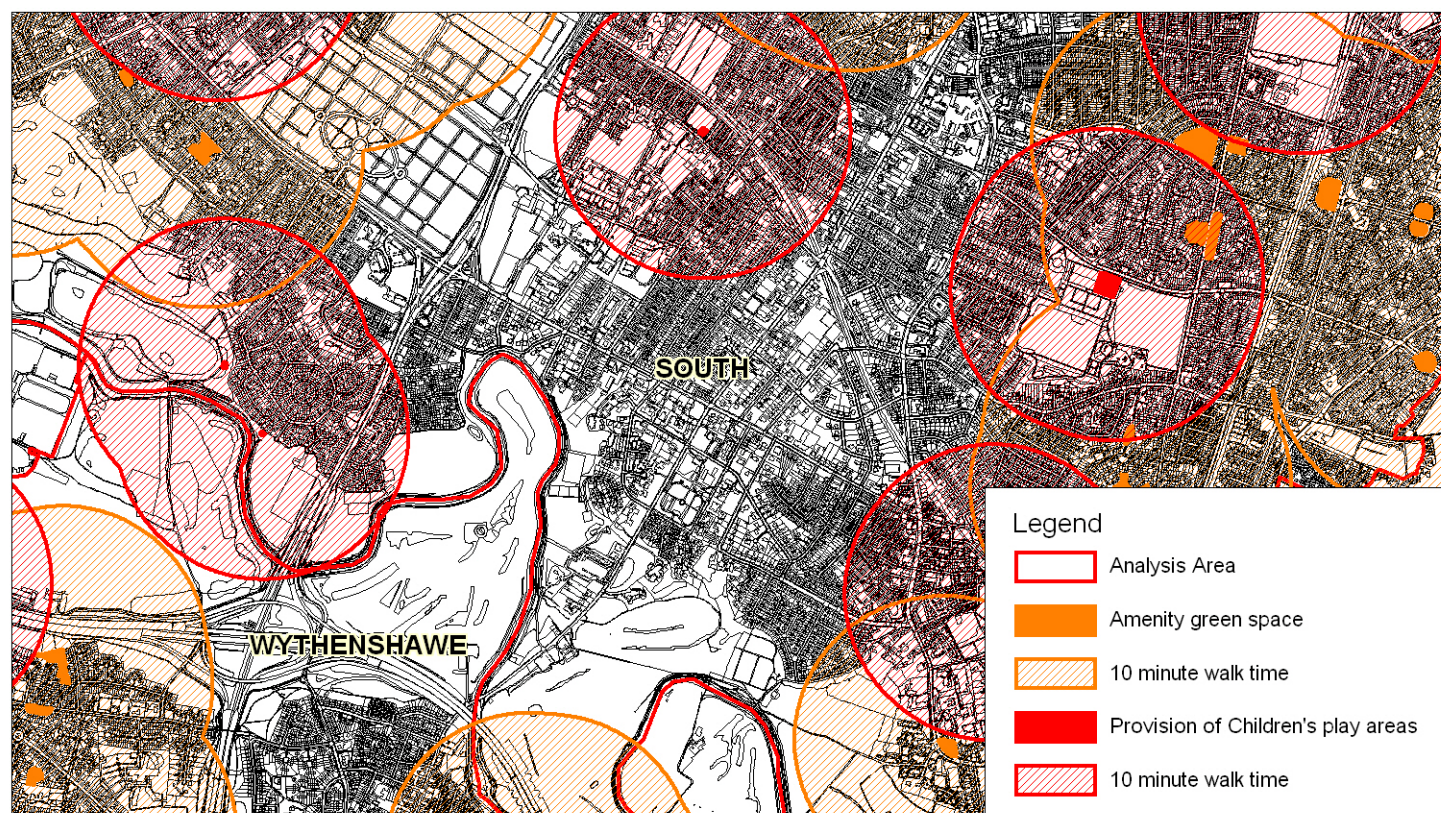
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

strategy financial delivery
pmp

- 7.100 Even when considering the provision of facilities for children in the context of amenity space, areas of accessibility deficiency are still evident as illustrated on Figures 7.8 and 7.9. Deficiencies outlined in Figure 7.8 could be rectified by the location of a new facility within a park.

Figure 7.8 – Deficiencies of children’s play areas and amenity green space in the south of South Manchester



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019568) (2008).

NORTH

pmp
strategy financial delivery