

8. Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction and definition

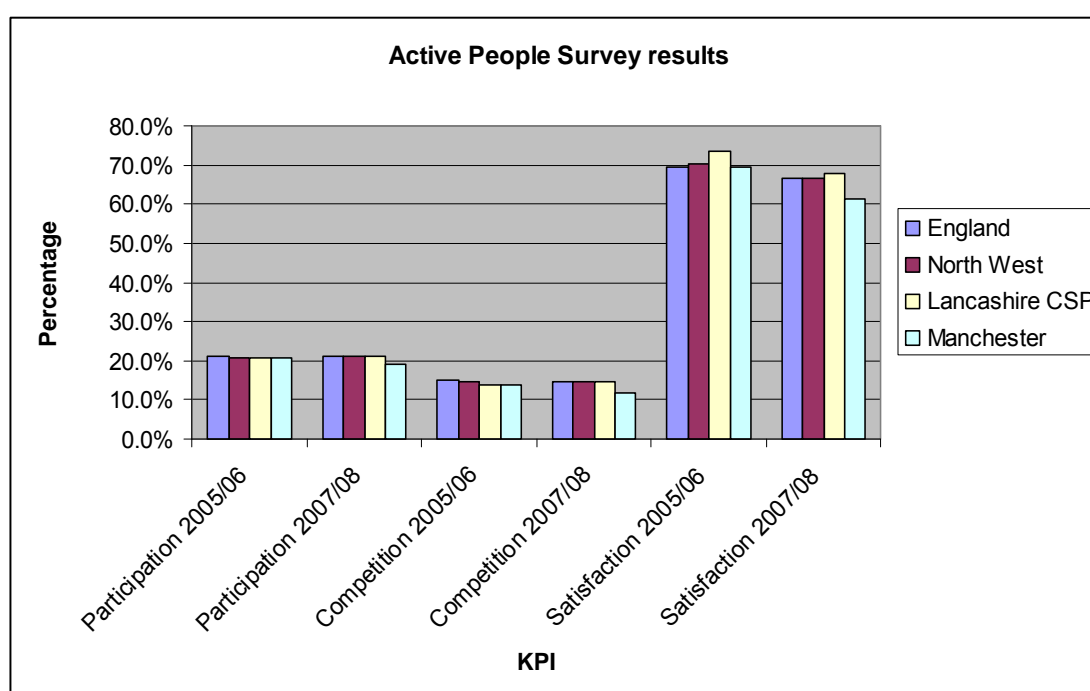
- 8.1 PPG 17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. For clarity, these amenities are separated into two distinct typologies within this document. This section considers the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester.
- 8.2 Outdoor sports facilities 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.
- 8.3 Facilities included within this category are:
- playing pitches (including football, rugby, cricket, hockey)
 - synthetic turf pitches
 - tennis courts
 - bowling greens
 - athletics tracks.
- 8.4 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 a local dog walking and ball kickabout area. This is particularly characteristic of Manchester, where many of the sports pitches are located within local parks.
- 8.5 In addition to providing a recreational resource for residents, there are a number of world class outdoor sports facilities in Manchester that have been developed as part of the legacy of the 2002 Commonwealth Games. These facilities include Sport City and the Aquatics Centre and help underpin sport in Manchester.
- 8.6 While this study provides a strategic overview of existing outdoor sports facilities and future priorities across the City, in light of the demand led nature of outdoor sports facilities, specific studies should be carried out relating to each type of facility and an overall strategy for the future delivery of sport should be developed.
- 8.7 There are many opportunities for the improvement of facilities across Manchester, particularly capitalising on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which will see significant improvements to the quality of some existing sites as well as new provision.
- 8.8 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 at a rate of 1% a year. This will place greater demand on the facility stock and emphasises the need to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose.
- 8.9 The Sport England National Strategy is set out under three headings, specifically Grow, Sustain and Excel. If Manchester City Council is to achieve its long term ambition of excelling, it will be essential to ensure that all facilities at all levels are of the highest quality and are fit for purpose.

Context

Active People Survey results

- 8.10 The Active People Survey 2006 (the Survey) was a survey of adults aged 16 plus living in England. The Survey gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership (member of a club where they play sport), people receiving tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.
- 8.11 The 2005/06 survey found that 20.8% of residents regularly participate in physical activity. This figure placed Manchester in the middle 50 percent and is similar to both the regional average (20.6%) and national average of 21%.
- 8.12 The Active People Survey was repeated during 2007/2008, providing an understanding of changes in participation. The 2007/08 survey reveals that participation in Manchester has decreased by 1.7% to 19.1%. Club membership and levels of satisfaction with sports provision have also decreased, with satisfaction decreasing by over 8%. Volunteering, however, has increased by nearly 1%.
- 8.13 These changes are illustrated in Figure 8.1 below:

Figure 8.1 – Participation rates across Manchester



- 8.14 Table 8.1 overleaf summarises the performance of Manchester City Council when compared against other similar authorities and local and regional performances.
- 8.15 It illustrates the scale of the challenge that lies ahead in terms of increasing participation in Manchester as it can be seen that participation is low in comparison to the majority of other cities (only Birmingham is lower) and satisfaction with facilities also falls below that in many other areas. Despite this, the amount of volunteering is higher in Manchester than in many other cities in England.

Table 8.1 – Selected results from the Active People's Survey 2008

Geographical area	At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults) %	Volunteered for at least one hour per week	% of adults that are members of a sports club	Satisfied with local sports provision (all adults) %
National	21.3	4.9	24.7	66.6
North West	21.3	5.0	24.2	66.5
Greater Manchester County	20.5	5.0	23.8	65.3
<i>Manchester</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>61.4</i>
Leeds	27.9	3.8	29.3	64.7
Newcastle	21.9	4.6	21.8	66.8
Nottingham	24.1	2.7	20.8	64.9
Bristol	21.8	3.3	22.9	56.9
Sheffield	19.4	5.2	20.4	73.2
Birmingham	16.9	3.6	20.7	66.8
Liverpool	19.4	3.5	21.2	64.6

- 8.16 Participation rates for different socio economic groups in Manchester have not yet been released, however at a national level it can be seen that participation is particularly low in certain groups eg women, ethnic groups, unemployed. The diversity of the population of Manchester therefore impacts on the overall level of participation and reinforces the importance of ensuring that facilities are tailored to the needs of the local community.
- 8.17 The analysis of data from the Active People survey therefore demonstrates that on the whole, participation in Manchester is below the national and regional averages. Alternative opportunities for participation in physical activity (such as using parks, allotments etc) as well as the effective provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities, plays an important role in increasing the proportion of people participating in sport and physical activity in Manchester. It will also help to ensure that national and regional targets for participation are met.

Market Segmentation

- 8.18 Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nation's attitudes and motivations – why people play sport and why they don't. This is particularly important to understand in order to ensure that the facilities in Manchester cater for the needs and expectations of local residents.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.19 The research builds on the results of Sport England's Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian. It has informed Sport England's Strategy and Business Plan 2008-2011 and helps ensure that money is invested into areas that will have the greatest impact.
- 8.20 Residents are classified according to their key characteristics and analysis of the dominant market segments provides an indication as to the type of facilities that may be required if certain groups are to become active. The key characteristics of some of the dominant population groups in Manchester are illustrated in Table 8.2
- 8.21 Market segmentation shows that 'Kev' and 'Jamie' are the most dominant market segment. The proportion of 'Kev's is over 7% above the national average.

Table 8.2 – Dominant market segments in Manchester

Label	Age	Status	Characteristics
Kev (Segment 9)	36 – 49	Married/Single May have children Vocational	May be part of a social club that involves physical activity. Enjoys team sports, especially football and low intensity social activities. Better playing facilities and cheaper entry may encourage participation.
Jamie (Segment 2)	18 – 25	Single Vocational Student	Second highest participation rate of all types. Enjoys playing team sports, especially football. Combat sports, social activities and weight training may appeal to these people. Motivation for participation includes improving performance and being with friends. Enhanced local sports facilities would encourage participation.
Elsie and Arnold (Segment 19)	66+	Widowed Retired	Health problems and disability being major inhibitors to activity. Those that do participate tend towards low intensity activities, such as walking, bowls or dancing (traditional ballroom), safe environments would encourage this group to walk more often
Paula (Segment 10)	26 – 35	Single Job seeker or part time low skilled	Least active of all in this group. Unlikely to have membership to a fitness or sports club, but may take part in exercise classes. Enjoys low intensity social activities such as ten pin bowling, Motivations to participate include to lose weight and to accompany children. General disinterest in participating, however improved transport, help with childcare and reduced admission would encourage participation.

Strategic context

- 8.22 At a national level, particularly in the run up to the 2012 Olympics in London, sport and active recreation are a particular priority. It is hoped that the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the catalyst for increased participation and leave a legacy of high participation and high quality facilities. Of particular relevance to this assessment of outdoor sports facilities in Manchester are the following key factors:
- there are national and regional targets to increase participation– these will impact on the supply and demand for facilities
 - participation is no longer just about sport – in order to reduce health inequalities and address issues of health decline there are moves to increase the contribution of sport and active recreation to overall levels of physical activity – this includes maximising the role of parks and other open spaces as well as building on formal sports participation
 - agencies are now working to reduce the participation gap and increase voluntary and community sector involvement
 - the Government's policy announcement of free swimming for the 60 plus and subsequently the U16s – is likely impact on the demand for swimming pools
 - the national Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) and the Extended Schools' Agenda – provides an opportunity to replenish ageing facility stock.

Regional context for sports facility provision

- 8.23 The North West Regional Facilities Evidence base (Sport England and Strategic Leisure 2008) evaluates the current stock of facilities in the North West and identifies potential gaps in provision to meet demand.
- 8.24 It highlights the following key issues with regards the future provision of sports facilities in the North West:
- there is an existing stock of ageing facilities, particularly swimming pools, which are nearing the end of their useful life and need to be replaced by better quality, fit for purpose provision (offering equality of access, addressing DDA needs, purpose-designed etc)
 - the implementation of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) across the region provides an opportunity to provide new and improved facilities
 - increased opportunities for planning across boundaries and extended partnerships
 - the implementation of the Government's Free Swimming Programme (Manchester CC will be part of this programme) is likely to impact on demand for swimming pools
 - Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch targets for increasing participation
 - the specific areas of deprivation in the region where planning in relation to community sports facility provision needs to reflect key local factors

- community health and the contribution that can be made to this through the provision of good quality, well-located, accessible and fit for purpose sports facilities
 - the increasingly important role of higher education and further education (HE/FE) in providing facilities, often sport specific, which offer at least some community access, and many of which will be new build. This is particularly important for Manchester, which contains three HE establishments
 - investment opportunities such as BSF, Section 106, Learning and Skills Council (HE/FE) and Prudential Borrowing
 - management - lots of new NW facilities are managed by 'arms length' Trusts
 - strategic planning - need for better local strategic planning (reference: 2006 Audit Commission Report 'Public Sport and Recreation Services')
 - greater partnership working and co-ordination between public, private and voluntary sectors.
- 8.25 The Manchester Sport and Recreation Alliance Strategy seeks to “create the conditions to enable all sections of the community to improve their health, self esteem and economic prospects through a structured sport and physical activity pathway which encourages residents to reach their full potential and contributes to moving towards establishing Manchester as a World Class City.”
- 8.26 Amongst the aims and objectives of the strategy are:
- increasing participation in sport and physical activity, especially among those from more disadvantaged areas and groups;
 - building the workforce for explicitly improving health through physical activity;
 - ensuring that those with a clinical need to improve their activity levels have an adequate range of support services available to them;
 - building physical activity into everyday life; and
 - improving school sport participation.
- 8.27 Appropriate provision of outdoor and indoor sports facilities will be central to the achievement of these goals.
- 8.28 The remainder of this section will consider the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester, considering firstly the broad distribution of facilities as a whole and then each facility type in turn.

Consultation – assessing local needs

- 8.29 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that:
- in general, many residents believe that there are insufficient outdoor sports facilities in Manchester. Further analysis of the reasons behind these views demonstrates that there are key issues with regards to accessibility and quality which to an extent impact on the views on quantity

- in particular, there are concerns relating to the loss of outdoor sports facilities to development
- responses to the survey for young people suggest that sport in Manchester is a popular pastime, with 34% of respondents indicating that they like to play sports. After video games and socialising etc, this means that sport is one of the more popular pastimes. 28% of children indicated that they most frequently use open spaces for sports while 23% suggested that sports facilities are their favourite type of open space. Children were asked what types of facility they would like to see if they could only have one facility - of all the new facilities that could be provided, 5% would like to see tennis courts while 12% would like new playing pitches. Other types of facility (eg parks were more popular)
- fewer respondents to the household survey were actively involved in sport, with 2.4% indicating that they use sports facilities daily, while a further 15% use them weekly. This broadly ties in with the findings of the Active People Survey
- residents feel strongly that there should be a variety of accessible sports facilities across the City. It was suggested that there is currently a focus on the provision of facilities for football to the detriment of other activities
- residents at workshops highlighted the value of the use of school facilities, although constraints highlighted by workshop attendees, focussed particularly on the lack of appropriate ancillary accommodation, particularly changing facilities on school sites.

8.30 In addition to facility related issues, several other opportunities and issues were also highlighted during workshops including the importance of volunteers to the sporting network. There is perceived to be a lack of voluntary clubs in Manchester but there is a need to provide pathways for players from a young age to ensure that they continue to participate in adult sport. Localised opportunities to participate were also perceived to be of particular value.

8.31 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.

Quantity of provision

8.32 The quantity of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester is summarised in Table 8.3 below. Consideration will be given to the specific type of facility provided during the application of local standards.

Table 8.3 – Provision of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester

Area	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (hectares)	Current provision (ha per 1000)
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SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

City Centre	0	0	n/a	n/a	0.00
East	66.36	52	0.007	11.78	0.92
Central	42.44	36	0.056	14	0.57
South	156.7	97	0.07	33.8	1.16
North	82.01	66	0.04	10.79	0.90
Wythenshawe	95.26	45	0.03	19.27	1.35
Overall	442.77	298	0.007	33.8	0.98

8.33 The key issues emerging from Table 8.3 and consultations relating to the quantity of outdoor sports facilities across the City are as follows:

- in total, the provision of outdoor sports facilities across the City equates to 442.78 hectares. This is spread across 298 different facilities, including school sites. In some instances, several facilities are located on the same site (for example tennis, bowls and grass pitches)
- as may be expected, in light of the broad range of typologies included within the outdoor sports facilities category, the size of sites ranges from 0.007 hectares to 33.8 hectares
- the household survey indicates that overall, residents view there to be insufficient sports facilities in Manchester. This view was also expressed during drop in sessions and was exacerbated by the perception that there has been a loss of several sites to development. This was particularly apparent for school playing pitches and informal playing fields
- in particular, discontentment related to the lack of publicly accessible sports facilities within the parks. A shortfall of accessible tennis courts in the summer months was raised as a particular issue during both workshops, the household survey and in the officer survey
- only 13% of young people did not have a view on the quantity of sports facilities in Manchester. While a third suggested that there are a lot, 38% felt that there could be more and 16% indicated that there were not enough. 12% of young people suggested that if they could have one new type of open space, it would be a sports facility. In response to the question asking what they disliked about open space, 12% also indicated that there was not enough space for them to play sport
- table 8.3 shows that the distribution of sites varies significantly across the City, with provision particularly high in the South, both in terms of the number of facilities and the area dedicated to sports
- residents in the East of the City demonstrated the highest levels of dissatisfaction with regards the quality of provision. This is perhaps surprising as this area contains the recently developed sports City, although there are access issues relating to the site. In contrast, residents in Wythenshawe are most satisfied with the quality of provision
- whilst the common theme appears to be related to concerns over quantity, accessibility issues (cost/location) were also frequently raised. This suggests

that quantitative issues are balanced with problems relating to accessibility and quality

- attendees at workshop sessions highlighted the poor quality of changing facilities across some of the outdoor sports facilities in Manchester. This was perceived to be a greater issue than the actual quantity or quality of pitches themselves. The lack of social facilities at the majority of sites is also perceived to be a barrier to increased participation. A new development at Moston includes good quality changing facilities alongside a social function and this is suggested to be an example of good practice.
- consultation revealed a recent downward trend in participation in pitch sports across Manchester, particularly in adult football. In contrast, five a side football and womens' and girls football has increased locally. This indicates that the balance of pitch provision may be inappropriate, rather than an overall lack of facility provision.

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 8.34 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 F.
- 8.35 This standard represents a broad standard only. 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.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.98 hectares per 1000	0.98 hectares per 1000 (to include a minimum of 0.29 tennis courts per 1000, 0.1 bowling greens per 1000, 0.05 Synthetic Pitches per 1000)
Justification	

The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.98 hectares per 1000 population. Golf courses have been removed from all figures due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources. School facilities have been included within the calculation, to ensure that they are protected.

The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.

In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set at the existing level of provision (0.98 hectares per 1000 population). This is reflective of the findings of the playing pitch strategy, as well as other research undertaken across the City. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most. However, it is clear from the results from the local consultation that there are demands being placed on STPS and tennis courts, however access to existing provision, alongside the quality of facilities is more important. While there are shortfalls of pitches in some areas of the City, the capacity of existing sites can be improved through qualitative improvements.

Current provision - quality

- 8.36 The quality of existing outdoor sports facilities in the City was assessed through site visits and is set out in Table 8.4. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot in time and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 8.37 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of quality have been given a higher weighting to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.
- 8.38 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 study, for example a playing pitch strategy. 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. Several sites were inaccessible (primarily schools).

Table 8.4 – Quality of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester

Area	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)
City Centre	N/A	N/A
East	46 – 100	83
Central	64 – 100	88
South	20 – 100	82
North	42 – 100	79
Wythenshawe	58 – 100	80
OVERALL	20 - 100	82

8.39 The key issues emerging from Table 8.4 and the consultation relating to the quality of outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- responses to the household survey indicated that the quality of outdoor sports facilities in the City is rated average by 35%. A higher percentage of people stated that they were poor (31%) as opposed to being good (22%)
- the quality of outdoor sports facilities is good on the whole with an average score of 82% (one of the best average scores of all types of open space). Despite this, this disguises the significant variation in the quality of facilities, with scores achieved ranging from 20 – 100%. Several facilities were noted to be of particularly high quality. These site assessments do not assess the degree to which the site is fit for purpose, but consider the overall value of the outdoor sports facility
- the quality of provision is relatively consistent across the City, with the average scores ranging from 79% in the North of the City to 88% in the central area. Respondents in Wythenshawe expressed the highest level of satisfaction with 28% of people stating that the quality of the facilities was good. Throughout the analysis areas the most common response to the quality of provision question was average, with the exception of the North and Central areas where the modal response was poor
- there is a variation in the quality of facilities in South Manchester, with scores ranging from 20 – 100. The smallest variation is found in the central area, where all sites score above 60%
- 35% of young people indicated that the quality of facilities is good, whilst 31% suggested that they are sometimes good, they highlighted problems with litter and cleanliness. 21% of young people rated the quality of outdoor sports facilities as poor
- consultees at workshops highlighted several issues with regards the quality of sports facilities, including the quality of the changing accommodation. In particular, issues were raised with regards a lack of appropriate changing accommodation at school sites as well as at public sites. The poor quality of

changing facilities was perceived to be a greater issue than the quality of the pitches themselves. The lack of social facilities at the majority of sites is also perceived to be a barrier to increased participation.

- the multifunctional use of outdoor sports facilities has also emerged as a key issue, with comments at both workshops and drop in sessions highlighting problems with dog fouling and litter, occurring as a result of the use of pitches as amenity space for dog walking
- many residents suggested that whilst there are without doubt some very high quality facilities in Manchester, the larger sites are significantly higher quality than the more local smaller facilities.

8.40 Quality issues relating to each type of facility will be discussed later in this section.

Setting provision standards – quality

8.41 The recommended local quality standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised overleaf. Full justifications and consultation relating to the quality of provision for the local standard is provided within Appendix G. The standard highlights the key aspirations of local residents and current users of sports facilities. The aspirational standard is set at 90%.

8.42 There are two key components to the effective provision of outdoor sports facilities in Manchester, specifically:

- ensuring that facilities are fit for purpose in terms of the construction of the pitch / court / green
- ensuring that the management of these facilities is effective and meets local aspirations.

8.43 The quality standard overleaf highlights the key aspirations for sports facilities emerging from public consultation. In addition to this, focus should be placed on ensuring that facilities meet National Governing Body and Sport England quality criteria. These criteria are summarised in Appendix I.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
Essential	Desirable
Parking Facilities	Good quality facilities
Changing Facilities	Meet with NGB requirements
Accessibility – including physical access and cost	
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regards to outdoor sports facilities, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
Component of quality	Weighting
Security and Safety	4
Cleanliness and maintenance	3
Vegetation	1
Ancillary accommodation	2

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 8.44 The accessibility of sites is paramount in maximising usage as well as providing an opportunity for all people to use the site. The recommended local standard is set in the form of a distance threshold and is derived directly from the findings of the local consultations.
- 8.45 The preferred method of travel to four of the five facilities was on foot. Only when accessing golf courses respondents indicated that they preferred to travel by car. This is reflective of the low levels of car ownership as well as the compact nature of the City area, where residents expect local access to facilities.
- 8.46 Access to facilities was one of the most frequently referenced issues with regards to outdoor sports facilities in Manchester. The cost of facilities was one of the main barriers to participation (mentioned by 9% of household survey respondents and also in general comments, and a key issue at workshops, drop in sessions and in the officer's survey). Access to facilities for the public was also raised as a key concern and it was suggested that not enough facilities are publicly accessible. Sports City was raised as a particular example of this. Despite this perception, the facilities are actually accessible. It is important therefore to raise the awareness amongst residents that these facilities are available for community use. Access to sports facilities on school sites was also perceived to be poor.
- 8.47 The recommended local accessibility standard for outdoor sports facilities is summarised below. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. The standard reflects the aspiration that facilities will be provided in close proximity to the home.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
<p>15-MINUTE WALK (720M) TO GRASS PITCHES, TENNIS COURTS, SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES, ATHLETICS TRACKS AND BOWLING GREENS</p> <p>30-MINUTE DRIVE (8KM) TO GOLF COURSES</p>
Justification
<p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches and golf courses (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Given the findings from the local consultation, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for grass pitches, tennis courts, synthetic pitches, athletics tracks and bowling greens, and a separate standard for golf courses. This is based on the expectation that all sports facilities with the exception of golf courses will be provided locally ie accessible by foot.</p> <p>The third quartile threshold level for those who expect to walk to grass pitches, tennis courts, and bowling greens is 15 minutes. The mean responses also support this figure. As a consequence, a 15 minute walk time to these “local” outdoor sports facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements whilst also focusing on improving the quality of existing provision. This is in line with ensuring sustainable transport choices, to account for the wide mix of facilities types within the standard to meet all expectations. Setting a lower standard would result in facilities of insufficient quality.</p> <p>The formal use of school facilities by the community after school hours will be particularly important if the recommended standards are to be delivered.</p> <p>The third quartile level for those who expect to drive to golf courses is 30 minutes. Some residents were willing to travel up to 60 minutes. Given the more specialist nature of these facilities, and the fact they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 30 minute drivetime in line with aspirations is recommended. The dense urban nature of Manchester would mean that it is difficult to provide multiple local facilities.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 8.48 In order to provide an overview of sports provision in Manchester, the quantity standard has been applied to provide an indication of planning need.
- 8.49 The application of the local quantity standard for each area is set out in Table 8.5. The table illustrates the application of the standard against the current provision in each of the areas of the City and also highlights the quantity of population growth that could be sustained before provision falls below the minimum standard (where applicable). As highlighted, the broad range of facilities included within this typology means that the application of a quantity standard provides only an indication of provision. The type of facility that is most appropriate for a given area will be derived from expressed demand and local participation trends.
- 8.50 The adequacy of specific facilities in Manchester is discussed later in this section.

Table 8.5 – Application of quantity standard

Area	Current provision balanced against local standard (0.98 hectares per 1000 population)	Amount of population growth that can be sustained before
City Centre	-9.75	Below minimum standard
East	-4.6	Below minimum standard
Central	-31	Below minimum standard
South	24.60	25,105
North	-5.82	Below minimum standard
Wythenshawe	26.22	26,750
Overall	0.12	Below minimum standard

NB slight deficiency in current provision generated by rounding of local standard to two decimal places

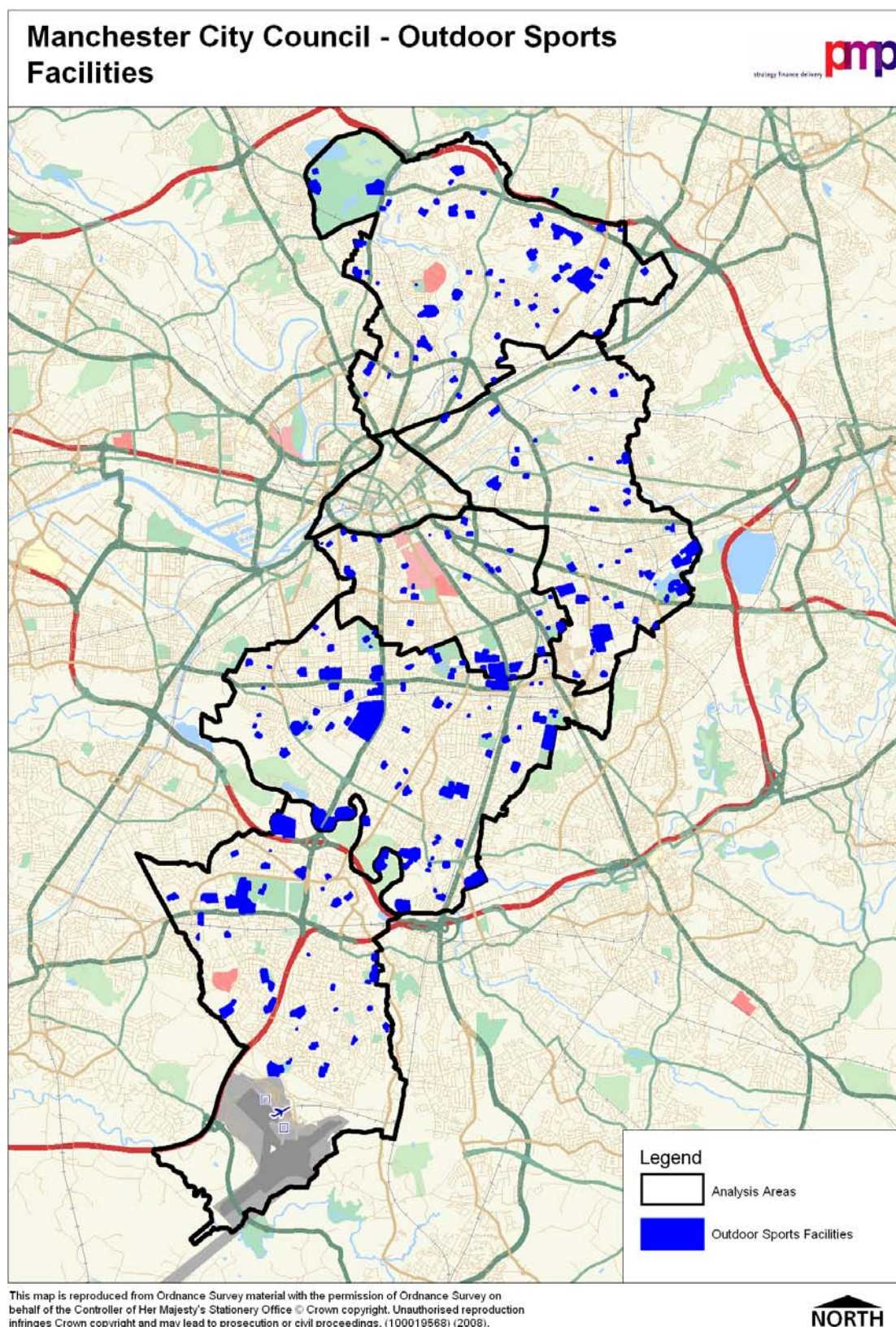
8.51 As can be seen in table 8.5 above:

- the provision of outdoor sports facilities is insufficient to meet future demand. Provision at the current time is almost in balance with demand
- the current quantity of outdoor sports facilities in South Manchester and Wythenshawe is adequate to meet demand, however in all other areas additional provision may be required
- the largest current and future shortfalls can be found in the central area, where provision in comparison to the size of the population is much lower than in other areas of the City.

8.52 These calculations do not take into account the targeted increase in participation per annum. If this was to occur, pressure on existing facilities would increase significantly.

8.53 Map 8.1 summarises the distribution of outdoor sports facilities across Manchester.

Map 8.1 - Outdoor sports facilities in Manchester



- 8.54 Reflecting the issues arising through the application of the quantity standards, it can be seen that there is an abundance of outdoor sports facilities in South Manchester although there is an even distribution across the remainder of the City. There are no facilities within the City Centre.
- 8.55 The remainder of this section therefore considers the provision of each of the different types of facility and highlights issues for future consideration. In light of the demand led nature of each type of facility, specific studies should be carried out to provide a further basis for informed decision making.
- 8.56 In addition to addressing sport specific issues raised, the following issues (arising as a result of the consultation process) should also be considered as part of a strategy for the future delivery of sports facilities in Manchester:
- ensure that facilities are accessible to all residents in terms of price and promote concessionary rates that are available
 - promote the different sporting opportunities in Manchester and ensure that residents are aware of what is available to them
 - ensure that facilities are DDA compliant
 - consider the role of social facilities in encouraging residents to use facilities.

OSF1

Address issues with regards to the promotion of, and access to outdoor sports facilities and ensure that awareness of sports facilities in Manchester is raised.

Quantity

- 8.57 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. This should be incorporated through the provision of appropriate policies in the LDF.

OSF2

Protect all outdoor sports facilities from development unless criteria set out in Sport England policy are met. This should be incorporated through the provision of appropriate policies in the LDF.

- 8.58 Quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, whilst the accessibility standards will help determine where those deficiencies are of high importance. Quality standards outline the key aspirations of local residents and provide an indication as to where sites may currently fall below expectations.

Quality

- 8.59 Site visits highlighted that for existing facilities, the average site assessment score is 82% which means that facilities are of a good standard, although there is a significant variation in the range of scores achieved. Sites have therefore been divided into quartiles according to their quality. To fall within the top quartile, a score of 90% is

required. The division of site scores into quartiles enables quick identification of sites considered to be particularly poor.

- 8.60 Key issues relating to the quality of specific sites will be considered during the application of the standards for each of the specific types of open space. The findings of the quality assessments should be used to guide the provision of outdoor sports facilities to ensure that they are fit for the purpose that they are intended.
- 8.61 In addition to the quality of sites for sports participation, the role of outdoor sports facilities in terms of nature conservation and biodiversity should not be ignored.

OSF3	<p>Seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve a quality score of 90% (the score required to fall within the top quartile).</p> <p>Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities.</p> <p>Improvements to outdoor sports facilities should give consideration to the habitats provided at these sites and the species that are evident.</p>
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Sport specific facility issues

- 8.62 Table 8.6 summarises the distribution of pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks and synthetic turf pitches across Manchester. The remainder of this section considers demand for specific facilities. It must be noted that if participation was to increase significantly, demand would increase and higher pressure would be placed on existing facilities. In addition, there are 20 multi use areas (at school sites) which can be used for variety of sports.

Table 8.6 – Specific sports facilities across Manchester

Area	Pitch sites	Tennis Courts	Bowling Greens	Athletics tracks	Synthetic pitches
City Centre	0	0	0	0	0
East	33	6	8	1	1
Central	23	2	2	1	7
South	44	18	17	1	8
North	45	5	6	1	3
Wythenshawe	28	4	4	1	4
OVERALL	173	35	37	5	23

8.63 It can be seen that:

- the majority of sports facilities in Manchester are fairly evenly distributed although there are significantly more facilities in South Manchester than in other areas of the City. The lack of facilities in the City Centre (and limited opportunities to provide any) reinforces the importance of ensuring that the supply of facilities in other areas of the City is sufficient to meet demand
- as highlighted, some quantity issues were raised with regards outdoor sports facilities in Manchester. Residents were most dissatisfied with the quantity of tennis courts (47% not enough), athletics (39% not enough) and Synthetic Turf Pitches (37%). Many residents had no opinion on the quantity of different facility types. The highest levels of satisfaction were in relation to grass pitches, where the general perception was that the quantity of pitches is about right
- residents in the East exhibited the highest level of dissatisfaction in four of the six types of sports facilities, stating there were not enough grass pitches (54%), Synthetic turf pitches (53%), Golf Courses (50%) and bowling greens (47%). In contrast, residents in Wythenshawe were most satisfied with the quantity of provision suggesting there was enough/about right amount of golf courses (51%), bowling greens (42%), tennis courts (37%) and synthetic turf pitches (28%). When considering the amount of space dedicated to sports facilities, provision per 1000 population is higher in Wythenshawe than in other areas of the City.

Tennis courts

- 8.64 There is currently no national strategy for tennis, although there is a National Facilities Plan. At national level, of the 2600 existing clubs, 303 have indoor courts and the remainder are based at outdoor facilities only.
- 8.65 In order to facilitate tennis development, the 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.
- 8.66 Additionally, tennis is played informally at recreational level. The Manchester Tennis Development programme is committed to providing quality coaching and opportunities for pay & play at excellent facilities enabling disabled and non disabled children, young people and adults, with differing levels of ability, to enjoy tennis through a long-term development programme of activities from foundation to excellence.
- 8.67 The NW Regional Facility Evidence Base indicates that there is one High Performance tennis centre in Manchester – the Indoor Tennis Centre at Sport City, which contains 6 indoor and 6 outdoor floodlit courts. The centre meets LTA specifications and is open to the community and to local clubs as well as sustaining high level tennis. The centre is also a venue for tennis development work.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.68 The NW regional Facility Evidence Base does not identify any specific priorities for new tennis provision in Manchester. Other general aims highlighted are:
- the need to improve school and club links
 - the need to increase access to pay and play tennis facilities (although this relates primarily to indoor facilities).
- 8.69 Table 8.7 summarises the provision of tennis facilities across the City. Facilities are predominantly located in parks and are therefore accessible on a pay and play basis. There are some facilities at club sites.

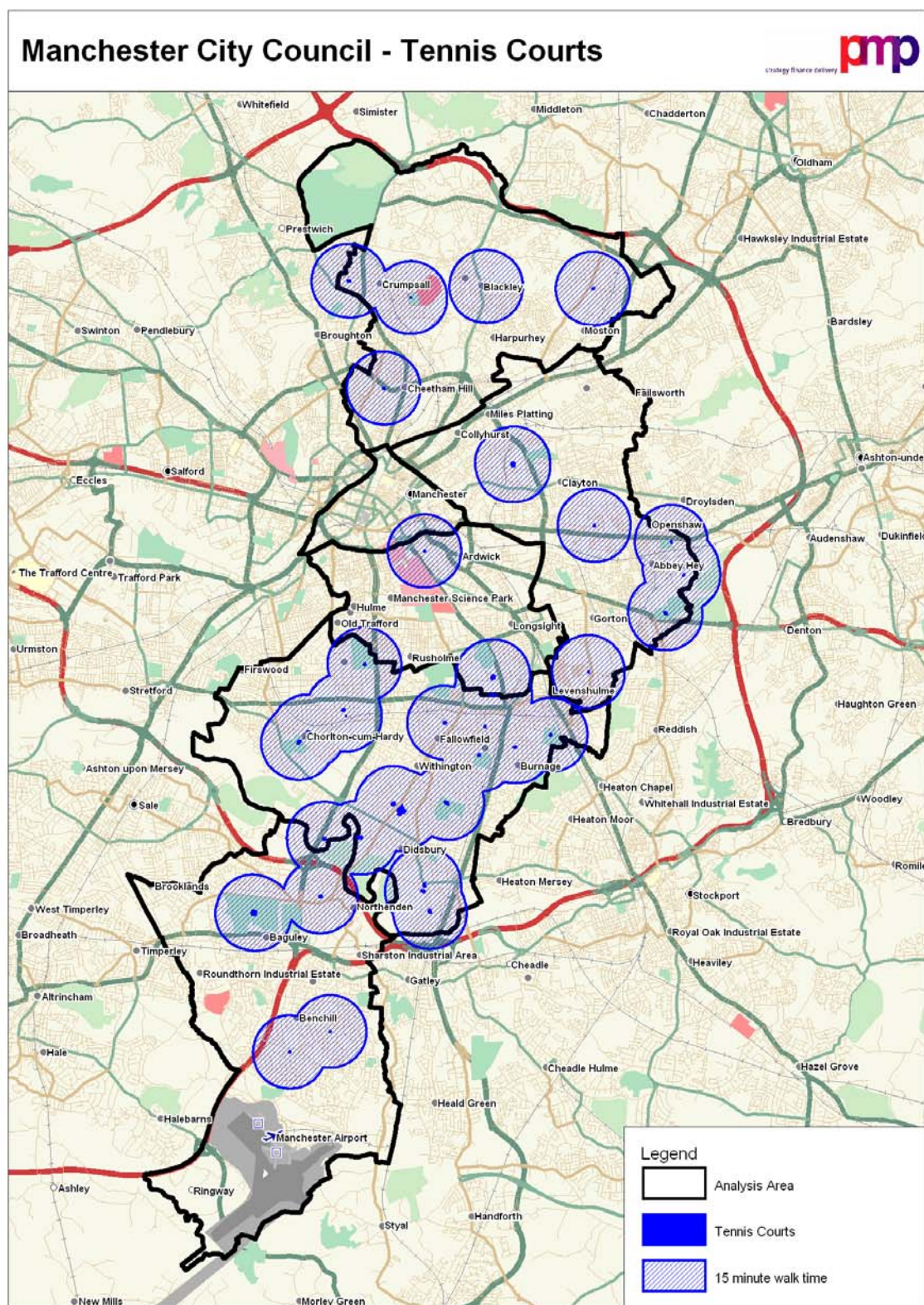
Table 8.7 – Tennis Courts in Manchester

Area	Number of Sites	Number of Courts	Average quality score of facilities	Range of quality scores
City Centre	0	0	N/a	N/a
East	6	16	91	80 – 100
Central	2	3	88	76 – 100
South	18	70	84	51 – 100
North	5	9	63	42 – 76
Wythenshawe	4	18	80	80
OVERALL	36	116	81	42 – 100

- 8.70 It can be seen that tennis courts are unevenly distributed across the City, with over 50% of provision located in the South. It is in this area where the majority of private clubs are located. Despite lower levels of provision in other areas, there is at least one pay and play facility in each area of the City.
- 8.71 In total, there are 116 tennis courts across Manchester, 70 of which are located in the South of the City. The current provision is equivalent to 0.26 courts per 1000 population, or one court per 3896 people.
- 8.72 The quality of tennis courts is lower than other types of outdoor sports facilities, with the mean score of 81% suggesting that facilities are average. The quality of facilities however ranges significantly, with the poorest facility achieving a score of just 42%. In contrast, nine facilities achieve a 100% score. These are primarily club sites. Provision in North Manchester is of significantly lower quality than other areas of the City.

- 8.73 The distribution of tennis courts is illustrated overleaf on Map 8.2. This map demonstrates that whilst there is an abundance of tennis provision in South Manchester, there are several areas across the remainder of the City where residents are outside of the catchment of a tennis court, in particular:
- Harpurhey
 - Longsight
 - Newton Heath
 - Brooklands.
- 8.74 It must be noted that in addition, there are 20 multi sports areas, some of which provide tennis courts during the summer, located at school sites across the City.

Map 8.2 – Tennis courts in Manchester



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.75 Whilst the majority of issues raised during consultation related to the quality of outdoor sports facilities and access to existing sites, dissatisfaction with the quantity of tennis courts available was higher than any other type of facility. In particular:
- the findings of the household survey demonstrated that 46% of residents believe there to be a shortfall of provision of tennis facilities - this was the highest of all sports facilities. Many residents also referenced a lack of tennis courts as part of general comments made to the survey
 - it was mentioned during workshops that some parks within the City lack sufficient facilities to meet demand. Specifically, this related to tennis courts and the lack of courts available in the summer months. It was also suggested that the quality of provision within parks should be modified in order to accommodate tennis during the winter months.
- 8.76 Application of the local accessibility standard demonstrates that access to tennis facilities on the whole is reasonable across the City. Despite a reasonable level of provision, it is clear that there are some issues with regards to access to facilities, the quantity of provision available for pay and play usage as well as usage of facilities in winter. Improvements may therefore include adapting courts by installing floodlighting.
- 8.77 In order to address areas of accessibility deficiency, it is suggested that circa six additional sites would be required. Assuming a minimum of two courts would be provided on each site, a further 12 courts would be required. This equates to a standard of 0.29 courts per 1000, or one court per 3503 people. Other additional provision should be achieved by opening up school sites where facilities already exist. This should be used as an indicative standard. Application of the standard suggests that the key areas of deficiency exist in the North, Wythenshawe and Central areas. These match those areas highlighted as being deficient in provision through the application of the accessibility standard.
- 8.78 The key priorities for the future delivery of tennis across Manchester include:

Ongoing	Maintain and improve the quality of tennis courts along with national governing body standards. Use the findings of the site assessments to identify poor quality sites in need of improvement. Improvements may include floodlighting as well as investment in the surfaces and equipment.
Medium Term	Consider the provision of new tennis courts in areas where access is currently poor, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harpurhey Longsight Newton Heath Brooklands.
Short – Medium Term	Investigate opportunities to open up tennis courts at school sites to the general public. This may be in the form of the development of satellite clubs rather than a pay and play policy and further promote and development school / club links.
Medium Term	Improve public transport links to maximise access to sites and work with clubs to promote public interest in tennis and ensure that facilities are accessible to all.

Bowling greens

- 8.79 The NW Regional Facilities Strategy does not consider the provision of bowling greens. Furthermore, Active Places Power does not include bowling greens.
- 8.80 Table 8.8 summarises the bowling greens within Manchester. The majority of bowling greens are located within public parks, however a third of facilities are owned and managed by clubs. Several bowling clubs operate out of bowling greens within the public parks.

Table 8.8 – Bowling greens in Manchester

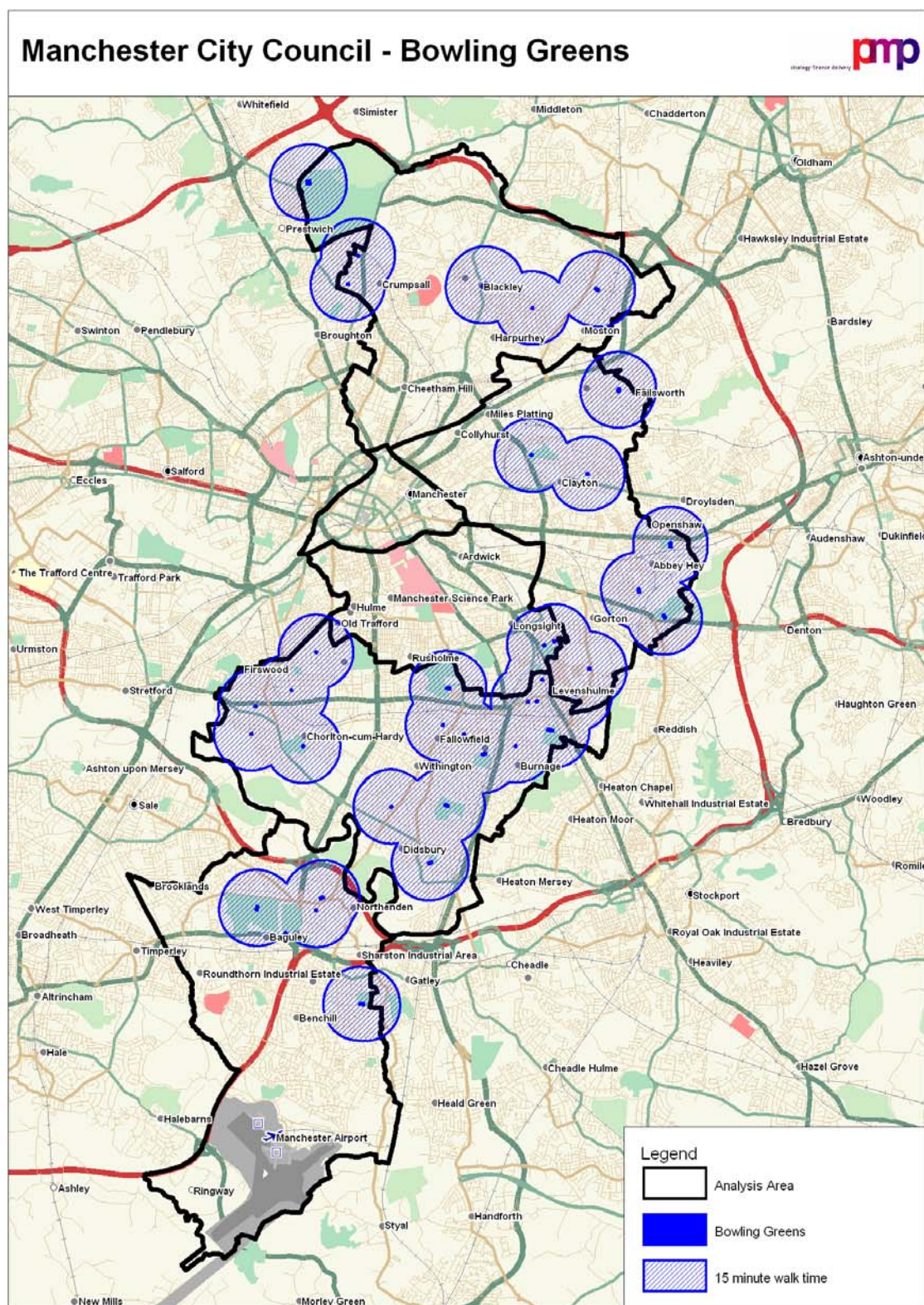
Area	Number of Sites	No of bowling greens	Average quality of facilities	Range of facilities
City Centre	0	0	N/A	N/A
East	8	12	89	74 - 98
Central	2	2	84	84
South	17	20	83	60 - 98
North	6	9	90	88 - 96
Wythenshawe	4	7	79	76 - 80
OVERALL	37	50	85	60 – 98

- 8.81 Table 8.7 highlights that like other types of outdoor sports facility, there are more facilities located in the South than in other areas of the City. Almost 50% of bowling greens are located in South Manchester although many of these are club owned facilities.
- 8.82 It is evident that the quality of bowling greens is higher than some other facility types, with the average score for a bowling green being 85. Site scores range from 60 – 98. The quality of facilities is consistent across all areas of the City.
- 8.83 The distribution of bowling greens is illustrated on Map 8.3 overleaf. It can be seen that whilst most residents within the south of the City are in close proximity to a bowling green, provision is very limited in the central / City Centre areas. There are also deficiencies in the South of Wythenshawe. Key areas of deficiency include:
- Ardwick
 - Crumpsall
 - Cheetham
 - South Wythenshawe.
- 8.84 The lack of provision in and around the City Centre is a particular key issue as residents in this area will have to travel significant distances to reach a bowling green.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.85 Current provision is equivalent to 0.1 bowling greens per 1000 population, or one bowling green per 9,039 residents.

Map 8.3 – Bowling greens in Manchester



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.86 The majority of bowling greens in the City are publicly accessible and are mainly located within parks. Given that one of the dominant group of residents is the 'Elsie and Arnold' category, a group which are predisposed to participate in bowls, the appropriate provision of bowls could contribute to the achievement of increases in levels of physical activity.
- 8.87 Local consultation highlighted few issues with the current quantity of bowling greens. Almost 30% of respondents to the household survey had no view on the quantity of bowling greens, whilst the remainder were divided between those who perceived there to be enough and those who felt that current provision was not sufficient. There was limited additional demand expressed during workshops or drop in sessions. Some general comments made in the household survey however referenced a lack of bowling greens in some areas of the city.
- 8.88 In light of the distribution of current sites, investigation into the demand for bowling greens should be targeted at areas currently outside of the threshold for provision, particularly around the City Centre.
- 8.89 Outside areas where provision is limited, qualitative improvements should be targeted to ensure that facilities are as inviting as possible for local residents. Site assessments revealed that some existing sites are suffering from vandalism and graffiti, however in contrast some facilities are of particularly high standard.
- 8.90 Furthermore, consideration should be given to the provision of appropriate public transport links to maximise access to bowling greens. Whilst not all residents are within a 20 minute walk time of a bowling green, all residents are within a 20 minute public transport travel time. Public transport links may be particularly important in light of the age group of frequent participants.

Ongoing	Maintain and improve the quality of bowling greens to meet national governing body standards. Use the findings of the site assessments to identify poor quality sites in need of improvement.
Ongoing	<p>Monitor demand for additional bowling greens in areas where access to existing facilities is currently poor. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ardwick• Crumpsall• Cheetham• South Wythenshawe. <p>Particular priority should be given to areas in close proximity to the City Centre. A minimum standard of 0.1 bowling greens per 1000 population should be used to monitor demand.</p>
Medium Term	Improve public transport links to maximise access to sites.

Synthetic turf pitches

- 8.91 The Regional Facilities Strategy Evidence Base and Active Places Power indicates that the quantity of synthetic turf pitches in Greater Manchester is above average, with 50 facilities provided in total, equating to 0.04 facilities per 1000. This is higher

than the UK average (0.03) and equivalent to the average provision in the North West. Analysis of the distribution of synthetic turf pitches across the region indicates that there are geographical inequalities in access to synthetic pitches, particularly in north and south Cumbria, north Lancashire, mid, south west and east Cheshire.

- 8.92 Provision in Manchester in comparison to these figures is illustrated in Table 8.9 below.

Table 8.9 – Synthetic turf pitch provision in the region

Geographical area	STPs/1000 population (pitches)
National	0.03
North West	0.04
Greater Manchester	0.04
Manchester	0.05

- 8.93 There are 24 sites containing synthetic turf pitches in Manchester providing a total of 19 full size synthetic pitches. Current provision is summarised in Table 8.10.

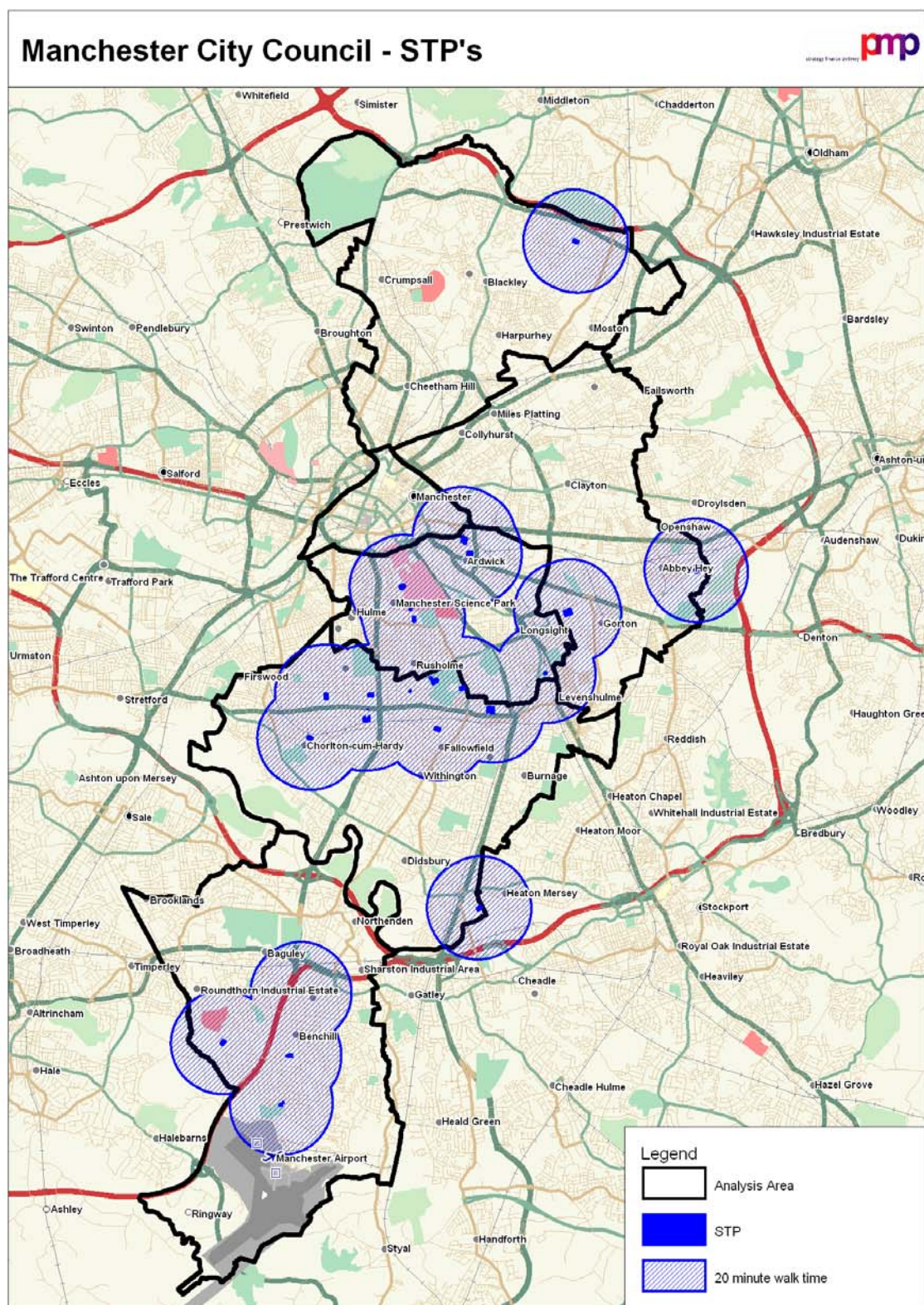
Table 8.10 – Synthetic turf pitches in Manchester

Area	Number of Sites	No of full size pitches	Average quality of facilities	Range of quality
City Centre	0	0	N/A	N/A
East	2	3	100	100
Central	6	4	100	100
South	11	9	86	60 - 100
North	1	1		
Wythenshawe	4	2	86	90 – 96
OVERALL	24	19		

- 8.94 The table shows that the location of Synthetic Turf Pitches is more evenly spread than other types of outdoor sports facility. Provision in the East and North is however lower than in other areas and the highest quantity of provision again is in the South of the City.
- 8.95 Synthetic pitches are primarily located on school / college sites. The two pitches at Belle Vue are of international standard and therefore offer a high quality playing environment. The pitch at Manchester City FC is also of a high standard.

- 8.96 The overall quality of synthetic facilities is higher than any other type of facility in Manchester, with an average score of 87%. There are only five facilities falling into the bottom quartile, with almost all of the remainder falling within the top quartile.
- 8.97 More than a third (35%) of household survey respondents believe there to be insufficient provision while 21% suggest that provision is about right. The majority of discussion at workshops focused on the quality of provision and access to facilities rather than the quantity of sites. Access to facilities at peak times was perceived to be difficult in some areas.
- 8.98 In addition, clubs also raised the need for social facilities if synthetic pitches were intended to be used as a home base for a team. Changing facilities should also be provided in close proximity to the site.
- 8.99 Responses from the household survey suggest that residents in the East are most dissatisfied with STP provision whilst those in the South exhibit the highest levels of satisfaction. This corresponds with amount of existing provision. Furthermore, there is a perception that facilities in East Manchester are not accessible to the local community. There were few general comments made with regards to synthetic pitch provision in Manchester as part of the household survey.
- 8.100 The Regional Facilities Evidence Base does not highlight any additional requirement for synthetic turf pitches in Manchester. When considering sport specific requirements for rugby league, the document however suggests that although Greater Manchester as a whole is identified as being strong in terms of participation in rugby league, there are no bases for the sport within Manchester City. The strategy therefore places priority on establishing a base within the City. This may include 3G pitch provision and training facilities.
- 8.101 One of the key aspirations of the Council is to ensure that all residents have access to a synthetic pitch within an appropriate distance of their home. In order to fulfil the ambition of providing good access to these facilities, a challenging accessibility standard has been set.
- 8.102 Map 8.4 demonstrates the existing distribution of provision. It highlights that whilst facilities are evenly distributed across the City, there are many residents outside of the appropriate catchment of a facility, particularly in the North.
- 8.103 To provide an indication of location, we have evaluated the distribution of facilities by ward. Wards which do not currently contain a full size synthetic pitch are Sharston, Brooklands, Withington, Didsbury West, Chorlton, Burnage, Higher Blackley, Crumpsall, Cheetham, Harpurhey, Moston, Bradford, Ancoats, City Centre. When considering the distribution of existing facilities, it can be seen that the key areas of deficiency are Sharston, Blackley, Harpurhey, Ancoats and Bradford, Miles Platting and Newton Heath, Withington and Levenshulme.

Map 8.4 – Synthetic turf pitches in Manchester



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.104 In addition to providing additional facilities to meet the identified gaps, it will be important to ensure that facilities are accessible and that the long term future of the facilities in terms of refurbishment and maintenance is secured
- 8.105 The BSF programme may see an increase in the quantity of synthetic pitches across the City with new facilities proposed as part of the refurbishment of school facilities. The provision of artificial surfaces is perceived to be particularly important in areas where space is limited and in light of the high pressures placed on pitches in some areas of the City.
- 8.106 There are a variety of different types of synthetic pitch surface, all of which are suitable for different sports. Both the FA and England Hockey stipulate the type of surface which is required for their respective sports and facilities must meet these standards if competitive play is to be permitted.
- 8.107 Any plans to fill gaps in provision should consider both sand based and third generation facilities in order to ensure that an appropriate balance of facilities is provided and a strategic approach to new facilities is promoted. Decisions on the most appropriate surface should take into account:
- curriculum need
 - local community need
 - competitive sport need
 - other local facilities.
- 8.108 Current provision of synthetic turf pitches in Manchester is equivalent to 0.05 pitches per 1000 population. While this is above national and regional averages, the target is to ensure that all residents have appropriate access to facilities and a small number of additional facilities may therefore be required. For planning purposes, it should be ensured that a minimum of 0.05 synthetic turf pitches per 1000 are provided. This will ensure that the future stock of pitches is sustainable. Application of this standard to existing provision would suggest that priorities lie to the North, East of the City and in Wythenshawe. This links with application of the accessibility standard.
- 8.109 In addition, there are 20 multi use sports facilities which are located primarily at school sites. These offer a range of sports often including tennis, netball and football. The majority of these are tarmaced however a small proportion are small sized synthetic multi used areas.

Ongoing	Focus on enhancing the quality of existing publicly accessible synthetic turf pitches in the City. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to replace facilities when they come to the end of their lifespan.
Ongoing	<p>Ensure that new facilities meet the necessary specification including floodlights. New facilities should ideally be located on school sites and should be focused in areas where provision is currently lower, particularly in the North and East of the City.</p> <p>A strategic approach should be taken to the provision of synthetic turf pitches across the City and decisions on the pitch surface should take into account curricular, community and competitive need. When measuring the impact of population growth, a minimum planning standard of 0.05 facilities per 1000 population should be used.</p> <p>When planning new facilities, consideration should be given to the inclusion of social facilities. Consultation highlighted that social facilities are particularly important in encouraging people to participate.</p>
Ongoing	Ensure that the pricing structure facilitates access to synthetic turf pitches for all sectors of the community.

- 8.110 Whilst synthetic pitches are an effective means of reducing some of the pressure on grass pitches, the impact on sustainability and climate change of the loss of grass pitches should be taken into account.

Athletics

- 8.111 There are five athletics facilities in Manchester, including the venue at Sports City in East Manchester which is a national standard facility. The track is home to three clubs – Sale Harriers, Manchester Kestrels and Belle Vue Racers and offers public access as well as elite level competition.
- 8.112 Of the remaining four facilities, there are an additional two synthetic tracks, located at Boggart Hole Clough (6 lanes floodlit) and Wythenshawe Park (8 lanes floodlit). Both of these tracks offer pay and play access and contain changing facilities. The remaining two athletics tracks are located at school sites.
- 8.113 The quality and distribution of these facilities is summarised in Table 8.11. The quality of athletics facilities in general is high, with scores for sites in the East and Central Areas achieving scores of 100%.

Table 8.11 – Athletics Tracks

Area	No of Tracks	Quality Score
City Centre	0	N/A
East	1	100
Central	1	100
South	1	80
North	1	92
Wythenshawe	1	98

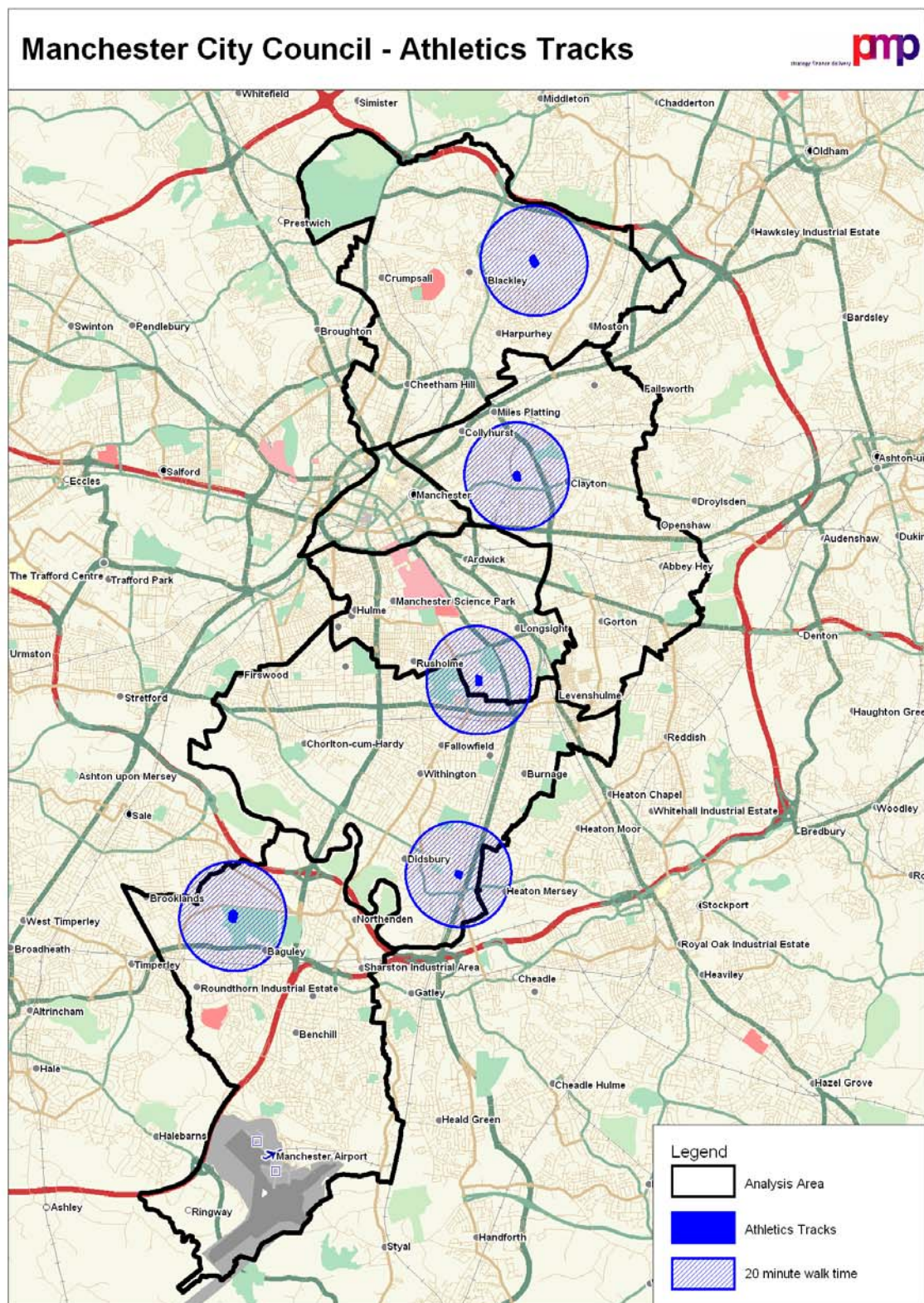
- 8.114 The North West Facility Strategy Evidence Base indicates that facility provision in Greater Manchester is equivalent to 0.06 track lanes per 1000. This is higher than the England ratio of 0.05 but equivalent to the North West average. Greater Manchester is also strong in terms of participation. Table 8.12 summarises the provision of athletics tracks in Manchester in comparison to the regional and national average.

Table 8.12 – Athletics tracks in the region

Geographical area	Athletics tracks/1000 population (lanes)
National	0.05
North West	0.06
Greater Manchester	0.06
Manchester	0.06

- 8.115 The table shows that Manchester City has similar levels of provision to the county and region, all of which have slightly higher levels of provision compared to the national average.
- 8.116 The regional facility strategy states that the priority for future investment should be in areas of existing high participation, as this provides the greatest opportunities to grow the sport. This would therefore include Manchester City.
- 8.117 Consultation with regards to athletics provision indicates that whilst around 20% of residents believe that provision is sufficient, 39% suggest that there are not enough athletics tracks. 30% had no opinion. While this suggests that the quantity of facilities is an issue, like other types of sports facilities, discussion at workshops centred around access to existing facilities rather than the provision of new sites.
- 8.118 Map 8.5 illustrates the distribution of athletics tracks. It can be seen that with the exception of the City Centre area, each area of the City contains at least one facility. Despite this, there are large numbers of residents outside of the 20 minute walk time to a facility.

Map 8.5 – Athletics tracks in Manchester



SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.119 While the distribution of athletics tracks suggests that there are shortfalls in the City, there was little demand evident for additional facilities during consultation with the exception of the household survey, where residents indicated that provision was insufficient.
- 8.120 Given the limited access to school sites, initial priority should be given to improving this. Greater access to facilities on school sites and improvement of public transport links should be prioritised in order to maximise access for residents in all areas of the City to facilities that current exist.
- 8.121 The Regional Facilities Strategy Evidence base suggests that investment should be targeted in areas where participation is already adequate in order to achieve maximum benefit. In the first instance, investment should be channelled into existing facilities to improve the quality of these sites and enhance access to maximise participation. Longer term, new provision may be required in response to growing demand. Any new facilities should ideally be located on school sites and consideration should be given to the development of satellite clubs.

Ongoing	Focus on enhancing the quality of existing athletics tracks and improving access to existing sites and to school facilities for the local community.
Long Term	<p>Ensure that new facilities meet the necessary specification including floodlights. New facilities should ideally be located on school sites and should be focused in areas where demand is expressed, potentially through the creation of satellite clubs.</p> <p>When planning new facilities, consideration should be given to the inclusion of social facilities. Consultation highlighted that social facilities were particularly important in encouraging people to participate.</p>
Ongoing	Ensure that the pricing structure facilitates access to athletics tracks and that opportunities for involvement in the sport are promoted across the City.

- 8.122 For planning purposes, a standard of 0.06 athletics tracks per 1000 population should be applied. This standard is in line with the quantity of existing provision.

Golf courses

- 8.123 Golf courses are particularly important in terms of biodiversity as well as providing residents with the opportunity to play golf. Golf courses are not considered within the North West Regional Facilities Evidence Base.
- 8.124 Analysis of the quantity of golf courses in comparison to the national and regional picture is set out in Table 8.13 overleaf. The number of holes per 1000 population in Manchester is significantly below both the national and regional average. This is not surprising in light of the urban nature of Manchester and the lack of potential to provide such facilities.

Table 8.13 – Golf courses in the region

Geographical area	Golf courses/ 1000 population (holes)
National	0.68
North West	0.67
Manchester	0.23

- 8.125 Golf courses were infrequently discussed during consultation and the majority of residents indicated that they were willing to travel to reach such facilities. The application of the accessibility standard of a 20 minute drive time suggests that all residents are within an appropriate distance of a golf course.
- 8.126 In light of the low emphasis on the quantity of provision and good access to facilities outside of the City, as well as the impractical nature of providing golf courses within the City boundary, the focus should remain on maintaining and where possible improving the quality of existing golf courses as well as improving pay and play opportunities at existing sites.

Ongoing	Focus on enhancing the quality of existing golf courses and maximise access to the local community.
Ongoing	Ensure that the pricing structure facilitates access to golf courses and that opportunities for involvement in golf are promoted across the City.

Grass pitches

- 8.127 Grass pitches serve not only a recreational purpose, but are also instrumental in providing informal opportunities and often double up as parks. In Manchester, in light of the profile of the population, appropriate provision for pitch sports is particularly important. This is reinforced by the Sport England market segmentation data, which indicates the dominant population groups of “Kev” and “Jamie” both enjoy playing team sports, and in particular football.

The 2004 Playing Pitch Strategy

- 8.128 A playing pitch strategy was carried out across Manchester City during 2004. Playing Pitch Strategies measure the adequacy of provision to meet specific needs from football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs. An eight stage methodology and process is set out in the document “Towards a Level Playing Field” (Sport England 2002). The overall vision for the Playing Pitch Strategy is:

‘By 2014 Manchester City Council will provide and have assisted in the provision of an appropriate distribution and range of high quality playing pitches and associated facilities which will provide opportunities for participation in pitch sports by residents from all sections of the community.’

8.129 The key objectives of the playing pitch strategy are to:

- increase the quality and capacity of existing outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of NGBs, affiliated leagues, local sports clubs and Manchester City Council
- meet geographic shortfalls in provision which can be achieved through the implementation of improvements to, and increased maintenance of the current quantity of, outdoor sports facility provision
- deliver cost effective pitch stock through rationalisation and sustainability
- support development programmes and address latent demand as identified in the assessment report, particularly in relation to girls and women's sports
- provide usable, accessible and viable outdoor sports facilities within the City in the context of the UDP
- encourage participation and support local voluntary sector contribution.
- improve the health and well being of the City's residents by providing improved opportunities to access high quality sporting activity
- seek to secure, wherever possible, developer contributions for the creation of new, and improvements to existing outdoor recreation facilities, particularly in areas of identified deficiency.

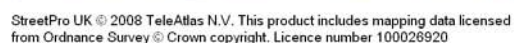
8.130 Playing pitch strategies evaluate the adequacy of pitches in significant detail and it is these documents that should be used to determine the requirement for additional pitches, priorities for investment and any sites which are suitable for disposal. This PPG17 study therefore refers to the current Manchester City Council Playing Pitch Strategy and the priorities emerging from the document. In light of the age of the strategy, it is recommended that this is updated to reflect changes that have taken place to pitch stock and the demand and conclusions should therefore be treated as indicative only.

Current Provision

8.131 Analysis of the provision of outdoor sports facilities in the City indicates that there are 172 sites that contain grass pitches. The majority of these sites however, are educational facilities that provide limited, if any public access.

8.132 Map 8.6 overleaf summarises the distribution of grass pitches across Manchester. It can be seen that when including pitches at school sites, almost all residents are within the suggested accessibility standard of a grass pitch.

Page 228



- 8.133 Table 8.14 summarises the distribution and quality of grass pitches across Manchester City. It must be noted that the quality assessments undertaken are indicative only and do not consider the degree to which the facility is fit for purpose in terms of drainage etc. Further assessments in line with Towards a Level Playing Field would be required for this purpose. Some assessments in line with Towards a Level Playing Field were carried out as part of the 2004 assessment report.

Table 8.14 – Pitch Provision across Manchester

Area	No of Pitch Sites	Average Quality Score	Range of Quality Score
City Centre	0	0	0
East	33	79	46 – 98
Central	23	84	64 – 100
South	44	80	20 – 100
North	45	77	50 – 98
Wythenshawe	28	78	58 – 100
TOTAL	173	80	20 - 100

- 8.134 Table 8.14 suggests that pitches are unevenly distributed across Manchester, with the South and North containing higher levels of provision than other areas. Responses to the household survey suggest that the overall quantity of provision is sufficient.
- 8.135 As highlighted in the table, the quality of pitches across Manchester is lower than most other types of open space, with an average score of only 80%. There are however some very high quality facilities, with several sites achieving scores of 100%. There is a significant variation in the overall quality of pitches, with scores ranging from 20 – 100%.
- 8.136 The quality of pitches is relatively consistent across the City, although the highest quality facilities can be found in the central area (where there are fewest facilities). In contrast, North Manchester contains the poorest facilities.
- 8.137 Reflecting these qualitative issues, improvements to the quality of grass pitches, along with access to existing sites was perceived to be of higher importance than the quantity of facilities during consultation. In general, comments relating to the quantity of pitches were derived from the opinion that many sites have recently been lost to development. This was particularly apparent for school playing pitches and informal playing fields. Despite these comments, the majority of residents stated that the amount of pitch provision is adequate and that recent developments (eg Sports City) are positive.
- 8.138 Attendees at workshop sessions highlighted the poor quality of changing facilities across some of the outdoor sports facilities in Manchester. This was perceived to be a greater issue than the actual quantity or quality of pitches. The lack of social

facilities at the majority of sites is also perceived to be a barrier to increased participation. A new development at Moston includes good quality changing facilities alongside a social function and this is suggested to be an example of good practice.

- 8.139 Overall, improvements to the quality of pitches (and changing) were perceived to be of far greater importance than the provision of additional pitches. The household survey reinforces these perceptions, with the majority opinion being that the quantity of provision is about right.
- 8.140 This is also reflected within the 2004 playing pitch strategies, which suggests that quantitative shortfalls should be addressed by improvements to the quality and capacity of existing facilities.
- 8.141 The playing pitch strategy outlines the following priorities for the future development of each sport:

Cricket

- an additional high quality, grass-playing surface to be developed at one of the parks in the City to act as an additional venue for local clubs, to be available for sports development initiatives and to build participation in cricket
- each school (with playing fields) should have a non-turf wicket
- all clubs to either have at least two practice nets (grass or artificial) or access to indoor nets within their catchment area
- one MUGA in each park area should be at least marked out with cricket wickets or have cricket net facilities attached to it
- Belle Vue Leisure Centre to install training nets
- develop pathways for Girl's interested in playing cricket.

Hockey

- schools should incorporate markings for mini hockey on playgrounds.
- MCC should earmark replacement funds for existing STPs in order to refurbish/upgrade pitches as and when necessary. Refurbishment of existing pitches should include the following elements:
 - carpet
 - fencing
 - floodlighting
 - changing facilities
 - training for staff regarding maintenance of the pitch.

Football

- at least one mini soccer centre should be provided in each analysis area
- MCC and partners should plan to meet the shortfall of pitches in the identified areas through significant improvement to existing pitches and ancillary facilities at Tier A and B sites
- support the developmental plans of Charter Standard Clubs
- generally raise the standard of pitch sites including ancillary facilities.

Rugby

- each 'hub school' should have a rugby pitch
- support drainage improvements to pitches at Didsbury RUFC
- support the community rugby development initiatives at the proposed artificial surface at Broughton Park RUFC
- one MUGA in the City should be suitable for rugby training i.e. of appropriate size and surface (preferable field turf), which can act as a satellite venue for local clubs. If this is not Broughton Park consider development of such a facility in the east or north areas of the City. Most logically at a school such as Our Lady RC Sports College
- support rugby development initiatives/coaching programmes in areas of the City with poor provision (specifically the north and east)
- encourage greater delivery of rugby in schools in Manchester by supporting school-led pitch and facility development and coaching initiatives
- encourage clubs to develop girls and women's sections.

Short Term	Continue to use the Playing Pitch Strategy findings to prioritise investment relating to grass pitches. In light of the findings of this PPG17 assessment, as well as priorities identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy, improvements should focus on quality.
Short Term	In line with Sport England recommendations, update the Playing Pitch Strategy to reflect changes to the pitch stock and demand for pitches across the City.
Ongoing	Ensure that decision making on the future of pitches takes into account the exception criteria set by Sport England.

8.142 The remainder of this section summarises the key issues arising from an assessment of outdoor sports facilities in each area of the City.

City Centre

- 8.143 There are no outdoor sports facilities located within the City Centre and hence provision is below the recommended minimum standard.
- 8.144 The growing population in the City Centre will generate increased demand for outdoor sports facilities over the LDF period and the unmet demand will therefore rise.
- 8.145 The nature of the City Centre and the land required for sports facilities means that provision in the City Centre area is particularly challenging and there are few opportunities to provide appropriate facilities. Whilst any opportunities to provide outdoor sports facilities in this area should be taken, it is important to ensure that there is adequate provision in nearby areas to accommodate residents of the City Centre. In order to facilitate usage, appropriate public transport routes to local facilities should be provided.

Medium Term

Ensure that any future improvements to public transport links take into account the need to link residents of the City Centre with nearby outdoor sports facilities.

East area

- 8.146 The overall quantity of provision in the East area falls below the recommended minimum standards. Despite this, the quantity of bowls, tennis and synthetic pitches meets minimum standards, suggesting that pitch provision is lower than in other areas.
- 8.147 The quality of facilities in the East is higher than in other areas of the City, with the average quality score being the second highest of all areas.
- 8.148 Despite this, consultation demonstrated that residents in the East of the City were the most dissatisfied of all residents. While it is recognised that the area contains several high quality facilities, it was perceived that there is a lack of access to facilities for the general public.
- 8.149 The key deficiencies arising in East Manchester include:
- tennis courts in Newton Heath and Miles Platting
 - bowling greens in Ardwick
 - provision of additional synthetic pitches to meet accessibility deficiencies.

Ongoing

Raise awareness of opportunities available for local residents to participate in outdoor sports facilities across East Manchester.

Medium Term

Address gaps in current provision where demand is expressed.

Ongoing

Focus on qualitative improvements to existing facilities using the findings of the site visits as a guide.

Ongoing

Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth.

Central Manchester

- 8.150 The overall quantity of provision in the Central area falls below the recommended minimum standards. In particular, deficiencies are highlighted with tennis and bowls when measured against the quantity standards. Despite this, application of the accessibility standard demonstrates that the distribution of bowling greens is reasonable, although there are some areas where residents are outside of the catchment for tennis courts, particularly in Longsight.
- 8.151 The highest quality facilities are found in the central area although there remain some sites in need of improvement. The central area is also particularly important in terms of providing facilities to meet the needs of residents living in the City Centre.

Medium Term	Address gaps in current provision where demand is expressed considering particularly tennis courts.
Ongoing	Focus on qualitative improvements to existing facilities using the findings of the site visits as a guide.
Medium – Long Term	Maximise transport links from the City Centre to existing facilities.
Ongoing	Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth.

North Manchester

- 8.152 The overall quantity of provision in the North area falls below the recommended minimum standards. Analysis of the distribution of specific facilities also demonstrates shortfalls of particular facility types including:
- bowling greens in Crumpsall and Cheetham
 - tennis courts in Harpurhey
 - synthetic pitches.
- 8.153 As well as containing some deficiencies in provision, the North area contains the lowest quality facilities in the City, indicating that qualitative improvements are particularly important in this area.

Short term	Focus on qualitative improvements to existing facilities using the findings of the site visits as a guide.
Medium Term	Address gaps in current provision where demand is expressed considering particularly synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens.
Ongoing	Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth.

South Manchester

- 8.154 The quantity of provision in South Manchester exceeds the minimum standards. This is further reinforced when evaluating provision on a sport by sport basis, with provision in the south being the highest for all types of sports facility. Many sites in South Manchester are club based facilities, indicating that pay and play access may be less widespread than in other areas of the City. This was not raised as an issue during consultation.
- 8.155 Furthermore, the quality of facilities in the south on the whole is reasonable, although like in other areas, there are several sites in need of improvement, and the south area contains some of the lowest quality facilities.
- 8.156 The high levels of provision, along with the application of the accessibility standards, suggests that the future priorities for new provision should Centre around qualitative improvements.

Ongoing	Focus on qualitative improvements to existing facilities using the findings of the site visits as a guide.
Ongoing	Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth.

Wythenshawe

- 8.157 Like South Manchester, the quantity of land dedicated to outdoor sports facilities in Wythenshawe exceeds the minimum standard. This is also reflected in public opinion, with residents of Wythenshawe demonstrating higher levels of satisfaction than any where else in the City.
- 8.158 Despite the high levels of provision, there remain some deficiencies, specifically:
- tennis courts in Brooklands
 - bowling greens in Woodhouse Park
 - synthetic turf pitches.
- 8.159 The quantity of grass pitches is significantly above that in other areas of the City.
- 8.160 Overall, the quality of facilities in Wythenshawe is average and whilst there are some high quality sites, there are also examples of sites that would benefit from investment.

Ongoing	Focus on qualitative improvements to existing facilities using the findings of the site visits as a guide.
Medium Term	Address gaps in current provision where demand is expressed considering particularly synthetic turf pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens.
Ongoing	Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth.

Summary

- 8.161 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.
- 8.162 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 and the sub standards (for example no. of tennis courts per 1000 residents) should be taken into account.
- 8.163 The key issues arising from consultation with regards outdoor sports facilities focus primarily on the quality and access. Application of the standards demonstrates that there are some deficiencies across the City, particularly in relation to tennis courts and synthetic pitches. Future investment in athletics tracks, bowling greens and pitches should focus primarily on qualitative and access improvements.
- 8.164 As well as the need to improve the quality and access to facilities, awareness and promotion of existing sites across Manchester is a key issue.
- 8.165 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for outdoor sports facilities in Manchester that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework include:
- protect all outdoor sports facilities from development in line with Sport England policies and exception criteria
 - seek to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities. Sites should meet National Governing Body criteria. This includes the provision of appropriate changing facilities
 - target the provision of additional public tennis courts across the City and improve the quality of existing sites
 - improve the quality of existing bowling greens and monitor demand in areas currently devoid of provision
 - devise a strategic approach to the provision of additional synthetic pitches to ensure that all residents are within a 15 minute walk time of a pitch, taking into account curriculum and community need. The BSF programme constitutes a key means of achieving this objective

- address issues surrounding the quality and access to pitches through the preparation of a detailed playing pitch strategy in line with Towards a Level Playing Field and the subsequent development of an action and investment plan
- facilitate the delivery of the proposals of the BSF programme through the planning system and maximise community use of the resulting facilities
- review the implications of population growth and changes in the participation profile on the demand for facilities.