

6. Amenity green space

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 Amenity green space is most commonly found in residential areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing. It fulfils a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity green space is also often used for landscaping purposes.
- 6.2 Amenity green spaces can have an overlapping function with parks, recreation grounds and natural areas and provide informal opportunities for children's play where there are no other facilities. It is important therefore to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the context of other types of open space.
- 6.3 There is much research relating to the links between the provision of high quality open space and a reduction in crime. Given that amenity space is perhaps the most local type of open space provided, high quality space can be a key element in discouraging misuse and encouraging a culture of respect.
- 6.4 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the strategic context, key findings of the consultations and recommended local standards. The standards are then applied to evaluate the adequacy of the existing amenity green space and the associated demand for these spaces. Standards are also applied in the context of other open spaces with overlapping functions.
- 6.5 The key issues for amenity spaces arising from a review of strategic documents are set out in Table 6.1 overleaf.

Table 6.1 – Strategic context – Regional and Local

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to the provision of amenity space in Manchester
The Manchester Community Strategy 2002-2015	<p>The strategy highlights the value of green space in residential areas, acknowledging that managed green space is the first point of contact with nature that local residents have.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to encourage community interaction within high- density housing areas through well-managed and attractive open spaces. The social benefit and value to young people is also a key driver in managing open green space.</p>	<p>This study will provide evidence for informed decision making with regard the improvement of amenity green spaces and reinforces the value of green spaces in residential areas to local residents.</p>

Consultation – Assessing Local Needs

6.6 Consultation undertaken as part of the study highlighted that:

- amenity green spaces were less frequently used by respondents to the household survey than other types of open space, although they are still highly valued by residents, with 6% of respondents using these sites daily and a further 15% visiting amenity spaces weekly
- findings of the IT Children and Young People survey illustrates the value of these spaces to children, with 19% of respondents suggesting that grass areas were their most frequently visited type of open space. They were generally thought of good places to meet friends and are favoured as they are often closer to home than other types of open space
- residents at workshops and in drop in sessions emphasised the importance of balancing the quantity of amenity spaces with the quality. In some areas, there was perceived to be limited investment in amenity spaces and a consequential impact on their value
- it is felt that while amenity green spaces are important visually, they are important sites for local communities as alternative spaces for recreational use. Proximity to the home was a key determinant of which open space to use for residents of Manchester
- a lack of amenity green space in the City Centre area was regularly highlighted throughout local consultation.

Existing provision - Quantity

6.7 The quantity of amenity green space in Manchester is summarised in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space across Manchester

Area	Current provision	Number of sites	Smallest site (hectares)	Largest site (Hectares)	Current provision per 1000 (hectares)
City Centre	4.40	18	0.04	0.54	0.44
East	56.60	119	0.07	7.55	0.78
Central	31.58	60	0.07	2.79	0.42
South	8.75	29	0.06	1.02	0.06
North	39.31	87	0.02	6.26	0.44
Wythenshawe	42.07	52	0.08	8.15	0.60
Overall	182.70	365	0.02	8.15	0.40

6.8 The key issues emerging from Table 6.2 and consultation relating to the quantity of provision of amenity green space across the City are as follows:

- when evaluating the distribution of amenity spaces across the City it can be seen that the quantity of provision per 1000 is relatively even, with the

exception of the South analysis area, where provision is equivalent to only 0.06ha, and the East, where provision is significantly higher. The number of sites however demonstrates a clear imbalance, with the quantity of sites in the East almost double that of all other areas except North

- as with other types of open space, there is an overall dissatisfaction with the quantity of amenity green space, with 68% of respondents to the household survey indicating that provision is insufficient. Only 19% of residents feel that the quantity of amenity green space is sufficient. Comments made as part of the household survey suggest that these feelings are derived from a perception that significant quantities of amenity space have been lost to development over the past few years
- findings within the six geographical areas mirror the overall results. The greatest level of satisfaction with the provision of amenity green space is found in the North, where 32% of residents feel that provision is sufficient. Provision in the North is higher than in many other areas
- unsurprisingly, the lowest current provision of amenity green space is found in the City Centre (4.40 hectares). This corresponds to findings from local consultation and is highlighted by nearly 70% of respondents to the household survey who indicate that provision is insufficient. This was also a key theme during drop in sessions, with many residents indicating that there is a requirement for additional green space within the City Centre. Areas such as Piccadilly Gardens were regularly commended, with residents emphasising the need for more amenity green space in the City Centre

Setting provision standards – quantity

- 6.9 The recommended local quantity standard for amenity green space has been derived from the local needs consultation and audit of provision and is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix F. The standard has been at the existing level of provision. While consultation demonstrated clear dissatisfaction with the existing quantities, setting the standard at the existing level of provision City wide will promote a balance between new provision in areas where it is most needed and qualitative enhancements where new provision is not required.

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

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.40 hectares per 1000 population	0.40 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.40 hectares per 1000 population.</p> <p>Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in providing green space in what is predominantly an urban environment. While consultation demonstrated a focus on the quantity of green space, the quality of these spaces was considered to be as important as, if not more important than, quantity.</p> <p>It is important to consider the provision of amenity green spaces alongside the provision of parks and gardens and provision for children as they have similar functions. Amenity green spaces are generally smaller facilities that tend to attract only local users. In many instances, the presence of a local park will negate the need for amenity space. Local amenity areas were however perceived to be of particular importance in some of the more deprived areas of the City.</p> <p>The application of a standard set at the existing level of provision enables a focus on qualitative improvements in areas where provision is sufficient. All areas where accessibility deficiencies exist fall below the minimum standard therefore require new provision. The recommended standard should be treated as a minimum level of provision.</p> <p>As highlighted during consultation, amenity spaces are particularly important in the provision of local informal play opportunities for children and young people. Those residents living within close proximity of a park may have no need for local amenity green space as well, although this type of open space will still be important in the context of visual amenity. When applying local standards for amenity space, visual amenity should be considered as well as the recreational benefits provided by the site.</p>	

Current provision - quality

- 6.10 The quality of existing amenity green space in the City was assessed through site visits and is summarised in Table 6.3 overleaf. It is important to note that site assessments are conducted as a snapshot and are therefore reflective of the quality of the site on one specific day.
- 6.11 The quality scores are weighted according to the findings of the local consultation. Those elements that were highlighted through consultation as being a particularly important determinant of the quality of amenity green spaces have been weighted accordingly to ensure that they have a greater influence on the overall quality score that each site achieves. In particular, the cleanliness and maintenance and ancillary accommodation were perceived to be important for amenity green spaces. The full rationale behind this approach is set out in Appendix G.
- 6.12 Each site assessed achieves a quality score which is then calculated as a percentage. Table 6.3 below outlines the range of quality scores of sites, the average quality score of a site and the lowest and highest quality sites on both a City wide and regeneration area level.

Table 6.3 – Quality of amenity green space across Manchester

Area	Range of quality scores (%)	Average quality scores (%)	Lowest quality sites	Highest quality sites
City Centre	60 – 100	83	Piccadilly Gardens	Brook Street
East	48 – 100	71	Folkstone Road East	Wilson Street Ash Gardens
Central	49 – 100	73	Swallow Street	Brunswick/Dover Street
South	51 – 100	69	Bullfinch Walk	North Meade
North	48 – 96	70	Almond Street	Northfields Centre
Wythenshawe	52 – 80	67	Shevington Gardens	South Moor Road
Overall	48 - 100	71	Folkstone Road East	Wilson Street Ash Gardens

6.13 The key issues emerging from Table 6.3 and the consultation relating to the quality of amenity green space are as follows:

- the quality of existing amenity green space sites in Manchester is good, with the average site quality score being 71%. The average quality scores within the analysis areas is consistent and quality scores range from 48% - 100%
- a difference in opinion regarding the quality of amenity green space is evident with 40% of respondents to the household survey indicating that the quality of amenity green space is average and 32% stating the quality of amenity green space is poor. Only 16% of residents feel that the quality of this type of open space is good. This may be reflective of the varying quality of sites across the City
- similar results are portrayed in the geographical areas with the majority of residents in each area indicating that the quality of amenity green space is average. The greatest level of satisfaction is evident in the South, where 20% of residents indicate that the quality of amenity green space is good
- general comments were made throughout consultation about enhancing amenity areas within the City Centre and the need to provide additional green spaces. This was perceived to be important for both residents and visitors
- drop in session attendees emphasised the importance of maintaining amenity green spaces and ensuring that the appropriate ancillary accommodation is provided

- attendees at drop-in sessions expressed a concern that there are a lack of garden spaces in many new build areas, and that amenity green spaces, often providing the most localised form of provision for new residents, should be used in more creative ways.

Setting provision standards – quality

- 6.14 The recommended local quality standard for amenity green space is summarised below. Full justification and consultation relating to the quality of provision is provided in Appendix G. Improvements to the quality of amenity green space were perceived to be particularly important to local residents and it will be important to ensure that new provision is balanced with quantitative improvements to existing sites.

Quality Standard (see Appendix G)

Recommended standard – AMENITY GREEN SPACE	
Local consultation, national guidance and best practice suggest that the following features are essential and desirable to local residents:	
Essential	Desirable
Flowers/Trees	Well laid out
Clean / Litter Free	Good Access
Footpaths	Litter Bins
Detailed analysis of the local consultation suggests that with regard to amenity green spaces, the relative importance of the key components is as follows:	
Component of quality	Weighting
Security and Safety	4
Cleanliness and maintenance	3
Vegetation	2
Ancillary accommodation	1

Setting provision standards – accessibility

- 6.15 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 consultation.
- 6.16 Analysis of the consultation and site visits with regard to amenity spaces concluded that there are fewer issues than with other typologies. Consultation reinforced the expectation that these sites are provided local to the home, with 65% of residents expecting to walk for 5 – 10 minutes. These patterns are reflected across the different geographical areas of the City.
- 6.17 Site visits concluded that the key issue with regard to accessing amenity green space was general access. Footpaths and disabled access to sites was perceived to

be an issue at some sites. However, only a small number of sites scored particularly poorly in terms of this factor.

- 6.18 The recommended local accessibility standard for amenity green space is summarised overleaf. Full justification for the local standard is provided within Appendix H. In light of the local nature of amenity space, the standard set is a walk time.

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix H)

Recommended standard
10 MINUTE WALK TIME
Justification
<p>Given the emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is suggested that a standard based on walking is set. The expressed desire for local amenity space supports the perception that a standard based on walking is most appropriate. There is little evidence to suggest that residents in any area would expect to travel further to reach amenity space. As evidenced in the IT children and young people survey, the popularity of these spaces reinforces the need for a walking standard, with these spaces providing opportunities for informal play.</p> <p>At a City-wide level, the first, second and third quartiles, along with the modal response from the household survey, all indicate that a 10 minute walk time is appropriate. In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision within close proximity of residents, the value of localised amenity green spaces is particularly heightened. It is therefore considered appropriate that the standard is set at this level. In light of the visual benefits of this type of open space, this should represent a minimum standard.</p> <p>City Centre</p> <p>Due to the limited amount of green space provision within the City Centre, the function of civic spaces and public realm should be considered when applying the standard.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 6.19 The application of the recommended quality, quantity 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 need.
- 6.20 Table 6.4 below summarises the application of the quantity standard. The table illustrates the application of the standard against the current provision in each of the areas of the City and highlights the quantity of population growth that could be sustained before provision falls below the minimum standard (where applicable).

Table 6.4 – Application of quantity standard

Area	Current balanced against local standard (0.40 hectares per 1000 population)	Additional population growth that could be sustained
City Centre	0.42	1052
East	27.64	66,739
Central	1.68	4,189
South	-45.17	Below minimum
North	3.46	8,652
Wythenshawe	13.88	34,721
Overall	Sufficient	Sufficient

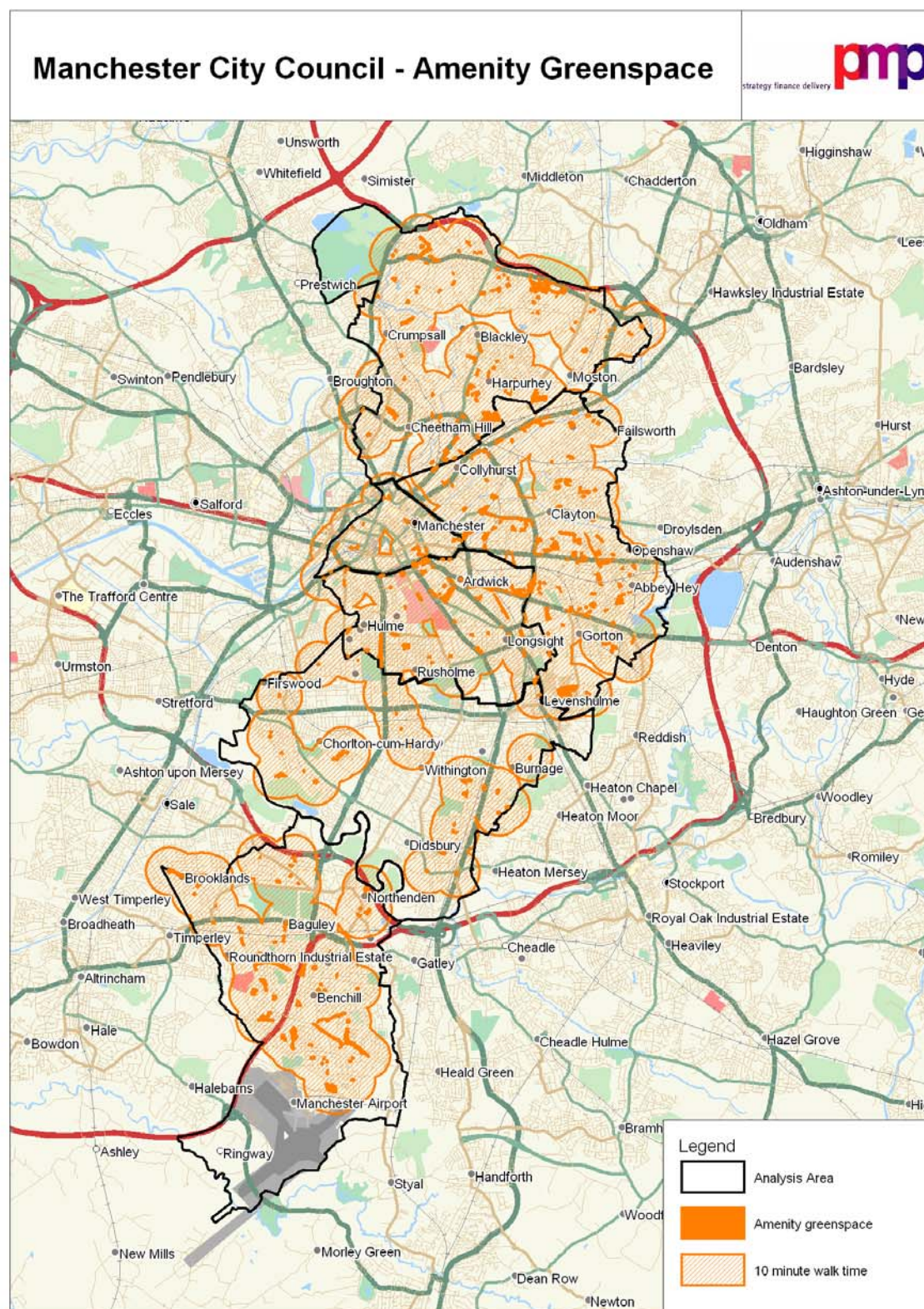
6.21 Table 6.4 indicates the following:

- Citywide, the provision of amenity green space is sufficient to meet the minimum standard. Only within the South analysis area is there a shortfall of amenity green space (45.17 hectares)
- within the East (66,739), Wythenshawe (34,721) and North (8,652) analysis areas a much larger population growth can be accommodated – it is in these areas where existing provision is currently highest.

6.22 The application of the local accessibility and quality standards for amenity green space is set out overleaf (Map 6.1).

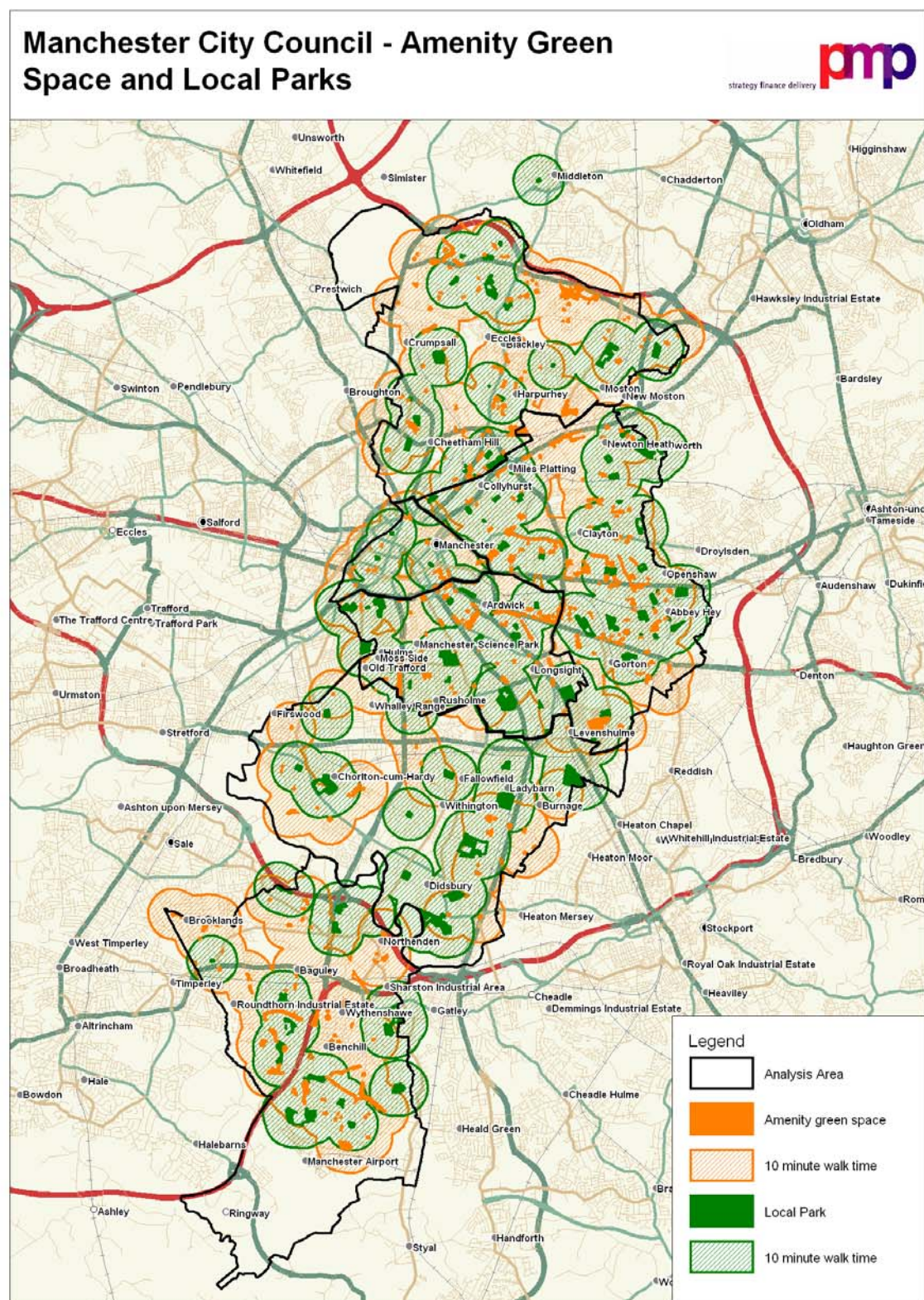
6.23 Parks and gardens often provide a similar function to amenity green space, providing people with access to informal open space and a place to meet friends. Therefore the provision of amenity green space is also considered in relation to the location of parks and gardens (Map 6.2).

Map 6.1 – Provision of amenity green space in Manchester

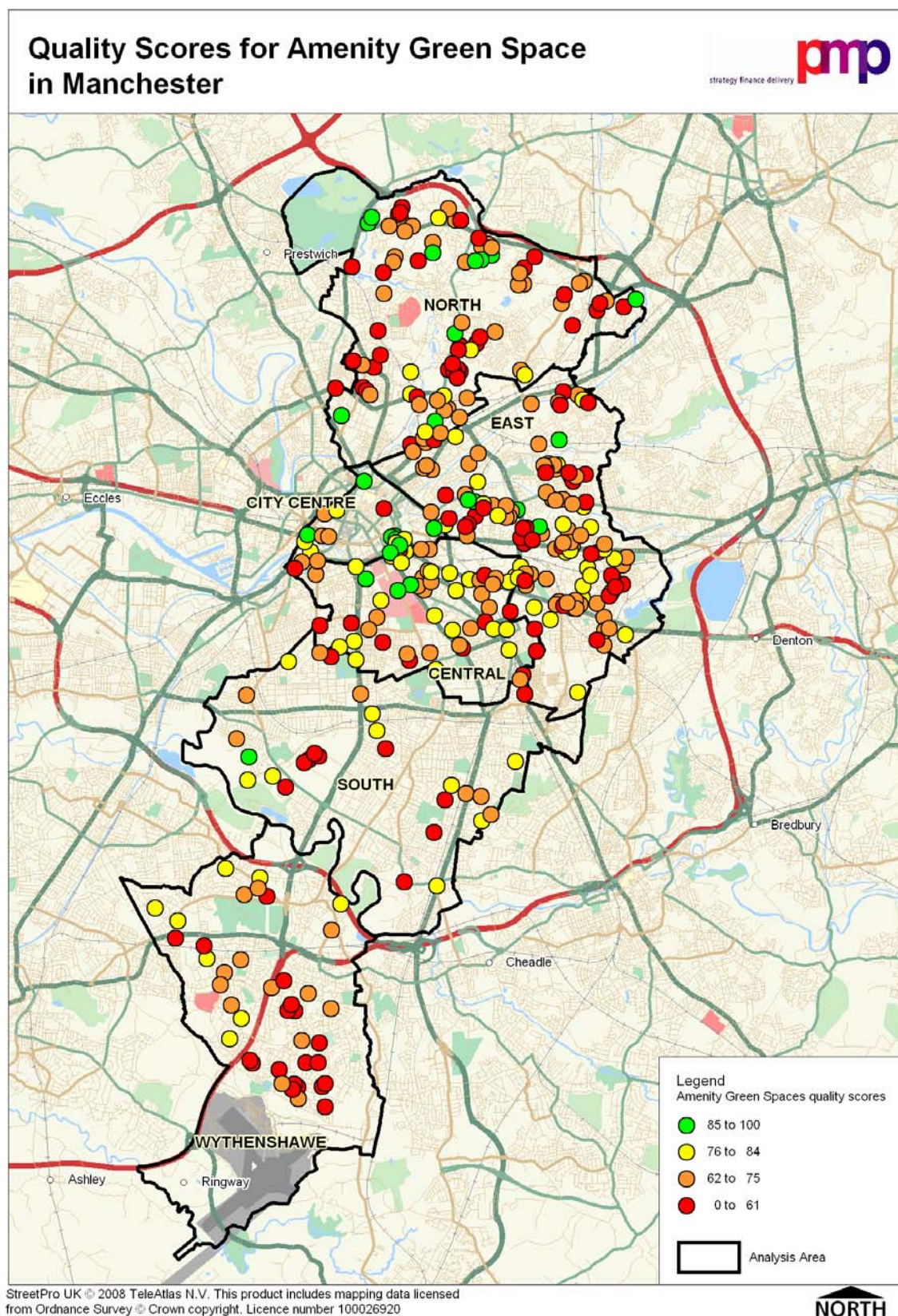


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Map 6.2 – Provision of amenity green space and parks and gardens in Manchester



Map 6.3 – Quality of amenity green space sites in Manchester



6.24 Maps 6.1 and 6.2 illustrate that:

- the majority of residents in Manchester have access to an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time
- however, a number of areas of deficiency are evident in South Manchester, particularly in West Didsbury and Chorlton Park ward
- all residents have access to either a park or garden or amenity green space within a 10 minute walk time.

6.25 Map 6.3 indicates that there is a distribution of poor quality amenity green spaces across Manchester. Due to the close proximity of amenity green spaces to one another, clusters of poor quality sites are evident in all areas of the City.

Future priorities for the provision of amenity green space across Manchester

6.26 The remainder of this section summarises the key priorities for amenity green spaces and then highlights specific issues for each area of the City which arise as a result of the application of the local standards. The key priorities have been derived from the main themes arising from consultation, as well as the analysis of existing provision and the application of the standards.

6.27 As highlighted by the application of the quantity and accessibility standards, the main priority will be qualitative improvements.

6.28 The role of amenity spaces in forming an overall network is also reinforced.

Quality of Amenity Green Spaces

6.29 Consultation highlights the importance of obtaining a balance between the quality and quantity of amenity green space, and the quality was considered to be of particular importance, with residents emphasising the importance of maintaining amenity green space. The interrelationship between quality and quantity was clear.

6.30 In light of the importance of the quality of amenity green spaces, sites have been divided into quartiles according to their quality in order to identify those sites where particular improvement is required. This analysis is set out in Table 6.5 overleaf and a selection of sites falling into the top and bottom quartiles are listed.

6.31 A full list of all scores achieved during site assessments can be found within Appendix C. It can be seen that to fall within the top quartile, a score of 85% would be required. Several sites in the bottom quartile score particularly poorly.

Table 6.5 – Detailed analysis of the quality of existing sites

Above upper quartile	85% +	North Meade (100%) – South Wilson Street Ash Garden (100%) – East New Road (100%) - East Councillor Street (100%) – East Alan Turing Way (100%) - East
Less than lower quartile	Below 61%	Folkestone Road East (48%) – East Almond Street (48%) – North Bullfinch Walk (51%) – South Floyd Avenue (52%) – South Shevington Gardens (52%) - Wythenshawe

- 6.32 The quality scores, and key areas of improvement identified for each site, should inform any improvements at amenity green space sites. The perceived safety of sites was identified as important throughout consultation and consequently the design of sites should encompass this issue.

AGS1	<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>
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- 6.33 While amenity space was highlighted as being particularly important to local residents in that it provides local open spaces in close proximity to the home, consideration should be given to the value of protecting all sites from development. In some instances, the loss of one site (which has limited existing functionality) and the subsequent improvement of a nearby site may offer greater overall value to local residents. This should only be considered where there are clusters of sites serving similar catchments.

- 6.34 In order to ensure the future quality of open spaces, consideration should be given to the size of sites and its overall contribution to the network. Smaller sites (particularly those located in proximity to larger facilities) may be of limited value to local residents and costly in terms of maintenance to the provider.

AGS2	<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>
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Creating an effective open space network

- 6.35 Amenity green space can also be used to create linkages between larger open spaces and to promote a green, sustainable environment. The emphasis on improving such linkages is a big driver behind the need to increase the quantity of amenity space and a priority of the Strategic Regeneration Framework Citywide.
- 6.36 The role of green networks and the potential for linkages to offset deficiencies in other types of open space is highlighted in other sections.

AGS3

Promote the development of a green network across the City 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.

Determining priorities in each area of the City

- 6.37 The application of the quantity standards demonstrates that the provision of amenity green space is currently sufficient to meet demand (and is actually sufficient in all areas except the South). When also considering the application of the accessibility standards, as well as the interrelationship between amenity green space and other open space types, it is clear that, shorter term, the priorities focus around improvement of the quality of existing sites.
- 6.38 Despite this, where new development occurs, it will be essential to 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. This is reflective of the importance of localised, functional amenity space to residents of Manchester.
- 6.39 Design guidelines should also be provided to ensure that all new amenity space is functional. Where possible, amenity spaces should become the focal point of the community and should provide a network of linkages between different neighbourhoods and other open spaces.

AGS4

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.

- 6.40 The most appropriate short and long-term priorities for each area of the City are therefore discussed taking into account the relationship between quality, quantity and accessibility.

Manchester City Centre

- 6.41 Application of the quantity standard indicates that there is sufficient provision to meet demand. Based on the current provision, a population growth of 1052 can be accommodated.
- 6.42 Accessibility mapping reinforces this sufficient provision, with all residents able to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time. Furthermore, in addition to amenity green spaces, residents in the City Centre (and visitors) have access to a vast array of civic spaces, which fulfil a similar role to amenity spaces.

- 6.43 The quality of amenity green space in the City Centre is good, with the average site quality score site being 83%. However, consultation emphasised the importance of amenity green space in the City Centre and due to a lack of open space in this area, the quality of this type of open space will be particularly important.
- 6.44 Four sites scored below 75%, indicating that qualitative improvements may be required at some amenity green spaces in the City Centre. Many amenity green spaces are located within civic spaces and therefore any improvements should overlap with improvements to civic spaces in the City Centre.
- 6.45 While analysis of the accessibility and quantity standards demonstrates that there is currently sufficient provision, opportunities for new provision (or new ideas such as green roofs) should be sought in light of the strong theme during consultation of the need to provide additional green space within the City Centre. In the short term, qualitative improvements should be prioritised. The development of the Oxford Road Corridor will further improve the quality and quantity of green space for residents in the City Centre.

Short – Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces. This should overlap with improvements to the civic spaces in the City.
Short – Medium Term	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
Ongoing	Monitor the impact of population growth on the demand for additional amenity space across the City Centre.

East Manchester

- 6.46 The highest provision of amenity green space is found in East Manchester (56.60 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.
- 6.47 Accessibility mapping supports the quantitative findings, with all residents able to access an amenity green space within the recommended 10 minute walk time.
- 6.48 The quality of amenity green space in East Manchester is relatively high, with the average quality score of a site being 71%. However, despite this 44 sites achieved a quality score below 70%. This indicates that there are a large number of sites that require qualitative improvements.

Short – Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces.
Ongoing	Despite high levels of provision of amenity space, consider the need for new amenity spaces as part of development at a localized level, where deficiencies may occur.
Longer Term	Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces.

Central Manchester

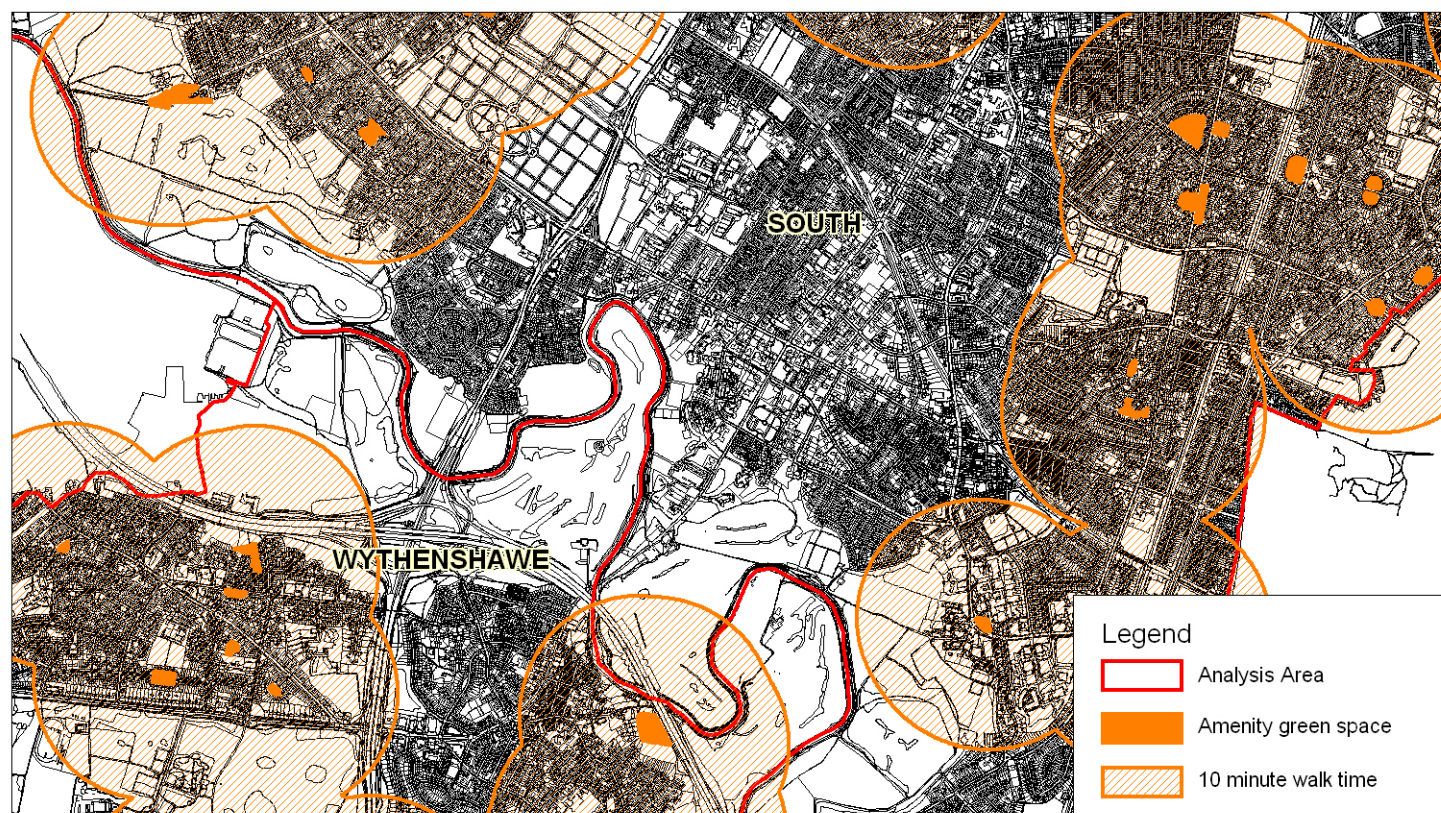
- 6.49 Accessibility mapping indicates that nearly all residents have access to an amenity green space. Quantitative analysis supports this, with provision exceeding the minimum standard. The current quantity of amenity green space is sufficient to accommodate a population growth of 4,189.
- 6.50 In addition to access to amenity green space, residents in this area of the City also have local access to parks, meaning that many informal recreation opportunities are potentially available.
- 6.51 The quality of amenity green space in Central Manchester is average. Quality scores range from 60% to 100% and the average quality score of a site is 73%. 14 sites achieved quality scores below 70%. This indicates that quality improvements may be required for a number of amenity green space sites in Central Manchester. The development of the Oxford Road Corridor will provide an opportunity to improve the quality and quantity of green space in this area of the City.

Short Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces.
Ongoing	Despite high levels of provision of amenity space, consider the need for new amenity spaces as part of development at a localized level, where deficiencies may occur.
Longer Term	Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces. In areas where there are quantitative deficiencies and limited other solutions, the provision of trees to line streets may provide an interim solution.

South Manchester

- 6.52 South Manchester is the only area of the City where current provision is below the minimum standard, with the shortfall equating to 45.17 hectares. Accessibility mapping illustrates this deficiency, with residents in the south, north east and north west outside the catchment of an amenity green space (Figures 6.1 – 6.3).

Figure 6.1 – Deficiencies in the south of South Manchester

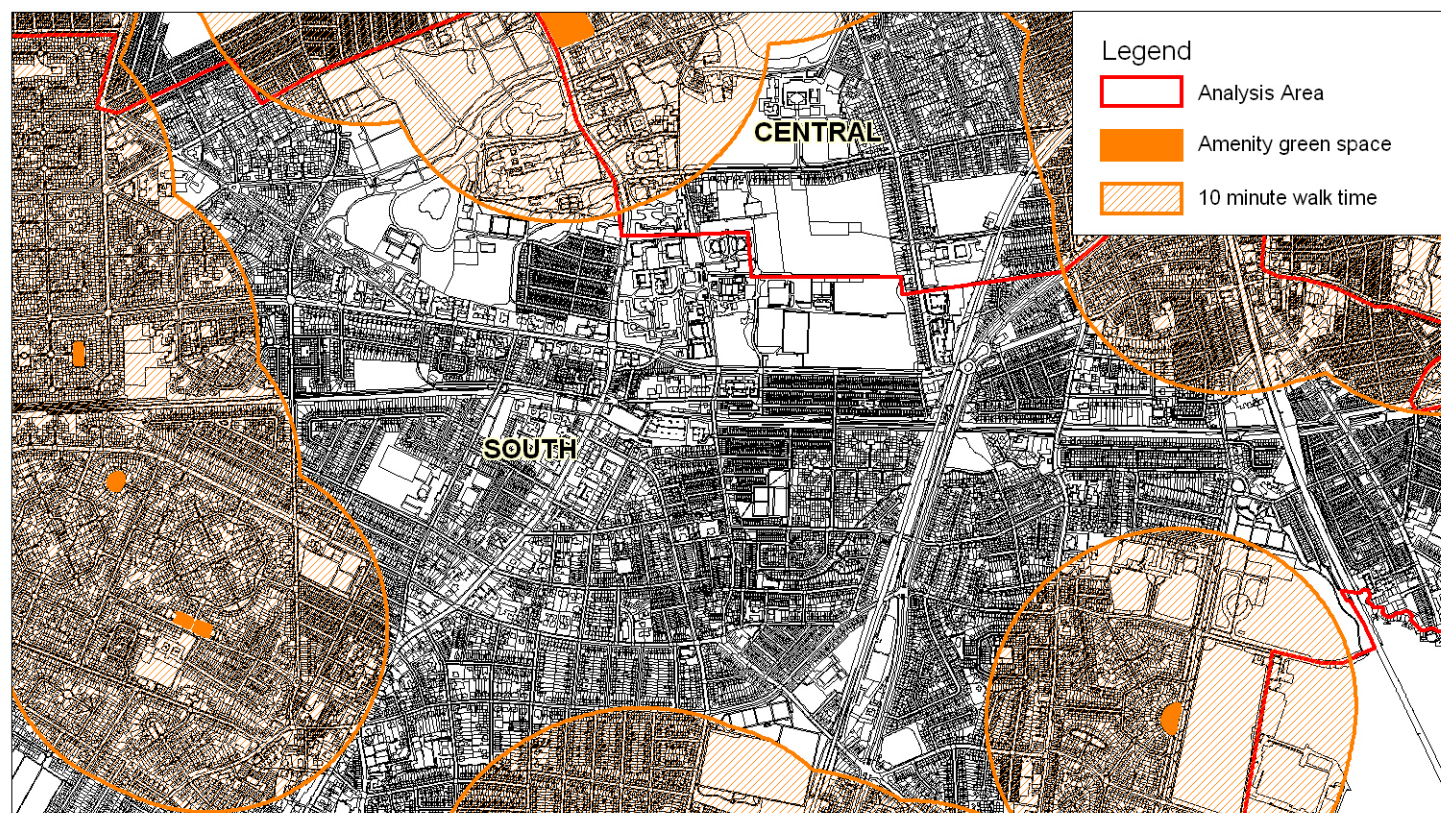


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Figure 6.2 – Deficiencies in the north east of South Manchester



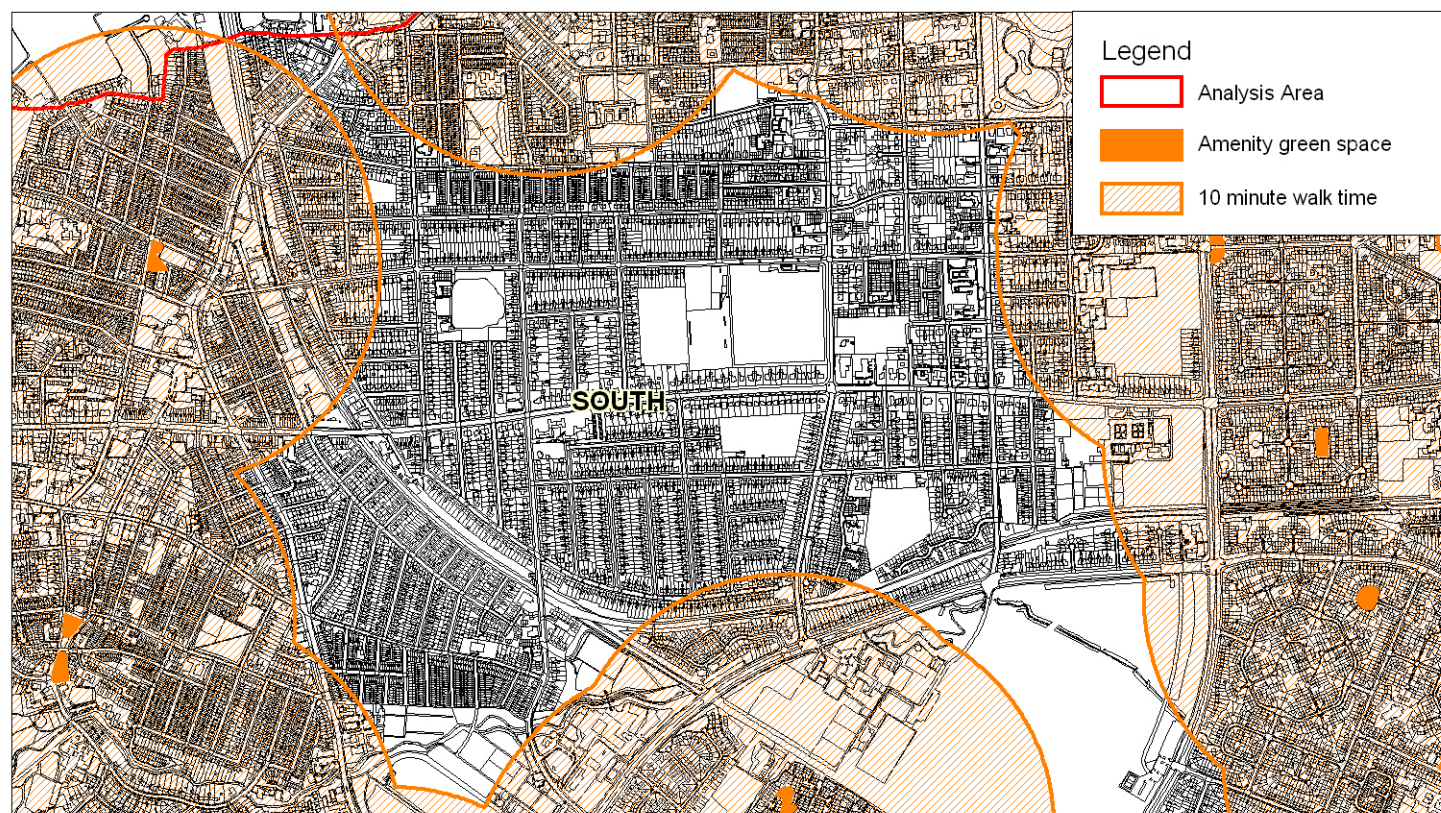
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Figure 6.3 – Deficiencies in the west of South Manchester



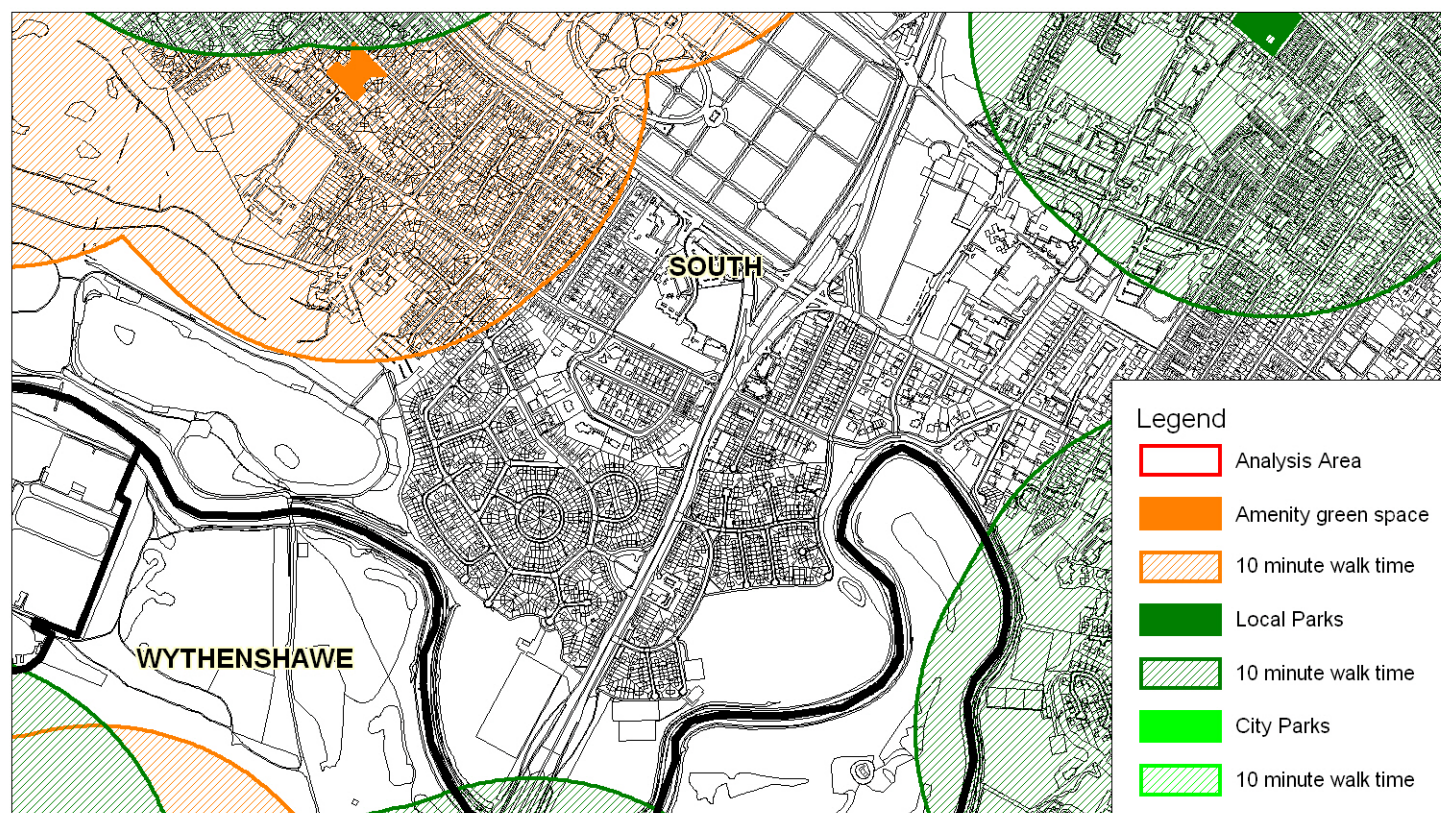
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- 6.53 When combining the provision of parks and amenity green space accessibility deficiencies are still evident. The location of Alexandra Park negates the need for amenity green space in the west and residents in the north east have access to a local park within a 10 minute walk time. However, residents in the south west of the area do not have access to an amenity green space or park (Figure 6.4).

Figure 6.4 – Deficiencies in the south west of South Manchester



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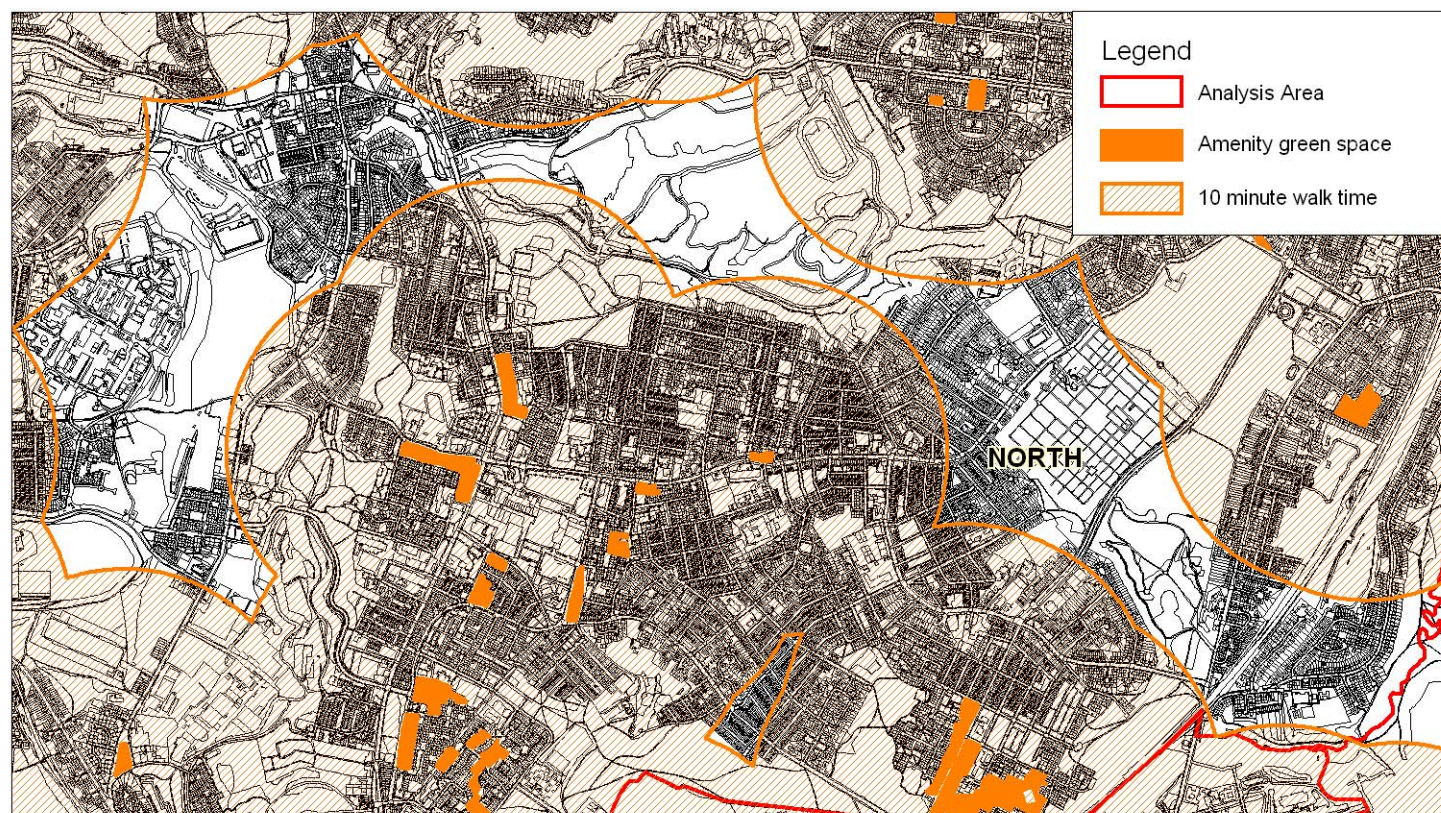
- 6.54 The quality of amenity green space in South Manchester is average. The average quality score of a site is 69% and quality scores range significantly from 51% - 100%. 13 sites achieved quality scores below 70%, highlighting the potential need for qualitative improvements to a number of sites in the area.

Short – Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces.
Short - Term	Consider opportunities to provide new amenity space and / or a local park in areas currently devoid of provision.
Longer Term	Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces.

North Manchester

- 6.55 Application of the quantity standard indicates that the quantity of amenity green space exceeds the minimum standard. The provision of amenity green space is sufficient to accommodate growth of 8,652 residents. Accessibility mapping supports this, with the majority of residents able to access an amenity green space. However, a corridor of accessibility deficiency is evident in the centre of the area (Figure 6.5).

Figure 6.5 – Deficiencies in the centre of North Manchester



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- 6.56 Although some residents in the centre of the area are outside the catchment of an amenity green space, when considering amenity green space in the context of the provision of parks and gardens, nearly all residents have access to a park.
- 6.57 The quality of amenity green space is average, with the average quality score of a site being 70%. However, quality scores range significantly from 48% - 96% and 40 sites achieved quality scores below 70%, highlighting the potential need for some qualitative improvements.
- 6.58 In consideration of the above, focus should be placed on enhancing the quality of amenity green space in the area.

Short – Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces.
Ongoing	Despite high levels of provision of amenity space, consider the need for new amenity spaces as part of development at a localized level, where deficiencies may occur.
Longer Term	Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces.

Wythenshawe

- 6.59 Accessibility mapping illustrates that most residents have access to amenity green space. Application of the quantity standard supports this high level of accessibility, as provision exceeds the minimum standard. The amount of population growth that can be accommodated by the current provision is 34,721.
- 6.60 Although minor pockets of accessibility deficiency are evident, when amalgamating the provision of parks and amenity green space all residents have access to at least one of these typologies within the appropriate distance of their home.
- 6.61 The quality of amenity green space in Wythenshawe is the lowest of all areas in Manchester. The average quality score of a site is 67% and quality scores range from 52% - 80%. No sites achieved a quality score within the top quartile level (85%) and 29 sites scored below 70%. This indicates that there is need for significant qualitative enhancements to a number of amenity green spaces in Wythenshawe.
- 6.62 The primary focus for future improvement will therefore be on qualitative improvements in the first instance. It will however be essential to monitor localised demand for amenity spaces in the event of population growth.

Short – Term	Drive a programme of improvements to the quality of existing amenity spaces.
Ongoing	Despite high levels of provision of amenity space, consider the need for new amenity spaces as part of development at a localized level, where deficiencies may occur.
Longer Term	Ensure that amenity spaces are integrated within the overall green space network and that they are connected with other larger spaces.

Summary

- 6.63 The community interaction benefits of amenity green space are recognised, with residents identifying this type of open space as valuable to the local community.
- 6.64 Application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards illustrates the need for qualitative enhancements to a number of existing amenity green space sites. Amenity spaces can be particularly important to local residents in light of their close proximity to the home. Amenity green spaces are also of particular importance in terms of linking residents with open space and in providing links between neighbourhoods. In a sustainable neighbourhood, an amenity space may be the focal point of the local community.
- 6.65 The application of the quantity standards demonstrates that provision currently exceeds the minimum standard in all but one of the analysis areas. The south of the City is the only area where provision is not currently sufficient to meet needs. When also considering the application of the accessibility standards, as well as the interrelationship between amenity green space and other open space types, it is clear that shorter term, the priorities should be around improvement of existing open spaces rather than the creation of new sites.
- 6.66 However, consideration should be given to new provision in the south of the City. 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.
- 6.67 It is therefore recommended that the key priorities for the future delivery of provision for amenity green space in Manchester that should be addressed through the Local Development Framework and/or other delivery mechanisms are:
- to facilitate the improvement of the network of existing amenity spaces through the inclusion of appropriate policy and design guidelines in the Local Development Framework
 - to seek to improve the quality of amenity green spaces, aiming to achieve a minimum score of 85% at each site
 - to focus on enhancing the quality of existing amenity green space sites across all areas
 - to ensure that new developments contribute towards the provision of amenity green space where appropriate.