

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

**CITY WIDE OPEN SPACES, SPORT & RECREATION
STUDY**



A

REPORT

BY

PMP

AUGUST 2009

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Introduction and background

- 1.1 PMP was commissioned in January 2007 to undertake an assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities within the City Council boundaries in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide published in September 2002.
- 1.2 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities (paragraph 1). It encourages local authorities to proactively plan the future delivery of appropriate open space, sport and leisure facilities and sets out the belief that national standards are inappropriate as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development. PPG17 therefore places significant emphasis on meeting local needs and expectations and adapting provision to the local context.
- 1.3 The Companion Guide recommends a process that should be followed and outlines the key objectives of an open space, sport and recreation needs assessment.
- 1.4 The key aims and objectives of this study for Manchester are therefore to:
 - provide an understanding of local needs and aspirations
 - undertake a full audit of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - develop local standards that when applied, will ensure that all residents can access a broad range of high quality open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - highlight areas where there is sufficient or over provision and identify areas where there are deficiencies in either the quantity and/or quality of provision
 - provide clarity and reasonable certainty to developers and landowners with regards contributions to new open space, sport and recreation facilities or qualitative improvements to existing facilities through S106 agreements.
- 1.5 The study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF). It will inform the development of the preferred options phase of the Core Strategy DPD, which will be the key spatial plan for Manchester as well as linking with other key strategic objectives including adapting to climate change, flood risk, enhancing biodiversity and creating sustainable communities.
- 1.6 In addition, the study will underpin the development of networks of high quality open space and assist Manchester in its commitment to becoming Britain's Greenest City.

Open space, sport and recreation facilities in Manchester

- 1.7 Manchester is characterised by a variety of different types of housing and landscapes ranging from areas of high density terraced housing in Central Manchester where residents have limited, if any gardens, to the greener, more affluent and less dense areas in South Manchester where tree coverage is higher and houses have large gardens. The recommendations and priorities developed as part of this assessment take into account the varying characteristics of different areas of the city. The characteristics of individual neighbourhoods will drive the solutions and strategy developed to address some of the issues identified in this report.
- 1.8 There is a wide range of open space, sport and recreation facilities within Manchester and these provide a valuable recreational resource to local residents as well as visitors. The urban environment of much of the city area intensifies the need to provide appropriate public open spaces. As well as open space, sport and recreational facilities within Manchester, residents benefit from provision in neighbouring authorities and there is an abundance of large sites in close proximity to the boundaries of the city. The planned Irwell Park development in Salford will further enhance the variety of provision that residents in Manchester City have access to.
- 1.9 The city is undergoing a significant programme of regeneration. This provides an important opportunity to tailor the provision of open spaces to meet the needs of local residents whether that is through quantitative, qualitative or access improvements, or a combination of all three.
- 1.10 The role that open space can play in the achievement of wider national, regional and local objectives is recognised. On a national level, PPG17 states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives, many of which are also reflective of local priorities in Manchester. These include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - enhancing health and well being
 - promoting more sustainable development.
- 1.11 The value of open space is not just recreational. The strategic contribution that open spaces can make to the wider environment includes:
- defining the local landscape character and providing an appropriate context and setting for built development and infrastructure
 - helping to achieve a softer interface between urban and rural environments
 - emphasising the presence of particular natural features within the landscape such as river valleys, canals
 - supporting habitats and local wildlife
 - promoting and protecting biodiversity and habitat creation

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- adapting to climate change and reducing flood risk.

1.12 The appropriate provision of open space across Manchester will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of many wider strategies in Manchester. Figure 1 overleaf illustrates this.

Figure 1: Links with Wider Context

Document	Short term objectives for the future delivery of open space			
	Enhance the quality of open spaces across the City	Ensure the quantity of open space is sufficient to meet local needs	Maximise access to existing open spaces	Maximise the use of open space, sport and recreation facilities
Regional Documents				
Regional Spatial Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Sports Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Documents				
Community Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Children and Young People's Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strategic Regeneration Frameworks	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wild about Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan	✓			

1.13 The many benefits of effective open space provision will also help to achieve wider corporate priorities in Manchester. This is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Wider Benefits of Open Space Provision in Manchester

Priority	Short term objectives for the future delivery of open space			
	Enhance the quality of open spaces across the City	Ensure the quantity of open space is sufficient to meet local needs	Maximise access to existing open spaces	Maximise the use of open space, sport and recreation facilities
Local Priorities				
Development of sustainable communities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minimising Flood Risk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adapting to Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓

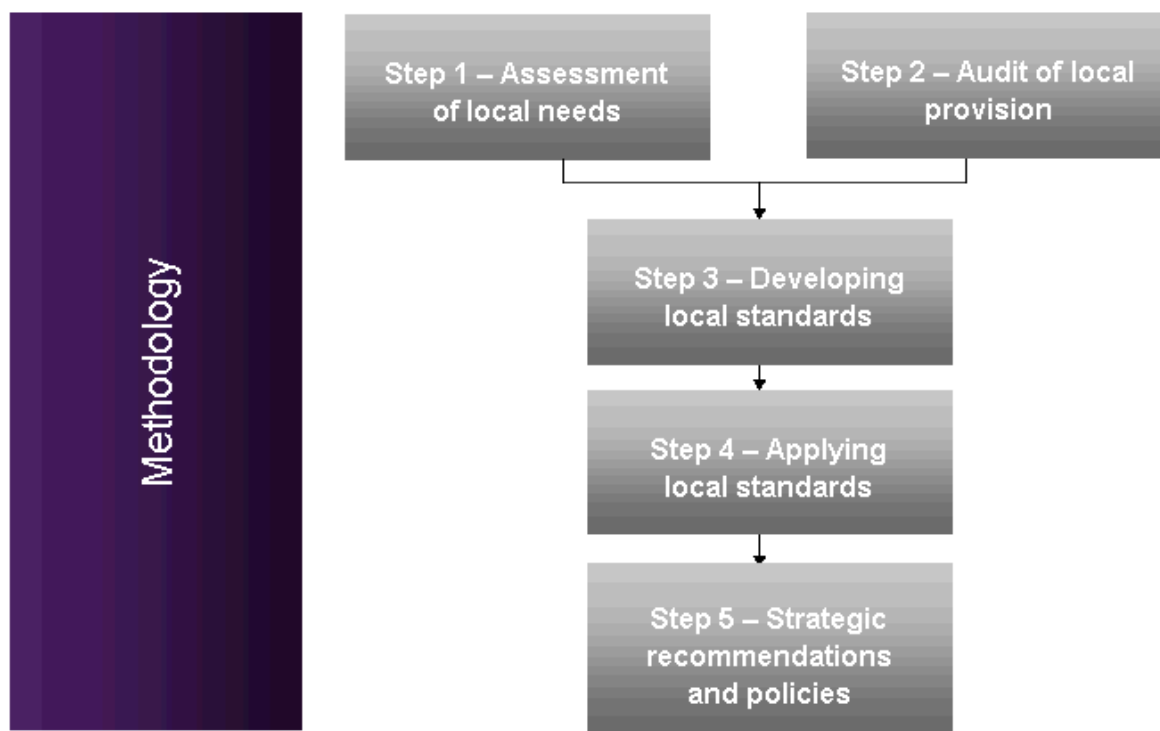
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Providing appropriate habitats and promoting biodiversity	✓	✓		
Creating a green City	✓	✓	✓	✓

Methodology

- 2.1 PPG17 and its Companion Guide set out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process has been followed for the development of this open space and recreational needs assessment and is set out in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 – Five Step Process



- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The process has therefore been tailored to ensure that the needs and expectations of residents in Manchester are adequately addressed.
- 2.3 For the purpose of analysis, the City has been divided into six areas. Figure 3 summarises the wards contained in each area.

Figure 3 – Manchester analysis areas

Area name	Population (2006 mid year estimates)	Wards included
Central	74,761	Ardwick, Hulme, Longsight, Moss Side, Rusholme
City Centre	11,437	City Centre
East	72,407	Ancoats and Clayton, Bradford, Miles Platting and Newton Heath, Gorton North, Gorton South.
North	89,026	Charlestown, Cheetham, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Moston
South	139,112	Burnage, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Old Moat, Whalley Range, Withington

Area name	Population (2006 mid year estimates)	Wards included
Wythenshawe	71,923	Woodhouse Park, Northenden, Sharston, Brooklands, Baguley

2.4 The study evaluates nine types of outdoor open space and sports facilities, namely:

- parks and gardens
- natural and semi natural open space
- amenity greenspace
- provision for children
- provision for young people
- outdoor sports facilities
- allotments and community gardens
- green corridors
- churchyards and cemeteries.

2.5 In addition, indoor facilities are also considered.

2.6 The key components of each of the five stages of the process are summarised below.

Step 1 – Identifying local needs

2.7 A balance of statistical and subjective consultations was carried out in order to ensure that a wide variety of opinions were heard. Subjective consultation provides an opportunity to test the key themes arising from the statistical evidence.

2.8 Consultations carried out across Manchester include:

- City wide household survey to 6,000 residents
- neighbourhood ‘drop in’ sessions at supermarkets and venues across the city, eg Piccadilly Gardens, Wythenshawe Forum
- internet survey for children and young people
- consultation with external agencies eg Sport England, Natural England
- workshop sessions
- one-to-one consultations with Council officers.

Step 2 – Auditing local provision

- 2.9 A detailed audit of provision of open space was carried out within Manchester City Council boundaries. In line with PPG17, grass verges and farmland are excluded from consideration. Sites where planning permission has already been granted or development briefs have already been released are excluded.
- 2.10 Over 1,400 sites were identified during the audit. Updating the audit will be an ongoing process and the audit will be constantly refined in response to changes in the character of the City. This will include the addition of new sites and changes to the classification of existing sites where appropriate.
- 2.11 As well as considering the quantity of open space, sport and recreation provision, the quality and accessibility of sites was evaluated using a site visit matrix. This enables comparisons between sites in the same typology and across typologies. Sites were rated against the following categories:
- accessibility
 - quality
 - wider benefits.
- 2.12 The site assessment process resulted in an overall quality and accessibility score for each site as well as information on specific issues.

Steps 3 – Setting Local Standards

- 2.13 PPG17 states that open space standards should be set locally and recommends that national standards should not be used to assess local circumstances.
- 2.14 PPG17 recommends that local standards should include:
- quantitative elements (how much provision is needed in each area. Also enables calculations relating to the impact of new development and / or population growth)
 - a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities as well as provide criteria for new facilities)
 - accessibility (set in the form of distance thresholds, representing the maximum distance that residents are prepared to travel)
- 2.15 The standard setting process for Manchester City Council takes into account;
- Existing national standards
 - Existing local standards
 - Current provision
 - Statistical consultation findings
 - Subjective consultation findings
- 2.16 Further details on the process can be found in Appendices E, F, J and H of the main report. Standards were set during a workshop that was attended by representatives

from a range of Council departments as well as the local community. Figure 4 summarises the standards that have been set.

Figure 4– Manchester City Council Local Standards

Typology	Quantity Standard (hectares per 1000 population)	Accessibility Standard	Quality Percentage Score Required
City Parks	0.20 – equivalent to existing provision	15 minute drive time (long term target by public transport)	85%
Local Parks	0.49 – equivalent to existing provision	10 minute walk time	81%
Natural and Semi Natural Open Space	1.90 – equivalent to existing provision	15 minute walk time 15 minute drive time (City Centre)	85%
Amenity Green Space	0.40 – equivalent to existing provision	10 minute walk time	85%
Provision for Children	0.027 – above existing provision	10 minute walk time	86%
Provision for young people	0.034 – above existing provision	15 minute walk time	81%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.98 – equivalent to existing provision	15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks and synthetic turf pitches) 30 minute drive time (golf courses)	90%

Step 4 – Applying Standards

- 2.17 The application of the local standards enables the identification of deficiencies in terms of accessibility, quality and quantity and also enables analysis of the spatial distribution of unmet need. Standards have been applied to provision in each area of the city.
- 2.18 While the assessment evaluates only those sites falling within Manchester City Council boundaries, consideration has been given to the role that sites in neighbouring authorities play in meeting the needs of residents where these sites fall within the identified catchment area for each type of open space. For example, residents living in the western edge of Wythenshawe may travel into Trafford to use some open space, sport and recreation facilities. A degree of cross border travel in both directions is assumed within this study.

2.19 For indoor facilities, supply and demand modelling tools provided by Sport England have been used to ascertain surpluses and shortfalls.

Step 5 – Drafting policies – recommendations and strategic priorities

2.20 In accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide, this open space assessment outlines:

- geographical areas where existing provision is protected
- areas where existing provision should be enhanced
- areas where existing provision should be relocated or redesignated
- areas where new provision should be considered.

2.21 The recommendations contained within the report are based on the findings of the application of the local standards for each typology and in the specific geographic areas. Short, medium and long term priorities are identified.

2.22 The recommendations and key issues raised will provide evidence for policies in the Local Development Framework as well as more detailed guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Development Plan Documents (DPD).

Key findings and implications

Key findings

3.1 The key findings emerging for each type of open space include:

Parks and gardens

- parks and gardens were highlighted as particularly valuable to local residents, with this type of open space being the most frequently visited in Manchester . Friends groups play an important role in the management and maintenance of parks across the city
- the need to protect parks and gardens from development and promote Manchester's parks heritage were frequently discussed during consultations
- there is an even distribution of parks and gardens across Manchester and there is a consistent level of provision across the City
- focus should be place on enhancing the quality of existing parks and gardens although application of the accessibility standard indicates that there are some gaps in provision in East Manchester, South Manchester and Wythenshawe. A clear commitment to the enhancement of biodiversity at parks is also essential.

Natural and semi natural open space

- natural and semi natural open space is one of the most frequently visited open spaces in Manchester, with 36% of respondents to the household survey indicating that they use natural open space at least once a week. This reinforces the value of this type of open space
- in addition to the recreational value of natural and semi natural open space, many residents emphasised the role of these sites in terms of conservation and the habitats that they offer. The biodiversity value of this type of open space was considered to be particularly important
- the need to protect natural and semi natural open space from development was a key theme throughout consultation
- the quantity of natural and semi natural open space is significantly higher in North Manchester and East Manchester. The lowest levels of provision are found in Central Manchester and the City Centre
- application of the recommended local standards highlights that the key priority for natural and semi natural open space is improvements to the quality of sites. However, accessibility deficiencies are evident in Central Manchester and South Manchester. Maximising access to existing provision should also be a priority. In some areas, innovative solutions will be required to provide residents with access to natural and semi natural open spaces

Amenity green space

- amenity green spaces are perceived to offer both visual benefits and an alternative recreational resource to residents in Manchester. The proximity of sites in location to the home significantly influences usage

- the need for a balance between quantity and quality was emphasised throughout consultation
- there is an inconsistent level of provision across the City. Quantity is high East Manchester, but low in Central Manchester and South Manchester. Only within South Manchester is provision insufficient to meet demand at the current time
- application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards indicates that focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites
- while the overall focus is on increasing the quality of amenity spaces, consideration should be given to new provision in South Manchester. Longer term, it will be important to ensure that new developments include the provision of amenity space to address the needs of the existing and projected future population.

Provision for children and young people

- equipped provision for children and young people was the overriding theme of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting the varying quality of facilities
- based on current quantitative shortfalls there is an overall requirement for approximately 30 children's play areas and 26 facilities for young people. However, when considering new provision it is important to take an accessibility led approach
- application of the local standards suggests that focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites and increasing provision in areas where there are existing deficiencies.

Outdoor sports facilities

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Allotments

- there are 40 allotment sites across Manchester covering a total 59.40 hectares
- there are currently waiting lists across the city although there are plots still available at some sites. Recent work by the City Council has seen the number of plots available increase. While site visits concluded that the quality was average, there have been a number of subsequent qualitative improvements. This is highlighted by the 95 plots that have been refurbished in the past year
- application of the accessibility standard indicates that there is a sporadic distribution of allotments in Manchester. However, despite this, accessibility to existing sites is generally good
- future priorities for the delivery of allotments include the development of an allotment strategy as well as changes to the management of these sites to maximise the number of residents that are able to rent plots.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- cemeteries and churchyards are significant providers of open space and are frequently important for nature conservation. Cemeteries and churchyards are distributed across the city
- as well as assessing the current level of provision it is important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries anticipating future demand. Demand for new provision should be monitored using the indicative standard of 0.31 hectares per annum, or 0.0007 hectares per 1000 population
- focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of existing sites, promoting the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and investigating the implementation of ecological management. Community involvement in the management and maintenance of cemeteries should also be promoted.

Green corridors

- green corridors provide important opportunities for sustainable movement across Manchester and include river corridors, towpaths, public rights of way and cycle paths
- the development of a linked green corridor network will help to improve the health and well being of the local community and encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport. In this way, green corridors can be integral to the achievement of targets for increased active recreation and improved quality of life
- the protection of existing green corridors will be particularly important in Manchester as well as the delivery of new sites. In particular there are opportunities to maximise the use of natural resources such as river banks. Revisions to the green corridor network should consider the needs and aspirations of all users. While green corridors have not been audited as part of this study, their protection and development is of high priority and they are an important part of the linked open space network

- a network of multi-functional greenspace will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces, helping to provide access to other types of open space and provide opportunities for sustainable means of transport as well as acting as wildlife corridors. This study will provide important evidence to inform the Green Infrastructure assessment which is underway.

Indoor sports facilities

- there is an abundance of sports halls and swimming pools across Manchester and the Council aims to exceed expectations, providing elite level facilities as well as facilities to meet local community need
- key issues relating to different types of indoor sports facilities include:
 - analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports halls indicates that overall there is sufficient quantity to meet demand and that 92% of demand is currently being met – this is above national and equivalent to the regional average levels. Most residents have access to at least one sports hall, although many are at school sites and some are ageing and of lower quality. There is a need to improve the quality of facilities and ensure that they are accessible to local residents
 - the quantity of swimming pools is high in comparison to other areas although many of these sites are located in or in close proximity to the city centre, meaning that access to local facilities is restricted in parts. The quality of some facilities is deteriorating and there is a need to update and refurbish existing facilities
 - although there are no indoor bowls facilities in Manchester City, all residents are within the recommended travel times of a facility. The improvement of links to existing facilities will therefore be prioritised
 - the quantity of indoor tennis facilities is above average, although there are relatively few pay and play opportunities.
- Consultation highlighted the importance of ensuring that residents are aware of facilities and the opportunities available. Effective programming of sites, as well as ensuring that facilities are affordable are also key priorities.

Implications within each area of the City

- 3.2 This section of the summary highlights the key issues and challenges for the future delivery of green spaces in each of the six areas of the City based on the audit of existing provision and the application of the provisional local standards.

North Manchester

- 3.3 North Manchester is anticipated to see population growth and change in future years. This in itself will present a number of challenges in the delivery of open space including increased and changing demand and greater pressure on existing sites from development. Analysis of the existing provision and distribution of facilities highlights that key issues for this area are:

- despite high quantities of provision, facilities are of poorer quality than in other area of the City
- the quality of facilities for children and young people is noticeably poorer than in other areas
- despite these quality issues, the overall levels of satisfaction are higher than in other areas of the City.

3.4 In light of the high quantities of provision and the even distribution of facilities in the North of the city priorities predominantly focus on qualitative improvements.

East Manchester

3.5 East Manchester is anticipated to experience significant growth and change over the LDF period. This therefore provides an opportunity to enhance provision and ensure that local needs are fulfilled. Analysis of the existing provision highlights that some of the key issues include:

- there are high levels of provision in many open spaces in comparison to other areas of the City
- in particular there are some surpluses of natural and semi natural open space and amenity spaces. Despite this, it is evident that many of the sites are small and may be of lower value to residents
- although there are large quantities of space, there are some gaps in accessibility. It is important to ensure that local communities have access to facilities and that sites are appropriately located.

3.6 The challenge in the east of the city will be to obtain an appropriate balance between enhancing the quality of facilities and ensuring the appropriate location of sites.

City Centre

3.7 The City Centre area will see a significant increase in population over the Local Development Framework period and hence it is in this area that demand will increase the most. Meeting this increased demand will be a key challenge for the Council.

3.8 Additionally, the provision of sufficient open space where building density is high and land values are high presents a further challenge. Analysis of existing provision highlights that as may be expected, provision in the City Centre is significantly lower than in other areas of the City. Additionally the City Centre is characterised by civic spaces that are absent in other areas of the City. The key issues arising in the City Centre are therefore:

- there is limited existing provision and a desire for increased green space within the local area (although residents are able to access parks within an appropriate public transport distance)
- there is a perceived lack of provision for children and young people
- there are significant opportunities through the regeneration and change in the area to enhance the quality of existing sites and to integrate new facilities within the character of the area. Existing and future provision in neighbouring areas will also offset demand in the City Centre.

- 3.9 Priorities in the city centre will focus on the provision of appropriate public realm as well as ensuring that residents have access to local open spaces.

Central Manchester

- 3.10 Central Manchester perhaps represents the greatest challenge of all. The character of the area (high density housing) further exacerbates demand for facilities as residents have small gardens and there is limited access to green spaces.
- 3.11 The analysis of quantity standards and the distribution of existing facilities highlights that key issues in the central area include:
- deficiencies in provision of natural and semi natural open spaces
 - gaps in access to informal open space provision (parks and amenity areas)
 - fewer facilities for children and young people in comparison to most other areas, although access to facilities for young people is reasonable
 - pressure for the creation of additional allotments
- 3.12 Future priorities in Central Manchester will involve a variety of new provision, innovative solutions and qualitative improvements.

South Manchester

- 3.13 South Manchester contains some of the more affluent suburbs of Manchester and residents have larger gardens than in other areas of the City. Change in this area is anticipated to be significantly lower. Key issues arising include:
- there is a variation in the quality of facilities in the area
 - access to facilities for young people is poor in comparison to other areas
 - there are deficiencies in amenity spaces and natural and semi natural open spaces and also some areas where residents cannot access parks
 - there is demand for additional allotments despite an existing high level of provision
- 3.14 Future priorities focus on qualitative improvements and seizing opportunities to address deficiencies.

Wythenshawe

- 3.15 Wythenshawe has an abundance of green space in comparison with other areas of the City. The key issues arising through consultation and the application of local standards in this area include:
- there are some access issues despite higher levels of open space provision than in some other areas of the City
 - despite higher quantities of provision, sites are of varying quality
 - there is a particular discontentment with provision for young people

- 3.16 Challenges in this area will focus on a combination of enhancing access to existing facilities, meeting identified deficiencies and improving the quality of existing sites.

Strategic priorities and recommendations

- 4.1 This section outlines the key priorities for the delivery of each type of open space across the Manchester in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. The key priorities have been derived from the main themes arising from consultation, as well as the analysis of existing provision and the application of the standards.
- 4.2 Specific priorities arising in each of the areas (where these differ from the general recommendations) are also outlined. Detailed recommendations by typology and for each area can be found in Sections 4 – 19 of the main report.
- 4.3 The solutions for addressing the issues raised will vary between new open spaces, qualitative improvements to existing sites and improved access routes. In some areas, particularly those which are densely populated and where opportunities for the creation of new space is limited, innovative solutions will be required. These may include:
 - tree lining of streets
 - green corridors, cycle routes and maximising use of natural resources such as canal towpaths
 - green roofs and green walls.

Parks and gardens

PG1 - Usage	Maximise the role that parks can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity by continuing to provide and promote activities to maximise usage. Ensure that activities and events are tailored to all sectors of the community. The key barriers to participation should also be considered.
PG2 - Environmental role	Continue to work with key partners to conserve, promote, manage and enhance biodiversity at parks in Central Manchester. Friends of Parks Groups are instrumental in the conservation and development of biodiversity at parks. An example of a project in the central area that has been undertaken by friends of group is the planting of a forest garden in Birchfields Park.
PG3 – Quality of existing provision	Seek to develop and enhance existing parks to ensure that they meet both local and regional needs. Drive a structured programme of improvements with clear defined outputs. This may include the production of parks management plans and an updated strategy. The strategy should focus on the provision of at least one high quality park in each ward. The role of parks in biodiversity and nature conservation should be integrated within these plans. Strive to achieve the recommended quality vision of a site assessment score of 81% for a local park at all sites across the central area.
PG4 – Community involvement	Promote and support community involvement in parks and gardens.
PG5 – Improving access	Seek to develop effective public transport links to ensure that all residents are able to access city parks easily. Ensure that access routes to and within parks facilitate usage. Proactively plan the development of a green space network across the central area which links parks as well as other open spaces and maximises the role of open spaces in every day life.
PG6 – Protecting existing open	In light of the importance of parks, allocate all parks as protected open space through the Local Development Framework. Parks should only be lost to development where a series of exception criteria can be met.

space	
South Manchester	Investigate the feasibility of providing a new park in the Whalley Range / Chorlton Park area of the city where there is currently a small gap in existing provision.
Central Manchester	In order to offset deficiencies of other types of open space consider the provision of a wide range of different environments within the park, including natural areas, facilities for children and young people and sports facilities.
Manchester City Centre	Consider the development of an additional park / garden within the city centre.

Natural and semi natural open space

NSN1 – Improving quality	Identify opportunities for improving the quality of natural and semi natural open spaces. Enhancements should be informed by the quality vision and site assessment quality scores. Sites require an overall score of 85% or above to fall within what is currently classified as the top quartile – the benchmark for quality.
NSN2 - – Improving quality	Support and implement the priorities of the Biodiversity Action Plan. This may include encouraging the use of sustainable and sympathetic management techniques, active conservation management and the preparation of management plans for key sites to protect and increase the biodiversity across the city. The impact of recreation on sites of high biodiversity value should be monitored.
NSN 3 - Protecting Natural Open Spaces	In light of the importance of natural open spaces, allocate all natural open spaces as protected open space through the Local Development Framework. Natural open spaces should only be lost to development where a series of exception criteria can be met
NSN4 – Improving access and creating a green network	<p>Maximise access to natural and semi natural open space sites by ensuring that footpaths are well maintained and clear signage is provided.</p> <p>Promote awareness of natural and semi natural open spaces and the benefits that they offer within the local community.</p> <p>Promote the development of a green network across the city by creating links between amenity spaces, parks and natural open spaces.</p>
South Manchester	Integrate natural and semi natural open spaces with other types of open space for example ensure that parks contain an area of natural space.
Central Manchester	Integrate natural and semi natural open spaces with other types of open space for example ensure that parks contain an area of natural space.

Amenity green space

AGS1 – Quality of Amenity Green Spaces	<p>Seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 85% (the score required to fall within the current top quartile). In particular, it is likely that improvements to the safety and security of sites (such as lighting and boundaries) will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity green space.</p> <p>Priorities for improvement should be given to areas where amenity spaces provide the only informal recreational opportunity.</p>
AGS2 – Protect existing sites from development	<p>Planning policy should address the issue of protection of amenity spaces. The disposal of any site which can be proven to be surplus to requirements should only be permitted if a nearby site serving the same residents is enhanced.</p>
AGS3 – Create an effective open space network	<p>Promote the development of a green network by creating links between amenity spaces, parks and natural open spaces. In some instances, amenity spaces may be used to create links between other types of open space.</p>
AGS4 – Amenity green space within new development	<p>Where new development occurs ensure that new amenity space is provided if the development falls outside of the recommended catchment of an existing amenity space site and the quantity of provision is below the minimum standard.</p>
South Manchester	<p>Consider opportunities to provide new amenity space and / or a local park in areas currently devoid of provision.</p>
Manchester City Centre	<p>In light of the strong theme of the need to provide additional green space in the city centre, consider the provision of new amenity spaces where opportunities arise, either through the provision of traditional amenity spaces or through alternative solutions such as roof gardens.</p>

Provision for children and young people

C1 – Upgrade existing facilities	<p>Seek to upgrade traditional facilities with challenging and exciting play facilities that encourage children to test their boundaries and balance risk and safety.</p>
C2 – Involve children in facility design	<p>Policy should promote the involvement of children in the design of facilities intended for their local area.</p>
C3 – Encourage a variety of facilities	<p>Planning policies relating to the provision of new facilities for children should include comprehensive guidelines to encourage the provision of a wide variety of new facilities and to move away from traditional facilities.</p> <p>They should also reflect the importance of appropriate location of facilities.</p>
C4 – Create an effective open space network	<p>Facilitate the development of green linkages and cycle routes between large residential neighbourhoods, play facilities and other green spaces.</p> <p>Encourage the development of facilities on sites which are easily accessible by public transport.</p>
C5 – Consider access to facilities on school sites	<p>Consider the location of facilities for children at school sites.</p> <p>Ensure full access to these sites for the local community.</p>

Wythenshawe	Provide new facilities for children to address existing deficiencies, particularly in the Northenden area. Ensure that any new facilities meet design criteria.
	Review the value of sites with overlapping catchments and identify opportunities for disposal of sites if appropriate.
	Provide a new facility for young people in Northenden / Sharston and in Brooklands to offset existing deficiencies.
North Manchester	Provide new facilities for children across North Manchester to address existing deficiencies. Up to seven new facilities may be required. New development will further exacerbate demand for facilities and the need for new provision should be evaluated on a case by case basis by the application of the quantity and accessibility standards.
	Provide one new facility for young people in Charlestown to address the shortfall in provision. This could potentially be located on an existing amenity green space site.
South Manchester	Provide new facilities for children across South Manchester to address existing deficiencies, particularly in Whalley Range. New development will further exacerbate demand for facilities and the need for new provision should be evaluated on a case by case basis.
	Provide new facilities for young people across South Manchester to address existing deficiencies, particularly in West Didsbury and Chorlton Park. New development will further exacerbate demand for facilities and the need for new provision should be evaluated on a case by case basis.
Central Manchester	Address deficiencies in the area by providing new facilities for children in Ardwick and Longsight. These facilities should meet with quality guidelines.
East Manchester	Provide a new facility for children in the Miles Platting / Newton Heath Area of the city to offset existing deficiencies.
	Review the value of sites with overlapping catchments and identify opportunities for disposal of sites if appropriate.
	Provide a new facility for young people in the Gorton area to address the deficiency.
Manchester City Centre	Provide one or two new facilities for children in the city centre. These facilities should meet with quality design criteria and be large enough to sustain use by both residents and visitors.
	Provide at least two dedicated facilities / areas for young people within the city centre to cater for both residents and visitors and also to meet the needs of the growing population in this area. The sites should offer a range of opportunities in order to maximize usage of the sites and reduce the knock on impact on other open spaces.

Outdoor sports facilities

OSF1 – Access	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.
OSF2 - Quantity	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. Playing Pitch Strategies should be updated every five years as a minimum
OSF3 - Quality	<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>

Indoor Sports facilities

ISF	<p>Key priorities for indoor sports are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that investment strategies are in place for future repairs and maintenance requirements • refurbish/replace ageing pool stock • give consideration to the need for an additional multi-sports hall facility to meet sports specific needs identified within the Regional Strategy • raise awareness amongst the local community of the facilities that are available • ensure that the pricing structure is attractive to all sections of the community • ensure that facilities on school sites (namely sports halls) provide access to the community out of school hours and longer term, that schools become hubs of local community provision • ensure that the programming at facilities are complementary to one another • give consideration to methods for improving access by public transport to leisure facilities.
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Allotments

ALL1 – protect existing sites from development	Ensure that allotments are protected from development through the Local Development Framework. In the event of the loss of allotments through development, policy should ensure that sites are re-provided unless it can be proven that the site is surplus to requirement.
ALL2 – consider demand from new	Ensure that demand generated from new housing developments is considered and contributions towards the

housing developments	provision of new facilities are requested when required.
ALL3 – develop a city wide strategy	Develop a city wide strategy for the future delivery of allotments across Manchester. This strategy should be developed in partnership with key stakeholders including AMAS, PCT and led by Manchester Leisure.
ALL4 – promote effective usage	<p>Consideration should be given to the implementation of appropriate policies to promote effective usage of allotment sites including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing half plots as opposed to full plots to ensure that sites can accommodate a higher number of residents • renting sites to Manchester City Council residents only • ensuring that residents only have one allotment plot at any one time • promoting appropriate use of allotments • considering additional means of supplying allotments – this may include provision at school sites or within other sites. <p>Where waiting lists remain following the implementation of the above policies, new provision will be required.</p> <p>For new sites, explore alternative opportunities for the provision of allotments including co-location at school sites.</p> <p>Regularly review, investigate and monitor demand for allotment provision and look for opportunities where demand is increasing through ongoing evaluation of waiting lists.</p> <p>Evaluation of demand should consider demand in areas where allotments are not currently provided as well as monitoring the usage of existing sites.</p>
ALL4 – ensure all sites meet quality criteria	<p>In light of the importance placed on maintenance and upkeep of sites during consultation, effort should also be made to ensure that allotment sites meet the recommended quality criteria. In many instances, the quality of sites is as important as meeting unmet demand. Issues relating to the safety and security of sites, as well as cleanliness, maintenance and the provision of ancillary accommodation may lead to a lack of interest in the use of allotments from residents. In contrast, high quality sites are likely to generate additional interest.</p> <p>Undertake a programme of improvement across allotment sites/ This should include drainage works and provision of ancillary accommodation, storage and security.</p>
ALL5 – promote opportunities	Promote the opportunities available and the wider benefits that allotments bring to local residents across Manchester.

Cemeteries and churchyards

CC1 – Monitoring demand	Monitor the ongoing demand for new provision assuming that 0.31ha will be required per annum (or 0.0007ha per 1000 population).
CC2 – Promoting nature conservation	Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and develop a greater awareness of ecological management and maintenance of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC3 – Quality of sites	In areas of limited open space provision, churchyard and cemetery sites are of particular importance. The quality of cemeteries is of paramount importance if sites are to be promoted as opportunities for rest and

	relaxation. Quality improvements should be made where required using the essential and desirable features as a guide. Encourage community involvement in the management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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Green corridors

GC1 – Promoting green linkages	In consideration of the key role green corridors can play in achieving wider council objectives and the popularity of this typology with residents, planning policy should seek to promote the development of green linkages. This includes encouraging the provision of green links in new housing developments and areas of regeneration as well as proactive action to enhance and develop pathways along the rivers and disused railway lines. The LDF should facilitate the protection of existing corridors as well as the development of new sites. It may be that a policy is included within the LDF which ensures that where on site provision of open space is not appropriate, financial contributions may be used to deliver part of the green infrastructure network.
GC2 – Maximising use	The council should work in tandem with key partners to help maximise the use of green corridors and public rights of way in the city. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces.
GC3 – Quality of sites	Drive a programme of qualitative improvements across the city including enhanced maintenance of footpaths and increased signage. Management of green corridors should also give rise to consideration of their role as wildlife corridors and habitats.
GC4 – Increasing awareness	Promote the opportunities available to increase usage of green corridors. As well as increasing awareness, partnership working with the PCT and other key organisations to deliver organised opportunities should be considered. Green corridors should link neighbourhoods with community facilities and different open spaces.
GC5 – Green infrastructure study	Investigate the feasibility of a green infrastructure study to help maximise the linkages of open spaces with green corridors and help create a network of multi-functional greenspace in Manchester. This should serve as an extension to this PPG17 Study and should link with adjoining authorities.

Planning Implementation

- 4.4 This study will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, informing the core strategy as well as subsequent Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Development Plan Documents (DPD).
- 4.5 It will be material consideration for planning applications which involve the loss and / or creation of open space, sport and recreation facilities as well as for any major housing developments.
- 4.6 The findings of the assessment will also be used to inform more detailed guidance on contributions towards open space, sport and recreation facilities as part of new development.