

COLCHESTER PPG17

OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY



A

FINAL REPORT

BY

PMP

NOVEMBER 2007

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction and background

The study

- 1.1 Colchester Borough Council ('the Council') appointed PMP to undertake an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough of Colchester ('the Borough') in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002). The assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities was undertaken alongside a playing pitch assessment, which considers provision of football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches in more detail.
- 1.2 The study includes an audit of all open space provision providing a clear vision, priorities for existing and future open space and a direction for the allocation of future resources.
- 1.3 The prime objectives of the study are to:
 - provide a robust assessment of the demand for open space and recreation facilities throughout the Borough, addressing issues of quantity, quality and accessibility
 - provide an analysis of identified surpluses or deficiencies and other issues of provision across the Borough
 - provide clear recommendations for the setting of locally derived quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - provide evidence for the Borough's emerging Core Strategy
 - inform the preparation of planning policies in the Local Development Framework
 - underpin the development of the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy.

The Borough of Colchester

- 1.4 Colchester Borough is in north east Essex and is bordered by the districts of Babergh, Braintree, Maldon and Tendring. The Borough covers an area of 33,375 hectares. The main town is Colchester plus Tiptree in the south west and West Mersea to the south east.
- 1.5 The population of the Borough is 155,796 (2001 census). The borough is a mix of urban and rural areas hence the average population density of 4.73 persons per hectare (ppha) compared to the East of England average of 2.7 ppha and England average of 3.77 ppha.

Why public open space?

- 1.6 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader government objectives, which include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - promoting health and well being
 - promoting sustainable development
 - relieving recreational pressures on sensitive European Natura 2000 sites e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 1.7 Open space and recreation provision in the Borough of Colchester has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of these objectives.

Figure 1.1 Colchester Castle



Function and benefits of open space

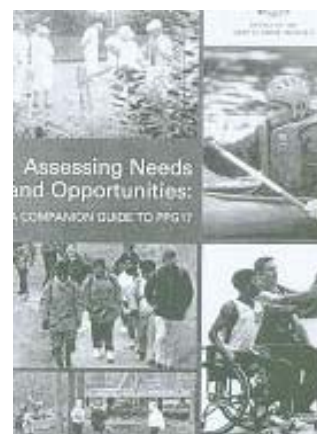
- 1.8 Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of towns and villages. For example the provision for play and informal recreation, a landscaping buffer within and between the built environment and a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity.
- 1.9 Each type of open space has various functions. For example allotments for the growing of produce, play areas for children's play and playing pitches for formal sports activities. Open space can additionally perform a secondary function, for example outdoor sports facilities have an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.10 There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local needs. Not all residents' needs in particular areas will show a demand for open space in the form of playing pitches or allotments, for example. Some areas may have specific local demand for 'green corridor' sites, such as nature walks or bridleways, instead.
- 1.11 Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers including sport and leisure. Open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.12 Parks and open spaces are accessible to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities so may be better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation is key to a sustainable and thriving community.
- 1.13 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live and can result in a number of wider benefits. These are highlighted in Appendix A.

National Policy Context: Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation & Assessing Needs and Opportunities - PPG17 Companion Guide

- 1.14 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities (paragraph 1).
- 1.15 It also states that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs, and opportunities for new open space and facilities (paragraph 2).
- 1.16 Paragraph 5 states that "The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and recreational facilities" and that "local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas".
- 1.17 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.



1.18 The Companion Guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:

- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
- promotes a consistent approach across various types of open space.

1.19 PMP and the Council have followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study. In following these recommendations, this study has the potential to make a significant difference to the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the Borough of Colchester.

Need for local assessments

1.20 This assessment of open space and local needs will enable the Council to:

- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space
- ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of the local community
- ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need
- conduct Section 106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support such negotiations.

1.21 Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the Council to have robust data to protect open space within the Borough.

Structure of the report

1.22 The report is split into 16 sections. Section 2 sets out the methodology for undertaking the study. Section 3 sets out the strategic context to provide the background and context to the study. Section 4 provides a brief summary of the consultation undertaken, while some of the key themes are drawn out within each typology section.

1.23 Sections 5-16 relate to each of the typologies identified within the scope of the report. Each typology chapter sets out the strategic context to that particular typology, the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards and the applications of these standards through the geographical areas and value assessments. These are not applicable to all typologies.

1.24 There are also a number of appendices that support the report and are referenced throughout.

SECTION 2
UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 This study was undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The Companion Guide suggests ways of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment as opposed to following national trends and standards. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend on both improving and enhancing existing open space as well as providing new open space.
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations of this study are therefore representative of the local needs of the Borough of Colchester.

Types of open space

- 2.3 The overall definition of open space within PPG17 is:
- “all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”*
- 2.4 PPG17 identifies ten open space typologies. These categories include nine types of greenspace and one category of urban open space. This study adapts the standard classification to include the assessment of the following typologies:
- amenity green space
 - parks and gardens
 - natural and semi-natural open space
 - provision for children
 - provision for young people
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - allotments and community gardens
 - green corridors
 - churchyards and cemeteries
 - civic spaces
 - beaches and coastal areas

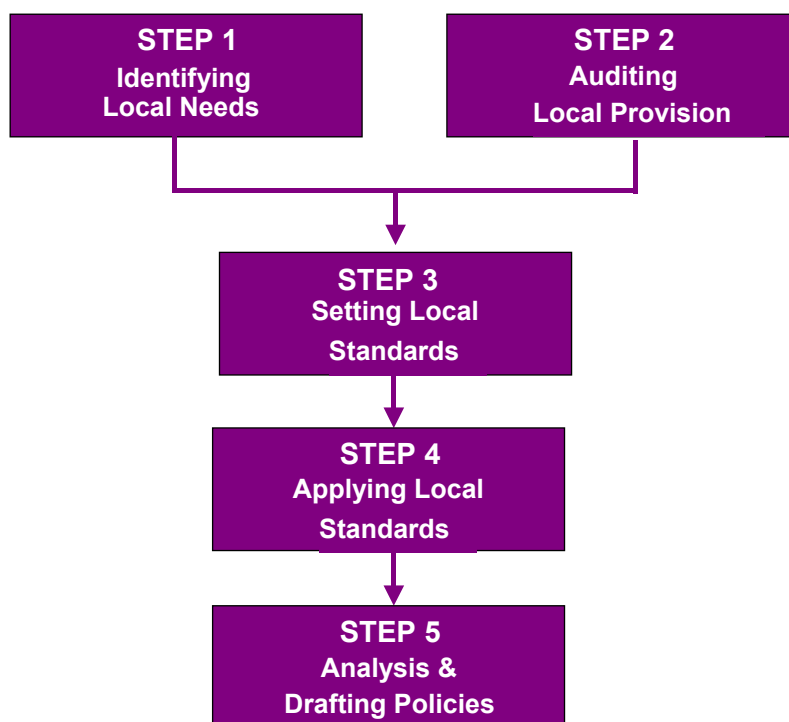
SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

- 2.5 'Children and young people's facilities' has been split into 'provision for children' and 'provision for young people'. This change was introduced at the Council's request to recognise the differing needs of young children and teenagers.
- 2.6 In addition, a supply and demand assessment for indoor sports facilities was undertaken and an additional typology of beaches and coastal areas was introduced to recognise this as an important open space resource in the Borough. Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Appendix B.
- 2.7 The study takes into account open spaces provided, owned and managed by public and private organisations to provide an accurate picture of current provision.

PPG17 – Five step process

- 2.8 The PPG17 companion guide sets out a five step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed in this study.
- 2.9 The five step process is shown in figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 PPG17 Five Step Process



Step one - Identifying local needs

- 2.10 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out. These included:
- 5,400 household questionnaires distributed across Colchester (to capture the views of users and non users of open space)
 - surveys to all identified sports clubs
 - children's and young people's internet survey – sent out to all schools in the Borough
 - 'drop in' neighbourhood sessions at Tesco in Tiptree and Culver Square shopping centre in Colchester
 - press releases, a specific email address and text messaging service were set up to allow the general public to provide comments on open space
 - one-to-one consultations with Council officers
 - consultation with parish and town councils and external agencies.
- 2.11 Further details on the Step 1 process are included in Section Four. Examples of the relevant questionnaires can be found in Appendices C – G.

Step two - Auditing local provision

- 2.12 PMP conducted a thorough audit of open spaces within the Borough through desk research and site assessments. This included ensuring consistency between the open space typologies used in the Colchester study against PPG17 typologies.
- 2.13 A total of 533 sites across the Borough were identified through the audit. Where accessible, these sites were assessed on quantity, quality, accessibility and value using a scoring matrix. The site assessment matrix and definitions of the assessment categories can be found in Appendices H and I.
- 2.14 The Council set specific parameters for the inclusion of open spaces in this study to refine the audit process set out in the Companion Guide:
- sites were only included if circa 75% of their land was freely accessible to the public
 - private sites were only included if access was expressly permitted by the landowner e.g. the Ministry of Defence (MOD) permit public access to some of their sites. For example, private woods were excluded, even if unfenced
 - inaccessible sites that may provide visual benefits to the local community were not included
 - school outdoor sports facilities were only included if known dual-use community access is permitted.
- 2.15 Each open space site which met these criteria was then digitised using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and its associated ratings and characteristics were recorded on an Access database.

- 2.16 The Access database enables further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken. It allows a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism and enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail where necessary.

Steps three and four - Setting and applying provision standards

- 2.17 From the analysis of the data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value of the sites, PMP are able to:
- determine a set of provision standards for each type of open space
 - apply such standards for each type of open space
 - identify gaps in provision across the different types of open space and therefore the areas of priority for improvement, re-designation or new provision.
- 2.18 Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative needs through the planning process.
- 2.19 Further detail regarding the process for the setting and application of each type of provision standard is outlined in Appendix J.
- 2.20 The quantity calculator showing the levels of provision in each analysis area is provided in Appendices Q and R.

The use of analysis areas

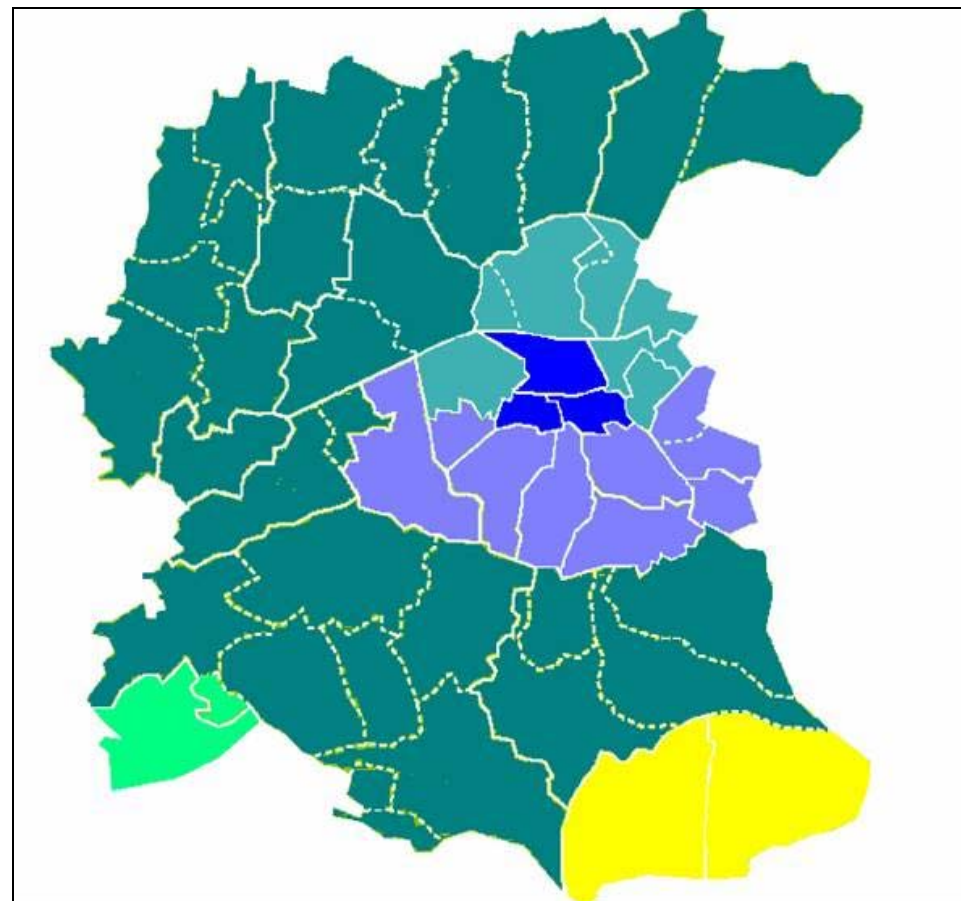
- 2.21 The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space, looking at different geographical areas across the local authority boundary (referred to as 'analysis areas' in this report), which were discussed and agreed with the Council.
- 2.22 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, and provides a geographical background to the analysis, especially where some areas are sparsely populated and rural in nature. Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2, overleaf, provide details on the analysis areas used in this study and the wards within each analysis area.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Table 2.1 Analysis area breakdown

Area 1 Central	Area 2 Urban North	Area 3 Urban South	Area 4 Rural	Area 5 Mersea	Area 6 Tiptree
Castle	High Woods	Berechurch	Birch and Winstree	West Mersea	Tiptree
Christ Church	Lexden	East Donyland	Copford and West Stanway		
New Town	St Andrews	Harbour	Dedham and Langham		
	St Annes	Prettygate	Fordham and Stour		
	St Johns	Shrub End	Great Tey		
	Mile End	Stanway	Marks Tey		
		Wivenhoe Cross	Pyefleet		
		Wivenhoe Quay	Werst Bergholt and Eight Ash Green		

Figure 2.2 Analysis area breakdown



Key: Central Urban North Urban South Rural Mersea Tiptree

- 2.23 Figure 2.1 contains the following amendments to ward boundaries, as agreed with the Council, to ensure the analysis areas reflect the local characteristics of Colchester as accurately as possible.

Mersea analysis area

- 2.24 Mersea Island is made up of two wards, West Mersea and Pyefleet, with the majority of the Island's population residing in West Mersea. Additionally, the majority of the population of the ward of Pyefleet reside in the proportion of Pyefleet located on the mainland to the north of the Island. According to the Council the Island of Mersea is perceived by local people as one whole area and has perceived open space deficiency issues as an Island.

- 2.25 To enable Mersea Island to be analysed as a whole, one analysis area called 'Mersea' was created, comprising of West Mersea and the section of Pyefleet based on the eastern half of the Island. The section of Pyefleet located on the mainland was allocated to the rural analysis area. The population of the Mersea analysis area was thus rounded up from 4.44% to 4.5% of the Borough's population accordingly and the population of Pyefleet was rounded down by the same amount.

Tiptree analysis area

- 2.26 Similarly to Mersea Island, the town of Tiptree is considered by the Council to merit separate analysis as there are perceived open space deficiency issues. However, the boundary of the ward of Tiptree does not include the whole of the town of Tiptree due to the growth of the town since ward boundaries were drawn. A significant part of the town of Tiptree falls into the ward of Birch and Winstree.

- 2.27 To enable the town of Tiptree and its surrounding area to be analysed as one complete analysis area, the boundary of the Tiptree analysis area was extended to include the section of the town of Tiptree that is within Birch and Winstree. To take account of the population living within this area, the population of Tiptree analysis area was increased by 10% and the population of Birch and Winstree was reduced by the same amount.

- 2.28 These changes were agreed with the Council in an attempt to best reflect the population settlement patterns in Colchester that differ from the exact ward boundaries.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.29 Application of the standards help to identify strategic priorities and recommendations for each typology. Step 5 is being carried out by the Council and does not form part of this report.

SECTION 3
STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strategic context

Introduction

- 3.1 It is important to consider the findings of the local needs assessment and audit within the local, regional and national context. All documents reviewed within this report have been provided by Colchester Borough Council and are considered important within the context of this study.
- 3.2 The following sets out the national, regional and local strategic context for Colchester Borough Council. Further national guidance is contained within Appendix K.

National context

- 3.3 At the national level, Planning Policy Statement One states that:

'Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.'

Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

- 3.4 Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities. These assessments should cover the distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities.
- 3.5 When planning on developing new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:
- promote accessibility from walking, cycling and transport links
 - locate sites that will contribute to town centre viability and vitality
 - avoid loss of amenity to residents
 - improve the quality of the public realm through good design
 - look to produce areas of open spaces in industrial or commercial areas
 - improve the quality of existing facilities
 - consider the safety of the people using them, ie children
 - meet the regeneration needs of areas, therefore keeping greenfield sites untouched
 - consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses
 - assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion
 - consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)

- 3.6 Sport England's aims are for a larger proportion of the population to become involved in sport and provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:
- develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England
 - encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence
 - foster, support and undertake the development of facilities
 - advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.
- 3.7 Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.
- 3.8 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:
- 'Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.'*
- 3.9 Sport England sees the planning of the spatial system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals. These are:
- taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy
 - identify opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term
 - recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations
 - the development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest
 - using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

Regional context

The Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy

- 3.10 The Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy sets out the planning and development priorities for the East of England up to 2021. It includes a diverse range of issues covering economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation and mineral extraction. The draft strategy contains a section on culture, which covers the provision and location of strategic leisure, sport, recreation, arts or tourism facilities, sporting facilities, recreation and natural resources.

Haven Gateway Sub-Region

- 3.11 The Haven Gateway 'sub-region' was identified in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England and it is one of the fastest growing areas in Britain. The Haven Gateway sub-region includes the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich, Mistley and surrounding hinterlands.
- 3.12 The Haven Gateway Partnership was established in 2001 to develop a sub-regional framework to guide development in the sub-region. The partnership includes members from Suffolk Coastal District Council, Essex and Suffolk County Councils, Babergh and Tendring District Councils and Ipswich and Colchester Borough Councils. Colchester has been identified for significant levels of growth with the challenge to provide 17,100 new houses and 14,200 new jobs by 2021. It will be important to ensure that adequate areas of quality open space and sports facilities are provided to meet the range of leisure needs of local residents and also reduce recreational pressures on sensitive European sites in the Borough. The Haven Gateway Partnership has set a number of goals including developing programmes which seek to improve the quality of life for all sections of the local community, including a Green Infrastructure Study.

Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study

- 3.13 A Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study has been commissioned to ensure that the appropriate level and range of green infrastructure facilities are being delivered as part of new developments to serve existing and new communities within the Haven Gateway sub region. This work is also intended to influence open space standards being set in new PPG 17 studies being prepared by local planning authorities within the sub growth region, as part of their Local Development Framework programmes. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is expected to be launched early in 2008.

Shaping the Future: Community Strategy for Essex (2003)

- 3.14 The community strategy for Essex was published in May 2003 and was developed through small group workshop consultation on the following nine themes:
- feeling safe
 - being healthy
 - creating opportunities
 - getting around

- being part of a community
- having a sense of place
- being served well and fairly
- conserving the environment
- having fun.

3.15 The improved provision of basic services in both urban and rural areas was identified as a priority and a prerequisite for new developments. Particular services identified included health facilities, youth facilities and sports facilities.

Local context

3.16 The Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan currently provides the framework for the consideration of planning applications. Its policies will gradually be replaced by the new Local Development Framework over the next two to three years.

Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004

3.17 The current Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan which relate to the protection or provision of open spaces and sports facilities. These include:

- Policy H1: Housing Location and Strategy
- Policy: H2 Housing Meeting Different Needs
- Policy H13: Housing Density
- Policy UEA8: The Dyke System
- Policy UEA9: Gosbecks Archaeological Park
- Policy UEA10: Registered Parks & Gardens
- Policy UEA11: Design
- Policy UEA14: Greenlinks
- Policy L1: Leisure and Entertainment Facilities
- Policy L2: Private Playing Field, Sports Ground and Open Space
- Policy L3: Public Open Space
- Policy L4: Public Open Space
- Policy L5: Open Space in New Residential Developments
- Policy L6: Open Space in Villages
- Policy L8: Allotments
- Policy L9: Colne Riverside Way

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- Policy L11: Birch Pit Water recreation
- Policy L12: New woodland for access
- Policy L13: Countryside and River Corridor Access
- Policy L14: Public Rights of Way
- Policy L15: Extensions to Public Rights of Way
- Policy L16: Noisy Sporting Activity
- Policy REC14: Access to the Countryside
- Policy C01: Protection of Open Countryside
- Policy CO2: Dedham Vale AONB.

3.18 Refer to Colchester’s Local Plan for full detail of these policies at www.colchester.gov.uk.

3.19 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the provision of Open, Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities was adopted by Colchester Borough Council in July 2006. This sets the standard of provision for public open space in Colchester for developments. The 2.83 hectare (7 acre) standard set applies to the whole Borough. However, due to the isolated nature of some settlements and potential difficulty in accessing open spaces in rural areas, this standard is applied to individual village settlements, of which there may be two or more in a single ward. In parallel with the 2.83 hectare standard, the council will aim for all the main town and village settlements to each have a multi-use recreation ground. Accordingly, 25 locations have been identified in the Open Spaces Register where there exists or it is desirable to have a recreation ground.

3.20 Section 106 contributions will be used to help provide, upgrade and maintain these areas. The standards are set out in Table 2.1 below.

**Table 2.1 Current open space provision standards
(Colchester’s Local Plan, 2004)**

Local provision	Ha/1000 existing population
Open Space - wildlife and countryside areas, woodland/shelter belts, lakes and ponds, new tree/woodland planting	1.63

Local provision	Ha/1000 existing population
Children's Play Area	per 1000 population [target 1 play area per 300 population aged 0-9 years, assuming 13% population in this age range = 0.5 factoring in catchment and physical barriers
LEAP	1.00
NEAP	0.28
11+ facility	0.28
Sports changing / ancillary	1.20
Indoor sports facilities (four court hall)	1 per 13,800 population or 0.072 per 1,000 population
Swimming (four lane pool)	1.00 per 20,650 population or 0.0484 no. per 1000 population
Allotments	0.2 ha. per 1000 population
Public art	1.00 no. per 1000 population

3.21 A key outcome of this assessment is to update these standards in line with the typologies contained with PPG17 and based on an up to date audit and local needs assessment. This strategy will also inform relevant planning policies that will be contained within the emerging Local Development Framework.

Colchester's Draft Core Strategy (2001 – 2021)

- 3.22 The Core Strategy is the first development plan document (DPD) to be prepared by the Borough Council in accordance with PPS12 (2004) as part of their new Local Development Framework programme. This strategy establishes a framework for regular review and updating of itself as well as its objectives and performance indicators to measure the success of the strategy against local, regional and national targets.
- 3.23 The Draft Core Strategy encourages renaissance of urban areas so that more people continue to live close to their workplaces, and to leisure and community facilities. The design of these, or any other, developments will be of a high quality and include integrated open space.

- 3.24 It is envisaged that leisure and educational facilities will retain their existing prominence, and be expanded where necessary. The strategy makes particular reference to strategic gaps and green wedges.

Strategic Policies in Colchester's Emerging Core Strategy

Sustainable development

- 3.25 The Strategy establishes a Settlement Hierarchy to guide development towards the most sustainable locations. These development locations will be coordinated with transport infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, shopping, employment and open space to create sustainable communities.

Community facilities

- 3.26 The Core Strategy seeks to provide excellent health, education, culture and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Colchester's growing community. The Strategy also seeks to deliver new community facilities, including the Firstsite Building (Community Arts Centre) and Community Stadium to promote active and healthy lifestyles and strive for excellence in education and culture.

Urban renaissance and public realm

- 3.27 The Core Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the existing regeneration areas and stimulate a broader urban renaissance throughout the Town Centre. The Core Strategy also seeks to protect the historic character of the Borough whilst also securing high standards of urban design in new developments. This will involve creating a high quality public realm, including parks, squares and streets, is integral to the success of sustainable communities, and is therefore a key element of the Core Strategy.
- 3.28 The Strategy seeks to improve the street environment and calm traffic in urban areas to attract residents to local shops, schools, parks and bus stops and provide improved opportunities for children's play.
- 3.29 Existing parkland and green links will be enhanced, and new open space will be acquired at appropriate locations, to meet the recreational needs of Colchester's growing community. Colchester Borough Council has identified five key regeneration areas in the Core Strategy: North Colchester, North Station, The Garrison, St Botolph's/Vineyard Gate and The Hythe in east Colchester. These areas will provide a range of new areas of open space, community facilities and high quality public realm.

Natural environment and rural communities

- 3.30 The natural environment, countryside and coastline will be conserved to protect the Borough's diverse history, archaeology, geology, and biodiversity. Development will be directed away from sites of landscape and conservation importance and land at risk from flooding. Strategic green wedges into and across the urban areas of Colchester will be protected to provide valuable areas of open space that also provide useful cycling and walking opportunities

Accessibility and transportation

- 3.31 The Core Strategy aims to focus development at accessible locations which support public transport, walking and cycling needs and reduces the need to travel and dependency on the private car.
- 3.32 Further information is available on Colchester Borough Council's new LDF and Core Strategy at www.colchester.gov.uk

Colchester's Strategic Plan 2006-2009

- 3.33 Colchester's current Strategic Plan identifies a number of key aims for the Borough up to 2009 which are relevant to this PPG17 study including:
- promoting cultural excellence by creating high quality leisure and social attractions for local people and visitors, increasing sporting facilities to serve the local community and to attract an Olympian preparation camp
 - tackling deprivation by meeting identified community goals for the six most deprived wards through the provision of better facilities, participation and volunteering, community safety, healthy living services, incomes and jobs
 - encouraging healthy living by developing a range of projects to promote and improve the health of local people through increased participation in sports and physical activities
 - tackling traffic congestion by developing a network of routes for people to use for leisure or business journeys, improving the environment of local neighbourhoods and the health of residents
 - improving opportunities for younger people by improving the range of activities and facilities available for young people.

Colchester's Sustainable Community Strategy 2020

- 3.34 Colchester 2020, Colchester's Local Strategic Partnership, published its initial Community Strategy and supporting Action Plan in December 2003. The Community Strategy has recently been reviewed and a revised strategy was launched in October 2007. Three key priorities identified in the draft Strategy: Heritage & Culture, London 2012 Games and Life Opportunities have relevance to Open Space, Sport and Recreation provision in the Borough.
- 3.35 The vision in the revised Sustainable Community Strategy 2020 is for Colchester to develop as a prestigious regional centre.
- Colchester is going to be a centre of excellence and innovation for culture, education and learning, recognised regionally, nationally and internationally
 - Colchester will become a preferred destination for visitors, for business location and for investment
 - the Council will create a sustainable environment in which people continue to enjoy high levels of health and well-being, but with modern health and social care services for those who need them.
- 3.36 In short, Colchester will be a place where people, families, their communities and businesses thrive, where everyone has an opportunity to achieve their full potential.
- 3.37 To view the Community Strategy visit www.colchester2020.com.

Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

- 3.38 A Parks and Green Spaces Strategy has been drafted and presented to the Policy Review Panel. The strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion. The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABI Space guidelines.
- 3.39 The Draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy positions open space in a national and local context and sets out a variety of policies that underpin existing and future provision. Funding is an essential factor to sustain maintenance and the presence of a clear adopted strategy strengthens the Council's position for requesting appropriate maintenance contributions to retain standards and attracting external funding to support the provision or enhancement of green space.
- 3.40 Policies are set out under the headings of quantity and quality and endorse the position that good quality green spaces are an essential element of urban neighbourhoods and make a profound contribution to the quality of life of communities. Quality green spaces make a vital contribution to delivering our ambitions of being a prestigious regional centre.
- 3.41 The Draft Strategy will be informed by the PPG17 findings and the locally agreed standards for quality and quantity. Consultation feedback will be further incorporated into the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Colchester's Play Strategy

- 3.42 The importance of play in the lives of children, young people and their families has been recognised through a variety of studies. Appropriate play provision allows children to let off steam, build social relationships and challenge their own boundaries in a constructive way. Play is essential for children's healthy development and for community cohesion. To develop their competence and self confidence when becoming young people, children need the ability to meet up with friends, visit the local park or swimming pool or shops under their own steam. Being able to have fun in public spaces and participate in cultural life is one of the hallmarks of a vibrant community.
- 3.43 The strategy was adopted in September 2007 and sets out a number of Play Strategy Statements to help deliver high quality play in a variety of forms. The strategy aims to maintain existing play areas along with securing new opportunities throughout the Borough. It also aims to obtain funding from developers and grants for improvements to existing areas for the benefit of the whole community.

Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy

- 3.44 This document provides a planning framework for the future development of pitches and ancillary facilities for the main pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey. The Sports and Playing Field Development Plan was adopted on 8 April 2004 based on survey and evaluation undertaken in 2001.

Playground Development Plan

- 3.45 This document sets out policies, objectives and future plans for equipped playground provision in the Borough. It includes standards for provision, guidelines for design and maintenance of playgrounds and identifies areas of need for new facilities
- 3.46 The current Plan was adopted in January 2001 and is due for review. The review has been delayed due to the production of the Play Strategy which will help inform the provision and delivery of equipped play areas within the Borough.

Development Plan for Sport

- 3.47 This document sets out the strategic direction for the delivery of sport in Colchester, connecting a range of different activities into one comprehensive plan, linking community sport, sports development and facility planning/site development.
- 3.48 The plan identifies the key issues and priorities and sets the framework for managing performance. The plan was adopted by the Borough Council on 31 July 2003.

Local cultural strategy

- 3.49 The development of a local cultural strategy is seen as a key instrument to help focus the cultural agenda in Colchester and the surrounding area. The strategy covers the whole spectrum of cultural interests in the area, taking into account the activities of the voluntary and private sectors and other public agencies as well as the Borough Council, adopting the wider definition of culture as defined by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport including parks and green spaces, countryside, tourism and sport, as well as arts, museums and events
- 3.50 The local cultural strategy is a plan for the area not the Council. The local cultural strategy was adopted by the Borough Council on 21 May 2003.

SECTION 4

CONSULTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Consultation and assessment of need

Introduction

- 4.1 A series of consultations have been undertaken amongst both users and non-users across the Borough to establish the views on open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 4.2 Consultations were carried out with many organisations and individuals using various methods, including:
- **a household survey** – surveys were distributed to 5,400 randomly selected households across the Borough of Colchester
 - **sports club surveys** – to all identified sports clubs in the Borough
 - **children and young people’s internet survey** – a letter and information pack was sent out to all the primary and secondary schools in the Borough, encouraging them to involve their pupils in an internet survey
 - **drop-in sessions** – held at two locations in the Borough: Tesco in Tiptree and Culver Square Shopping Centre in Colchester
 - **internal consultations** – with Council Officers from a range of departments including planning, leisure and sports development
 - **external consultations** – with parish councils and other major open space providers in the Borough to ascertain their views on open space and outdoor facilities.
- 4.3 The information gained from these consultations has been used to inform the study and to help understand:
- the needs and requirements of local residents
 - the attitudes and expectations for open space
 - good and bad points about the existing provision
 - existing open space, sport and recreation provision at a strategic level
 - the key issues/problems facing different Council departments and agencies.
- 4.4 The information collected through the consultation forms the basis of the recommended local standards.
- 4.5 Overleaf is a summary of how the consultations have been used to inform the study and where the information and statistics can be found relevant to quality, quantity and accessibility.

Household survey

- 4.6 The household survey is one of the most important features of the consultation, allowing randomly selected households to comment on quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities, as well as providing the opportunity to comment on site-specific issues. It allows non-users to be consulted, as well as users.
- 4.7 5,400 household surveys were sent to households spread across the six analysis areas of the Borough of Colchester. 419 completed surveys were returned, providing a statistically sound sample that can be used to extrapolate the views of the broader population within the Borough. A copy of the household survey can be found in Appendix C.
- 4.8 Specific questions in the household questionnaire feed into the standard setting process. For example, respondents were asked whether they consider there to be enough of each type of open space. They were also asked to explain their answer. This provides a sound, opinion-based basis for the quantity standards. It can be further analysed to assess, for example, whether a perceived lack of open space is really a need for better quality facilities or a need for additional facilities.
- 4.9 Analysis of the household survey results can be found in Appendix L.

Sports club survey

- 4.10 The sports club survey forms part of the information collected to inform standards and recommendations for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Surveys were sent by PMP to 210 sports clubs across the Colchester Borough, and some from the surrounding areas who use Colchester facilities. 55 surveys were successfully completed and returned, accounting for the following types of sports clubs:
- football (16)
 - cricket (8)
 - bowls (4)
 - tennis (3)
 - table tennis (1)
 - multi-sports club (7)
 - rugby (2)
 - martial arts (3)
 - weightlifting (1)
 - basketball (1)
 - swimming (2)
 - netball (1)
 - gymnastics (1)
 - golf (4)
 - trampoline and soft play (1)
- 4.11 A summary of the sports club survey responses can be found in Appendix L.

Children and young people's internet survey

- 4.12 In May 2007, PMP sent an information pack to all schools in the Colchester Borough inviting their pupils to complete an on-line questionnaire regarding open space and sports facilities in the Borough. The survey was based upon a standard questionnaire that has been developed through working on over 50 PPG17 studies, however, this has been amended to reflect the Borough of Colchester. The survey can be viewed in Appendix E.
- 4.13 A summary of the children and young people's survey results can be found in Appendix L.

Internal consultation

- 4.14 The internal consultation provides an overview of Council plans, the roles of officers and expectations from their perspectives. Individuals from various Council departments were consulted.
- 4.15 This also feeds into the separate sections of the report (Sections 5-15) and setting of local standards (Appendices N - P). A full list of consultees is included in Appendix L.
- 4.16 The most significant points to come out of the internal consultations were:
- new housing developments in Colchester represented the major challenge according to internal consultees. The new Community Strategy, links to the Local Plan and groups such as the East Colchester Regeneration Office all highlighted the need to provide open spaces as part of new residential areas. Additionally, ensuring that new open spaces are original and inspiring was viewed as an important consideration when planning for the future provision of open spaces
 - increasing community involvement and partnership working was seen as important. A successful example of partnership working is Colchester 2020, a group that promotes cycle networks in the Borough. Other suggestions for partnerships include a Community Trust to address community accessibility
 - perceptions of a shortage of playing pitch shortages were believed to have been addressed by the Council. Also the quality and quantity of pitches was deemed to be good. The Sports Development Plan, based around the 'hub' system of sports development, whilst having its advantages has a potentially negative effect of reducing rural access to sports facilities
 - the importance of overall strategic direction, given the level of new developments in the area, were seen as vital. This is hopefully being addressed through the Local Plan, the new Community Strategy and the Destination Development Plan (tourism in Colchester) amongst other plans
 - the protection of nature reserves and access to nature was seen as important. Budget issues that impact on maintenance, and the ever-increasing suburbanisation of Colchester means rural nature areas are under threat. Increased public land acquisition was mooted as an important and effective way of addressing this issue.

External consultation

- 4.17 A number of stakeholders external to the Council were identified as being important consultees for this study. They represent wildlife groups, local volunteer groups, the local Primary Care Trust and charities that contribute to the ongoing maintenance and improvement to areas of open space in Colchester. A full abstract of consultation responses is included in Appendix L.
- 4.18 The most significant points to come out of the external consultations were:
- there was a consensus that both the quantity and quality of open space sites in Colchester was good. Consultees pointed to the value of volunteers and volunteer groups at maintaining the quality of sites, although the loss of Council funding is something that may affect this in the future

- the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) stated their desire for the Roman Circus to be opened up into public open space. The Essex Wildlife Trust also noted a number of gravel sites that need protecting from development. This mirrors internal consultation conclusions that greater public ownership should be encouraged as a means of protecting and utilising public open space
- the rural nature of the Borough was seen as a hindrance to open space utilisation. This mirrored the concerns of the Council's sports development officer who felt rural areas may suffer from poor access to sports facilities
- Natural England noted the need to comply with new habitat regulations, in particular in relation to the Local Development Framework, where assessments will now be required for strategies as well as plans.

Parish consultation

- 4.19 Each parish council was asked to complete a survey to express their thoughts on quality and quality of the open space in their parish. This enabled analysis of areas of provision that were perceived adequate and sites that were deemed to have deficiencies. Such information sourced direct from the Parish Council can be of value in offering a source of local comparison and identifying local needs. Responses were received from 16 Parishes, as summarised in Appendix L.

Drop-in sessions

- 4.20 The drop-in sessions provided another opportunity for any member of the public to comment on open space within their local area. The sessions were advertised in the local press and by press releases and were held at Culver Square in Colchester town centre and in Tiptree village.
- 4.21 An overriding issue for local people was the lack of facilities for young people in the Colchester area, specifically for teenagers. The children's facilities were deemed to be of good quality, but provision of specific facilities for older children, such as skate parks or shelters, was deemed to be poor.
- 4.22 The major parks were deemed to be of very good general quality – specifically Castle Park and High Woods Country Park. People generally felt safe in them and the contrast between natural areas and manicured parkland was deemed to be appropriate. There were some comments with regards to litter and ancillary facilities such as cycle paths, and also a suggestion that Castle Park could be updated/modernised, but overall the parks were seen as popular places for local people.
- 4.23 The provision of sports pitches was deemed to be adequate amongst the general public, but some were unsure about the availability of Ministry of Defence (MOD) owned pitches. The new facilities, especially parking, at Shrub End were also welcomed.
- 4.24 There was a general acceptance that a number of new development sites – specifically Severalls Hospital and former MOD land – would need open space incorporated within them. There was also concern at the scale of development in general.
- 4.25 Tiptree was criticised for having no facilities for young people, and that new open space sites were not meeting the pace of new developments. Tiptree was seen as boring with suggestions for a skate park, new tennis and swimming facilities, and improved cycle lanes to connect open space sites. There was deemed to be a lack of sports pitches in the village and as a result anti-social behaviour issues had emerged.

- 4.26 Tiptree Heath was seen as a good open space and was popular with local people. Further, the amount of natural areas was seen as adequate for the local population, although the accessibility of said sites was an issue – in relation to public transport and cycle paths.

SECTION 5
INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Indoor sports facilities

Definition

- 5.1 An assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England parameters.
- 5.2 Alongside the main audit of open space, an audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken. This has included:
- sports halls
 - swimming pools
 - health & fitness
 - indoor tennis
 - indoor bowls.

Supply and demand

Demand for facilities

- 5.3 Current demand for facilities has been assessed through desk research and a review of documents, demographic analysis and an analysis of consultation findings.

Demographic analysis

- 5.4 When analysing the need and demand for sports facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure market and the impact it will have upon facility usage. An analysis of the population in the Borough is shown in Table 5.1 below:

Table 5.1 Demographic analysis

	Borough catchment
<i>Population</i>	The resident population based on the 2001 Census findings was 155,377. The proportion of males to females is 49.5% to 50.5%.
<i>Age structure</i>	According to the 2001 Census, population statistics for the area by age are broadly similar to the national averages. The major significant difference is exhibited in the 20-29 age group, making up 14.3% of the total population as opposed to 12.7% in England and Wales.
<i>Ethnic background</i>	The ethnic structure of the population shows that 96.2% are white compared to the national average of 90.9%. 0.5% of the population are black compared to the national average of 2.3% and 1.1% are Asian compared to the national average of 4.6%

	Borough catchment
Economic activity	<p>The proportion of residents in full time employment is 44.2% (compared to 39% in England and Wales). 2.1% of the local population is unemployed (compared to 2.5% in England and Wales). 11.3% of the population is retired which is above the 9.9% average for England and Wales.</p> <p>The percentage of C1 (Lower Middle Class) residents is significantly higher at 35.1% compared to the national average of 13.2%. Additionally, those classified AB (Managerial or professional) make up a significantly larger proportion of the local area population, 34.4% opposed to the national average of 30.7%.</p>
Mobility	21% of Colchester households do not own a car, which is less than the average for England and Wales of 26.8%.
Health	According to the Colchester Health Profile ¹ levels of income deprivation are relatively low for England, however, one in seven children still live in poverty. The level of obesity (20.2%) is below the national average (21.8%). The Active People Survey highlights the local participation rate of adults in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on 3 or more days a week as 22.9%, higher than the national average of 21.3%.

Colchester Borough participation rates

- 5.5 The Active People Survey is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. The survey, conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England, identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population. It involved a telephone survey of 363,724 adults in England (aged 16 plus) and includes statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354 Local Authorities in England (a minimum of 1,000 interviews were completed in every Local Authority in England).
- 5.6 The key results from this study resulting to the Borough of Colchester are shown in Table 5.2 below. The participation rates relate to the percentage of the population who take part in a minimum of three days a week of 30 minutes moderate intensity exercise. The volunteering rates relate to the percentage of the population that volunteer at least one hour per week to support sporting activity.

Table 5.2 Colchester Participation and Volunteering Rates

Area	Participation Rate	Volunteering Rate
England	21 %	4.7 %
East of England	20.5 %	4.9 %
Colchester	22.9 %	5 %

¹ www.communityhealthprofiles.info

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Area	Participation Rate	Volunteering Rate
Babergh	23 %	5.3 %
Braintree	20.9 %	5.1 %
Maldon	21 %	6.2 %
Tendring	16.2 %	3.9 %

- 5.7 Colchester's participation and volunteering rates are above both the national average and the average for the East of England. When compared to its geographical neighbours, Colchester's participation rate is second only to Babergh but its participation rate is marginally below those of Maldon, Braintree and Babergh.

Findings from consultations

- 5.8 Public consultation indicates the following opinions regarding the provision of the indoor sports facilities:
- of the people that offered an opinion, 53% thought there was a lack of swimming pool water, 44% thought the level of provision was about right and 3% thought there was more than enough
 - of the people that offered an opinion, 34% thought there was a lack of sports halls, 64% thought the level of provision was about right and 3% thought there was more than enough
 - of the people that offered an opinion, 14% thought there was a lack of health and fitness provision, 56% thought the level of provision was about right and 30% thought there was more than enough
 - of the people that offered an opinion, 54% thought there was a lack of indoor tennis provision, 43% thought the level of provision was about right and 3% thought there was more than enough
 - of the people that offered an opinion, 30% thought there was a lack of indoor bowls provision, 67% thought the level of provision was about right and 3% thought there was more than enough.
- 5.9 Examinations of the individual comments from the questionnaire for any trends reveals several responses relating to the following:
- West Mersea requiring a swimming pool
 - a lack of access to facilities at busy times due to classes taking places
 - too expensive facilities
 - the Colchester Leisureworld facility being poorly maintained and the swimming pool being overcrowded.

- 5.10 Specific comments from clubs regarding indoor facility provision are included within Appendix L, however in summary, there was general satisfaction with the overall quality of leisure services within the Colchester area. Of the non-pitch clubs responding to our questionnaire, 75% rated the quality of provision as either 'adequate' or 'good'.

Analysis of supply and demand

- 5.11 We have carried out a comparative analysis to establish the adequacy of current facility provision in meeting local demand. The process has involved three stages:
- preparation of an audit of current facilities within the Borough to establish the level of supply
 - plotting of all facilities using Mapping the Future™ to illustrate the geographical spread of facilities across the Borough
 - use of demand modelling based on national sports participation parameters used within Sport England's facilities planning model (FPM), to calculate whether the level of current supply meets demand or whether there is under or over provision.
- 5.12 PMP's supply and demand model is based around the following premise:
- there are X number of people in the catchment area who would be willing to use a particular type of sports facility (based on total population and propensity to participate in that sport)
 - at the same time, there are Y units of the relevant sports facilities (eg swimming pool water area, health and fitness stations, etc) in the catchment area
 - the relationship between X and Y indicates the surplus or shortfall in terms of number of units.
- 5.13 Supply and demand analysis has been completed for swimming pools, sports halls and health and fitness stations. Outlined below are our findings and the implications for the Borough.

Swimming pools

- 5.14 The assumptions used by Sport England and PMP in the swimming pools demand model are:
- proportion of visits during peak times is 63%
 - average duration of visits is 64 minutes
 - 'at one time' capacity = 6m² per person
 - capacity of 212m² pool (one pool unit) = 35 people
 - one pool unit = average four lane 25 metre pool.

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

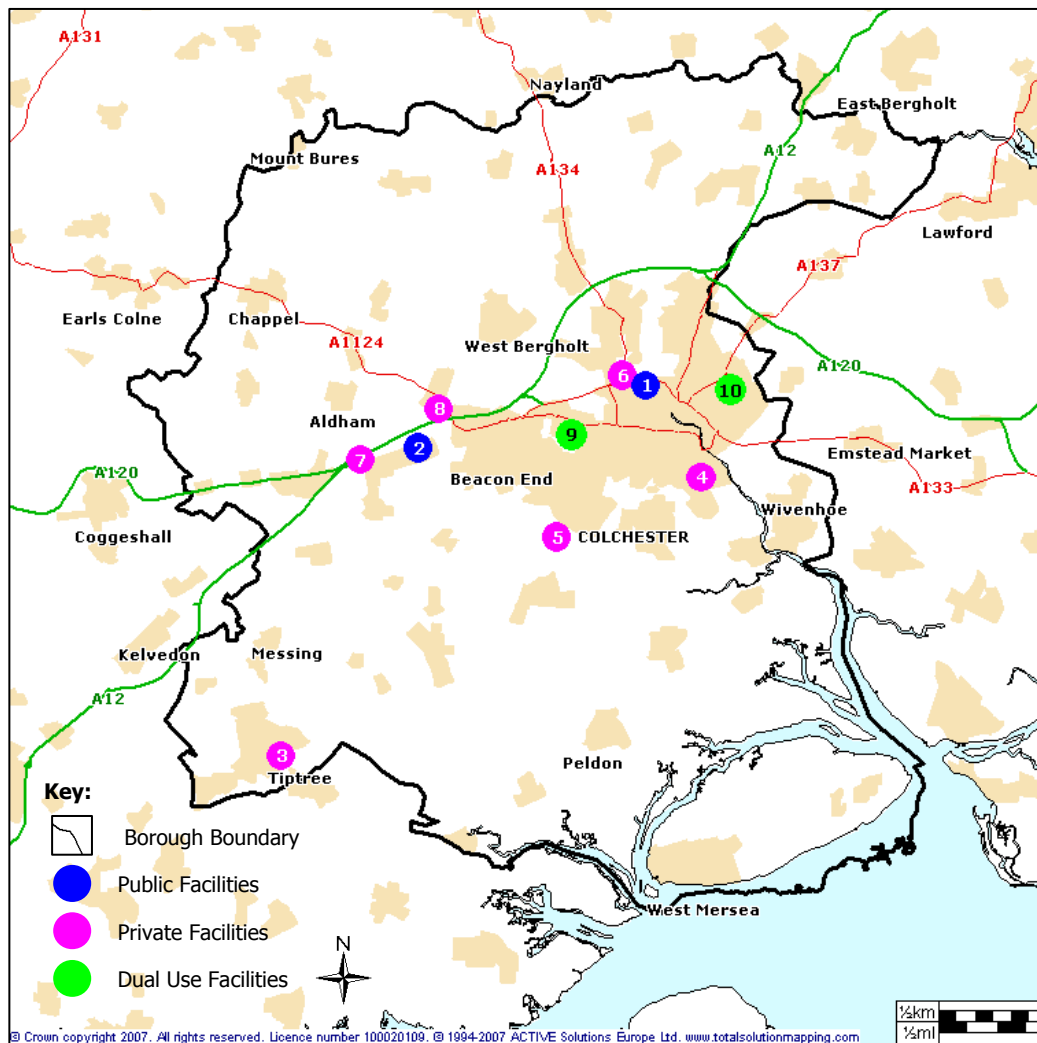
On this basis, using 2007 population information supplied by the Council, demand levels equate to a total of 1728m² of pool space within the Borough. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics also supplied by the Council, that in 2021 this demand will increase to 1996m².

- 5.15 Sport England has published a good practice tool kit on their website to assist Local Authorities in devising appropriate contributions to open space and sport/leisure provision. A facility calculator has been set up, providing an indication of the expected level of provision based on the population within the local authority boundary.
- 5.16 Based on the current population (170,800), the Sport England Facility Calculator, concurs with our demand model, revealing a current requirement for 1751sqm of water and a future requirement for 2021sqm of water by 2021.
- 5.17 Swimming pool provision within the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.1 overleaf. 10 facilities have been identified. A detailed audit of facilities is shown in Appendix M.
- 5.18 Whilst there are 10 sites within the Colchester area, six are private and therefore not included in the supply and demand modelling. Four swimming pools are included in the modelling, two public and two dual-use, which results in a current supply of 716m². See table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3 Accessible swimming pool provision in Colchester

Swimming Pool	Access	Water (sqm)
Colchester Leisure World	Public	312.5
Stanway Swimming Centre	Public	108
Colchester County High School for Girls	Dual Use	250
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	Dual Use	144
Total		814.5
25% Dual Use Access Reduction		-98.5
Total		716
<i>Future Facilities</i>		
<i>Garrison Swimming Pool (under construction)</i>	<i>Dual Use</i>	<i>400</i>

Figure 5.1 Map of existing swimming pool facilities (Colchester)



ID Site Name

- 1 Colchester Leisure World
- 2 Stanway Swimming Centre
- 3 Atlantis Health and Beauty
- 4 Bannatynes Health Club (Colchester)
- 5 Clarice House
- 6 LA Fitness (Colchester)
- 7 Lifestyle Health and Leisure Club, The Marks Tey Hotel
- 8 Spirit Health and Fitness
- 9 Colchester County High School for Girls
- 10 Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art

5.19 The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand	Supply	Oversupply/shortfall
Existing	1728m ²	716m ²	Shortfall 1012m ²
Future Scenario (2021)	1996m ²	1016m ²	Shortfall 980m ²

5.20 Active Places Power², another demand tool, considers the capacity of swimming pools to meet demand for the local population. However, this tool allows the user the option of including all swimming pools, no matter their size and access policy.

5.21 The results from Active Places Power show an over supply of swimming pools with the results revealing that 124% of the demand for swimming pools in the Borough is currently met however this should be caveated with the knowledge that this tool uses the current facility provision but the 2001 census population data whereas our in-house model uses 2007 population data, thus explaining the increased demand and the undersupply.

Sports halls

5.22 The level of demand for sports hall facilities can be determined by applying accepted sports participation rate standards (by age and gender) and peak usage parameters to the catchment population. The number of total visits during peak times is used to calculate the size of a sports hall (in badminton court units) needed to serve this demand at any one time.

5.23 The key assumptions are as follows:

- 60% visits during peak time
- average visit duration = 1 hour
- normal peak periods = 40.5 hours per week
- at one time capacity = 5 people per badminton court.

On this basis, using 2007 population information supplied by the Council, demand levels equate to a total of 49 badminton courts within the Borough. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics also provided by the Council, that in 2021 this demand will increase to 57 badminton courts.

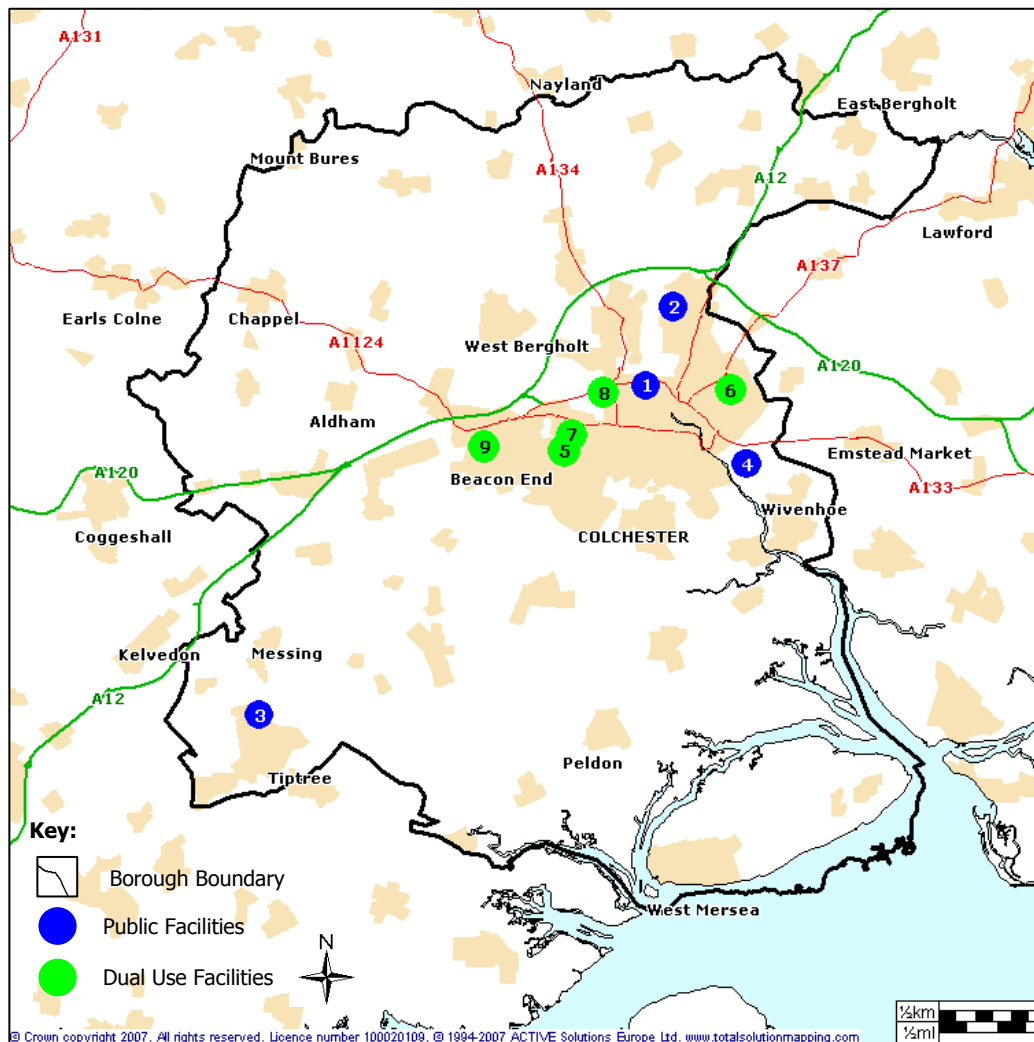
5.24 Based on the current population (170,800), the Sport England Facility Calculator, which provides another demand tool, concurs with our demand model, revealing a current requirement for 50 courts and a future requirement for 57 courts by 2021.

² Access to Active Places Power was provided by Colchester Borough Council with permission from Sport England.

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 5.25 The distribution of existing sports hall provision within the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.2 overleaf. There are nine facilities containing sports halls within the Borough.
- 5.26 Facility size and accessibility for public use are key factors taken into consideration when assessing the current level of supply.
- 5.27 Nine sports halls are included in the model and when applying the modelling assumptions regarding accessibility for dual use sites (the capacity for dual use sites is reduced by 25% to reflect the balance of school access and public access), the result is an existing supply level of 41.5 badminton courts (see table 5.5).

Figure 5.2 Map of existing sports hall facilities (Colchester)



ID Site Name

- 1 Colchester Leisure World
- 2 Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre (Gilberd School)
- 3 Tiptree Sports Centre
- 4 University of Essex Sports Centre
- 5 Philip Morant School & 6th Form College Sports Hall
- 6 Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art
- 7 St Benedicts Catholic College
- 8 St Helena School Sports Hall
- 9 Stanway School School Sports Facilities

Table 5.5 Sports halls in Colchester

Sports Hall	Access	Badminton Courts
Colchester Leisure World	Public	11
University of Essex Sports Centre	Public	6
Tiptree Sports Centre	Public	4
Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre	Public	7
St Helena School Sports Hall	Dual Use	4
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	Dual Use	4
Philip Morant School & 6th Form College	Dual Use	4
Stanway School School Sports Facilities	Dual Use	4
St Benedicts Catholic College	Dual Use	2
Total		46
25% Dual Use Access Reduction		-4.5
Total		41.5
<i>Potential Future Facilities</i>		
<i>Thomas Lord Audley School</i>	<i>Dual Use</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Garrison Physical Recreation Centre</i>	<i>Dual Use</i>	<i>2</i>

5.28 The results of the supply and demand model for sports halls, under different scenarios, are illustrated in Table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand	Supply	Oversupply/shortfall
Existing	49 badminton courts	41.5 badminton courts	Shortfall 7.5 badminton courts
Future scenario (2021)	57 badminton courts	46.75 badminton courts	Shortfall 10.25 badminton courts

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 5.29 Active Places Power considers the capacity of sports halls to meet demand for the local population. However, this tool allows the user the option of including all sports halls, no matter their size and access policy.
- 5.30 The results from Active Places Power show a slight over supply of sports hall with the results revealing that 106% of the demand for sports halls is currently met however this should be caveated with the knowledge that this tool uses the current facility provision but the 2001 census population data whereas our in-house model uses 2007 population data, thus explaining the increased demand and the undersupply.

Health and fitness gyms

- 5.31 The key assumptions for the health and fitness demand model are as follows:
- average health and fitness session is one hour
 - 65% of use is during peak times
 - average user participates 1.5 times per week or six times in a month
 - the 'at one time capacity' of a health and fitness facility is calculated using the ratio of one user per station.

On this basis, using 2007 population information supplied by the Council, demand levels equate to a total of 775 stations within the Borough. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics also provided by the Council, that in 2021 this demand will increase to 848 stations.

- 5.32 The health & fitness audit of the Borough is illustrated in Figure 5.3. There are 21 facilities within the identified and included in the model. The result is a supply level of 978 fitness stations (existing). See table 5.7 below.

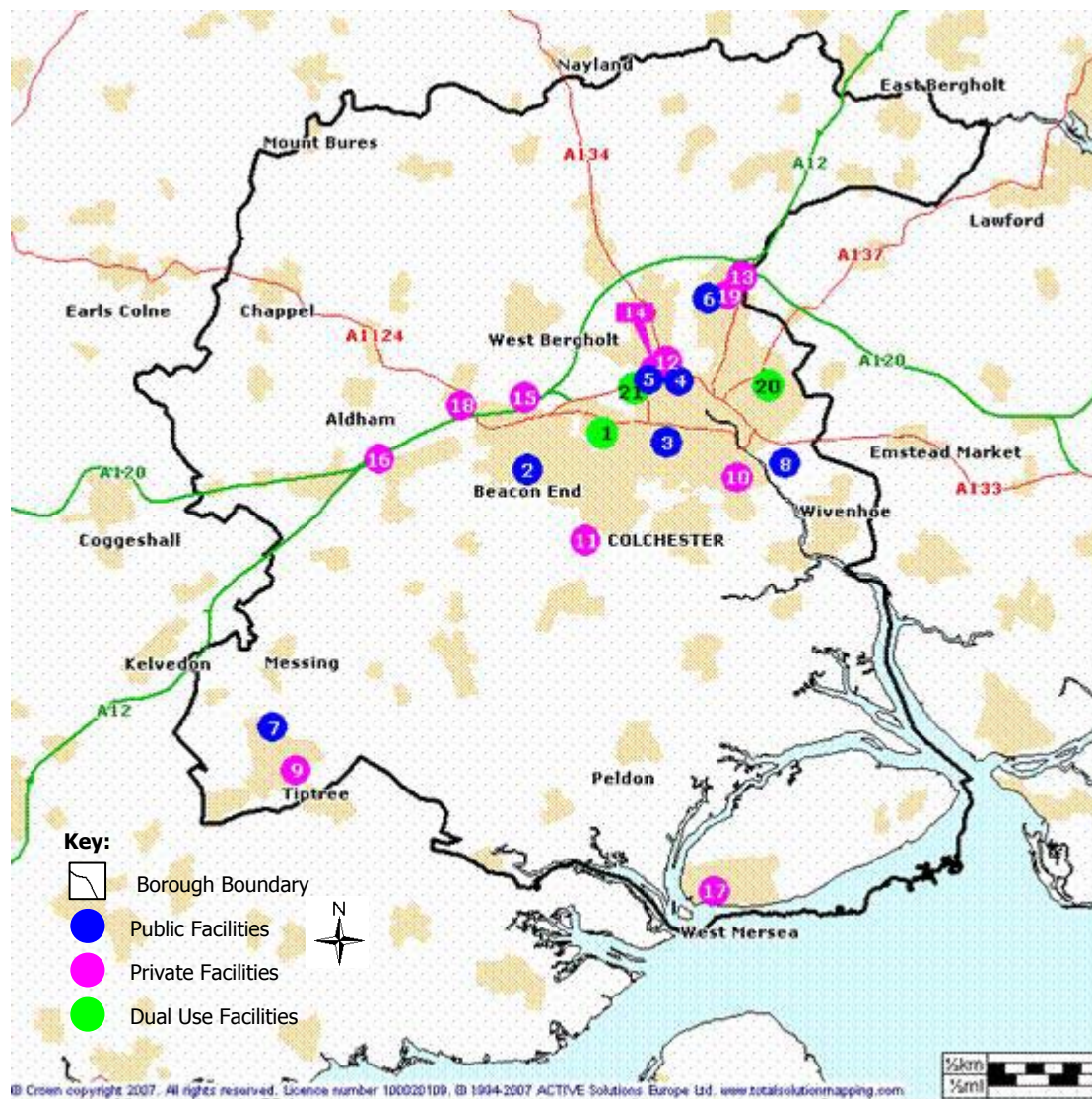
Table 5.7 Health and fitness supply in Colchester

Health and Fitness Facility	Access	Number of Stations
St Helena School Sports Hall	Dual Use	21
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	Dual Use	19
Colchester County High School for Girls	Dual Use	6
Colchester Leisure World	Public	72
University of Essex Sports Centre	Public	65
Tiptree Sports Centre	Public	24
Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre	Public	30
Arena Sports & Leisure Club	Public	45

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Health and Fitness Facility	Access	Number of Stations
Hercules Body Building and Weight Training Club	Public	25
Aerobic Mad	Public	38
Clarice House	Private	100
Bannatynes Health Club	Private	74
Atlantis Health and Beauty	Private	40
LA Fitness	Private	75
Spirit Health and Fitness	Private	20
Mersea Centre	Private	13
Fitness First Health Club	Private	100
Lexden Squash and Fitness Club	Private	20
Hamiltons Fitness Centre	Private	45
Lifestyle Health and Leisure Club, The Marks Tey Hotel	Private	40
Top Notch Health Club	Private	118
Total		990
25% Dual Use Access Reduction		- 12
Total		978

Figure 5.3 Map of existing health and fitness facilities (Colchester)



ID Site Name

- 1 Colchester County High School for Girls
- 2 Aerobic Mad
- 3 Arena Sports & Leisure Club
- 4 Colchester Leisure World
- 5 Hercules Body Building and Weight Training Club
- 6 Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre
- 7 Tiptree Sports Centre
- 8 University of Essex Sports Centre
- 9 Atlantis Health and Beauty
- 10 Bannatynes Health Club (Colchester)
- 11 Clarice House
- 12 Fitness First health Club (Colchester)
- 13 Hamiltons Fitness Centre
- 14 LA Fitness (Colchester)
- 15 Lexden Squash and Fitness Club
- 16 Lifestyle Health and Leisure Club, The Marks Tey Hotel
- 17 Mersea Centre
- 18 Spirit Health and Fitness
- 19 Top Notch Health Club
- 20 Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art
- 21 St Helena School Sports Hall

5.33 The results of the supply and demand modelling are illustrated in Table 5.5 below.

Table 5.5 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand	Supply	Oversupply/shortfall
Existing	775 stations	978 stations	Oversupply 203 stations
Future Scenario (2021)	848 stations	978 stations	Oversupply 130 stations

5.34 The supply and demand analysis shows that, whilst a higher propensity to participate in health and fitness is exhibited for Colchester compared to the national average, there is still an oversupply of health and fitness stations.

5.35 This oversupply adequately addresses the heightened local demand, therefore, the ability to justify any increase in health and fitness provision, based purely on a statistical analysis of supply and demand, is limited.

Indoor tennis

5.36 There is currently only one indoor tennis facility in the Borough (two courts at Lexden Squash and Tennis Club). Sport England will be extending its demand model in the near future to incorporate tennis. In the interim PMP has developed its own model based on assumptions from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and our prior experience. We suggest that these projections be viewed as indicative, and subject to review upon publication of the Sport England parameters.

5.37 We would note the following contributing factors:

- LTA research shows that 2% of the population regularly participates in tennis and that the average supply of indoor courts in the UK is currently 1 court per 63,000 people.
- the LTA also recommend the following demand parameters for different facility types:
 - one outdoor floodlit court per 45 regular tennis players
 - one indoor court per 200 regular tennis players.
- the LTA uses a 30min catchment (source: National Tennis Facilities Strategy (1998-2002)).

5.38 The LTA have a target drivetime of 30 minutes for indoor tennis facilities:

“the LTA will target suitable locations for both expansion of existing facilities and the building of indoor tennis centres within a 30 minute drive.” (National Tennis Facilities Strategy, LTA, 1998-2002, p12)

SECTION 5 – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 5.39 Using data from the Active People Survey results, we have estimated the number of people in the Borough with a propensity to participate in tennis. We have applied a tennis demand model developed from LTA research ('The Need for Covered Tennis Courts', LTA 1998) to quantify the level of unmet demand in the area. This model quantifies demand in terms of the number of indoor courts that should be provided to meet the LTA's stated targets.
- 5.40 The Active People Survey results for Colchester found that 2.3% of the sample surveyed in Colchester had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. The survey found that 2.2% of the regional population sample surveyed and 2.1% of the national population sample surveyed had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. We also know from national LTA research that 2% of the population play tennis regularly. Using the Active People Survey results, it is therefore reasonable to assume that around 2.3% of the adult population of Colchester play tennis regularly ie about 3151 adults.
- 5.41 Using these figures, the demand for indoor tennis courts within the local catchment area of the site is:

Local adult population	= 136,982
Number of local regular tennis players	= 2.3%
	= 3151
Number of tennis players served per indoor court	= 200
Number of indoor tennis courts required	= 3151 /200
	= 16 courts required

- 5.42 As noted previously, there are currently only two indoor tennis courts in the Borough. This would suggest that there is significant latent demand for indoor tennis facilities. We would note, however, that with other projects on which we have been engaged, the LTA's demand projections have produced figures that appear highly aspirational rather than practically deliverable. On this basis, latent demand might not be as pronounced as the modelling otherwise suggests.
- 5.43 In order to provide an alternative gauge of the level of indoor tennis provision in Colchester, we have prepared a comparison with neighbouring local authorities based on the number of courts per 1,000 population. This is provided overleaf in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6 Indoor tennis facilities in those local authorities surrounding Colchester

Authority	Population*	No. of Courts	Courts per 1,000 population
Braintree	132,179	6	0.045
Maldon	59,418	4	0.067
Tendring	138,539	2	0.014
Babergh	83,461	0	0
Colchester	170,800	2	0.012
East England#	5,388,254	170	0.03
England#	49,138,856	1,200	0.024

* Source: National Statistics

Source: Active Places (power user)

- 5.44 The table illustrates that Colchester is currently below the regional (East England) average and below the national average. By 2021, the current 14 court undersupply of indoor courts will have grown to a 16 court undersupply if current participation rates remain unchanged.
- 5.45 The three tennis clubs that responded to the sports clubs survey did not highlight any need for additional indoor courts. However two of the clubs did express the desire for their clubs to play all year round, with additional floodlighting being a suggested option. Providing additional indoor courts would enable tennis players in the local area to play all year round and would provide facilities for outdoor clubs to hire in the winter.
- 5.46 Through the consultation with the Council's Sports Development team it has emerged that there have been plans for some years to develop a commercial indoor tennis centre such as a David Lloyd Centre on the development site at Cuckoo Farm. The possibility of improving the facilities at the West End Tennis Centre to provide indoor courts in addition to the current outdoor courts is also being pursued. The Council has recognised the demand for indoor tennis facilities in the Borough and this new provision would go some way to meeting this demand.

Indoor bowls

- 5.47 For indoor bowls, PMP have applied Sport England's demand model to the Colchester Borough area. Sport England's research provides information on the levels and patterns of use of indoor bowls centres in order to define a set of parameters for its Facilities Planning Model (FPM). The results of this analysis are presented in Table 5.7 overleaf. There are currently two indoor bowls facilities in the Borough: the Colchester Indoor Bowls Club (six rinks) and the West Mersea Bowls Club (three rinks).

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- 5.48 It is important to note that the Sport England demand model does not take into consideration the accessibility of the facility – be it public or private. Sport England modelling suggests that supply of rinks in the Borough approximately meets demand.

Table 5.7 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall

Scenarios	Demand* (rinks)	Supply (rinks)	Oversupply/(shortfall)
Existing	9.75	9	0.75
2021*	11.21	9	(2.2)

**Based on standard Sport England model parameters*

- 5.49 This suggests that Colchester is already sufficiently catered for in terms of indoor bowls and there will not be a significant undersupply within the near future.

Indoor sports audit summary and conclusions

- 5.50 A summary of the supply and demand findings is set out in Table 5.8 below. These results show the current picture and predicted results taking into account population increases by 2021.

Table 5.8 Colchester Supply and Demand Modelling Results

Facility Type	Current Situation	2021 Scenario
Swimming pools	Undersupply of 1012sqm of water	Undersupply of 980sqm of water
Health and fitness	Oversupply of 203 stations	Oversupply of 130 stations
Sports halls	Undersupply of 7.5 badminton courts	Undersupply of 10.25 badminton courts
Indoor tennis	Undersupply of 14 courts	Undersupply of 16 courts
Indoor bowls	Balanced provision	Undersupply of 2 rinks

- 5.51 In summary, the audit findings illustrate that there is currently:
- a significant oversupply of health and fitness facilities, a fact supported by the public consultation results
 - enough provision of indoor bowls rinks to meet the current demand, a conclusion broadly supported by our public consultations. Additionally, Colchester's lowering age profile does not support the case for increased indoor bowls facilities in the future
 - a significant undersupply of indoor tennis courts. This fact has been acknowledged by the Council through proposals to develop a public indoor tennis centre

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- an undersupply of badminton courts, equating to approximately two sports hall. This undersupply was not perceived to be an issue in the public consultations and could be addressed by opening up more schools to dual use public access
- a significant undersupply of water, equating to the equivalent of approximately three, six lane, 25m pools. This situation will be improved slightly when the dual use centre at the Garrison opens. However, if future predicted population increases occur, the undersupply will be even greater by 2021. This information should be considered in the light of the provision of swimming pools within private membership leisure facilities within the Borough. When these pools are also considered, there is an additional 780 sqm of water available within the Borough.

5.52 The following conclusions can be drawn from the supply and demand analysis:

- public access, pay and play swimming pools are undersupplied within the Borough however when private provision is considered this underprovision is significantly reduced. These private facilities are available to the public but at the cost of a monthly membership. They provide a significant body of indoor pool water within the Borough and should be considered when making decisions on future swimming pool provision
- it is clear that new indoor tennis facilities are required in the Borough, however the level of demand stated in this report must be treated as indicative as there is no officially recognised supply and demand model for indoor tennis facilities. The proposed new development at the West End Tennis Centre or Cuckoo Farm would go some way to meeting the demand. A further assessment could be carried out after one of these facilities is operational to assess if further facilities are required
- there is no need for additional health and fitness or indoor bowls provision at the present time (findings strongly supported by the household questionnaire results)
- there is an undersupply of sports halls at the present time however this should be resolved by looking to develop increased opportunities for dual-use access at existing school sports halls.

ISF 1	The Council to consider providing new indoor tennis facilities within the Borough after the development of the proposed new courts at the West End Tennis Centre or Cuckoo Farm.
ISF 2	The Council to investigate the possibility of facilitating access to further school sports halls facilities in Colchester outside school hours.

SECTION 6
PARKS AND GARDENS

Parks and gardens

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 The PPG17 Companion Guide and the adopted definition for this study defines Parks and Gardens as urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events.
- 6.2 This type of open space often has a variety of functions and provides a wide range of benefits, e.g. ecological, educational, cultural and heritage, social inclusion and health benefits. Parks provide a sense of place for the local community, helping to address social inclusion issues within wider society and providing structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas, and social benefits associated with the interaction with the natural environment.
- 6.3 Many parks also provide sports pitches and facilities (although the actual pitch areas have been separately audited within the Outdoor Sports Facilities category). The provision of high quality local parks can be instrumental in the achievement of increased physical activity targets, ensuring that all residents are able to access local facilities for informal recreation – particularly walking.

Figure 6.1 Castle Park, Colchester



Table 6.1 Strategic context

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004</p>	<p>The current Local Plan sets out detailed planning policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan, which relate to the protection or provision of Parks and Gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UEA9: Gosbecks Archaeological Park • Policy UEA10: Registered Parks & Gardens 	<p>Formal parks such as Gosbecks Archaeological Park have been protected from development to preserve their cultural and historical value.</p>
<p>Colchester’s Draft Core Strategy (2001 – 2021)</p>	<p>The draft Core Strategy encourages renaissance of urban areas so that more people continue to live close to their workplaces, and to leisure and community facilities. The design of these, or any other developments, will be of a high quality and include integrated open space.</p> <p>The draft Core Strategy has strategic policies relating to sustainable development, urban renaissance and public realm and the natural environment and community facilities.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that leisure and educational facilities will retain their existing prominence, and be expanded where necessary. The strategy makes particular reference to strategic gaps and green wedges.</p> <p>Development locations will be coordinated with transport infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, shopping, employment and open space, to create sustainable communities.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also seeks to protect the historic and cultural characteristics of the Borough whilst also securing high standards of urban design in new developments. This will involve creating a high quality public realm, including parks, squares and streets. This is integral to the success of sustainable communities and is therefore a key element of the Core Strategy.</p>

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Document	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Colchester's Draft Core Strategy (2001 – 2021) continued		<p>Existing parkland and green links will be enhanced, and new open space will be acquired at appropriate locations, to meet the recreational needs of Colchester's growing community.</p> <p>The natural environment, countryside and coastline will be conserved to protect the Borough's diverse history, archaeology, geology, and biodiversity. Strategic green wedges into and across the urban areas of Colchester will be protected to provide valuable areas of open space that also provide useful cycling and walking opportunities.</p>
Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	The draft strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, biodiversity, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion.	The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABI Space guidelines.

Current position - quantity

6.4 For the purposes of this study, the following eleven sites have been identified, in conjunction with the Council, as being parks and gardens:

- Castle Park
- Old Heath Recreation Ground
- East Bay Park
- Victoria Esplanade
- Cudmore Grove Country Park
- Lorkin Way Park
- Grove Lake
- High Woods Country Park
- High Woods Open Space
- Wivenhoe House Park, University of Essex
- Gosbecks Archaeological Park.

6.5 In calculating the size of parks and gardens, other typologies that are located with the park, such as outdoor sports facilities and children and young people’s facilities, are excluded from the total size (hectarage). They are separately accounted for in other typologies, thereby preventing the double counting of open space provision.

6.6 Table 6.2 below summarises the breakdown of park and garden sites by analysis area.

Table 6.2 Quantity of parks and gardens

Analysis Area	Population	Hectares	Number of sites	Hectares per 1000 population
Central	21,745	32.58	3	1.5
Mersea	7,677	33.3	2	4.34
Rural	28,840	0.48	1	0.02
Tiptree	9,464	1.15	1	0.12
Urban North	46,600	149.76	2	3.21
Urban South	56,272	82.38	2	1.46
Overall	170,598	299.65	11	1.76

SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 6.7 The Urban North analysis area has half of the Borough's formal park provision, with 149.76 hectares. This is made up primarily from High Woods Country Park, which is 139.04 hectares.
- 6.8 The Urban South analysis area has 82.38 hectares, which includes the Gosbecks Archaeological Park (65.1 hectares). The Central area has 32.58 hectares of parkland and includes Castle Park (24.08 hectares).
- 6.9 Tiptree has a single park at Grove Lake. Mersea has one site within the town of West Mersea, as well as Cudmore Grove Country Park to the east of the island, which has been included within the Mersea analysis area. There is one identified park in the Rural analysis area, Lorkin Way Park in West Bergholt.
- 6.10 The main comments arising from the consultations are as follows:
- 58.2% of the household responses indicated that the provision of parks and gardens in the Borough is either about right or more than enough
 - 39.1% of responses indicated that there is not enough parks and gardens provision in the Borough
 - 40.7% of household respondents indicated that parks and gardens are their most frequently visited type of open space, thus making it the most popular open space typology in the Borough
 - when asked about the quantity of open space available, 69% of respondees to the children and young people survey responded 'good' with a further 25% responding 'fair'. However, it should be noted that this related to all open space types rather than parks and gardens in particular.

Current position - quality

- 6.11 The quality of parks in Colchester borough is summarised in Table 6.3 below. Detailed comments from each site assessment can be found in the Access database that accompanies this study.

Table 6.3 Parks and gardens quality scores

Analysis Area	Number of Sites	Range of Scores %	Average Score %
Central	3	58 - 76	67
Mersea	2	64 - 76	70
Rural	1	82	82
Tiptree	1	71	71
Urban North	2	65 - 66	65
Urban South	2	71 - 87	79
Overall	11	58 - 87	71

- 6.12 The main comments that can be derived from Table 6.3, and the consultations are:
- the quality of Colchester Borough's parks and gardens are deemed to be good. Although there is some variance in the quality scores identified above, the average score of 71% is good
 - 72.9% of household responses indicated that the quality of parks and gardens was good. Only 4.2% said overall quality was bad. When this is broken down by analysis area, the results are similar, with the possible exception of Tiptree, whose responses reflected slightly more dissatisfaction with site quality. In Tiptree, 64.5% of park sites were deemed to be good and 12.9% were deemed to be poor. However, this result still reflects a perception of good quality amongst the public
 - the overall quality of open spaces within the Borough was rated as good or fair by 90% of the respondees to the children and young people's survey
 - key issues raised during consultation relate to cleanliness, maintenance and layout of flowers/trees. Formal consultation sessions indicated that the role of cyclists needs greater clarity, especially in Castle Park. There was also a perception amongst some respondees that Castle Park needs modernising
 - Castle Park and High Woods Country Park were seen as popular sites that are well maintained with a high level of use amongst the public.

Current position – accessibility

- 6.13 Alongside natural and semi-natural areas (Section 8), parks and gardens were the most frequently used open space typology, with 58.8% of respondents indicating they used sites more than once a month. Only 8.3% indicated that they never use parks and gardens.
- 6.14 Household questionnaire responses indicated that people would be willing to travel up to 15 minutes to a park and garden (75% of the respondees), with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time, except in the rural areas. The general perception (75% level) is that a walk time of up to 15 minutes is reasonable, a view that is reflected in both the urban and rural analysis areas. The majority of people in the rural areas indicated a preference for driving rather than walking.
- 6.15 These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 56% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 75th percentile falling in the 11-15 minutes category.
- 6.16 Parks and gardens were surprisingly not amongst the most popular types of open space for children and young people, as highlighted through the internet survey. The most frequently visited sites were play areas. These are often located in parks and gardens so this may explain why few children and young people selected parks and gardens.
- 6.17 The vast majority of pupils walked to the open space that they visited most often (61%). The next most popular mode of transport was cycling (28%).
- 6.18 The majority of children and young people questioned were not willing to travel more than 10 minutes to an open space site with 53% indicating less than five minutes travel time and 25% indicating less than 10 minutes.

Setting local standards

- 6.19 In setting local standards for this typology there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through the consultation on local needs.
- 6.20 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 6.21 These standards have then been applied to Colchester Borough in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action. This section deals with parks and gardens in isolation, although analysis in conjunction with other open space typologies (notably NSN and AGS sites) is necessary to give a more comprehensive picture of public open space provision.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.76 hectares per 1000 population	1.76 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is 1.76 ha per 1,000 population in Colchester Borough. The spread of parks across the town of Colchester is relatively uneven. There are significant pockets of deficiency, particularly to the east of the town centre. There is significant variation in the size of these parks, with High Woods Country Park dominating the Urban North area. Gosbecks Archaeological Park is considered to be an important park as it represents the only formal park space for the surrounding area in the western edge of the town.</p> <p>Despite this locational deficiency, the responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in the Borough. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of a quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Colchester Borough. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens but also address locational deficiencies in provision in areas that do not meet the Borough wide standard (discussed below in the <i>applying standards</i> section). Moreover, given the population growth that is anticipated to 2021, it will be important for the Council to enhance accessibility to existing parks and gardens – for example by improving routes to them, access points to the individual sites, as well as maintaining quality standards in the face of likely increasing visitor numbers as the population grows.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>All parks to be maintained to Green Flag standard.</p> <p>Implementation of Park Management Plans.</p> <p>All sites to be clean, well maintained and have good provision of flowers and trees.</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>All parks to achieve Green Flag status.</p> <p>All new parks to be linked to other open spaces via cycle routes.</p> <p>Larger sites to provide well maintained toilet facilities.</p>
Justification	
<p>A quality standard has been devised which reflects both aspirations and concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG17) and also the Green Flag Award criteria (the national benchmark).</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of parks across the Borough the Council must achieve a quality standard that will ensure consistency and high quality provision. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained parks are key elements of good urban design and are fundamentally important in delivering places in which people want to live. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Castle Park and High Woods Country Park should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks.</p> <p>The most significant problem currently experienced at parks and gardens is their misuse. In many instances, play facilities are provided within existing parks and gardens. As a consequence, it could be argued that the achievement of the quality standard for these parks (and the delivery of high quality green spaces) will be influenced by the corresponding delivering of high quality play areas and sites for young people within them as addressed in Sections 5 and 6.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
<p>15 minute urban walk time (960m)</p> <p>15 minute rural drive time</p>
Justification
<p>Household questionnaire responses indicated that people would be willing to travel up to 15 minutes to a park and garden, with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time, except in the rural areas. The general perception (75% level) is that a travel time of up to 15 minutes is reasonable, a view that is reflected in both the urban and rural analysis areas. The majority of people in the rural areas indicated a preference for a drive time rather than a walk time.</p> <p>These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 56% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 75th percentile falling in the 11-15 minutes category. A 15-minute urban walk time is in line with the majority of PPG17 accessibility standards set by PMP on similar projects for local authorities.</p> <p>It is important to seek to enhance the accessibility of all existing parks, for example by promoting new entrance points or better routes to them and/or information, publicity and signage.</p> <p>In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed park and garden standard should be considered in the context of other open space standards set. Those living with access to alternative open space sites may not necessarily need access to a formal park.</p>

Applying the standards

- 6.22 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 6.23 The future level of provision required across Colchester Borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 6.4. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

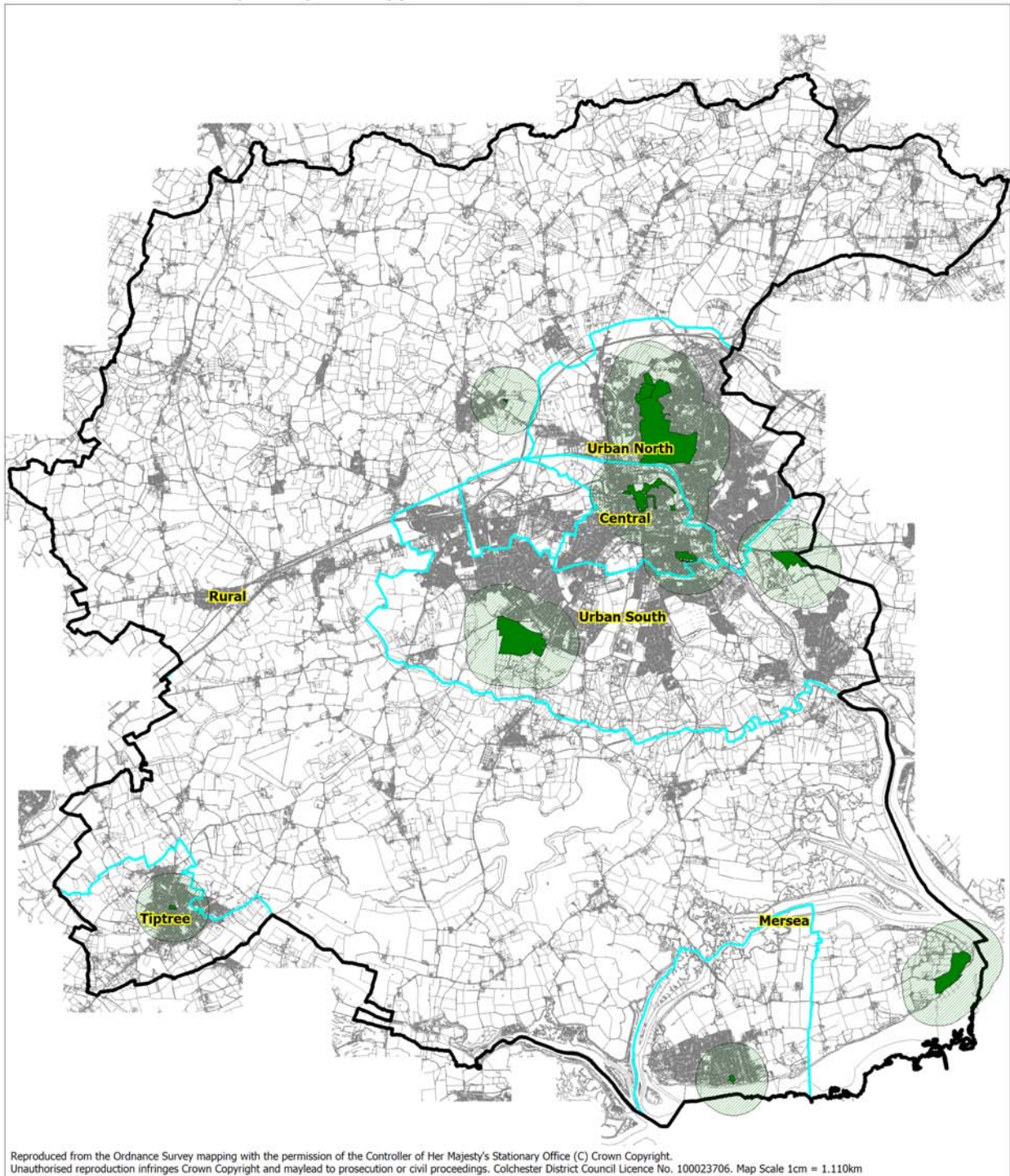
Table 6.4 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Colchester Borough

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021
Central	21,745	1.50	1.76	- 5.69	- 11.50
Mersea	7,677	4.34	1.76	19.79	17.74
Rural	28,840	0.02	1.76	- 50.28	- 57.99
Tiptree	9,464	0.12	1.76	- 15.51	- 18.04
Urban North	46,600	3.21	1.76	67.74	55.29
Urban South	56,272	1.46	1.76	- 16.66	- 31.70
Total	170,598	1.76	1.76	- 0.60	- 46.19

- 6.24 Whilst this table provides a starting point for the quantitative application of the local standards, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of parks and their geographical relationships to one another. As the household questionnaire indicates, parks are major facilities that may attract a significant proportion of their users from across the authority and potentially from outside the Borough.
- 6.25 Castle Park and High Woods Country Park are Colchester’s premier parks and are of strategic significance in the local authority area. They attract high numbers of users, both from within Council boundaries and from further afield.
- 6.26 Figure 6.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Colchester Borough’s parks and the catchment areas these sites serve.

Figure 6.2 Parks and gardens provision and accessibility catchments

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Parks and Gardens



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	Parks and Gardens 	District 	Landline 	
	Catchment - Parks and Gardens (720m buffer) 	Analysis Areas 		

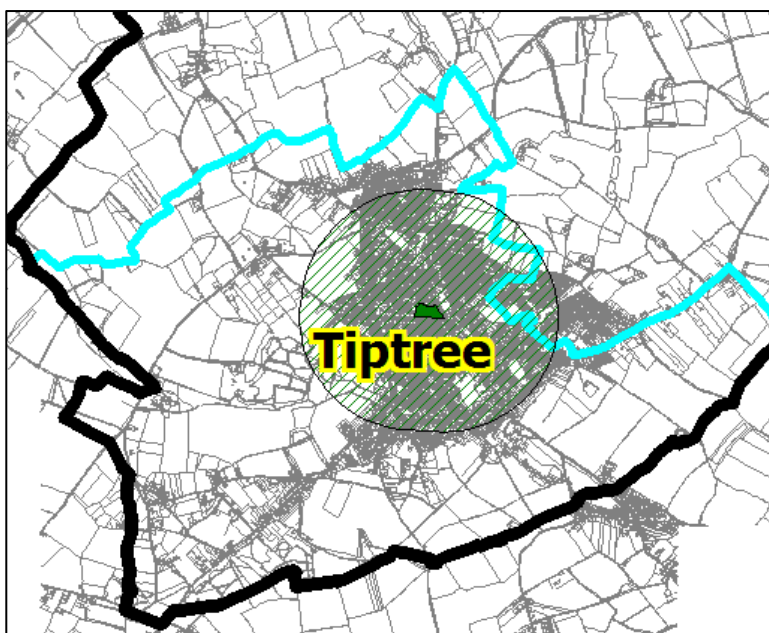
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- 6.27 Invariably, the delivery of new park sites will be opportunity led, based on large-scale regeneration schemes or the re-designation of existing open space sites. There will not always be clear opportunities to provide new facilities in areas that are currently outside of the accessibility thresholds. In these instances the Council should consider introducing smaller pocket parks. Additionally, it is increasingly important to look at what other open space opportunities exist within these areas – particularly amenity green space. There may be opportunities to upgrade sites to park status through improving site quality.
- 6.28 The main issues to arise from a Borough wide assessment of the accessibility of parks in Colchester are summarised for each analysis area below.

Tiptree

- 6.29 The Tiptree analysis area only has one park and garden, Grove Lake, providing only 0.12 ha of parkland per 1000 people. However in terms of accessibility, the local population is well served by this park, with the majority of the town covered by the urban walk time catchment.
- 6.30 Figure 6.3 illustrates that small areas on the northern, eastern and southern fringes of the town are not within the walk time catchment. However there is not sufficient population in these fringe areas to justify new park provision. The next step is to consider other open spaces (such as amenity green space and natural and semi-natural areas), which may be able to meet a need for informal open space in these areas.

Figure 6.3 Parks and gardens accessibility in Tiptree



- 6.31 Analysis of natural and semi-natural and amenity green space provision reveals that they are both underprovided in Tiptree against the suggested standards for provision, despite the presence of Tiptree Heath, a large area of natural and semi-natural land, within the analysis area. However, two large areas of natural and semi-natural land fall just outside of the Tiptree analysis area to the north east, Layer Wood and Pods Wood.

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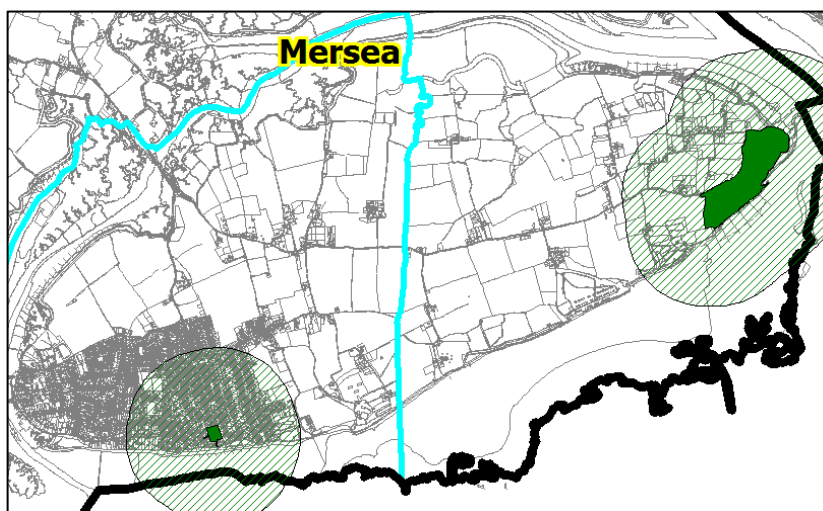
- 6.32 Analysis shows that the majority of people within Tiptree are within 15 minutes walk of some accessible open space ie a park, an area of natural land, or an amenity greenspace. However, the overall level of provision is deficient so the Council should endeavour to provide additional open space within the area if possible, ideally within the south of the town. The drop in session results from Tiptree support this, where residents expressed opinions regarding a lack of parks and amenity areas. Additionally, the Parish Council response expressed a perceived lack of all open spaces except for natural and semi-natural sites.

PG 1	Seek additional park and garden/amenity green space site in Tiptree. Provision should be focussed on the south of the town if possible.
PG2	Saw Mill Sand and Gravel Pit (known as Tiptree Quarry), in the south west of the Borough is currently informally used for dog walking by local residents. The quarry is still in operation however the opportunity to formalise and improve the quality of this site for public access should be investigated further as it provides a key strategic natural and semi-natural site in the south west of Tiptree.

Mersea

- 6.33 There is a significant deficiency of parks and gardens in Mersea. Victoria Esplanade is the only park and garden, provided within the town of West Mersea. The park's 15 minute walktime catchment area only covers approximately 50% of the town, leaving half of the town without an accessible park. The area to the west of the town has no formal park provision.
- 6.34 Cudmore Grove Country Park skews the quantity figures in Mersea. The overall provision of parks and gardens for the island is 4.34 hectares per 1000 people, significantly above the recommended standard of 1.76 hectares per 1000 people. In reality, Cudmore Grove is located on the east corner of the island and can only conveniently be accessed by car. If Cudmore Grove is excluded from the analysis the town of Mersea only has 1.59 hectares of parks and gardens (0.21 hectares per 1000 people).

Figure 6.4 Mersea Parks and Gardens Accessibility Map



SECTION 6 – PARKS AND GARDENS

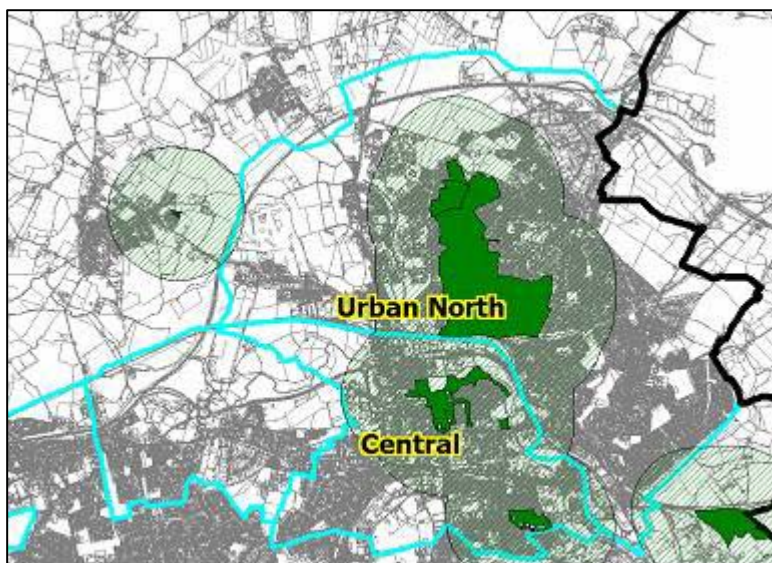
- 6.35 Parks and gardens should be analysed in conjunction with amenity green spaces and natural and semi-natural sites that may have dual functionality. The level of natural and semi-natural land within Mersea (analysed in detail in Section 8) is significantly below the quantity provision recommended, with the west of the town not having any accessible natural and semi-natural provision. This is supported by the views of the Parish Council, which believes that the area is significantly underprovided for. The underprovision of natural and semi-natural open space within Mersea is slightly offset by the beach between East and West Mersea, which offers opportunities for informal recreation.
- 6.36 The level of amenity green space provided in West Mersea per 1000 people is above the average level of provision throughout the whole Borough, however the west of the town does not have any accessible amenity green space. The only accessible open space for the west of the town of Mersea is Mersea Beach and there does not appear to be any obvious opportunities to convert existing sites into parks. The significant open space site in Mersea is a mix of natural and semi-natural and amenity greenspace land at Barfield Road. This site is strategically important due to its central position and multi functionality and should be protected and enhanced where possible.

PG 3	Attempt to provide an additional park/amenity green space within the western end of West Mersea. If no sites exist, protect and enhance the existing open space provision at Barfield Road and Victoria Esplanade as a minimum.
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Urban North

- 6.37 The Urban North analysis area has a level of provision of parks and gardens above the recommended minimum quantity standard. This is as a result of High Woods Country Park, which, along with two adjoining sites, provides all of the 150 hectares of parks and garden provision within the analysis area.
- 6.38 In terms of accessibility, the areas to the west and east of the analysis area appear to be undersupplied with parks and gardens (see Figure 6.5 overleaf). In reality, the area to the west has access to both Hilly Fields and Cymbeline Meadows, which are large natural and semi-natural areas that can provide dual-functionality as accessible open spaces for the residents of the area.

Figure 6.5 Urban North parks and gardens accessibility map



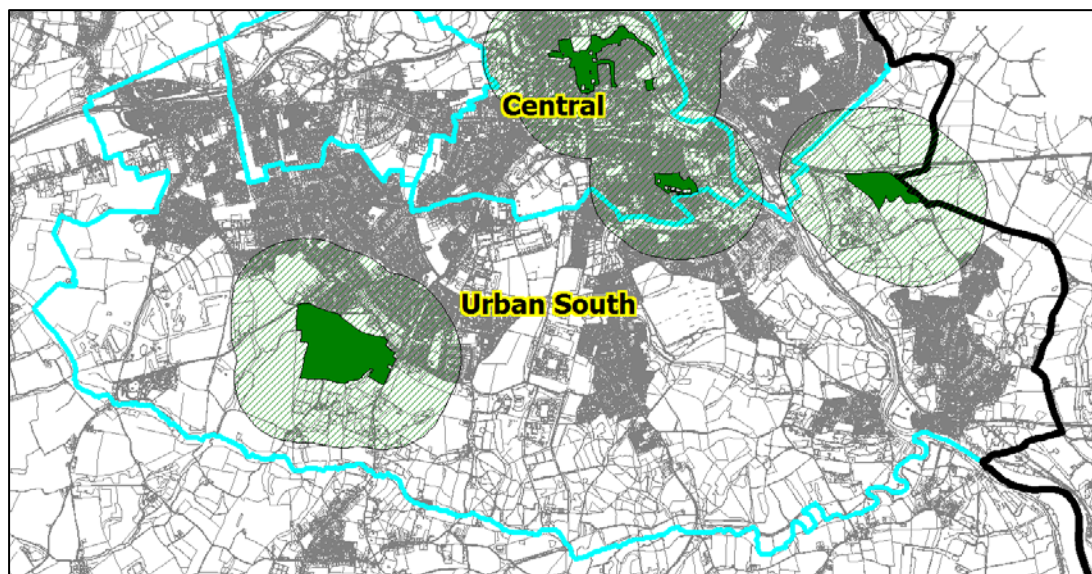
- 6.39 Amenity green space is significantly oversupplied compared to the recommended standard and provides accessible open space for the eastern area of the analysis area that does not have an accessible park. For example, there are several amenity green space sites in the area around Greenstead Slopes that provide the same functionality as a park for this area. Opportunities should be sought to upgrade one or more of these amenity green space sites to include some park/garden functionality.

PG 4	Seek opportunities to upgrade one or more of the amenity green space sites in the Greenstead Slopes area to include some park/garden functionality
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Urban South

- 6.40 The Urban South analysis area has two significant parks and gardens, Gosbecks Archaeological Park and the Wivenhoe House Park at the University of Essex. In quantity terms, the area is not significantly below the recommended quantity standard (provision of 1.46 hectares per 1000 people as opposed to the recommended standard of 1.76 hectares per 1000 people). However, Figure 6.6 overleaf highlights that there are significant accessibility gaps in the provision of parks and gardens.

Figure 6.6 Urban South parks and gardens accessibility map



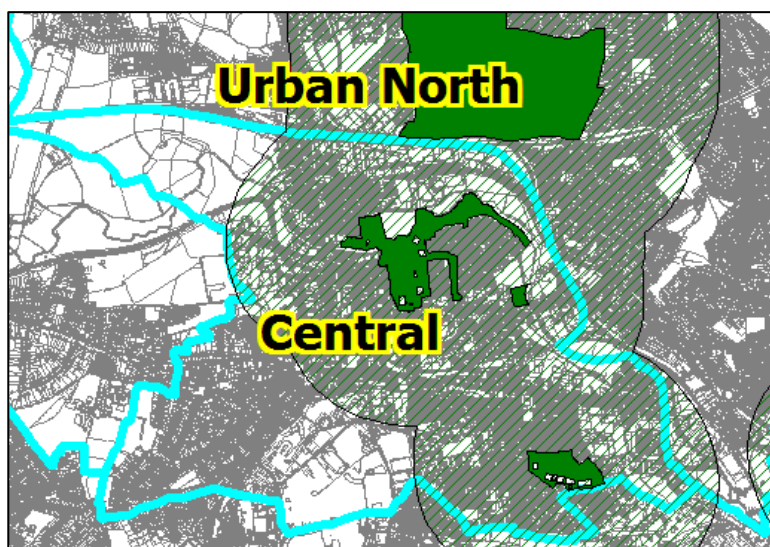
- 6.41 When looking across typologies in the Urban South analysis area, it can be seen that most of the local population has access to some form of multi-functional open spaces provision ie parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural or amenity greenspace. In terms of quantity, natural and semi-natural provision is close to the recommended standard at 7.71 hectares per 1000 people (this is the second highest level of provision across the analysis areas, second only to the rural area). Additionally, amenity green space provision is already above the recommended quantity standard.
- 6.42 The west of the analysis area contains an area of natural and semi-natural green space near the Lakelands development which is currently used as informal open space. However, it is earmarked for development in the very near future so has not been included within the audit. Development has already started in this area and there is no park or garden within the local accessibility catchment area. As this development increases in the area and envelopes the natural and semi-natural land, it will be important that a park and garden or equivalent multi-functional amenity green space is provided by the developers in line with the scale of the development.

PG 5	Ensure that the development at Lakelands provides an acceptable park and garden or equivalent accessible open space in line with the recommended quantity and quality standards.
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Central

- 6.43 The Central analysis area provides 1.5 hectares of parks and gardens per 1000 people. The majority of this provision is through Castle Park, Colchester town’s main, central park. This level of underprovision is not significant. However the level of natural and semi-natural provision is also below the recommended quantity standard and the level of amenity green space is significantly below the recommended quantity standard.

Figure 6.7 Central parks and gardens accessibility map



6.44 Figure 6.7 shows that the accessibility gaps for parks and gardens in the central area are to the north west and south west of the analysis area. Residents in the south west area have access to a significant area of natural and semi-natural land at Abbey Field and sports pitches at Abbey Fields and Napier Road Sports Ground. Thus, they have access to public open space.

6.45 The area to the north west of the analysis area is not populated so does not require additional parks and garden provision. Indeed, this area is a natural and semi-natural area (Hilly Fields) almost in its entirety. This provision of natural and semi-natural open space and the status of Castle Park as a major town attraction means that the minor shortfall of parks and gardens in this area is not a significant issue.

Rural

6.46 The Rural analysis area has a low level of parks and gardens. However, this is to be expected as the small nature of the settlements and the high level of natural and semi-natural land negates the need for significant provision of parks and gardens.

6.47 Significant settlements in the rural area that do not have access to formal parks and gardens include Marks Tey, Stanway, Abberton and the western half of West Bergholt. However these settlements all have access to amenity green spaces or natural and semi-natural areas within the recommended accessibility catchment areas.

Summary

6.48 A summary of the recommendations for parks and gardens is provided below.

PG 1	Seek additional park and garden/amenity green space site in Tiptree. Provision should be focussed on the south of the town if possible.
PG2	Saw Mill Sand and Gravel Pit (known as Tiptree Quarry), in the south west of the Borough is currently informally used for dog walking by local residents. The quarry is still in operation however the opportunity to formalise and improve the quality of this site for public access should be investigated further as it provides a key strategic natural and semi-natural site in the south west of Tiptree.
PG 3	Attempt to provide an additional park/amenity green space within the western end of West Mersea. If no sites exist, protect and enhance the existing open space provision at Barfield Road and Victoria Esplanade as a minimum.
PG 4	Seek opportunities to upgrade one or more of the amenity green space sites in the Greenstead Slopes area to include some park/garden functionality.
PG 5	Ensure that the development at Lakelands provides an acceptable park and garden or equivalent accessible open space in line with the recommended quantity and quality standards.

SECTION 7
AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Amenity green space

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the definition and background of the typology, strategic context, consultation and current provision. Recommended local standards have been established and applied. It also includes recommendations for the future development of amenity green space within the Borough.
- 7.2 This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity green space provides more of a visual amenity for older residents and a meeting place for young people.
- 7.3 There are a number of benefits in providing this type of open space including recreation value, a meeting place and/or focal point for communities. It is also important to recognise and take account of the secondary functions of amenity green space, in particular the visual benefits.
- 7.4 Amenity green spaces can play an integral role in increasing participation in physical activity across the borough, providing local opportunities to participate in activity and informal sport.
- 7.5 Table 7.1 overleaf considers the strategic context for amenity green spaces.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Table 7.1 Strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004</p>	<p>The current Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan which relate to the protection or provision of open spaces that have amenity value. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy H1: Housing Location and Strategy • Policy: H2 Housing Meeting Different Needs • Policy L6: Open Space in Villages • Policy L3: Public Open Space • Policy L4: Public Open Space • Policy L5: Open Space in New Residential Developments 	<p>Amenity green spaces provide a number of functions, including visual amenity. This is especially important in the context of the urban areas of Colchester, where amenity green spaces can help to break-up the urban texture of an area. This will be considered within the analysis of provision for this typology.</p> <p>Open space of at least 0.2ha (1/2 acres) in size ought to be located within a 400m (1/4 mile) distance of all homes - Colchester Local Plan</p>
<p>Colchester's Draft Core Strategy (2001 – 2021)</p>	<p>The draft Core Strategy encourages renaissance of urban areas so that more people continue to live close to their workplaces, and to leisure and community facilities. The design of these, or any other, developments will be of a high quality and include integrated open space.</p> <p>The Strategy establishes a Settlement Hierarchy to guide development towards the most sustainable locations. These development locations will be coordinated with transport infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, shopping, employment and open space to create sustainable communities.</p>	<p>Amenity green spaces can fulfil a number of purposes. Whilst its primary purpose is to offer accessible informal green space, it can also provide areas for children, meeting places, informal kick-about areas and/or opportunities to formalise into other types of space including natural spaces and formalised park facilities.</p>

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Colchester's Draft Core Strategy (2001 – 2021)	<p>The Core Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the existing regeneration areas and stimulate a broader urban renaissance throughout the Town Centre. The Core Strategy also seeks to protect the historic character of the Borough whilst also securing high standards of urban design in new developments. This will involve creating a high quality public realm, including parks, squares and streets and is integral to the success of sustainable communities.</p> <p>Existing parkland and green links will be enhanced, and new open space will be acquired at appropriate locations to meet the recreational needs of Colchester's growing community.</p>	<p>This will be considered in light of existing standards and recommended standards and analysis of their application in relation to other types of open space.</p>
Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	<p>The strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion. The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABE Space guidelines.</p> <p>Policies are set out under the headings of quantity and quality and endorse the position that good quality green spaces are an essential element of urban neighbourhoods and make a profound contribution to the quality of life of communities. Quality green spaces make a vital contribution to delivering our ambitions of being a prestigious regional centre.</p>	<p>A structured approach to green space planning will integrate amenity green space with other typologies such as parks and gardens and natural/semi natural areas to provide a clearer reflection on the public's access to open space.</p>

Current position – quantity

- 7.6 The provision of amenity green space (AGS) should be closely linked with the provision of other types of open space such as parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural areas in each analysis area, as both fulfil similar roles in terms of providing recreational open space. For example, Castle Park is likely to provide the same amenity function as an amenity green space to local residents, and therefore should be included in the amenity green space analysis for that surrounding locale. In areas without park provision, amenity green space will have increased significance in providing local recreational opportunities for residents.
- 7.7 There are 124 identified amenity green space sites in the borough of Colchester. Current provision is summarised by analysis area in Table 7.1 below alongside parks and garden provision.

Table 7.1 Amenity green space in Colchester Borough

Analysis Area	Pop	AGS (total ha)	AGS (ha per 1,000 pop)	Parks and Gardens (total ha)	AGS and Park and Garden provision (ha per 1,000 pop)
Central	21,745	0.92	0.04	32.58	1.54
Mersea	7,677	6.59	0.86	33.3	5.2
Rural	28,840	24.46	0.85	0.48	0.86
Tiptree	9,464	5.49	0.58	1.15	1.28
Urban North	46,600	55.77	1.2	149.76	4.41
Urban South	56,272	49.41	0.88	82.38	2.34
Overall	170,598	150.15	0.84	299.65	2.64

- 7.8 The provision of amenity green space is greatest in the Urban North analysis area (per 1,000 population), where it is above the overall Colchester Borough average of 0.84. Mersea, Rural and the Urban South analysis areas have provision very close to the average. Tiptree’s amenity green space provision per 1,000 population is slightly lower at 0.58 per 1,000 population.
- 7.9 The most striking result is that the provision in the Central area is extremely low at only 0.04 per 1,000 population. However, the inclusion of parks and gardens (comprising of Castle Park) increases the provision of accessible open space in this area. Similarly, by including parks and gardens in this analysis, both Mersea and Urban North areas have very good provision at 5.2 and 4.41 per 1,000 population respectively. However, the Mersea figure is skewed by the inclusion of Cudmore Grove Country Park.
- 7.10 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, quantity and accessibility deficiencies need to be considered in parallel.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 7.11 Household questionnaire results indicate an even split between whether people feel there is enough amenity green space (41%) or not (51%), with a slight tendency in responses towards there being an undersupply. Usage data was almost uniformly split between regular users, infrequent users and non-users.
- 7.12 Urban North, Urban South and Rural analysis area results mirror the overall results outlined above. Results for the Central region are more equal (46.6% indicating provision was enough, 44.4% indicating more was needed). Based on 32 responses from Tiptree residents, only 28.1% felt there was enough amenity green space, compared with 58.4% who felt more was needed. Only 15 questionnaires were completed from Mersea residents and therefore results cannot be deemed to be statistically significant.
- 7.13 The children’s IT survey indicated that the most popular open space visited was play areas (30%) followed by amenity green spaces (29%) and grass pitches (13%). 90% of respondents stated that they use open space near to where they lived. These sites were visited regularly, with 75% indicating they visited once a week or more.
- 7.14 As already outlined, amenity green space sites often have visual amenity value that supersedes usage value, and therefore usage responses may not accurately reflect the true value of these spaces to communities.

Current position - quality

- 7.15 The quality of amenity green space sites across Colchester is summarised below in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2 Quality of amenity green spaces in Colchester Borough

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores (percentage)	Average Scores (percentage)
Central	2	35.6 – 66.7%	51.2%
Mersea	9	42.2 – 80%	55.4%
Rural	21	35.6 – 77.8%	52.2%
Tiptree	6	35.6 – 53.3%	47%
Urban North	35	40 – 82.2%	61%
Urban South	51	35.6 – 75.6%	57.9%
Overall	124	35.6 – 82.2%	58%

- 7.16 Table 7.2 above, and consultation results, have indicated to us the following:
- there was significant variation in the quality of open space sites across the borough as a whole. This reflects the fact that usage and maintenance of amenity green space sites are liable to differ significantly between areas

- household survey results support this theory, where 59% of respondents perceived the quality of amenity green space sites to be average. This compares unfavourably with both parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural sites, where 73% and 60% (respectively) felt quality was good
- only 2% of household survey respondents indicate that they use amenity green space sites frequently, thus pointing to the visual amenity value of the sites, as opposed to the usage value
- important issues for residents arising out of the household survey were mainly based around problems with litter. This was supported by the Tiptree drop-in session where litter was seen as a major concern for residents. It was noted also that sites in general lacked character and that natural style sites were preferred to manicured ones where possible. The linking of sites by walking and cycling routes was also noted as being important.

Current position – accessibility

- 7.17 According to the adopted Local Plan, open space of at least 0.2 hectares (1/2 acre) in size ought to be located within a 400 metre (1/4 mile) distance of all homes.
- 7.18 58% of respondents across the Borough indicated that the preferred mode of transport was on foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is a walk time of 10 minutes, an opinion shared across all of the analysis areas.
- 7.19 The vast majority of school responses indicated that children walked to the open space site that they visited most often (61%). The next most popular mode of transport was to cycle (28%), then travel by car (7%), followed by skating (3%). However, cycling was the preferred method of transport they would like to use, with 45% indicating as much. 39% indicated that walking was their preferred method.
- 7.20 Although site assessments suggest that amenity green spaces are generally accessible to local residents, some larger amenity green spaces also contained parking, facilitating access for those who wished to drive.

Setting local standards

- 7.21 Local standards for amenity green spaces have been set taking into consideration national, regional and local standards and the findings of the local needs assessment and existing consultation. The recommended standards are derived from the findings of the local needs assessment and existing audit and are therefore directly representative of local needs.
- 7.22 A full assessment of local needs both borough wide and within each analysis area has been undertaken for Colchester, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs.
- 7.23 The rationale behind each local standard, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.84 hectares per 1000 population	1.1 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.84 hectares per 1000 population. The public opinion within the Borough regarding the level of provision of amenity green space across the Borough as a whole is fairly evenly split, with a slight majority stating that there is an undersupply. The major issues with regards to under provision relate to certain pocket areas (to be outlined shortly) where specific deficiencies exist.</p> <p>The recommended standard has been set at 1.1 hectares per 1000 population. This is to reflect the slight undersupply perceived by the public and the significant population growth expected in Colchester by 2021. Public consultation revealed that residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity provision standard is required to address this perception.</p> <p>Consultation highlights the importance of these sites for recreational and landscape purposes in breaking up the urban texture and providing green space in what would otherwise be a built up area. This will enable the Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites (such as in Tiptree), as well as focus on specific areas of deficiency to ensure that each area fulfils a role that is complementary to the surrounding green space network.</p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Sites should be clean and litter free with adequate bin provision.</p> <p>Grass should be well maintained.</p> <p>Sites should be free from graffiti.</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Sites should have good lighting and appropriate seating provision.</p> <p>Where appropriate, character must be maintained within sites.</p> <p>Sites should be linked to other open spaces by walking and cycling routes.</p>
Justification	
<p>Local consultation reveals that amenity green spaces are one of the least used types of open spaces in the area. This suggests that whilst areas serve an important visual purpose, they provide little recreational and usable functions for local areas. The importance of their visual amenity function further emphasises the need to ensure the quality of these sites.</p> <p>Provision of amenity green space needs to be considered in the context of parks and gardens, to ensure that they are complimentary to the wider green space network and increasing their level of usage. For this reason, it is particularly important for larger sites to contain informal play opportunities and for smaller sites to provide an important visual amenity function and promote a sense of ownership.</p> <p>Amenity green spaces can serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. As a consequence, one of the important aspects in the vision is for a spacious outlook. The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice encouraging informal play where sites are large enough - it is also designed to link in with the Green Flag criteria where appropriate.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

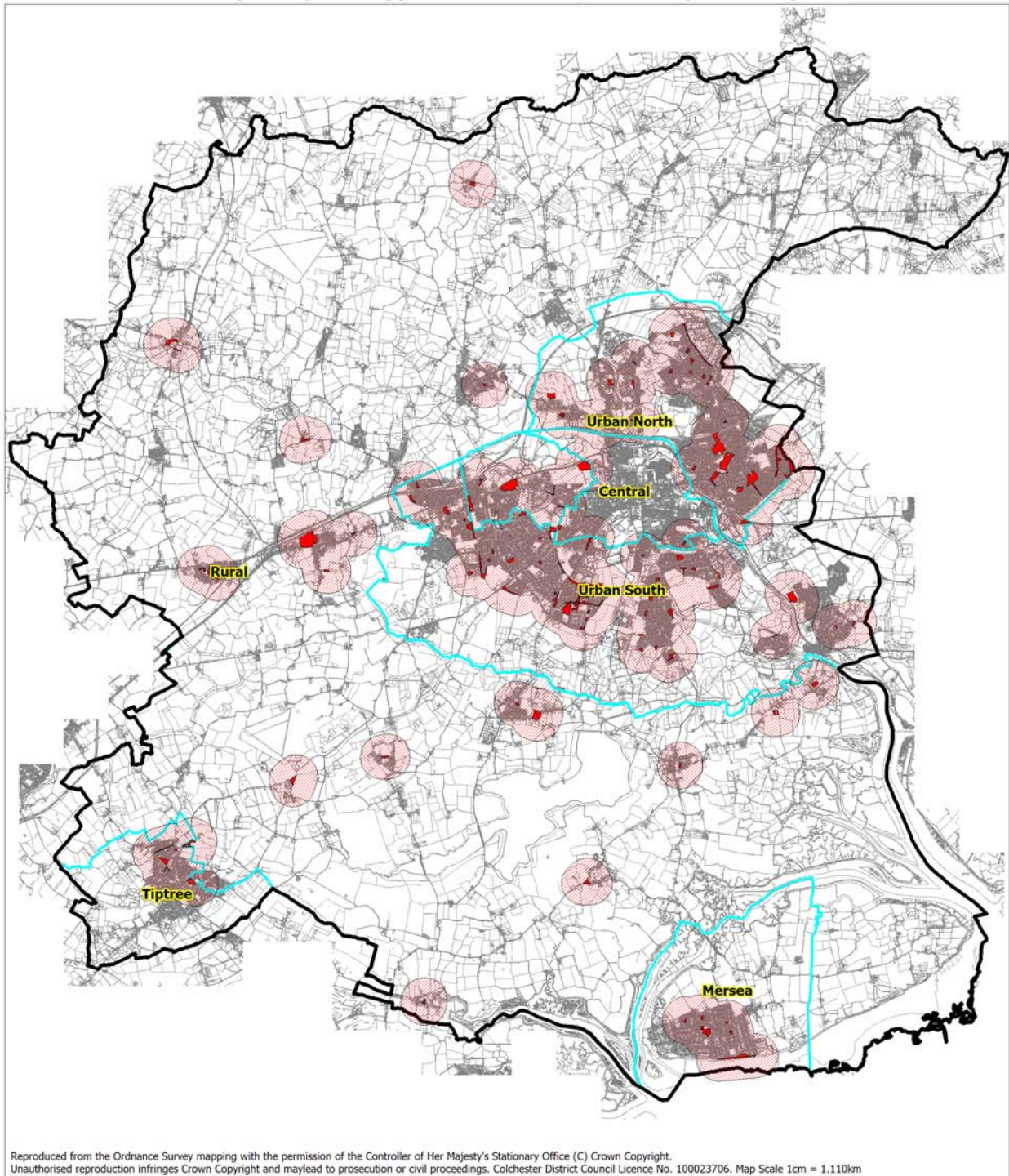
Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m)
Justification
<p>Given the large emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents it is suggested that a walking standard is set. The expressed desire for local amenity green space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot is most appropriate. This is true for both urban and rural areas, where amenity green space is deemed to be necessary within a 10 minute walk time.</p> <p>In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision within close proximity to residents, the value of localised amenity green spaces is particularly important. Applying a strict walk time will highlight real priority areas of deficiency. Furthermore, whilst having a smaller distance threshold will reveal a larger number of accessibility deficiencies, within these areas the provision of alternative forms of open space can often substitute for provision of informal amenity green spaces and new amenity green spaces will not also be a priority in these areas. A smaller accessibility catchment is also more appropriate given the urban nature of much of Colchester town and will ensure all residents have local access to some type of open space, facilitating delivery of increased participation. The importance of local provision to break up the urban landscape should not be underestimated.</p>

Applying local standards

- 7.24 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 7.25 It is important to consider the provision of amenity green spaces in the wider context of open space across the Borough, in light of the overlapping roles that this space has with other open space typologies.
- 7.26 The map overleaf highlights the catchments served by amenity green spaces across the Borough. In addition, Table 7.3 highlights the areas where quantity deficiency exists.

Figure 7.1 Amenity green spaces in Colchester

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Amenity Greenspace



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	Amenity Greenspace 	District 	Landline 	 strategy finance delivery ACTIVE <i>Bringing data to life</i>
	Catchment - Amenity Greenspace (480m Buffer) 	Analysis Areas 		

Table 7.3 Quantity of amenity green space by analysis area

Analysis area	Pop	Current provision per 1,000 pop	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	21,745	0.04	1.1	- 23	- 26.63
Mersea	7,677	0.86	1.1	- 1.85	- 3.14
Rural	28,840	0.85	1.1	- 7.26	- 12.08
Tiptree	9,464	0.58	1.1	- 4.92	- 6.5
Urban North	46,600	1.2	1.1	4.51	- 3.27
Urban South	56,272	0.88	1.1	- 12.49	- 21.89
Total	170,598	0.84	1.1	- 46.02	- 73.51

7.27 Table 7.3 immediately tells us that currently there is an under provision of amenity green space across the Borough, something that will become even greater if we factor in future population growth. This deficiency is most striking in the Central area, where there is an under supply of 23 hectares. There is also a notable undersupply in Tiptree equal to 4.92 hectares. The overall deficiency in the Borough is reduced by the level of provision in the Urban North analysis area, due to the existence of large amenity green spaces such as Greenstead Park and Harwich Road Recreation Ground.

7.28 If we include other types of open space, such as parks and gardens into the analysis, and compare the combined quantity provision against the amenity green space quantity standard (thus assuming all parks become surrogate amenity green space sites), a number of the acknowledged deficiencies seen above are reduced. In the Central area for example, the deficiency acknowledged is offset significantly by the presence of Castle Park, which has a secondary function that performs the same role as an amenity green space. The incorporation of other open space types into this analysis is most relevant when discussing accessibility, as from a quantity point of view the figures will become significantly skewed.

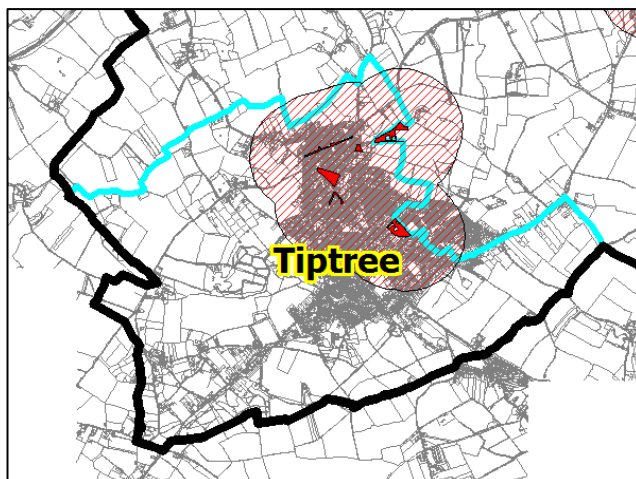
Tiptree

7.29 The Tiptree analysis area has a number of small amenity green space sites, the two most prominent being Windmill Green and Grove Road. The total amenity green space hectareage in Tiptree is 5.49, which equates to 0.58 ha per 1,000 population. This level of provision is below the quantity standard set of 1.1 ha per 1,000 population.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 7.30 Figure 7.2 illustrates that there is a significant area of the town, particularly in the south-west corner, which does not have access to an amenity green space site in Tiptree. This accessibility catchment mirrors the conclusion of the parks and gardens section (Section 6), which also shows that the south-west corner has poor access to open space. The accessibility catchment of Grove Lake mirrors that of Tiptree’s amenity green space sites.

Figure 7.2 Amenity green space accessibility in Tiptree



- 7.31 As mentioned in Section 8, there are important areas of natural and semi-natural open space at Colchester Borough’s boundary that serve a secondary function similar to that of either an amenity green space or park and garden. These sites provide open space sites that serve the south-west of the town and are therefore considered to be extremely important for the local population. Our PG 1 and PG 2 recommendations are repeated here.

PG 1	Seek additional park and garden/amenity green space site in Tiptree. Provision should be focussed on the south of the town if possible.
PG2	Saw Mill Sand and Gravel Pit (known as Tiptree Quarry), in the south west of the Borough is currently informally used for dog walking by local residents. The quarry is still in operation however the opportunity to formalise and improve the quality of this site for public access should be investigated further as it provides a key strategic natural and semi-natural site in the south west of Tiptree.

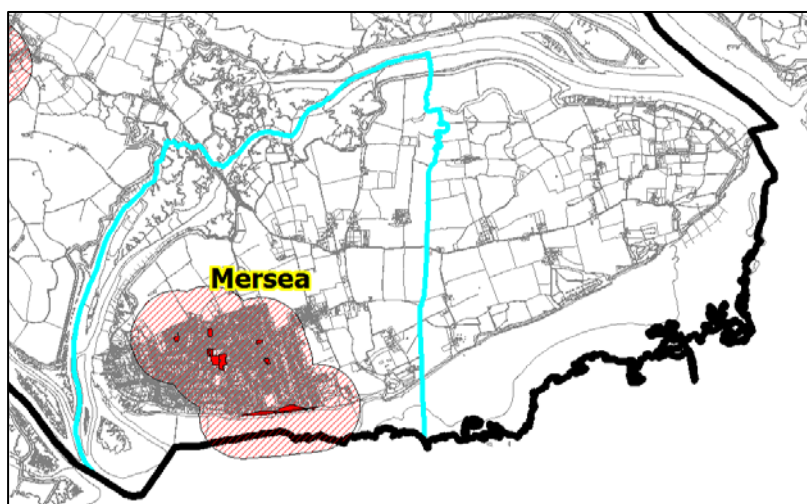
- 7.32 Despite the majority of residents having access to open space, the overall level of provision is deficient. This supports the results of the drop in session in Tiptree, where residents expressed opinions regarding a lack of parks and amenity spaces. The Parish Council response further supported this conclusion. The quality of open spaces in Tiptree was also questioned, with litter deemed to be a significant problem.

AGS 1	Improve the quality of open spaces in Tiptree by applying the quality standard as set out in this study, as well as looking to provide improved and additional provision for children and young people.
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Mersea

- 7.33 The overall quantity of amenity green space in Mersea is not significantly below the quantity standard at 0.86 ha per 1,000. In addition, Victoria Esplanade provides a similar secondary function to that of an amenity green space, and is located within the town (towards the south east).
- 7.34 The open space at Barfield Road is deemed to be very important to the town, as it forms the major open space site for most residents, both in terms of quantity and accessibility (as it is located centrally).
- 7.35 The location of the amenity green space sites means that they are not accessible to all residents of the town. Figure 7.3 below mirrors the picture seen in the parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural areas which show that the western edge of the island does not have adequate access to open space. The Parish Council's consultation response also mirrors this. Recommendation PG 3 has been repeated here.

Figure 7.3 Amenity green space accessibility in Mersea



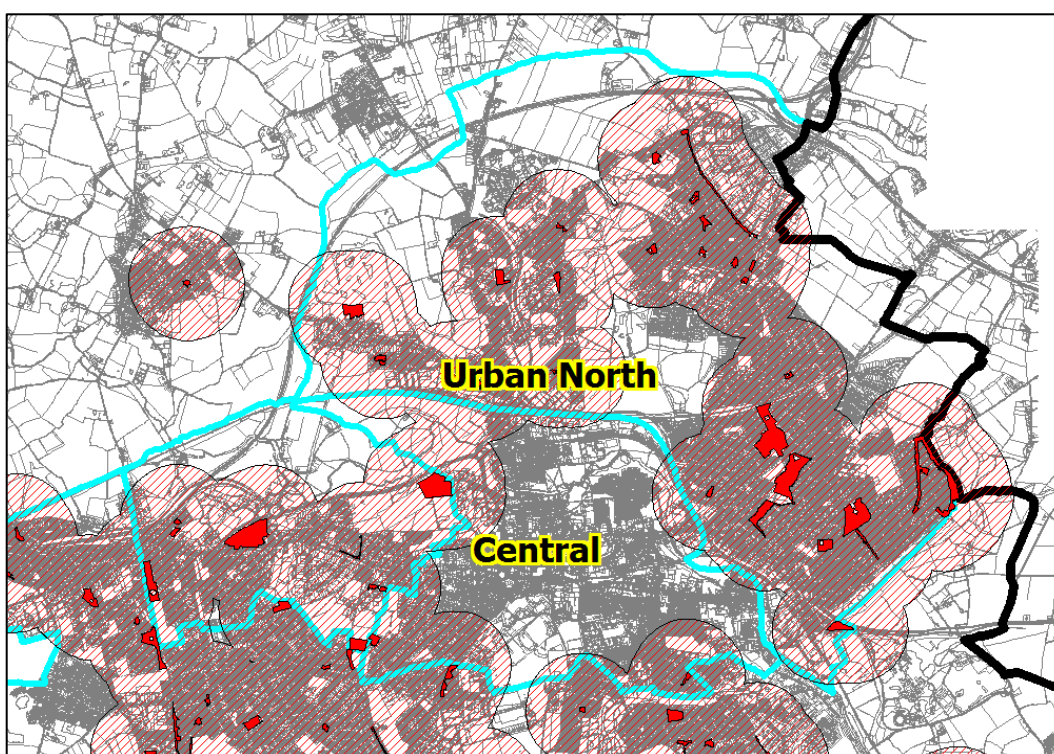
PG 3	Attempt to provide an additional park/amenity green space within the western end of West Mersea. If no sites exist, protect and enhance the existing open space provision at Barfield Road and Victoria Esplanade as a minimum.
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Urban North

- 7.36 The Urban North analysis area is currently well provided for in terms of amenity green space with 4.51 hectares more than the population would demand according to our quantity standard. In addition to this, Highwoods Country Park provides a secondary function similar to that of an amenity green space. We can therefore say that there is enough total open space in the Urban North analysis area.

- 7.37 The Urban North analysis area's issue relates to the accessibility of its amenity green space sites, as well as the size of individual sites in certain areas. Areas to the south east of the analysis area are well served by open spaces sites, in particular amenity green space, with Greenstead Park and Harwich Road Recreation Ground being large important sites of good quality, as shown by Figure 7.4 below.
- 7.38 Residents in the north east of the analysis area do not have good access to amenity green space sites. Further, there are no natural and semi-natural sites with secondary functions that provide the amenity value equal to that of an amenity green space. This situation is repeated in the north of the analysis area. However, these areas are not close to current residential populations. One is largely a business area, and the other is the site of the former Severalls Hospital.

Figure 7.4 Amenity green space accessibility in the Urban North analysis area



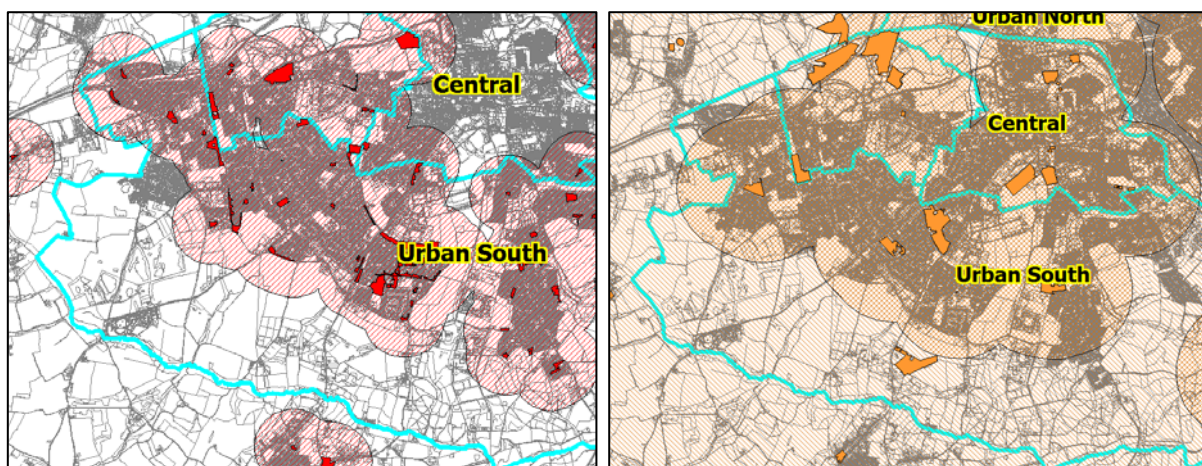
Urban South

- 7.39 There is an undersupply in the provision of amenity green space in the Urban South area equal to 12.49 hectares. However, accessibility levels are deemed to be good, with only a few small pocket areas having no access to an amenity green space. One such area is in Wivenhoe to the south east of the town, where a few large sites such as the woods at Dixon Way and Henrietta Close substitute for the lack of amenity green space sites.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 7.40 Areas to the south west of the Urban South analysis area, as shown in figure 7.5 overleaf have a deficiency in significant sized amenity green space. The Shrub End outdoor sports facility therefore is deemed to provide an important secondary function as an amenity green space site. It falls in a strategic position to provide an amenity green space of a substantial size in an area without access to a park and with relatively small amenity green space sites.

Figure 7.5 Amenity green space accessibility in the Urban South, and the strategic location of Shrub End outdoor sports facility



AGS 2	Protect/enhance the role of Shrub End as an area of strategic open space importance to the area. Attempts should be made to combine its core function (a sports facility) with secondary functions of providing amenity space for local populations, providing that this does not result in the loss of any sports pitches.
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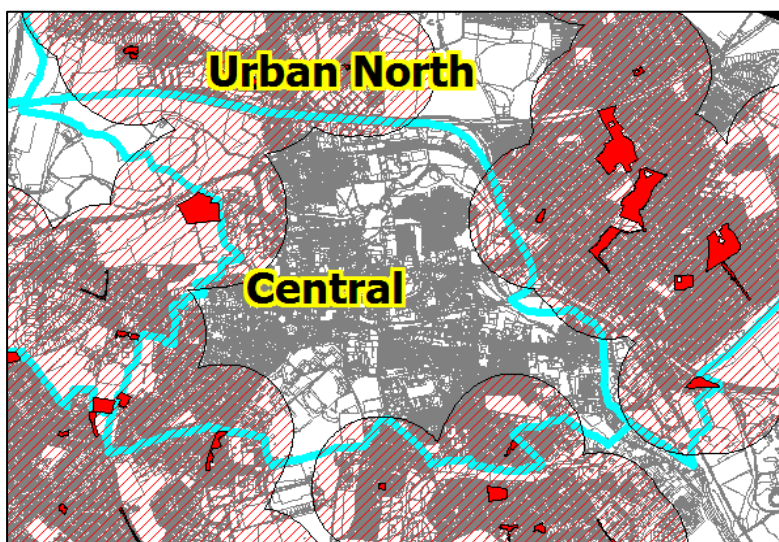
- 7.41 Stanway, in the south west of the Urban South analysis area is an acknowledged area of growth. There is an area, to the immediate east of the Lakelands development, without access to either an amenity green space or a formal park. This should be addressed, especially given the level of growth anticipated in the area during the coming years. Recommendation PG 5 is repeated below.

PG 5	Ensure that the development at Lakelands provides acceptable park and garden or equivalent accessible open space in line with the recommended quantity and quality standards.
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Central

- 7.42 There is a striking deficit of 23 hectares in the Central analysis area. There is almost no provision with only two sites. However, Castle Park and Old Heath Recreation Ground fall in the Central region so we can say that the secondary functions of these sites perform the role of amenity green spaces in that area. There is also the Abbey Field natural and semi-natural site in the south of the analysis area. In addition, Shrub End falls just outside the south western edge of the Central area, so has significant amenity value to residents in this corner of the analysis area.
- 7.43 There is an accessibility gap which is not served by either Castle Park or the few amenity green space sites that fall in the Central analysis area. However, there is a large area of open space at Abbey Field which may provide amenity value to local residents.

Figure 7.6 Amenity green space accessibility in the Central analysis area



AGS 3	Provide an additional amenity green space site to the south west of Castle Park. If this is not feasible, investigate the opportunity of converting a section of Abbey Fields into an amenity green space site.
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Rural

- 7.44 The rural analysis area currently has a deficit in amenity green space relative to the quantity standard. If we factor in future population growth, this becomes a deficit equal to 12.08 hectares. However, the rural nature of these settlements makes it difficult to recommend any specific new sites for amenity green spaces. Indeed, as commented on in the parks and gardens section, the significant provision of natural and semi natural areas in the Rural area can provide the dual function of additional amenity green space sites in rural locations.

SECTION 7 – AMENITY GREEN SPACE

- 7.45 However, West Bergholt is deemed to require an open space as there is only one park and one amenity green space, both of which are towards the east of the village. Whilst a natural/semi natural space does exist in the west, we recommend an additional site be found, if possible, to increase West Bergholt resident's access to amenity open space.

AGS 4	Provide an additional amenity green space site in West Bergholt.
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Summary of recommendations

- 7.46 A summary of all recommendations relating to amenity green spaces is included below.

AGS 1	Improve the quality of open spaces in Tiptree by applying the quality standard as set out in this study, as well as looking to provide improved and additional provision for children and young people.
AGS 2	Protect/enhance the role of Shrub End as an area of strategic open space importance to the area. Attempts should be made to combine its core function (a sports facility) with secondary functions of providing amenity space for local populations, providing that this does not result in the loss of any sports pitches.
AGS 3	Provide an additional amenity green space site to the south west of Castle Park. If this is not feasible, investigate the opportunity of converting a section of Abbey Field into an amenity green space site.
AGS 4	Provide an additional amenity green space site in West Bergholt.

SECTION 8

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL

Natural and semi-natural areas

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 Natural and semi natural (NSN) open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grassland (eg downlands, commons, meadows, wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands) with the primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Figure 8.1 Layer Wood



- 8.2 Colchester Borough covers a total area of 344,812 sq km. It is made up of primarily the town of Colchester, but also the smaller towns of Mersea and Tiptree, as well as Wivenhoe and West Bergholt on the immediate outskirts of the town of Colchester.
- 8.3 Inevitably there are numerous sites in the rural area that can be classified as NSN areas and are accessible to the public. However, PPG17 guidelines place importance on locality to the public, and in particular the urban population. A site's inclusion is therefore judged on its proximity to population, as well as its level of accessibility.
- 8.4 In Colchester, High Woods Country Park, Gosbecks Archaeological Park and Cudmore Grove Country Park have been classified under the Park and Garden typology, even though much of their area could reasonably be classified as a NSN. Equally, a number of NSN sites could be classified as parks under some definitions, for example Lexden Gathering Grounds Nature Reserve.
- 8.5 Therefore it is important when setting standards to consider these typologies together, especially when we consider the secondary use of such sites which may satisfy the open space accessibility needs of the local population. For example, a NSN area, whose primary purpose is to provide an area for wildlife and biodiversity, may equally provide amenity value to an individual equal to that of a formal park.

Context

- 8.6 59.7% of residents indicated that they use NSN areas more than once a month and 30.7% indicated that they use the sites at least once a month. These results mirror closely the results for parks and gardens. This reflects the number of NSN sites that exist within the Borough, as well as the rural nature of much of the Borough's land. Also, given the strategic importance and popularity of High Woods Country Park, it is quite possible that respondents may have viewed parks and gardens usage as being the same as, or similar to, that of NSN sites.
- 8.7 Consultation highlighted that there was generally a good supply of NSN areas in Colchester Borough, but that the rapid growth of the town is a threat to their continued presence. Outside of the suburban woodland areas, such as Layer Wood and Friday Wood, the Essex Wildlife Trust has nine Nature Reserves in Colchester Borough (not all have been included in our study for the accessibility related reasons outlined earlier in this section). There are examples of large strategically important sites at Middlewick, Hilly Fields and Cymbeline Meadows and there are publicly accessible woods owned by the Woodland Trust and the National Trust such as Fordham Community Wood and Copt Hall.
- 8.8 Table 8.1 overleaf summarises the key strategic context relating to NSN provision within the Borough.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS

Table 8.1 Strategic context relating to NSN provision

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004	The current Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan, which relate to the protection or provision of open spaces and sports facilities, including Policy L12: New woodland for access.	The plan sets a quantity standard of provision of Open Space (defined to include wildlife and countryside areas, woodland/shelter belts, lakes and ponds, new tree and woodland planting 1.63 ha/1000 population).
Emerging Core Strategy	Key themes identified include reference to Sustainable Development, Urban Renaissance and Public Realm and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities.	<p>The Strategy establishes a Settlement Hierarchy to guide development towards the most sustainable locations. They will be coordinated with transport infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, shopping, employment and open space to create sustainable communities.</p> <p>Existing parkland and green links will be enhanced, and new open space will be acquired at appropriate locations, to meet the recreational needs of Colchester’s growing community.</p> <p>The natural environment and countryside will be conserved to protect the Borough’s diverse history, archaeology, geology, and biodiversity. Development will be directed away from sites of landscape and conservation importance and land at risk from flooding.</p>

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL AREAS

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	<p>The strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion. The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABE Space guidelines.</p>	<p>The draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy positions open space in a national and local context and sets out a variety of policies that underpin existing and future provision. Funding is an essential factor to sustain maintenance and the presence of a clear adopted strategy strengthens the Council’s position for requesting appropriate maintenance contributions to retain standards and attracting external funding to support the provision or enhancement of green space.</p> <p>Policies are set out under the headings of quantity and quality and endorse the position that good quality green spaces are an essential element of urban neighbourhoods and make a profound contribution to the quality of life of communities. Quality green spaces make a vital contribution to delivering the Council’s ambition of being a prestigious regional centre.</p>
Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study	<p>The Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study will identify strategic deficiencies in terms of Accessible Natural Green Space within the Haven Gateway area that will need to be addressed through the planning system. New Accessible Green Space provided at this level should relieve pressure on European Sites from weekend tourism and recreational activities.</p>	<p>The PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation study examines open space assets close to developments likely to be used regularly by residents. The sites examined in the Haven Gateway study are larger strategic sites within the wider Haven Gateway area.</p>

Current position – quantity

8.9 The current provision of natural and semi natural open space is summarised in Table 8.2 below:

Table 8.2 Natural and semi-natural open space provision

Analysis Area	Population	Hectares	Number of sites	Size Range (Ha)	Ha per 1000 population
Central	21745	66.83	5	1.6 – 40.19	3.07
Mersea	7677	0.75	2	0.18 – 0.57	0.1
Rural	28840	993.48	33	0.42 - 233.04	34.45
Tiptree	9464	56.1	9	0.57 – 9.28	5.93
Urban North	46600	124.4	22	0.49 – 37.97	2.67
Urban South	56272	433.98	29	0.2 – 133.2	7.71
Overall	170,598	1615.54	100	0.18 – 233.04	9.82

8.10 Key issues emerging from Table 8.2 above and consultations undertaken across Colchester Borough include:

- there is a substantial variation in the number of NSN sites when broken down by analysis area. The Central area only has five NSN sites, compared with 22 and 29 sites in the other two urban Colchester Town analysis areas (Urban North and Urban South respectively). Within the town, hectareage per 1000 population is highest in the Urban South area at 7.71
- provision in the rural analysis area is significantly higher compared with the other areas of the Borough, with total hectareage being 993.48 hectares. This equates to 34.45 hectares per 1000 population. This result reflects the wild nature of many sites in the rural area, as well as the geographical size of the analysis area
- Tiptree has nine separate NSN sites and hectareage per 1000 population is 5.93. Mersea has a particularly low level of NSN provision, however this analysis includes Cudmore Grove Country Park as a park and garden, and excludes farmland which is prevalent on the island

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL AREAS

- household questionnaire responses indicated that people felt the quantity of NSN sites was about right. There was a split (51% to 49%) between people who felt there was enough NSN areas, and those that felt there was not enough. The only differing result was for Mersea, where 61.5% of respondents felt there was enough NSN provision in the area. This goes against the audit findings, which tells us that there is significantly lower NSN hectareage in Mersea when compared with other areas. Reasons for this may relate to the presence of Cudmore Grove Country Park (seen as a very popular site), as well as the rural nature of the east of the island, both of which may prejudice the opinions of respondents. However, the household questionnaire response for this question is based on the responses of 15 people and so should be disregarded as an evidence base for policy decisions
- fears regarding the perceived loss of natural open space to development across Colchester were also frequently raised during consultation, further emphasising the importance of these open spaces to some residents. For example, Council countryside managers felt specifically that suburbanisation was a threat to the natural openspace land.

Current position – quality

- 8.11 The quality of natural green space in Colchester is summarised Table 8.3 below. All scores are detailed in percentages.

Table 8.3 Colchester NSN quality scores

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores	Average score
Central	5	24.4 – 75.6	52
Mersea	2	42.2 – 55.6	49
Rural	33	40 – 82.2	61
Tiptree	9	35.6 – 75.6	52
Urban North	22	35.6 – 75.6	57
Urban South	29	35.6 – 74.3	56
Total	100	24.4 – 82.2	57

- 8.12 The key issues arising from Table 8.3 above and the consultations are as follows:

- the public perception of the quality of NSN sites is deemed to be good, with 95% of household respondents indicating the quality of NSN sites was either good or average

- site assessment tells us there is significant variation in the quality of NSN sites in Colchester Borough. Each analysis area had a site that scored a score below 40%, and each had a site that scored above 74% (with the exception of Mersea, which had only two sites scoring 42.2% and 55.6% respectively)
- consultation told us the protection of nature reserves and access to nature was seen as important. Budget issues that impact on maintenance, and the ever-increasing suburbanisation of Colchester means rural natural areas are under threat. Increased public land acquisition was mooted as an important and effective way of addressing this issue
- site assessments suggest that the maintenance at some sites was poor, with fences not being repaired and paths overgrown. The major issues from both site assessment and household survey analysis are that in some instances there were either no formal paths or that paths were often worn through heavy usage
- consultation revealed that people valued the retention of the natural state of many NSN sites and feared fragmentation if sites were split into areas of woodland and areas of more amenable space suitable for recreation, for example. However, others also valued the potential for sites having multifunctional values, such as NSN surrounding outdoor sports facilities (OSF)
- the main issue surrounding the quality of sites, according to the household survey, is in relation to litter and general cleanliness. Drop in responses in Tiptree in particular pointed to a litter problem
- the Haven Gateway has an agreed set of quality standards which were seen as important for sites in Colchester to adhere to.

Current position – accessibility

- 8.13 48% of respondents across the Borough indicated that the preferred mode of transport was on foot. 63% people who use this open space type most frequently also travel by foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is 15 minutes, an opinion shared across all the analysis areas, however the 77th percentile expected travel time is 20 minutes.
- 8.14 Site assessment indicated that information and signage at NSN sites was poor. However, this is generally the case with NSN sites, and the lack of signage can be seen as a positive way of maintaining the wildlife-focussed nature of these sites.

Setting local standards

- 8.15 In setting local standards for natural and semi natural open spaces there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through consultation on local needs.
- 8.16 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised overleaf.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL AREAS

- 8.17 These standards have then been applied to the existing Colchester Borough provision in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
4.81 hectares per 1000 population (excluding rural analysis area)	5 hectares per 1000 population (excluding rural analysis area)
Justification	
<p>Current provision across Colchester is equivalent to 9.82 hectares per 1000 population. However, this figure is heavily skewed by the rural analysis area that has 34.5 hectares per 1000 population. The rural analysis area, by its very nature, has many natural and semi-natural open space sites so setting a standard to be applied to urban and suburban areas based on the level of provision in rural areas is not realistic. Thus, we have recommended setting an urban quantity standard.</p> <p>The spread of natural and semi-natural provision across the Borough's 'urban' areas varies. The Urban South provides the highest levels of provision, 7.71 hectares per 1000 people, with Mersea providing the lowest, 0.1 hectares per 1000 people.</p> <p>The overall public opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is fairly evenly split with 53% of respondees who expressed an opinion stating that the provision was about right or more than enough and 47% stating that the provision was nearly enough or not enough.</p> <p>Consultation highlighted public concerns regarding the loss of natural areas to development and the lack of open space provision provided with new developments. To address this imbalance, an urban standard of 5 hectares per 1000 people is recommended. The standard would protect existing levels of provision whilst also placing demands for new provision close to residential areas. This recognises the value of these spaces and the importance of protection, offering opportunities for development of such facilities in areas perceived to be lacking. The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard.</p> <p>The recommended standard (which should be viewed as a minimum level of provision across all areas) is lower than current levels of provision in the Urban South and Tiptree Analysis Areas but above the standard in the Urban North, Central and Mersea analysis areas.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean/litter free; nature features; footpaths well maintained</p> <p>Council retain control where possible to prevent fragmentation of sites</p> <p>Maintain current site management processes</p> <p>Work with EBAP</p> <p>Work with Haven Gateway project definitions of quality</p>	<p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Combine site uses where possible, whilst remaining wary of site fragmentation</p>
Justification	
<p>From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural areas believe that these areas are of good quality and are generally well maintained. People value these natural sites for their recreational value, (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) indicating that ancillary facilities will be an important quality feature of this type of open space.</p> <p>Maintaining sites in their natural form is a clear issue for local residents that needs to be addressed at these sites and this has been reflected in the quality vision. Some consultees expressed the opinion that site uses should be combined, for example, adding sports pitches and play areas to natural sites, however this should be approached with caution to ensure that sites are not fragmented.</p> <p>Despite the quality being generally rated as good, the main issues that were identified through local consultations centre around litter and dog fouling that is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free.</p> <p>The standard also incorporates the Council focus on site management plans and highlights the need to link with the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and the Haven Gateway project definitions of quality.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720 metres)
Justification
<p>The recommended standard of a 15 minute walk time for natural and semi-natural areas is based on results from public consultation. The local consultation serves to highlight the split in opinion regarding whether natural and semi natural sites should be accessed by walking or driving (48% of respondents would travel on foot, whilst 52% of people stated that they would travel by car). To a certain extent, this will relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality. However, of the people who use this type of open space most frequently, 65% of those travel on foot.</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 (28% 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.</p> <p>An assessment of the 75% threshold level across the Borough suggests that residents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to a natural and semi natural open space. Given the high levels of agreement from respondents to the household survey regarding the appropriateness of a 15 minute walk time, it is recommended that the standard is set at this level, reflecting and supportive of nationally derived standards.</p>

Applying the standards

- 8.18 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 8.19 The future level of provision required across Colchester borough to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 8.4. Areas of under provision are shown as negatives and areas of surplus are shown as positives.

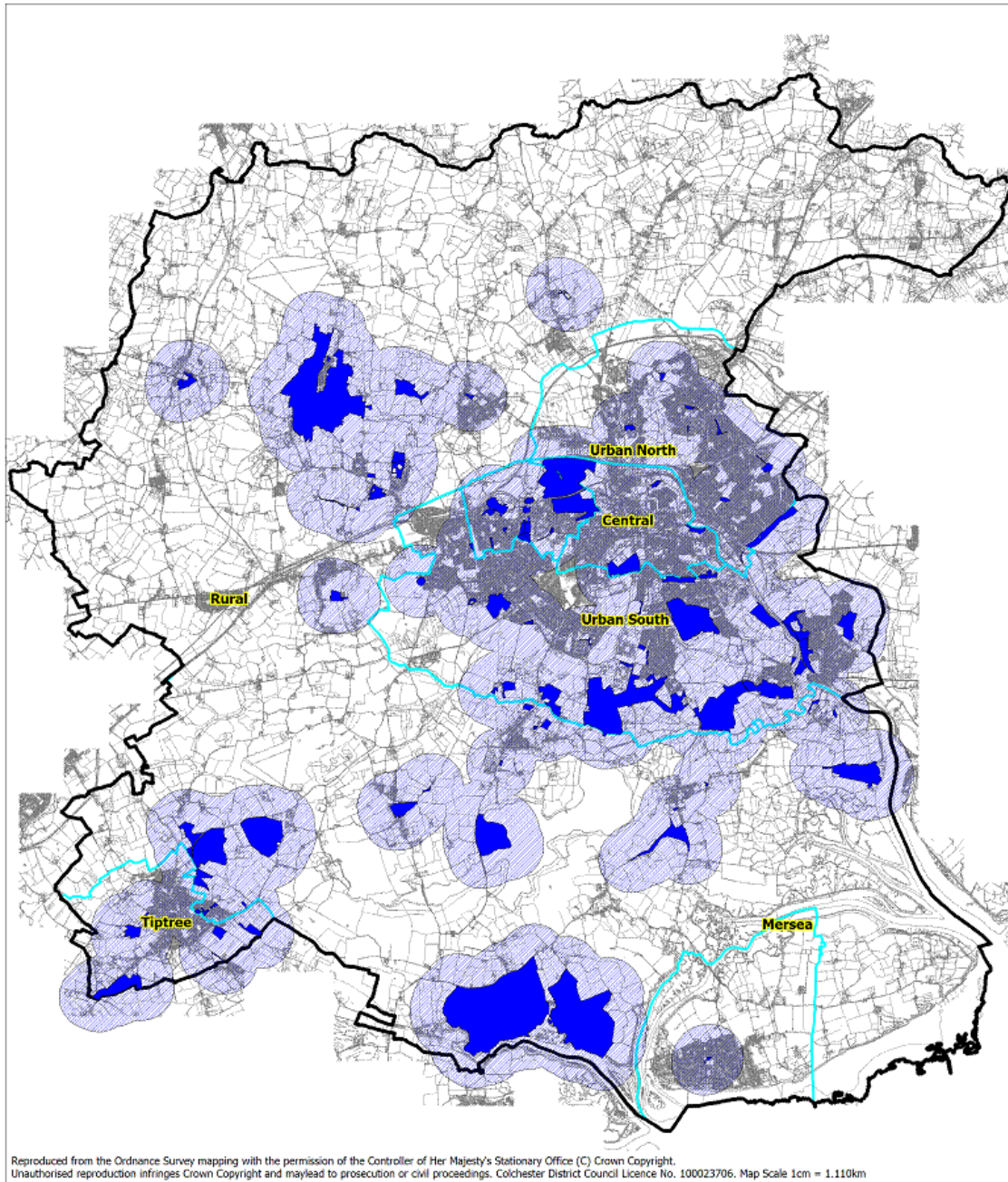
Table 8.4 Quantitative surpluses and deficiencies across Colchester Borough

Analysis area	Pop	Current provision per 1,000 pop	Current provision per 1,000 pop (excl rural)	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	21,745	3.07	3.07	5	- 41.9	- 58.4
Mersea	7,677	0.1	0.1	5	- 37.64	- 43.47
Rural	28,840	34.45	-	-	-	-
Tiptree	9,464	5.93	5.93	5	8.78	1.6
Urban North	46,600	2.67	2.67	5	- 108.6	- 143.98
Urban South	56,272	7.71	7.71	5	152.62	109.9
Total	170,598	9.82	4.81	5	- 26.73	- 134.35

- 8.20 As with the amenity green space and parks and gardens typologies, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of NSNs and their geographical relationships to one another in the context of the provision of other accessible open space sites.
- 8.21 There are many large NSN areas in and around the major settlements of the Borough, including open heathlands, such as Hilly Fields and Cymbeline Meadows, large, publicly accessible woods, such as Pods Wood and Friday Wood, and accessible nature reserves, such as in Lexden and Fingringhoe.
- 8.22 Figure 8.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of Colchester Borough's NSN areas and the catchment areas these sites serve.

Figure 8.2 NSN provision and accessibility catchments

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Natural and Semi Natural



	Natural and Semi Natural 	District 	Landline 	 <i>Bringing data to life</i>
	Catchment - Natural and Semi Natural (720m Buffer) 	Analysis Areas 		

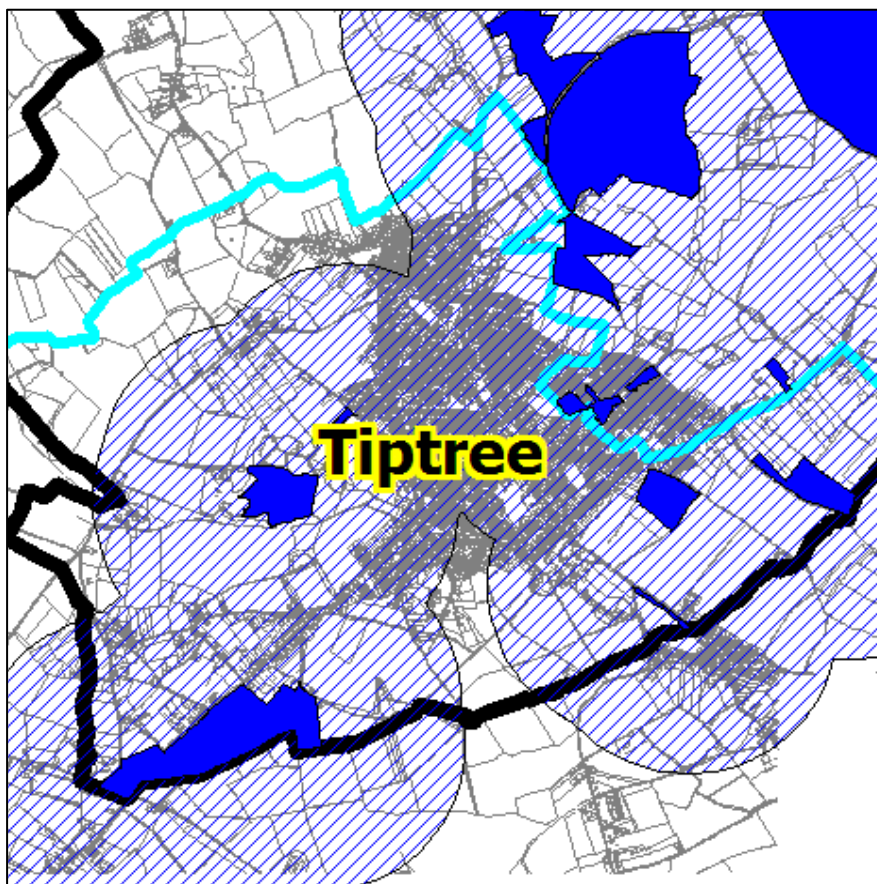
8.23 The main issues to arise from a Borough wide assessment of the accessibility of NSN areas in Colchester are summarised for each analysis area below.

Tiptree

8.24 The Tiptree analysis area has several NSN sites, the largest of which is Tiptree Heath, located to the south west of the town. In terms of quantity, the analysis area is well served with NSN, with 5.9 hectares per 1000 people. In addition to this, there are two large woods, Pods Wood and Conyfield Wood, which are located just outside the Tiptree analysis area in the Birch and Winstree ward. The catchment area of these two woods covers the north of the town of Tiptree, so providing additional NSN provision for residents of the north of the town which is not included within the quantity standards calculations for the analysis area.

8.25 The accessibility of the NSN provision in Tiptree is illustrated in Figure 8.3 below. It can be seen that the whole population of the town of Tiptree is within a 15 minute walk of a NSN area, except for small pockets in the north west and south which are not large enough to justify additional provision.

Figure 8.3 NSN accessibility in Tiptree



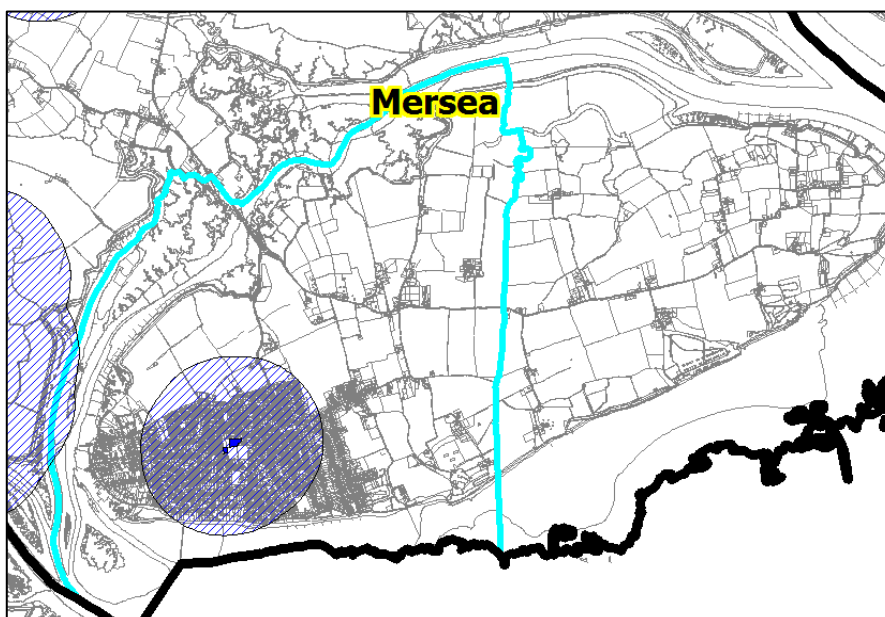
8.26 The provision of NSN sites in Tiptree appears to satisfy the level of demand. However, as stated in the parks and gardens and amenity green space sections of this report, access to accessible open space is lacking in some areas of Tiptree. Our recommendations for accessible open space in Tiptree from sections six and seven are thus repeated overleaf.

PG 1	Seek additional park and garden/amenity green space site in Tiptree. Provision should be focussed on the South of the town if possible.
PG2	Saw Mill Sand and Gravel Pit (known as Tiptree Quarry), in the south west of the Borough is currently informally used for dog walking by local residents. The quarry is still in operation however the opportunity to formalise and improve the quality of this site for public access should be investigated further as it provides a key strategic natural and semi-natural site in the south west of Tiptree.
AGS 1	Improve the quality of open spaces in Tiptree by applying the quality standard as set out in this study, as well as looking to provide improved and additional provision for children and young people.

Mersea

8.27 The Mersea analysis area has a significant shortage of NSN areas. It is served by only 0.1 hectares of NSN land per 1000 people. This is significantly below the suggested standard of 5 hectares per 1000 people. Figure 8.4 below illustrates this point and demonstrates that the west and east of the town do not have access to a NSN site.

Figure 8.4 NSN accessibility in Mersea



8.28 In reality, there is a significant amount of open space on the Island however much of it is officially private farmland and so, whilst in some cases it may be unofficially accessible to the public, has not been included within this study.

SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL AREAS

- 8.29 It could be argued that Cudmore Grove Country Park serves the secondary function of a NSN area, however the site is not within a 15 minute walktime of the majority of the residents of the Mersea analysis area. Whilst falling within an 'urban' analysis area, the park is significantly away from the main settlement on the island. Applying the rural parks and gardens 15 minute drivetime to the site makes it accessible to all of the residents of the island. The park's status as a Country Park also indicates that applying the drivetime catchment area may be more appropriate in this case.

NSN 1	Promote the use of Cudmore Grove Country Park in the town of West Mersea.
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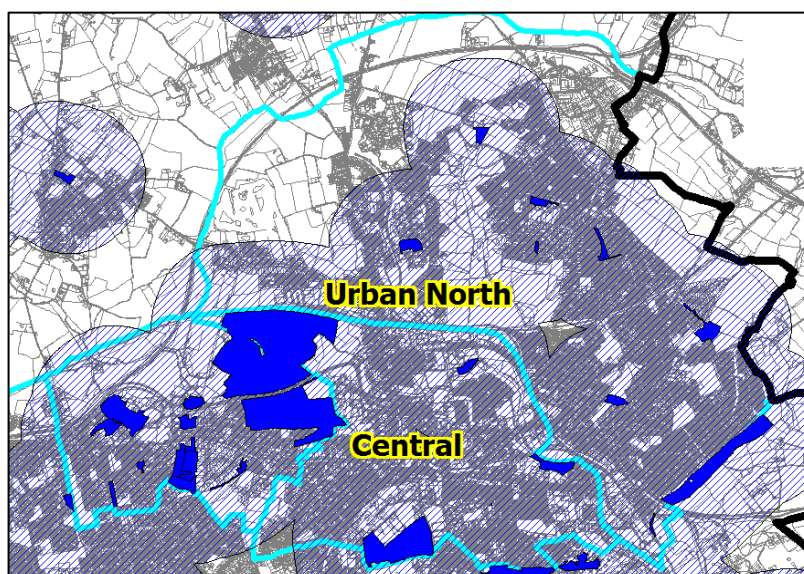
- 8.30 The only NSN area within the town is located at Barfield Road. The importance of this site has already been highlighted in the parks and gardens and amenity green space sections.

PG 3	Attempt to provide an additional park/amenity green space within the western end of West Mersea. If no sites exist, protect and enhance the existing open space provision at Barfield Road and Victoria Esplanade as a minimum.
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Urban North

- 8.31 The Urban North analysis area is undersupplied with accessible NSN land. It provides 2.67 hectares per 1000 people, significantly below the standard of five hectares per 1000 people. However, the significant site at Highwoods Park is classified as a park and garden but serves many of the functions of a NSN area. If this site was classified as a NSN site, the level of provision of NSN within the analysis area would be significantly oversupplied. Thus, it is necessary to study the provision of NSN in conjunction with parks and gardens and amenity green spaces.

Figure 8.5 NSN Accessibility in Urban North



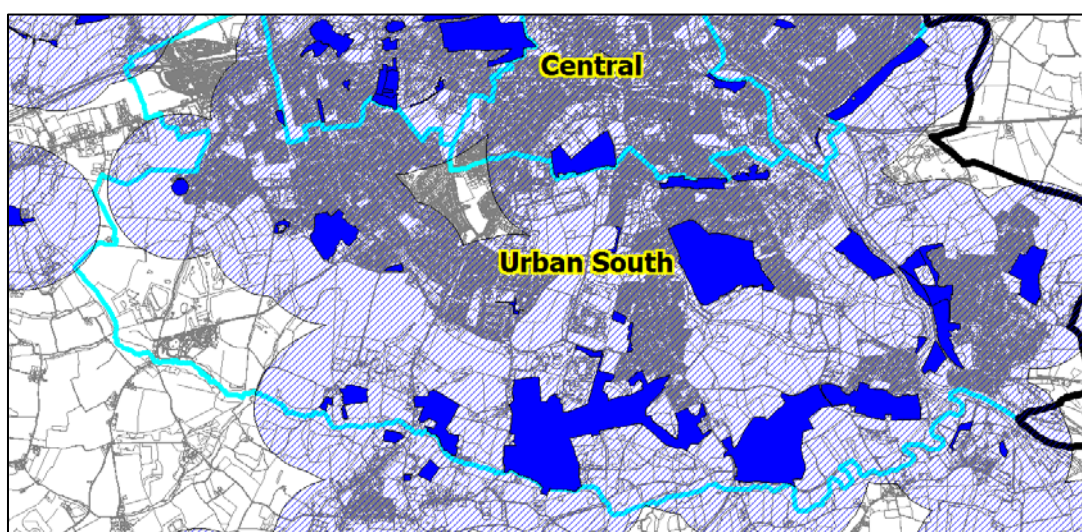
SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL AREAS

- 8.32 Figure 8.5 illustrates a similar underprovision of NSN sites in the north of the analysis area as was highlighted in the amenity green space section. There are sections of the north of the analysis area that do not have access to any NSN land, nor indeed any accessible open space sites at all. However, it should be noted that these areas are dominated by a business park (to the north east) and Severalls Hospital (to the north west). Thus, we would not recommend the provision of any additional open space within these areas currently, subject to consultation of the level of future development in these areas.

Urban South

- 8.33 The Urban South analysis area is well supplied with natural and semi natural land. There are 7.7 hectares of NSN land per 1000 people. This is significantly above the suggested quantity standard.

Figure 8.6 NSN Accessibility in Urban South



- 8.34 In terms of accessibility, figure 8.6 illustrates three areas within the Urban South that do not have access to a NSN area.
- 8.35 There is a significant pocket of the town that does not have access to an NSN area near Shrub End Outdoor sports facility. This is a densely populated area and there is unlikely to be significant land available now or in the future to create a new NSN site. Thus, AGS 2 should be adhered to preserve some form of open space access to the local population.

AGS 2	Protect/enhance the role of Shrub End as an area of strategic open space importance to the area. Attempts should be made to combine its core function (a sports facility) with secondary functions of providing amenity space for local populations, providing that this does not result in the loss of any sports pitches.
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- 8.36 The Lakelands development in the west of the analysis area is covered only by one small NSN site. There are other pockets of informally accessible land in the area that are likely to be developed on as part of the lakelands development. To cope with the influx of people into the area, PG5 should be adhered to.

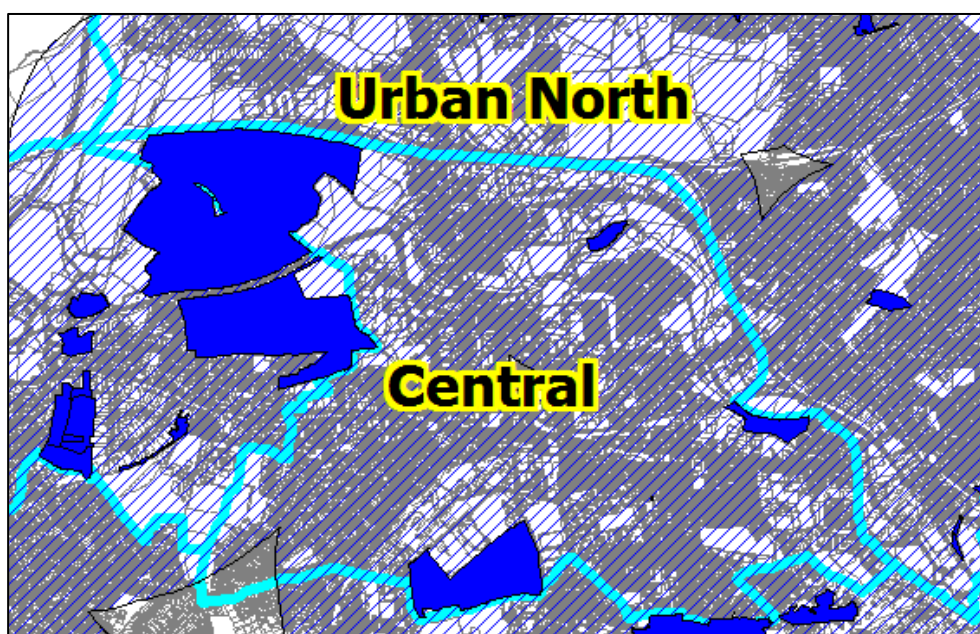
PG 5	Ensure that the development at Lakelands provides an acceptable park and garden or equivalent accessible open space in line with the recommended quantity and quality standards.
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8.37 The area to the north west of the analysis area near Lucy Lane North Road does not have access to any natural and semi-natural open space however there are amenity green space sites in this area which provide the local residents with accessible open space.

Central

8.38 The Central analysis area has 3.1 hectares of NSN land per 1000 people, below the recommended standard of provision. The whole population of the area has access to a NSN site within a 15 minute walktime of their homes although all sites are based around the periphery of the analysis area (see Figure 8.7 below).

Figure 8.7 NSN accessibility in Central



8.39 The urban nature of the area means that provision of new NSN land is probably not practicable. Therefore the Council should ensure that the quality of the two main NSN sites in the area is enhanced.

NSN 2	Improve the quality of NSN sites in the area by application of the quality standard, focusing on Cymbeline Meadows and Abbey Field in particular.
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SECTION 8 – NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL AREAS

Rural

- 8.40 The rural analysis area has significant levels of NSN land (34.5 ha/1000 people). This is to be expected due to the number of outlying towns surrounded by large rural areas within the Borough. For this reason, the quantity standard set relates only to the urban areas as the rural provision skews the results.
- 8.41 Every town in the rural analysis area has accessible NSN land for all of its residents except for West Bergholt and Marks Tey. Additional provision of accessible open space for West Bergholt is recommended within the amenity green space section.

AGS 4	Provide an additional amenity green space site in West Bergholt.
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- 8.42 No additional provision is recommended in the town of Marks Tey as residents have access to other accessible open space sites that have secondary functions as parks and gardens/amenity green spaces.

Summary

- 8.43 A summary of the recommendations for NSN areas is provided below.

NSN 1	Promote the use of Cudmore Grove Country Park in the town of West Mersea.
NSN 2	Improve the quality of NSN sites in the area by application of the quality standard, focusing on Cymbeline Meadows and Abbey Field in particular.

SECTION 9
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Outdoor sports facilities

Introduction and definitions

- 9.1 Outdoor sport facilities represent one of the broadest typologies included within the PPG17 Companion Guide. It includes all natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for outdoor sport and recreation. Types of outdoor sports facilities include; sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. This category of open space also includes school playing fields (both community and non-community facilities).

Figure 9.1 Copford Cricket Club



- 9.2 Increasing the number and quality of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity is likely to assist in the implementation of other equally important objectives such as the need to reduce crime, improve community health, raise levels of self-esteem and provide employment opportunities. Increasing levels of physical activity is becoming increasingly important both locally and nationally.
- 9.3 Outdoor sports facilities are very much demand-led and as a consequence application of local quantity and accessibility standards should be applied for broad planning need only (to identify overall the adequacy/level of provision). For example, should a neighbourhood of Colchester require further provision of outdoor sport facilities to have a level of provision that is equivalent to other areas within the borough, the specific nature of this facility (be it pitches, greens, courts etc) should be based on local demand. Therefore the findings of this section should be read in conjunction with the findings of the Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy. The Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy considers the detailed demand for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 9.4 The land required to deliver new outdoor sport facilities can be sizeable. Provision of sports facilities in some of the more developed urban areas in Colchester can therefore be challenging. Maximising the use of facilities at school sites represents a key opportunity for the Council. Both the extended schools programme and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will facilitate the delivery of sport at school sites to ensure that facilities in existing schools are made more accessible and those to be included in new schools are designed with community sport and physical activity use in mind.
- 9.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for outdoor sports facilities in Colchester and provides a broad overview of areas of deficiency. Built indoor facilities are considered separately and are contained within Section 5 of this report.

Context

- 9.6 Household survey results indicated 45% of people use sports facilities. Of these, usage was split equally between regular users (more than once a month) and occasional users (less than once a month).
- 9.7 37% of the young people's IT survey respondents indicated they play sport. The most popular sport was football, followed by rugby, trampolining and cycling. Respondents indicated they used open space sites for informal play (14%) and for formal sports matches (10%).
- 9.8 The analysis of participation rates for the Borough is extremely important to ascertain the propensity of residents to partake in physical exercise. Sport England has conducted in depth research into the participation rates of adults. The Active People Survey measures levels of participation in sport and active recreation and its contribution to improving the health of the nation. It includes walking and cycling for recreation in addition to more traditional formal and informal sports. Regular participation is described as three days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate intensity.
- 9.9 The survey results for Colchester taken from the October 2005 – October 2006 survey indicate a participation rate of 22.9% of the population which places Colchester within the middle 50% of Local Authorities in England. The national average for adults is 21%.
- 9.10 However, Colchester Borough is near the top of the East of England rankings (8th out of 48). Tendring's participation rate of 16.2% is the only significantly different figure of Colchester's surrounding local authority neighbours, which is also the lowest in the region.
- 9.11 This data indicates participation in Colchester is at a healthy level, both regionally and nationally. Levels of volunteering also reflect this conclusion, with the 5% figure falling in the middle 50% nationally.
- 9.12 Analysis of football participation (Source FA: 2006) suggests that Colchester has good participation rates in all types of football, especially youth 11-a-side where the borough falls in the top 25% of boroughs. This reinforces the findings of the Active People Survey where fairly high levels of participation were identified.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 9.13 Consultation with football league secretaries noted that school pitches are used frequently for matches and they are essential in helping to meet the demand for pitches across the borough. Some clubs also said that a lack of appropriate facilities is a barrier to participation in Colchester, and that current demand for teams was hindered by the lack of pitch space across the borough.
- 9.14 Table 9.1 overleaf summarises the strategic context for outdoor sports facilities in Colchester.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Table 9.1 Strategic review

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)	According to the national CPA indicators for Colchester, 92.08% of residents think that for their local area, over the past three years, that sport and leisure facilities have got better or stayed the same. Statistically using the national quartiles, Colchester is in the top 25% of all results from all Local Authorities with high values.	The CPA indicators for outdoor sports facilities when compared nationally are within the top 25% of national averages, highlighting a high level of satisfaction. In-line with assessing local needs this highlights the importance of quality outdoor sports facilities to residents within Colchester, a key feature of this study and the playing pitch assessment which focuses predominantly on the level of demand and current quality of sports pitches within the Borough.
Development Plan for Sport (2003)	The plan sets out the strategic direction for the delivery of sport in Colchester, connecting a range of different activities into one comprehensive plan, linking community sport, sports development and facility planning/site development. The plan identifies the key issues and priorities and sets the framework for managing performance.	The findings of, and the subsequent standards set, will aid in the delivery of sport in Colchester by identifying areas for improvement in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.
Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004	The current Local Plan sets out detailed planning policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan, which relate to the protection or provision of open spaces and sports facilities.	The future development of sports facilities will need to be sensitive to the specific demands of the population, as well as be accessible to the surrounding community.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities SPD (2006)	<p>This SPD sets the standard of provision for public open space in Colchester for developments. The 2.83 hectare (7 acre) standard set applies to the whole borough. However, due to the isolated nature of some settlements and potential difficulty in accessing open spaces in rural areas, this standard is applied to individual village settlements, of which there may be two or more in a single ward. In parallel with the 2.83 hectare standard, the Council will aim for all of the main town and village settlements to each have a multi-use recreation ground.</p>	<p>An independent audit of all open space sites has been carried out to inform this PPG17 study. These results will sit alongside this SPD, building a picture about the provision of open space within the borough, and help guide future open space policy.</p>
Playing Pitch Strategy (1999)	<p>This Playing Pitch Strategy advocated the retention of all existing pitches and referenced the role of section 106 agreements as a way of securing open space provision (often on an incremental basis) from new developments.</p> <p>Specific recommendations were for 21 additional junior football pitches and two junior rugby pitches in the urban catchment, with the majority of these coming from opening up public use of pitches, or by replacing adult pitches with junior size ones. The quality of pitches was also analysed, with specific recommendations made.</p>	<p>The main conclusions from this study were that there was latent demand for junior football pitches in the then defined urban catchment area. A number of wards also had no pitches within their boundaries. There was also an acknowledged latent demand from many teams across the region, in particular football teams in rural areas, and cricket teams in the urban area.</p>
Extended Schools Strategy - Building Schools for the future (BSF)	<p>BSF offers significant opportunities to shape and improve provision of outdoor sports facilities, both through the enhancement of current facilities and through ensuring extended use of these facilities to benefit local communities outside school hours.</p>	<p>School playing fields and pitches offer significant opportunities for additional outdoor sports facilities. This is particularly true where demand exceeds supply. This level of analysis and specific recommendations relating to the BSF will be explored more within the accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy.</p>

Current position – quantity

9.15 There are currently 75 outdoor sport facilities in Colchester. Publicly accessible outdoor sports facility sites and school sports facilities with secured community use have been included within the PPG17 audit. Golf courses have been included in the audit, but have been discounted from the analysis as they skew the figures and are not deemed to be valid when assessing access to sports facilities.

Table 9.2 Quantity of outdoor sports facilities in Colchester

Analysis area	Population	Total hectares	Number of sites	Hectares per 1,000
Central	21,745	19.71	11	0.91
Mersea	7,677	13.44	5	1.75
Rural	28,840	39.71	23	1.38
Tiptree	9,464	11.06	5	1.17
Urban North	46,600	56.72	12	1.22
Urban South	56,272	61.2	11	1.09
Overall	170,598	201.9	67	1.18

9.16 The main comments arising from this table and the consultation are as follows:

- across Colchester, 46.1% of people felt grass pitch provision was about right. Only 26.5% felt there was not enough and 20.2% said they had no opinion. 37.1% felt there were not enough tennis courts, with 27% feeling there were enough and 35.9% having no opinion. These results mirror those by analysis area, with people generally feeling pitch provision was about right across the Borough. The exception to this is Tiptree, where 50% of responses indicated there was not enough (25% had no opinion). Responses in the Central, Rural and Tiptree analysis areas suggested there was also an undersupply of Tennis courts
- the distribution of sites (excluding golf courses) is fairly even (per 1,000 population) across the Borough. The Central area has the lowest provision at 0.91ha per 1,000 population, and Mersea has the highest at 1.75ha per 1,000 population. The overall score is 1.18ha per 1,000 population
- sports club survey responses mirrored those of the household survey, with 50% of clubs indicating they felt there was enough outdoor sports provision in the Borough. Football clubs indicated pitch provision was adequate, but only due to a reliance on school pitches. There was acceptance that the quantity of Council cricket pitches was good

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- the total quantity of Council pitches in Colchester is considered to be poor. For example, the Colchester Sunday League indicated that the pitches they use at Mile End and Shrub End are significantly overused, and over the last few years the league has been unable to take on new teams. In 2005, 30 applications for new teams were turned down as they did not have access to a regular pitch. However the new publicly accessible pitches at the Garrison are seen as potentially solving this issue, yet the league are still waiting for this to happen
- there is an acceptance across all football leagues that there is a reliance on school pitches to make up the shortfall in Council provision. The Colchester and District Youth Football League, for example, referenced the important role that Fiveways Primary and Stanway School play in making up the supply shortfall.

Current position - quality

- 9.17 The quality of outdoor sport facilities in Colchester is summarised in Table 9.3 below. All scores are detailed in percentages. The degree to which playing pitches are fit for purpose was investigated in more detail as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Table 9.3 Quality of outdoor sports facilities

Analysis area	Number of sites	Range of scores	Average score
Central	11	51.4 – 91.1%	77%
Mersea	5	51.1 – 84.4 %	69.3%
Rural	23	46.7 – 100%	72%
Tiptree	5	40 – 80%	61.3%
Urban North	12	44.4 – 80%	67.4%
Urban South	11	45.7 – 88.6%	71%
Overall	67	40 – 100%	71.2%

- 9.18 The breakdown of scores across the analysis areas reveals a significant amount of variation. The Central analysis area scored highest with an average score of 77% and Tiptree scored lowest with a score of 61.3%. These were the only two scores that were significantly different from the average score of 71.2%.
- 9.19 Assessment is inherently difficult with such a typology for a number of reasons. Firstly, some of the sites are privately owned facilities and therefore access is difficult/impossible. Secondly, there is variation in expectations between sites, with a variety of sports being catered for in this typology. Finally, sports site usage is seasonal, making effective pitch assessment difficult when out of season.
- 9.20 An even split was recorded between clubs that believed facilities are adequate for their members and those that require improving. This balance is also reflected between individual sport types.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 9.21 The cost of training facilities was also highlighted as an issue. The quality of pitches in relation to maintenance was criticised by some, as well as the lack of changing facilities at some sites (the newly renovated facilities at Shrub End were welcomed).
- 9.22 There was general satisfaction with the overall quality of leisure services (incorporating indoor and outdoor facilities) within the Colchester area. Of the non-pitch clubs responding, 75 % rated the quality of provision as either ‘adequate’ or ‘good’. Main grievances related to the recent closure of Monkwick Sports Centre and the Royal London outdoor facility.
- 9.23 Consultation with local football league representatives revealed that the quality of grass pitches is generally poor in Colchester. There are no issues with parking at either Mile End or Shrub End (the major hub Council pitch sites), but drainage is considered to be poor at Mile End. Maintenance is good but is hampered by pitch overuse at both Mile End and Shrub End. The King George V field in Wivenhoe is also deemed to be declining in quality.

Current position - accessibility

- 9.24 Household survey results indicate that over the whole borough, 39% favour a walk time standard and 36% favour a drive time standard. There is a clear split between the urban areas and the rural areas. In the Central area, 58% prefer to walk and 18% prefer to drive. In the rural area, 11% prefer to walk and 72% prefer to drive.
- 9.25 However, the people who use outdoor sports facilities most frequently prefer to travel by private car (71%). The 75th percentile for walk time is 20 minutes and the 75th percentile for drive time is 20 minutes.

Setting provision standards

- 9.26 In setting local standards for outdoor sport facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.
- 9.27 A full assessment of local needs within each analysis area has been undertaken for Colchester, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit, have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs.
- 9.28 A summary of the key messages emerging from the analysis of existing provision and local need is provided at the end of this section.
- 9.29 The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 9.30 The provision standard for outdoor sports facilities integrates the local standard derived as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy. This will enable the Council to ensure that the composition of the outdoor sports facility stock meets local needs.

Outdoor sport facilities

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.18 hectares per 1000 population	1.5 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Golf courses have been removed from all calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and through other consultations. However, for this study only school facilities with secured community access have been included. The Building Schools for the Future and extended schools programmes may offer opportunities to address future shortfalls of provision and ensure additional facilities are available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.</p> <p>Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the level of provision of grass pitches is about right, the Playing Pitch Strategy that has been undertaken provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of pitches locally. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports pitches</p> <p>In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.18ha per 1,000) at 1.5 ha per 1,000 population. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most; however results from the local consultation suggest there is demand for tennis courts. The standard has been set at an increased level to reflect Council aspirations to increase participation and to provide sufficient outdoor sports facilities for the growing population of the Borough. Examination of other local authority provision levels shows that Colchester’s is below the level of many other local authorities. For example, Chelmsford has 2.27 hectares of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 people and Maidstone has 2.11 hectares per 1000 people.</p> <p>When golf courses are included within the outdoor sports facility category, the level of provision is 1.8 hectares per 1000 people. Under this scenario, the level of provision per 1000 people remains below the level of Chelmsford and Maidstone so a standard of 2.1 hectares of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 people would be recommended.</p>	

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Quality standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features</p> <p>Meet relevant national sport governing body (NGB) specifications for sports facilities</p> <p>Grass to be well-kept</p> <p>Provide appropriate ancillary facilities, such as toilets and changing rooms, where appropriate</p>	<p>Desirable features</p> <p>Staff should be on site where appropriate</p> <p>Parking provision should be adequate to meet the demands of the facilities they serve</p>
Justification	
<p>Household consultation highlighted that the key issues for users of existing sites are for well-kept grass and for adequate ancillary facilities. In addition, national governing body guidance for sporting sites should be used to ensure that appropriate playing area dimensions, maintenance and safety guidelines are followed where appropriate. Given that there is a general satisfaction regarding the quality of outdoor sports facilities, it is important that careful consideration is giving to meeting aspirations for new sites. Consultations discovered that many quality grievances have arisen out of quantity deficiencies and subsequent pressure on site maintenance.</p> <p>Given that the majority of sites will be of a substantial size, it is important that sites are designed with careful consideration to their local context.</p>	

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

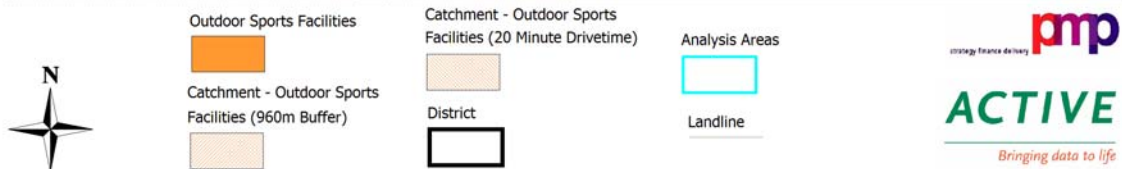
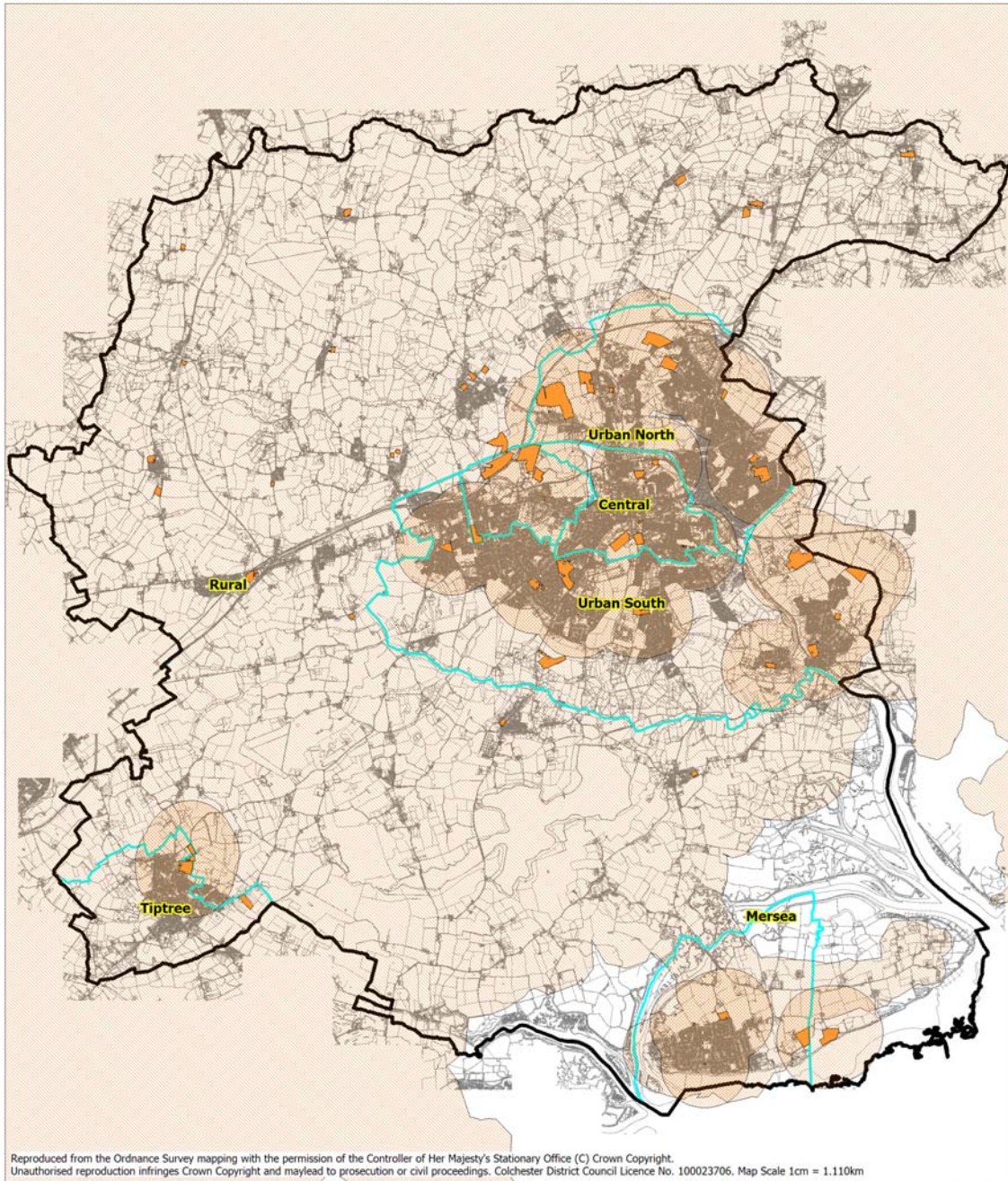
Recommended standard
20-minute walk (720m) 20-minute rural drive time
Justification
<p>Recent Comprehensive Performance Assessments criteria has stated guidelines of a 20 minute walk time in urban areas and 20 minute drive time in rural areas for accessing quality facilities.</p> <p>There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board in accordance with PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).</p> <p>Given the nature of the Borough, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for an urban catchment, and one for a rural one. The urban catchment is based on a walk time, whilst the rural is based on a drive time, thus reflecting local expectations.</p>

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 9.31 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 9.32 The future level of provision required across Colchester to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below in Table 9.4. There are significant differences across the analysis areas when measured in hecterage per 1,000 population. As a consequence, the application of a wide quantity standard creates a scenario with both large surpluses and deficiencies.
- 9.33 The location of outdoor sports sites across the borough is shown overleaf in figure 9.2.

Figure 9.2 Outdoor sports facilities in Colchester

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Outdoor Sports Facilities

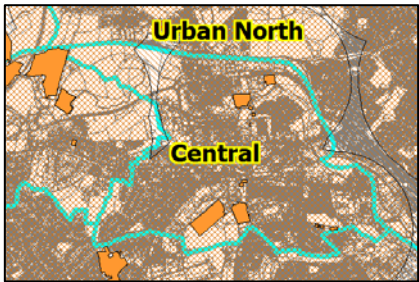


SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

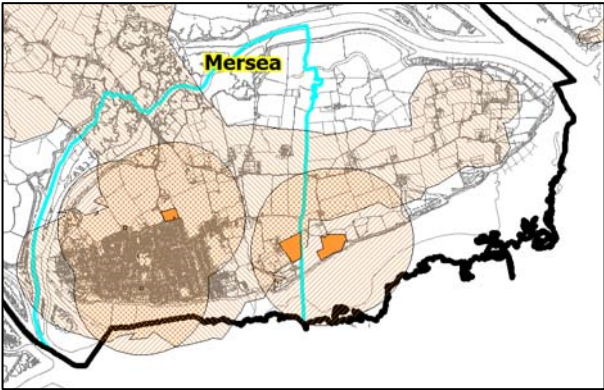

Table 9.4 Application of local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities

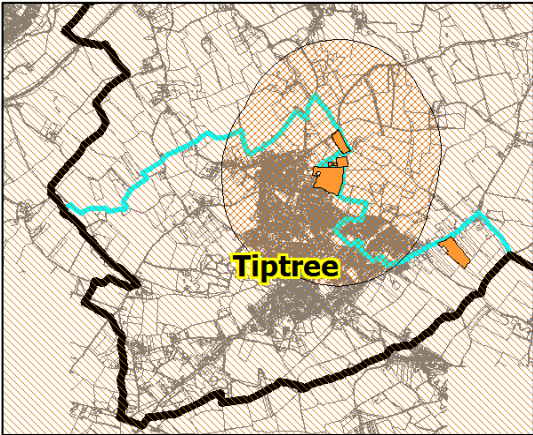
Analysis area	Population	Current total provision	Hectares per 1,000 pop	Standard	Current provision	Future provision
Central	21,745	19.71	0.91	1.5	- 12.86	- 17.8
Mersea	7,677	13.44	1.75	1.5	1.92	0.18
Rural	28,840	39.71	1.38	1.5	- 3.55	- 10.11
Tiptree	9,464	11.06	1.17	1.5	- 3.14	- 5.29
Urban North	46,600	56.72	1.22	1.5	- 13.18	- 23.79
Urban South	56,272	61.2	1.09	1.5	- 23.21	- 36.03
Overall	170,598	201.9	1.18	1.5	- 54	- 92.85

- 9.34 If we apply the current standard to current provision, there is a notable deficit in the Central and Urban South analysis areas (17.8 and 36.03 hectares deficit respectively). There is currently a surplus in the Mersea analysis area.
- 9.35 An assessment has been made as to the specific issues that exist with regards to provision of sports facilities in each analysis area.

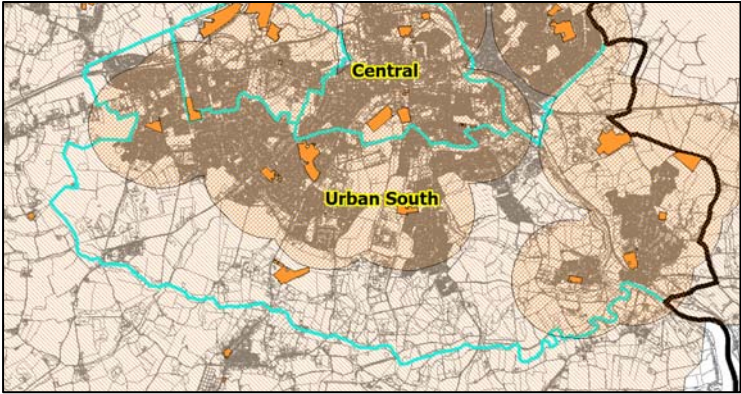
Analysis area	Key issues arising
Central	<p>There is currently a deficit in the area equal to the equivalent of 12.86 hectares and will rise to 17.8 hectares in by 2021. However, it is deemed unlikely there will be any space for new sites due to the urban nature of the area. It is therefore recommended that transport connections are maintained or improved to allow local residents to access sites outside of the analysis area.</p> <p>Abbey Fields and Napier Road Sports Centre remain important sites for the area, alongside the sports facilities located within Castle Park, which should be retained and the quality improved.</p> 

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Analysis area	Key issues arising
<p>Mersea</p>	<p>The level of supply of outdoor sports facilities in Mersea is currently above the recommended minimum quantity standard. There is however an issue with accessibility. Glebe Road in the north of the town, and the East Mersea youth camp in the west do not serve the central and west of the town. The amenity space at Barfield Road provides pitches and therefore is an important site and needs to be protected and enhanced in quality to perform its role as a multi functional site for the community, as stated in the PG 3 recommendation.</p> 
<p>Rural</p>	<p>Quantity provision is only just below the recommended quantity standard in the rural areas. As sports facilities are a demand led typology, specific local assessments of need should be made at the local community level, something that will be aided by the Playing Pitch Strategy accompanying this study, to guide where additional facilities are needed.</p> <p>Our study has shown that the majority of rural settlements within the Borough have access to an outdoor sporting facility, with most villages having recreation grounds. The larger sites that fall in the rural catchment area have access to outdoor sports facilities; Marks Tey has the Jubilee Playing Field and West Bergholt has a number of smaller sites, such as the Lorkin Daniell Playing Field.</p> <p>Reference should be made in planning to the 2006 SPD that highlighted the need for recreation sites at rural locations across the borough.</p> 

<p>Tiptree</p>	<p>The quantity of sports facilities in Tiptree is slightly below the standard set of 1.5 hectares per 1,000 population. This will increase slightly to a deficit of 5.29 hectares by 2021.</p> <p>Tiptree Sports Centre at Thurstable School is the major site in the area. However it falls in the north east of the town and therefore, as has been noted in previous sections, the south west suffers from poor accessibility to open space, in this case sports facilities. We recommend either the provision of a new outdoor sports facility in the south west of Tiptree, or ensure that transport linkages, such as buses or cycle routes are of sufficient scope to improve accessibility for all residents to the Tiptree Sports Centre.</p> <p>Consultation revealed that the quality of Tiptree’s outdoor sports facilities is poor relative to other sports facility sites in the borough. The presence of the Tiptree Sports Centre aligns with the hub system of sports delivery outlined by the Council’s sports development team, and therefore efforts should be made to ensure the Centre is maintained to as high a standard as possible given its important role to the residents of Tiptree.</p>  <p>The map shows the geographical layout of Tiptree. A thick black line outlines the town's boundary. A cyan line indicates a route or boundary within the town. A central area is shaded with a brown cross-hatch pattern and labeled 'Tiptree' in yellow. Two orange rectangular markers are placed on the cyan line, one in the north-east and one in the south-west, likely indicating the location of the Tiptree Sports Centre and a recommended new facility respectively.</p>
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<p>Urban North</p>	<p>Total quantity of sports facilities is good relative to the Borough's average of 1.18 hectares per 1000 people. However, currently there is a deficit of 13.18 hectares per 1000 people that will become a deficit equal to 23.79 hectares by 2021. It should be noted that there is a significant amount of golf course land in this analysis area.</p> <p>The major sporting sites of Mile End (football) and Mill Road (Rugby) fall within this analysis area, as well as the Sir Charles Lucas school in the east.</p> <p>There is a section of the population to the south east of Highwoods Country Park without access to outdoor sports facilities. However there are a number of amenity green spaces, such as the Harwich Road Recreation Ground, that have a secondary function of providing sports pitches.</p> <p>In the west of the analysis area Spring Lane provides the only outdoor sports facility (apart from the Seven Arches golf course and the Colchester Croquet club). This site is of core strategic importance for this reason.</p> <div data-bbox="639 1021 1201 1480" data-label="Image">A map of an urban area with a cyan boundary line. Two regions are highlighted in orange: 'Urban North' in the upper-middle section and 'Central' in the lower-middle section. The map shows a network of roads and some green spaces.</div>
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<p>Urban South</p>	<p>There is a large deficit in total outdoor sports provision in this analysis area, equal to 23.21 hectares now, and identified as 36.03 hectares by 2021. Despite this, the catchment of sites is good across the area, with a small pocket towards the south of Old Heath Road being the only area without access to a sports facility.</p> <p>There are a number of hub sites such as Shrub End, the Youth Centre on Berechurch Road, and both the Essex University Sports facilities and Brightlingsea Road sports ground in the east of the analysis area. These sites perform core local sporting functions for the community.</p> 
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Summary of recommendations

9.36 A summary of recommendations are included below.

OSF 1	Promote the availability of sports facilities across the borough and ensure that facilities are accessible to all sectors of the local community. This should include increasing signage to sites and maximising public transport links.
OSF 2	Actively pursue community use at school sites to maximise the number of residents that have access to local facilities.
OSF 3	Abbey Fields and Napier Road Sports Centre remain important sites for the Central analysis area. If possible access and usage should be increased, as well as quality maintained at these sites.
OSF 4	The 2006 SPD, alongside local consultation and assessment, should be used to guide the development of recreation sites at rural locations where sites do not currently exist.
OSF 5	Maintain/improve Tiptree Sports Centre as it provides a core sports facility to the town.
OSF 6	Spring Lane in Stanway provides the only outdoor sports facility in the local surrounding area. The quality of this site should be maintained and enhanced where possible.
OSF 7	Ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are fit for the purposes intended. Specific improvements required for playing pitches are set out in the Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy.

Summary

- 9.37 Participation in sport and physical activity is good in Colchester compared to other areas of the country according to both Active People and national FA participation statistics.
- 9.38 Consultation highlights that the quality of outdoor sports facilities across Colchester is perceived to be adequate and site assessments confirmed this, although there were some variations between analysis areas.
- 9.39 The application of the quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the distribution of outdoor sports facilities is fairly uneven across the borough, with low levels of provision (in terms of hectares) in both the Central and Urban South analysis areas. However, the majority of residents are able to access a minimum of one type of outdoor sports facility within the recommended distance threshold.
- 9.40 While there are few accessibility deficiencies and therefore few clear priorities for new provision, consideration should be given to providing new facilities in areas where there is currently little variety. Furthermore, it should be ensured that new facilities are provided alongside new residential developments.

SECTION 9 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 9.41 Investment should be sought to improve the quality of existing facilities and for the long term planning of new sites in areas currently without access to a variety of facilities.
- 9.42 The accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a more detailed assessment of existing provision, as well as identify specific areas of the borough where latent demand exists.

SECTION 10
ALLOTMENTS

Allotments

Introduction and definition

- 10.1 This type of open space includes all forms of allotments with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for people to grow their own produce. This type of open space may also include urban farms.
- 10.2 Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community in addition to their primary purpose. These include:
- improving physical and mental health
 - providing a source of recreation
 - bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds
 - making a wider contribution to the green and open space network
 - providing refuge areas for wildlife.
- 10.3 Allotments can be particularly important in dense, urban environments where many residents do not have private gardens. Allotments are also becoming increasingly popular as an alternative means of physical activity.

Context

- 10.4 The results of the household survey were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence to support any decisions. However, consultations with Council staff as well as examination of Council plot waiting lists indicate that there is excess demand for allotment sites in Colchester.
- 10.5 The Council is a key provider of Allotment plots in the Borough, with key large sites at Notleys, Irvine Road and Bergholt Road, as well as smaller sites at Sheepen Road and Blackheath. Other sites are owned by parish councils, such as Rectory Road allotments in Wivenhoe, and charities, such as the allotments in Fingringhoe.

Strategic context

- 10.6 The strategic context of allotment provision is outlined in Table 10.1 overleaf.

Table 10.1 Strategic context relating to allotment provision

Document	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004	<p>The Local Plan indicates that a standard of 0.2ha (per 1,000 population) is adequate to meet the demands of the population.</p> <p>There is an acknowledged shortfall in north Colchester, Wivenhoe and Tiptree.</p>	<p>Policy L8 states permission will not be granted for development on an allotment site unless:</p> <p>(a) a facility of an equivalent or greater value will be provided by the applicant at a location within an equally convenient walking distance of the site’s potential catchment area; or</p> <p>(b) the facility is no longer needed.</p>
Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	<p>The draft strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion.</p>	<p>The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABI Space guidelines.</p>

SECTION 10 - ALLOTMENTS

Current position - quantity

10.7 The current provision of allotments is summarised in Table 10.2 below

Table 10.2 Quantity of allotments in Colchester Borough

Analysis Area	Population	Hectares	Number of sites	Range in sizes	Hectares per 1000 population
Central	21,745	7.46	8	0.03 – 1.56	0.34
Mersea	7,677	0	0	n/a	0
Rural	28,840	4.18	8	0.01 – 2.02	0.15
Tiptree	9,464	0	0	n/a	0
Urban North	46,600	9.33	7	0.26 – 2.21	0.2
Urban South	56,272	6.5	7	0.18 – 1.88	0.12
Overall	170,598	27.47	30	0.03 – 2.02	0.16

- 10.8 In the household survey, 29% indicated there was more than enough/about right, and 39% indicated there was nearly enough/not enough. However, of all the typologies, allotments had the highest response of 'no opinion', with 32%. This suggests that the household survey results would not be able to provide a statistically robust assessment of the perception of allotment quantity across the Borough. This is supported by the fact 90% of respondents indicated that they do not use allotments.
- 10.9 There is a significant difference in the range of allotment plot provision across Colchester, ranging from 9.33 hectares in the Urban North analysis area to no provision at all in Mersea or Tiptree. Indeed, areas to the east of Tiptree are not even covered by the 15 minute drive time rural accessibility standard.
- 10.10 Of the areas that have allotments, there is a fairly even spread in terms of number of sites, although hectareage per 1,000 population is greatest in the Central area (0.34) and lowest in the Urban South (0.12).
- 10.11 Although spatial distribution of sites serves as an indicator of provision, demand for new sites should be determined primarily on indicators such as waiting lists rather than strict adherence to accessibility and quantity deficiencies.

Current position – quality

10.12 The quality of each site has been assessed through a detailed site visit (where access was possible) and the completion of a detailed pro forma described in Section 2 and provided in Appendix H. It is important to note that the quality score represents a snapshot in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the site visit. The quality of allotments in Colchester borough is summarised in Table 10.3 below. All scores are percentages.

Table 10.3 – Quality of allotments across Colchester

Analysis Areas	Allotment provision		
	Number of sites	Range of scores (%)	Average Scores (%)
Central	8	48.9 – 75.6	63.1
Mersea	0	n/a	n/a
Rural	8	55.6 – 73.3	68.4
Tiptree	0	n/a	n/a
Urban North	7	53.3 – 82.2	66.7
Urban South	7	62.2 - 80	69.5
Overall	30	53.3 – 82.2	67.0

10.13 Site scores across all areas are fairly consistent, with area averages falling between 63% and 70%. Sites with consistently higher quality scores are located in the Urban South area, with those in the Central area representing those with lower quality scores.

10.14 The household survey results indicated that the perception of allotment quality was predominantly ‘average’ (55%), with an even split between ‘good’ and ‘poor’. There was a suggestion in the consultations that allotments need to be promoted more in light of the extensive population growth expected in Colchester over the next few years.

10.15 Assessment of allotment provision relies heavily on responses from users. As already indicated, household responses indicated that the number of allotment users who replied to the survey was too low to form an evidence base. In addition, site assessors were invariably unable to actually enter the site (due to security measures), thus making assessment difficult and not as robust as compared with other open space typologies.

SECTION 10 - ALLOTMENTS

- 10.16 Allotment use is a private activity and therefore the best indicator of allotment quality is the feedback from users themselves. Our initial research indicates that there are no major issues with regards to lack of ancillary facilities, where they are deemed to be appropriate. However a fuller assessment of quality would be required to draw conclusions about the overall quality of allotment sites. A conclusion that can be drawn at this stage is that there are no notable differences in quality when comparing analysis areas.
- 10.17 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have a set of standards that set out measures of quality relating to allotment sites, and can be consulted on matters of allotment quality. Essential sample features identified by the household questionnaire results relate to prevention of vandalism and maintenance of grass, as well as the need for clear boundaries and on site management where it is appropriate (mainly the larger sites).

Accessibility

- 10.18 Over the whole Borough, 50% favour a walk time and 30% favour a drive time. The 75th percentile response suggests that a 15 minute walk time is reasonable for allotments.
- 10.19 The rural area is the only area where a drive time is preferred (50% car versus 36% walk). The 75th percentile response for drive times indicates that a 25 minute drive time would be reasonable for allotments.
- 10.20 Signposting and provision of clear routes to allotments could further raise the profile and increase awareness of allotments. This is particularly important as the majority of residents indicated that they expect to walk to allotment sites, reinforcing the importance of the provision of local facilities.

Setting local standards

- 10.21 In setting local standards for allotments there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf in context with the allotment sites in Colchester Borough.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.16 hectares per 1000 population	0.2 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>In areas with allotment provision, quantity is fairly evenly spread. Highest levels are in the Central and Urban North areas. In sharp contrast, both towns of West Mersea and Tiptree have no allotment sites. More generally, consultation suggests that there is perhaps some excess demand for allotment sites, something supported by Colchester Borough Council and Parish Council waiting lists.</p> <p>Provision of allotments is demand driven. There is significant evidence that sites are currently operating at capacity and there is demand for new sites across the Borough. In addition, in light of the wider health agenda it is important that such new sites need to be promoted.</p> <p>Our recommendation is for a standard of 0.2ha/1,000 population. This is higher than current provision, but it is in line with the policies set out in the adopted review of the Local Plan (2004). Consultation and waiting lists suggest there is demand to meet this standard in Colchester Borough.</p> <p>The recommended local standard would require the creation of sites in Tiptree and Mersea, but also additional sites in the Urban south and Rural analysis areas. However, analysis of waiting lists will help to pinpoint where locational deficiencies across the Borough are particularly significant.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
<p>'The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has a set of standards that sites in Colchester must work towards achieving. Further, sites must be vandalism/graffiti free and have well-maintained grass, as well as aspire to have clear boundaries and on site management where appropriate.'</p>
Justification
<p>Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community.</p>

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
<p>15 minute walk time (720 m) – Urban areas</p> <p>15 minute drive time – Rural areas</p>
Justification
<p>Deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p>A standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time in urban areas, and a 15 minute drive time in rural areas. This reflects both household questionnaire results, as well as being in line with the PPG17 Companion Guide, which gives a 75% threshold of a 15 minute walk time. A drive time is more relevant for the Rural analysis area.</p>

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

- 10.22 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where there is a potential unmet demand we apply the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards identify whether areas are quantitatively above or below the recommended minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 10.23 Apparent deficiencies should be investigated in detail in order to understand the real level of demand in the area at any one time. Should new allotment sites be developed, community involvement in the management and maintenance of the sites should be considered. This follows national good practice, and also takes into account the need to create communities given the expected population increase in the borough over the next few years.
- 10.24 The quantity standard is applied in Table 10.4 overleaf, which highlights both areas of under provision (shown as negatives) and areas of surplus.

Table 10.4 Application of the quantity standard

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021
Central	21,745	0.34	0.2	3.11	2.45
Mersea	7,677	0	0.2	- 1.54	- 1.77
Rural	28,840	0.14	0.2	- 1.59	- 2.46
Tiptree	9,464	0	0.2	- 1.89	- 2.18
Urban North	46,600	0.20	0.2	0.01	- 1.41
Urban South	56,272	0.12	0.2	- 4.75	- 6.46
Total	170,598	0.16	0.2	- 6.65	- 11.83

10.25 The distribution of allotments across Colchester and the catchment areas these sites serve is illustrated in Figure 10.1 overleaf.

10.26 Table 10.4 informs us that there is a significant undersupply of allotments in the Urban South analysis area if we apply the standard of 0.2 ha per 1,000 population to current population levels. This increases to an undersupply of 6.46 based on future population projections.

10.27 Figures 10.1 and 10.2 overleaf shows that a significant proportion of residents have access to allotments across Colchester town within the recommended distance threshold. There are however pockets within Colchester town where distribution is poor. These include areas to the west of the town centre (in the growth area of Stanway) and to the north east (east of High Woods Country Park). The Stanway growth area is an area of deficiency and new sites are recommended (see Figure 10.2 overleaf).

ALL 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the Borough, with reference to identified growth areas, current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility deficiency. Seek to provide additional plots to meet demand, as well as raising quantity towards the standard of 0.2ha per 1,000 population. Particular attention should be paid to areas in the Urban South analysis area where provision and access is particularly poor.
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Figure 10.2 Colchester Borough allotment provision

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Allotments

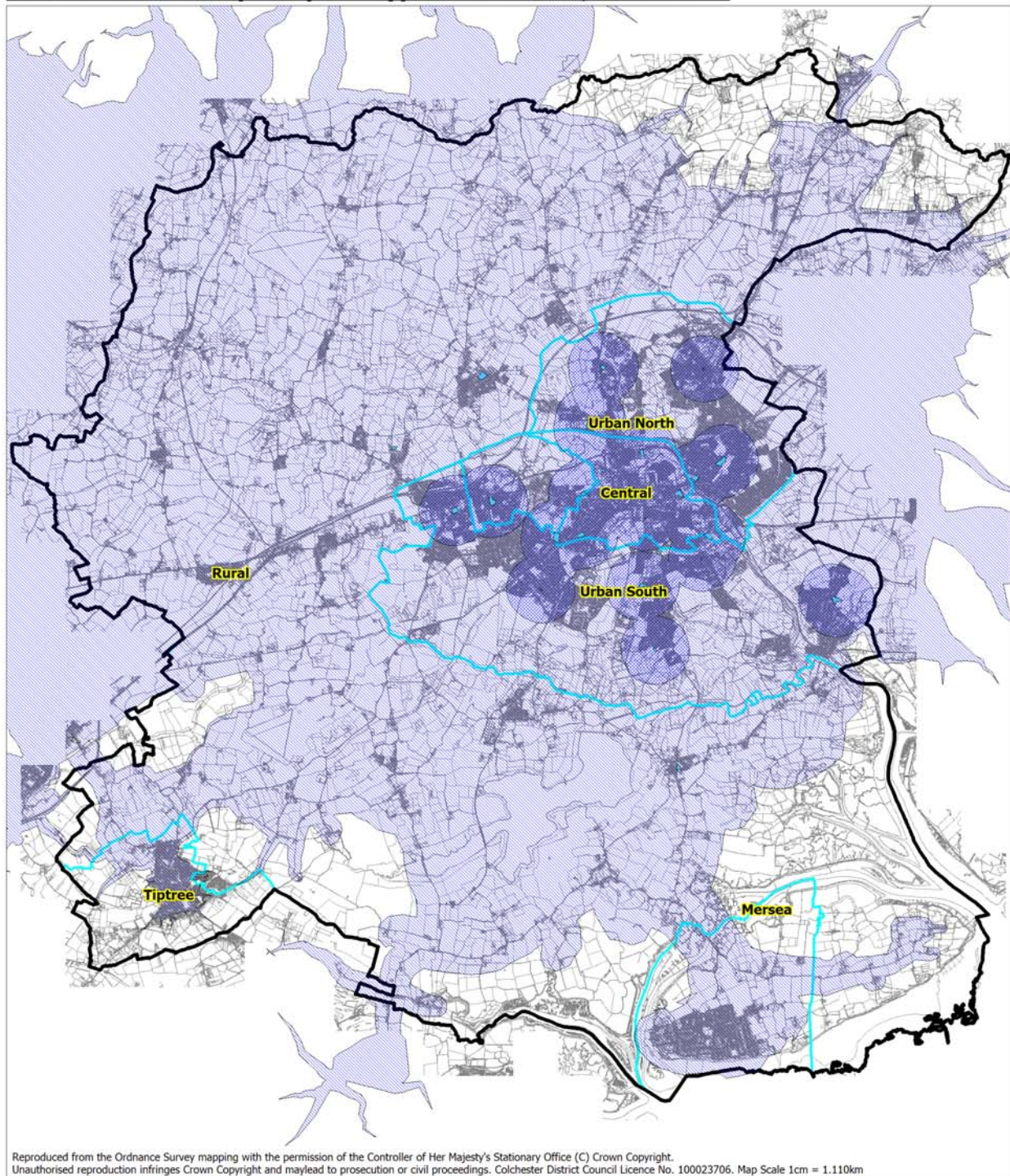
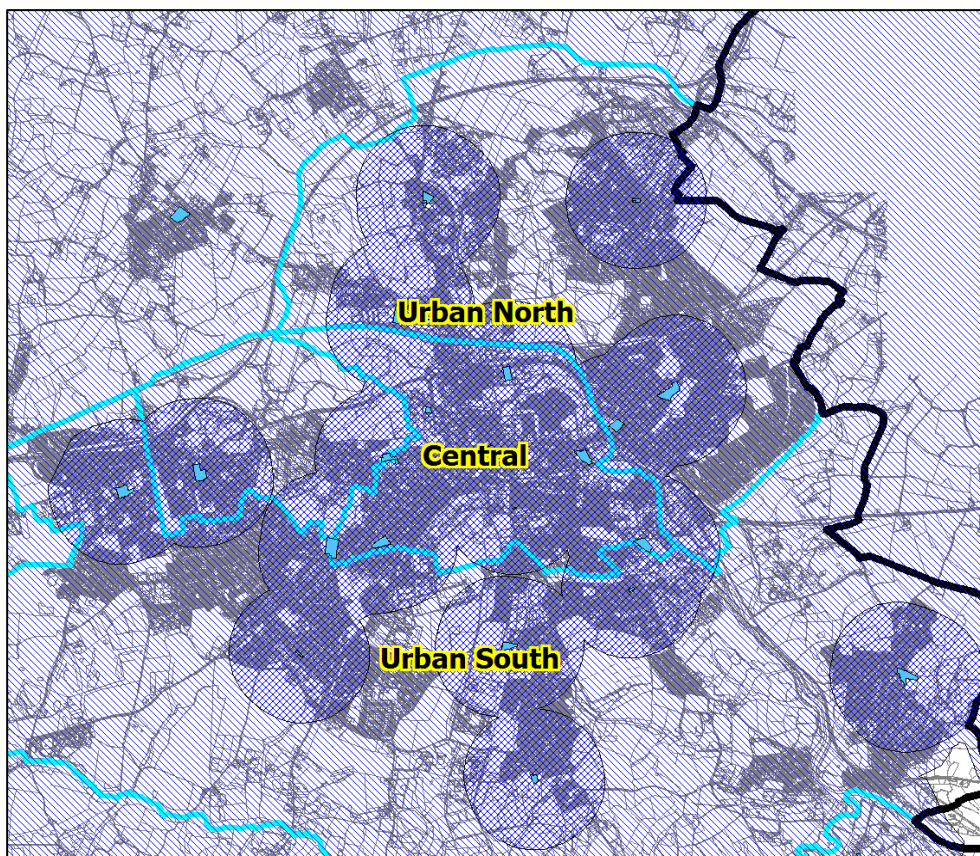


Figure 10.2 Colchester town allotment provision



10.28 Further, waiting lists (as evidenced by Wivenhoe Parish Council) should be an indication of the demand and subsequent need for more allotment sites.

10.29 Tiptree and Mersea have no allotment provision. It is therefore recommended that in both towns an allotment site be provided.

ALL 2	Provide allotment sites in the towns of Tiptree and West Mersea. By application of the local standard, Tiptree requires 1.89 ha and Mersea requires 1.54 ha.
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Summary

10.30 The results of the household survey were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence in support of any decisions. However, consultations with Council staff as well as examination of Council plot waiting lists indicate that there is unmet demand for allotment sites in Colchester.

10.31 The distribution of allotments is good across Colchester town, and most residents have access to provision. Despite this, several areas of the Borough have been identified as important for further investigation, particularly the growth area of Stanway.

SECTION 10 - ALLOTMENTS

- 10.32 Allotments should be provided in Tiptree and West Mersea, as they currently have no provision and are significantly distant from current allotment sites.
- 10.33 The quality of allotments was perceived to be good and few issues were identified. As there was minimal variation in the quality of allotment scores according to site assessment, close attention should be made to feedback from current allotment users with regards to quality. Future investment in allotments should focus on the delivery of high quality ancillary facilities at sites and adherence to standards suggested by the NSALG.
- 10.34 A summary of recommendations regarding allotment provision is provided below.

Allotments Recommendations	
ALL 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the Borough, with reference to identified growth areas, current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility deficiency. Seek to provide additional plots to meet demand, as well as raising quantity towards the standard of 0.2ha per 1,000 population. Particular attention should be paid to areas in the Urban South analysis area where provision and access is particularly poor.
ALL 2	Provide allotment sites in the towns of Tiptree and West Mersea. By application of the local standard, Tiptree requires 1.89 ha and Mersea requires 1.54 ha.

SECTION 11

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Cemeteries and churchyards

Introduction and definition

- 11.1. Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church while cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. According to PPG17, this typology includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.
- 11.2. While the recognised primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, the amenity and visual benefits should also be recognised, in addition to the opportunities to promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Cemeteries and churchyards may also usefully break up the urban landscape.

Figure 11.1 Rectory Lane Churchyard, Abberton – Site 50



Context

- 11.3. Churchyards and cemeteries make a significant contribution to the provision of urban greenspace, offering a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. They represent a real opportunity for new kinds of conservation and green space policy. Cemeteries can provide some of the functions of parks and, unlike parks, the reassuring presence of people is generally guaranteed. Some are visited by significant numbers of tourists, and they can be important to family history researchers.
- 11.4. There are no current strategies for cemeteries and churchyards within Colchester. However the Council does take part in the National Association of Memorial Masons 'Cemetery of the Year Awards', a competition aimed at encouraging and rewarding high standards amongst Britain's cemeteries and to raise public awareness in the role that cemeteries play within the community. Through this competition, local cemeteries are assessed on criteria such as access, safety and facilities.

Current position - quantity

11.5. A total of 76 cemetery and churchyard sites have been identified and audited across Colchester. The distribution of these sites is set out below in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1 – Quantitative distribution of cemeteries and churchyards

Analysis Area	Population 2001	Hectares	Hectares per 1000 pop
Central	21,745	2.75	0.13
Mersea	7,677	5.2	0.68
Rural	28,840	11.19	0.39
Tiptree	9,464	0.53	0.06
Urban North	46,600	2.34	0.05
Urban South	56,272	24.23	0.43
Overall	170,598	46.24	0.27

11.6. The distribution of cemeteries and churchyards is largely opportunity led. While cemeteries/ churchyards may provide a local open space, many residents will also travel significant distances to reach the facility of their choice. Consultation highlighted that most residents feel that churchyards and cemeteries within the Borough are of average to good quality but are not particularly well used by members of the public.

11.7. It can be seen from Table 11.1 above that provision is relatively unevenly distributed across the town with almost half of the total provision being located in the Urban South analysis area. This skew is a result of Colchester cemetery, which is the largest cemetery in the Borough. Despite this, provision per 1000 population is highest in the Mersea analysis area.

Current position – quality

11.8. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards is equally as important as quantity. The consultation process revealed that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards are perceived to be in reasonable or good condition. However, the site assessment process did identify some sites that are in need of improvement. The top and bottom scoring sites that are currently in use are outlined overleaf in Table 11.2.

Table 11.2 Quality of cemeteries and churchyards across Colchester

Very good	Above 80%	St Andrews Church (95.6%) Copford and St Andrews Church (91.1%) Little Horkesley Church (82.2%)
Poor	Below 40%	St Johns Close graveyard (40%) Swan Street cemetery (40%)

11.9. In the main, sites were identified as being well maintained and of good quality. Only 9% of the household survey respondents indicated sites were of poor quality. Issues identified as being important, and therefore maybe requiring improvement at some sites, were well-kept grass, cleanliness (especially litter) and good lighting (although the appropriateness of this can be questioned).

Setting local standards

11.10. The process for setting standards is outlined in Section 2. Whereas provision standards for quality, quantity and accessibility are set for other open space typologies, PPG17 Annex recommends that only a quality vision is required for cemeteries and churchyards stating "*many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one.*"

11.11. PPG 17 Annex also states, "*every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard.*"

11.12. In line with PPG17 and the Companion Guide, only a quality standard has therefore been set.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
No local standard to be set	
Justification	
No quantity standard has been set in line with PPG17. The appropriate level of provision should be calculated taking into account population estimates, birth and death rates. This does not equate to a standard per 1000 population.	

Quality standard (see Appendix O – standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
<i>Use the Cemetery of the Year Awards criteria as a benchmark for standards.</i> <i>Cemetery quality should provide the basis for reflective contemplation.</i>
Justification
It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. It is important that good practice is promoted throughout the Borough, which can be developed and standardised through the Cemetery of the Year Awards.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix P – standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
No local standard to be set
Justification
There is no requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.

Applying local standards

- 11.13. As it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for cemeteries and churchyards, it is not possible to comment on areas of deficiency for this type of open space. The value of cemeteries and churchyards should, however, be recognised and opportunities should be seized to promote these sites sensitively for both human and wildlife use.

CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
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SECTION 11 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 11.14. There is a relatively uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough with high levels of provision in the Mersea, Rural and Urban South analysis areas.

CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
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- 11.15. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the Borough is reasonable, despite the variation in some site assessment scores.

- 11.16. There are many wider benefits of churchyards and cemeteries including heritage, cultural, natural and landscape values. It is wrong, therefore, to place a value on them which focuses solely on quantity, quality and accessibility. However, it is important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision.

CC 3	The Council should produce management plans for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.
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Summary

- 11.17. There is a relatively uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough with high levels of provision in the Mersea, Rural and Urban South analysis areas. Cemeteries offer opportunities for quiet recreation as well as acting as important wildlife sanctuaries and are effective in breaking up the urban landscape texture.
- 11.18. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough is considered reasonable but with some sites considered to be in need of improvement (the accompanying database indicates where quality is low)
- 11.19. The distribution of cemeteries and churchyards is largely opportunity led. While cemeteries/ churchyards may provide a local open space, many residents will also travel significant distances to reach the facility of their choice.
- 11.20. Consideration should also be given to the wider benefits offered by cemeteries and churchyards. In line with PPG17 Companion Guide guidance, local standards for accessibility and quantity have not been set. Instead, achievement of the quality standard should guide the future improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough. Partnership working will be essential to effectively deliver high quality sites across the Borough, which includes working with the Churches and 'Friends of Church' groups.
- 11.21. It remains important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards, anticipating future demand in the context of current level of provision. This should be undertaken through detailed analysis of birth, death and burial rates within the Borough.

SECTION 11 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

11.22. A summary of the recommendations for cemeteries and churchyards is provided below.

CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
CC 3	The Council should produce management plans for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.

SECTION 12
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Provision for children

Introduction and definition

- 12.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its eight green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 12.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically;
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 12.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as teenagers. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately to provision for young people.
- 12.4 Provision for children is taken to include the following areas:
- Equipped Children’s Play Areas
 - Adventure Play Grounds.
- 12.5 The role of amenity green space sites in the delivery of facilities for children is important. It should be recognised that children play in a variety of locations and can gain equivalent or greater stimulus and benefit from playing in the natural environment and informal open spaces as well as equipped play areas. Consultees can have a tendency to focus on equipped play provision and therefore overlook the informal places where children play.
- 12.6 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for children in Colchester. Local standards have been derived from the local consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of children’s provision. The issues identified should complement those highlighted within the Colchester Play Strategy.

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- 12.7 Figure 12.1 below depicts a high quality children’s play area at Jubilee Playing Fields in Marks Tey.

Figure 12.1 Jubilee Playing Fields play area, Marks Tey



- 12.8 Table 12.1 overleaf details the strategic context with regards provision for children, highlighting the key strategic drivers and the associated links to this open space, sport and recreation study.

Table 12.1 Local strategic context

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
<p>Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004</p>	<p>The current Local Plan sets out detailed planning policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan which relate to the provision of children and young people’s facilities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens’ play areas - per 1000 population [target 1 play area per 300 population aged 0-9 years, assuming 13% population in this age range = 0.5 factoring in catchment and physical barriers] • LEAP - 1 ha per 1,000 existing population • NEAP – 0.28 ha per 1,000 existing population 	<p>Existing standards for the provision of facilities to inform PPG17 quantity standards.</p>
<p>Colchester’s Play Strategy</p>	<p>The importance of play in the lives of children, young people and their families has been recognised through a variety of studies. Appropriate play provision allows children to let off steam, build social relationships and challenge their own boundaries in a constructive way. Play is essential for children’s healthy development and for community cohesion. To develop their competence and self-confidence when becoming young people, children need the ability to meet up with friends, visit the local park or swimming pool or shops under their own steam. Being able to have fun in public spaces and participate in cultural life is one of the hallmarks of a vibrant community.</p> <p>The strategy was adopted in September 2007 and sets out a number of Play Strategy Statements to help deliver high quality play in a variety of forms. The strategy aims to maintain existing play areas along with securing new opportunities throughout the borough. It also aims to obtain funding from developers and grants for improvements to existing areas for the benefit of the whole community.</p>	<p>Link to quality standards set in PPG17 study.</p>

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Colchester's Playground Development Plan	<p>This document sets out policies, objectives and future plans for equipped playground provision in the Borough. It includes standards for provision, guidelines for design and maintenance of playgrounds and identifies areas of need for new facilities.</p> <p>The current Plan was adopted in January 2001 and is due for review. The review has been delayed due to the production of the Play Strategy, which will help inform the provision and delivery of equipped play areas within the Borough.</p>	Link to standards for the provision of equipped play facilities to inform PPG17 quantity standards.
Best Value General Survey, ODPM, 2003-04	76% of residents think that, over the past three years, facilities for young children have got better or stayed the same for Colchester. This is in the 25-50 national quartile and compares poorly to most of Colchester's geographical and statistical nearest neighbours.	Need to improve quality and quantity of children's facilities.

Current Position – Quantity (audit table and consultation comments)

12.9 There are currently 84 play areas for children across Colchester. The current provision of childrens’ play areas is summarised below in Table 12.2.

Table 12.2 Quantity of children’s play areas across Colchester

Analysis Areas	Population	Hectares	Hectares per 1000
Central	21,745	0.36	0.02
Urban North	46,600	1.45	0.03
Urban South	56,272	1.35	0.02
Rural	28,840	1.93	0.07
Mersea	7,677	0.18	0.02
Tiptree	9,464	0.54	0.06
OVERALL	170,958	5.8	0.03

12.10 The key issues arising from this table and consultations undertaken include:

- the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.02 in Central, Urban South, and Mersea analysis areas, to 0.07 in the Rural analysis area
- the highest levels of dissatisfaction with current levels of provision can be found in the Central area, where 64% of respondees who expressed an opinion stated that there was nearly enough or not enough provision, and in Tiptree, where 64% of respondees who expressed an opinion stated that there was not enough provision
- the highest levels of satisfaction with current levels of provision were expressed in Mersea although the sample of respondees from Mersea was not enough to be statistically significant
- quality ratings were lowest in Tiptree where 25% of respondees rated the provision of facilities as being of poor quality
- the highest quality ratings were achieved in Mersea where 50% rated them as being of good quality, however, the small sample size must be noted when considering this
- with regard to the IT Young People Survey, the highest response level (30%) stated that their most frequently used open space was play areas
- 80% of respondents stated that the quantity of play areas in their area was good or fair
- a perceived lack of play provision for young children was expressed by both Abberton and Langenhoe Parish Council and Tiptree Parish Council

SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

- a specific lack of provision was highlighted at the Tiptree drop-in session.

12.11 The current quality of provision for children is illustrated in Table 12.3 below. The key issues arising from this analysis, detailed site visits and consultation are highlighted below:

Table 12.3 Current position - quality

Analysis Areas	Children's facilities provision		
	Number of sites	Range of scores (%)	Average Scores (%)
Central	4	69 - 74	70
Mersea	3	44 - 80	61
Rural	23	40 - 91	61
Tiptree	6	56 - 67	62
Urban North	23	42 - 87	62
Urban South	25	40 - 79	57
Overall	84	40 - 91	62

12.12 It can be seen through analysis of Table 12.3 and emerging issues from consultation that:

- the average quality of sites is fairly consistent across the Borough, with the overall highest quality in the Central area and the lowest quality in the Urban South analysis area
- only 16% of children responding to the survey indicated that the overall quality of facilities is poor
- the largest range in quality scores can be found in the Rural analysis area, highlighting the variety in the quality of facilities
- when asked what improvements children would like to see at a new or improved facility there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (29%)
- almost all play areas were also perceived to be well used, reinforcing the importance placed on these facilities by local residents.

Current position – accessibility

- 12.13 30% of children responding to the IT young people survey stated that facilities for children was the open space type visited most often. As may be expected, most children walk to their local facilities and the vast majority (78%) travel under 10 minutes. This view was also reflected by residents through the household survey with the majority expecting a walktime of between 5 and 10 minutes to their nearest play area.
- 12.14 Other consultation, particularly the drop-in sessions, suggested there is a lack of play facilities. In addition, many residents cited poor locations and distance from their home as the primary deterrents for use. This reinforces the necessity of local facilities, a point that was further emphasised through the children's survey, where the proximity of facilities to the home was considered to be a significant factor in determining the likelihood of use of facilities.

Local standards and justifications (quantity, quality and accessibility)

- 12.15 In setting local standards for children's facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs. The IT Young Peoples survey and neighbourhood drop in sessions were particularly important in determining local needs.
- 12.16 A full assessment of local needs both boroughwide and within each area has been undertaken for Colchester, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs.
- 12.17 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendix N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.

Quantity Standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.034 hectares per 1000 population	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.03 hectares per 1000 population. Existing sites are spread very evenly across the Borough in terms of the analysis areas. However, locational deficiencies do exist (illustrated later in this section through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer).</p> <p>A key theme emerging from the consultation has been a shortage of provision for children. This is supplemented by comments regarding the quality of existing sites. A standard has been recommended (derived from the local consultation) that seeks to encourage small quantities of new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas.</p> <p>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision across all analysis areas, except for the Rural and Tiptree analysis areas, and will therefore require further provision within most areas.</p>	

Quality Standard (see appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features</p> <p>All play areas must adhere to LEAP and NEAP national standards</p> <p>All play areas must adhere to CBC’s 2007 Play Strategy standards</p> <p>All play areas must be clean/litter-free, safe, free of graffiti, provide seating and provide a stimulating environment which encourages children’s imaginations</p>	<p>Desirable features</p> <p>Toilets should be provided on larger sites</p> <p>Play areas should be located alongside other open space types where possible</p>
Justification	
<p>Following feedback from consultations, recognition of the need for places to go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for seating and the provision of facilities which provide an environment that stimulates a child’s imagination rather than a focus only on formal equipment.</p> <p>The standard encompasses the need for play areas to meet the standards set out in the Council’s new Play Strategy, which reflect the national standards for LEAPs and NEAPs.</p> <p>The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are reflected in the quality standard.</p>	

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m)
Justification
<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a childrens' play facility. The opinion that provision for children should be localised was emphasised in responses to the Young People's Survey and a walktime was also expressed by most respondees.</p> <p>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. However, PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel.</p> <p>For children's facilities there was a clear consensus throughout the Borough for a walktime based accessibility standard of between 5 and 10 minutes. The 75th percentile expected travel time is a walk time of 10 minutes, an opinion shared across all the analysis areas. Analysis of the schools questionnaire showed that the majority of children travel less than 10 minutes to reach their preferred open space. The majority of children (61%) currently walk to their preferred sites however the largest majority (45%) would prefer to cycle to such sites.</p> <p>Setting the standard in accordance with the 75% threshold level is advocated in PPG17. Moreover, going for a larger accessibility catchment is recommended in terms of providing the Council with greater flexibility in terms of striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative improvements in provision. A 5-minute catchment would place a greater requirement 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.</p> <p>A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provide a realistic target for implementation. This is broadly equivalent to existing policy that seeks to ensure that Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are located within 400m walking distance of every home. 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.</p>

Applying provision standards

- 12.18 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 12.19 Consideration has been given to the provision of facilities for young people in the context of other open space types. Amenity green space has a particularly important role to play in the delivery of facilities for children, providing a key opportunity for informal play.

Identifying deficiencies in quantity

- 12.20 The recommended local standard is higher than the current level of provision across all geographical areas of the Borough except for Tiptree and the Rural analysis areas, and achievement of this standard will therefore require further provision within most areas (see Table 12.4 below).
- 12.21 This is reflective of the findings of the consultation, in which further provision for children emerged as a key priority for local residents in some areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard by 2021, something in the region of 4 hectares of play space would be required. This is an increase of approximately 69% on the current level of provision up to 2021.
- 12.22 The main opportunities for new provision are areas where comprehensive redevelopment may be proposed, derelict land, brownfield land unsuitable for development, educational sites where the school has existing facilities that are not made available for community use, or surplus land.
- 12.23 The application of the local quantity standard is set out in Table 12.4 below:

Table 12.4 Quantitative shortfalls and surpluses of provision for children’s facilities

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha), 2021
Central	21,745	0.02	0.05	- 0.73	- 0.9
Mersea	7,677	0.02	0.05	- 0.21	- 0.27
Rural	28,840	0.07	0.05	0.49	0.27
Tiptree	9,464	0.06	0.05	0.07	0
Urban North	46,600	0.03	0.05	- 0.88	- 1.23
Urban South	56,272	0.02	0.05	- 1.47	- 1.89
Total	170,598	0.03	0.05	- 2.73	- 4.02

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12.24 Interpretation of these figures highlights the following conclusions:

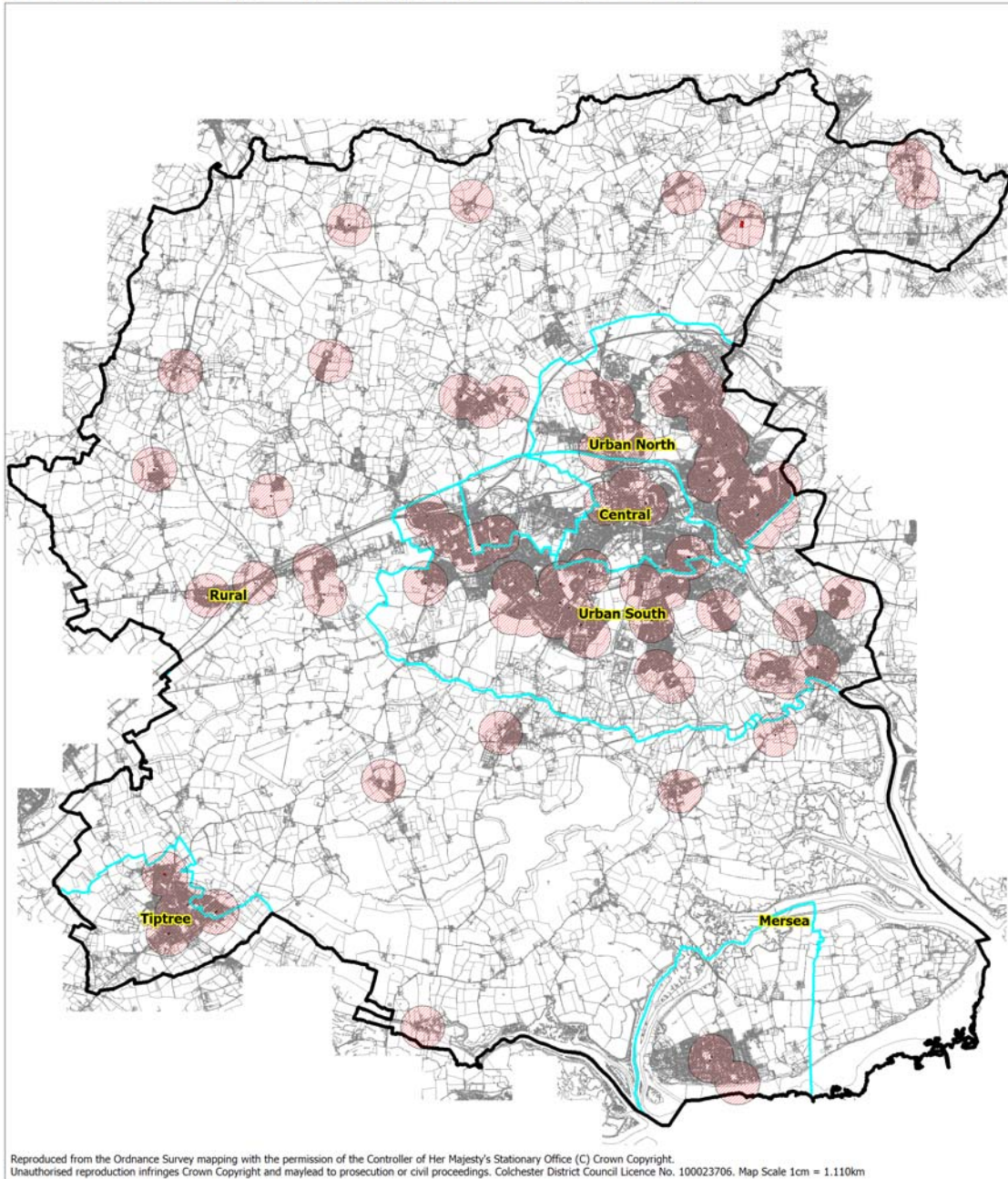
- there is a fairly even distribution of facilities for children across the Borough with the majority of residents located within the catchment of a facility
- where there are residents outside of the catchment for formal equipped children's play, in the majority of instances, these residents have access to local amenity space provision, meaning that as a minimum informal play opportunities are provided
- Table 12.3 demonstrates that the analysis area with the average lowest quality sites is the Urban South. When cross checked against table 12.4, it can be seen that the Urban South also has the most significant under provision of sites within the Borough
- the quantity and quality statistics do not show Tiptree to be lacking in the number or quality of play areas. This contradicts the consultation findings that suggested a deficiency in terms of both quantity and quality of play areas in Tiptree.

C1	Providers of facilities should ensure that they meet standards set out within the quality vision.
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12.25 Figure 12.1 overleaf illustrates the distribution of facilities for children across the Borough and the catchment areas that these facilities serve.

Figure 12.1 Provision of play areas within Colchester

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Children



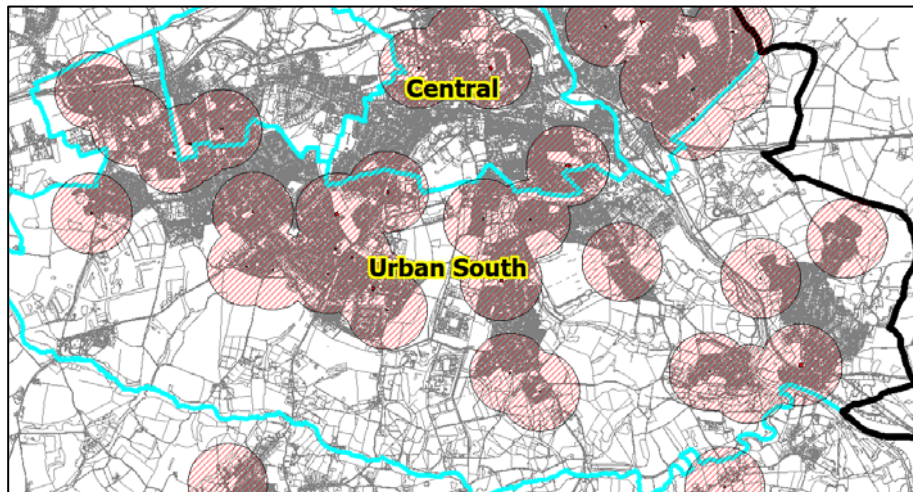
12.26 In light of the localised nature of play provision, consideration has been given to priorities within each geographical area. Based on the application of the local accessibility, quality and quantity standards, key priority areas for future development are as follows.

Area specific application of local standards

Urban South

12.27 The area with the largest requirement for further provision in order to satisfy local requirements for children’s plays facilities is the Urban South area of the Borough, where there is a requirement for a further 1.89 hectares up to 2021 to meet the local quantity standard. Importantly, the Urban South area is quantitatively well provided for in terms of amenity green space, illustrating that there are other opportunities for informal play in this area.

Figure 12.2 Urban South children’s facilities accessibility map



12.28 In terms of accessibility, the Urban South area has several large gaps where residents do not have access to a play area within a 10 minute walktime. Opportunities to locate new play areas on existing amenity green spaces in the Urban South area should be actively sought.

C2	Investigate opportunities to locate new play areas on existing amenity green spaces within the Urban South area.
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12.29 In terms of identifying priority areas for new facilities, extra provision should be targeted at those areas outside the distance threshold where there are sufficient people to justify the provision of new facilities.

12.30 The main residential area outside of the distance threshold of children’s play facilities within the Urban South area is the east area of Wivenhoe. It can also be seen that this area is deficient in parks and does not have a great deal of amenity green space. There are two amenity green spaces within this area that it may be possible to locate play areas on.

C3	Provide a play area in the east side of Wivenhoe.
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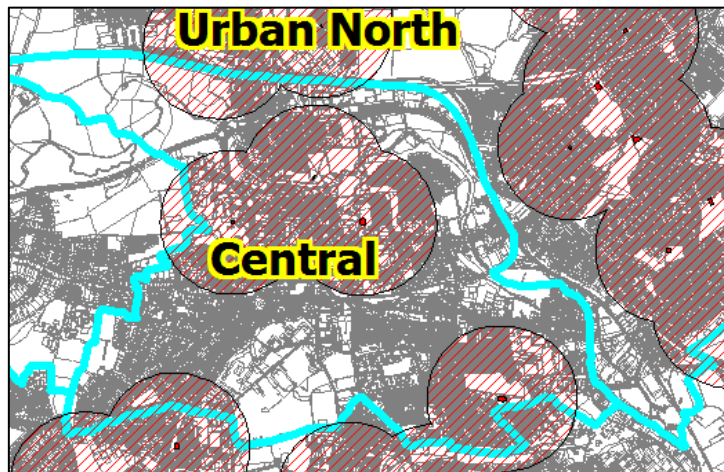
12.31 The lowest average quality site scores are in the Urban South region. Further improvements to the quality of sites in this area should be commissioned.

C4	Prioritise improvements to facilities of lower quality in the Urban South area of the Borough to ensure they meet with the quality vision.
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Central

12.32 The Central analysis area also has an undersupply of play areas, however the average quality is high (70%). There is a requirement for a further 0.9 hectares of play areas in this area by the year 2021. Figure 12.3 below illustrates that there are also pockets of areas within the analysis area that do not have access to play areas within the 10 minute walktime catchment.

Figure 12.3 Central children’s facilities accessibility map



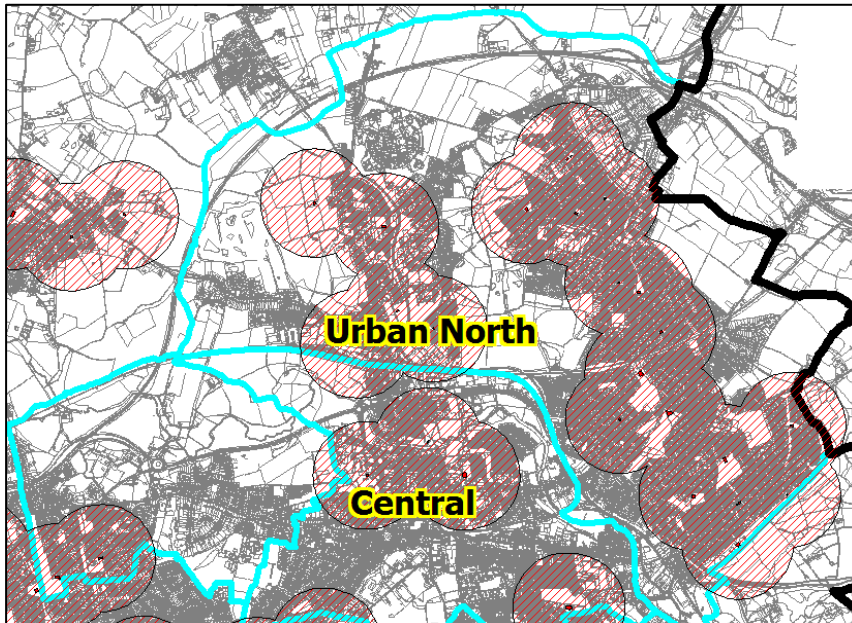
12.33 Residents to the south of the analysis area in particular do not have access to any play areas within the 10 minute walktime catchment. Provision should be focused on this area, perhaps locating a play area somewhere on the Abbey Fields site, subject to consultation with the MOD (the land owner).

C5	Provide a new play area in the south of the Central analysis area.
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Urban North

12.34 Provision in the Urban North analysis area is under the recommended quantity standard of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people. To meet this standard by 2021 the area requires 1.23 hectares of provision. Quality of facilities from site assessments is in line with the Borough average.

Figure 12.4 Urban North children’s facilities accessibility map



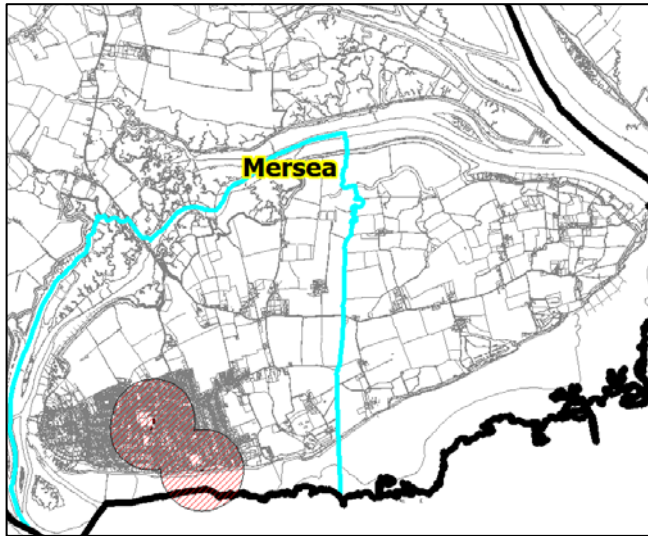
12.35 The accessibility map (Figure 12.4) reveals two significant residential areas that do not have access to a play area within a 10 minute walktime. The area of Braiswick, to the west of High Woods Country Park, requires a play area. There are two amenity green spaces in the area where a play area could be located. Additionally, the area of Lexden to the south west of Hilly Fields requires a play area, however, it is catered for in terms of access to amenity green space.

C6	Provide new play areas in Braiswick and Lexden.
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Mersea

12.36 The Mersea analysis area has a slight shortage of play areas. 0.27 hectares of play areas are required by 2021 if the area is to meet the proposed accessibility standard. The accessibility map overleaf demonstrates that provision should be focused on the west of the town of Mersea as the central and eastern areas of the town have access to play areas within a 10 minute walktime.

Figure 12.5 Mersea children’s facilities accessibility map

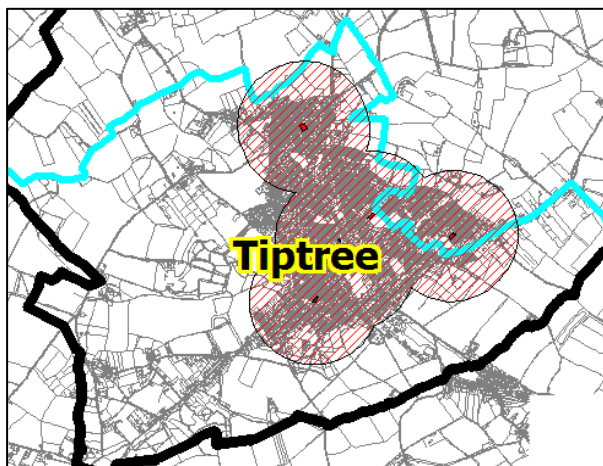


C7	Provide a play area for the west of the town of West Mersea, linking in with the provision of a park and garden or amenity area in recommendation PG 3.
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Tiptree

12.37 The statistics do not highlight a deficit in provision of play areas in Tiptree in terms of quantity or quality however strong opinions from public consultation and Tiptree Parish Council indicated a distinct dissatisfaction with the quality of play areas within the parish. The accessibility map below (Figure 12.6) illustrates that the majority of the residents of the analysis areas have access to a play area. Thus, the recommendation is to develop the quality of provision in the analysis area.

Figure 12.6 Tiptree children’s facilities accessibility map



SECTION 12 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN

C8	Improve the quality of play areas in Tiptree focusing on maintenance and provision of new and stimulating equipment that meet with the recommended quality standard.
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Rural

- 12.38 The Rural analysis area has the highest provision of play areas in terms of hectares per 1000 people. The average quality of sites from the site assessments was in line with the average score for the whole Borough.
- 12.39 Analysis of Figure 12.1 reveals that West Bergholt is the only significant settlement within the analysis area that does not have access to a play area within a 10 minute walktime.

C9	Provide a play area in West Bergholt. Preferably to be located on a new amenity green space (see recommendation AGS 4).
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Summary

12.40 A summary of our children's facilities recommendations are provided below.

C1	Providers of facilities should ensure that they meet standards set out within the quality vision.
C2	Investigate opportunities to locate new play areas on existing amenity green spaces within the Urban South area.
C3	Provide a play area in the east side of Wivenhoe.
C4	Prioritise improvements to facilities of lower quality in the Urban South area of the Borough to ensure they meet with the quality vision.
C5	Provide a new play area in the south of the Central analysis area.
C6	Provide new play areas in Braiswick and Lexden.
C7	Provide a play area for the west of the town of West Mersea, linking in with the provision of a park and garden or amenity area in recommendation PG 3.
C8	Improve the quality of play areas in Tiptree focusing on maintenance and provision of new and stimulating equipment that meet with the recommended quality standard.
C9	Provide a play area in West Bergholt. Preferably to be located on a new amenity green space (see recommendation AGS 4).

SECTION 13

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Provision for young people

Introduction and definition

- 13.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 13.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to a large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association (now know as Fields in Trust) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically;
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 13.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as teenagers. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately from provision for young people.
- 13.4 For the purposes of this assessment, provision for teenagers is taken to include the following types of provision:
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - skateparks
 - basketball courts
 - youth shelters
 - informal kickabout areas
 - BMX tracks.
- 13.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for young people in Colchester. Recommended local standards have been established and are derived from the local needs assessment. The application of these standards provides the Council with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and complements Colchester Borough Council's Play Strategy.

Figure 13.1 Jubilee Playing Fields skate park, Marks Tey



Context

- 13.6 78% of young people responding to the IT Young People survey stated that provision of play/teenage facilities is good or fair in Colchester, whilst 15% felt that the quantity of facilities is poor. This was consistent with quality, with 16% feeling that the quality is poor. The key improvements desired by young people were more interesting play areas (29%), a skate park (14%), a BMX park/ multi-use games area (11%) and a teen shelter (10%).
- 13.7 Many residents highlighted the importance of providing facilities for young people, indicating that a lack of facilities and opportunities can generate a culture of antisocial behaviour and misuse of other sites.
- 13.8 The strategic context of facilities for young people is set out in Table 13.1 overleaf.

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Table 13.1 Strategic Review

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004	<p>The current Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan which relate to the provision of children and young people’s facilities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens’ play areas - per 1000 population [target 1 play area per300 population aged 0-9 years, assuming13% population in this age range = 0.5 factoring in catchment and physical barriers] • LEAP - 1 ha per 1,000 existing population • NEAP – 0.28 ha per 1,000 existing population 	Existing standards for the provision of facilities to inform PPG17 quantity standards.
Colchester’s Play Strategy	<p>The importance of play in the lives of children, young people and their families has been recognised through a variety of studies. Appropriate play provision allows children to let off steam, build social relationships and challenge their own boundaries in a constructive way. Play is essential for children’s healthy development and for community cohesion. To develop their competence and self-confidence when becoming young people, children need the ability to meet up with friends, visit the local park or swimming pool or shops under their own steam. Being able to have fun in public spaces and participate in cultural life is one of the hallmarks of a vibrant community.</p> <p>The strategy was adopted in September 2007 and sets out a number of Play Strategy Statements to help deliver high quality play in a variety of forms. The strategy aims to maintain existing play areas along with securing new opportunities throughout the borough. It also provides the framework for obtaining funding from developers and grants for improvements to existing areas for the benefit of the whole community.</p>	Link to quality standards set in PPG17 study.

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Document Reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Colchester's Playground Development Plan	<p>This document sets out policies, objectives and future plans for equipped playground provision in the Borough. It includes standards for provision, guidelines for design and maintenance of playgrounds and identifies areas of need for new facilities</p> <p>The current Plan was adopted in January 2001 and is due for review. The review has been delayed due to the production of the Play Strategy, which will help inform the provision and delivery of equipped play areas within the Borough.</p>	Link to standards for the provision of equipped play facilities to inform PPG17 quantity standards.
Colchester's Strategic Plan 2006-2009	<p>Colchester's current Strategic Plan identifies a number of key aims for the Borough up to 2009 which are relevant to this PPG17 study including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving opportunities for younger people by improving the range of activities and facilities available for young people. 	Highlights the objective of improving facilities for young people within the Borough.
Best Value General Survey, ODPM, 2003-04	60% of residents think that, over the past three years, facilities for teenagers have got better or stayed the same for Colchester. This is in the 25-50 national quartile and compares poorly to most of Colchester's geographical and statistical nearest neighbours.	Need to improve quality and quantity of facilities for teenagers.

Current position – quantity

13.9 There are currently 31 sites for young people in Colchester. This provision is summarised in Table 13.2 below.

Table 13.2 Teenage provision in Colchester

Analysis Areas	Population	Number of sites	Hectares	Hectares per 1000
Central	21,745	3	0.30	0.014
Urban North	46,600	5	0.40	0.009
Urban South	56,272	10	0.25	0.005
Rural	28,840	8	0.33	0.011
Mersea	7,677	2	0.05	0.007
Tiptree	9,464	3	0.09	0.010
OVERALL	170,958	31	1.4	0.008

13.10 Key issues arising from the above table and the consultations undertaken include:

- a general lack of provision for young people was a consistent theme throughout all consultation and there are concerns that a lack of provision is causing safety issues at other open space types, specifically parks, during the evenings. The audit revealed a low level of provision for teenagers across Colchester – equivalent to only 0.008 hectares per 1000 population. It should be noted that the quantity of facilities available to young people is perhaps more important than the area/size of facilities. Teenagers often want areas where they can congregate and socialise, the quantity rather than the area being the important key indicator
- the Tiptree drop-in session yielded many opinions relating to the lack of teenage facilities in terms of both quality and quantity
- the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.005 hectares in the Urban South analysis area to 0.014 hectares per 1000 population in the Central analysis area
- 63% of respondents to the household survey stated that there were not enough teenage facilities. This was the highest percentage response indicating ‘not enough’ than any of the other open space types
- the household survey revealed that a majority of residents in all of the analysis areas believe that there is an undersupply of teenage facilities within the Borough, with Tiptree residents expressing the strongest opinion (69% of respondents stating ‘not enough’)
- the sports club survey revealed that facilities for young people and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) were the facilities most in demand in the local area

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- the IT Young People survey revealed that multi use games areas usage was selected as the most frequently used open space by 11% with a further 7% using a specific teenage facility such as a skate park.

Current position – quality

13.11 The quality of provision for teenagers in Colchester is summarised in Table 13.3 below. All scores are detailed in percentages.

Table 13.3 Quality of Teenage Provision

Analysis Areas	Number of sites	Range of scores	Average Score
Central	3	63 - 86	72
Urban North	5	60 - 63	62
Urban South	10	40 - 63	56
Rural	8	34 - 86	56
Mersea	2	33 - 60	47
Tiptree	3	40 - 54	46
OVERALL	31	40 - 86	57

13.12 The main comments to arise from Table 13.3 and the consultation findings and site visits are summarised below:

- the low number of sites in some analysis areas make the average score slightly superfluous however a general trend showing 57% as the average score is not particularly positive
- the range of scores achieved during site visits was significant, indicating that there are good sites in existence
- young people indicated that lighting, cameras and staff on site were the three main things that would make them feel safer when using open spaces. Site assessments revealed that few facilities for young people and children are currently lit. It should be said that the majority of respondents to the young peoples survey rated the overall quality of play/teenage facilities as good or fair, although this was from a limited sample size and does not appear to reflect the other consultation responses and site assessments
- vandalism and graffiti is a problem at sites for young people according to some consultees and this was reinforced from the site assessments findings
- when asked what improvements children would like to see at new or improved facilities there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (29%). Outdoor sports facilities (15%), a skate park (14%), a BMX park/ multi-use games area (11%) and a teen shelter (10%) were the most popular responses in order thereafter

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- children and young people were asked the reasons why sites were not used. The most popular responses were issues of time (17%), distance from home (11%), not being allowed (11%) and feeling unsafe (11%)
- concerns were expressed through local consultation undertaken that provision for young people is mostly very dull and could be more innovative and stimulating for children.

YP 1	All future development of facilities for young people should be planned in conjunction with young people, who should be involved at all stages of the process, including the management, maintenance and design of local facilities. Involvement of young people throughout the process should ensure access for all sectors of the community.
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Current position – accessibility

- 13.13 Analysis of the IT Young People survey suggests that as may be expected, the majority of residents walk to facilities with 89% of young people walking less than 15 minutes, whilst 53% of young people would walk for 5 minutes or less. 45% of young people indicated that they would cycle to reach open spaces, emphasising the importance of cycleways and green linkages between sites.
- 13.14 The household survey indicated that the majority of people walk to teenage facilities with the 75th percentile expected travel time being a walk time of 15 minutes.

Local standards and justifications (quantity, quality and accessibility)

- 13.15 The process for setting local standards for facilities for young people has taken into account existing national and local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.
- 13.16 The key messages emerging from the assessment of local needs, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards. The application of these provision standards therefore provides an understanding of the priorities in order to deliver effective provision for young people across the Borough.
- 13.17 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices N, O and P. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Quantity Standard (see Appendix N – standards and justification worksheet)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.01 hectares per 1000 population	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.01 hectares per 1000 population, which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. Across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision ranges from 0.01 within the Central analysis area to only 0.004 within the Urban South analysis area – a wide variety but all relatively low amounts compared to other local authorities. The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each site (illustrated through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer).</p> <p>Both adults and young people made similar comments regarding the lack of facilities at drop-in sessions held in Colchester and Tiptree. Given that the existing level of provision is lower to that for children, a standard has been recommended that will increase the numbers to similar levels of provision. This will facilitate new provision in all areas, something that the household survey results concurred with.</p> <p>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in all six of the analysis areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard, provision in the region of 8 hectares of facilities for young people would be required up to 2021.</p>	

SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Quality Standard (see Appendix O - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
<p><i>Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people; must be clean and litter-free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities</i></p> <p><i>Facilities should attempt to provide skate/BMX features alongside youth shelter areas</i></p>
Justification
<p>Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of such spaces to 'meet friends', as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure. This was a key element emerging from local consultation and is therefore reflected within this standard. It is important that sites continue to improve and the council works towards the achievement of the quality vision.</p> <p>A recent CABE Space study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and result in long term cost savings and this is reflected in the quality vision.</p>

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix P - standards and justification worksheet)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time
Justification
<p>The majority of people stated that walking is the most preferred method to travel to a young person's facility 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 always have access to a motorised vehicle and consequently a walk time enables access for all ages and users.</p> <p>The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time is in line with the 75% threshold level, as per PPG17 guidelines.</p>

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 13.18 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 13.19 The future level of provision required across the Borough of Colchester to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below. This has been summarised at both an analysis area and ward area level.

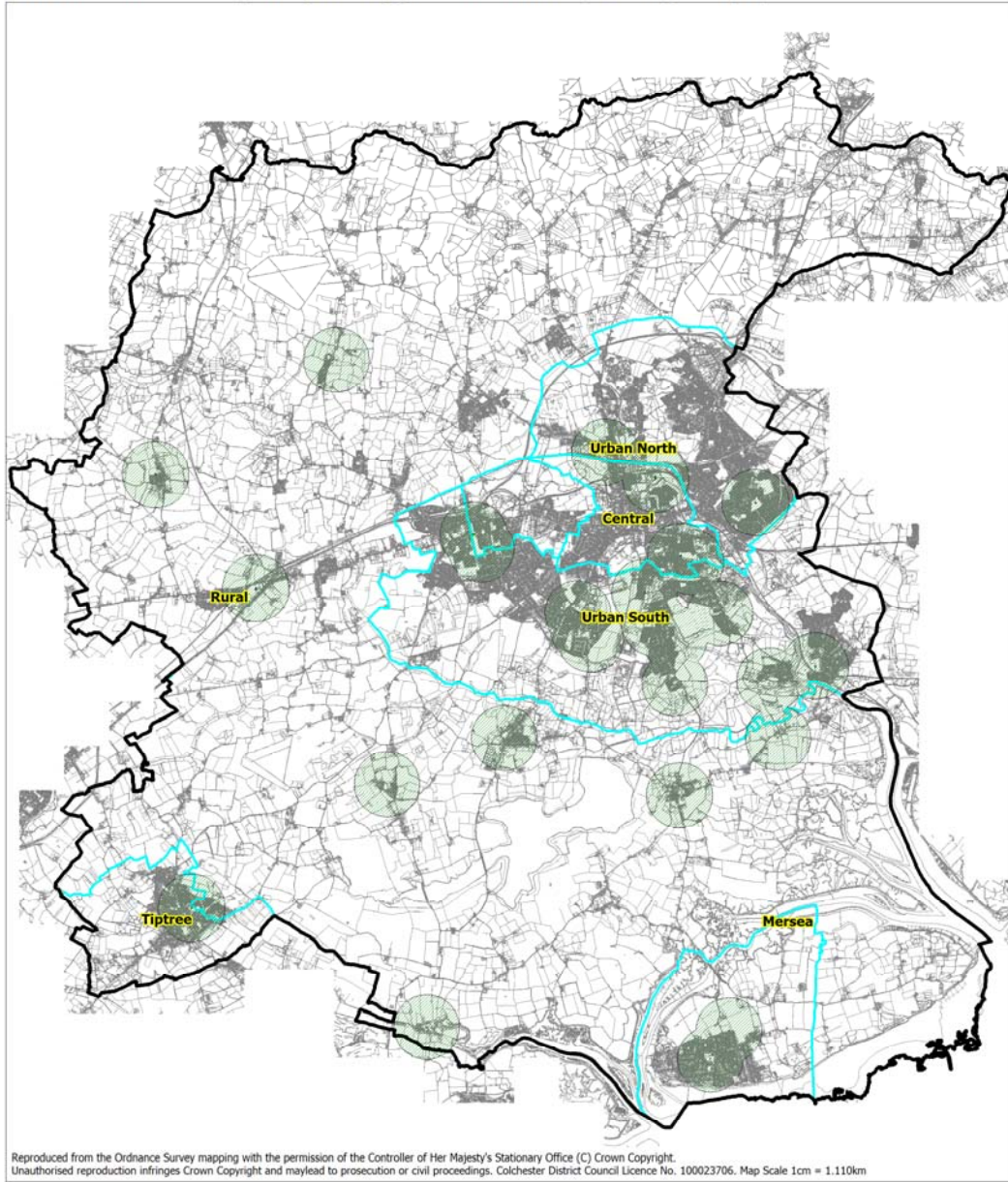
Table 13.4 Future level of teenage provision required (analysis areas)

Analysis area	Population	Current provision per 1,000 population	Local standard	Current balance (ha)	Future balance (ha) 2021
Central	21,745	0.014	0.05	- 0.78	- 0.95
Mersea	7,677	0.007	0.05	- 0.33	- 0.39
Rural	28,840	0.011	0.05	- 1.12	- 1.34
Tiptree	9,464	0.01	0.05	- 0.38	- 0.46
Urban North	46,600	0.009	0.05	- 1.93	- 2.28
Urban South	56,272	0.005	0.05	- 2.56	- 2.99
Total	170,598	0.008	0.05	- 7.1	- 8.4

- 13.20 Provision of teenage facilities falls below the recommended standard across all of the analysis areas, with the largest deficiencies being in the Urban North, Urban South and Rural analysis areas.
- 13.21 Whilst these tables provide a starting point for the quantitative application of the local quantity standard, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of provision for young people and their geographical relationships to one another. Figure 13.2 overleaf illustrates the geographical distribution of provision for young people and the catchment areas they serve.

Figure 13.2 Catchment areas for young people’s facilities

Colchester OSS - Open Space Type Catchments, Young People



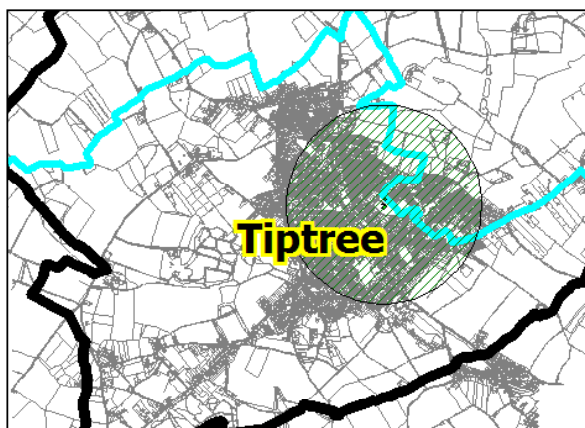
	Young People 	District 	Landline 	 ACTIVE <i>Bringing data to life</i>
	Catchment - Young People (720m Buffer) 	Analysis Areas 		

Area specific application of the local quality, quantity, and accessibility standards

Tiptree

13.22 The level of provision of teenage facilities in Tiptree is below the recommended quantity standard. 0.46 hectares of teenage facilities that will have to be provided by 2021 if the level of provision in Tiptree is to meet the required standard. There are three sites in Tiptree, all located together on the Grove Road amenity green space. Figure 13.3 shows that the additional provision required should be concentrated in the north and south-west of the town as residents in these areas do not have access to teenage facilities within a 15 minute walktime.

Figure 13.3 Tiptree accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



YP 2	Concentrate future provision on the north and south west of the town of Tiptree. If possible, co-locate a facility with the new open space provision recommended in the parks and gardens section (see recommendation PG 1).
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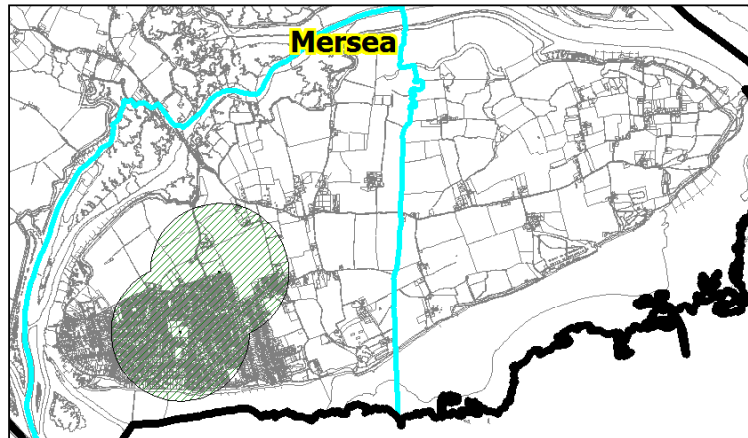
13.23 The quality of Tiptree’s teenage facilities were criticised by residents at the drop-in centre, a view supported by the low quality score awarded through the site assessments. The facilities at Grove Road should thus be brought up to the level required within the quality standard set out in this report.

YP 3	Improve the quality of the teenage facilities at Grove Road in Tiptree in line with the recommended quality standard.
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Mersea

13.24 The Mersea analysis area is also lacking in facilities for teenagers. There are only 0.007 hectares of teenage facilities per 1000 people within Mersea, significantly below the quantity standard of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people.

Figure 13.4 Mersea accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



13.25 Figure 13.4 above demonstrates that there are two areas in the town of West Mersea where residents do not have access to a teenage facility within a 15 minute walktime. New provision in the future should be focussed in these areas, in the west of the town and in the south east corner of the town. The west of the town does not currently have access to a park or an amenity green space so new provision will be required but Victoria Esplanade park in the south of the town could provide the ideal location for a teenage facility that will address the accessibility issue in this area.

YP 4	Provide a teenage facility in the west of the town of Mersea. Provision should be coordinated with the open space recommended in PG 3.
YP 5	Provide a teenage facility in the south east of the town of Mersea located on Victoria Esplanade park.

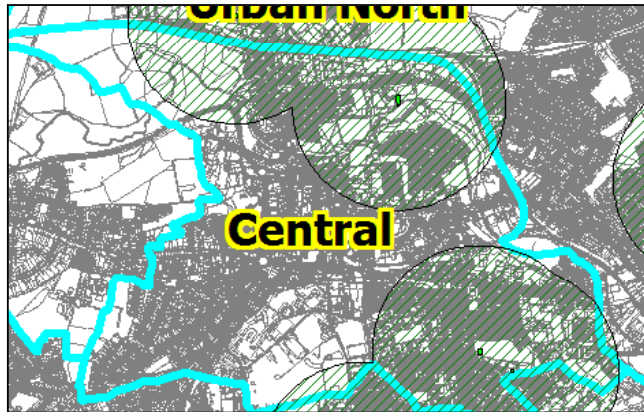
13.26 Quality scores for the existing two sites in West Mersea are low, averaging only 47%. Improvements to these sites should be made as a minimum to bring them up to the standards required by the quality standard.

YP 6	Improve the quality of the two teenage facilities in West Mersea to ensure that they meet the level of provision required by the quality standard.
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Central

13.27 The Central analysis area only has three teenage facilities, located in the north and the south east of the analysis area. The current level of provision of 0.01 hectares per 1000 people and is therefore significantly below the recommended quantity standard level of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people.

Figure 13.5 Central accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



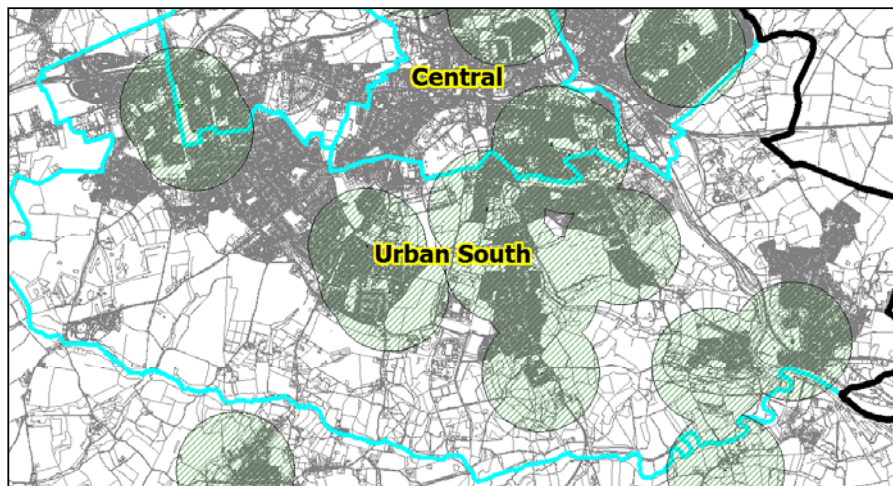
13.28 Figure 13.5 shows that the key area that does not have access to teenage facilities within a 15 minute walktime is in the south west area of the analysis area. Additional provision is needed here. Suitable sites for locating a teenage facility should be sought in this area. The area is already significantly residential in character so it may prove difficult to identify a suitable amenity green space to locate a playground on (especially as the area is already clearly deficient in amenity green space).

YP 7	Investigate potential locations for a new teenage facility in or close to the south west corner of the Central analysis area.
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Urban South

13.29 The Urban South analysis area has only 0.005 hectares of teenage facilities per 1000 people. This level is significantly below the recommended quantity standard of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people. The accessibility map below (Figure 13.6) identifies four significant residential areas that do not have access to a teenage facility within a 15 minute walktime.

Figure 13.6 Urban South accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

13.30 Based on Figure 13.6, the four areas in the Urban South that should provide the initial focus for future provision of teenage facilities are:

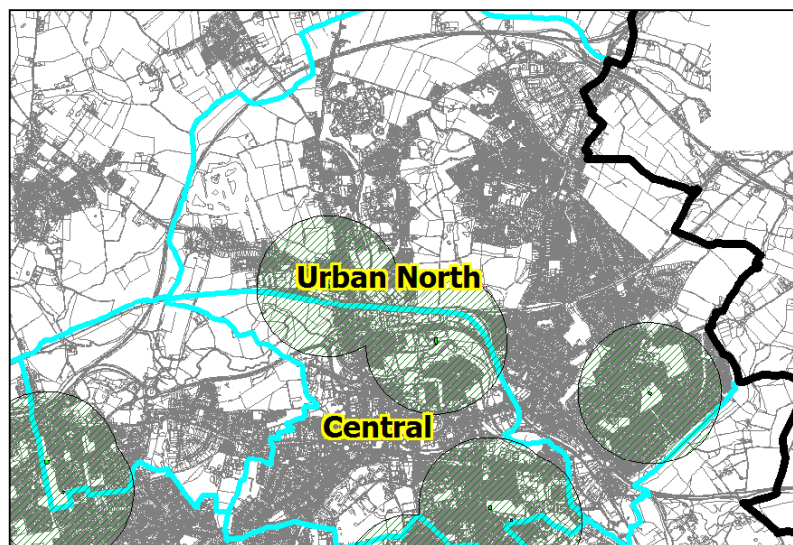
- the northern area of Wivenhoe
- the residential area between Stanway and Shrub End – potentially to be provided in Stoneleigh Park Amenity Green Space
- the area around the Lakelands development in Stanway – provision should be co-located with the new open space recommended within PG 5
- the area around Lucy Lane in the north west of the analysis area.

YP 8	Provide a teenage facility in the northern area of Wivenhoe.
YP 9	Locate a teenage facility on the Stoneleigh Park Amenity Green Space or in the surrounding area.
YP 10	Provide a teenage facility as part of the Lakelands development to be co-located with the new open space recommended in PG 5.
YP 11	Investigate the option of creating a teenage facility in or close to the residential area around Lucy Lane.

Urban North

13.31 The Urban North analysis area only provides 0.009 hectares of teenage facilities per 1000 people. This level is significantly below the recommended quantity standard of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people.

Figure 13.7 Urban North accessibility catchments for teenage facilities



SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

13.32 Figure 13.7 demonstrates that there are significant areas of the urban north analysis area where residents do not have access to a teenage facility within a 15 minute walktime of their homes. Thus, additional provision should initially be focussed in the areas of Highwoods, Mile End and Greenstead. There are various amenity green spaces in Mile End and Highwoods that should be examined for suitability to host a teenage facility. The Harwich Road Recreation Ground may be a suitable location for a new teenage facility close to the Greenstead area.

YP 12	Investigate options for the provision of teenage facilities on existing amenity green spaces in Mile End and Highwoods.
YP 13	Provide a teenage facility on the Harwich Road Recreation Ground.

Rural

13.33 The rural analysis area has the second highest level of teenage provision per 1000 people in the Borough, just below the Central analysis area. However the level of 0.01 hectares per 1000 people is still significantly below the recommended standard of 0.05 hectares per 1000 people.

13.34 The accessibility map in figure 13.2 identifies two settlements that are priorities for additional provision within the rural area as residents do not have access to any teenage facilities within a 15 minute walktime. Accordingly, teenage facilities should be prioritised for West Bergholt and Great Horkeley.

YP 14	Attempt to locate teenage facilities in the settlements of West Bergholt and Great Horkeley
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SECTION 13 – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Summary

13.35 Our recommendations relating to the provision of facilities for teenagers in Colchester are summarised below.

YP 1	All future developments of facilities for young people should be planned in conjunction with young people, who should be involved at all stages of the process, including the management, maintenance and design of local facilities. Involvement of young people throughout the process should ensure access for all sectors of the community.
YP 2	Concentrate future provision on the north and south west of the town of Tiptree. If possible, co-locate a facility with the new open space provision recommended in the parks and gardens section (see recommendation PG 1).
YP 3	Improve the quality of the teenage facilities at Grove Road in Tiptree in line with the recommended quality standard.
YP 4	Provide a teenage facility in the west part of West Mersea. Provision should be coordinated with the open space recommended in PG 3.
YP 5	Provide a teenage facility in the south east part of West Mersea located on Victoria Esplanade park.
YP 6	Improve the quality of the two teenage facilities in West Mersea to ensure they meet the level of provision required within the quality standard.
YP 7	Investigate potential locations for a new teenage facility in or close to the south west corner of the Central analysis area.
YP 8	Provide a teenage facility in the northern area of Wivenhoe.
YP 9	Locate a teenage facility on Stoneleigh Park Amenity Green Space or in the surrounding area.
YP 10	Provide a teenage facility as part of the Lakelands development to be co-located with the new open space recommended in PG 5.
YP 11	Investigate the option of creating a teenage facility in or close to the residential area around Lucy Lane.
YP 12	Investigate options for the provision of teenage facilities on existing amenity green spaces in Mile End and Highwoods.
YP 13	Provide a teenage facility on the Harwich Road Recreation Ground.
YP 14	Attempt to locate teenage facilities in the settlements of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley.

SECTION 14

GREEN CORRIDORS AND BEACHES/COASTAL AREAS

Green corridors and beaches/coastal areas

Introduction and definitions

- 14.1 Green corridors are linear features of mostly open character, including canal towpaths, riverside paths, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, which act as wildlife corridors and attractive, safe off-road links between residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas. They also give residents access to natural green space and the open countryside and provide opportunities for recreation. Green corridors increase in value if they are linked to form a network which extends within and beyond the Borough boundary.
- 14.2 Local networks of high quality and well-managed and maintained open spaces, sport and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Therefore the connectivity of all spaces through the provision of “green corridors” in Colchester is an important strategic consideration.
- 14.3 PPG17 states that the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of the land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads. Instead, planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense, green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as the canal and riverside towpaths, roads, river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible.
- 14.4 Due to the Borough’s coastline, which extends inland along the Colne and around Mersea Island, a separate category of ‘beaches and coastal areas’ was included in this study. Coastal areas offer a whole host of benefits from recreational purposes (for residents and tourists during summer months) to landscape, environment and biodiversity benefits.

Context

- 14.5 Green corridors are a key component of the green infrastructure of Colchester and provide important links to the neighbouring local authorities for residents.
- 14.6 PPG17 suggests that all corridors, including those in remote rural settlements, should be considered. However, the Companion Guide suggests that unless a green corridor is used as a transport link between facilities (ie home and school, town and sports facility etc) it should not be included within an audit.
- 14.7 The strategic context of green corridors is discussed in Table 14.1 overleaf.

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS AND BEACHES/COASTAL AREAS

Table 14.1 Strategic context

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Adopted Review Colchester Borough Local Plan March 2004	<p>The current Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are a few policies within the plan which relate to the protection or provision of green corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UEA14: Greenlinks • Policy L13: Countryside & River Corridor Access 	Green corridors provide important open space sites, as well as forming important linkages between sites. The policies set out in this plan guide and help to ensure suitable access to open space is maintained.
Strategic Policies in Colchester’s emerging Core Strategy	<p>Three themes are identified within the emerging Core Strategy that highlights the role of green corridors for the Borough.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>New development locations will be coordinated with transport infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, shopping, employment and open space to create sustainable communities.</p> <p><u>Urban Renaissance & Public Realm</u></p> <p>The Core Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the existing regeneration areas to stimulate a broader urban renaissance throughout the Town Centre. This will involve creating a high quality public realm, including parks, squares and streets, which is integral to the success of sustainable communities, and is therefore a key element of the Core Strategy</p> <p>The Strategy seeks to improve the street environment and calm traffic in urban areas to attract residents to local shops, schools, parks and bus stops and provide improved opportunities for children’s play.</p>	Green corridors form an important part of future development in Colchester - contributing to the suite of different types of public realm that will be provided, including accessible open space. This is especially important given Colchester substantial expected growth over the next 15 years.

SECTION 14 – GREEN CORRIDORS AND BEACHES/COASTAL AREAS

Document reviewed	Summary of key strategic drivers	Links to open space, sport and recreation study
Strategic Policies in Colchester's emerging Core Strategy	<p>Existing parkland and green links will be enhanced, and new open space will be acquired at appropriate locations, to meet the recreational needs of Colchester's growing community.</p> <p><u>Accessibility and Transportation</u></p> <p>The Core Strategy aims to focus development at accessible locations which support public transport, walking and cycling needs and reduces the need to travel and dependency on the private car.</p>	
Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study	<p>A Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study has been commissioned to ensure that the appropriate level and range of green infrastructure facilities are being delivered as part of new developments to serve existing and new communities within the Haven Gateway sub region. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is expected to be launched early in 2008.</p>	<p>This work will partially inform this study to identify the appropriate level of open space that should be provided and planned for in Colchester Borough over the next 15 years.</p>

Current position

- 14.8 Household survey results indicated that green corridors were of good quality, although few were identified. 55% of respondents rated them as being of average quality and 20% rated them as being of good quality. Beaches were also deemed to be of a high quality, with 53% of respondents rating quality as good, and only 8% rating quality as poor.
- 14.9 There are eight identified green corridors, beaches and coastal areas in the borough deemed to be suitable for inclusion in this PPG17 study. These include the coastal areas on Mersea Island, both to the south, as well as the north east. The green corridors identified in the town centre are along the Colne River, along Heath Road and the Roman River Trail.
- 14.10 31% of household survey respondents said they use these sites more than once a month and 45% said they use them less than once a month. 13% said they didn't use them at all. Green corridors and Beaches combined made up the third most frequently used open space site (19%).

Setting local standards

- 14.11 In light of the nature of green corridors it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for green corridors. Annex A of PPG17 supports this, stating that there is no sensible way of setting an appropriate provision standard.
- 14.12 PPG17 goes on to state that:
- “instead planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustain national cycle network, town and City centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to ‘plug in’ access to them from as wide an area as possible”*
- 14.13 There are currently no local standards relating to the provision of neither green corridors, nor beaches and coastal areas.
- 14.14 The Environment Agency are responsible for installing and maintaining flood banks in the Borough in areas such as Castle Park and land next to the cycle paths along the river. It was felt that public accessibility would be improved by increased lighting of open spaces along these sites.

14.15 Consultation with Natural England revealed the following information:

- Natural England manage at a Nature Reserve at Colne Estuary – essentially a coastal habitat/saltmarsh. They are advisors over all SSSI and European protected sites
- due to safety issues, Natural England are satisfied with the current level of accessibility at their coastal sites. However they would like to see a linear access corridor around the whole country, which would of course have implications for Colchester Borough. Through the Local Development Framework, Natural England is keen to ensure more green links and open space infrastructure in order to cater for the expected growth in population in the area over the next few years.
- it was noted that with physical access comes risk – in particular with tidal areas. The value of visual access to open space sites is often forgotten
- the level of use of coastal areas is currently satisfactory, and the further promotion of the coastal areas may prove dangerous, as the area is ecologically valuable and vulnerable
- in areas where the population is increasing, it is important to provide alternative green infrastructure sites in order to meet the additional demand. In an urban context there is always scope for more access.

14.16 The Blue Flag award is a national standard award scheme for beaches. It is an annual accreditation scheme that tests water quality of the sea, the beach and intertidal area, the information and education facilities available as well as the environmental management of the site. The beach at Mersea is ecologically sensitive and has significant tidal safety issues. Therefore the Blue Flag Award scheme is not deemed to be a suitable measure of beach quality.

14.17 Only a quality vision has therefore been set for green corridors, beaches and coastal areas. Further enhancement of the green corridor network will be undertaken through the development of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy.

14.18 Site assessment scores have not been included in this analysis, as it is not feasible to assess the length of all footpaths/corridors. However, the quality vision should be used as an aspiration for the introduction of new linkages.

Quality standard for green corridors (see Appendix N)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features</p> <p>Accessible paths with natural features</p> <p>Clean/litter free</p> <p>Dog litter bins</p>	<p>Desirable features</p> <p>Provide for both walking and cycling where possible</p>
Justification	
<p>It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe with clear pathways and well maintained to encourage usage. These routes also need to be well lit and secure.</p> <p>While green corridors have an important recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play.</p>	

Quality standard for beaches and coastal areas (see Appendix N)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features</p> <p>Clean and litter free</p> <p>Popular areas to have reasonable access to toilets where possible</p>	<p>Desirable features</p> <p>Maintain current levels of access</p>
Justification	
<p>The nature of the beach areas in Mersea means that the Blue Flag award is not deemed a relevant standard for the Council to aspire to. The beach is inaccessible and dangerous in certain areas due to the changeable tides and mud plains. The beach is deemed to be an area primarily for wildlife as opposed to recreational value, and therefore current restricted levels of access are deemed appropriate, something that is supported through consultation with Natural England.</p>	

Applying local standards

- 14.19 Given that it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards, it is also not appropriate to state areas of deficiency or need.
- 14.20 The aim is to provide an integrated network of high quality green corridors linking open spaces together and opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport. Consideration should also be given to the provision of effective wildlife corridors, enabling the migration of species across the Borough.

Summary and recommendations

- 14.21 Green corridors provide opportunities close to people’s homes for informal recreation, particularly walking and cycling, as part of every day routines, for example, travel to work or shops. The development of a linked green corridor network will help to provide opportunities for informal recreation and improve the health and well-being of the local community. Green corridors are key to the achievement of increased participation targets.
- 14.22 There are already a number of footpaths and green corridor networks within the study area and consultation indicates that they are well used and valued. Future enhancement of green corridors, particularly along the river Colne and along Heath Road, are likely to further increase the value placed on these amenities by residents.
- 14.23 Future development needs to encompass linkage provision between large areas of open space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites such as dismantled railway lines and cross country nature trails that already exist in the City. Development should consider both the needs of wildlife and humans.
- 14.24 A network of multi-functional green space will contribute to the high quality natural and built environment required for existing and new sustainable communities in the future. An integrated network of high quality green corridors will link open spaces together to help alleviate other open space deficiencies and provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport.

GC 1	Emphasis should be placed on developing the Borough’s natural green corridors.
GC 2	The Council should work in tandem with all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors.
GC/ 3	Actions arising from the emerging Core Strategy and the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study regarding the development of greenways should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help contribute, enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged.
GC 4	Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in Colchester should be a key priority for the Council to provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport.
BC 1	Access to, and the quality of Mersea beach should be maintained to the current standard in order to preserve amenity value as well as to protect the fragile ecology of the area.

SECTION 15
CIVIC SPACES

Civic spaces

Definition

- 15.1 Civic spaces include civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians with the primary purpose of providing a setting for civic buildings and community events or gatherings.
- 15.2 Civic spaces can also be important open spaces in some areas particularly in urban areas and town centres.
- 15.3 As PPG 17 states *'the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design led basis. Accordingly it is for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas'*.

Setting provision standards

Quantity

- 15.4 Only one civic space was identified in the Borough, Culver Square in the main shopping area of Colchester town centre.
- 15.5 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces.
- 15.6 The consultation suggests that on the whole that more people considering there to be enough civic space provision (38%) compared to those implying there is nearly enough or not enough (35%). A large percentage of people responded 'no opinion' (27%).
- 15.7 It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces across the local authority area due to the limited amount of civic space provision. Furthermore, PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces.
- 15.8 Therefore from the analysis it is suggested that no provision standard is set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres.

**RECOMMENDED
LOCAL STANDARD**

**No Local Standard to be
set**

Quality

- 15.9 The household questionnaire indicated that people are generally satisfied with the quality of civic spaces within the Borough. 19% responded that the quality is good, 66% that the quality is average and 15% that the quality is poor.
- 15.10 No quality standard has been set for civic spaces as it is not felt to be appropriate to set a quality standard relating to one specific space in the Borough.

**RECOMMENDED
QUALITY STANDARD**

**No Local Standard to be
set**

Accessibility

15.11 Responses to the household questionnaire showed that slightly more people would expect to drive to civic spaces as opposed to walk (36% walk versus 37% drive).

15.12 However, there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they are limited in their scope to provide additional provision. Civic spaces tend to be located in town or local centres or indeed opportunity led through the development of civic or large buildings.

15.13 This is particularly the case in rural areas, where there would be little expectation to find civic spaces located in such areas.

**RECOMMENDED
LOCAL STANDARD**

**No Local Standard to be
set**

Summary

15.14 The rural nature of the local authority areas means there is only one civic space across the Borough.

15.15 Due to the existence of such a small number of sites it is considered inappropriate to set quantitative, qualitative and accessibility local standards for civic spaces.

SECTION 16
SUMMARY

Overall summary and conclusions

Introduction

- 16.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” (September 2002).
- 16.2 The prime objectives of the study were to:
- provide a robust assessment of the demand for open space and recreation facilities throughout the Borough, addressing issues of quantity, quality and accessibility
 - provide an analysis of identified surpluses or deficiencies and other issues of provision across the Borough
 - provide clear recommendations for the setting of locally derived quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - provide evidence for the Borough’s emerging Core Strategy
 - inform the preparation of planning policies in the Local Development Framework
 - underpin the development of the Council’s Parks and Green Space Strategy.
- 16.3 It is important to note that the Council only controls a limited amount of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the Council needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the relevant Parish or Town Councils may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Colchester Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.
- 16.4 The following table summarises the key findings of the study, under the headings of each typology.

Table 16.1 Recommendations

ISF 1	The Council to consider providing new indoor tennis facilities within the Borough after the development of the proposed new courts at the West End Tennis Centre or Cuckoo Farm.
ISF 2	The Council to investigate the possibility of facilitating access to further school sports halls facilities in Colchester outside school hours.
PG 1	Seek additional park and garden/amenity green space site in Tiptree. Provision should be focussed on the south of the town if possible.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

PG2	Saw Mill Sand and Gravel Pit (known as Tiptree Quarry), in the south west of the Borough is currently informally used for dog walking by local residents. The quarry is still in operation however the opportunity to formalise and improve the quality of this site for public access should be investigated further as it provides a key strategic natural and semi-natural site in the south west of Tiptree.
PG 3	Attempt to provide an additional park/amenity green space within the western end of West Mersea. If no sites exist, protect and enhance the existing open space provision at Barfield Road and Victoria Esplanade as a minimum.
PG 4	Seek opportunities to upgrade one or more of the amenity green space sites in the Greenstead Slopes area to include some park/garden functionality
PG 5	Ensure that the development at Lakelands provides an acceptable park and garden or equivalent accessible open space in line with the recommended quantity and quality standards.
AGS 1	Improve the quality of open spaces in Tiptree by applying the quality standard as set out in this study, as well as looking to provide improved and additional provision for children and young people.
AGS 2	Protect/enhance the role of Shrub End as an area of strategic open space importance to the area. Attempts should be made to combine its core function (a sports facility) with secondary functions of providing amenity space for local populations, providing that this does not result in the loss of any sports pitches.
AGS 3	Provide an additional amenity green space site to the south west of Castle Park. If this is not feasible, investigate the opportunity of converting a section of Abbey Fields into an amenity green space site.
AGS 4	Provide an additional amenity green space site in West Bergholt.
NSN 1	Promote the use of Cudmore Grove Country Park in the town of West Mersea.
NSN 2	Improve the quality of NSN sites in the area by application of the quality standard, focusing on Cymbeline Meadows and Abbey Field in particular.
OSF 1	Promote the availability of sports facilities across the Borough and ensure that facilities are accessible to all sectors of the local community. This should include increasing signage to sites and maximizing public transport links.
OSF 2	Actively pursue community use at school sites to maximise the number of residents that have access to local facilities.
OSF 3	Abbey Fields and Napier Road Sports Centre remain important sites for the Central analysis area. If possible access and usage should be increased, as well as quality maintained at these sites.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

OSF 4	The 2006 SPD, alongside local consultation and assessment, should be used to guide the development of recreation sites at rural locations where sites do not currently exist.
OSF 5	Maintain/improve Tiptree Sports Centre as it provides a core sports facility to the town.
OSF 6	Spring Lane in Stanway provides the only outdoor sports facility in the local surrounding area. The quality of this site should be maintained and enhanced where possible.
OSF 7	Ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are fit for the purposes intended. Specific improvements required for playing pitches are set out in the Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy.
ALL 1	Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the Borough, with reference to identified growth areas, current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility deficiency. Seek to provide additional plots to meet demand, as well as raising quantity towards the standard of 0.2ha per 1,000 population. Particular attention should be paid to areas in the Urban South analysis area where provision and access is particularly poor.
ALL 2	Provide allotment sites in the towns of Tiptree and West Mersea. By application of the local standard, Tiptree requires 1.89 ha and Mersea requires 1.54 ha.
CC 1	The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.
CC 2	The Council should work in partnership with other providers (e.g. the churches, 'Friends of Church' groups) to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard.
CC 3	The Council should produce a standard management plan for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

C1	Providers of play facilities should ensure that they meet standards set out within the quality vision.
C2	Investigate opportunities to locate new play areas on existing amenity green spaces within the Urban South area.
C3	Provide a play area in the east side of Wivenhoe.
C4	Prioritise improvements to facilities of lower quality in the Urban South area of the Borough to ensure they meet with the quality vision.
C5	Provide a new play area in the south of the Central analysis area.
C6	Provide new play areas in Braiswick and Lexden.
C7	Provide a play area in the western part of West Mersea, linking in with the provision of a park and garden or amenity area in recommendation PG 3.
C8	Improve the quality of play areas in Tiptree focusing on maintenance and provision of new and stimulating equipment that meet with the recommended quality standard.
C9	Provide a play area in West Bergholt. Preferably to be located on a new amenity green space (see recommendation AGS 4).
YP 1	All future developments of facilities for young people should be planned in conjunction with young people, who should be involved at all stages of the process, including the management, maintenance and design of local facilities. Involvement of young people throughout the process should ensure access for all sectors of the community.
YP 2	Concentrate future provision on the north and south west of the town of Tiptree. If possible, co-locate a facility with the new open space provision recommended in the parks and gardens section (see recommendation PG 1).
YP 3	Improve the quality of the teenage facilities at Grove Road in Tiptree in line with the recommended quality standard.
YP 4	Provide a teenage facility in the west of the town of Mersea. Provision should be coordinated with the open space recommended in PG 3.
YP 5	Provide a teenage facility in the south east of the town of West Mersea located on Victoria Esplanade park.
YP 6	Improve the quality of the two teenage facilities in West Mersea to ensure they meet the level of provision required within the quality standard.
YP 7	Investigate potential locations for a new teenage facility in or close to the south west corner of the Central analysis area.
YP 8	Provide a teenage facility in the northern area of Wivenhoe.

SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

YP 9	Locate a teenage facility on Stoneleigh Park Amenity Green Space or in the surrounding area.
YP 10	Provide a teenage facility as part of the Lakelands development to be co-located with the new open space recommended in PG 5.
YP 11	Investigate the option of creating a teenage facility in or close to the residential area around Lucy Lane.
YP 12	Investigate options for the provision of teenage facilities on existing amenity green spaces in Mile End and Highwoods.
YP 13	Provide a teenage facility on the Harwich Road Recreation Ground.
YP 14	Attempt to locate teenage facilities in the settlements of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley.
GC 1	Emphasis should be placed on developing the Borough's natural green corridors.
GC 2	The Council should work in tandem with all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors.
GC/ 3	Actions arising from the emerging Core Strategy and the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study regarding the development of greenways should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help contribute, enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged.
GC 4	Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in Colchester should be a key priority for the Council to provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport.
BC 1	Access to, and the quality of Mersea beach should be maintained to the current standard in order to preserve amenity value as well as to protect the fragile ecology of the area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Benefits of open space

<p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise · • social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride· • providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising· • providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.
<p>Recreational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits· • offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games· • open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world· • play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.
<p>Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities· • providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity· • helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity· • providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials · • providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
<p>Educational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment· • open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.
<p>Economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues· • contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects· • contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events· • encouraging employment and inward investment · • complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.

APPENDIX B

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Open space typology definitions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife conservation • biodiversity • environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Green Space	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal activities close to home or work • enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play areas.
Provision for Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people, typically teenagers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and 'hangouts'.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports.

APPENDIX B – OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Allotments	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing vegetables and other root crops. <p>N.B. does not include private gardens.</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quiet contemplation burial of the dead wildlife conservation promotion of biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking, cycling or horse riding leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration.
Beaches and Coastal Areas	Includes both public and private beaches, estuaries and coastal areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leisure purposes walking.
Civic Spaces	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designed for pedestrians primary purpose of providing a setting for public events.
Indoor Sport and Recreation	Opportunities for participation in indoor sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sports halls swimming pools health and fitness facilities indoor tennis indoor bowls.

1.1 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment of open space in conjunction with PPG17, namely:

- grass verges on the side of roads
- small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of two roads
- SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e in and around a block of flats)

APPENDIX B – OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY DEFINITIONS

- farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.
- 1.2 As a result of the multi-functionality of open spaces there is a requirement to classify each open space by its '**primary purpose**' as recommended in PPG17 so that it is counted only once in the audit.
- 1.3 This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example - in areas of deficiency of amenity greenspace, playing pitches may exist that provide the function of required amenity greenspace but its primary purpose is as an outdoor sports facility.

APPENDIX C
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY



Colchester Borough Council Open Space Survey



Definitions of Open Space

- Parks and gardens** - These range from large country parks to urban parks and small memorial formal gardens
- Natural areas** - Woods, nature reserves and unmanaged greenspaces such as scrubland
- Amenity areas** - These are small or large greenspaces often found amongst housing estates (eg village greens)
- Play areas for children** - These are equipped play areas for children (eg swings, slides and climbing frames)
- Teenage facilities** - These range from youth shelters, to skate parks and multi-use-games-areas
- Outdoor sports facilities** - Grass pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and golf courses
- Allotments** - Public or private open spaces dedicated to growing produce and gardening
- Beaches and estuaries** – Includes both public and private beaches
- Civic spaces** – Hard paved areas used for a variety of purposes
- Cemeteries and churchyards** - Open and closed burial grounds and cemeteries
- Green corridors** - These are footpaths, canal towpaths, bridleways and cycleways

SECTION ONE - QUANTITY

Q1 Please tick below whether you feel there is **ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH** provision for each type of open space within the Borough and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer (eg not enough in your area/ quality is poor/ inaccessible).

	<i>More than enough</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Nearly enough</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Beaches and estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>					

Travel time

Q2 Please write the **TIME** you would expect to travel, and the type of transport you would expect to use, when travelling to open spaces in the Borough (*please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only*):

	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Parks and gardens	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Natural areas	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Amenity areas	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Play areas for children	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Teenage facilities	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Outdoor sports facilities	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Allotments	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Beaches and estuaries	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Civic spaces	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Cemeteries and churchyards	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins
Green corridors	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins	___ mins

Usage

Q3 How **OFTEN** do you use each of the following types of open space? (*please tick one option only for each type of open space*)

	<i>More than once a month</i>	<i>Less than once a month</i>	<i>Don't use</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beaches and estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Do you or any member of your household own/ manage/ use an allotment in the Borough?
 Yes (*please proceed to Q6*)..... No

Q5 If **NO**, would you be interested in using an allotment within your local area?
 Yes..... No

If YES please indicate why you are not an allotment user already _____

Quality

Q6 How would you rate the quality of the following types of open space in the Borough? (*If you are unsure please leave blank*)

	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Parks and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play areas for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenage facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beaches and estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION TWO - SPECIFIC TO THE TYPE OF OPEN SPACE YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE

- Q7 Please indicate which open space TYPE you use MOST FREQUENTLY in the Borough? (PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE)**
- Parks and/or gardens* *Amenity areas*..... *Outdoor sports facilities*
Natural areas *Play areas for children* *Allotments*.....
Green corridors *Teenage facilities* *Cemeteries and churchyards*
Beaches and estuaries *Civic spaces*

Type most frequently used

- Q8 Please name the SITE you use MOST FREQUENTLY and where it is located (eg village/town)?**
- Site Name _____

- Location _____

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE OPEN SPACE TYPE YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE AS INDICATED IN QUESTION 7

Travel

- Q9 How do you normally TRAVEL there? (please tick one box only)**
- Walk*..... *Public transport*..... *Car* *Cycle*.....
Q10 How LONG does it take you to reach this type of open space? (please tick one box only)
Less than 5 minutes *Between 10-15 minutes*..... *Between 20-30 minutes*
Between 5-10 minutes..... *Between 15-20 minutes*..... *Over 30 minutes*

Aspirations

- Q11 If you were describing your ideal features within this type of open space, what would be the TOP FEATURES you think should be provided? (please only tick up to FIVE)**
- Well kept grass* *Level surface/ good drainage*..... *Nature features (e.g. wildlife)* *Good access to site*
Clean/litter free *Events e.g. music* *Pond/lake/water features* *On site security (e.g. warden/CCTV)*
Flowers/trees and shrubs *Toilets* *Dog walking facilities* *Information boards/signage*.....
Changing facilities..... *Cafe* *Dog free area*.....
Parking facilities *Seating* *Litter bins*
Footpaths *Picnic area* *Facilities for children and young people*
- Q12 Which of the following factors would make you feel SAFER using this type of open space (please tick one or more)**
- Adequate lighting*..... *Staff-on-site (e.g. park rangers)*..... *Overlooked by housing*
Clear route to open space..... *Reputation of area/space*..... *Other users*
CCTV..... *Clear boundaries*

Quality

- Q13 Please indicate whether you experience any of the following PROBLEMS at the open space type you visit most frequently as indicated in Q7 by rating the seriousness of the problem in the boxes below:**
- | | Significant problem | Minor problem | No problem |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vandalism and graffiti | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safety and age of equipment (play areas, seating) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Litter problems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mis-use of site (e.g. youths congregating) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog fouling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q14 Please rate the following quality factors for the type of open space in the Borough you visit most frequently as stated in Q7:

	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Unsatisfied</i>	<i>Very unsatisfied</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General maintenance and management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boundaries (railings, hedges etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of bins for litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seats/benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information and signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planted and grassed areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION THREE - OUTDOOR SPORTS

Q15 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of outdoor sport facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer.

	<i>More than enough</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Grass pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Synthetic turf pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Bowling greens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			
Golf courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>	_____			

Q16 Please write the TIME you would expect to travel below the type of transport you would expect to use when travelling to outdoor sports facilities in the Borough (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only):

	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Grass pitches	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Synthetic turf pitches	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Tennis courts	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Bowling greens	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Golf courses	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

General

Q17 If you have any other COMMENTS that you would like to make regarding outdoor sports in the Borough, please write them in the box below.

SECTION FOUR - INDOOR SPORTS

Q18 Please tick below whether you feel there is ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH provision for each type of indoor sport facility in your local area and if possible, explain briefly the reason for your answer.

	<i>More than enough</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Swimming pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Sports halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Health and fitness (Gyms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Indoor tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Indoor bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				
Church/parish/community halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Reason for answer</i>				

Q19 Please write the TIME you would expect to travel below the type of transport you would expect to use when travelling to outdoor sports facilities in the Borough (please state one time and travel mode for each open space type only)::

	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Public transport</i>	<i>Car</i>
Swimming pools	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Sports halls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Health and fitness (Gyms)	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Indoor tennis	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Indoor bowls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins
Church/parish/community halls	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins	__ mins

Q20 Do you have any comments about indoor sports activities based in your local community/parish/church hall?

General

Q21 If you have any other COMMENTS that you would like to make regarding indoor sports in the Borough, please write them in the box below.

SECTION FIVE - SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOU

- Q22** Are you;
Male..... Female.....
- Q23** How old are you?
Under 16 25-39..... 60-75
16-24 40-59..... 75+
- Q24** Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?
White British Black Other..... Mixed White and Black Caribbean.
White Irish..... Asian British..... Mixed White and Black African.....
White Other Asian Pakistani Mixed White and Asian.....
Black British..... Asian Indian Mixed Other
Black African..... Asian Bangladesh Chinese
Black Caribbean..... Asian Other.....
Other (please specify) _____
-
- Q25** Are there any children in your household under 16 years?
Yes..... No

PMP Consultancy is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 with the Notification Department of the Information Commission.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire, please return it in the prepaid envelope provided, by Friday 22nd June 2007

APPENDIX D
PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY



OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PROVISION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Questionnaire

PARISH:

PARISH CLERK:

**TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2007**

QUANTITY ASSESSMENT

Please read:

(A1) We would like you to provide an overall **QUANTITY** assessment of open spaces and indoor/outdoor recreation facilities **within your Parish area**, covering all provision whether under the ownership of the Parish/Town Council or other organisations. This will help us to gain a good understanding of the profile of current provision through highlighting types of open space/facilities that are perceived to be well provided as well as perceived deficiencies. We appreciate that this may be difficult in some circumstances, but as this is to provide a broad overview, please make an informed judgement where necessary and provide any specific details to support and explain the reasons for your choice.

TYPE OF OPEN SPACE / INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY	PLEASE TICK (✓) AS APPROPRIATE				REASONS FOR ANSWER (PLEASE PROVIDE BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE REASON FOR YOUR ANSWER)
	MORE THAN WE NEED	ABOUT RIGHT	LESS THAN WE NEED	N/A	
OPEN SPACES					
PARKS AND GARDENS					
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES					
GREEN CORRIDORS					
AMENITY GREENSPACE					
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE					
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES (INCLUDING ANCILLARY FACILITIES EG CHANGING ROOMS, PAVILIONS)					
ALLOTMENTS					
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS					
BEACHES AND ESTUARIES					

TYPE OF OPEN SPACE / INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY	PLEASE TICK (✓) AS APPROPRIATE				REASONS FOR ANSWER (PLEASE PROVIDE BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE REASON FOR YOUR ANSWER)
	MORE THAN WE NEED	ABOUT RIGHT	LESS THAN WE NEED	N/A	
INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES					
COMMUNITY CENTRES					
VILLAGE HALLS					
CHURCH HALLS					
SCOUT HALLS (OR EQUIVALENT)					
OTHER (PLEASE STATE)					

NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

Please give details of any new developments being proposed by the Parish/Town Council or other organisations in your area, indicating whether these plans are underway, soon to be progressed or are longer-term aspirations. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY 'QUANTITY' QUESTIONS

Please answer the following specific questions to provide further details on **allotments and cemeteries/churchyards**.

- (A2) Please provide further details, as accurately as possible, on the number of ALLOTMENT plots at each site within your Parish, how many are occupied and whether waiting lists are in existence?

Site Name	Number of Allotment Plots	Number of Plots Occupied	Waiting List?

- (A3) Please provide further details, as accurately as possible, on the CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS within your Parish?

Site Name	Estimated year in which burial space will be full

QUALITY ASSESSMENT – OPEN SPACE

Please read:

(B1) We would like you to provide an overall **QUALITY** assessment of open spaces **within your Parish area**, covering all provision whether under the ownership of the Parish/Town Council or other organisations. This will help us identify the key quality issues within your Parish. We appreciate that there may be site specific issues in some cases but would ask you to provide a general overview at this stage.

Please answer the questions on ‘quality’ of open spaces within your area.

Category	Please tick (✓) as appropriate					
	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Cleanliness and maintenance						
Vandalism and graffiti						
Litter problems						
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter						
Dog fouling						
Noise						
Smells (unattractive)						
Maintenance and management						
Overall cleanliness & maintenance						
Security and safety						
Lighting						
Equipment (e.g. in play areas or recreation provision)						
Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)						
Overall security and safety						
Vegetation						
Planted areas						
Grass areas						
Ancillary accommodation						
Toilets						
Changing rooms						
Parking (related to open spaces)						
Pathways (within the open space sites)						
Information & signage						
Overall						
Overall Quality Rating of open space within your Parish area						

(B4) Would you consider any open space sites or indoor recreation facilities in your Parish to be examples of GOOD PRACTICE (*ie sites that are well-designed, well-used and maintained to a high standard*) or BAD PRACTICE (*ie sites that are in disrepair and/or in need of significant improvement*) in terms of the 'QUALITY'? Please give details.

	Name of Site	Reasons
GOOD PRACTICE		
BAD PRACTICE		

(B5) Please write any further comments relating to the 'QUALITY' of open space sites or indoor recreation facilities within your Parish area. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary:

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT – OPEN SPACE

Please read:

(C1a) We would like you to provide an overall **ACCESSIBILITY** assessment of open spaces within your Parish area, covering all provision whether under the ownership of the Parish/Town Council or other organisations. By accessibility we mean “*can those who wish to use the various types of open space get to them when they wish to do so?*” This definition includes a range of factors such as transport to a site, movement across a site, visibility and awareness, information/signage and cost.

Please answer the following questions on ‘accessibility’ of open space within your area.

Category		Please tick (✓) where appropriate					N/A
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	
GENERAL							
Entrance to the sites <i>(ie are the entrances to open space sites easily seen, easily accessible etc)</i>							
Opening times <i>(ie are sites open at all times or are there specific closing times for instance locking of gates to a park)</i>							
Cost to user <i>(ie are most open space sites free for use or are there charges that deter usage by the local resident population)</i>							
DISTANCES AND CATCHMENT AREAS							
Public Transport	Provision <i>(please rate the provision of public transport to open spaces sites – if none then rate as very poor)</i>						
	Distance from population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy reach of open space by public transport)</i>						
Cycleways	Provision <i>(please rate the provision of cycleways to open spaces sites within your area)</i>						
	Distance from population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy reach of open space by cycling)</i>						
Walking	Distance from population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy walking distance of open space)</i>						
SIGNAGE & PROMOTION							
Signage <i>(ie is the signage to the open spaces appropriate where required, clear to see and easy to follow)</i>							
Information and/or promotion of the sites <i>(ie is the information and promotion, where provided, appropriate, clear to see and easy to read? Does it encourage positive usage?)</i>							
OVERALL							
Overall Accessibility Rating of open spaces in your Parish area							

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT – INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Please read:

(C1b) We would like you to provide an overall **ACCESSIBILITY** assessment of indoor recreation facilities **within your Parish area**, covering all provision whether under the ownership of the Parish/Town Council or other organisations. By accessibility we mean “can those who wish to use indoor recreation facilities get to them when they wish to do so?” This definition includes a range of factors such as transport to a site, movement across within a site, visibility and awareness, information/signage and cost.

Please answer the following questions on ‘accessibility’ of indoor recreation facilities within your area.

Category		Please tick (✓) where appropriate					N/A
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	
GENERAL							
Entrance to the sites <i>(ie are the entrances to indoor recreation facilities easily seen, easily accessible etc)</i>							
Opening times <i>(ie are facilities open at peak and non-peak times allowing ease of access to different user groups?)</i>							
Cost to user <i>(ie are concessionary pricing schemes in place for indoor recreation facilities)</i>							
DISTANCES AND CATCHMENT AREAS							
Public Transport	Provision <i>(Please rate the provision of public transport to indoor recreation facilities – if none then rate as very poor)</i>						
	Distance from population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy reach of indoor recreation facilities by public transport)</i>						
Cycleways	Provision <i>(please rate the provision of cycleways to indoor facilities within your area)</i>						
	Distance from Population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy reach of indoor recreation facilities by cycling)</i>						
Walking	Distance from Population <i>(ie do the majority of people in your Parish live within easy walking distance of indoor recreation facilities)</i>						
SIGNAGE & PROMOTION							
Signage <i>(ie is the signage to indoor recreation facilities appropriate where required, clear to see and easy to follow)</i>							
Information and/or promotion of the sites <i>(ie is the information and promotion of indoor recreation facilities, where provided, appropriate and clear to see and easy to read?)</i>							
OVERALL							
Overall Accessibility Rating of indoor recreation facilities in your Parish area							

(C4) Are you aware of suggested improvements identified by local residents who are keen to see enhanced 'ACCESSIBILITY' to open spaces and/or indoor recreation facilities within your Parish?

Open space Yes No

Indoor recreation facilities Yes No

If yes, please give brief details below:

--

(C5) Would you consider any open space sites or indoor recreation facilities in your Parish to be examples of GOOD PRACTICE or BAD PRACTICE in terms of the 'ACCESSIBILITY'? Please give details.

	Name of Site	Reasons
GOOD PRACTICE		
BAD PRACTICE		

(C6) Please provide any further comments relating to the 'ACCESSIBILITY' of open space and indoor recreation facilities in your Parish area:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

If you would like to provide any supporting information or highlight any other points relating to open space or indoor recreation, please write them in the box below:

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL FORUM:

PMP will be attending the Town and Parish Council Forum on Thursday 14 June 2007 to address any questions you might have regarding the project or this survey.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT QUESTIONNAIRE ON OPEN SPACE AND INDOOR RECREATION PROVISION

PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AND ANY SUPPORTING INFORMATION IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2007

APPENDIX E
SCHOOLS SURVEY



Open Space in the Borough of Colchester



This is **your** opportunity to tell us what **you** think of open spaces in your area and how they can be improved

What do we mean by 'Open Space'?

Parks, play areas, skate parks, Multi-Use Games Areas (where you can play basketball or football), sports facilities, public grassy areas in housing estates and very large paved areas in towns

Instructions

- 1) Please read each question carefully and click the box to the answer or answers that apply to you
- 2) Please make sure you continue to the end of the questionnaire and press "submit" once you have finished all your answers
- 3) It should not take more than 10 minutes to complete

Q1 Which school do you attend?

Q2 How old are you now:

Under 8

8 - 11 years

12 - 14 years

15 - 18 years

Q3 **Aeyu?**

Male

Female

Q4 What do you prefer to do in your free time? (please tick one only)

Indoor activities like playing games and watching tv

Play sport

Play or hang out with friends outside

Other (please specify:

Q5 What is your favourite activity you do in your free time?

Q6 Is there anywhere near your house or school where you can play or hang out with your friends?

Yes

Don't know

No

Q7 Have you visited any of the following types of open space in the last year?

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Parks</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Outdoor sports facilities (eg playing pitches, basketball courts, tennis courts)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Woodland, meadows, grassland</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Allotments</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Grassy areas within a housing development or village green</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Cemeteries or churchyard</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Play areas or youth shelters</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>None</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Footpaths, cycleways</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q8 If you have NOT used any open spaces in the last 12 months, why is this?

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Don't have enough time</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Route/path to get there is not safe</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Poor quality, difficult route to get there</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Public transport does not go at the right times</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Not interested</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Do not feel safe there</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Aren't things there I want to use</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Can not get there by public transport</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Too far from home</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Do not like the people there</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>I'm not allowed</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Close to a busy road/railway track</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Costs too much to get there</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Use other parks/open spaces outside of Colchester</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section 1 - Questions 7 to 16 apply to the outdoor open space you use most often

Q9 Do you currently use any open spaces or play areas near to where you live?

- Yes No

If you have answered "No" to question 9 please go to question 17

Q10 Please tell us the name of the outdoor open space which you use most often, or the road it is on, and which town/village it is in

Q11 What type of facility is this?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Grassy area within a housing estate</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Tennis court</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Play area</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Grass pitch with posts or markings (eg. Football, Cricket and Rugby)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Multi-use games area</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Indoor sports facilities (e.g Sports halls, swimming pools)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Specific outdoor sports facilities (eg. basketball courts, tennis courts)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Teenage facility eg youth shelter or skate park</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Other (please specify)</i> | | <input type="text"/> | |

Q12 How often do you visit the site?

- Once a week or more* *Once a month or more* *Once a year or more*

Q13 How do you normally get there?

- Walk* *Cycle* *Skate* *Bus* *Car*

Q14 How would you prefer to get there?

- Walk* *Cycle* *Skate* *Bus* *Car*

Q15 How long would you be willing to take getting there?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Less than 5 minutes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Less than 15 minutes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>More than 20 minutes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Less than 10 minutes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>More than 15 minutes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q16 What are your top TWO reasons for using this open space or sports facility?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>To use the playground/play equipment</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>To meet friends</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>To play on the sports pitches/courts (outdoor) for a team</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It is just somewhere to go</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>To play on sports pitches/courts with friends</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It is the only place I can go</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>For a kickabout/informal play</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>To take part in indoor sports</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Other (Please specify)</i> | | | |

Q17 What are the top TWO things you like MOST about the open space or sports facility?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>It is located close to my home</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It is free to use</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>The play equipment</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>I can use it in an evening</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>A good place to meet friends</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Good for playing sport</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Other, please specify</i> | | | |

Q18 What are the TWO things you like LEAST about the open space or sports facility?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <i>It is too far away from my home</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It is too close to peoples houses</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>The play facilities are boring</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It costs too much</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>It is the only place I can go</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Not enough space for playing sport</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>I am unable to use it in an evening</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>It's too dirty (eg. with litter, graffiti or glass)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Other, please specify</i> | | | |

Section 2 - Questions 17 to 21 are about all open spaces in your local area

Q19 Are there any open space sites where you feel unsafe?

- Yes No Go to Q21
- If Yes, please say which ones:*

Q20 What would make you feel safer?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Lighting</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Staff on-site</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Organised activities on-site</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Cameras</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Being overlooked</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q21 Please rate the following about open space in your local area:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | <i>good</i> | <i>fair</i> | <i>poor</i> | <i>don't know</i> |
| <i>Amount of open space available</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>Overall quality of open space</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q22 Please rate the following about play / youth facilities in your local area

	<i>good</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>poor</i>	<i>don't know</i>
Amount of play / youth facilities available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall quality of play / youth facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23 If you could make ONE improvement to an existing facility or ONE new facility what would it be?

<i>More interesting play equipment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Skate park</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Indoor youth facility</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>BMX park</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Multi-use games area / Kickabout area</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Planned organised activities</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Outdoor sports facility</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A teen shelter</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Indoor sports facility</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Other, please specify</i>		<input type="text"/>	

Q24 If you have any other comments on open spaces or sports facilities you use, or on improvements you would like to see made in Colchester please write them in the box below:

Thank you for your time

APPENDIX F
SPORTS CLUBS SURVEY



Colchester Borough Council Sport and Recreation Study

Please spare a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire on behalf of your club/organisation. Please tick boxes as appropriate. Thank you.

Q1 Please state the name of your club/organisation:

Q2 Which of these activities does your club participate in? (You may tick more than one box).

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Football | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cricket | <input type="checkbox"/> | Netball | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bowling | <input type="checkbox"/> | Badminton | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rugby | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> | Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> | Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify)

Q3 Which of the following groups does your club cater for? (You may tick more than one box).

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary age children | <input type="checkbox"/> | Families | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Young people/Teenagers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Older people (50+) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q4 What type of facility does your club primarily use?

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Synthetic turf Pitch | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tennis court | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sports hall | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grass pitch (inc Football, Cricket, Rugby) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bowling green | <input type="checkbox"/> | Swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please state)

Q5 Of your chosen facility type (Q4), please indicate whether you feel there is enough or not enough provision in the Borough

- More than enough About right Nearly enough Not enough

Reason

Q6 Please name the facility that you use most often? (provide site name and location)

Q7 If there is a second facility that you use on a regular basis please state it here: (provide site name and location)

Q8 What mode of transport do the majority of your members use to travel to the above facility (Q6)?

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Walk | <input type="radio"/> | Bus | <input type="radio"/> | Taxi | <input type="radio"/> | Motorcycle | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cycle | <input type="radio"/> | Car | <input type="radio"/> | Train | <input type="radio"/> | | |

Other (please specify)

Q9 How long do you believe to be reasonable to travel to use a site for your primary sporting purpose (in minutes)?

- 0-5 5-10 10-15 15-20 20-25 25-30 30+

Q10 Do the existing leisure facilities you use meet all the needs of your club/organisation?
Yes No

Q11 If no, please explain the main reasons why not (please state facility name):

Q12 What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in your local area? (You may tick more than one option).

<i>Swimming pool (lane swimming)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Synthetic turf / All weather pitches</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Youth facilities</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Leisure pools</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Multi-use games area</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Indoor bowls</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Sports halls</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Grass pitches</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tennis courts</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Health and fitness gym</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Squash courts</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other

Q13 How would you rate the overall provision of leisure facilities in terms of QUALITY within your local area?

<i>Very good</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Poor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Good</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Very poor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Average</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please explain the reason for this choice:

Q14 What top two features would you prioritise within the provision of new / improved leisure facilities?

<i>Well maintained grass</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Range of activities on offer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Geographic access to the site</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Level surfaces / good drainage</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ease/security of parking</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Welcoming staff</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Changing facilities</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cost of facility</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Refreshment facilities</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q15 If you have any general comments that you would like to make us aware of regarding the provision of leisure facilities please use the space provided below (or continue on an additional page) and specify the area of the Borough you are commenting on:

Please return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided by Friday 22 June 2007. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

APPENDIX G
PLAYING PITCH CLUBS SURVEY



**A Playing Pitch Strategy for Colchester Borough
SPORTS CLUB SURVEY**

Q1. Please state the full name of your sports club:

Q2. Which sport(s) does your club participate in?

Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugby Union	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If you only selected 'other', you do not need to complete the questionnaire. Thank you for your time

Q3. How many members does your club have?

	Under 18	Adult	Veteran
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Over the last 5 years has membership....

Increased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remained static	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approx percentage change	<input type="text"/>	%
-----------	--------------------------	-----------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	---

Q5. How many teams does your club have?

	Mini (Under 11)	Junior 11-15	Adult (16 to 45)	Veteran (over 45)
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6. Do any of your junior teams currently use an adult sized pitch?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If yes would you prefer them to be using a junior sized pitch?

Q7. Which leagues/ competitions do your teams participate in? Please include contact name and telephone number for the league/ competition organisers
(if possible, please attach a fixture list)

Q8. Does your club currently have a written development plan?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	(please enclose a copy)
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q9. Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (please tick all that apply)

Lack of internal funding (subs/ fund-raising)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of external funding (parish council, governing bodies etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of appropriate local facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of information about local facilities/ services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor/ No relationship with other local clubs (facility usage/ exit routes etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of voluntary assistance (committee members/ coaches etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership recruitment/ retention	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other. Please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10. Please complete the table below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:

(example responses are shown in *italic*)

MATCHDAY VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Recreation Ground, Kings Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1AB</i>	<i>2 junior grass football pitch, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Leased</i>	<i>Alton Parish Council</i>	<i>Sunday 10-12am Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

OUTDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton School, Queens Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1CD</i>	<i>1 junior grass football pitch, no changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton School</i>	<i>Tuesday 6-7pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

INDOOR TRAINING VENUES

Name and address	Postcode	Facility details (size/ surface/ ancillary)	Hired/ leased/ owned	If hired/ leased, from who?	Days/ times when used
<i>Alton Leisure Centre, Prince Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1EF</i>	<i>3 court sports hall, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Thursdays 8-10pm</i>
1					
2					
3					

Q11. Are the matchday pitches listed in Q10 your preferred location to play home matches?

Yes
No

If NO, please state your preferred location (site name and address with postcode)

Q12. How many matches do you play on your main pitch each season? (please tick)

1 to 10 11 to 20 21 to 30 over 30

Q13. How many games were cancelled due to the pitch condition last season (excluding frozen pitches)? (please state approximate number)

Q14. How many matches per week do you feel that your main match pitch can adequately sustain? (please tick)

1 match 3 matches
 2 matches 4 matches or more

Q15. Does your club train on your main match pitch?

Yes

If YES, for how many hours per week?

Number of hours:

No

If NO, do you train on another grass pitch? If so, where

Other pitch details:

Q16. What are the three BEST pitches in Colchester Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q17. What are the three WORST pitches in Colchester Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

1	
2	
3	

Q18. Please rate the following aspects of your main match pitch:

	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grip underfoot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bounce of ball on pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evenness of pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Length of grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posts and sockets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Line markings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free from litter, dog fouling etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Showers - clean, hot, plenty of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall quality of pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state) <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19. What future plans does your club have?

Increase the number of members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expand the range of facilities provided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refurbish existing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relocation to different premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other - please state	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q20. In which town/ village do the majority of your players reside?

Q21. In your opinion is pitch provision (quality and quantity) in the Borough of Colchester area sufficient to meet your clubs needs?

Q22. How long do you believe it is reasonable for players to travel to home games?

0 -5 mins 5-10 mins 10-15 mins 15-20 mins 20-25 mins 25-30 mins

Q23. What mode of transport do the majority of your clubs members use to attend home games?

Car Walk Bus Motorcyce Cycle Train Other (please state)

Q24. If your club does not use public pitches, would you consider doing so in the future?

Yes No

Q25. In your opinion, do the ancillary facilities at the site where you play your homes matches meet the requirements of people with disabilities?

Yes No

Q26. Does your club operate an equal opportunities policy for membership?

Yes No

Q.27 Does your club have a child protection policy?

Yes No

Q.28 If you have any other comments about any sports provision in the Borough of Colchester please let us know in the box below.

Please return this questionnaire in the FREEPOST envelope as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your assistance

APPENDIX H
SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID:

Date of Visit:

Site Name:

Specific Facilities

Site Address:

Type of Open Space:

1	Parks and Gardens
2	Natural and semi natural areas
3	Green Corridors
4	Amenity Greenspace

5	Play Areas for Children
6	Teenage Facilities
7	Outdoor Sports Facilities
8	Beaches and Coastal Areas

9	Allotments
10	Cemeteries and Churchyards
11	Civic Spaces

PMP Audit Codes:

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

Cleanliness and Maintenance					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Vandalism and Graffiti Equipment Maintenance									
Litter problems Dog Fouling Noise									

x3

Security and Safety					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Lighting Equipment									
Boundaries (e.g. fencing)									

x2

Vegetation					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Planted areas Grass areas									

x2

Ancillary Accomodation					5	4	3	2	1
Includes: Toilets Parking Provision of bins for rubbish/litter Seats / Benches Pathways (within the open space sites)									

x2

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID:

Date of Visit:

Site Name:

Specific Facilities:

Site Address:

Type of Open Space:

1	Parks and Gardens
2	Natural and semi natural areas
3	Green Corridors
4	Amenity Greenspace

5	Play Areas for Children
6	Teenage Facilities
7	Outdoor Sports Facilities
8	Beaches and Coastal Areas

9	Allotments
10	Cemeteries and Churchyards
11	Civic Spaces

PMP Audit Codes:

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
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Weighting

Assessor's Comments

General					
Includes: Entrance to site Roads, paths and cycleway access Disabled Access	5	4	3	2	1

x3

Transport					
Includes: Accessible by public transport Accessible by walking	5	4	3	2	1

x2

Information & Signage					
Is the information & signage to the open space appropriate where required and is it clear?	5	4	3	2	1

x1

APPENDIX I

SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX DEFINITIONS

APPENDIX I - SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

		Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	No evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Some evidence of vandalism or graffiti but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Litter problems	No evidence of litter	Limited evidence of litter	Some evidence of litter but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of litter which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of litter which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Dog Fouling	No evidence of dog fouling; specific dog fouling wastage bins provided where appropriate	Limited evidence of dog fouling	Some evidence of dog fouling but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter some users; no specific bins provided in appropriate areas	Clear evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
	Noise	Very quiet and peaceful site; no intrusion by any noise	Limited intrusion by noise; i.e. site located away from roads, railways, works sites etc	Little intrusion by noise (e.g. busy road, railway nearby) but wouldn't really deter usage of the site	Noise intrusion apparent; may have some affect on potential usage	Noise intrusion clearly apparent by a number of sources and would probably deter some usage
	Equipment (e.g. condition and maintenance of equipment in play areas or recreation provision)	Equipment in excellent condition and provides an attraction for users;	Equipment in good condition	Equipment in reasonable condition; some potential improvements but not a necessity at this stage	Some equipment in poor condition and obvious that improvements could be made	Majority of equipment in poor condition and in a state of disrepair; no signs of the issue being addressed
	Smells (unattractive)	No unattractive smells	Limited unattractive smells	Little unattractive smells or some smells that would be a one-off; shouldn't deter any usage	Some unattractive more permanent smells; may deter some users	Clearly apparent unattractive permanent smells; would deter some potential users
	Maintenance and Management	Clean and tidy; well-maintained site that is inviting to users; possibly an example of good practice	Clean and tidy site; good maintenance	Reasonably clean and tidy site; some potential improvements	Some questions regarding the cleanliness of the site; some obvious improvements could be made	Poor cleanliness; clear evidence of a lack of maintenance
Security and Safety	Lighting	Appropriate lighting that promotes the safety of the open space; well-maintained	Appropriate lighting; well-maintained	Some lighting; some general improvements could be made	Limited lighting; or appropriate lighting in poor condition	Limited lighting in poor condition; or no lighting in places required
	Equipment (e.g. protection of equipment and appropriate flooring and surfaces)	Equipment in excellent condition; excellent surfaces provided throughout the site; appropriate fencing of site to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in good condition; appropriate and suitable surfaces provided throughout the majority of the site; sufficient measures provided to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in reasonable condition; appropriate surfaces provided but some potential improvements; some measures provided to protect equipment and/or ensure safety of users	Equipment in poor condition; some questions regarding safety of use; appropriate surfaces provided but in poor condition or some clear concerns regarding surfaces; limited measures to protect equipment of users	Equipment in very poor condition; clear questions regarding safety of use; inappropriate surfaces; no measures to protect equipment of users
	Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)	Clearly defined and well-maintained to a high standard	Clearly defined and maintained to a reasonable standard	Mostly clearly defined but possibly improvements to be made to the standard and condition.	Poorly defined and some questions regarding the standard and condition.	Poorly defined and in a state of disrepair.
Vegetation	Planted areas	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard; no weeds	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard; very few weeds	Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants but reasonable maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants; poor maintenance with some areas clearly suffering
	Grass areas	Full grass cover throughout; cleanly cut and in excellent colour and condition	Full grass cover throughout and cleanly cut; few weeds but generally in good condition	Grass cover throughout but with some thin patches or excessive growth in some areas; some bald areas and a few weeds; but generally in good condition	General grass cover but some significant areas thin, saturated and/or poorly maintained; cut infrequently with obvious clippings still in existence	General grass cover but with some serious wear and tear and/or limited grass cover in many areas; little or no serious attempt to correct the problem
Ancillary Accommodation	Toilets	Provided where appropriate; easy to access; signed and well-maintained	Provided where appropriate; easy to access; some minor improvements could be made (e.g. cleanliness)	Provided where appropriate; reasonable access; generally not very well maintained;	Insufficient toilets provided; or those provided are in poor condition and likely to be generally avoided by open space users; uninviting	No toilets in a place that should be provided; or some provided but in a state of disrepair that are unlikely to be used
	Parking (related to open spaces)	On-site parking provided; adequate number; clean and in good condition; well signposted	On-site or appropriate off-site parking provided; adequate number; generally clean but some improvements could be made;	Appropriate off-site parking provided; some limit in terms of spaces; generally clean	No on-site and limited off-site parking provided; or adequate number of spaces but in poor condition	Parking provision limited and in poor condition
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	Numerous bins provided and in good condition; in right locations and clearly labeled for appropriate purpose	Numerous bins provided and in average condition; clearly visible and in appropriate locations	Adequate number provided and in average condition; some signs of overuse/ damage etc	Insufficient number provided but in average/good condition; or appropriate number but with significant signs of damage or limited maintenance	Insufficient number provided and in poor condition;
	Seats / Benches	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition	Adequate number for the size of site and in good condition	Insufficient number but in good condition; or adequate number but in poor condition	Insufficient number and in poor condition
	Pathways (within the open space sites)	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined; surfaces clean, debris and weed free and in excellent condition;	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined; little debris and/or weeds but overall in good condition; good disabled access in most areas	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges reasonably well defined; some debris and/or weeds but doesn't detract too much from overall appearance; disabled access in some areas	Suitable materials but some faults; some difficulty with defined edges; debris and/or weeds detract slightly from appearance; some difficulties with disabled access	Inappropriate materials and/or significant faults; edges not clearly defined; significant debris and/or weeds; limited disabled access or very restricted

APPENDIX I - SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

		Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
General	Entrance to the sites (i.e. are the entrances to sites easily seen, easily accessible etc)	Easy to find, with a welcoming sign; appropriate size, clean and inviting and easily accessible for all users including less able bodied people.	Clear entrance and well-maintained, appropriate size and clean.	Fairly obvious entrance that is maintained to a reasonable level and which is clean and accessible to most potential users	Apparent as an entrance but no clear signage; not as well-maintained as it could be; some users may have difficulty with access	Poor or limited entrance; no signage; difficulty with access and not maintained appropriately
	Roads, pathways, cycleways and/or accesses	Suitable materials, level for safe use and in excellent condition; cycle stands provided and separate clearly marked routes for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic etc	Suitable materials and overall in good condition; some cycle stands provided where appropriate and easy and safe access within the site for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic etc	Suitable materials; reasonable access for pedestrians and cycles etc but no real separate defined areas where appropriate	Some potential improvements to some surfaces; some difficulty with general access within the site	Inappropriate surfaces and/or significant faults; limited restrictions of access for pedestrians and cycles; usage would be clearly affected
	Disabled Access	Good disabled access throughout; specific facilities and pathways provided	Good disabled access in most areas	Disabled access in some areas; some improvements could be made	Some difficulties with disabled access	Limited disabled access or very restricted
Transport	Accessible by public transport	Excellent public transport links provided where appropriate; bus stop located at the site and/or train station in very close proximity	Good public transport links; bus stop located nearby; and/or train station within reasonable walking distance	Reasonable public transport links but would not be first choice of accessible transport; bus stop located within reasonable walking distance;	Limited public transport links; bus stop located a significant walking distance away (more than 10-15minutes);	No public transport links within any reasonable walking distance of the site
	Accessible by cycleways	Clear separated cycle routes to and within the site; cycle stands provided in appropriate places	Some cycle routes to and/or within the site; local roads quiet and safe for cyclists; cycle stands provided in some places	Easy access for cyclists although no specific routes provided; local roads fairly quiet and safe; cycle stands provided or suitable areas to lock cycles are evident	Limited access for cyclists; not really encouraged by design and/or location of site; no cycle stands provided but some areas to lock cycles	No real access for cyclists; not really encouraged by design and/or location of site; access via busy dangerous roads; no cycle stands provided and/or no clearly evident areas to lock cycles
	Accessible by walking	Clearly defined pathways / walkways to and within the open space site; pedestrian crossings provided where appropriate	Pathways / walkways provided to and within the open space site; some crossing of roads required without assistance but no real safety issues regarding access for pedestrians	Some pathways / walkways provided to and/or within the open space site; some crossing of roads required without assistance; some potential for improvements	Limited pathways / walkways provided to and/or within the open space site or pathways provided not clearly defined; some safety issues regarding access for pedestrians	No clear pathways / walkways provided to and/or within the open space site; significant safety issues regarding access for pedestrians
Information & Signage	Information & Signage (i.e. is the signage to and within the open spaces appropriate where required and clear to see and easy to follow)	Site clearly signposted outside the site; signage in good condition; signage within site easy to follow and understand; information clearly displayed in various formats (e.g. noticeboards, leaflets etc);	Site is signposted with signage in good condition; some signage within the site; information mostly clear and displayed in appropriate format; signage in relatively good condition	Signage provided within or outside the site; some improvements could be made; condition of signage reasonable	Site not signposted and/or signage that is provided in poor condition and uninviting; limited information displayed;	No information displayed in appropriate areas; no signage / No information displayed in appropriate areas; no signage;

APPENDIX I - SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

		Yes	No	Definition	Factors
Wider Benefits	Structural and landscape benefits	Yes	No	The landscape framework of open spaces can contribute to the study of environmental quality. Well-located, high quality greenspaces help to define the identity and character of an area, and separate it from other areas nearby.	buffer between roads and houses greenbelt land edge of settlement forming local landscape
	Ecological benefits	Yes	No	Greenspaces support local biodiversity and some provide habitats for local wildlife and may exhibit some geological features. Some may help to alleviate the extremes of urban climates such as noise and water pollution.	designations - e.g. SSSI's, LNR's diverse and rich habitats site includes rivers, ponds, lakes that encourage local wildlife habitats local biodiversity studies
	Education benefits	Yes	No	Seen as 'outdoor classrooms' ; some greenspaces offer educational opportunities in science, history, ecological and environmental activities.	nature walks interpretational material provided opportunities for volunteers in practical conservation outdoor educational facilities
	Social inclusion and health benefits	Yes	No	Greenspaces , including sport and recreation facilities can promote some civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; they are also one of the very few publicly accessible facilities equally available to everyone irrespective of personal circumstances	range of age groups use by community groups organised community activities social, cultural or community facilities specific walking/jogging trails and/or sports facilities central location to be accessed by majority
	Cultural and heritage benefits	Yes	No	Some greenspaces have a historical value and some provided a setting listed buildings; also can be high profile symbols of towns and cities	historic buildings historic gardens symbol of the area conservation area monuments and/or memorials
	Amenity benefits and a "sense of place"	Yes	No	The network of greenspaces can contribute to the visual amenity of an urban landscape and make them a more attractive place to live, work and play. They can be appreciated both visually and passively - not just through the active use of facilities provided.	helps to create specific neighbourhood provides important landmark clearly visible from most areas softens urban texture
	Economic benefits	Yes	No	greenspaces can promote economic development and regeneration; can also help to enhance property values	local tourist site income from sports facilities enhancing or devaluing housing within estates potential hosting of major events offers employment opportunities regeneration

APPENDIX J

STEPS 3 AND 4 SETTING AND APPLYING STANDARDS

Steps 3 and 4 - setting and applying provision standards

Quantity

- 1.1 PPG17 advocates that planning policies for open space, including playing fields, should be based upon local standards derived from a robust assessment of local need.
- 1.2 The quantity of provision provided by the audit of open space has assisted in the setting of such local provision standards for the Borough. These are included for each type of open space in the separate sections and, as recommended by PPG17, is undertaken by population to calculate the quantity of provision per person.
- 1.3 The quantitative analysis has also taken into account key issues raised from previous consultations with the public. This provides a more objective view rather than relying solely on statistical calculations. A comparison with the community's view on the existing level of facilities required and the current level of provision needs to be undertaken to help establish a reasonable level of provision.
- 1.4 Provision standards are then applied to determine whether there is a surplus of provision, the provision was about right or there is a deficiency.
- 1.5 The standards are based on the 2007 population data and population projections for 2021 provided by Colchester Borough Council.

Basic methodology: Setting the quantity standard

- existing national and local standards are identified
- the existing level of provision is calculated from the open space audit and provided against the population by analysis area, by rural/urban areas and at the borough level
- benchmarking is provided from other studies carried out by PMP giving an indication of whether the existing level of provision in Colchester is above or below other authorities
- consultations undertaken as part of the study form the local needs assessment to determine whether standards should be set above or below existing levels of provision. In particular question 2 of the survey – whether respondents feel there is enough/not enough etc. and WHY
- this information is brought together to determine whether the standard should be increased or decreased or set at the existing level. The use of the quantity standards calculator and worksheet help to determine the exact standard

- 1.6 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
 - establish areas of the Borough suffering from deficiency of provision within each type of open space
 - areas of significant surplus where it may be possible to investigate changing the type of open space to types that are deficient in that area.

Quality

- 1.7 Quality and value of open space are fundamentally different and can sometimes be completely unrelated. An example of this could be:
- a high quality open space is provided but is completely inaccessible. Its usage is therefore restricted and its value to the public limited; or
 - a low quality open space may be used every day by the public or have some significant wider benefit such as biodiversity or educational use and therefore has a relatively high value to the public.
- 1.8 The needs assessment therefore analyses quality and value separately within each type of open space.

Basic methodology: setting a quality vision

A quality vision is devised based on the consultations with the community, other national and local design guidelines and standards set for other authorities. This provides a benchmark for the existing provision and the basis in which new provision should aspire.

The quality vision is linked to the site assessments of quality by setting a percentage score for each typology. This score reflects the key points from the local quality vision. This score can then be applied to the existing level of provision to identify any key areas for improvements and to identify those sites that currently meet this standard.

- 1.9 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:
- the geographical areas of the Borough
 - specific types of open space
 - specific quality factors that ensure a high quality open space
- 1.10 This enables resources to be concentrated on areas that need to be improved.

Accessibility

1.11 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value. The overall aim of an accessibility assessment should be to identify:

- how accessible sites are
- how far are people are willing to travel to reach open space
- areas of the Borough deficient in provision
- areas of the Borough suffering in accessibility and therefore of priority importance
- key accessibility factors that need to be improved

1.12 Setting accessibility standards for open space should be derived from an analysis of the accessibility issues within the audit and in light of community views.

Basic methodology: setting the accessibility standard

Distance thresholds (i.e. the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). This is assessed through the household survey asking how far people would expect to travel to each type of open space (question 3) and the 75% quartile is derived from this.

This is supplemented by other consultations and the distances people currently travel

1.13 PPG17 encourages any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites to be accessible by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. There is a real desire to move away from reliability on the car.

APPENDIX K
NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

National strategic context

Green Spaces, Better Places - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)

1.1 The main messages to emerge from Green Spaces, Better Places are:

- urban parks and open spaces remain popular, despite a decline in the quality as well as quantitative elements
- open spaces make an important contribution to the quality of life in many areas and help to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits
- planners and planning mechanisms need to take better account of the need for parks and open spaces including related management and maintenance issues
- parks and open spaces should be central to any vision of sustainable modern towns and cities
- strong civic and local pride and responsibility are necessary to achieve the vision reinforced by a successful green spaces strategy
- there is a need for a more co-ordinated approach at the national level to guide local strategies.



Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)

1.2 The Government stated that parks and green spaces need more visible champions and clearer structures for co-ordinating policy and action better at all levels.

1.3 Several existing national bodies have responsibilities or programmes with impact on various aspects of urban green spaces including English Heritage, Sport England, Groundwork, English Nature, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission.

1.4 Instead of setting up a new body, the Government stated it would take action on three levels to improve co-ordination of policy and action for urban parks and green spaces. It will:

- provide a clearer national policy framework
- invite CABE to set up a new unit for urban spaces (CABE Space)
- encourage a strategic partnership to support the work of the new unit and inform national policy and local delivery.



Improving urban parks, play areas and green space, DTLR (May 2002)



1.5 In May 2002 the DTLR produced this linked research report to Green Spaces, Better Places which looked at patterns of use, barriers to open space and the wider role of open space in urban regeneration.

1.6 The vital importance of parks and other urban green spaces in enhancing the urban environment and the quality of city life has been recognised in both the Urban Taskforce report and the Urban White Paper.

Wider Value of Open Space

1.7 There are clear links demonstrating how parks and other green spaces meet wider council policy objectives linked to other agendas, like education, diversity, health, safety, environment, jobs and regeneration can help raise the political profile and commitment of an authority to green space issues. In particular they:

- contribute significantly to social inclusion because they are free and accessible to all
- can become a centre of community spirit
- contribute to child development through scope for outdoor, energetic and imaginative play
- offer numerous educational opportunities
- provide a range of health, environmental and economic benefits.

1.8 The report also highlights major issues in the management, funding and integration of open spaces into the wider context of urban renewal and planning:

1.9 **Community Involvement** - Community involvement in local parks can lead to increased use, enhancement of quality and richness of experience and, in particular, can ensure that the facilities are suited to local needs.

1.10 **Resources** - The acknowledged decline in the quality of care of the urban green space resource in England can be linked to declining local authority green space budgets but in terms of different external sources for capital development, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Section 106 Agreements are seen as the most valuable.

1.11 **Partnerships** - between a local authority and community groups, funding agencies and business can result in significant added value, both in terms of finances and quality of green space.

1.12 **Urban Renewal** - Four levels of integration of urban green space into urban renewal can be identified, characterised by an increasing strategic synergy between environment, economy and community. They are:

- attracting inward economic investment through the provision of attractive urban landscapes
- unforeseen spin-offs from grassroots green space initiatives

- parks as flagships in neighbourhood renewal
- strategic, multi-agency area based regeneration, linking environment and economy.

Sport England

Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)

1.13 The main messages from Sport England within this document are:

- Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides 5 exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG 17 (paragraphs 10-15)
- Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years or is identified as a playing field in a development plan
- it is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and therefore increasing the importance of setting local standards
- in undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology '*Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies*'.



A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England / Playing Fields for Sport Revisited, Sport England (2000)

1.14 These documents provide Sport England's planning policy statement on playing fields. It acknowledges that playing fields:

- are one of the most important resources for sport in England as they provide the space which is required for the playing of team sports on outdoor pitches
- as open space particularly in urban areas are becoming an increasingly scarce resource
- can provide an important landscape function, perform the function of a strategic gap or provide a resource for other community activities and informal recreation.



CABE Space

- 1.15 CABE Space is part of the Commission for the Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and is publicly funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). CABE Space aims :



“to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities.”

- 1.16 Through their work, they encourage people to think holistically about green space, and what it means for the health and well being of communities, routes to school and work, and recreation through play and sport. Their ultimate goal is to ensure that people in England have easy access to well designed and well looked after public space.

- 1.17 Lessons learnt for some of CABE Space’s case studies include:

- strategic vision is essential
- political commitment is essential
- think long-term
- start by making the case for high quality green spaces in-house (persuading other departments is key – high priority)
- a need to market parks and green spaces
- a need to manage resources more efficiently
- work with others - projects are partnerships
- keep good records: monitor investments and outcomes
- consult widely and get public support for your work

Green Space Strategies – a good practice guide CABE Space (May 2004)

- 1.18 The guidance draws on the principles of the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and will help contribute to national objectives for better public spaces, focusing on three broad stages in producing a green space strategy.

- **Stage 1:** Preliminary activities
 - provides the foundation of a successful strategy
- **Stage 2:** Information gathering and analysis
 - provides the objective and subjective data necessary to make informed judgements
- **Stage 3:** Strategy production
 - preparing a consultation draft and final strategy drawing on consultation responses



- 1.19 The document demonstrates why a green space strategy is important and the potential opportunity and benefits that it can provide, including:
- reinforcing local identity and enhancing the physical character of an area, so shaping existing and future development
 - maintaining the visual amenity and increasing the attractiveness of a locality to create a sense of civic pride
 - securing external funding and focusing capital and revenue expenditure cost-effectively
 - improving physical and social inclusion including accessibility, particularly for young, disabled and older people
 - protecting and enhancing levels of biodiversity and ecological habitats

Is the grass greener...? Learning from the international innovations in urban green space management, CABE Space (July 2004)

- 1.20 This is an international perspective using examples of good and bad practice that demonstrate the many issues common to English local authorities that international cities also face and providing practical solutions that have combat the problems overseas.
- 1.21 The guide focuses in particular on aspects of management and maintenance practice, providing a series of challenging and inspiring solutions to common issues that are not dissimilar to current English practice.



The problem in England!

- 1.22 The document describes the problems faced by green space and how English towns and cities are often criticised for:
- **being poorly maintained** – uncoordinated development and maintenance activities
 - **being insecure** – the hostile nature of many green spaces
 - **lacking a coherent approach to their management** – conflicting interventions by a multitude of agencies, without clear overall responsibility
 - **offering little to their users** – lacking in facilities and amenities and being a haven for anti-social behaviour
 - **being poorly designed** – unwelcoming to people, created with poor quality materials

Manifesto for better public spaces, CABE Space (2003)

1.23 There is huge national demand for better quality parks and public spaces. Surveys repeatedly show how much the public values them, while research reveals how closely the quality of public spaces links to levels of health, crime and the quality of life in every neighbourhood. CABE Space 'manifesto for better public spaces' explains the 10 things we must do to achieve this:



- 1) **ensure** that creating and caring for well-designed parks, streets and other public spaces is a national and local political priority
- 2) **encourage people of all ages** – including children, young people and retired people – to play and active role in deciding what our parks and public spaces should be like and how they should be looked after
- 3) **ensure that everyone understands** the importance of good design to the vitality of our cities, towns and suburbs and that designers, planners and managers all have the right skills to create high quality public spaces
- 4) **ensure that the care** of parks and public spaces is acknowledged to be an essential service
- 5) **work to increase public debate** about the issue of risk in outside spaces, and will encourage people to make decisions that give more weight to the benefits of interesting spaces, rather than to the perceived risks
- 6) **work to ensure** that national and local health policy recognises the role of high quality parks and public space in helping people to become physically active, to recover from illness, and to increase their general health and well-being
- 7) **work to ensure** that good paths and seating, play opportunities, signs in local languages, cultural events and art are understood to be essential elements of great places – not optional extras that can be cut from the budget
- 8) **encourage people** who are designing and managing parks and public spaces to protect and enhance biodiversity and to promote its enjoyment to local people
- 9) **seek to ensure** that public spaces feel safe to use by encouraging councils to adopt a positive approach to crime prevention through investment in good design and management of the whole network or urban green spaces
- 10) **encourage people** from all sectors of the community to give time to improving their local environment. If we work together we can transform our public spaces and help to improve everyone's quality of life.

The Value of Public Space, CABE Space (March 2004)

1.24 CABE Space market how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value, as well as being beneficial to physical and mental health, children and young people and a variety of other external issues.



1.25 Specific examples are used to illustrate the benefits and highlight the issues arising on the value of public space :

- **The economic value of public spaces** - A high quality public environment is an essential part of any regeneration strategy and can impact positively on the local economy. For example - property prices
- **The impact on physical and mental health** - Research has shown that well maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health encouraging more people to become active.
- **Benefits and children and young people** - Good quality public spaces encourage children to play freely outdoors and experience the natural environment, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.
- **Reducing crime and fear of crime** - Better management of public spaces can help to reduce crime rates and help to allay fears of crime, especially in open spaces.
- **Social dimension of public space** - Well-designed and maintained open spaces can help bring communities together, providing meeting places in the right context and fostering social ties.
- **Movement in and between spaces** - One of the fundamental functions of public space is to allow people to move around with the challenge of reconciling the needs of different modes of transport.
- **Value from biodiversity and nature** - Public spaces and gardens helps to bring important environmental benefits to urban areas, as well as providing an opportunity for people to be close to nature.

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans, CABE Space (May 2004)

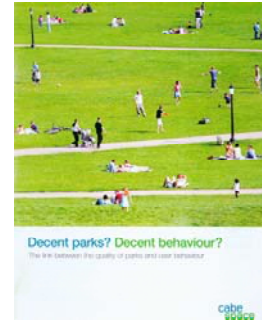
1.26 A primary intention of the guide is to encourage wider use of management plans by dispelling the myth that the creation of a site management plan is an exceptionally difficult task that can be undertaken only by an expert.

1.27 The guide presents ideas on benefits of management plans identifying steps to be taken to writing the plan. It also provides a list of subject areas that need to be addressed in any comprehensive management plan. The document has been split into two sections, providing a logical explanation of the management process:

- **Part 1:** Planning the plan
 - the who, what, when, where and how questions that may arise in the preparation of a park and green space management plan.
- **Part 2:** Content and structure of the plan
 - what information needs to be contained in the final management plan and how should that information be presented?



Decent parks? Decent behaviour? – The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour, CABE space (May 2005)



- 1.28 Based on research that supports public consultation that poor maintenance of parks, in turn, attracts anti-social behaviour. Encouragingly it provides examples of places where a combination of good design, management and maintenance has transformed no-go areas back into popular community spaces.
- 1.29 There are nine case studies explored in the report. Below are some of the key elements that have made these parks a better place to be:
- take advantage of the potential for buildings within parks for natural surveillance e.g. from cafes, flats offices
 - involve the community early in the process and continually
 - involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible and work hard to avoid single group dominance in the park
 - provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young peoples fear of crime as well as that if adults
- 1.30 The evidence in this report suggests that parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic, however by investing and creating good-quality parks and green spaces, which are staffed and provide a range of attractive facilities for the local community, can be an effective use of resource.

APPENDIX L

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

Consultations

Household survey

Respondee profile

- 1.1 63% of respondents were female with the vast majority of completed surveys from residents aged 40-59 (35%) and 60-75 (26%) respectively, most of whom have no children in the household (69%). 89% of residents surveyed were of white British background. This skew in the results is offset by information received via other consultation methods.

Open space quantity

- 1.2 The following table provides percentages relating to respondents opinions on the quantity of each of the open space typologies within the Borough:

Table 1.1 Open Space Quantity

Typology	Perceived Quantity (%)				
	More than enough	About right	Nearly enough	Not enough	No opinion
Parks and gardens	3 %	55 %	14 %	25 %	3 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	4 %	47 %	17 %	28 %	4 %
Amenity areas	3 %	38 %	17 %	34 %	8 %
Play areas for children	3 %	36 %	14 %	37 %	10 %
Teenage facilities	3 %	8 %	9 %	63 %	17 %
Outdoor sports facilities	2 %	31 %	19 %	38 %	10 %
Allotments	2 %	27 %	11 %	28 %	32 %
Beaches and coastal areas	9 %	53 %	9 %	9 %	20 %
Civic spaces	5 %	33 %	18 %	17 %	27 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	5 %	46 %	13 %	15 %	21 %
Green corridors	3 %	36 %	14 %	35 %	12 %

- 1.3 In terms of quantity, a majority of respondents thought that there was an adequate number of parks and gardens. A similar result emerges regarding natural and semi-natural areas.

APPENDIX L – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

- 1.4 Teenage facilities were recognised as a priority area with 63% recording an unsatisfactory supply. There was a significant number with no opinion (17%) but this can be explained by the fact that respondents tend to belong to an older age group. A significant number also expressed the opinion that play areas for children and amenity green spaces are undersupplied.
- 1.5 Outdoor sports facilities on the whole were deemed as acceptable by 31% of the respondents with 38% implying the Borough required more. It is with little surprise that allotment awareness was limited with 32% offering no opinion, the next largest categories are equally split between those believing that provision is adequate (27%) and those who, on the contrary, think that provision is insufficient (28%).

Open space usage

- 1.6 The following table provides percentages relating to how often respondents used each of the open space typologies:

Table 1.2 Usage frequency

Typology	Usage frequency (%)		
	More than once a month	Less than once a month	Don't use
Parks and gardens	59 %	33 %	8 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	60 %	31 %	9 %
Amenity areas	33 %	34%	33 %
Play areas for children	26 %	18 %	56 %
Teenage facilities	5%	10 %	85 %
Outdoor sports facilities	21 %	24 %	55 %
Allotments	4 %	6 %	90 %
Beaches and coastal areas	42 %	45 %	13 %
Civic spaces	22 %	39 %	39 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	13 %	36 %	51 %
Green corridors	44 %	30 %	26 %

- 1.7 There is consistent usage of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural areas, beaches and coastal areas and green corridors. Typologies with limited use are most notably allotments, outdoor sport facilities, cemeteries and churchyards, play areas and teenage facilities; the latter two can be accounted for by considering the demographic surveyed. Several facilities are popularly frequented on an irregular basis such as civic spaces, amenity areas and cemeteries.

Perceived quality

- 1.8 Identifying perceived quality of open space areas is critical to establishing specific typology deficits within the Borough of Colchester. Residents were asked whether they found each type of open space good, average or poor.

Table 1.3 Perceived quality

Typology	Perceived quality (%)		
	Good	Average	Poor
Parks and gardens	73 %	23 %	4 %
Natural/Semi-natural areas	60 %	35 %	5 %
Amenity areas	28 %	59 %	13 %
Play areas for children	29 %	50 %	21 %
Teenage facilities	5 %	37 %	58 %
Outdoor sports facilities	26 %	52 %	22 %
Allotments	23 %	55 %	22 %
Beaches and coastal areas	53 %	39 %	8 %
Civic spaces	19 %	66 %	15 %
Cemeteries and churchyards	38 %	54 %	8 %
Green corridors	28 %	55 %	17 %

- 1.9 The majority of residents perceived the quality of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural areas, amenity green spaces, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, allotments, beaches, civic spaces, cemeteries and churchyards, and green corridors as being between average and good. The most concerning typology is that of teenage facilities with 58% of respondents stating quality as poor and only 5% suggesting the sites are good; this may have some correlation to the significant amount of respondents that do not frequent this typology regularly.

Open space most frequented

- 1.10 Residents were asked which typology they visited most often. The most popular was parks with 41 %; the second was natural and semi-natural areas with 20 % and third beaches with 14%. Less popularly frequented sites were play areas (10 %), green corridors (5%) and outdoor sports facilities (4%). Amenity areas, civic spaces, allotments, and cemeteries and churchyards all received only between 1% and 2%. No respondents deemed teenage facilities as their most frequented typology.

Outdoor sports

1.11 Residents were asked how they perceived the quantity of various outdoor sport facilities in the Borough; results are listed in Table 1.4 below.

Table 1.4 Perceived provision of outdoor sports facilities

Type of facility	Perceived provision (%)			
	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
Grass pitches	7 %	46 %	27 %	20 %
Synthetic turf pitches	2 %	19 %	26 %	53 %
Tennis courts	3 %	24 %	37 %	36 %
Bowling greens	5 %	29 %	20 %	46 %
Golf courses	10 %	31 %	12 %	47 %

1.12 The only type of facility where the majority of respondents suggest that the quantity of provision is about right is grass pitches. The majority offered no opinion on all other facilities, except for tennis where 37% said there were not enough courts. Few respondents across all facilities imply that there is an oversupply of outdoor sport facilities.

1.13 The following are collective opinions expressed by residents regarding outdoor sport facilities across the Borough of Colchester:

- a large demand exists for accessibility to public tennis facilities such as 'pay as you play' courts
- concern over the cost to access facilities is most prominent. The general feeling is that low cost facilities need to be provided for everyone to enjoy
- there is a general concern over the loss of outdoor facilities throughout the Borough, and the lack of maintenance of the remaining pitches
- there is a demand for safe and well maintained cycleways and footpaths
- there is a need for more programmes of activities in the existing facilities to accommodate the various age groups, and to give young people the opportunity to develop their skills
- generally, residents feel that they are not provided with enough information about what activities and facilities are on offer
- a greater supply of recreation facilities is required for teenagers, as many feel it would be a better way to tackle vandalism and anti-social behaviour problems throughout the Borough
- finally, a significant number of respondents felt that facilities in the borough are not clean enough, and would like to see more dog waste bins available.

Indoor sport facilities

1.14 Residents were asked how they perceived the quantity of various indoor sport facilities in the Borough; results are listed in table 1.5 below.

Table 1.5 Perceived provision of indoor sports facilities

Type of facility	Perceived provision (%)			
	More than enough	About right	Not enough	No opinion
Swimming pool	2 %	40 %	48 %	10 %
Sports halls	2 %	57 %	30 %	11 %
Health and fitness (gyms)	26 %	49 %	12 %	13 %
Indoor tennis	2 %	23 %	29 %	46 %
Indoor bowls	2 %	36 %	16 %	56 %
Church/parish/community halls	7 %	56 %	14 %	23 %

1.15 Similarly to outdoor sport facilities, there is a minority within the Borough that believe there is an abundance of indoor facilities, with the exception of health and fitness facilities (26 %). Almost half of all respondents believe that there is a shortfall of indoor swimming pools and a significant 30% indicating that more sport halls are required. The provision of church/parish and community halls appears to meet current demand.

1.16 The following are collective opinions expressed by residents regarding indoor sport facilities across the Borough:

- a sentiment throughout the surveys is that where community and village halls are accessible, activities and opportunities are not publicised adequately or that restrictions are too readily put on the type of facility use permitted. Programmes designed for the older generation tend to disregard younger resident requirements
- a significant number of residents reported the lack public transport as being the main reason for not using the facilities provided
- the lack of information on activities on offer prevents resident from taking part in recreational or physical activities
- while Leisure World seems to satisfy the demand, it seems to be increasingly busy throughout the day, and the residents feel that a second leisure centre would be a welcome addition
- Wivenhoe is perceived to have fewer facilities available than Colchester, particularly for young people.

1.17 The following are general issues raised by residents prescribing how overall open space can be improved throughout the Colchester Borough:

- the most common concern of residents is the availability of facilities for the teenage population and co-ordinating this successfully with a public transport system, safe paths and cycleways. Respondents provided suggestions such as:
 - lower the cost of using facilities, particularly for teenagers
 - building attractive and suitable new facilities such as enclosed skateboard parks
 - building other council-run facilities to provide relief to existing facilities such as Leisure World
 - using school facilities during out of school hours.
- quality of paths especially in natural and semi-natural areas and recreation grounds was a widespread issue with many feeling that this combined with poor drainage in certain areas is prohibiting access
- general publicity of what facilities are available in the Borough via leaflets or an advertised website would aid residents.

Sports club survey

1.18 General issues relating to club attendance, type of facility currently used and general facility concerns are summarised below:

- the largest group of facility users comprised of adults, followed by young people and primary school children respectively. The 50+ age group represented the smallest cross-section of users
- the facility type primarily identified for use in this survey is the grass pitch (used by 30 various types of clubs). The 'Other' category was the second most used facility, in particular covering golf courses. The other types of facilities were used almost equally (Sports Halls, Bowling Greens and Swimming Pools). Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) were used the least
- of the clubs that do not use grass pitches, there was a clear split in the opinions of respondents, with 50% (14 out of 28) indicating that facility provision was at least sufficient; these responses coming primarily from the golf, tennis and bowls clubs. The other 50% (14 out of 28) indicated there was nearly/not enough provision of sport facilities
- football clubs generally indicated the provision of football pitches was adequate, but only due to a reliance on school hire agreements to make up Council shortfalls. Of the two rugby club responses, one indicated another rugby pitch was needed. Cricket responses indicated quantity of provision was good, but questioned the quality

APPENDIX L – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

- of the non-pitch clubs, car (23 out of 28) proved to be the most popular mode of transport to games, although walking (11) and cycling (12) were also popular methods. Every pitch club, apart from one cricket club, indicated that car was the preferred mode of transport to games. Public transport was used very little. There was a reasonably even spread in terms of desired travel time to reach the venue of between 5 to 30 minutes.
 - survey respondents indicated use a variety of facilities across the borough such as Colchester Leisure World and Highwoods Sports Centre. Most responses were by clubs who use their own facilities. Football clubs indicated they use a number of playing pitch sites, such as at Shrub End, Stanway School or at Mile End.
- 1.19 An even split was obtained between clubs that believed facilities are adequate for their members and those that require improving. This balance is also reflected between individual sport types. The following are more specific issues and concerns expressed:
- most football clubs either indicated that they felt they were lucky to have a pitch or that there was a lack of pitches in the Colchester area. There was also a reliance on some school pitches to make up the Council shortfall. The cost of training facilities was also highlighted as being an issue. The quality of pitches in relation to maintenance was criticised by some, as well as the lack of changing facilities at some sites (the new renovated facilities at Shrub End were welcomed)
 - two of the three clubs that use swimming facilities indicated there was insufficient water space in the Colchester area (University of Essex Sports and Colchester Amateur Swimming Club)
 - the responding bowls clubs were generally satisfied that Council greens were of equal quality when compared with private ones
 - cricket clubs felt that there were issues in relation to pitches in the area. Whilst quantity was generally accepted to be sufficient, the quality of pitches was questioned. The Council's role was criticised by some, but also acknowledged as improving by others - specifically relating to Council pitch maintenance
 - the two responding tennis clubs (Bures and Lexden Hill) indicated their pavilions needed modernisation, and also suggested floodlights would maximise use of the courts, especially during winter. Dedham Tennis club, who use Dedham Playing Fields, commented on their ongoing desire to have disabled facilities at the site, as well as more car parking
 - the Colchester and District Table Tennis League noted the inadequacy of facilities, in that using various multi-purpose venues to host fixtures was less than ideal.
- 1.20 There was general satisfaction with the overall quality of leisure services within the Colchester area. Of the non-pitch clubs responding, 75 % rated the quality of provision as either 'adequate' or 'good'. Of those rating provision as 'poor', the main grievances related to the recent closure of Monkwick Sports Centre and the Royal London site.

- 1.21 Facilities for young people and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) were the facilities most in demand for in the local area, followed by sports hall space, Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) and tennis courts (in particular indoor tennis). Again, there was a definite general dissatisfaction with the loss of the sports centres as indicated above.

Children and Young People’s Internet survey

Demographics

- 1.22 A total of 122 individual surveys were completed and submitted on-line. Five schools responded to the survey:

- Monkwick Infant School
- St Andrews C of E Primary School
- The Gilberd School
- Tiptree Heath Primary School
- Kendall Primary School.

- 1.23 Of the respondents 46% were aged under 8, 38% 8-11, 6% 12-14 and 11% 15-18. 74% of the respondents were male however the ethnic background was not requested.

Other interests

- 1.24 Pupils were asked what activities they preferred to do in their spare time, for which three main options were provided. The results were:

- indoor activities like playing games and watching TV (23%)
- play sport (37%)
- play or hang out with friends outside (39%).

- 1.25 If none of the three main options were selected, a fourth “other” option was available, where respondees could indicate other interests they had. Responses in here related to fishing, playing other sports and gardening; as well as other non-outdoor activities such as reading, using the Internet and watching TV.

- 1.26 The next question asked “what is your favourite activity in your free time?”. The answers were broadly similar to the previous question. The most popular answers were sport based and the most popular sport was football (24 responses) alongside rugby, trampolining, cycling and gymnastics. The other most popular answers included meeting with friends (17 responses) and computer based activities (13 responses).

Open space most frequently used

- 1.27 90% of respondents stated that they use open space near to where they lived. These sites were visited regularly, with 75% indicating they visited once a week or more. Two venues of note were Highwoods Country Park and Jubilee Field (Marks Tey).

- 1.28 Question 11 asked what type of open space people visited most often. The most popular answer was play areas (30%) followed by amenity green spaces (29%) and grass pitches (13%). Multi use games areas usage was selected by 11% with a further 7% using a specific teenage facility such as a skate park.
- 1.29 Question eight asked the reasons why sites were not used. The most popular responses were issues of time (17%), distance from home (11%), not being allowed (11%) and feeling unsafe (11%).
- 1.30 The vast majority of pupils walked to the open space that they visited most often (61%). The next most popular mode of transport was to cycle (28%), then car (7%), followed by skating (3%). However, cycling was the preferred method of transport they would like to use, with 45% indicating as much. 39% indicated walking was their preferred method.
- 1.31 Pupils were then asked how long they would be willing to travel to an open space. The results were:
- less than five minutes – 53%
 - less than ten minutes – 25%
 - less than fifteen minutes – 13%
 - more than fifteen minutes – 5%
 - more than twenty minutes – 4%.
- 1.32 The main reason for using an open space or sports facility was to meet friends (34%). The next five options all received similar response levels, these were:
- to use the playground/play equipment – 15%.
 - it is just somewhere to go – 14%
 - for a kickabout/informal play – 14%
 - to play on the sports pitches/courts with a team – 10%.
 - to play on sports pitches/courts with friends – 9%.
- 1.33 The top three “likes” about the open space used was that it is located close to home (27%), it is free to use (23%) and it is a good place to meet friends (21%). The biggest dislike was the levels of litter and graffiti (28%). Other dislikes included the facilities being too boring (15%), the lack of alternative facilities (15%), evening unavailability (13%) and proximity to people’s houses (12%).

Open spaces in the local area

- 1.34 37% of respondents stated that there are open spaces in their local area where they feel unsafe. In terms of improving safety, the following responses were given with regards to the implementation of specific safety features:
- lighting (31%)
 - cameras (28%)
 - staff on site (23%)

- being overlooked (11%)
- organised activities on site (6%).

1.35 Respondees were asked about the quantity and quality of open space in their area. Table 4.6 shows that the dominant answer for both quantity and quality was “good”.

Table 4.6 Quantity and quality of open spaces

Responses	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Amount of open space available	69%	25%	4%	3%
Overall quality of open space	51%	39%	5%	6%

1.36 Respondees were asked about the overall quantity and quality of play/youth facilities in the area. Their responses are shown in Table 4.7 below

Table 4.7 Quantity and quality of play/youth areas

Responses	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Amount of play/youth areas available	47%	31%	15%	7%
Overall quality of play/youth areas	46%	27%	16%	11%

1.37 When asked what improvements respondents would like to see at a new or improved facility there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (29%). Outdoor sports facilities (15%), a skate park (14%), a BMX park/ multi-use games area (11%) and a teen shelter (10%) were the most popular responses in order thereafter. Only 12 respondents answered “other” for this question, with the most popular “other” answer being for additional sports areas such as football goals or a netball court.

Other comments

1.38 The final question was a general comments box regarding open spaces and sports facilities. The main themes from answers to this question were:

- sheltered areas in parks
- additional football areas were requested
- skate parks
- issues with litter and graffiti.

Parish consultation

Abberton and Langenhoe Parish Council

- 1.39 There is deemed to be a lack of facilities for young people and teenagers in the Parish. Those that are provided, at the Village Green Hall and at Markes Piece, are deemed to be of average quality (the play area at Markes Piece requires renovation and funding is currently being sought) but difficult to access. There are suggestions for a cycle track, a skateboard park and a football pitch to address this. The Parish has a private cricket club.
- 1.40 There is deemed to be a lack of allotment space, with demand exceeding the Parish's 21 plots. The plots are however deemed to be of excellent quality. More footpaths are also requested.
- 1.41 The village hall car park requires resurfacing. This is important given the lack of public transport accessibility in the Parish and the high usage of the village hall.
- 1.42 Open space sites in general are deemed to be clean, well maintained and safe. The quality of ancillary accommodation such as parking and pathways/toilets are considered less favourably, as per the comments above. Accessibility to sites is deemed to be average, in particular signage (notably from the main roads) and public transport links. There is a specific request for a cycle path beside the B1025.
- 1.43 In the opinion of this parish council, most sites should be within 10 minutes walking distance for the population.

Copford with Easthorpe

- 1.44 Open space sites within the Parish were deemed to be well used and of mainly average quality with the exception of the Queensbury Avenue play area, which was identified as being of poor quality. Upgrade work is due for this site during Autumn 2007. All sites were deemed to be accessible. There is a lack of facilities for young people with nothing for the over-10 age group and only a cricket club for teenagers. There is no official football pitch despite there being two separate goalposts at two different locations.

- 1.45 The quality of all sites is deemed to be either 'average' or 'good', with the only exceptions relating to the number of bins and information/signage. The sites are perceived to be accessible in terms of distance, but less so in terms of cycle routes. However, some residents are concerned that increasing accessibility may lead to more anti-social behaviour at some sites.
- 1.46 The Parish believes that there is an undersupply of indoor sports facilities in the borough, in particular swimming pools.
- 1.47 In the opinion of this parish council, it is felt most sites should be within 10 minutes walking distance for the population.

Dedham Parish Council

- 1.48 The majority of open space sites within the Parish are deemed to be of good quality and are well used by the local population. The exceptions to this are the small children's play area at Parson's Green and Black Brook (natural and semi-natural area). These areas' usage is seen as low/insignificant, and the play area is also deemed to be of poor quality. The accessibility of the Parish's outdoor sports facilities is also deemed to be average (the Recreation Field and Dedham Primary School).
- 1.49 Indoor facilities at Duchy Barn, the Dedham Assembly Rooms and the Sports Pavilion are deemed to be well used and of good quality, although the accessibility of the Sports Pavilion is questioned due to a lack of parking. However, the Duchy Barn is deemed to be too small for the needs of the local youth club. The Parish also believes that there is a need for somewhere for teenagers to gather, either through an amenity green space or a dedicated facility such as a BMX/skateboard area.
- 1.50 The open space sites within the Parish are deemed to generally be of good quality in terms of maintenance, quality of the vegetation and the provision of ancillary accommodation such as pathways and signage. They are rated as merely average in terms of cleanliness (vandalism and litter) and in issues relating to safety and security. The quality of ancillary toilet facilities is also questioned.
- 1.51 The provision of public transport to the open space sites is deemed to be poor. In addition the sites are seen as being a fair distance from the local population. Cycleway provision is also seen as being merely average.

Fingringhoe

- 1.52 Both open spaces at Furneaux Lane Recreation Ground and St Andrews Church have a reasonable level of usage whereas the Church Green usage is perceived as low. Indoor facilities comprise solely of the Village Hall, which has a reasonable level of use.
- 1.53 Quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors, and provision for children and young people is cited as adequate. There is a lack of outdoor sport facilities, most notably changing facilities at the recreation ground. Enlarging of the churchyard would also be of benefit as burial space is estimated to be full by 2010.
- 1.54 General cleanliness and maintenance of open space within Fingringhoe is generally good or very good. There is no notable lighting of open space and equipment in play or recreation areas is of poor quality. Parking and pathways are cited as being very poor and information and signage as poor, therefore affecting accessibility. Overall quality is average. The only suggested improvement from residents has been to replace the current football goals, which do not meet safety standards.

- 1.55 Issues relating to accessibility include provision and distance from population of public transport, provision of cycleways, and information and promotion of sites; all of which are cited as poor or very poor for both indoor and outdoor facilities. Cost to user of open space is very good and overall accessibility is average.
- 1.56 In the opinion of this parish council, residents should be expected to walk no more than five minutes to natural and semi-natural areas and amenity greenspaces, 10 minutes to children and young people facilities and 15 minutes to outdoor sport facilities. Indoor facilities should be within 15 minutes walk.

Great Horkesley Parish Council

- 1.57 There are deemed to be three parks and a churchyard in Great Horkesley. These sites are not significantly well used. The parks are deemed to be of poor quality and all the sites' accessibility is seen as average, with the exception of the park on Blackbrook Road that is seen as being poorly accessible. The outstanding issues of quality relate to litter and bin provision.
- 1.58 There are four indoor facilities in the Parish: the BWW School, the Village Hall, Scout Hut and the W.I. Hall. Usage of these is deemed to be low with the exception of the W.I. Hall. Similarly the quality of these facilities is seen as being poor at the Village Hall and the Scout Hut. The BWW School is average quality and the W.I Hall is a good quality facility.
- 1.59 The Parish believe there is a deficiency in the provision of natural and semi-natural areas and spaces for young people. Further, there is believed to be a deficiency in the provision of community centres and village halls, although this is being addressed specifically through a new centre at Tile House Farm (via a s106 agreement).
- 1.60 The Parish Council is having ongoing discussions with the Borough Council and developers regarding a greenfield site development. This comprises 150 houses, 12 acres of public open space, a community centre, a LEAP and a car park at St John's Church. The Parish Council is currently at the stage of villager consultation following the appointment of architects.

Layer De La Haye

- 1.61 Facilities for children and provision of natural and semi-natural areas are good in terms of level of use, quality and accessibility. The tennis courts are the only outdoor sports facility and have insignificant usage levels. While quality and accessibility of amenity green spaces and the church is generally acceptable, level of usage is low. The only indoor facility is the Queen Elizabeth Hall, which has high usage levels and good quality and accessibility.
- 1.62 Quantity of natural and semi-natural areas, amenity green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards is adequate. There is deemed to be a shortfall in terms of provision of facilities for older children, outdoor sport facilities (especially changing rooms) and allotments, despite significant demand for all. The village hall is perceived as being suitable and meets residents' needs.
- 1.63 There are small concerns regarding vandalism and graffiti, litter and dog fouling. More serious issues stem from problems with parking, information and signage on sites. Overall quality is perceived as good.

- 1.64 All issues relating to accessibility are good or very good with the only exception being provision of information and promotion of sites. Public transport and cycleway provision is cited as not being applicable for outdoor sites. In the case of accessing the village hall, public transport provision is very poor.
- 1.65 In the opinion of this parish council, all residents should not have to walk for more than 20 minutes to access most facilities. Young person facilities, amenity green space and green corridors should be within 10 minutes walk.

East Mersea

- 1.66 All outdoor sites in East Mersea have significant levels of usage. The quality and accessibility of the coastline is cited as average. The Village Hall has low usage levels despite having good accessibility and being of average quality.
- 1.67 There is a perceived oversupply of amenity greenspaces and provision for children and young people in the Parish. Outdoor sport facility and indoor village hall provision is adequate. Burial space at St Edmunds Church will soon be unavailable. Quality issues are generally average, with exception of dog fouling problems. Lighting, changing rooms and play equipment are regarded as not applicable to the Parish. Good practice issues emanate from good communication with the park ranger, ensuring the County Park is in good condition.
- 1.68 Accessibility concerns relate to the cost to the user of outdoor facilities and the poor provision of public transport and cycleways. Opening times of open space are regarded as very good. Outdoor sports facilities should be within 30 minutes walk or five minutes drive. Churches and village halls should be within 10 minutes drive and parks and gardens under 20 minutes walk.

Little Horkesley

- 1.69 Little Horkesley playground, football pitches and village hall have a reasonable level of usage, good accessibility and are of good quality. Supply of all outdoor open space is currently adequate given the limited community size and significant access to the countryside. In a similar respect village hall use is cited as sufficient.
- 1.70 Many quality issues are perceived as non-applicable with other issues such as overall cleanliness and maintenance, equipment and boundaries and vegetation generally being good.
- 1.71 Accessibility of outdoor open space is good with exception of poor signage. Public transport provision is deemed as non-applicable. Indoor facility access is also good, although similarly public transport and cycleway provision are non-applicable, as they do not currently exist. All facilities are located in the centre of the village and are therefore accessible on foot by all residents within 10 minutes.

Mount Bures

- 1.72 Quality and accessibility are generally good to very good with regard to the church, footpaths and Mount Bures Hall. The church has low levels of usage. There is currently no provision for young people or children, outdoor sports facilities, or allotments within the Parish. Existing facility supply is seen as adequate in terms of natural and semi-natural green spaces, green corridors and churchyards and cemeteries. The village hall is of adequate size for the local population.

- 1.73 The only slight concerns regarding quality are noise and parking. Factors such as lighting, equipment, changing facilities and pathways are viewed as non-applicable. Residents have recognised a need for a greater supply of open space although no action is currently underway.
- 1.74 The entrance to indoor sites is very good although serious concerns revolve around provision of public transport and cycle paths. Furthermore there is a lack of information and promotion of indoor facilities. In the opinion of this parish council, residents should not have to walk further than five minutes to access a footpath or 20 minutes to the village hall.

Myland

- 1.75 Myland Parish includes the majority of Highwoods Country Park, a number of allotment sites and some of the most significant sports facilities in the Borough at Mile End and Mill Road.
- 1.76 There is deemed to be a strong deficiency in the quantity of parks and gardens and amenity green spaces. The presence of Highwoods Country Park (classified by them as a natural and semi-natural area) means the quantity of this is deemed to be about right. There is also a perceived deficiency in allotment sites (there is a waiting list), cemeteries and provision for young people. There are also deficiencies in indoor facilities and there is a specific request for a new community hall to meet the growing population (a number of development sites are summarised).
- 1.77 With regards to quality, the main issues relate to problems of litter and bins, as well as appropriate signage and ancillary facilities such as parking (where appropriate). Sites are also considered to be too small within housing areas, and the main site of Highwoods Country Park is too distant for some people, and therefore inconvenient to use. Maintenance and management is however considered to be very good. Overall, quality of open space sites is deemed to be average.
- 1.78 Overall accessibility is deemed to be very poor with issues relating to public transport, cycle path provision and walking times to sites. Signage and site information is also deemed to be very poor. The Parish believe that sites should be within a 10 minute walk time and five minutes for both cycles and cars.

Stanway

- 1.79 Chapel Green has low levels of usage despite having very good quality and accessibility. Drought Garden is of poor quality. All other outdoor facilities in the Parish have adequate to good levels of use, quality and accessibility. All indoor facilities have significant levels of use, offering very good accessibility and quality.
- 1.80 There is a demand for more outdoor open space across all typologies with the only exception being outdoor sports facilities where new changing rooms have recently been built. A further 28 acres of amenity greenspace has been planned but not yet delivered and they are currently on the waiting list for allotment allocation and in negotiations for a civic cemetery. The village hall has recently been extended and meets residents' needs although the church hall is too small with no available space for expansion.

- 1.81 There are significant problems with litter and dog fouling in Stanway. Generally cleanliness and maintenance is adequate. Security and safety, vegetation, and ancillary accommodation are generally good or very good. Overall, the quality rating is good. Suggested improvements focus on better signage and information for both indoor and outdoor facilities. Drought Garden has been cited as an example of poor practice due to youths congregating in the area and subsequent vandalism and litter problems.
- 1.82 All outdoor facility accessibility is very good with the only exception being signage. There is a lack of cycleway and direct bus routing to indoor facilities and signage and promotion is generally deemed as average. All facilities should be within 10 minutes walk-time and provisions for young people and children under five minutes. Bus stops are readily accessible throughout the Parish although cycling safety is a concern given the high levels of traffic. The Village Hall Complex has been cited as an area of good indoor practice with disabled ramps, good parking and speed control on access points.

Tiptree

- 1.83 All sites (open space and indoor) in Tiptree are deemed to be highly used. Apart from natural and semi-natural areas, there is a perceived shortfall in the quantity of all other sites (as well as in community centres).
- 1.84 Quality is considered to be good in relation to security, vegetation and overall assessment. Negative issues relate to litter and some graffiti, as well as ancillary accommodation (parking specifically) and pathways within open space sites.
- 1.85 There is a noted need for more facilities for young people, specifically teenagers, and especially in the southern end of the village.
- 1.86 Overall accessibility is also deemed to be average, with sites being within good proximity to the population, but difficult to access through poor public transport or cycle paths. Signage is also deemed to be an issue with a number of sites.
- 1.87 A variety of walktimes are deemed appropriate for sites, ranging from 10 minutes for areas for children, to 30 minutes for natural and semi-natural area and allotments. All sites should be accessible by five minutes by car.

Wakes Colne

- 1.88 The only open space concern is the very poor accessibility to Chappel and Wakes Colne Cricket Club. The indoor facilities, Wakes Colne Village Hall and the Railway Museum are used regularly offering very good access and quality.
- 1.89 The supply of open space is adequate for all current typologies given the Parish's rural location. The indoor facilities are also sufficient for the local community's needs.
- 1.90 All quality features are either good or very good with no current resident suggestions for improvements. The cricket club demonstrates good practice with facilities that accommodate several teams.
- 1.91 Accessibility problems relate to the general distance residents have to travel in order to access public transport and cycleways and the lack of provision direct to the private cricket club. Residents should not have to drive for more than five minutes to access outdoor sports facilities, cemeteries and churchyards or village halls.

West Bergolt

- 1.92 Open space in West Bergolt generally offers good accessibility and quality. All facilities are used regularly except the Village Green and Pocket Park Play Area where usage levels are low. West Bergolt Old Church currently has no usage. There is a relatively high supply of churches and cemeteries across the Parish. Indoor facilities are used often and have generally good accessibility and are of average quality.
- 1.93 Supply of open space typologies is adequate barring a provision for young people over the age of 12, which is currently being discussed, and an overall lack of parks and gardens. All indoor facility supply is sufficient.
- 1.94 All issues regarding quality are deemed as being average or good with exception of parking, which is cited as being insufficient. Overall quality rating is good. Lorkin Daniell Playing Field is a multi-use site that demonstrates good practice and benefits many residents.
- 1.95 Access to open space is good although there is a lack of public transport, cycleways and information and promotion of sites. Signage is perceived as being poor for outdoor facilities and average for indoor sites. All sites with exception of green corridors (30 minutes) should be accessible within 20 minutes walk and facilities for young people and children under 15 minutes. Cycle-time to all sites should not exceed 10 minutes.

Winstred Hundred Parish Council

- 1.96 There are two areas of open space within the Parish, Moss Hay and Salott Meadow, which offer numerous types of provision including natural and semi-natural green spaces, provision for children and young people and outdoor sports facilities. Both sites are classified as being good quality with very good access to the local community. Additionally, there are three other areas of natural and semi-natural green space which are of good quality, very good access and with perceived high levels of usage.
- 1.97 There are four cemeteries and churchyards all of which are not significantly well-used and classified as average quality and access.
- 1.98 Two indoor recreation facilities are cited with Peldon Village Hall experiencing significant levels of usage, especially by some local clubs, despite being classified as of average quality. Selcott Village Hall is often used but is of poor quality, however, reference is made to future planned updating of village halls, which may improve these ratings.
- 1.99 The overall accessibility rating of open spaces in the Parish area is good, however, the accessibility to indoor recreation facilities is deemed average, with specific issues surrounding the walking distance to these facilities.

Wivenhoe Parish Council

- 1.100 There are a number of open space areas in the Parish, the majority of which are of high quality, significantly or often used and have very good accessibility. Lower Lodge open space has low levels of usage and is of poor quality and access. Use of the available allotments is significant and these are of very good quality and accessibility. The provision for children in the Parish is mixed. King George V playing fields is of very good quality with notable facilities including a skate park, sports field and play area. However, Mede Way play area is classified as poor quality although the facility is often used and has very good access. There are two cemeteries and one churchyard, all of which are classified as very good quality and accessibility.

- 1.101 With reference to indoor facilities available in the Parish, the William Loveless, Scout and Guide and British Legion Halls are those most used. The Scout and Guide Hall is deemed to be of the highest quality with meeting room provision and kitchen facilities, the William Loveless hall has additional provision for Badminton and dancing. The British Legion Hall, whilst significantly used, is deemed to be of poor quality.
- 1.102 The quantity of parks and gardens for the Parish is considered acceptable, however, there are issue surrounding the quantity of amenity green space, provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards. Reference is made to recent housing developments which have increased the population without concomitant increases in amenity spaces of provision for children and young people. There are currently 40 people on the waiting list for an allotment in the Parish and there is approximately only five years until the new cemetery becomes full. There is also a perceived lack of community centres and village halls in the Parish.
- 1.103 There are issues of quality regarding open space in terms of dog fouling, lighting and overall security and safety. Provision of amenity facilities such as toilets is also deemed as very poor as are other ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and information and signage. Residents at the top of the village have petitioned for improvements to open space facilities and improvements in access, especially to Wivenhoe Town Football Club, via a footpath along Elmstead Road. It is highlighted that improvements to Henrietta Close open space could potentially provide excellent amenity green space for residents at the top of the village.
- 1.104 William Loveless Hall is extremely well used and residents often complain that the Philip Road Centre (community centre) should be utilised more often.
- 1.105 The provision of cycleways, signage and information or promotion of sites is deemed as either poor or very poor in terms of accessibility. Additionally, Wivenhoe Town Football Club is thought to be too remote and in need of access improvements via street lighting and a pavement on Elmstead Road in order to encourage increased use, especially by children and young people.

West Mersea Town Council

- 1.106 There are a number of areas containing outdoor sports facilities in the Parish including Legion Field, Essex Youth Field, and Glebe Sports Ground, which has significant usage and is of very good quality and accessibility to local residents. Use of the other outdoor sports facilities is deemed to be low or insignificant with poor access to both. Natural and semi-natural spaces are used often.
- 1.107 Indoor recreation facilities available in the Parish are all significantly or often used being of good or very good quality and very good accessibility. The Mersea Island Community Association (MICA) centre includes gym facilities, squash courts and a badminton court and is the venue for a variety of classes and theatre productions. It is estimated that the centre is used by approximately 900 people per week.
- 1.108 The quantity of outdoor open spaces within the Parish is considered to be less than required. Reference is made to a requirement of approximately 30 hectares of playing field space in order to satisfy the needs of the Parish based on NPFA guidelines. Additionally, there are no allotments available.

- 1.109 Reference was made to ongoing negotiations with Colchester Borough Council for the provision of 15 acres of recreation land as part of a section 106 agreement. However, despite this provision, the Parish will still be left with a shortfall of recreational (playing fields) space. Despite this shortfall, responses from residents indicate that the provision of sporting facilities is adequate given a rugby pitch contained within the East Mersea Youth Camp satisfies the requirements of West Mersea. Additionally, the coastline and water available presents unique opportunities for residents to engage in sport and physical activity, subsequently, it is thought that there is a plentiful supply of sporting facilities available to the residents of the Parish.
- 1.110 There are quality issues surrounding vandalism and graffiti, litter problems, play equipment and the overall security and safety of open spaces. However, boundaries and general quality of planted and grass areas is deemed to be good and there are no perceived issues with access to open spaces or indoor recreational facilities.

Internal consultation

- 1.111 The following individuals from Colchester Borough Council were consulted with as part of this study:

- Martin Beaver – Sports Development Officer, Street and Leisure Services
- Emily Harrup - Travel Plan Co-ordinator – Housing and Environment Team (Colchester 2020)
- Jerry Bowdrey - Curator of Natural History ,Street and Leisure Services
- Bob Penny - Parks & Recreation Manager, Street and Leisure Services
- Karen Turnbull - Tourism and Visitor Development Officer, Street and Leisure Services
- Claire Pick - Parks and Recreation Officer, Allotments
- Jonathon Rochford - Project Officer, Housing and Environmental Policy Team
- Peter Alder – Project Officer, Housing and Environmental Policy Team
- Clifford Hinds - Project Officer, Housing and Environmental Policy Team
- Adam John - Landscape Officer, Planning Protection and Licensing
- Steve Clarke - Head of Renaissance Programme, Renaissance Programme
- Paul Vickers - Countryside Sites Manager, Street and Leisure Services.

External consultation

- 1.112 The following individuals from external groups and organisations were consulted with as part of this study:

- Gary Parsons – Anglian Water
- John Hall - Director of Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex Wildlife Trust
- Phillip Crummy - Colchester Archaeological Trust

APPENDIX L – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

- Phil Olle - Colchester Volunteer Ranger Service
- Krishna Ramkhelawon – Assistant Director of Public Health North East Essex Primary Care Trust,
- Dr Chris Gibson – Natural England
- John Claydon – Environment Agency
- Udai Gurung – Ministry of Defence
- Ted Benton – Chairman, Colchester and District Natural History Society
- Frances Kent - Irvine Road Area Residents Association.

APPENDIX M
INDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Facility name	Post code	Area of pool water (sqm)	Access Policy
Colchester County High School for Girls	CO3 3US	250	dual
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	CO4 3JL	144	dual
Clarice House	CO2 0HS	160	private
Bannatynes Health Club (Colchester)	CO2 8GU	160	private
Atlantis Health and Beauty	CO5 0RA	160	private
LA Fitness (Colchester)	CO1 1XF	120.4	private
Spirit Health and Fitness	CO6 3QL	105	private
Lifestyle Health and Leisure Club, The Marks Tey Hotel	CO6 1DU	75	private
Colchester Leisure World	CO1 1YH	312.5	public
Stanway Swimming Centre	CO3 5LT	108	public

Facility name	Post code	Number of stations	Access Policy
Colchester County High School for Girls	CO3 3US	6	dual
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	CO4 3JL	19	dual
St Helena School Sports Hall	CO3 3LE	21	dual
Clarice House	CO2 0HS	100	private
Bannatynes Health Club (Colchester)	CO2 8GU	74	private
Atlantis Health and Beauty	CO5 0RA	40	private
LA Fitness (Colchester)	CO1 1XF	75	private
Spirit Health and Fitness	CO6 3QL	20	private
Mersea Centre	CO5 8QA	13	private
Fitness First health Club (Colchester)	CO4 5TU	100	private
Lexden Squash and Fitness Club	CO3 9ST	20	private
Hamiltons Fitness Centre	CO4 4QP	45	private
Lifestyle Health and Leisure Club, The Marks Tey Hotel	CO6 1DU	40	private
Top Notch Health Club	CO4 9AS	118	private
Colchester Leisure World	CO1 1YH	72	public
University of Essex Sports Centre	CO4 3SQ	65	public
Arena Sports & Leisure Club	CO2 7SZ	45	public
Aerobic Mad	CO3 0JX	38	public
Tiptree Sports Centre	CO5 0EJ	24	public
Hercules Body Building and Weight Training Club	CO1 1UU	25	public
Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre	CO4 9PU	30	public

Facility name	Post code	Number of badminton cts	Access Policy
Sir Charles Lucas Centre for Sports and Art	CO4 3JL	4	dual
St Helena School Sports Hall	CO3 3LE	4	dual
Philip Morant School & 6th Form College Sports Hall	CO3 4QS	4	dual
Stanway School School Sports Facilities	CO3 0QA	4	dual
St Benedicts Catholic College	CO3 3US	2	dual
Colchester Leisure World	CO1 1YH	11	public
University of Essex Sports Centre	CO4 3SQ	6	public
Tiptree Sports Centre	CO5 0EJ	4	public
Highwoods Sports & Recreation Centre (Gilberd School)	CO4 9PU	7	public

Facility name	Post code	Number of courts	Access Policy
Lexden Squash and Fitness Club	CO3 9ST	2	Private

Facility name	Post code	Number of rinks	Access Policy
Colchester Indoor Bowls Club	CO2 7XB	6	Private
West Mersea Bowls Club	CO5 8JZ	3	Private

APPENDIX N

QUANTITY STANDARDS

Setting Quantity Standards

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	Quantity Standard	PMP Justification
			LA Name	Local Standard Set			
1. Parks and gardens	No national standards	2.83ha/1000 (for settlements of 1000+)	Newark & Sherwood DC	0.6 - 0.8	58.2% of the household responses indicated that the provision of parks and gardens in the Borough is either about right or more than enough	1.76 hectares per 1000 population	The current level of provision is 1.76 ha per 1,000 population in Colchester Borough. Responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in the Borough. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of a quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Colchester Borough.
			Rugby BC	1.5 (urban) / 10 (rural)	39.1% of responses indicated there is not enough parks and gardens provision in the Borough		
		0.2ha within 400m of all homes	Harborough DC	0.5	40.7% of household respondents indicated that parks and gardens are their most frequently visited type of open space, making them the most popular typology		
					When asked about the quantity of open space available, 69% of the childrens and young people survey responded 'good' with a further 25% responding 'fair'. This did however relate to all types of open space		
2. Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace	English Nature (Natural England) 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.	2.83ha/1000 (for settlements of 1000+)	Newark & Sherwood DC	10	Household questionnaire responses indicated people felt the quantity of NSN sites was about right, with a 51% to 49% split between those who felt provision was enough and those who didn't.	5 hectares per 1000 population (excluding rural analysis area)	Current provision across Colchester is equivalent to 9.82 hectares per 100 population. However this is heavily skewed by the rural analysis area and therefore an urban standard has been recommended of 5 hectares per 1000 population. This standard protects the existing provision levels whilst also placing demands on provision close to new residential developments.
	English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population		Rugby BC	2.5 (urban) / 10 (rural)	Mersea's results differed slightly, where 61.5% of respondents felt there was enough NSN in the area, which goes against audit findings. Cudmore Grove and the inherent rural nature of the east of the island may explain this result. However, these results are based on only 15 responses.		
	Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation	0.2ha within 400m of all homes	Harborough DC	1.5 (urban) / 0.5 (rural)	Fears regarding the perceived loss of open space to development across Colchester were also frequently raised during consultation, further emphasising the importance of these open space sites to some residents.		

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	Quantity Standard	PMP Justification
			LA Name	Local Standard Set			
3. Outdoor Sports Facilities	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (ie 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquet lawns	None	Newark & Sherwood DC	2.5	46.1% of people felt grass pitch provision was about right. Only 26.5% felt there was not enough and 20.2% said they had no opinion. 37.1% felt there was not enough tennis courts, with 27% feeling there were enough and 35.9% having no opinion.	1.5 hectares per 1000 population	In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.18ha per 1,000) at 1.5 ha per 1,000 population. Golf courses have been removed from all calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. When golf courses are included, the level of provision is 1.8 hectares per 1000 people. Under this scenario, the level of provision per 1000 people remains below the level of many other local authorities so a standard of 2.1 hectares of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 people would be recommended. Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports pitches. It, along with specific sport demand analysis, should be used to determine what and where new outdoor sports facilities should be provided.
	NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments		Rugby BC	3.5 (urban) / 5 (rural)	In Tiptree, 50% of responses indicated there was not enough (25% had no opinion) 50% of sports clubs indicated there was enough outdoor sports provision in the Borough. Football clubs indicated pitch provision was adequate but only due to a reliance on school pitches		
	Harborough DC		0.57 (pitches only)	The quantity of council pitches was deemed to be poor, with heavy overuse of hub sites such as Shrub deemed to be the reason for this			
4. Amenity Greenspace	Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that provide informal recreation and visual amenity or land provided for environmental or safety reasons	2.83ha/1000 (for settlements of 1000+)	Newark & Sherwood DC	0.6	Household questionnaire results indicate an even split between whether people feel there is enough amenity green space (41% or not (50%), with a slight tendency in responses towards there being an undersupply.	1.1 hectares per 1000 population	The recommended standard has been set at 1.1 hectares per 1000 population. This is to reflect the slight undersupply perceived by the public and the significant population growth expected in Colchester by 2021. Public consultation revealed that residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity provision standard is required to address this perception.
	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas	0.2ha within 400m of all homes	Rugby BC	1.1 (urban) / 0.5 (rural)	Results for the Urban North, urban South and Rural analysis areas mirror these findings. Results for the Central region are more even (46.6% and 44.4%). From 32 responses, 58.4% of Tiptree residents indicated more amenity green space was needed.		
	NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement is intended for residential areas		Harborough DC	0.9	The children's IT survey indicated that the most popular open space visited was play areas (30%) followed by amenity green spaces (29%). 90% indicated they use open space near to where they live, with 75% saying they use these sites once a week or more.		
5. Provision for children	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas	None	Newark & Sherwood DC	0.75 (young people and children)	The highest levels of dissatisfaction with current levels of provision can be found in the Central and Tiptree areas, where 64% of respondees who expressed an opinion stated there was nearly enough or not enough provision	0.05 hectares per 1000 population	The recommended standard is higher than provision across all analysis areas except Rural and Tiptree. Sites are currently spread evenly across all areas although locational deficiencies do exist.
	(3) 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),		Rugby BC	0.2 (young people and children)	80% of children's IT respondents indicated the quantity of play areas was good or fair		
	(2) 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)		Harborough DC	0.3 (young people and children)	A perceived lack of play provision for young children was expressed by both Abberton and Lagenhoe Parish Council and Tiptree Parish Council		

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	Quantity Standard	PMP Justification
			LA Name	Local Standard Set			
6. Provision for teenagers	NPPA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas	None	Newark & Sherwood DC	0.75 (young people and children)	A general lack of provision for young people was a consistent theme throughout all consultation and there are concerns that a lack of provision is causing safety issues at other open space types, specifically parks, during the evenings. The audit revealed a low level of provision for teenagers across Colchester – equivalent to only 0.008 hectares per 1000 population. It should be noted that the quantity of facilities available to young people is perhaps more important than the area/size of facilities	0.05 hectares per 1000 population	The current level of provision is 0.01 hectares per 1000 population which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. The subsequent standard set reflects the acknowledged lack of teenage facilities in the Borough and sets a challenging target for new provision
	(3) 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),		Rugby BC	0.2 (young people and children)			
	(2) 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)		Harborough DC	0.3 (young people and children)			
7. Allotments	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households (ie 20 allotments plots per 2,200 people (2.2 people per house) or 1 allotment plot per 200 people.	0.2ha/1000 population	Newark & Sherwood DC	0.5	90% of household respondents indicated they do not use allotments and therefore household survey results are not reliable and an evidence base to determine future provision	0.2 hectares per 1000 population	The standard set is higher than current provision (0.16 hectares per 1000 population), but is in line with policies set out in the adopted review of the Local Plan (2004).
	1969 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population		Rugby BC	0.65 (urban) / 0.8 (rural)			
			Harborough DC	0.35			
8. Cemeteries / Churchyards	No national standards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation					
9. Green Corridors	No national standards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation					
10. Beaches and Estuaries	No national standards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation					
11. Civic Spaces	No national standards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation					

APPENDIX O
QUALITY STANDARDS

Setting Quality Standards

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quality Standards	Consultation	Quality Standard	PMP Justification
<p>1. Parks and gardens</p>	<p>The Green Flag Awards set out a national standard for the quality of Parks. Castle Park, High Woods Country Park and Cudmore Grove Country Park currently have this accreditation</p>	<p>CBC currently has individual Park Management Plans that sit alongside annual action plans</p>	<p>The majority of sites were deemed to be of good quality. In particular High Woods Country Park and Castle Park were deemed as excellent sites</p> <p>73% of household survey respondents stated quality level is good, with 4% indicating it is bad</p> <p>Comments raised related to cleanliness, making parks interesting, providing appropriate ancillary facilities and clarifying the role of cyclists in Castle Park</p>	<p>Essential features:</p> <p>All parks to be maintained to Green Flag standard</p> <p>Implementation of Park Management Plans</p> <p>All sites to be clean, well maintained and have good provision of flowers and trees</p> <p>Desirable features:</p> <p>All Parks to achieve Green Flag status</p> <p>All new Parks to be linked to other open spaces via cycle routes</p> <p>Larger sites to provide well maintained toilet facilities</p>	<p>A quality standard has been devised which reflects both aspirations and concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG!&) and also the Green Flag award criteria (the national benchmark)</p>
<p>2. Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace</p>	<p>Natural England state land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs</p>	<p>Standards are referred to in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan, individual site Management Plans and within the Haven Gateway project</p>	<p>The majority of sites are deemed to be of good quality</p> <p>60% of household responses rated NSN sites as good, with only 6% rating them as bad</p> <p>Issues to emerge from consultation related to the need to maintain the wild nature of sites whilst looking at the potential to combine site uses (for example with sports)</p> <p>Litter was seen as a problem in Tiptree</p> <p>better facilities and opportunities for dog walking, especially along riverbanks was highlighted</p>	<p>Essential features:</p> <p>Clean/litter free; natural features; footpaths well maintained</p> <p>Council retain control where possible to prevent fragmentation of sites</p> <p>Maintain current site management processes</p> <p>Work with EBAP</p> <p>Work with Haven Gateway definitions of quality</p> <p>Desirable features:</p> <p>Combine site uses where possible, whilst remaining wary of site fragmentation</p>	<p>Consultation reveals that the majority of users feel NSN areas are currently of good quality. This quality vision aims to ensure this continues as well as addressing particular areas of concern that may exist. The standard also aligns itself with national and local quality standards that currently exist.</p>

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quality Standards	Consultation	Quality Standard	PMP Justification
3. Outdoor Sports Facilities		The 1999 CBC Playing Pitch Strategy indicated that the quality of the Borough's ancillary facilities needed to be improved	265 of household survey respondents rated outdoor sports facilities as good and 51% rated them as average	Essential features:	Household consultation highlighted the key issues, which have been addressed in the quality standard. NGB guidance should be used to ensure appropriate site dimensions, maintenance and safety.
	NPFA recommends various quality factors.		There was an even split within sports clubs between those who felt quality was good, and those who felt it was bad	Meet relevant sport national governing body specifications for sports facilities	
	National Governing Bodies of sports highlight specific quality issues in relation to pitch provision		Further consultation highlighted the quality of ancillary facilities as being a problem. The quality of rural sites was also highlighted as an issue.	Grass is to be well-kept	
			The potential to combine outdoor sports facilities with other sites, such as NSN was noted	Provide appropriate ancillary facilities, such as toilets and changing, where appropriate	
				Desirable features:	
				Staff should be on site where appropriate	
				Parking should be adequate to meet the demands of the facilities they serve	
4. Amenity Greenspace	None	None	28% of household responses rated AGS sites as good, and 59% rated them as average	Essential features:	The visual amenity value of amenity green space sites makes the quality standard important to be adhered to. Further, to increase usage it is important that these sites are combined with informal play opportunities where possible
			Further consultation highlighted the need to incorporate open space into new developments	Sites should be clean and litter free with adequate bin provision	
			Litter was seen as the major problem, especially in Tiptree	Grass should be well maintained	
			Natural styles of maintenance were preferred to manicured ones	Sites should be free from graffiti	
			Where possible, the linking of sites by paths or cycle routes was mentioned as important	Desirable features:	
				Sites should have good lighting and appropriate seating provision	
				Where appropriate, character must be maintained within sites	
				Sites should be linked to other open space sites by walking and cycling routes	

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quality Standards	Consultation	Quality Standard	PMP Justification
5. Provision for children	NPFA Six Acre Standard sets out quality standards for LEAPs	Colchester's Playground Development Plan includes standards for provision, guidelines for design and maintenance of playgrounds	The average quality of sites is fairly consistent across the Borough, with the overall highest quality in the Central area and the lowest quality in the Urban South analysis area	Essential features:	Following feedback from consultations, recognition of the need for places to go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for seating and the provision of facilities which provide an environment that stimulates a child's imagination rather than a focus only on formal equipment. The standard encompasses the need for play areas to meet the standards set out in the Council's new Play Strategy, which reflect the national standards for LEAPs and NEAPs. The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are reflected in the quality standard.
				All play areas must adhere to LEAP and NEAP national standards	
				All play areas must adhere to CBC's 2007 Play Strategy standards	
	All play areas must be clean/litter-free, safe, free of graffiti, provide seating and provide a stimulating environment which encourages children's imaginations				
	Desirable features:				
	Toilets should be provided on larger sites				
Play areas should be located alongside other open space types where possible					
LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs indicate some quality aspirations in terms of needing seating for adults, varied range of equipment and teenager meeting places	LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs indicate some quality aspirations in terms of needing seating for adults, varied range of equipment and teenager meeting places	None	When asked what improvements children would like to see at a new or improved facility there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response	Essential features:	Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of such spaces to 'meet friends', as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure. This was a key element emerging from local consultation and is therefore reflected within this standard. It is important that sites continue to improve and the council works towards the achievement of the quality vision. A recent CABA Space study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and result in long term cost savings and this is reflected in the quality vision.
				Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people	
Facilities must be clean and litter-free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities					
Desirable features:					
Facilities should attempt to provide skate/BMX features alongside youth shelter areas					
Concerns were expressed through local consultation undertaken that provision for young people is mostly very dull and could be more innovative and stimulating for children					

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quality Standards	Consultation	Quality Standard	PMP Justification
7. Allotments	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardener standards (NSALG)	None	<p>Site scores across all areas are fairly consistent, with area averages falling between 63% and 70%</p> <p>The household survey results indicated that the perception of allotment quality was predominantly 'average' (55%), with an even split between 'good' and 'poor'.</p> <p>Essential features identified by the household questionnaire results relate to prevention of vandalism and maintenance of grass, as well as the need for clear boundaries and on site management where it is appropriate (mainly the larger sites).</p>	The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has a set of standards that sites in Colchester must work towards achieving. Further, sites must be vandalism/graffiti free and have well-maintained grass, as well as aspire to have clear boundaries and on site management where appropriate.	Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community.
8. Cemeteries / Churchyards	National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Cemetery of the Year Award – quality criteria	Essex Wildlife Trust churchyard conservation group	<p>The quality of cemeteries and churchyards is equally as important as quantity. The consultation process revealed that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards are perceived to be in reasonable or good condition. However, the site assessment process did identify some sites that are in need of improvement.</p> <p>In the main, sites were identified as being well maintained and of good quality. Only 9% of the household survey respondents indicated sites were of poor quality. Issues identified as being important, and therefore maybe requiring improvement at some sites, were well-kept grass, cleanliness (especially litter) and good lighting.</p>	Use the Cemetery of the Year Awards criteria as a benchmark for standards. Cemetery quality should provide the basis for reflective contemplation.	It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. It is important that good practice is promoted throughout the Borough, which can be developed and standardised through the Cemetery of the Year Awards.

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quality Standards	Consultation	Quality Standard	PMP Justification
9. Green Corridors	Natural England – a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation; a path on un-vegetated natural surfaces.	None	<p>Site assessments: seen as of good quality, but few identified</p> <p>Household survey: 55% rate them as average, 29% rate them as good</p> <p>A network across the Borough to provide a safe series of routes all over would be really useful</p>	<p>Essential Features: Accessible paths; nature features; clean/litter-free; dog litter bins – linking open space sites.</p> <p>Desirable features: Provide for walking and cycling where possible</p>	<p>It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all Council visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe with clear pathways and well maintained to encourage usage. These routes also need to be well lit and secure. While green corridors have an important recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play.</p>
10. Beaches and Estuaries	Blue Flag Award Criteria	None	<p>Site assessments: Well-maintained, and good quality areas</p> <p>Household survey: 53% rate them as good, only 8% rate them as poor</p> <p>Litter and dog fouling the major problems</p>	<p>Essential standard: Beach area to be clean and litter free. Popular beaches to have reasonable access to toilets and be accessible where possible.</p> <p>Desirable standard: Maintain current levels of access</p>	<p>The nature of the beach areas in Mersea means that the Blue Flag award is not deemed a relevant standard for the Council to aspire to. The beach is inaccessible and dangerous in certain areas due to the changeable tides and mud plains. The beach is deemed to be an area primarily for wildlife as opposed to recreational value, and therefore current restricted levels of access are deemed appropriate, something that is supported through consultation with Natural England.</p>
11. Civic Spaces	No national standards	No standards set due to the presence of only one civic space.			

APPENDIX P

SETTING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS SUMMARY

Setting Accessibility Standards

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Accessibility Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	PMP Recommendation	PMP Justification	CLIENT APPROVAL	LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
			LA Name	Local Standard Set					
1. Parks and gardens	No national standards	None	Chelmsford BC	10 min drive	<p>Respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel up to 15 minutes to a park and garden, with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time, except in the rural areas. The general perception (75% level) is that a walk time of up to 15 minutes is reasonable, a view that is reflected in both the urban and rural analysis areas. The majority of people in the rural areas indicated a preference for a drivetime rather than a walktime</p> <p>These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 56% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 75th percentile falling in the 11-15 minutes category.</p>	Urban areas - 15 minute walk Rural areas - 15 minute drivetime	The recommended standard of a 15 minute walk time is based on results from public consultation. Throughout the Borough the dominant current method of accessing parks is on foot and this was largely replicated by the public's aspirations. The only exception was the rural analysis area where a drivetime was preferred.		Urban areas - 15 minute walk Rural areas - 15 minute drivetime
			Maidstone BC	15-20 mins (walk)					
			Castle Point	15 min (walk) Urban 10 min (drive) country					
			Brentwood BC	Urban - 15 minute (walk) Rural - 10 minute (drive)					
			Oswestry BC	15 min (walk)					
			Halton BC	15 min (walk)					
			Knowsley MBC	15 mins (walk)					
			Chelmsford BC	10 mins (drive)					
			Congleton BC	15 min s (walk) - Urban / 15 mins (drive) - Rural					
			Maidstone BC	15-20 mins (walk)					
			Burnley BC	15 minute (walk)					
			Tamworth BC	15 min (walk)					
			2. Natural & Semi-Natural Green space	English Nature (Natural England) Accessible Natural Green space Standard (ANGS1) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural green space per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural green space / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha					
Maidstone BC	10-15 mins (walk)								
Castle Point	15 min (walk)								
Brentwood BC	15 min (walk)								
Oswestry BC	10-15 min (walk)								
Halton BC	15 mins (walk)								
Knowsley MBC	15 mins (walk)								
Chelmsford BC	20 mins (walk)								
Congleton BC	10-15 mins (walk)								
Maidstone BC	10-15 mins (walk)								
Burnley BC	15 minute (walk)								
Tamworth BC	15-20 min (walk)								
3. Outdoor Sports Facilities	Recent Comprehensive Performance Assessments criteria has stated guidelines of a 20 minute walktime in urban areas and 20 minute drivetime in rural areas for accessing quality facilities	None			Chelmsford BC	10-15 mins (drive)	<p>Over the whole Borough, 39% favour a walktime and 36% favour a drivetime. There is a clear split between the urban areas and the rural areas. In the Central area, 58% prefer to walk and 18% prefer to drive. In the rural area, 11% prefer to walk and 72% prefer to drive.</p> <p>However, the people who use outdoor sports facilities most frequently prefer to travel by private car (71%). The 75th percentile for walk time is 20 minutes and the 75th percentile for drive time is 20 minutes.</p>	Urban areas - 20 minute walktime Rural areas - 20 minute drivetime	Having different standards for urban and rural areas now follows the guidelines for the CPA regime. It is therefore recommended that both areas have a 20 minute catchment area but it is based on a walktime for urban areas and drivetime for rural areas.
			Maidstone BC	10-15 mins (walk)					
			Castle Point	20 min (walk)					
			Brentwood BC	15-min (drive)					
			Oswestry BC	15 min (drive)					
			Halton BC	15 mins (walk)					
			Knowsley MBC	15 mins (drive)					
			Chelmsford BC	10-15 mins (drive)					
			Congleton BC	10-20 min (drive)					
			Burnley BC	10-15 minute drive					
			Maidstone BC	10-15 mins (walk)					
			Tamworth BC	15 min (drive)					

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Accessibility Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	PMP Recommendation	PMP Justification	CLIENT APPROVAL	LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
			LA Name	Local Standard Set					
4. Amenity Green Space	No national standards however many Councils have added one acre to the NPFA's six acre standard for this typology	Open space of at least 0.2ha (1/2 acres) in size ought to be located within a 400m (1/4 mile) distance of all homes - Colchester Local Plan	Chelmsford BC	10 min (walk)	58% of respondents across the Borough indicated that the preferred mode of transport was on foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is a walk time of 10 minutes, an opinion shared across all the analysis areas.	10 minute walktime (or within 480 metres)	The recommended standard of a 10 minute walk time is based on results from public consultation. Across the Borough, the preferred mode of transport is to walk and this recommendation is also in line with the majority of other Local Authority standards. The 10 minute walktime equates to a 480m distance based on NPFA guidelines		10 minute walktime (or within 480 metres)
			Maldstone BC	5-10 min (walk)					
			Castle Point	10 min (walk)					
			Brentwood BC	10 min (walk)					
			Oswestry BC	10 min (walk)					
			Halton BC	5 min (walk)					
			Knowsley MBC	10 mins (walk)					
			Chelmsford BC	10 mins (walk)					
			Congleton BC	5-10 mins (walk)					
			Burnley BC	10 minute (walk)					
			Maldstone BC	5-10 mins (walk)					
			Tamworth BC	5-10 min (walk)					
			5. Provision for children and young people	(3) 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), (2) 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) (1) 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 green space					
Maldstone BC	10-15 min (walk)								
Castle Point	10 min (walk)								
Brentwood BC	10 min (walk)								
Oswestry BC	10 min (walk)								
Halton BC	10 min (walk)								
LEAPs - 5 minute walktime	Knowsley MBC	10 mins (walk)							
	Chelmsford BC	5-10 mins (walk)							
	Congleton BC	10 mins (walk) - Children / 15 mins (walk) - young people							
	Maldstone BC	10-15 mins (walk)							
	Burnley BC	10 minute (walk)							
	Tamworth BC	10 min (walk)							
	Chelmsford BC	10 min (drive)							
6. Allotments	No national standards	None	Castle Point	15 min (walk)	Over the whole Borough, 50% favour a walktime and 30% favour a drivetime. The 75th percentile in the Borough suggests that a 15 minute walk time would be considered reasonable for allotments. The rural area is the only area where a drive time is preferred (50% car versus 36% walk), the 75th percentile in the Borough for drive times indicates that a 25 minute drivetime would be reasonable for allotments.	Urban - 15 minute walktime Rural - 15 minute drivetime	The recommended standard of a 15 minute walk time for urban areas is based on the 75th percentile for the Borough. In urban areas the dominant current method of accessing allotments is on foot and this was largely replicated by the public's aspirations. The only exception was the rural area where a drivetime was preferred. It is not felt to be reasonable to expect people in rural areas to travel for a longer amount of time than those in other areas so a 15 minute drivetime is recommended.		Urban - 15 minute walktime Rural - 15 minute drivetime
			Brentwood BC	5 min (drive)					
			Vale Royal BC	15 min (drive)					
			Oswestry BC	15 min (walk)					
			Halton BC	20 mins (walk)					
			Knowsley MBC	20 mins (walk)					
			Chelmsford BC	10 mins (drive)					
			Burnley BC	15 minute (walk)					
			Congleton BC	15 mins (walk) - Urban / 15 mins (drive) - Rural					
			Tamworth BC	15 min (walk)					

Typology	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Accessibility Standards	Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)		Consultation	PMP Recommendation	PMP Justification	CLIENT APPROVAL	LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
			LA Name	Local Standard Set					
7. Cemeteries / Churchyards	No national standards		As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation						
8. Green Corridors	No national standards		As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation						
9. Beaches and Estuaries	No national standards		As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation						
10. Civic Spaces	No national standards		As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation						

Setting Accessibility Standards (table definitions)

Field	Comment
Typology	PPG 17 Typology
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. English Nature make recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'
Existing Local Accessibility Standards (includes any past surveys)	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 (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 - need to take the 75% level as recommended by PPG 17 Companion Guide (ie from a list of responses - what is the time 75% are willing to travel)
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 locals standard that has been recommended
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis
LOCAL QUANTITY 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

APPENDIX Q

QUANTITY STANDARDS CALCULATOR

Colchester Borough Council - Open Space Calculations (Quantity)

Category	Populations	Parks and Gardens (in hectares)	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space (in hectares)	Amenity Greenspace (in hectares)	Provision for Children (hectares)	Provision for Teenagers (hectares)	Allotments (in hectares)	Outdoor Sports Facilities (in hectares)	
								with golf courses	without golf courses
Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)									
CENTRAL	21,745	32.5800	66.8300	0.9200	0.3560	0.3044	7.4600	21.9300	19.7654
URBAN NORTH	46,600	149.7600	124.4	55.77	1.4503	0.3997	9.3300	127.2300	56.7246
URBAN SOUTH	56,272	82.3800	433.9800	49.4100	1.3459	0.2541	6.5000	71.4600	61.1957
RURAL	28,840	0.4800	993.4800	24.4600	1.9344	0.3256	4.1800	49.1700	39.7136
MERSEA	7,677	33.3000	0.7500	6.5900	0.1760	0.0540	0.0000	21.9500	13.4402
TIPTREE	9,464	1.1500	56.1000	5.4900	0.5403	0.0897	0.0000	15.5700	11.0604
OVERALL	170,598	299.7	1,675.5	142.6	5.8	1.4	27.5	307.3100	201.8999
Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)									
CENTRAL	21,745	1.4983	3.0734	0.0423	0.0164	0.0140	0.3431	1.0085	0.9090
URBAN NORTH	46,600	3.2137	2.6695	1.1968	0.0311	0.0086	0.2002	2.7303	1.2173
URBAN SOUTH	56,272	1.4640	7.7122	0.8781	0.0239	0.0045	0.1155	1.2699	1.0875
RURAL	28,840	0.0166	34.4480	0.8481	0.0671	0.0113	0.1449	1.7049	1.3770
MERSEA	7,677	4.3376	0.0977	0.8584	0.0229	0.0070	0.0000	2.8592	1.7507
TIPTREE	9,464	0.1215	5.9277	0.5801	0.0571	0.0095	0.0000	1.6452	1.1687
OVERALL	170,598	1.7565	9.8216	0.8361	0.0340	0.0084	0.1610	1.8014	1.1835
Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2021									
CENTRAL	22,397	1.4546	2.9838	0.0411	0.0159	0.01	0.3331	0.9791	0.8825
URBAN NORTH	47,998	3.1201	2.5918	1.1619	0.0302	0.01	0.1944	2.6507	1.1818
URBAN SOUTH	57,960	1.4213	7.4876	0.8525	0.0232	0.00	0.1121	1.2329	1.0558
RURAL	29,705	0.0162	33.4446	0.8234	0.0651	0.01	0.1407	1.6553	1.3369
MERSEA	7,907	4.2113	0.0948	0.8334	0.0223	0.0068	0.0000	0.7389	0.4525
TIPTREE	9,748	0.1180	5.7551	0.5632	0.0554	0.01	0.0000	1.5973	1.1346
OVERALL	175,716	1.7053	9.5355	0.8118	0.0330	0.01	0.1563	1.7489	1.1490
Consultation (%)									
More than Enough		3	4	3	3	3	2	2	
About Right		55	47	38	36	8	27	31	
Nearly Enough		14	17	17	14	9	11	19	
Not Enough		25	28	34	37	63	28	38	
No Opinion		3	4	8	10	17	32	10	
RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD (ha per 1000 population)									
		1.76	9.83	1.10	0.05	0.05	0.2	2.1	1.5
Balance									
CENTRAL	21,745	5.69	146.92	23.00	0.73	0.78	-3.11	23.73	12.85
URBAN NORTH	46,600	-67.74	333.68	-4.51	0.88	1.93	-0.01	-29.37	13.18
URBAN SOUTH	56,272	16.66	119.17	12.49	1.47	2.56	4.75	46.71	23.21
RURAL	28,840	50.28	-709.98	7.26	-0.49	1.12	1.59	11.39	3.55
MERSEA	7,677	-19.79	74.71	1.85	0.21	0.33	1.54	-5.83	-1.92
TIPTREE	9,464	15.51	36.93	4.92	-0.07	0.38	1.89	4.30	3.14
OVERALL	170,598	0.60	1.44	45.02	2.73	7.10	6.65	50.95	54.00
Future Balance 2021									
CENTRAL	25,046	11.50	179.37	26.63	0.90	0.95	-2.45	30.67	17.80
URBAN NORTH	53,675	-55.29	403.23	3.27	1.23	2.28	1.41	-14.51	23.79
URBAN SOUTH	64,816	31.70	203.16	21.89	1.89	2.99	6.46	64.65	36.03
RURAL	33,219	57.99	-666.94	12.08	-0.27	1.34	2.46	20.59	10.11
MERSEA	8,843	-17.74	86.18	3.14	0.27	0.39	1.77	-3.38	-0.18
TIPTREE	10,901	18.04	51.06	6.50	0.00	0.46	2.18	7.32	5.29
OVERALL	196,500	46.19	256.06	73.51	4.02	8.40	11.83	105.34	92.85

Quantity Calculations

APPENDIX R

URBAN NSN QUANTITY STANDARDS CALCULATOR

Colchester Borough Council - Open Space Calculations (Quantity)

	Category	Populations	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space (in hectares)
Quantity Calculations	Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)		
	CENTRAL	21,745	66.8300
	URBAN NORTH	46,600	124.4
	URBAN SOUTH	56,272	433.9800
	MERSEA	7,677	0.7500
	TIPTREE	9,464	56.1000
	OVERALL	141,758	682.1
	Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)		
	CENTRAL	21,745	3.0734
	URBAN NORTH	46,600	2.6695
	URBAN SOUTH	56,272	7.7122
	MERSEA	7,677	0.0977
	TIPTREE	9,464	5.9277
	OVERALL	141,758	4.8114
	Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population) 2021		
	CENTRAL	22,397	2.9838
	URBAN NORTH	47,998	2.5918
	URBAN SOUTH	57,960	7.4876
	MERSEA	7,907	0.0948
	TIPTREE	9,748	5.7551
	OVERALL	146,011	4.6713
	Consultation %		
	More than Enough		4
	About Right		47
	Nearly Enough		17
	Not Enough		28
	No Opinion		4
	RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD		
			5.00
	Balance		
	CENTRAL	21,745	41.90
	URBAN NORTH	46,600	108.60
	URBAN SOUTH	56,272	-152.62
RURAL			
MERSEA	7,677	37.64	
TIPTREE	9,464	-8.78	
OVERALL	141,758	26.73	
Future Balance 2021			
CENTRAL	25,046	58.40	
URBAN NORTH	53,675	143.98	
URBAN SOUTH	64,816	-109.90	
RURAL			
MERSEA	8,843	43.47	
TIPTREE	10,901	-1.60	
OVERALL	163,281	134.35	