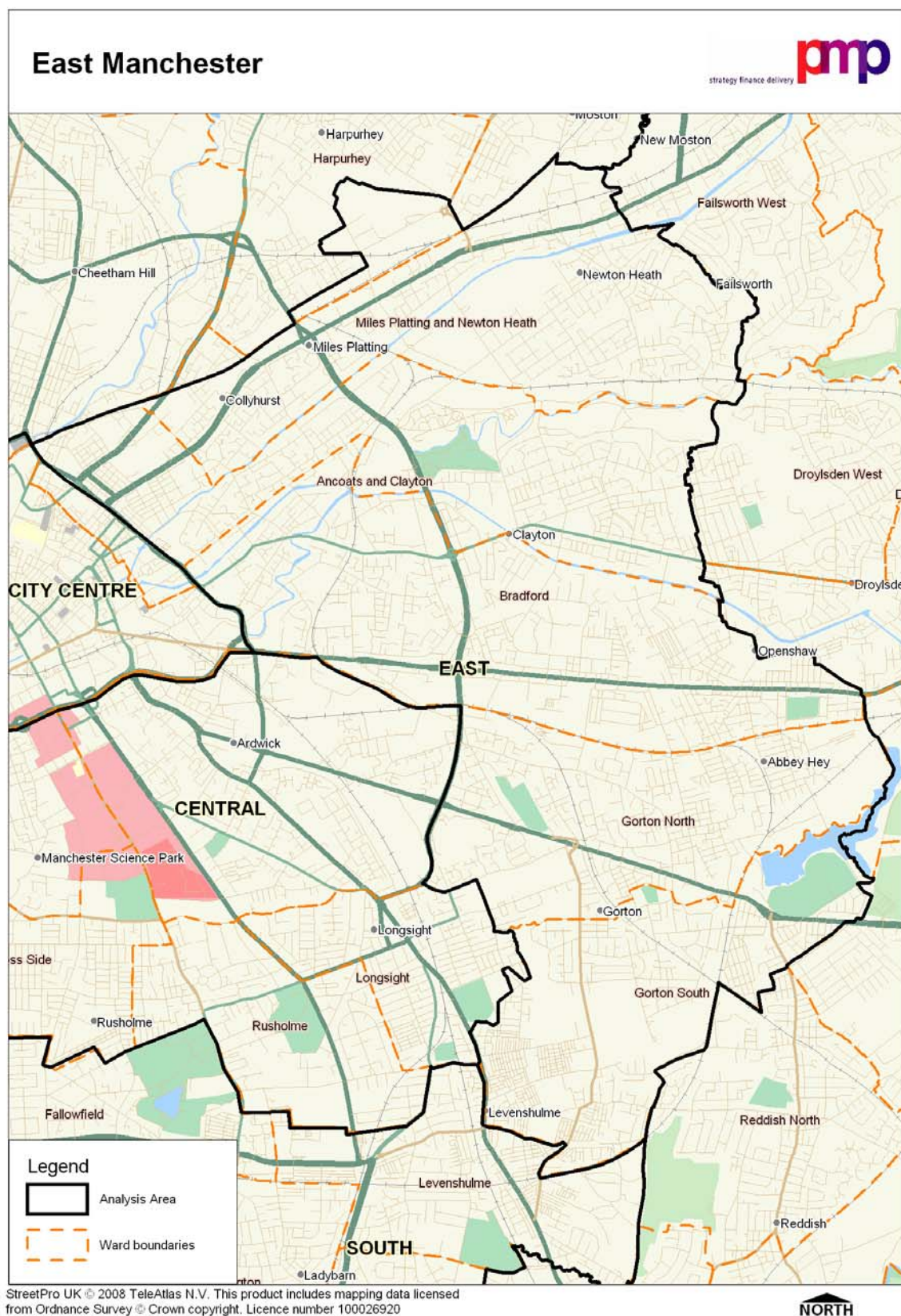


14. East Manchester

Introduction

- 14.1 The East Manchester area covers almost 2000 hectares and is located directly to the East of the City Centre. Map 14.1 overleaf illustrates the location of East Manchester in the context of the other areas of the City. It encompasses the Gorton, Ancoats, Miles Platting, Beswick, Openshaw, Clayton and Newton Heath neighbourhoods of the City.
- 14.2 East Manchester is characterised by an eclectic mix of housing, ranging from Victorian Terraces in Gorton to new housing in Beswick as well as apartments along the Ashton Canal corridor, a green route allowing residents easy access to the City centre. Much of East Manchester contains an abundance of natural green space as well as more formally managed parks.
- 14.3 Between 1991 and 2001, the population of East Manchester declined by 12%. This contrasted with a 3.5% increase across the rest of the City. The population was characterised by a higher proportion of young and retired residents and fewer people in full time employment. The percentage of residents who were unemployed was significantly above the national average. Despite links to the M60, infrastructure was poor and the amount of vacant and derelict land was high. This trend has now been arrested and residents and businesses are returning to East Manchester and standards of educational attainment and schools have radically improved. A regeneration programme which built on the opportunities created by the 2001 Commonwealth Games has seen over 3300 new housing developments completed since 2001 and the creation of more than 3000 jobs.
- 14.4 Despite this, there are remain significant pockets of deprivation and almost 50% of East Manchester's residents live in neighbourhoods classified as being within the most 1% deprived in England. Over 55,000 residents live in neighbourhoods classed as within the worst 10% nationally. In such areas of deprivation the provision of local open space, sport and recreation facilities that are accessible to the community is essential.
- 14.5 In addition to residential development, a 160 hectare business park has been developed as the centre piece of the area. This is reflective of the desire to reclaim East Manchester's position as a premier industrial and business location and emphasises the mix that is evident between residential areas and business locations.

Map 14.1 – East Manchester



- 14.6 While substantial progress has been made, there remain many opportunities to further enhance the area. The key objectives of the East Manchester strategic Regeneration Framework are to:
- increase the ability of local residents to access better quality employment opportunities;
 - establish an ambitious and strategic vision for the neighbourhoods of East Manchester, in which they become attractive places to live that are supported by well-functioning schools and good quality facilities and are clearly linked to the region's wider economic opportunities; and
 - establish a framework for the sustainable development of East Manchester beyond 2010.
- 14.7 The Strategic Regeneration Framework recognises that there is a wealth of open space, although much of this is poorly managed and creates a poor environment. There is also a lack of open space in some areas. The Regeneration Framework reinforces the role that high quality open space can play in attracting economic and residential investment.
- 14.8 Of particular relevance to open space, sport and recreation facilities in the area, the targets of the regeneration framework include:
- to restore and enhance unique natural features where possible
 - to improve community access to open spaces. Each community should contain a range of open spaces to foster a high quality urban environment
 - facilitate access to regional, city and neighbourhood parks.
- 14.9 The evaluation of existing open space and local community need will assist the achievement of some of the key objectives of the Strategic Regeneration Framework. Given that East Manchester is anticipated to experience significant growth and change over the LDF period, there is a key opportunity to enhance provision and ensure that local needs are fulfilled.

Open space, sport and recreation provision across East Manchester

- 14.10 East Manchester is a historic industrial area and the physical environment to an extent still reflects these characteristics today. There are two major man made waterways, specifically the Ashton and Rochdale canals leading to the Pennines in the east and into Lancashire and Cheshire to the north and west. There are also several natural features including the River Medlock and the Medlock Valley which runs East to West through the area.

14.11 As well as the abundance of natural open space and features found across East Manchester, East Manchester contains:

- two City Parks, Philips Park and Debdale Park. Philips Park was the first park opened to the public in Manchester and is located in close proximity to the regenerated sport city area. Philips Park was awarded Green Flag status during 2008, meaning that the park has reached national quality criteria. The park has an active friends group and hosts a variety of community events as well as offering informal recreational opportunities for residents. It accommodates a range of facilities including a visitors centre
- Debdale Park contains a variety of open spaces, including natural areas, sports facilities, children's play areas and allotments. The park achieved Green Flag status in 2008 and hosts a number of local events
- 32 City Parks, ranging in size from 0.04 hectares (Monmouth Street Gardens) to 11.68 hectares (Brookdale Park). Three of these parks have also achieved Green Flag award standard, specifically Openshaw Park, Gaskell Street Park and St Michael and Angel Meadow
- 30 natural and semi natural open spaces, the largest of which, the Medlock Valley (Clayton Vale) exceeds 50 hectares in size and is a particularly important open space in this area of Manchester both from a recreational and wildlife perspective
- there are 119 amenity spaces (the greatest provision in the City) ranging significantly in size from 0.07 hectares to 7.55 hectares. The vast range in the size of sites is illustrative of the range of functionality of the different spaces
- 27 facilities for children, many of which are located within larger parks and open spaces in the East area of the City. In addition to these facilities for children, there are 29 facilities for young people, the majority of which are MUGAs
- a range of outdoor sports facilities including Sport City, the complex originally developed as part of the Commonwealth Games which now serves both elite athletes and the community. Facilities include:
 - one athletics track (Sport City)
 - three synthetic turf pitches
 - six sites offering opportunities for tennis
 - eight bowling greens
 - 33 playing pitches .
- seven allotment sites, with waiting lists found at three sites.

14.12 Table 14.1 summarises the quantity of open space falling into each of the typologies assessed as part of this study. Outdoor sports facilities are evaluated separately in table 14.2. The adequacy of this provision when measured against the existing local standards will be discussed later in this section.

Table 14.1 – Open space across East Manchester

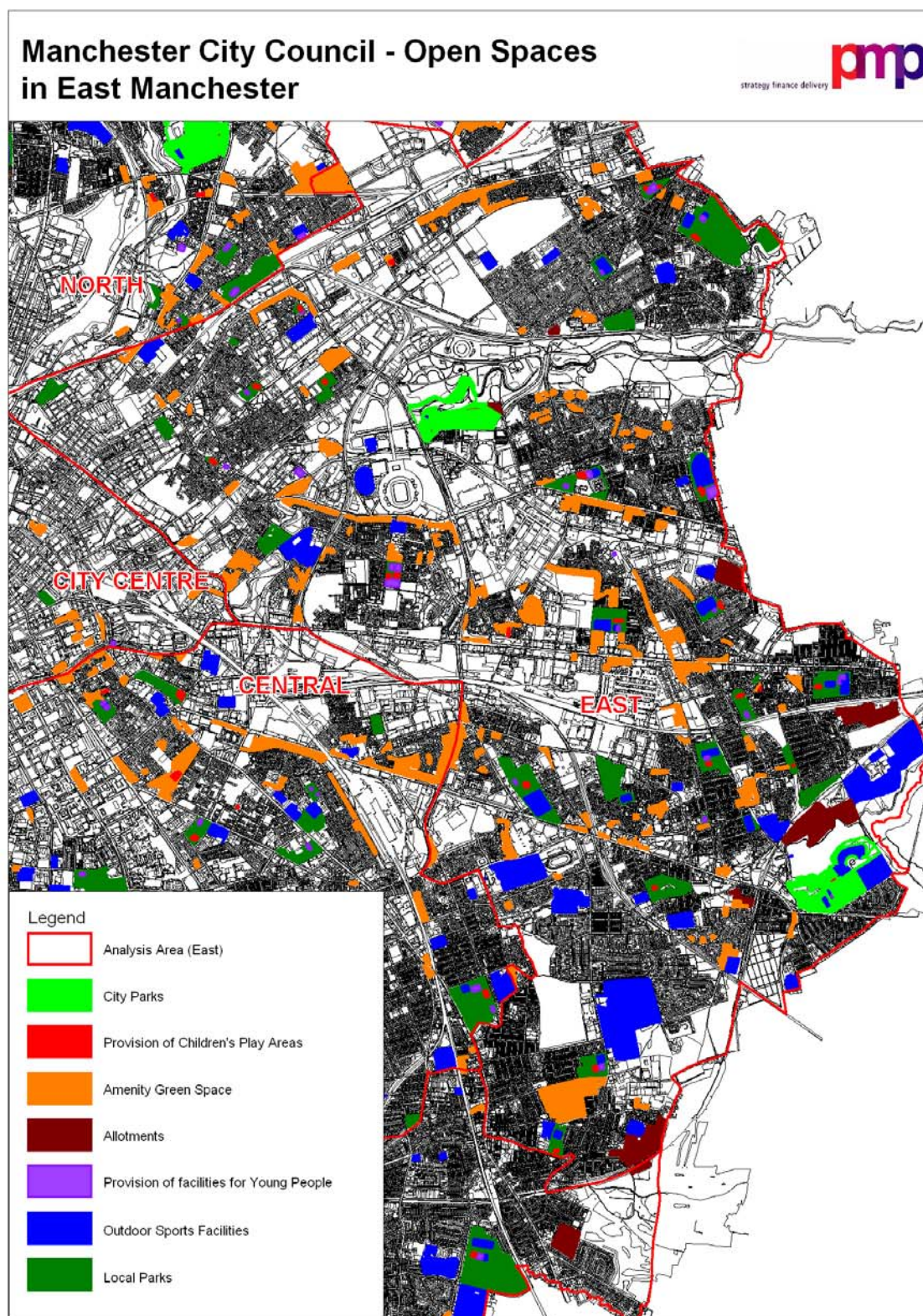
Open space type	Number of sites	Hectares (total)	Hectares per 1000 population
City parks	2	17.95	0.25
Local parks	32	50.74	0.70
Natural and semi natural open space	30	130.46	1.80
Amenity green space	119	56.60	0.78
Children's play areas	27	2.1	0.029
Provision for young people	29	2.92	0.04
Allotments	7	20.17	0.28

Table 14.2 – Outdoor sports facilities across East Manchester

Outdoor sports facility type	Number of sites	Hectares (total)	Hectares per 1000 population
Grass pitches	33	56.92	0.79
Synthetic turf pitches	2 (3 full size)	2	0.03
Tennis courts	6 (16 courts)	1.08	0.01
Bowling greens	8 (12 greens)	2.17	0.03

14.13 Map 14.2 overleaf illustrates the distribution of open spaces across East Manchester.

Map 14.2 – Open space, sport and recreation provision in East Manchester



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The adequacy of provision in East Manchester

- 14.14 As discussed in Section 4, standards have been set for all types of open space. The application of the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards is essential in understanding the existing distribution of open space sport and recreation facilities and identifying areas where provision is insufficient to meet local needs.
- 14.15 Table 14.3 evaluates the adequacy of the quantity of open space in East Manchester by measuring the existing provision against the local standards. It also highlights the amount of population growth that could be accommodated before existing provision would fall below the minimum standards.
- 14.16 Large areas of natural and semi natural open space have not been included as they are allocated in the Unitary Development Framework and are expected to be a strategic allocation in the Core Strategy. These sites do however offer opportunities to develop high quality, accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Table 14.3 – Application of the Manchester City Council Quantity Standards in East Manchester

Type of Open Space	Current Provision	Shortfall / surplus against local standard 2008 (hectares)	Amount of population growth that can be accommodated
City parks	17.95	3.47	14,989
Local parks	50.74	15.26	28,790
Natural and semi natural	130.46	-4.22	Below minimum
Amenity green spaces	56.60	27.64	66,739
Children's play areas	2.1	0.18	3016
Provision for young people	2.92	0.46	11,121
Outdoor sports facilities	66.36	-4.59	Below minimum
Allotments	20.17	No standard set	No standard set
Civic spaces	0	No standard set	No standard set
Cemeteries and churchyards	27.23	No standard set	No standard set

Green = above the standard, Red = below the standard

- 14.17 As illustrated in Table 14.3 above, it can be seen that the quantity of all types of open space in East Manchester is sufficient to meet minimum local standards with the exception of outdoor sports facilities and natural open space, where there are small shortfalls of 5.09 and 4.22 hectares respectively. Population growth above 10,000 residents can be accommodated by the current stock of City Parks, Local Parks, amenity green spaces and provision for young people.
- 14.18 Despite higher levels of provision, it must be noted that analysis at a localised level within East Manchester may still reveal some deficiencies.

14.19 The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, while the accessibility standards will help to determine whether those deficiencies are of high importance. It is essential to apply the standards in isolation and then to apply them in the context of each other. Applying the standards together is a more meaningful method of analysis than applying the standards separately.

14.20 Maps 14.3 – 14.12 therefore evaluate the provision of each of the different types of open space across East Manchester.

14.21 On the whole it can be seen that the distribution of open spaces across East Manchester is even. The key areas of deficiency are:

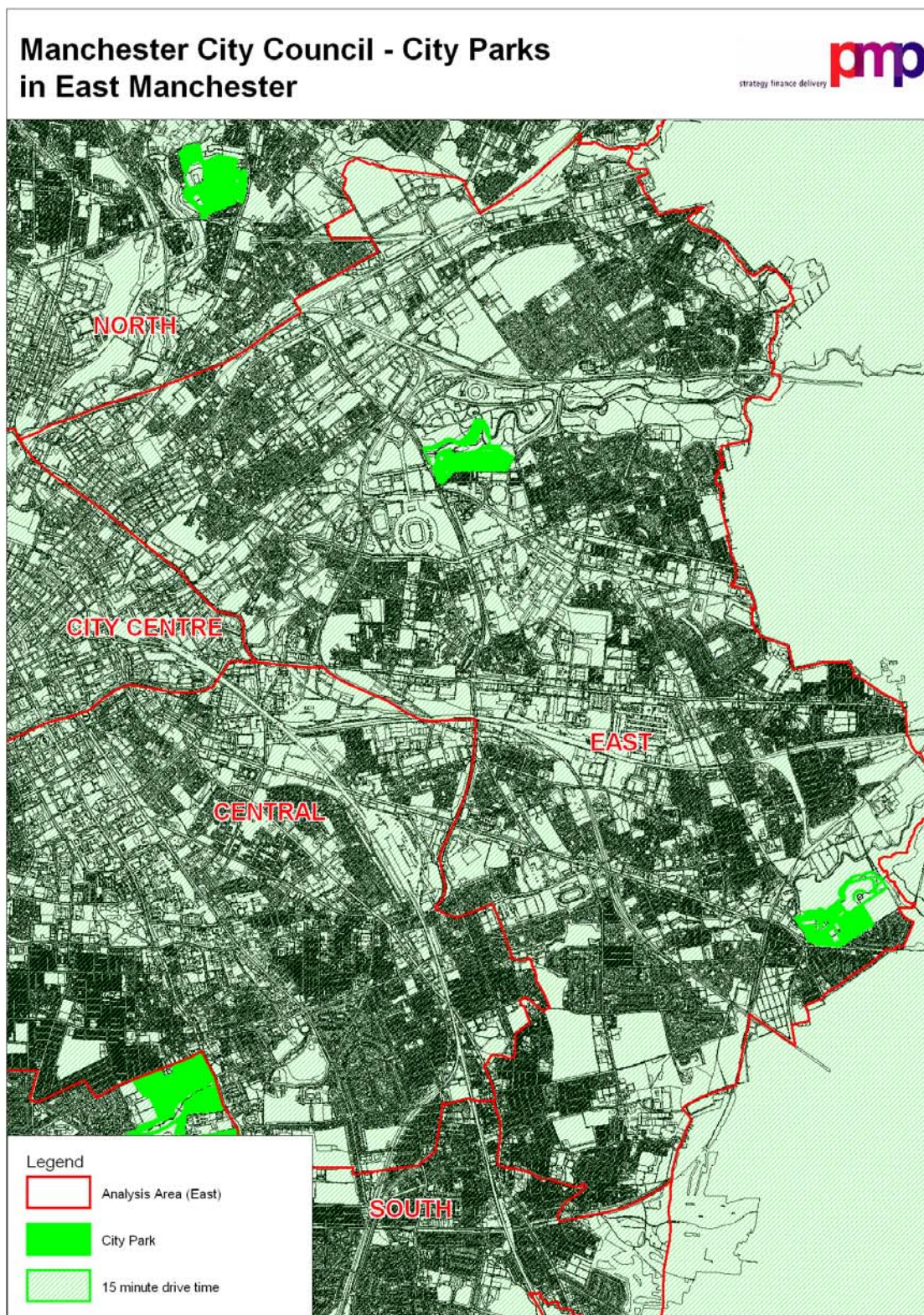
- provision for children – Newton Heath and Miles Platting
- provision for young people – shortfall of one facility in Gorton
- some deficiencies in outdoor sports facilities (tennis, bowls and synthetic pitches).

14.22 The quality of open spaces in East Manchester are higher than in some other areas of the City although there remains opportunities for improvement of some sites. Table 14.4 summarises the average quality score achieved for each type of open space in East Manchester. It can be seen that the quality of natural open spaces is lower than the other types of open space. In contrast, the quality of outdoor sports is particularly high.

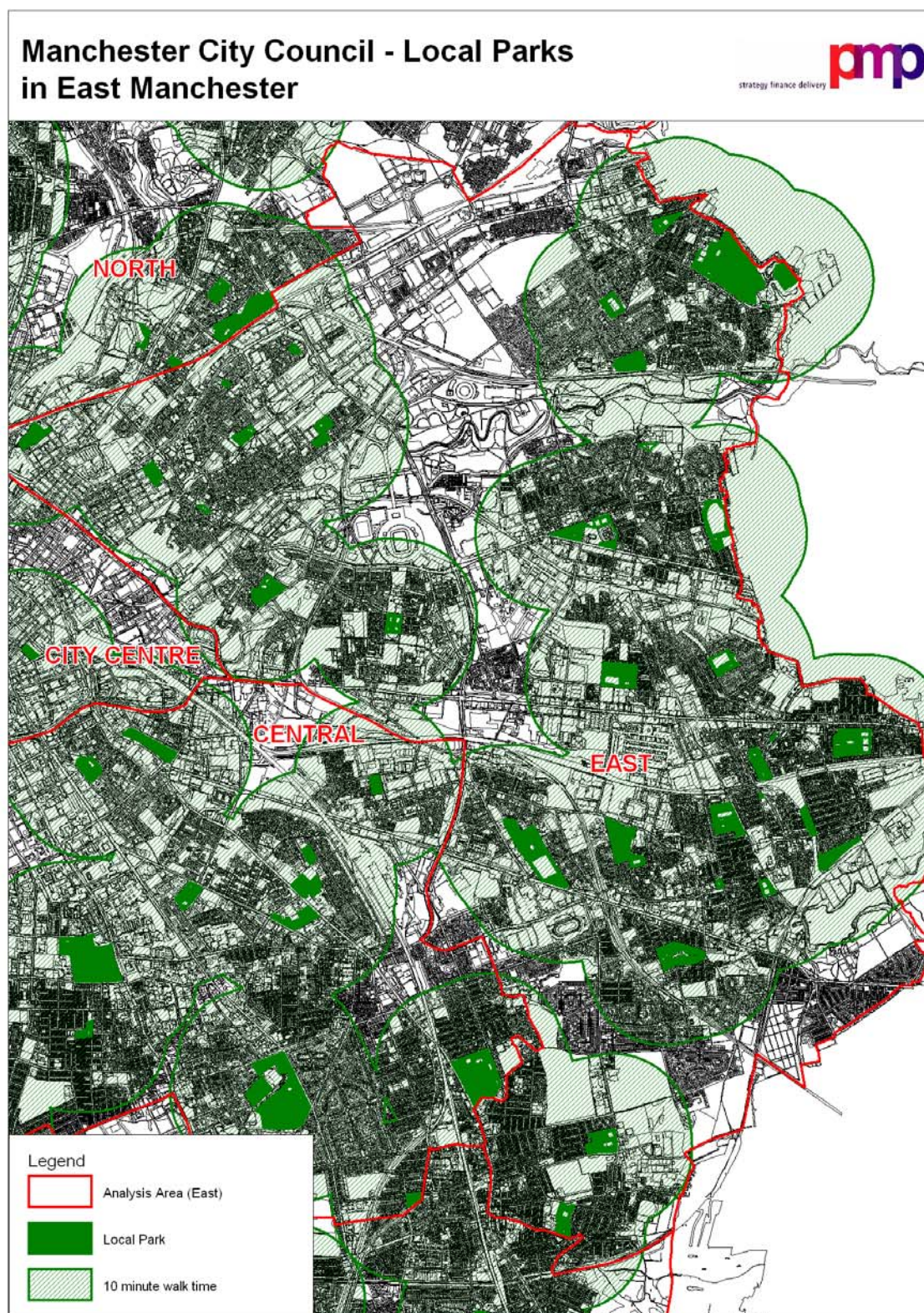
Table 14.4 – Quality of open spaces in East Manchester

Area	Outdoor sports facilities	Natural open space	Amenity green space	Provision for children	Provision for young people
East	80	58	71	73	62

Map 14.3 – City parks in East Manchester



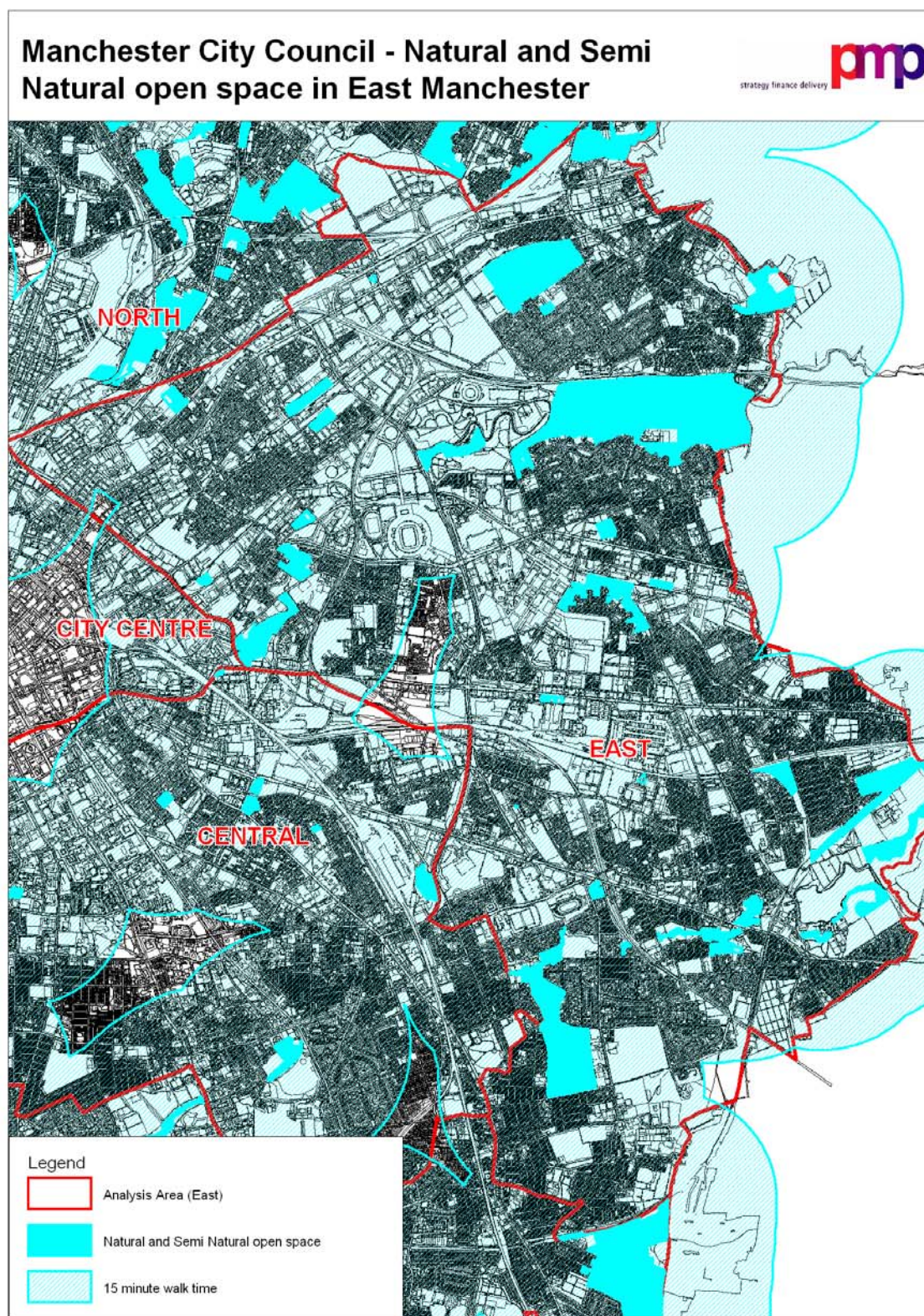
Map 14.4 – Local Parks in East Manchester



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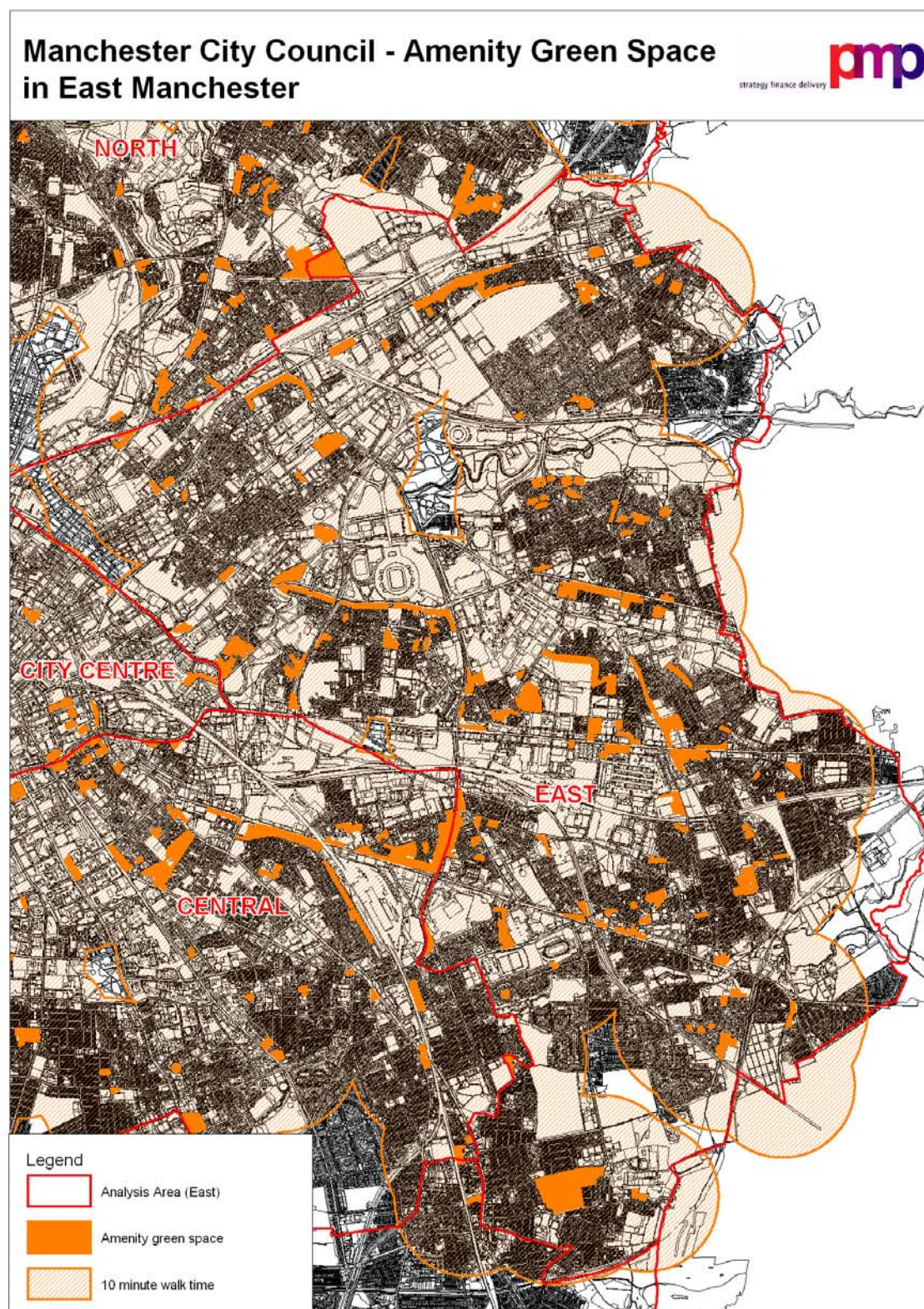
Map 14.5 – Natural and semi natural open space in East Manchester



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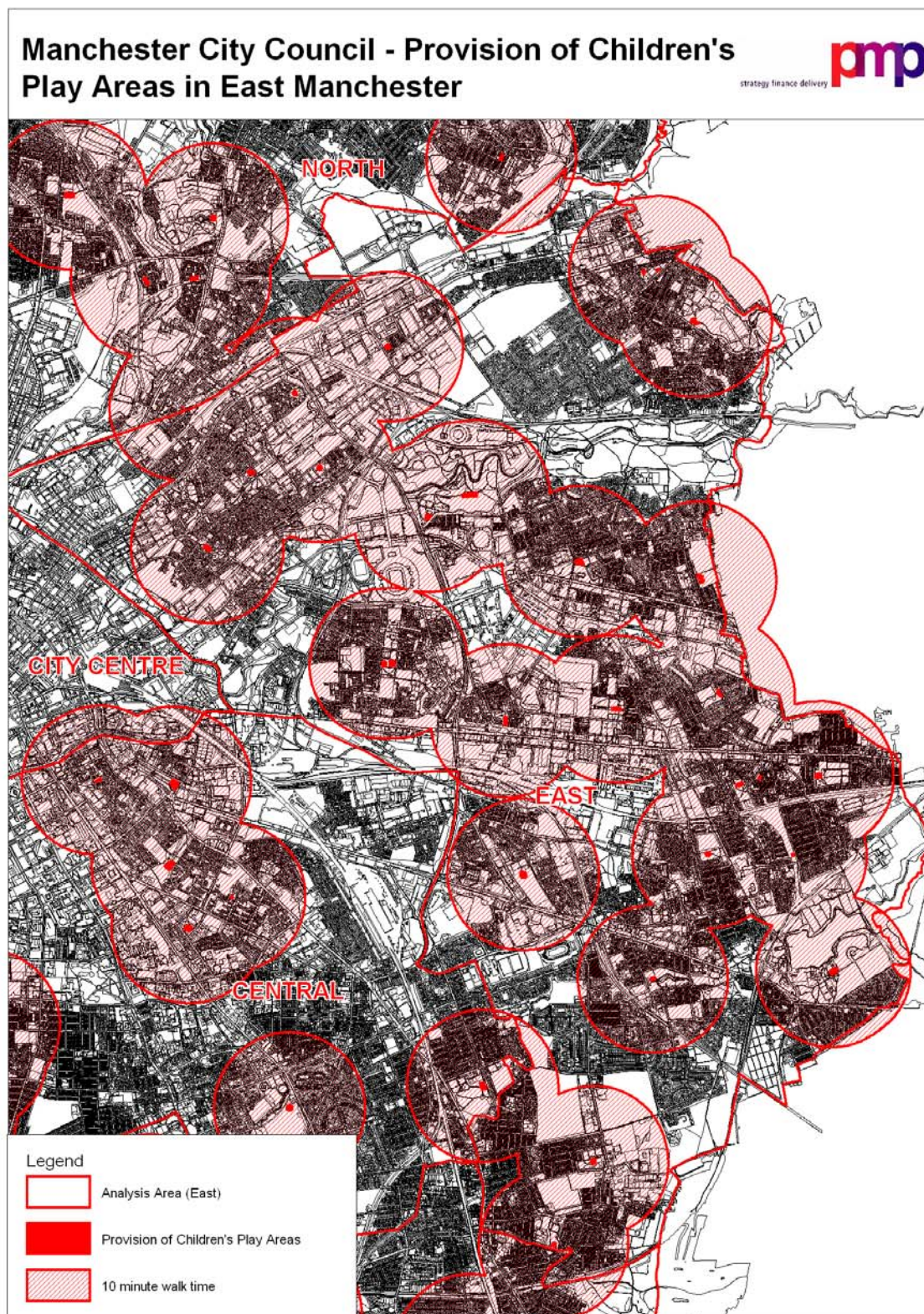
Map 14.6 – Amenity green space in East Manchester



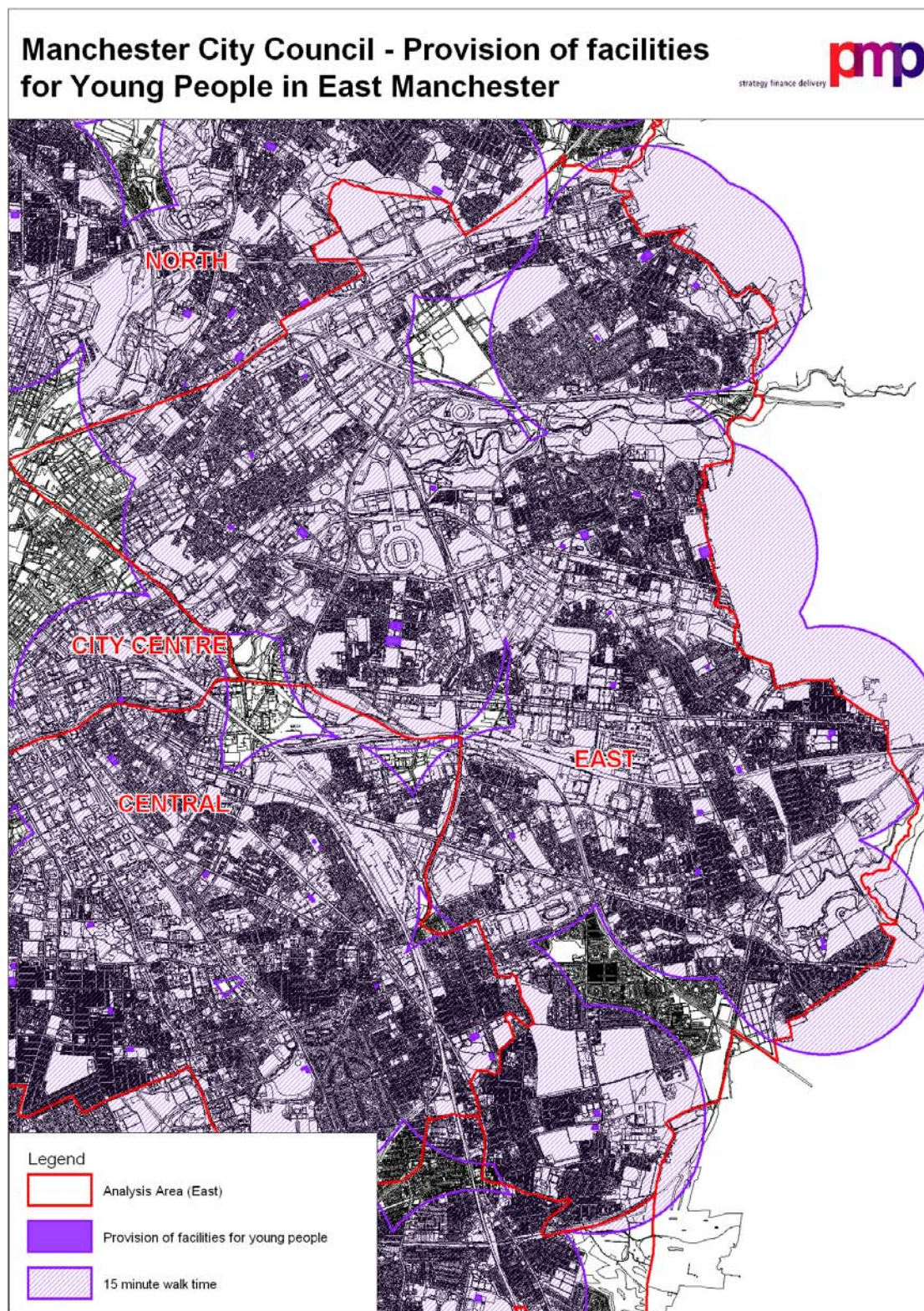
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Map 14.7 – Provision for children in East Manchester



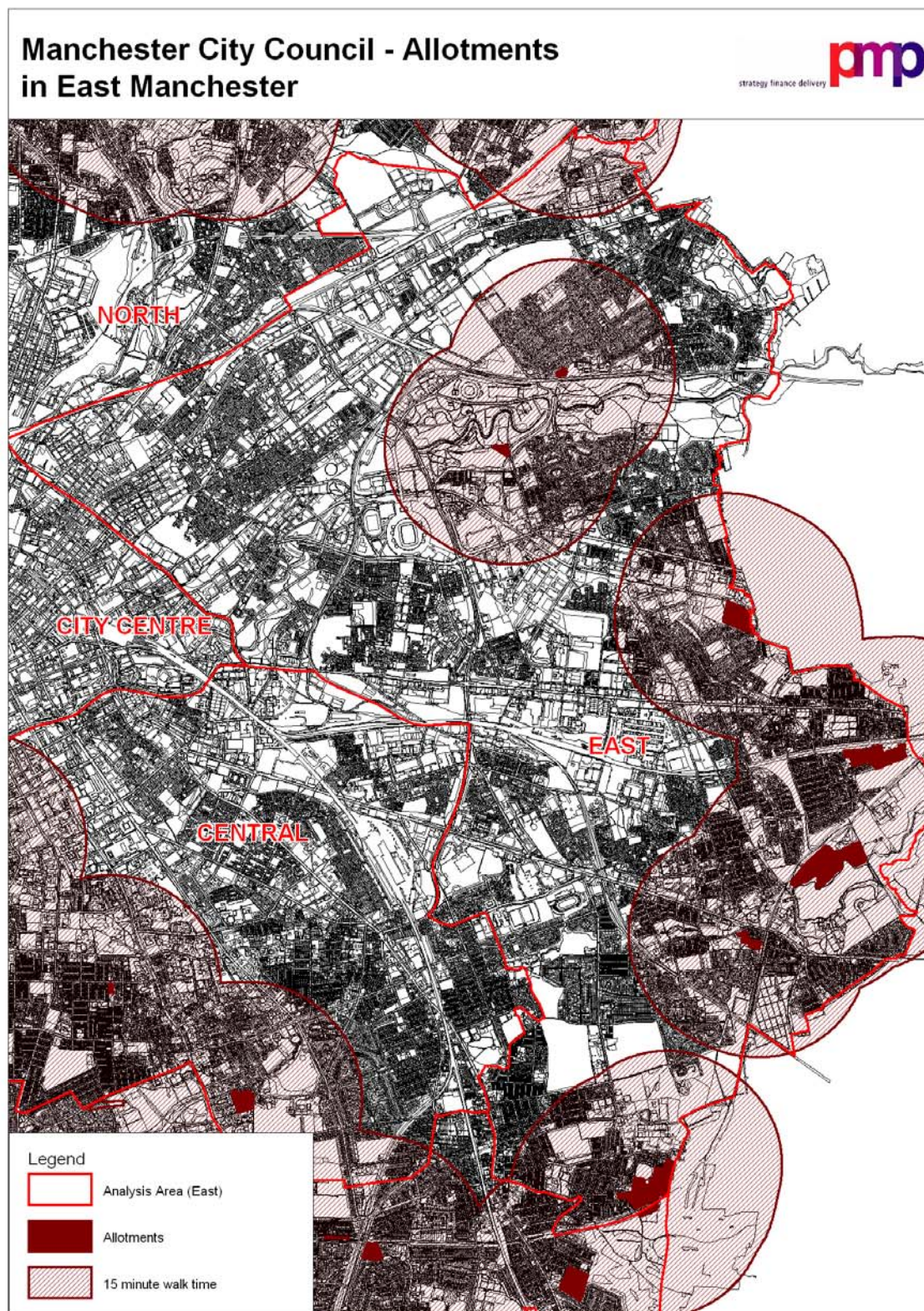
Map 14.8 – Provision for young people in East Manchester



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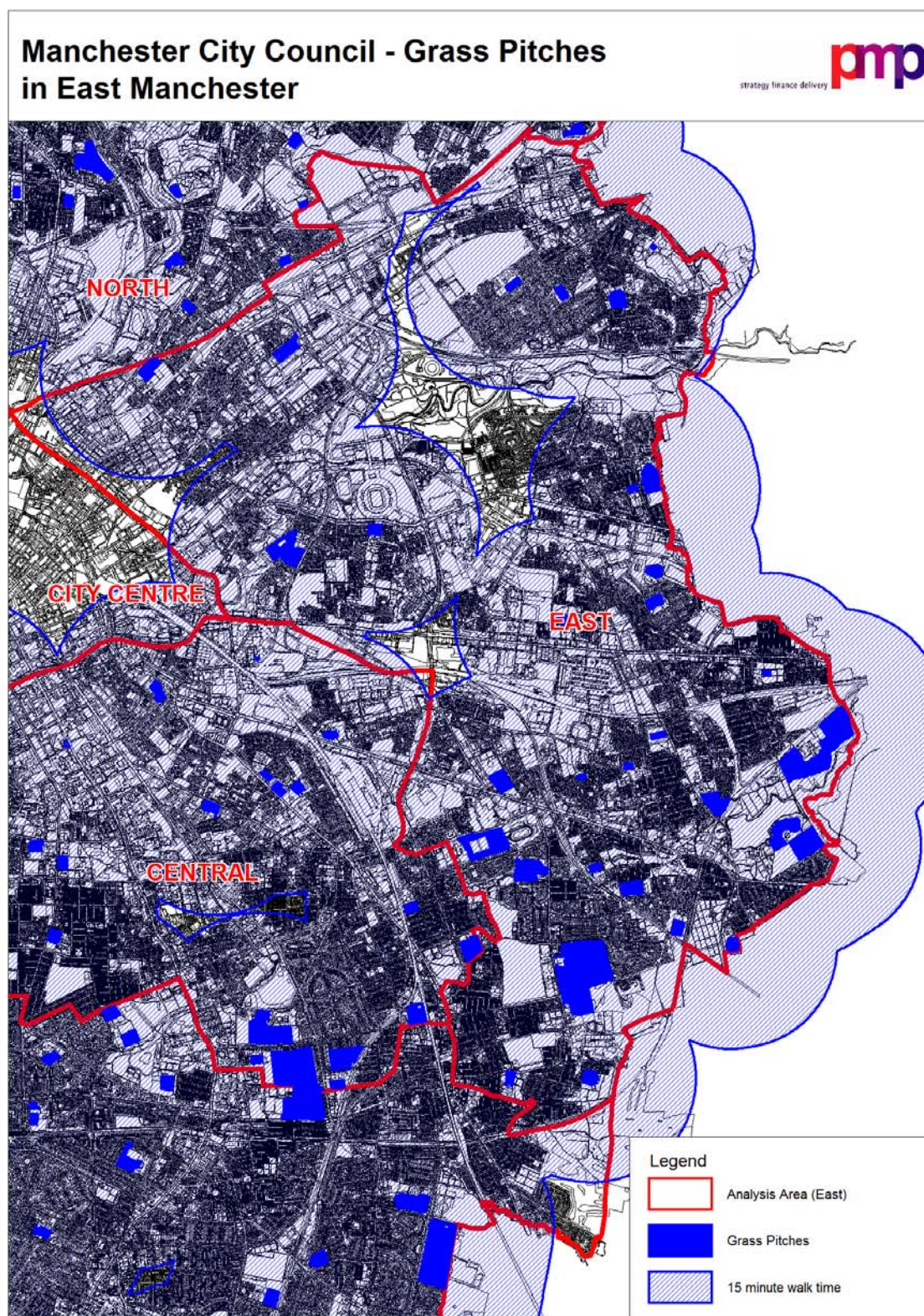
Map 14.9 – Provision of allotments in East Manchester



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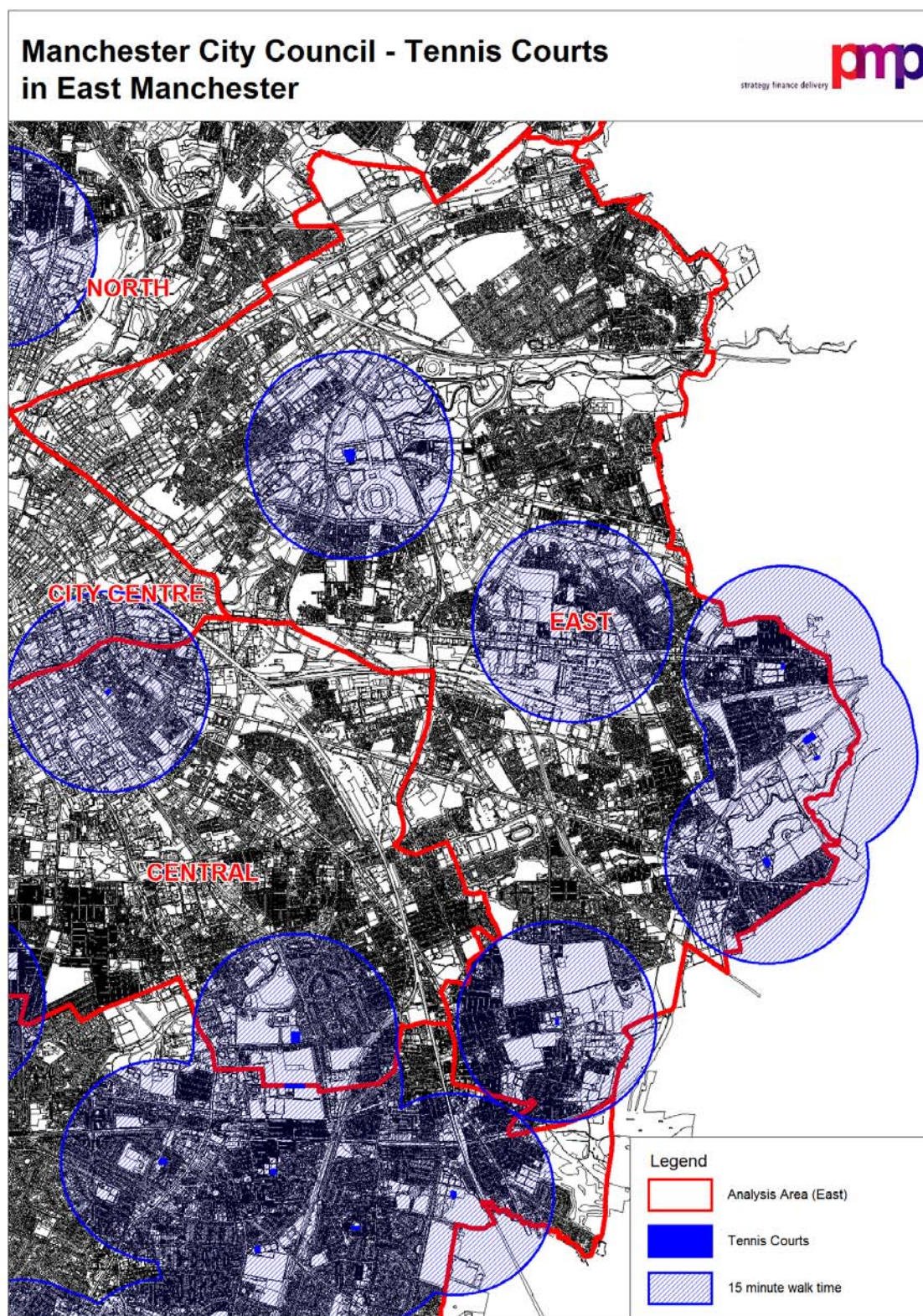
Map 14.10 – Provision of grass pitches in East Manchester



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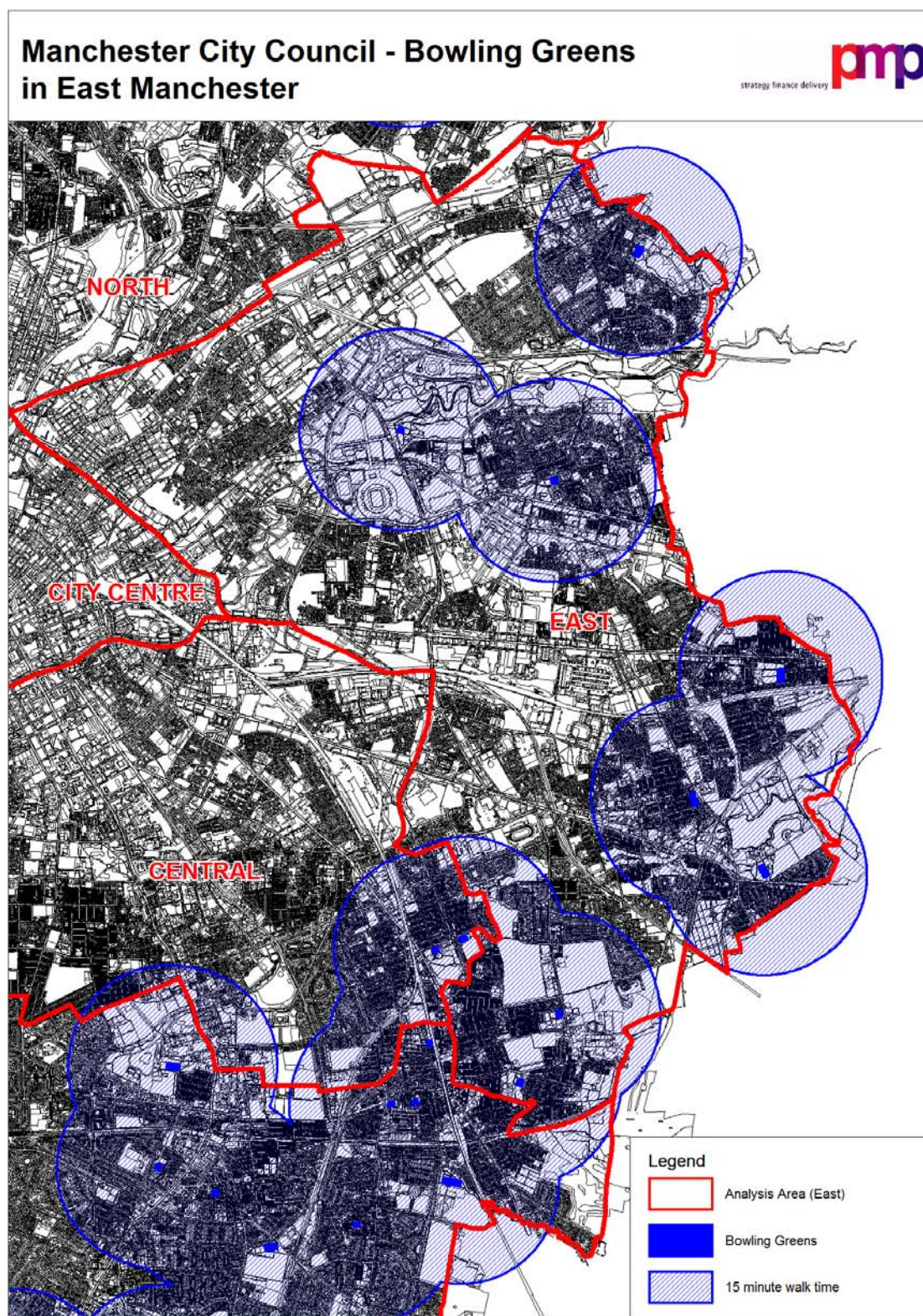
Map 14.11 – Provision of tennis courts in East Manchester



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Map 14.12 – Provision of bowling greens in East Manchester



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Priorities in East Manchester

- 14.23 Table 14.5 overleaf summarises the key issues arising in East Manchester with regards open space, sport and recreation facilities and outlines the key recommendations for the future delivery of each type of open space.

Table 14.5 – The future delivery of open space, sport and recreation facilities in East Manchester

Open space type	Issues	Recommendations
Parks and Gardens	<p>The second highest quantity of Local Parks is found in East Manchester (50.74 hectares) and application of the quantity standard indicates that there is sufficient provision to meet current demand. In quantitative terms, and additional 28,790 residents could be accommodated before additional provision would be required.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient provision to meet demand, accessibility mapping illustrates that there are some Local Parks with overlapping catchments and there is a small area where residents are outside of the catchment for Local Parks near to the City of Manchester Stadium. Philips Park (a city park) is located in this area and for residents within a 10 minute walking distance of this park (the recommended catchment for Local Parks) therefore alleviates deficiencies.</p> <p>The quality of City Parks is excellent. The average quality score of a site is 99% and both sites have achieved Green Flag status.</p> <p>The quality of Local Parks is average, with the average quality score of a site being 70%. Although the quality of sites is average, the quality of Local Parks in this area is the lowest within Manchester.</p> <p>Three Local Parks have achieved Green Flag status, specifically Openshaw Park, Gaskell Street Park and St Michael and Angel Meadow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the quality of the four existing Green Flag parks, specifically Philips Park, Openshaw Park, Gaskell Street Park and St Michael and Angel Meadow (Ongoing) • Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing parks (Short – Medium term) • Promote the development of green linkages connecting East Manchester with central and North Manchester as well as with Tameside MBC. This may include opening up access to river and canal corridors as well as making links between existing open spaces. Access routes within parks should also be considered (Medium term) • Evaluate the impact of population growth on the demand for additional parks in the area, considering both access to existing sites and the application of the quantity standard within the catchment area (Longer term).

Open space type	Issues	Recommendations
Natural and Semi Natural Open Space	<p>Application of the quantity standard indicates that there is insufficient provision of natural and semi natural open space to meet demand.</p> <p>Despite this, accessibility mapping reveals that all residents in the area have access to a natural or semi natural open space within the recommended 15 minute walk time. This suggests that the overall distribution of sites is even.</p> <p>The quality of natural and semi natural open space in East Manchester is average. The average quality score of a site is 60% and quality scores range significantly from 30% - 80%. Seven sites scored 50% or below, highlighting the need for significant qualitative improvements to a number of sites in the area. Medlock Valley Clayton Vale (53 hectares) is a particularly important site in East Manchester in terms of recreational and wildlife value.</p> <p>In light of the even distribution of natural and semi natural open space, priorities should focus on qualitative improvements. It will be important to maintain a balance between recreation and biodiversity. This focus on quality supports the targets of the New East Manchester SRF, which sets out to restore and enhance unique natural features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing natural open spaces, taking into account the findings of the site assessments as well as the need to balance recreation with biodiversity and conservation (Short term) • Promote the development of green linkages connecting residents with open spaces in nearby areas as well as creating wildlife corridors for migration and travel. This may include opening up access to river and canal corridors as well as making links between existing open spaces (Longer term).
Amenity Green Space	<p>The highest provision of amenity green space is found in East Manchester (56.6 hectares) and application of the quantity standard indicates that provision significantly exceeds the minimum standard. The current quantity of amenity green space is sufficient to accommodate population growth of 66,739.</p> <p>Accessibility mapping supports the quantitative findings, with all residents able to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time.</p> <p>The quality of amenity green space in East Manchester is average,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces (Short term) • Despite high levels of provision of amenity space, consider the need for new amenity spaces as part of development at a localised level, where deficiencies may occur (Ongoing) • Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces (Longer term).

SECTION 14 – EAST MANCHESTER

Open space type	Issues	Recommendations
	with the average quality score of a site being 71%. However, despite this 37 sites achieved a quality score below 70%. This indicates that there are a large number of sites that require qualitative improvements.	
Provision for Children	<p>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 3016.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The quality of children's play areas in East Manchester is average, with the average quality of a site being 76%. Although the overall quality of sites is good, quality scores do range from 53% - 93%. Only Debdale Park Play Area (93%) achieved a quality score within the top quartile level (85% and above) and six sites achieved quality scores which fall within the bottom quartile (70% and below). This indicates that qualitative improvements are required to a number of play areas in East Manchester.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a new facility in the Miles Platting / Newton Heath Area of the City to offset existing deficiencies (Short term) • Review the value of sites with overlapping catchments and identify opportunities for disposal of sites if appropriate (Medium term) • 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 (Ongoing) • Evaluate the need for play provision as part of new developments. New facilities will be required when developments are outside 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 (Long term).
Provision for Young People	<p>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.</p> <p>There is a potential gap of one facility within the Gorton area of the City.</p> <p>The quality of facilities for young people is average. The average quality score of a site is 70% and quality scores range significantly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a new facility in the Gorton area to address the deficiency (Short term) • 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 (Ongoing) • 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

SECTION 14 – EAST MANCHESTER

Open space type	Issues	Recommendations
	<p>from 34% - 100%. Nine sites achieved quality scores in the bottom quartile level and only the quality scores of two sites fall within the top quartile level.</p>	<p>or provision is not sufficient to meet minimum standard (Longer term).</p>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<p>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 meet minimum quantity standards.</p> <p>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. Sport City is located in this area of Manchester.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The key deficiencies arising in East Manchester include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts in Newton Heath and Miles Platting • Bowling greens in Ardwick • Provision of additional synthetic pitches to meet accessibility deficiencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of opportunities available for local residents to participate in outdoor sports facilities across East Manchester (Ongoing) • Address gaps in current provision where demand is expressed (Medium term) • Monitor ongoing demand for new provision in light of potential increases in participation and / or population growth (Ongoing).

Summary

14.24 Analysis of the existing provision highlights that some of the key issues include:

- there are high levels of provision in comparison to other areas of the City and only the quantity of sports facilities fall below the minimum standards
- the distribution of open space across East Manchester is even, with the only gaps in provision being in facilities for children and facilities for young people as well as some specific localised outdoor sports facilities
- the quality of open space is wide ranging, with some opportunities for future investment and some very high quality sites
- future priorities predominantly focus on qualitative improvements to existing sites rather than the development of new facilities
- a lack of awareness of the opportunities available is a particular issue in East Manchester.