

Setting Accessibility Standards – Manchester City Council

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Natural England make recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Other Local Authorities Standards (set by PMP)	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities.
Consultation (Household Survey - establish 75% threshold catchments)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in time and/or distance
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended
LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD	Final Local Standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in time and/or distance

Accessibility standards – assumptions

Walking	All areas	average of 3mph
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Conversion (walking)

Time (mins)	Miles	metres	Factor Reduction	metres (straight line to be mapped)
5	0.25	400	40%	240
10	0.5	800	40%	480
15	0.75	1200	40%	720
20	1	1600	40%	960
25	1.25	2000	40%	1200
30	1.5	2400	40%	1440

Assumption

National Guidelines reduce actual distances into straight line distances by a 40% reduction. This is to allow for the fact that routes to open spaces are not straight-line distances but more complex. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS CITY PARKS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them. Their primary purpose is informal recreation.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>Parks for All Seasons – A Parks Strategy for Manchester 2003</p> <p>Regional (Heaton Park and Wythenshawe Park) are acknowledged as sites that not only attract residents from across the city, but from a wider catchment beyond the city boundary. Some district parks, which serve a smaller catchment than regional parks, will have a diverse function and serve the city wide population (Boggart hole Clough, Platt Fields Park)</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	York – 20 minute walk time (City)	Parks in Oldham above 15ha – 20 min (walk)	Wolverhampton – 20 minute walk time
Consultation	<p><u>HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>31% of respondents to the household survey use City Parks more frequently than any other typology – making it the most popular type of open space across Manchester. Of this group of respondents who use parks more regularly than any other typology, the majority choose to walk there (76%). 16% of users choose to travel by car. This is particularly the case in relation to residents in the East, City Centre and Central Manchester. This is perhaps surprising in light of the demographics and access to public transport in these areas but is representative of the distribution of these parks.</p> <p>When evaluating the distance currently travelled by regular users, there was a large degree of variation in the times stated by regular users. 32% of respondents said that it takes them between 0 and 5 minutes, 29% between 5 and 10 minutes and 20% between 11 and 15 minutes.</p> <p><u>HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>Analysis of responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to this type of open space demonstrates that walking is the modal response (53%). However, a high percentage of people prefer to travel by car, 26% in total. The breakdown across the analysis areas shows that respondents from all areas would prefer to walk to City Parks.</p> <p>Although travel times varied for those respondents who would prefer to travel by car, 5-10 minutes (30%), 11-15</p>		

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	<p>minutes (25%), and 16-20 minutes (25%) were the most common response times. The average distance that people are willing to travel (mean) by car is 19 minutes. The range of response received varied from 5 minutes to an hour and the first quartile figure is 10 minutes, the second 15 minutes and the third 20 minutes and the fourth 60 minutes.</p> <p>For those respondents who walk to City Parks, the most common response time was between 5-10 minutes (60%), with the third quartile level calculated at 15 minutes walk time. The first and second quartiles were both 10 minutes and the average distance expected was 13 minutes. This is influenced by the location of these parks, with the majority of residents who expect to walk living near to the larger parks.</p>
	<p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Residents at drop in sessions felt that there is a requirement for not only large, strategically located parks but also smaller 'community' park facilities, accessible on foot, to local neighbourhoods. The majority of residents indicated they would be willing to travel further to reach large City Parks than to small Local Parks but felt it was important to have the choice if needed. Heaton Park was mentioned as a site that residents would be willing to travel further to. On the whole, the larger parks were perceived to be destinations for a day out or longer trip as well as a local resource of amenity. Workshop attendees outlined the importance of achieving a balance between security of the facility and accessibility. There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) are publicised well enough by the Council.</p> <p>The findings of the IT Young People survey reveals that parks are the most popular type of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Moreover, 63% of people would expect to walk to their favourite open space.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME (Long term target - PUBLIC TRANSPORT)</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Setting separate accessibility standards for City Parks and neighbourhood parks is consistent with PPG17, which makes reference to hierarchies of provision. This is in recognition of the fact that large facilities tend to attract users from a wider area and have a higher local profile. Residents are less likely to travel the same distances to Local Parks. In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed city park standard should not be considered in isolation but rather in the context of Local Parks. Those living within the city park distance threshold will have no need of a local park as well. Alternatively, those residents with no City Park within the recommended accessibility standard, for example some City Centre residents, will rely on local park provision. It will be important to provide an overall network of provision. The wide catchment of City Parks was further highlighted at drop-in sessions with many visitors to Manchester having used these facilities.</p> <p>There are varying opinions between residents in all areas as to whether they should expect to walk or drive to City</p>

Parks. Many of these are influenced by the location of existing sites. 76% of frequent users walk to City Parks; however the wider catchment of these facilities is clear. For the residents that walk to these parks, they are fulfilling the role of a local park. These sites are of strategic importance to the city as a whole. Therefore, a 15-minute drive / public transport time is recommended. This standard is in line with the modal response of those who expect to drive and takes into account the significantly varying views evident throughout consultation as well as ensuring the strategic distribution of City Parks.

Setting smaller accessibility catchments could provide unrealistic expectations in terms of delivering further provision in areas outside of the distance threshold – however given that 57% think that the current level of provision is about right it is unlikely that increased provision will be required. Emphasis should be on enhancing the quality of provision and using the opportunity to improve Local Parks into more formalised provision like City Parks.

Linking in with the health agenda, it is important to consider sustainable methods of transport and encouraging walking and cycling to and within open spaces.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS LOCAL PARKS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>Parks for All Seasons – A Parks Strategy for Manchester 2003</p> <p>District Parks and Community Parks serve a smaller catchment but will be able to cater for a large throughput and informal and formal events (Chorlton Park, Didsbury Park).</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	York - 15 minute walk time	Oldham – 15 Minute walk-time	Wolverhampton – 10 minute walk time)
Consultation	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u> Findings from the household survey show that 13% of respondents use Local Parks more than any other typology. Within this group of regular users, analysis of the current travel patterns shows a significant number of people (75%) walk to Local Parks in Manchester. Analysis of the travel times of regular users suggest that 58% of residents travel between 0-10 minutes (58%) to access these sites, highlighting the preference for using this type of open space if it is located near to residential areas.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAVEL</u> Similar to the patterns exhibited by frequent users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred methods of travel and realistic travel times to this type of open space highlighted that 74% of respondents expect to walk. 68% would be willing to walk 5-10 minutes to visit a local park. The analysis area breakdown reinforces the overall figure, with the most common travel time being 5-10 minutes. All of the analysis areas show walking to be the preferred method of travel, with Central (97.5%) being the highest and City Centre (87.5%) being the lowest.</p> <p>The modal response of those who travel on foot was 10 minutes. The first quartile figure is 7.5 minutes, while the second and third quartile figures are both 10 minutes. The mean response was also 10 minutes. Using the analysis area breakdown and majority responses, all areas with the exception of the City Centre analysis area mirrored these findings, with the exception of the City Centre, where the third quartile figure was a 15-minute walk time.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u> While residents valued the facilities in City Parks, the need for local facilities was also emphasised strongly at drop in sessions. Platt Fields Park was an example of a site which served a function for the local community but did not warrant travelling a great distance to visit.</p>		

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	<p>There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) are promoted well enough by the Council. This was specifically for smaller community parks such as Marie-Louise Gardens and Sackville Park.</p> <p>Workshop attendees noted the general lack of adequate pedestrian and cycling facilities connecting the city’s open spaces and specifically the Local Parks. This was predominantly for the City Centre and central areas of Manchester where it was felt that open spaces tend to be isolated and inaccessible to a number of residents. It was noted that within the south, open spaces are generally well connected by green links and cycle routes.</p> <p>Respondents to the IT Children and Young people Survey highlighted the importance of local park provision. For young people, access to a local park was the most common response when asked what additional provision they would like. Location was highlighted by children and young people as to why they choose to use open spaces. This reinforces the importance of local access for this age group.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>STANDARD - 10 MINUTE WALK TIME (480m)</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>There is a clear emphasis in favour of walking in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. 74% of respondents to the household survey would expect to walk to a local park, with 75% of regular users walking. Moreover, given the more local nature of these facilities compared to the City Parks, it is considered appropriate to focus on access to these sites on foot. This was further reflected in the IT Children and Young People Survey, where the location of facilities emerged as the key determinant of whether people use facilities. A standard promoting access on foot is therefore recommended.</p> <p>The standard has been set at a 10-minute walk time in line with the modal and mean responses and the second and third quartile figures. A lower accessibility standard could be justified on the basis of current users travel patterns – with most users travelling less than 10 minutes to access a local park. However, PPG17 states that lower thresholds are only needed where there is clear evidence that a significant proportion of local people do not use existing provision because they regard it as inaccessible. Given the findings of the local consultation (which highlight the good levels of use at Local Parks) this could not be substantiated. Furthermore, improvements to the quality of parks in some areas of the city were seen to be of greater importance than increases in park provision. Setting the standard at a 10 minute walk time will therefore ensure that any gaps in provision can be addressed, but will enable the focus on improving the quality of Local Parks to be maintained.</p> <p><u>City Centre</u></p> <p>Despite some concerns that not all residents are aware of local park provision within the City Centre or that some open spaces may be inaccessible, it is recommended that the standard is set at the same level (10 minute walk time) as all</p>

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other analysis areas. With no city park provision in this area, it is important that local park provision meets the needs of City Centre residents. This standard will highlight any potential gaps in provision and ensure a focus on quality and accessibility improvements to Local Parks and gardens in the City Centre.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL OPEN SPACE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha. Woodland Trust Access Standards recommend that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people’s homes</p> <p>Natural England have a commitment to champion preventative health solutions in the natural environment and have adopted an objective of providing accessible natural space within 300 metres (or 5 minutes walk) of every home in England for exercise, relaxation and wellbeing. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/pdf/campaigns/Health_card.pdf</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>No specific standards.</p> <p>Best Value Parks Survey 2003</p> <p>Evidence from this survey shows that 16% of residents in Manchester value access to nature as a key factor in their quality of life, therefore reinforcing the value of biodiversity in urban areas.</p> <p>Manchester Biodiversity Strategy 2005</p> <p>The linkages between local people and natural open space are deemed as key benefits of environmental improvements. By increasing the use of sites and encouraging active involvement from local residents, there will be a greater appreciation of the City’s natural resource.</p> <p>Incorporating biodiversity into the City’s regeneration process is identified as being key to reshaping communities and their environment.</p> <p>The effective provision of natural open space is crucial to the delivery of these objectives.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	York – 15 minute walk time	Oldham – 15 Minute walk-time	Wolverhampton – 15 minute walk time

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

12% of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently. Within this group of regular natural and semi natural open space users, walking is the most common mode of travel used to access sites (65%). Travelling by car is second with 27%. Travel times of current users were evenly distributed over three timeframes; 0-5 minutes (28%), 5-10 minutes (19%) and 11-15 minutes (28%).

City Centre residents expressed the highest desire to travel by car (33%), which is expected based on the small amount of provision of natural and semi natural open space within this area.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

Similar to the patterns exhibited by regular users, responses from the household survey regarding preferred/expected methods of travel to natural and semi-natural open spaces are dominated by walking (54%), with travelling by car the second choice (24%).

Of those who would expect to walk to a natural and semi natural open space, 59% would be willing to travel between 5-10 minutes, with 19% willing to travel 11-15 minutes. Of those who would expect to drive, there was a greater degree of variety in responses – with 25% expecting to travel between 5-10 minutes, 20% between 11-15 minutes, 22% between 16-20 minutes, and 25% between 21-30 minutes. All of these figures are consistent across all of the analysis areas.

The modal response is a 10 minute walk time, and this is supported by the 1st and second quartile responses. The mean response is however higher, at 13 minutes, and the third quartile response is 50 minutes. Overall expectations ranged from 2 – 60 minutes. Analysis of the five individual analysis areas shows identical results in terms of the quartiles, with the exception of the third quartile, which is lower in the North (10 minutes) and East (11.25 minutes). There are lower expectations in the City Centre, where more residents expect to drive or use public transport.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

There are some high quality natural and semi natural open space sites that are only realistically accessible by car for the majority of residents (Chorlton Water Park). It will be essential that the value of these sites is considered. Many residents attending drop in sessions reinforced the value of natural open spaces. While many recognised that the nature of a city area means that natural open space is limited, it was felt that this reinforces the importance of access to those spaces that do exist.

Some attendees at workshop sessions were concerned about using natural open spaces due to access and safety issues (eg Mersey Valley or cycle routes). City Centre residents had little comment on natural and semi natural areas, perhaps unsurprising with the little amount of provision in this area.

There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that enough is done to advertise the available opportunities – particularly in relation to biodiversity and the benefits of natural open spaces. Ensuring continued access to these sites was deemed very important, with some concerns expressed on the lack of maintenance and management of these sites. Newhall Green in Wythenshawe was identified as a particular

<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 METRES) 15 MINUTE DRIVE TIME – CITY CENTRE</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The local consultation serves to highlight the split in opinion regarding whether natural and semi natural sites should be accessed on foot or in the car (24% of respondents would travel by car, whilst 54% of people stated that they would travel on foot). To a certain extent, this will relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality. Indeed, some natural spaces within the area are visited by tourists and residents from outside the city who have travelled significant distances to reach specific sites.</p> <p>A drive time standard would produce a significantly larger distance threshold than a walk time standard. PPG17 states that higher thresholds may be appropriate if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to allow lower thresholds to be achievable, but can result in levels of provision that are too low and may not meet some local needs. In the context of the local consultation findings regarding the quantity of provision (51% think that there is not enough as opposed to only 4% who think there is more than enough), and given the importance of facilitating everyday contact with nature, a standard based on a walk time is recommended as this will help to deliver a greater number of localised natural and semi natural spaces. This also recognises the standards produced by Natural England, which promote local access to natural open space. It is therefore recommended that a walk time standard is adopted.</p> <p>An assessment of the opinions of residents demonstrates that people are willing to walk up to 15 minutes (third quartile and average) to reach semi natural open space. Given the characteristics of Manchester and the consequential challenges of providing natural and semi natural open space, along with the importance of balancing quantity, quality and accessibility, a 15 minute walk time standard is recommended.</p> <p><u>City Centre</u></p> <p>Based on local consultation and the limited quantity of natural and semi natural provision in the City Centre, a higher threshold is recommended due to the difficulties in ensuring new provision. A 15 minute drive time is deemed appropriate based on local consultation (33% of residents would expect to travel by car).</p>

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS AMENITY GREEN SPACE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no local accessibility standards at the current time.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	York – 5 minute walk time	Wolverhampton – 5 minute walk time	Oldham – 10 minute walk-time

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u> A small percentage of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently (3%), it is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided, a more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time in relation to all respondents. Amenity space often fulfils a landscape function as well as offering a recreational resource. Its value can therefore be far greater than would first appear based on the level of recreational use the site receives.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u> When accessing amenity areas the majority of people would prefer to walk (65%), with 75% of respondents stating that they would expect to walk between 5-10 minutes.</p> <p>The figures relating to preferred travel patterns and length of journey are similar in all analysis areas. A typical example of this is Wythenshawe, where 69% of respondents would prefer to walk, with 77% stating this journey should take 5-10 minutes. There is limited variation in opinion between the analysis areas.</p> <p>Using the citywide results, it can be calculated that the first, second and third quartiles all demonstrate that residents are willing to travel 10 minutes on foot to amenity areas; with the most common travel time also being 10 minutes walk. Analysis of the individual areas shows a consistent modal response across all areas.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>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, providing often the most localised form of provision for new residents, should be used in more creative ways. This linked to comments relating to the value of amenity spaces, and the need to ensure that sites have a clear function.</p> <p>Residents at workshops did not believe that all parks (and other open spaces) were well publicised by the Council. It was felt that many people were not aware of opportunities to participate.</p>
	<p>PMP Recommendation</p>
<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>Given the large emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is suggested that a standard based on travelling on foot is set. The expressed desire for local amenity space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot 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 young People Survey, the popularity of these spaces reinforces the need for a walking standard, with these spaces providing a means for informal play.</p>

At a citywide 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. This was also the most common response from residents. 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 important. 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.

City Centre

Due to the limited amount of green space provision within the City Centre, the function of civic spaces and public realm must be considered when applying the standard.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>NPFA LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
Definition	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below aged 12. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for children exist (including play schemes and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed as equipped play facilities. Within this study, play provision for children includes only equipped play areas (ie. LEAPS and NEAPS) which are designed for children.</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>Application of national standards.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	York – 10 minute walk-time	Oldham – 10 minute walk-time	Wolverhampton – 10 minute walk time

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

A relatively small percentage of respondents to the household survey stated that they use this type of open space most frequently (10%) which may be due to the fact that it is very specific to its function. All respondents to the household survey were over 16. 84% of respondents who do use facilities for children (as parents) stated walking was their current method of travel.

In terms of length of journey, results showed an even split over three time frames; 0-5 minutes (30%), 5-10 minutes (30%) and 11-15 minutes (28%), thus displaying flexibility in terms of how far people currently travel to this type of open site. This may be influenced by the location of existing facilities and / or the quality of sites.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

The majority of respondents (91%) to the household survey stated that walking is their preferred method of travel to access children’s play facilities.

Across the individual analysis areas results mirrored the city-wide perception, with the majority of residents expecting to walk to this typology. A typical example being shown in the South where 91% of residents stated walking as their preferred mode of travel.

Citywide results indicate the first quartile figure is 5 minutes, while the second and third quartile and mean response is 10 minutes. The modal response was also 10 minutes and this is identical across the individual analysis areas with the exception of East Manchester, where the modal response was 5 minutes. Expectations range from 2 minutes to 40 minutes walk.

OTHER CONSULTATION

There was an ongoing concern that residents at workshops do not believe that enough is done to advertise the available open space opportunities – particularly in relation to biodiversity and play provision.

Alongside quantitative comments, drop in session attendees highlighted accessibility deficiencies for this typology. Parents in particular commented on the barriers presented by main roads and distances to travel. These issues may arise on some occasions as a direct result of a lack of facilities. Emphasis was therefore placed on the need for play areas to be in close proximity to residents’ homes. Territorial issues were also raised as a key barrier to usage, further reinforcing the expectation that facilities should be provided locally.

Concerns over the perceived safety of equipment and miss use of sites were also perceived to act as a further deterrent to usage. Many issues relating to the provision of facilities for children centred around more qualitative issues, with the need for more informal play provision and increasing the ‘risk’ element.

The IT Children and Young People Survey also highlighted the importance of providing local facilities, with children indicating that the key determinant of which facilities they used was the location. Distance from home was perceived to be a far greater barrier to usage than cost or poor quality facility provision.

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

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>NPFA LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p> <p>NEAPs aged min 8; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
Definition	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for young people exist (including youth clubs and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teenage shelters • skateboard Parks • BMX tracks • Multi-use games areas 		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	<p>Application of national standards.</p>		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	<p>York – 15 minute walk time</p>	<p>Wolverhampton – 20 minute walk time</p>	<p>Oldham – 10 minute walk-time (Children and Young People)</p>

Consultation

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and the availability of the data collected on current usage through the household survey makes it difficult to assess given the small number of responses (2%). The statistically robust evidence base generated by the household survey enables detailed analysis and interpretation of the expectations and aspirations of local residents.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

70% of respondents stated that they would expect facilities for young people to be located within walking distance of their home. Of those respondents who would expect to walk – the most commonly held expectation is that this journey should take 5-10 minutes (70%). Results from the individual analysis areas are consistent with the citywide results in terms of preferred method of travel and travel time.

Findings from the household survey indicate that there are a variety of opinions with regards facilities for young people. Expectations range from 2 minutes to 60 minutes. While the first quartile response is 10 minutes, the third quartile figure is 15 minutes and the mean is 12 minutes. Opinions vary across the analysis areas. Residents of North Manchester are willing to travel the longest (third quartile 20 minutes) to access this typology, however respondents in East Manchester are only willing to travel for up to 10 minutes.

OTHER CONSULTATION

A number of attendees at drop in sessions and workshops highlighted the need for facilities to be within easy access for young people. However, whilst localised provision for young people was preferable, the development of localised facilities does not ensure the ongoing use and popularity of the site. Attendees at workshops commented that providing facilities for young people within parks may detract from regular users visiting these sites due to the inevitable congregation of groups of young people. The majority of respondents to drop in sessions and workshops suggested more designated facilities for young people within easy access. It was mentioned young people are limited to where they can travel and localised open spaces that currently have no function could accommodate facilities such as MUGA's or skate parks. An overgrown area of open space off Great Western Street and Lloyd Street in Moss Side was used as an example.

Local provision for young people was perceived to be of particular importance in order to combat issues relating to territorialism. A lack of accessible facilities for young people was also highlighted as being a key determinant of problems at other types of open space. The quality of facilities is also particularly important.

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

PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME (720 METRES)
PMP Justification	<p>The majority of people (70%) stated that walking is the most preferred method of travel to a facility for young people; therefore it is recommended that a walk time standard be adopted. A walk time is considered most appropriate as these facilities are for young people who do not have access to a motorised vehicle and consequently a walk time enables access for all ages and users. Provision of localised facilities meets the needs of young people as identified within the IT young people survey and also helps combat issues such as territorialism which may prevent usage of sites.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time takes into account public opinion and also considers the need to provide appropriate high quality facilities. Setting a higher travel time threshold provides opportunities to invest in existing facilities and highlights areas of greatest need (priority for new provision). The standard also sits in line with the recommended accessibility standard for Local Parks, providing an opportunity to deliver facilities for young people within this typology. This standard is a challenging standard however and it is important to note the implications in terms quantitative improvements.</p>

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards, although the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) highlights that 17.29% of the population are within 20 minutes of a range of 3 different sports facility types, one of which must be quality assured. This is one of their key performance indicators. Sport England's December 2006 Choice and Opportunity Scores reveal the current figure as 21.81%.		
Definition	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports 		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	None		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Oldham – 15 minute walk time for pitches, tennis and bowls facilities and 20 minute drive for golf courses and synthetic turf pitches	Wolverhampton - 15 minute walk to Grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens and 20 minute drive-time to Golf Courses and STP's	York – 15 minute walk time (grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens), 20 minute drive time (synthetic turf pitches, golf course and athletics track)

CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS

The use of this type of open space is very specific to its function and is very much a demand-led typology. The total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was minimal (4%). It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided; a more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time.

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL

Responses from the household survey regarding preferred travel method for the different types of outdoor sport highlighted the variation between types of facilities. Results for all areas included:

- Grass Pitches – **Walk (74%)**, Car (17%)
- Synthetic Turf – **Walk (55%)**, Car (28%)
- Tennis Courts – **Walk (63%)**, Car (18%)
- Bowling Greens – **Walk (66%)**, Car (17%)
- Golf Courses – Walk (37%), **Car (45%)**
- Athletics – Walk (48%)**, Car (31%)

The above results highlight a number of similarities for the different facilities. Respondents stated that their preferred method of travel in five of the six facilities was by foot, only when accessing golf courses respondents indicated that they preferred to travel by car. This illustrates that there is an expectation that facilities will be provided in close proximity to the home.

Results across the individual analysis areas are similar with the exception of golf courses, where residents in two of the five analysis areas stated walking as their preferred method of travel. In three of the analysis areas walking was the preferred method of travel to all facilities and in East Manchester 100% of respondents stated their preferred method of travel was by foot to grass pitches and synthetic turf pitches. This may suggest that provision of this type of open space was excellent in these areas.

With regards to travel times, respondents indicated they expected to travel for 5 – 10 minutes on foot to access each facility. For those that use the car, the preferred travel time was also 5 – 10 minutes.

The only exception was found to be when accessing golf courses by car, where there was a split between 16 – 20 minutes (27%), 21 –20 minutes (25%) and 5 –10 minutes (23%).

Results in each analysis area showed a number of similarities, although in Wythenshawe, residents indicated a willingness to travel further to access synthetic turf pitches and tennis courts than in other areas of the city.

The average response for each type of facility was pitches (12 minutes), tennis courts (13 minutes), bowling greens (12) minutes. 15 minutes (synthetic pitches), For those facilities where driving is more practical the averages were 21 minutes (golf courses) and 17 minutes (athletics). The third quartile responses were 15 minutes for grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, 20 minutes for athletics, 17 minutes for synthetic pitches and 30 minutes for golf.

	<p><u>OTHER CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Access to local sport facilities was perceived to be particularly important by drop in session attendees. In order to deliver the required level of local facilities, it was felt that community use of school sites was essential.</p> <p>Some respondents to the drop in sessions generally felt that open spaces, sport and recreation facilities were poorly linked by inappropriate and inadequate pedestrian and cyclist facilities. Some believed that improvements in linkages (pathways, cycleways) to and between sites would see an increase in use of outdoor sports facilities in the city.</p> <p>There were concerns at workshops that despite a healthy provision of outdoor sport facilities, some sites needed to be more accessible to the public. Some attendees commented that access to facilities at some of the larger sites (Heaton Park tennis courts and bowling greens) was limited for the general public. The issue of accessibility to tennis courts was a common theme throughout the consultation, specifically access in the summer months and concerns over cost. Many residents suggested more publicly accessible tennis court provision with parks across the city.</p> <p>Issues of cost were also noted within drop in sessions.</p>
<p>PMP Recommendation</p>	<p>15 MINUTE WALK (720M) TO GRASS PITCHES, TENNIS COURTS, SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES, ATHLETICS TRACKS AND BOWLING GREENS</p> <p>30 MINUTE DRIVE (8KM) TO GOLF COURSES</p>

PMP Justification

There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches and golf courses (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).

Given the findings from the local consultation, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for grass pitches, tennis courts, synthetic pitches, athletics tracks and bowling greens, and a separate standard for golf courses. This is based on the expectation that all sports facilities with the exception of golf courses will be provided locally ie accessible by foot.

The third quartile threshold level for those who expect to walk to grass pitches, tennis courts, and bowling greens is 15 minutes. The mean responses also support this figure. As a consequence, a 15 minute walk time to these “local” outdoor sports facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements whilst also focusing on improving the quality of existing provision. This is in line with ensuring sustainable transport choices, to account for the wide mix of facilities types within the standard to meet all expectations. Setting a lower standard would result in facilities of insufficient quality.

The formal use of school facilities by the community after school hours will be particularly important if the recommended standards are to be delivered.

The third quartile level for those who expect to drive to golf courses is 30 minutes. Some residents were willing to travel up to 60 minutes. Given the more specialist nature of these facilities, and the fact they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 30 minute drivetime in line with aspirations is recommended. The dense urban nature of Manchester would mean that it is difficult to provide multiple local facilities.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS ALLOTMENTS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Definition	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms. This typology does not include private gardens.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No local accessibility standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Wolverhampton – 15 minute walk time	Oldham – 15 minute walk-time	York – 15 minute walk time

<p>Consultation</p>	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE</u></p> <p>The total number of people stating that allotments were their most frequented type of open space was minimal (2%). It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>The majority of respondents (68%) stated walking as the preferred method of travel, with 15% of respondents expecting to use the car. The most commonly held expectation was that a journey should take 5 – 10 minutes by foot (55%) and car (57%).</p> <p>Opinions varied in terms of the provision of allotments, with respondents willing to travel between 4 and 30 minutes. The first quartile was 10 minutes, the third was 15 minutes and the mean response was 13 minutes. Illustrating the variation in responses, it can be seen that the third quartile of 15 minutes was shared in three of the five analysis areas. In East Manchester the third quartile is 10 minutes while in Central Manchester it is 20 minutes, however the modal response across all analysis areas was 10 minutes. The increased willingness of residents to travel in some areas is also reflective of the waiting lists.</p> <p><u>OTHER CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Waiting lists at some sites were perceived to be a particular barrier to accessing allotments. In areas where there are more allotments, demand is higher and access is limited despite the presence of sites.</p> <p>Attendees at workshop sessions felt that more should be done to make allotments accessible to younger generations, including encouraging schools to incorporate allotment visits for learning and exercise. There is a general feeling that access is made difficult to sites due to the ‘old age’ stigma proving a deterrent for residents. Many plot holders also make it difficult for people to obtain land and access the sites.</p> <p>Comments were also made at the workshops that localised provision of allotments had value for families and individuals in social as well as horticultural or nutritional reasons. Increased access to these sites is therefore instrumental in the drive to increase the popularity of these facilities. The existence of waiting lists across a number of sites in Manchester represents a barrier to access of facilities for a large proportion of residents.</p> <p>Analysis of usage of allotments indicated that while residents prefer to use sites in close proximity to their home, there is a willingness to travel to a facility that is perceived to be higher quality.</p>
	<p>PMP Recommendation</p>

<p>PMP Justification</p>	<p>The provision of allotments is very much a demand led typology and this should be reflected in the application of the accessibility and quantity standards. As such, any deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to evaluate demand that area. Waiting lists at allotment sites provides a strong indication of demand.</p> <p>However, as a guide a standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time. Residents responding to the household survey indicated that they would expect to walk to allotments and a walk time has therefore been used in line with living a healthy lifestyle and targets to reduce the reliance on private transport. Setting the standard at 15 minutes will ensure that the provision is equitable across the city and that quality can be balanced with quantity.</p> <p><u>City Centre</u></p> <p>It was agreed that in light of the lack of scope for the provision of allotments in this area, this standard is not applicable and alternative means of providing for residents in this area will need to be considered.</p>
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MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS CIVIC SPACES	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No local standards
Consultation	<p><u>CURRENT USAGE PATTERNS</u></p> <p>The total number of people stating this was their most frequented type of open space was minimal (<1%). It is therefore difficult to produce sound analysis on current usage patterns based on the sample size provided. A more detailed analysis is given below in terms of expected mode of transport and travel time.</p> <p><u>PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL</u></p> <p>44% of respondents stated that walking would be the preferred option when travelling to this type of open space. A significant proportion of respondents (30%) also indicated that they use public transport. Over half of the respondents (55%) expected to walk to a civic space within 5 –10 minutes. This is perhaps representative of the urban nature of the city area.</p> <p>Like many other types of open space, expectations on the provision of civic spaces vary significantly and the range of responses was 5 minutes to 60 minutes. The average response was 12 minutes.</p> <p>Consultation highlighted a particular focus on the need for better linkages between the public realm within the City Centre, with some respondents noting the difficulty in getting from one site to another.</p> <p>There also appeared to be some concern over the functionality of public realm in the city. Some felt that the design of civic spaces, notably in the City Centre, is not conducive to public use and designed to look aesthetically pleasing. Piccadilly Gardens was used as an example, with complaints over the volume of people that use this open space.</p>
PMP Recommendation	15 MINUTE WALK TIME

APPENDIX H – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PMP Justification	<p>It is important to note that PPG17 states that there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such a typology as it cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation. Therefore strict adherence to an accessibility standard (in terms of highlighting areas inside and outside the catchment of existing provision) would be counter productive.</p> <p>Civic spaces in particular play a key role in the City Centre in providing amenity space for residents. The 15 suggested 15 minute catchment encompasses the views of residents, but should be used for broad planning need only and it is not intended that this standard is adopted as policy to influence future civic space provision.</p> <p>Whilst the accessibility standard can be used for broad planning need, it should not be adopted as policy to influence future civic space provision.</p>
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Typology	Comments
Green Corridors	There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	There are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards. There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typologies as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.