



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

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OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

JUNE 2018

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Strategy and Action Plan sets out a strategic vision and a series of aims and objectives for open space in Wolverhampton of all types and ownerships. Based on these objectives and an assessment against quantity, quality and access standards a prioritised action plan is provided for different parts of the City for each type of open space. Over-arching actions for the whole City are also identified.

The document builds upon the work undertaken by the City of Wolverhampton Council (CoWC) as part of the Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2008 and the findings of the reviews, carried out by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) in 2012 and 2018, on the recommended OSANA standards. A summary of this work is provided in section two. It provides an update of the Wolverhampton Open Space Strategy and Action Plan (OSSAP) published in 2015.

The document also draws on key actions identified in the Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan Update 2018 and Towards an Active City (2017) and highlights where there is cross-over between actions affecting different types of open space and sports facilities.

The Strategy and Action Plan sets out a vision up to 2026, providing a strategic framework for the development and improvement of existing open space facilities. It aims to:

- ◀ Provide a clear prioritised action plan to protect and improve existing open spaces and to increase the provision of such facilities, where it is shown there are deficiencies against quantity, quality and access standards. This includes area-based action plans with implementation and funding sources.
- ◀ Advise, as appropriate, on opportunities for rationalisation and change of use of current open space provision within the City.
- ◀ Detail how CoWC can encourage greater community involvement and ownership in the management, maintenance and development of open spaces.
- ◀ Recommend how to maximise the effective use of physical and financial resources in improving the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space
- ◀ Advise on best practise in terms of delivery including stakeholder and partnership working, marketing and communication improvements.
- ◀ Establish a robust monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of the Strategy and Action Plan.

An action plan has been developed which identifies areas for prioritisation, together with level of priority and recommended action. It is important to remember that the action plan is a working document and the priority actions highlighted will be monitored every year and the action plan as a whole updated every two years.

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2. CONTEXT

The following section summarises the key strategic documents and issues relevant to this Strategy and link, where appropriate, to the aims and objectives set out later.

National

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under the promoting healthy communities theme, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sport and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sport and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Localism Act 2011

The government expects local authorities to empower their communities and maintain strong links with the voluntary and community groups. The current Localism Act 2011 includes new community Rights designed to enable local people to play a major part in shaping and helping to manage green spaces where they live.

This empowerment of local communities through schemes such as the creation of Neighbourhood Plan documents could be used as mechanism to deliver the actions set out within this plan. Opportunities such as these should be explored through working closely with community groups. If for example a specific area is deficient in a typology than a document such as the neighbourhood plan could look at ways of addressing this deficiency locally.

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Sub-Regional

Black Country Core Strategy

The Core Strategy sets out the policy direction for how the sub-region (covering Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) should look in 2026. It is a spatial plan, addressing the economic, transportation, social infrastructure and environmental needs of the sub-region.

There are 10 spatial objectives outlined in the Core Strategy. Spatial Objective Six details that by 2026 the Core Strategy would have helped to deliver *a high quality environment fit for the future, and a strong Urban Park focussed on beacons, corridors and communities: respecting, protecting and enhancing the unique biodiversity and geo-diversity of the Black Country and making the most of its assets whilst valuing its local character and industrial legacy.*

Policy ENV6 of the Core Strategy sets the spatial objectives for open space, sport and recreation across the Black Country. The policy advocates the need to apply the principles of national policy in order to support urban renaissance and environmental transformation and to deliver Spatial Objective Six. In addition to national policy and guidance the policy also states the need to recognise the following roles of open space as being of importance:

- ◀ Improving the image and environmental quality of the Black Country;
- ◀ Defining and enhancing local distinctiveness;
- ◀ Reducing potential urban heat island effects;
- ◀ Preserving and enhancing diversity in the natural and built environment;
- ◀ Preserving and enhancing industrial, archaeological and architectural heritage, including canals;
- ◀ Providing components of a high quality, multifunctional green space network or 'Urban Park';
- ◀ Enhancing people's mental and physical well-being;
- ◀ Strengthening (through extension, increased access and enhanced value) the existing greenway network.

The Core Strategy is currently under review. The Issues & Options consultation which took place during 2017 highlighted the need to find additional land for around 20,000 more homes up to 2036. This could include surplus open space within the urban area and potentially within the green belt as part of a green belt review to take place during 2018.

This OSSAP highlights where surplus open space in Wolverhampton has been identified for disposal, in line with existing standards and strategic aims. Any such sites which are suitable and developable / deliverable for housing have been included in the 2018 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. This evidence will feed into the Core Strategy review process, including the preparation of an Urban Capacity Report.

Any other potential surplus open space sites that may be identified through the review process, and the need to create or improve open space arising from development sites identified through that process, will be assessed against the standards, strategic aims and priority actions set out in this OSSAP and the current PPSAP.

The Open Space Standards Review (Appendix 2) has concluded that predicted growth in the Wolverhampton population will result in a City-wide shortfall of 43 ha against the new open space standard by 2026. As the population continues to grow, this shortfall will potentially double by 2036. Therefore the potential release of open space for housing in

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Wolverhampton should be small-scale and limited to areas with a significant local surplus. Bilston is the only Analysis Area with a current surplus against the total open space standard - amounting to 36 ha - and therefore provides the only real opportunity for release of surplus open space to fund quality improvements and the creation of a more balanced mix of open space types. However, Bilston will be subject to significant housing growth up to 2026, and much of the existing open space is constrained by ground conditions, therefore only small areas are likely to be considered for release.

Local

New Horizons – Our Vision for the City in 2030 (2016-2030)

New Horizons – Our Vision for the City in 2030 aims to provide a city which is serious about boosting health and well-being, committed to sustainability for future generations, with world class public services and a vibrant civic society which cares about diversity and equality.

Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the council to replace the UDP with new Development Plan Documents (DPD's) which form part of the Council's emerging Local Plan. However, parts of the Wolverhampton UDP remain in force. Section 12 is the most pertinent to this study, covering the topic of open space, sport and recreation.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Open Space SPD was adopted in 2014. The SPD sets out and adopts the quantity, quality and access standards for different types of open space, for planning purposes. It also clarifies how developer contributions will be sought for open space, in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010).

Area Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

Area Action Plans (AAPs) are Local Development Documents which focus on a specific location or area subject to significant change (i.e. major regeneration or growth). An AAP focuses on the implementation of a development in terms of its scale, mix and key areas of opportunity, change and conservation.

There are three AAPs covering Wolverhampton; City Centre, Stafford Road Corridor and Bilston Corridor (for which a Neighbourhood Plan approach was taken). Each provides a framework to deliver the planned growth for their respective area. There are also two Neighbourhood Plans, for Tettenhall and Heathfield Park.

The Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan Group, Bilston Neighbourhood Plan Group and other relevant groups have been, and will continue to be, involved in the monitoring and review of the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring that the priority actions, in particular, reflect local needs and aspirations.

Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2008)

The City of Wolverhampton Council (CoWC) undertook an Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2007-2008 as part of a Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the City. The OSANA provides an audit of all recreational open space within the City by type of use, and for each of five analysis areas. A range of community consultation methods was used to establish the

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satisfaction of residents with the current amount, location and quality of each type of open space, in each analysis area.

Based on this evidence the OSANA sets quantity (ha per 1,000 residents), access (mins walking distance) and quality standards for each type of open space for the City as a whole. These standards were then applied to each analysis area to identify gaps in provision over a 15 year period, taking into account new developments and population projections. The report then makes recommendations to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of all types of recreational open space for the future, including a number of specific actions.

Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Standards Review (2012 and 2018)

To inform the development of a new Open Space Strategy and Action Plan, there was a need to review and update the 2008 OSANA quantity and access standards, and to objectively assess the quality and value of key open spaces across the City to inform investment decisions.

The standards review involved the following work to ensure the standards used in the new Strategy, and applied for Planning purposes, were up to date, appropriate and robust:

- ◀ Applying site size thresholds to the typologies of amenity green space and natural green space.
- ◀ Where appropriate merging GIS polygons of adjacent sites of the same typology.
- ◀ Implementing a set size standard for certain sub-categories of play sites.
- ◀ Presenting one city-wide standard for each typology.

The new quantity standards were generally lower or remained the same as the 2008 OSANA standards for all typologies, with the exception of parks, which increased due to reclassification of some sites previously in amenity green space and outdoor sports facility typologies.

The review recommended that the 2008 OSANA access standards should remain unchanged, because the evidence to support these standards was (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment.

The recommended quantity and access standards for different types of open space, to be used for the purposes of this Strategy, are set out and applied in Section Three.

An assessment of quality and value was also undertaken as part of the review. The methodology used to score quality and value is set out in Appendix One. The quality and value scores have been used to identify which sites should be given the highest level of protection, those which are suitable for improvement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space.

Given that there have been changes to open space provision across the City since 2012, it was considered necessary to update this work as part of the Open Space Strategy update in early 2018.

Table 2.1 sets out the quantity standards for each typology from the 2012 Review and the 2018 Update Review. An explanation to the change in quantity provision level is also provided.

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Table 2.1: Updated quantity standards (2018)

Typology	2012	2018	Explanation of change
	(hectares per 1,000 population)		
Parks	0.99	0.99	Quantity level maintained due to increase in actual parks provision of 16 hectares since 2012 review.
Natural green space	1.33	1.25	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Provision for children	0.026	0.017	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 1.8 hectares since 2012 review.
Provision for young people	0.018	0.017	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has increased by 0.1 hectares (as a result of new provision) since 2012 review.
Amenity green space	0.56	0.51	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 4.6 hectares since 2012 review.
Allotments	0.15	0.14	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Civic spaces	0.005	0.005	Negligible decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Outdoor sports facilities	1.35	1.19	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 19.1 hectares (as a result of loss of provision and more accurate boundary drawing) since 2012 review.
Total	4.43	4.38	Decrease due to reduction in total amount of open space in individual typologies (combining to 9.4 hectares) and increases in population figures since 2012 review.

Most quantity provision levels have changed due to a result of population increases and in some instances a reduction in actual provision. The exception is for parks where new forms of provision have enabled the quantity standard to be maintained at 0.99 hectares per 1,000 population. This should be considered an excellent achievement considering nationally most local authorities experience a reduction in quantity provision levels due to increases in population figures.

It is important to recognise that quality has also improved.

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Table 2.2: Quality levels (2018)

Year	Low	Adequate	High
2012	52 (10%)	247 (48%)	219 (42%)
2018	48 (9%)	240 (46%)	230 (44%)

Table 2.2 shows that the overall quality of provision has increased. There are more sites classified as high quality in 2018 compared to 2012. This reflects the new forms of provision that have been provided (of a high quality) particularly for parks.

Playing Pitch Assessment / Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan (2015 and 2018)

A full Playing Pitch Assessment and associated Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan was completed in 2015 in line with the current Sport England methodology.

To ensure that playing pitch information was kept up-to-date and enable effective decision-making, a partial update of the Playing Pitch Assessment was carried out in 2017/2018, following the recommended Sport England methodology, covering:

- ✦ An audit of existing provision of different types of outdoor facilities detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ✦ An assessment of supply/demand for outdoor sports facilities.
- ✦ Analysis of the quantity and quality of other outdoor sports facilities in the City.

The update featured changes to the following elements:

- ✦ Updated demand information from the 2017/2018 season (2017 season data for cricket);
- ✦ Updated supply information.
- ✦ New population projections based on midpoint 2015 ONS projections (previously midpoint 2013);
- ✦ Use of the latest FA model to determine the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate club training demand in Wolverhampton.

Based on the updated Playing Pitch Assessment, the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan was updated, which included a breakdown of key actions by Analysis Area and by sport. The key playing pitch issues arising from the Strategy have fed into the update of this OSSAP.

Towards an Active City

Towards an Active City was produced in 2017 in consultation with strategic partners across the city who are invested in sport and physical activity. Towards an Active City identifies the need to align the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, the OSSAP and the Built Facilities Plan to identify investment priorities in relation to sport, physical activity and general health and wellbeing. Towards an Active City will be used to highlight key sport and physical activity investment requirement.

Built Facilities Plan

The Built Facilities Plan will complement the existing Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy work and enable built facility priorities to be identified in the context of Towards an

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Active City. The needs assessment within the Plan is being produced in line with national planning guidance.

Health and Climate Change Benefits of Open Space

It has been known for some time that good quality natural landscape in urban areas can affect how people feel. It reduces stress and sadness, lifts the mood and makes people feel better. The benefits of the network of green and blue spaces, and the mechanisms by which they work, are varied. Some are the physical benefits from green infrastructure, for example improved air quality, less noise pollution and reduced risks from flooding or heat-waves. There are also benefits to active users of these spaces, whether through physical recreation or children interacting with nature.

The impacts on mental wellbeing, social networks and sustainable communities probably work through a variety of mechanisms and it is in these areas that the strongest evidence is emerging that urban green space can improve the public's health.



Public Health England, in evidence submitted to the Inquiry into Public Parks undertaken by the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government in 2016, concluded that people who live in urban areas that have access to more green or blue space are likely to have better mental health. The Landscape Institute have also published a position statement on '*Public Health and Landscape; creating healthy places*' which states that "*healthy places make people feel comfortable and at ease, increasing social interaction and reducing antisocial behaviour, isolation and stress*" and that "*healthy places are restorative, uplifting, and healing for both physical and mental health conditions*".

Recently there has been renewed interest in how the natural environment can be used effectively to treat some mental health problems and assist the care and management of dementia.

Retaining and improving the natural environment in urban areas also helps combat and mitigate the effects of climate change. This is partly because trees and shrubs help to capture CO₂ and other pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and particulates. Urban green and blue spaces can also reduce the 'Heat Island Effect' in built up areas. For example, trees and woods can help to reduce midsummer temperatures in urban areas through

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shading and evaporative cooling from leaf surfaces. Green and blue spaces, including trees, help absorb water and capture run off from heavy storms both through the water absorbent effects of roots and soil and because sustainable urban drainage schemes act as natural retaining ponds.

So there is a wealth of evidence on how the public's health can be improved and climate change can be addressed by increasing access to green and blue space and improving the quality of our natural environment.

Action Planning Methodology

Following the standards review work, the 2015 OSANA recommendations have been reviewed, updated and refined to produce a prioritised and deliverable action plan, including key actions from the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018. The quantity and access standards and the quality/value work have been applied in combination to identify key actions, and to prioritise those actions. The action plan in Section nine is designed to address the identified deficiencies from application of the three standards (Quantity, Quality and Accessibility). A summary of the identified deficiencies are set out in Section Four.

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3. OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

This section provides details of the revised quantity, quality and access standards, and applies these standards by analysis area. It begins to identify deficiencies and issues which need to be addressed through the action plan. Section four summarises the findings from the application of the standards for each analysis area.

Quantity standards

The quantity standards provide a guide as to the amount (in hectares) of different types of open space per 1,000 people required across the City to meet local needs. The standards can then be used to identify whether each analysis area is above or below the level of provision required, based on current and future projected populations.

A quantity standard is set for each type of open space with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, in line with Government guidance. As each area of open space has been allocated only one type, the standards do not overlap. However, at a local level some types of open space should be viewed together as they may perform a similar function. For example, an area may be below standard for amenity green space, but be above standard for Parks, which will function as amenity green space for local residents.

Table 3.1: Quantity standards

Typology	Quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Parks	0.99
Natural green space	1.25
Provision for children	0.017
Provision for young people	0.017
Amenity green space	0.51
Allotments	0.14
Civic spaces	0.005
Outdoor sports facilities	1.19
Total	4.38

The standards have been applied to each analysis area on the basis of ONS population estimates. Table 3.2 sets out surpluses (green) and deficiencies (red) of provision against the standards.

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Table 3.2: Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Different Types of Open Space – 2018 (ha per 1,000 popn below/above standard)

Analysis area	Current population ¹	Parks		Natural green space		Provision for children		Provision for young people		Amenity green space		Allotments		Outdoor sports (w/o golf)		All Open Space	
		0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.89	1.19	4.38
Bilston	47,482	0.86	2.53	0.015	0.015	0.020	0.57	0.013	0.020	0.06	0.013	0.89	0.013	0.89	5.13	0.75	
Central & South	67,885	0.82	1.12	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.35	0.150	0.014	-0.16	0.150	1.03	0.150	1.03	3.62	-0.76	
North	40,370	1.81	1.19	0.019	0.019	0.012	0.67	0.125	0.012	0.17	0.125	1.53	0.125	1.53	4.59	0.21	
Tettenhall	50,955	0.81	0.94	0.021	0.021	0.011	0.43	0.286	0.011	-0.08	0.286	1.59	0.286	1.59	3.33	-1.05	
Wednesfield	49,223	0.88	0.56	0.017	0.017	0.030	0.61	0.102	0.030	0.10	0.102	0.99	0.102	0.99	4.38	level	
Wolverhampton	255,915	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09	-0.017	0.09	4.38	level	

¹ Mid-Year Estimate 2016

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Quality standards

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score. The scores for each site are then applied against a threshold in order to distinguish sites of a high, average and low quality and/or value. This distinguishing of sites enables for prioritisation in the action planning stage following application of the quantity and accessibility standards. It also identifies site specific quality/value issues that require addressing.

Site by site quality and value scoring has been carried out as a desk based exercise in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council Parks Team and Open Space Steering Group. The scoring should be used by CoWC to create a quality and value matrix for sites within the City. Quality and value scores are provided in a separate Excel project database which accompanies this report.

KKP developed specific quality and value criteria to assess sites against. To give a consistent and robust approach to scoring, workshop sessions were facilitated with COWC Area Managers to score sites for quality. Value scoring was initially developed by KKP and agreed with COWC officers.

Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

In order to determine whether sites are high, adequate or low quality/value (as recommended by Government guidance); the results have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green, amber being adequate and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold or standard is to identify and justify sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed (particularly in conjunction with quantity and accessibility standards).

Quality

Table 3.3 summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies (2018 Update Review)

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites		
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	Adequate	High
Allotments	5	20%	54%	80%	1	25	6
Amenity green space	24	0%	69%	100%	19	126	52
Provision for children & young people	6	33%	93%	100%	1	28	100
Parks	24	42%	81%	100%	1	24	32
Natural green space	3	0%	65%	100%	26	37	40
TOTAL	-	0%	-	100%	48	240	230

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Most sites score either adequate (46%) or high (44%) for quality with only a small proportion of all sites (9%) receiving a low quality score.

Provision for children and young people scores well compared to other typologies; with 77% of such sites scoring high for quality. Play areas generally have a good range of equipment. The lowest scoring site is Laburnum Street Play Area which is identified as having a poor range and quality of equipment.

More natural and semi natural green space sites (25%) score low for quality compared to any other typology. This reflects the generally lower mark sites receive for conservation and biodiversity such as non designated SLINC and SINC sites.

The typologies of allotments, parks, amenity green space and natural green spaces are generally all of an adequate or high quality. In particular most allotments (78%) and amenity green spaces (64%) are rated as being of an adequate quality.

The one allotment site with a low quality score is Slim Avenue Allotments. This site has no toilet provision, water supply or on site parking. Two allotment sites do not receive a quality score. These sites, Lich Avenue and Elmdon Close, are managed by the Council but are identified as currently being closed for allotment purposes.

Oak Street is the only park site to receive a low quality score. The site scores poorly on quality of paths and access for all. The site also has low scores for ancillary facilities, information, conservation and biodiversity and its general maintenance.

Value

The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies (2018 Update Review)

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	30	17%	33%	53%	2	30
Amenity green space	37	11%	26%	46%	9	188
Provision for children & young people	15	33%	49%	93%	0	129
Parks	52	13%	28%	50%	1	56
Natural green space	35	9%	27%	51%	9	94
TOTAL	-	9%	-	93%	21	497

The majority of sites (96%) are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores, provision for children and young people is highly valued with nearly all sites (100%) being assessed as high value. This reflects the unique benefits such sites provide to local communities, particularly for children and families. A similar very high proportion of parks (98%) also score high for value. This is due to the number of sites identified as providing a range of different and popular uses.

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A higher proportion of natural green space sites (9%) score low for value compared to any other typology. This is a reflection of the number of sites that do not have a particular designation, either historic or conservation, and/or lack a multi-functional role. However, the value these sites play in providing a visual amenity and a break from the built form remains important in a wider context.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered of a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland or unattractive.

Quality and Value Matrix

The assessment of open space quality and value has been used to help develop the action plan by identifying sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised require enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space (in conjunction with application of the quantity and accessibility standards).

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score (provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet). This score allows each site to be placed in a high/average/low category for quality and a high/low category for value. This categorisation can then be used to inform recommended actions for each site, as detailed below:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should fall into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them. Sites in this category should be recognised as forming a key part of the open space network.

High quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and/or by securing greater community involvement.

Average quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality where possible and to protect through the planning system.

Low quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality as a priority and to protect through the planning system.

Average quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater community involvement. Quality improvements may also be necessary to achieve increased value. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' if value cannot be increased.

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Low quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to seriously consider if there is any potential to enhance both value and quality. If this is not practical or viable, the open space may then be considered 'surplus to requirements'. If the site is not suitable for any purpose other than open space in the long term, value and quality improvements may still need to be considered.

This quality and value categorisation of sites is used to inform the action planning section in this report. It helps to identify sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised for enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements. This is carried out in union with the surplus and deficiency findings from application of the quantity and quality standards.

Access standards

Access standards are the distances that typical users can reasonably be expected to walk to each type of open space. An access standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, as recommended by PPG17 guidance.

The access standards are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. However, the challenging 5 minute walk time standard set in the 2008 OSANA for amenity green space has been increased to a 10 minute walk time standard, which is more in line with survey results.

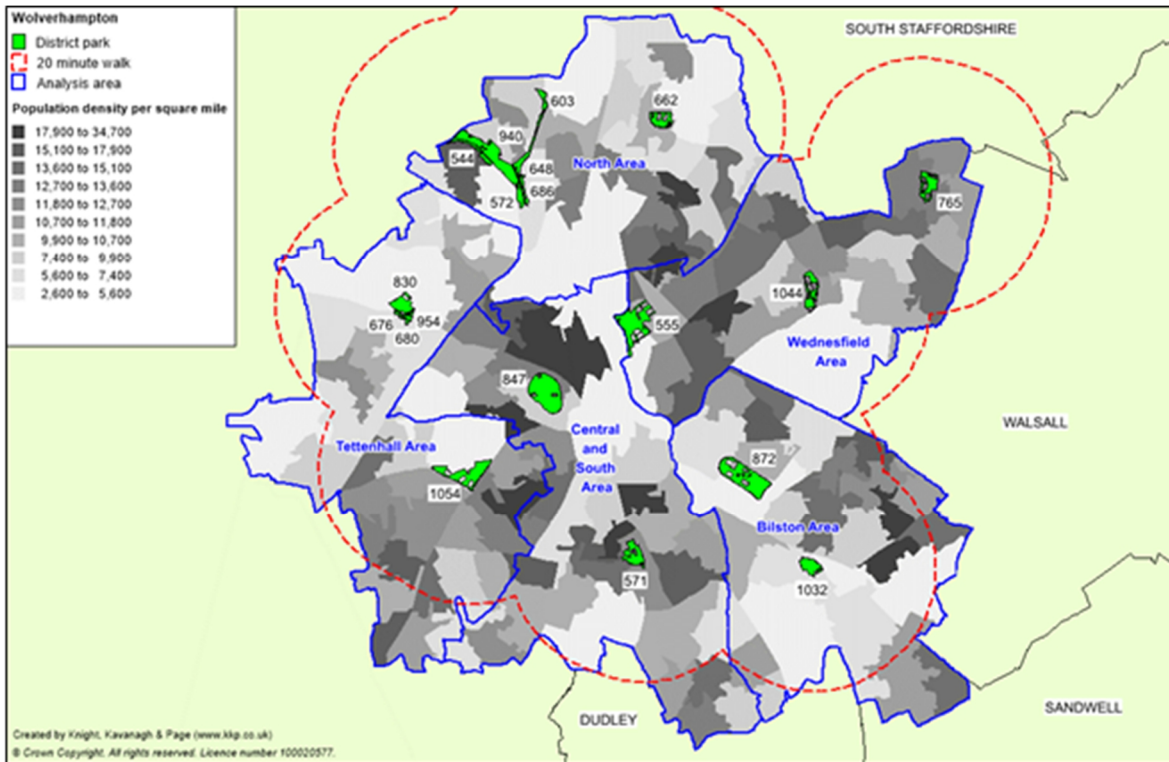
Table 3.5: Accessibility standards

Typology	Accessibility standard
Parks	District - 20 minute walk Neighbourhood - 10 minute walk Pocket – 10 minute walk
Natural green space	15 minute walk
Provision for children	10 minute walk
Provision for young people	20 minute walk
Amenity green space	10 minute walk
Allotments	15 minute walk

The maps on the following pages show the access catchments for different types of open space. This allows gaps in provision to be identified which affect existing or proposed residential areas.

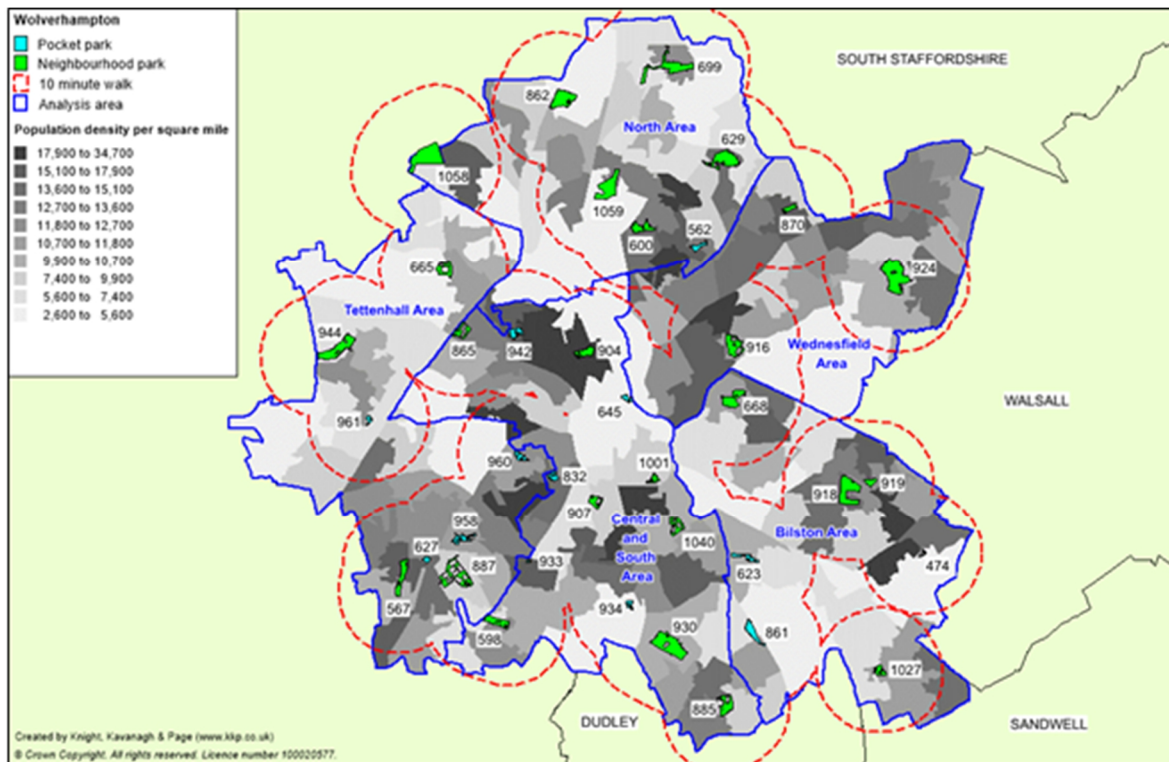
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District parks



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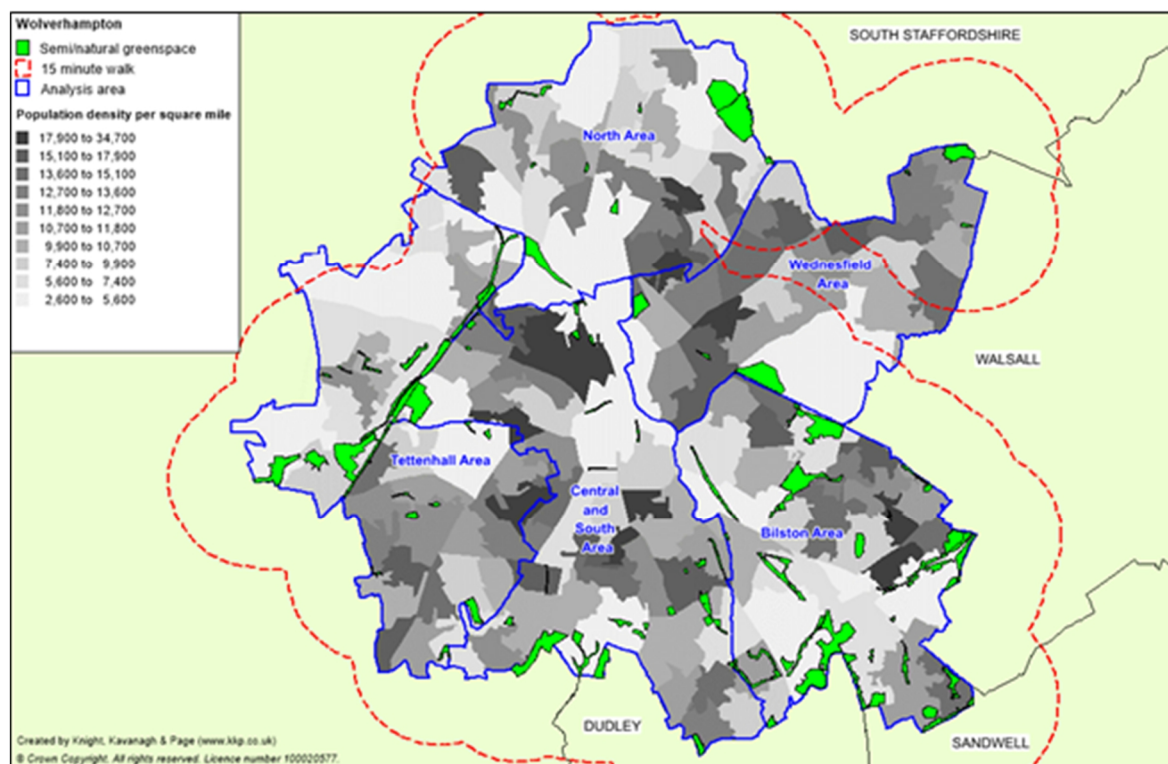
Neighbourhood and pocket parks



Gaps in District Park provision are identified on the outskirts of Tettenhall, Central & South and Bilston. There are also gaps in Neighbourhood / Pocket Park provision in southern Tettenhall and Bilston. Therefore, there is a clear need to identify sites for new Park provision in southern Tettenhall and Bilston. Based on Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance for minimum site sizes a new Park should be at least 2 hectares in size.

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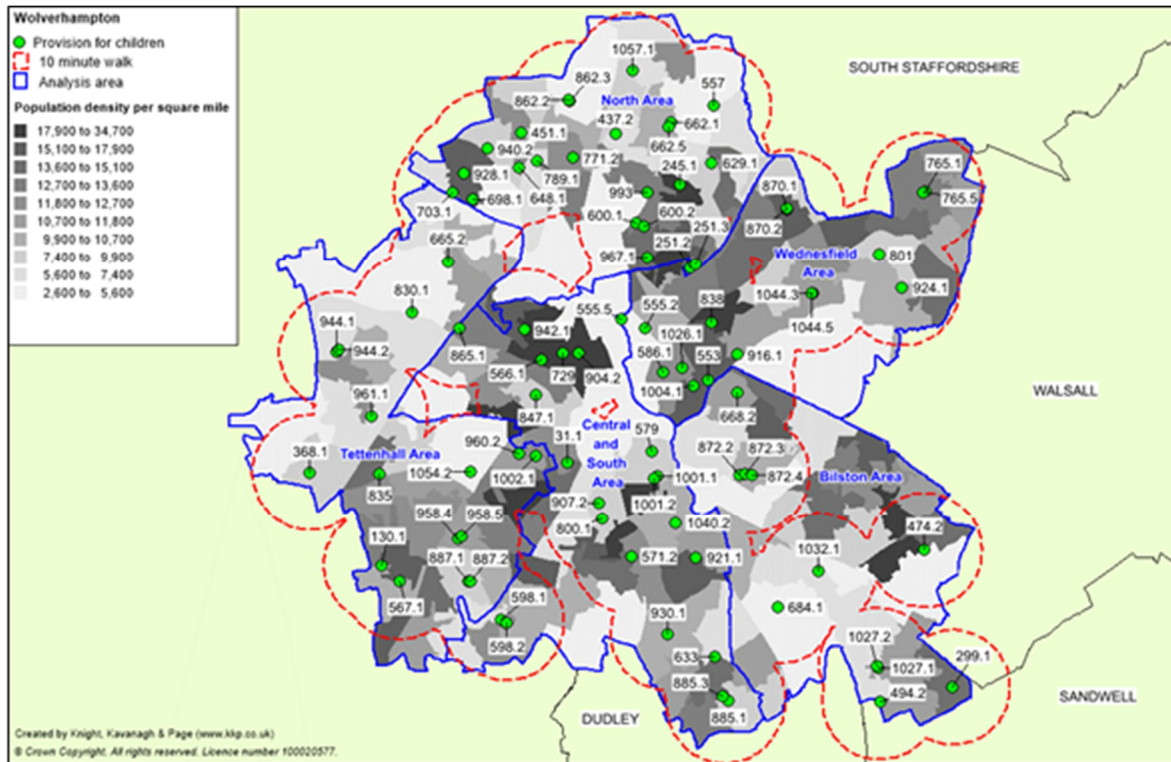
Natural green space



There is good coverage of provision across all analysis areas. The only area with a gap in provision is to the north of Wednesfield, where there is also a large deficiency in quantity. It is likely that provision of one additional site in this area could meet the catchment deficiency. Based on Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance, natural green spaces should be at least 0.4 hectares in size.

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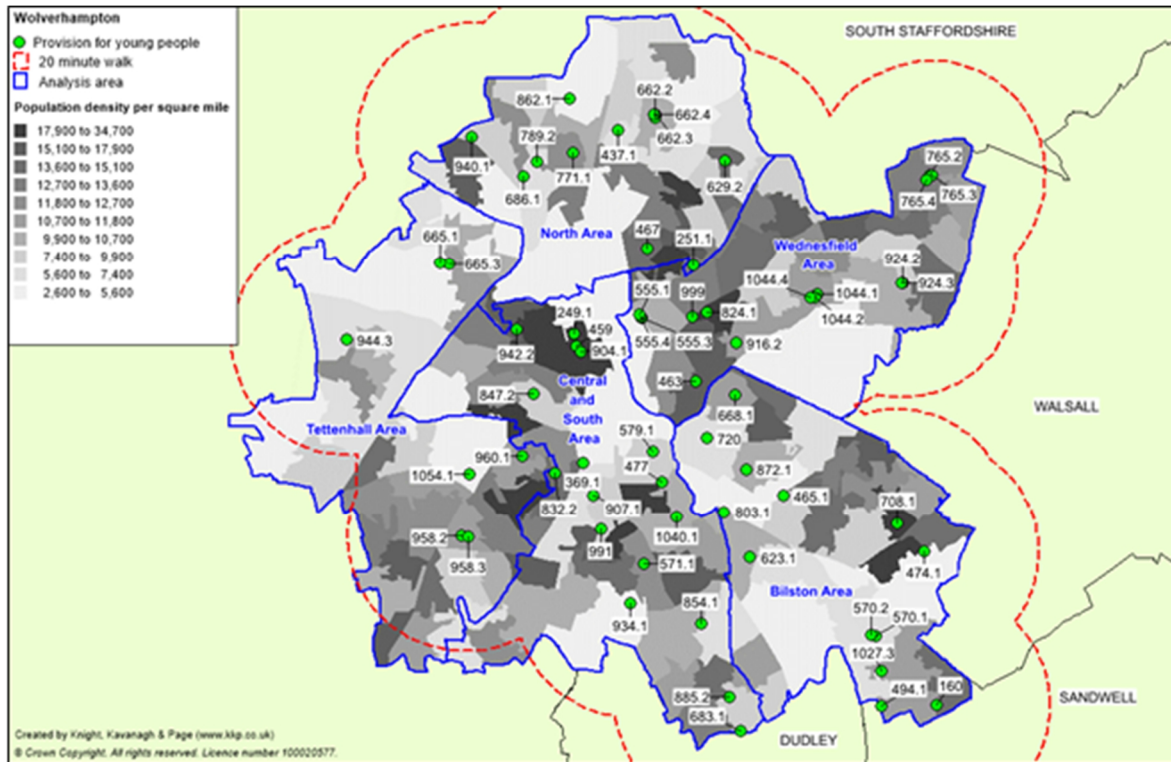
Provision for children



Minor gaps in the catchment mapping are noted across the City. The most significant gap is in the north of the Bilston analysis area (the gap in Wednesfield covers an industrial area). It is likely that provision of two additional sites in this area could meet the catchment deficiency.

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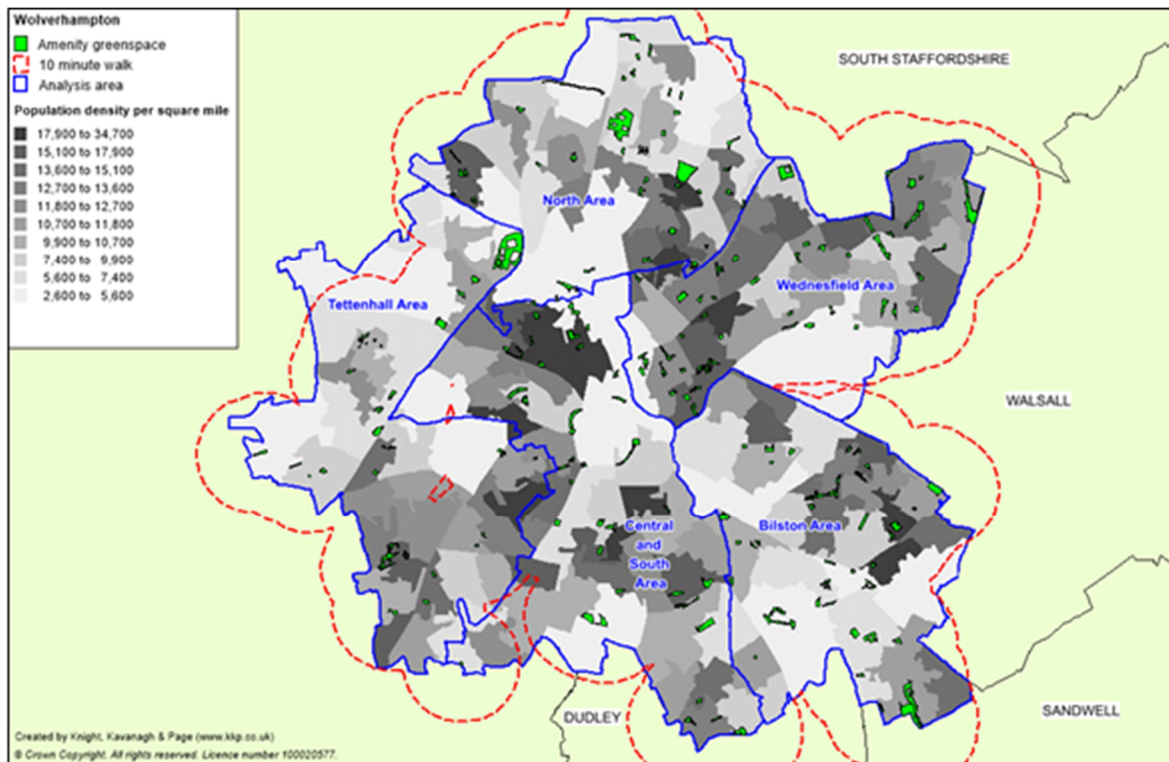
Provision for young people



There is good coverage of provision across all analysis areas. Only a minor gap to the West of Tettenhall is noted.

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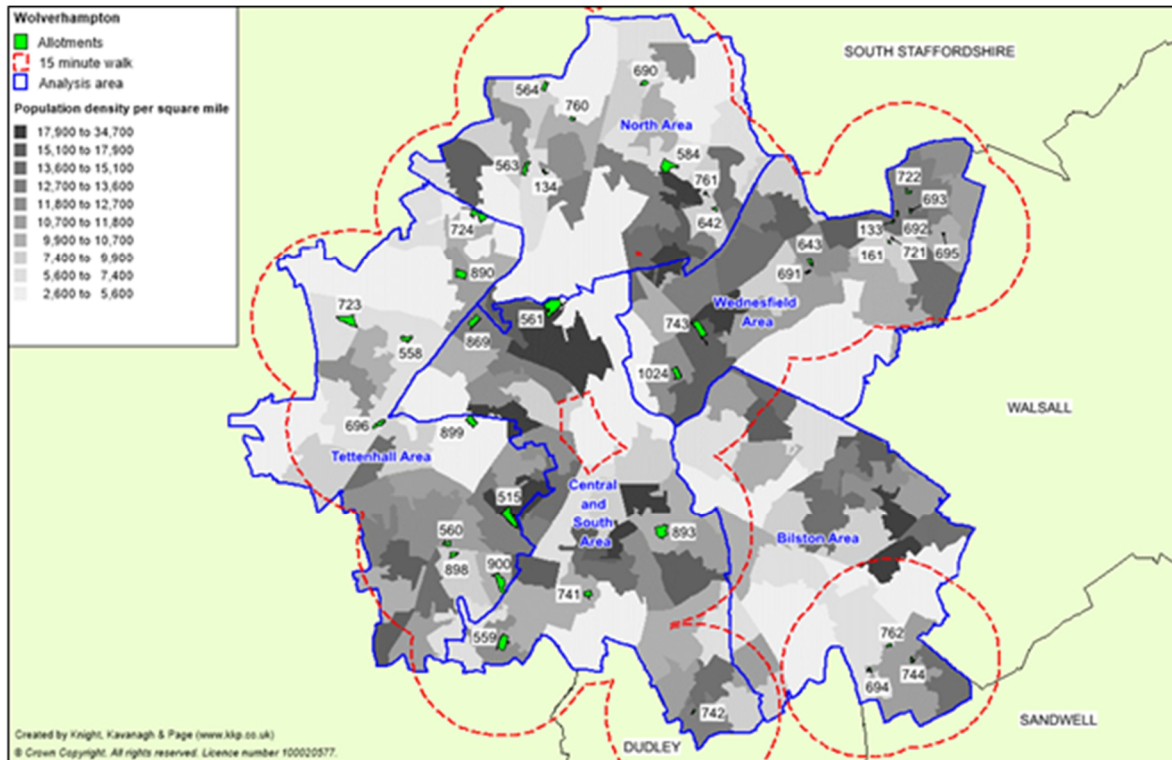
Amenity green space



No significant gaps are noted across the City based on the 10 minute catchment standard. Taking into account the distribution of Parks across the City, which also perform a similar function to amenity green space, these gaps reduce further.

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Allotments



Application of the standard shows a significant gap in the Bilston area (the gap in Wednesfield covers an industrial area). It is likely that provision of one or two additional sites could help to meet the deficiency identified. Based on the average allotment plot size in Wolverhampton suggested minimum site sizes for each new site required should be of a minimum 20 plots.

4. SUMMARY

A summary of current performance against quantity, quality and access standards is set out below for each analysis area. A standards-based approach is not endorsed by Sport England for outdoor sports provision, therefore the Playing Pitch Strategy has been used to help identify and guide future need for such forms of provision.

Bilston Analysis Area

Overall the Bilston area has a sufficient quantity of open space. There is a large quantity of natural green space, some of which is of SLINC / SINC value. However, the quality, access and safety of these spaces is sometimes poor. The area will continue to be a focus for housing growth in future years, requiring more quality open space to serve new residents and support regeneration.

The area has a number of District Parks serving a wide area, which are known for their distinctive character and could benefit from improvements.

The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan (2018) concludes that there are sufficient playing pitches across the area to meet current needs and that projected future shortfalls in smaller youth and mini football pitches by 2036 could be met by making maximum use of community use pitches in the area which have spare capacity. A future shortfall in cricket provision is identified.

There is an area with poor access to children's play facilities to the north of this Analysis Area and the overall level of provision for children only just exceeds the quantity standard. The south of the area will be a focus for housing growth in future years, providing additional demands for children's play and also opportunities to provide new facilities. Arnhem Road Open Space or Mosely Road Open Space are suggested for consideration as sites that could be appropriate for any new provision for children. Consideration could also be given to rationalising play provision i.e. disposing of poor quality sites in order to fund improvements/extensions to existing better quality sites.

There are significant parts of Bilston which do not have good access to allotments, and existing allotments are reported as full. This area also contains the one allotment site (Slim Avenue Allotments) in Wolverhampton to score low for quality.

Central and South Analysis Area

There are low levels of open space provision across the Central and South Analysis Area, which includes Wolverhampton City Centre and high density, inner city neighbourhoods to the south. Shortfalls are identified for parks, natural green space, provision for children and young people as well as outdoor sports. There is little potential to create new open space through development, therefore it is important to maximise use of existing open space, including bringing amenity green space up to park standard and maximising community use of sports pitches.

West Park (the "City" Park) falls within this Analysis Area and, due to its size, is a key contributor. It is however important for other forms of provision such as Neighbourhood and Pocket Parks, amenity and natural greenspaces to ensure a range of functions. There are plans for housing growth and regeneration in the City Centre, which already has a large student population. The City Centre has little open space but is served by a network of canals which link to open spaces further afield.

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The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan (2018) concludes that there are sufficient football pitches across the area to meet current and the majority of future needs, and recommends improvements to pitch quality and exploring potential sites to provide a 3G artificial grass pitch. A future shortfall in cricket provision is identified. It is also recommended to improve pitch and changing facility quality at Newbridge Playing fields.

There is little natural green space in the north of the Area, where housing growth is planned in the City Centre and areas to the south, and some existing areas are of poor quality. There is little potential to provide new open space through development in this area, but opportunities to improve the quality of existing sites or to provide more natural habitat in existing open spaces could be explored.

In general quantity for children and young people's provision are not being met, there is also a gap in access to children's play provision to the south of the analysis area.

The Analysis Area has good access to amenity green space, although there is a shortfall against quantity standards and a number of sites are of a poor quality. The priority should be to first address qualitative issues at sites

There is a sufficient amount of allotments and these are generally well distributed across the area.

North Analysis Area

The North Analysis Area has a generally good level of open space provision of different types. There are minor shortfalls in quantity of natural green space, provision for young people and allotments.

There are a number of parks and amenity green spaces in the area which are of an average quality. The newly created Neighbourhood Park as part of the Goodyear site has helped to meet a gap in parks provision in the Oxley area.

The area has a proportionally large amount of outdoor sports space and has benefitted from the installation of a new artificial grass pitch at Our Lady and St Chad's Catholic School and Sports College and completion of the new multi-pitch site at Barnhurst Lane. The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan (2018) concludes that there are sufficient football pitches across the area to meet current needs and there will be a small shortfall in youth and mini pitches by 2036. Improvements to pitch quality are recommended.

There is generally good access to natural green space, although the quantity of provision is below the standard and the majority of sites are of an average to poor quality. There is also generally good access to allotments across the analysis area, although the quantity of provision is below standard and the quality of allotment sites is generally average.

No quantitative deficiency is identified in provision for children but there is a minor shortfall in provision for young people identified in quantitative terms. However, no significant issues are highlighted in terms of quality or access standards.

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Tettenhall Analysis Area

Overall the Tettenhall Analysis Area has insufficient quantitative provision for all typologies with the exception of provision for children, allotments and outdoor sports provision.

There is a shortfall in the overall area of parks and the Compton, Wightwick and Castlecroft areas do not have access to a Pocket or Neighbourhood Park. There is also a gap in access to amenity open space. There are a number of smaller park sites that score average in terms of quality and the Oak Street Open Space site is the only low quality scoring park in the City.

There are few opportunities to provide new open space in the area, however disposal of small areas of surplus open space and new housing developments have the potential to fund improvements and provide new facilities. The Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan covers the area, which incorporates proposals for protection and improvement of open space in the area.

There is a good coverage of natural green space provision and the area benefits from good access to the only Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Wolverhampton, Smestow Valley, which acts as a green lung extending throughout the area with a range of functions. A Management Plan is in place for the LNR to guide future improvements, and there are plans in place to extend the LNR. However, there is a shortfall in quantity and a few sites are rated as having a poor quality and/or value score. Opportunities to improve or extend existing provision in the area should be explored. An option could be to provide more natural elements/areas in existing open spaces such as parks and amenity green spaces.

The area is below the quantity standard for amenity green space, with gaps identified in the west of the area. The main priority should be to address quality of provision before looking to provide further provision in these areas of Tettenhall (which are also lacking in parks provision). Application of the quality scoring highlights there are also five sites rated as being of a poor quality.

A shortfall in quantity of provision for young people is identified and there are very minor gaps in provision for children and young people towards the western edges of the area. This is a similar gap to that identified for parks provision. Any development of new parks provision in these areas should look to also feature provision for children and young people. Only the Laburnum Street site is rated as being of poor quality, and there is potential to dispose of this site to fund improvements in the local area.

The Playing Pitch Strategy concludes that there is an over supply of adult football pitches and a current and a future shortfall of youth and mini pitches, which could be addressed by converting adult pitches and by looking to open up school pitches for community use. There is a future need for rugby and cricket provision and for an additional 3G artificial grass pitch to serve the Tettenhall area.

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Wednesfield Analysis Area

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the lowest level of general provision for open space in the City and has below standard provision for parks, natural space and allotments.

There is a small shortfall in the quantity of parkland and some average quality parks, however all parts of the area have good access to a park, including housing growth areas. The area is well-served by outdoor sports space and pitches and benefits from recent completion of new pitches at Perry Park. There is a surplus of adult pitches and a small future shortfall of youth 11v11 football pitches identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018). A current shortfall in artificial grass pitch provision will be addressed through provision of a new 3G AGP at Heath Park Business & Enterprise College and the Sporting Kalsa project to create a new AGP, located nearby in Walsall. Fowlers Park requires improvements to maximise its ability to act as a multi-pitch site.

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the greatest shortfall in the City against the quantity standard for natural green space. There are also large areas with poor access to natural green space, particularly in the centre of the area, and there are few natural green space sites in total, with only one good quality site. A new Local Nature Reserve has been created along the Wyrley and Essington Canal, which passes through Wednesfield Village Centre, to help increase access to and extend existing natural areas.

The area has good access to amenity green space and provision for children and young people. However, quality of amenity green space is variable with a number of sites of an average quality.

There is a shortfall in allotment provision in the area, although access is generally good.

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5. VISION

The variety of open space provision across Wolverhampton provides opportunity for all people to play, exercise, meet one another, and for public events to be held. As a focal point of a community, parks and open spaces can contribute to building community spirit and community cohesion. This role, however, must be carefully balanced with the role of open spaces as a home to wildlife and natural habitats.

New Horizons – Our Vision for the City in 2030, and the City of Wolverhampton Corporate Plan are about providing a city which is serious about boosting health and well-being, committed to sustainability for future generations, with world class public services and a vibrant civic society which cares about diversity and equality. Based on this, the proposed vision for parks and open spaces is that:

'By 2026 Wolverhampton will have a vibrant and diverse range of quality parks and open spaces, well distributed across the City. Sites will reflect local needs and historical and natural characteristics as well as the overall needs of the City. The spaces will form a network which maximises opportunities for everyone to interact with their local community and area whilst also attracting people into the City'

Aims

The following section provides a framework for the Council and its partners to maintain and improve parks and open spaces across the City. In order to achieve the vision of providing quality, vibrant and diverse parks and open spaces across the City, it is vital that the process of agreeing the Strategy and Action Plan provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to explore issues and prioritise key actions within a clear, practical and achievable framework. This includes the opportunity to incorporate the aims of other strategies and action plans in relation to open spaces.

The Strategy and Action Plan should respond to key drivers, including the need to address identified deficiencies, protect existing sites of high quality and value and set out a framework for future investment, including rationalisation of low value sites.

The Strategy is focused on achieving four aims (not in any priority and summarised in the text boxes below). A number of objectives need to be implemented to enable these aims to be realised. It is recommended that the Council adopt the aims and objectives as policy:

AIM 1

Provide new open spaces to meet current and future needs that are designed to attract people to the City.

AIM 2

Focus on providing a network of strategic sites, which are high quality and meet the needs of local communities.

AIM 3

Provide a diverse natural environment helping to support and protect wildlife habitats, which are well connected and accessible to all.

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AIM 4

Improve and widen access to recreation opportunities, increasing participation in sport and fitness activities and helping to improve peoples' health and well-being.

Objectives

Each of the four aims has a set of objectives designed to enable their delivery.

AIM 1

Provide new open spaces to meet current and future needs that are designed to attract people to the City.

Adopt quantity, quality and access standards which are achievable and sustainable and which support current and future needs.

- f. Use the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Plan and to secure appropriate new and improved open space through development.
- g. Prioritise actions which address key shortfalls against adopted standards, so that all residents have reasonable access to a variety of open space types of an acceptable quality.
- h. Ensure new open spaces provided through development are of a high quality and will be well maintained in perpetuity.
- i. Where open space is lost to development, ensure that losses are mitigated for and that mitigation measures are focused on the priority actions.

AIM 2

Focus on providing a network of strategic sites, which are high quality and meet the needs of local communities.

- j. Focus available funding from developments and capital budgets on investment in the network of strategic sites.
- k. Rationalise existing open space provision where this will support the creation of a network of strategic sites and better meet local needs.
- l. Ensure that all significant changes to the open space network are subject to community consultation.

AIM 3

Provide a diverse natural environment (ecological and geological) helping to support and protect wildlife habitats, which are well connected and accessible to all, and adapt to climate change.

- m. Maintain and increase the wildlife value of key sites (SINCs, SLINCs and LNRs) through protection, good management and enhancement.
- n. Increase the wildlife value of open spaces generally, and foster an appreciation of ecology and the natural world.
- o. Promote use of the natural environment to improve the health and well being of residents and visitors.
- p. Make use of native species and species resistant to climate change in planting schemes as far as possible
- q. Encourage use of open space for fuel, food and timber crops e.g. coppicing, biomass

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AIM 4

Improve and widen access to recreation opportunities, increasing participation in sport and fitness activities and helping to improve peoples' health and well-being.

- r. Adopt local access standards as set out in the OSSAP.
- s. Where creation or improvement of open space is planned, ensure new provision is fully accessible to all residents (including the elderly, disabled, young people, BME groups and girls/women) in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- t. Encourage partners to work together to maximise safe access to open space, including canals, school playing fields and privately owned spaces, where appropriate.
- u. Maintain a safe, clean, accessible and attractive environment for children's play and for the leisure of older and disabled residents and families.
- v. Ensure a sufficient quantity, quality and access of outdoor sports facilities through delivery of the objectives set out in Towards an Active City 2017 and the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan Update 2018.

Typology specific aims and objectives

An aim and objectives are provided for each type of open space as a mechanism for addressing issues identified through application of the standards.

ALLOTMENTS

To be secure, well kept sites providing communal places for growing produce whilst encouraging biodiversity, learning opportunities and healthier lifestyles both mentally and physically.

- ◀ Work towards meeting identified demand through exploring opportunities to provide additional plots.
- ◀ Strengthen ties and joint working with allotment societies and private landowners.
- ◀ Promote best practice gardening examples designed to increase biodiversity.

The Allotments Act 1925 sets out the statutory duties that all councils must comply with. Allotments have evolved through a rich and varied history of social and economic change, the most notable being the 2nd World War where the public were encouraged to 'Dig for Victory'. The first legislative reforms date back to the Enclosures Act of 1845.

There are many benefits of renting an allotment:

- growing fresh fruit and vegetables, free from artificial additives
- home grown, fresh flowers at a fraction of the high street cost
- healthy outdoor activity
- a place to relax and unwind
- meeting new friends
- on site gardening shop at some allotments
- low cost rental

The majority of allotment sites have a site secretary or a nominated person that performs the role of the secretary.

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There are over 1,300 allotment plots within 33 sites across the City at present. Self-management of all allotment sites is actively encouraged. At present 12 allotment sites are self-managed by allotment holders with a site committee who set rental costs and manage their own funds and are responsible for their own repairs and maintenance. CoWC manage the remaining 21 sites.

AMENITY GREEN SPACE

To be accessible and safe green spaces which visually enhance the appearance of the local environment and allow opportunities for the local community to play, meet and exercise.

- ◀ Ensure that new housing developments provide sufficient allowance for amenity green space.
- ◀ Encourage community involvement and ownership of sites through events, activities and active management (i.e. undertaking maintenance and site tidying).

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Make most effective use of cemeteries and churchyards for appropriate community use and wildlife value.

- ◀ Provision to remain accessible and to be promoted as a recreation resource where appropriate.
- ◀ Encourage greater use of closed churchyards as areas for wildlife use through habitat development (e.g. introduction of bird/bat boxes, insect logs).
- ◀ Support use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage and environmental value.

CIVIC SPACES

To be clean, well maintained and safe sites which are accessible to all.

- ◀ Ensure provision is kept to a sufficient standard and elements such as landscaping are encouraged and designed to enhance the visual appearance of the area.
- ◀ Promote use of sites through holding appropriate community events and activities.

NATURAL GREEN SPACE

Work to address deficiencies against adopted standards and encourage and recognise the wider habitat value of sites.

- ◀ Encourage provision of more onsite natural features (e.g. woodland planting, wildflower meadows, sustainable drainage features) particularly in areas of deficiency as a priority.
- ◀ Maintain and develop partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of sites.
- ◀ Work to raise awareness of accessible provision and the value of sites in terms of habitat creation and educational learning benefits.

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OUTDOOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FACILITIES

Our ambition is for every resident to be active every day

- ◀ Reduce levels of obesity and inactivity
- ◀ Improved levels of mental wellbeing and reduction in social isolation
- ◀ A better connected city which enables everyone to be active every day
- ◀ Increased investment priorities through alignment of the Playing Pitch Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Action Plan and Built Facilities Plan to secure future funding
- ◀ A wider leisure, pay and recreation offer that provides attraction for residents and visitors
- ◀ Increase profitability for businesses as a result of a healthier workforce
- ◀ Digital technology will be used to maximise physical activity opportunities

PARKS

To be clean, safe and welcoming sites with a range of features which are accessible and attractive to users. Strategic sites should have an appropriate level of ancillary facilities (such as benches, bins and pathways) and be maintained to a high standard.

- ◀ Adopt a hierarchy approach to the categorisation of parks in order to prioritise investment.
- ◀ Keep up to date management plans for all strategic parks, focused on maintaining site quality and encouraging further use.
- ◀ Continue to improve quality by securing and making best use of funding, including developer contributions.
- ◀ Work to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups to increase community engagement in the management and development of parks.

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Continue to provide inclusive and enriched places for children to play safely.

- ◀ Adopt a hierarchy approach to the categorisation of provision in order to prioritise investment opportunities.
- ◀ Investigate rationalisation of equipped play provision in terms of the quality and value matrix.
- ◀ Aspire to meet deficiencies identified in provision for young people against adopted standards.
- ◀ Use developer contributions to address the quality/capacity of current stock.

6. DELIVERY

The following section sets out best practice guidance intended to assist in implementing and achieving the aims and outcomes of the Strategy and Action Plan. These include how to encourage greater community involvement, maximising resources and delivery methods and procedures.

Resources

The efficient use of physical and financial resources is important. Increasingly more innovative and effective ways of maintaining and improving open spaces are being required. Some of the Strategy's actions suggest the need to explore alternative resources. This can be through increasing community involvement opportunities in elements such as managing and maintaining sites as well as seeking external funding sources.

Further to this, CoWC and its partners should consider and explore the following when undertaking any site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access
- ◀ Seeking planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified
- ◀ Seeking revenue funding from planning contributions in order to increase the capacity of existing site standards
- ◀ Analysis of shared site management options
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations
- ◀ Options to support community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision

The quality and value matrix can also be used as a tool to maximise the effectiveness of resources. For example, a site that is deemed low quality but high value should, in most instances, be identified as a priority for enhancement. A site of average quality but with low value is likely to be less of a priority for improvement. Further detail on the quality and value matrix and classifications is found in Appendix 2.

Community funding sources

Outside of the usual funding sources for open spaces (e.g. annual budget allocations, developer contributions) there are a number of other potential funding sources available to community and voluntary groups².

² Source: Potential funding for community green spaces, DCLG

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In the past few years CoWC and partners have been successful in securing European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the Blue Network and Bilston Park projects, which funds natural habitat creation. There are other funding sources that may be relevant for community improvement projects involving parks, open spaces and nature conservation in Wolverhampton, such as:

- ◀ Lottery Fund
- ◀ Sport England
- ◀ Landfill Communities Fund
- ◀ Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA)
- ◀ Environment Agency funding for sustainable drainage projects

There will be other sources of funding available in addition to those listed above. Sources of funding are continuously changing and regular checking of funding providers should be undertaken.

Nature Improvement Area

Wolverhampton is part of the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA). It is one of the first 12 NIAs in England. The vision of the NIA is to achieve long term environmental gains for the wildlife and people of the area by delivering targeted, on the ground, biodiversity projects at a landscape scale.

The NIA covering Wolverhampton is a partnership of over 50 organisations working together to significantly improve the natural environment of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Funding is available through the NIA for delivery of projects designed to boost nature locally.

Community and partnership working

Partnership working between COWC and various private, public and voluntary sectors is vital in order to deliver the Strategy, particularly as COWC does not own or provide all publicly accessible open space in the City.

In order to encourage greater community involvement in the management and maintenance of open spaces it is important to recognise that each site and each volunteer / community group is different and faces varying issues and circumstances. It is therefore unlikely to be feasible or appropriate to adopt a “one size fits all” approach

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A number of issues and questions need to be considered when determining the level of willingness and ability a volunteer or community group has to increase involvement in maintaining or managing a site. These include:

- ◀ The amount of voluntary time which can be committed on a regular basis
- ◀ The level of responsibility the group is willing to take on
- ◀ The role and duties the group is prepared to undertake
- ◀ Any incentives for greater involvement

Consideration must also be given to the ways in which volunteering is promoted throughout the City. Awareness of volunteering opportunities is limited and this is likely to inhibit people becoming volunteers. Equally it is important that volunteering opportunities are clearly defined and offer choice through a level of flexibility.

To engage with more volunteers there is a need to embark on a process of engaging the community more widely via improved marketing of opportunities. Some useful methods of boosting community relations with a view to greater involvement include:

- ◀ Using a range of techniques – websites, notices, leaflets etc. Also establish how communities like to be communicated with. Use resident surveys, community panels and groups to get messages across.
- ◀ Dispel myths – such as how service provision is allocated or how decisions are made.
- ◀ Publicise achievements – promote local interest stories and recognise individuals and communities accomplishments to the provision of open spaces.
- ◀ Celebrate – host and support an array of national and local events and festivals. Existing schemes such as Love Parks Week and the Green Flag Award are initiatives intended to promote community involvement.
- ◀ Feedback – always give honest views towards any comments or suggestions submitted. Don't ignore controversial or unpopular topics; arising issues need to be discussed and ironed out.

Case study: Pinecliff Gardens, Poole

The site is a Mediterranean style garden on the seafront. It was created in this permanent style following the Council's policy to reduce the use of bedding and water in its parks. However, users of the site were unhappy at the change. Following local community discussions, the local Residents Association offered to undertake maintenance of the site. As part of an agreement the Council drew up a three year licence allowing the Association to upgrade and maintain the landscaping of the site. A requirement of the licence was for the Association to apply and achieve a Green Flag Community Award; reducing the need for the Council to inspect excessively whilst ensuring an acceptable quality standard. Issues regarding insurance, risk and sustainability were addressed through the use of a licence between the Council and the community group.

Working with partners

Collaborative partnership working is essential to deliver the aims and objectives of the Strategy. Each partner organisation has its own objectives in order to deliver its individual goals. However, there are mutual benefits and overlapping aims for all parties. As stakeholders in the provision of open spaces and the wider green infrastructure network there is a need to work together to achieve these visions.

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This Strategy is a means to further engaging and initiating support with partners to establish a common set of principles for improving the quality of parks and open space provision across Wolverhampton.

Examples of key partners to work with include the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, Canals and River Trust, Groundwork West Midlands, local Friends of Groups, Resident Associations, Conservation Groups. In addition national organisations such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Sport England are key contributors to the delivery of provision and can provide access to sources of funding.

7. MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The implementation and delivery of the priority actions should be monitored on an annual basis. There are a number of ways to measure how effectively actions are being implemented. Some are based on previous National Indicators and others are locally derived. The CoWC Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) has been used to inform the development of the following proposed indicators:

- ◀ The number of open spaces managed to green flag award standard (annual);
- ◀ Performance against current open space quantity, access and quality standards, in the light of major changes to open space e.g. additions and losses through development, improvements in quality, changes in access;

The Strategy and Action Plan is intended to act as a framework for joint action. Each individual service group of the Council should incorporate the actions into their respective service planning processes. Overall monitoring will be undertaken by the CoWC Environmental Services Team.

To ensure the Strategy and Action Plan are relevant and up to date a refresh of standards and the strategic approach should be undertaken every six years. The Action Plan can be monitored annually through the AMR and updated every two years to reflect progress and the emergence of new priorities.

8. OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The aim of the action plan is to identify priority actions which CoWC should work towards in partnership with agencies, communities and landowners across the City, in order to address deficiencies in quantity, quality and access standards, meet strategic aims and support regeneration. It should be used by CoWC to inform negotiations with developers to ensure adequate mitigation and provision to serve new residents is secured for the improvement of open space and recreation facilities across Wolverhampton. It should also advise on opportunities for rationalisation and potential change of use of sites.

Determining Priority Actions

The priority actions for each Analysis Area have been reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in local circumstances and to address key issues resulting from the application of the 2018 revised standards and the new assessment of quality and value.

The purpose of the action plan is to identify and prioritise major or significant actions. There are a number of smaller or more detailed actions which fall outside the scope of the action plan but will still need to be addressed e.g. increasing frequency of maintenance, provision of litterbins and benches, or increasing value by widening the range of open space functions a site performs, raising awareness or increasing community engagement.

The following criteria have been used to identify priority actions:

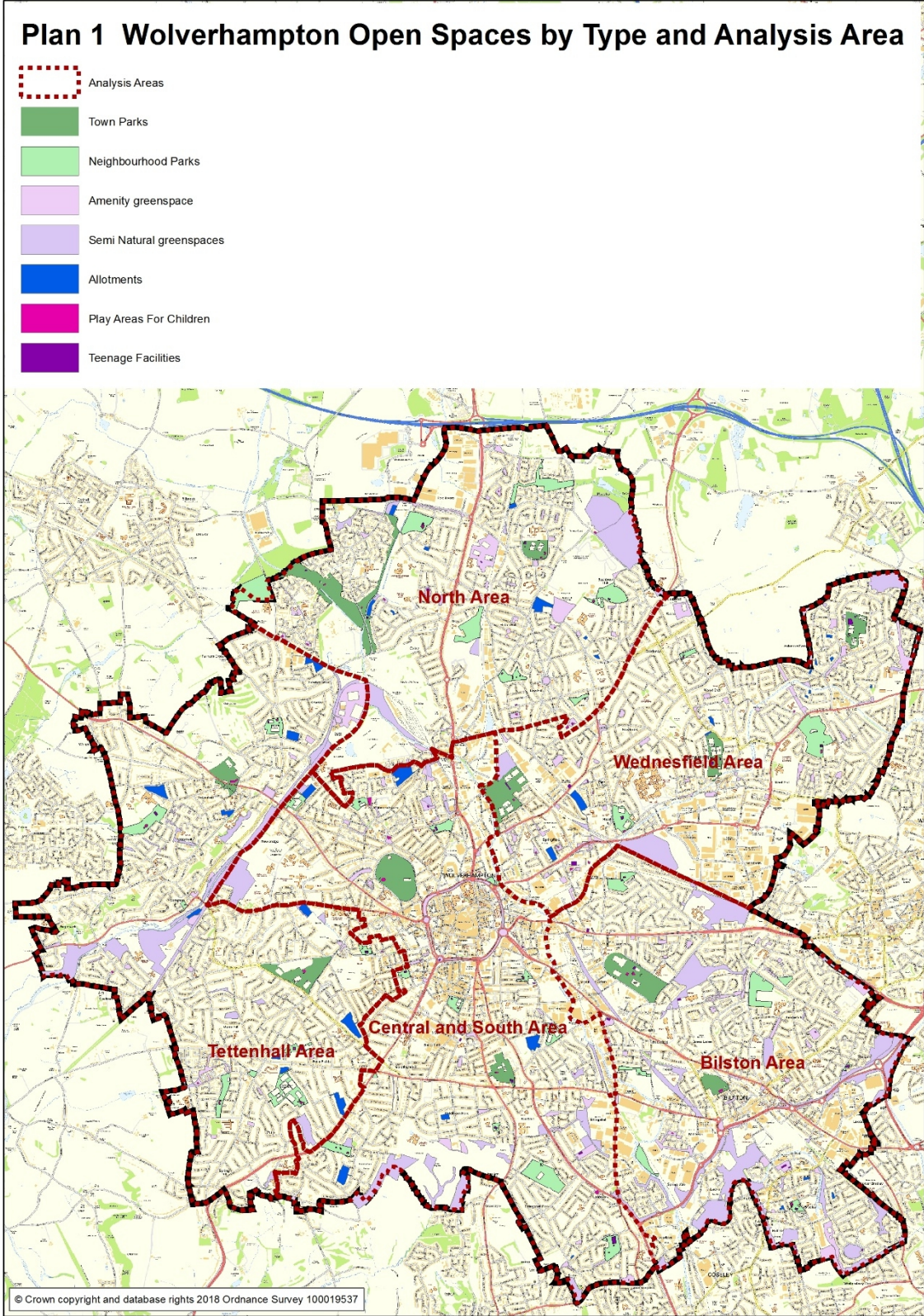
- ◀ The action will help to address an identified deficiency against the revised open space quantity and access standards;
- ◀ The action will target a site identified as being of low quality and/or value;
- ◀ A project is currently planned or underway to enhance the site and funding may have been secured;
- ◀ The action is small scale or short term but will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst increasing community involvement;
- ◀ The action / site is identified as a priority in other strategies.

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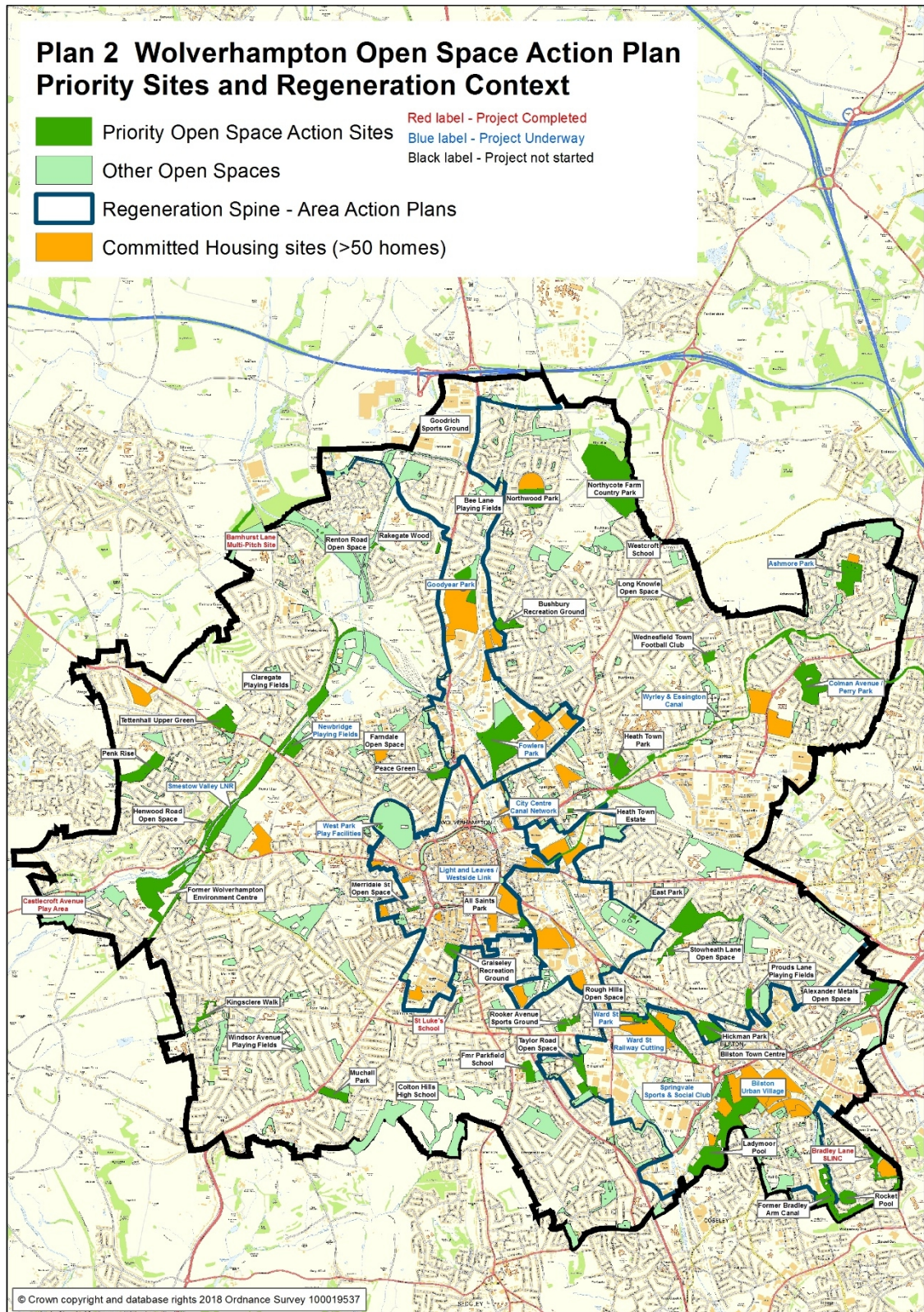
9. ACTION PLAN BY AREA AND TYPOLOGY

This section identifies priority actions for each of the five analysis areas, by type of open space. Included in the site specific actions are any current or planned improvement works identified on sites. All open space sites by typology and Analysis Area are shown on Plan 1. The priority action sites and their regeneration context are shown on Plan 2.

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Bilston

Total ha's Open Space for the Bilston Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2016)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
Bilston Area	243.6	47,482	40.9	120.3	0.7	0.9	27.0	0.6	42.1	10.1	0.9
Wolverhampton	1119.9	255,915	254.1	319.6	4.5	4.4	129.5	35.4	303.3	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.38	0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19
Bilston Area	5.13	0.86	1.29	0.015	0.020	0.57	0.013	0.89
Totals	0.75	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks The Bilston Analysis Area has a number of District Parks serving a wide area, which are known for their distinctive character and could benefit from improvements. However, some areas have a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to meet local needs and there are three areas which are a priority for creation of new Parks. The first area is to the south of Bilston Town Centre which will be addressed through the creation of a new Neighbourhood Park as part of the Bilston Urban Village development. The second area is in Ettingshall, where a new Neighbourhood Park will be provided as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development. The third area is in The Lunt, where there is no potential to create new open space, but there is potential to improve Alexander Metals Open Space to provide a Pocket Park, subject to housing development on part of the site.		
c £100,000 (potential developer contributions)	Hickman Park (2018-2022) Investment in existing play and recreation facilities to maintain and increase play value.	Hickman Park is the District Park serving the north of Bilston, where there is poor access to play facilities. Existing play facilities are outdated.
c £2.0 million (£1.25 million Local Growth Fund; £506,000 ERDF capital; £206,000 secured developer contributions; c. £100,000 potential developer contributions)	Bilston Urban Village Environmental Infrastructure (2017-2020) – elements included within the capital programme To provide a number of linked areas of open spaces at the heart of the Bilston Urban Village development, which will form part of a network of natural greenspace across the site, providing sustainable links to Bilston Town Centre, the Bradley Arm Canal and Bradley, the new residential developments and the new Loxdale Primary School. Works will include improvements to natural areas, upgrading of the canal towpath, a network of new cycle and pedestrian paths, road crossings, work to improve the attenuation pool and creation of new wildflower meadows and play space. Long-term maintenance of site through the Land Trust. Site preparation, woodland management and access works are being funded from the Bilston Urban Village Advanced Works Programme.	Required to serve the needs of new residents and visitors to the Town Centre and to provide a quality development which works within existing site constraints.
c £1.0 million (developer to provide)	Ward Street Park (2018-2020) Provide a new Park as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development, through reconfiguring and improving existing open space, to include a play area, multi-use games area and sustainable drainage features.	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents. Secured through development, which is currently under construction.
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Alexander Metals Open Space (2021-2026) Improvements to the privately-owned Alexander Metals Open Space, located in The Lunt area, and the adjoining greenway alongside the Black Country Route. To be funded through housing	The Lunt area has poor access to parks / park facilities and Alexander Metals Open Space is the

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
	development on part of the site, which will also improve over-looking / security, as set out in the adopted Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan. Development will be subject to ecological survey and mitigation for loss of nature conservation value. Long term maintenance of the site to be secured.	only sizeable area which could perform this role.
Outdoor Sports		
The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan Update (2018) concludes that there are sufficient playing pitches across the area to meet current needs and projected future shortfalls in 11v11 youth and mini pitches, which could be met by making maximum use of community use football pitches in the area which have spare capacity and re-marking adult pitches. There is a future identified need for cricket provision.		
£50,000 to £100,000 (potential developer contributions)	Prouds Lane Playing Fields (2018-2020) Explore options to maximise use of the underplayed two pitches on the site, including transfer of youth teams currently playing on adult pitches. Look at potential to improve quality of pitches and thereby increase capacity to accommodate more matches.	To address under use of pitches.
£52,000 to £100,000 (£12,000 ECB funding for NTP; £40,000 mitigation payment - see below; potential developer contributions)	East Park (2018-2020) Improve quality of tennis courts to better accommodate recreational use. Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to be provided during 2018.	To address tennis court quality issues and help address future shortfall in cricket facilities.
£40,000 mitigation payment	Former Bilston Tennis Club Site (2022-2026) Development of redundant tennis club site for Council affordable rent housing. Mitigation to be provided to improve quality of East Park tennis courts.	To address tennis court quality issues
£12,000 (ECB funding)	Ward Street Park (2018) Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to be provided during 2018.	To help address future shortfall in cricket facilities.
Developer funded	Springvale Sports and Social Club (2018-2020) Movement of cricket wicket and football pitch and rebuild of changing rooms, funded by housing development.	To improve changing facilities for a key cricket, football and bowling facility in the area and to secure a sustainable future for the site.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Small amount	East Park Primary School / Holy Rosary Catholic School / Stowlawn Primary School / Ormiston SWB Academy (2018-2020) Explore options to maximise community use of the youth and mini pitches at these schools.	To address projected future shortfalls in youth and mini pitches.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace There is a large quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace in Bilston, some of which is of SLINC / SINC value. However, the quality, access and safety of these spaces is sometimes poor.		
n/k (developer provided)	Bradley Lane Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (2016-2018) - COMPLETED Improvements and transfer to Council ownership completed.	Improvements secured through adjoining Duke's Park housing development.
c.£1.0 million (developer to provide)	Ward Street Railway Cutting (2017-2026) Part fill and re-landscape Dudley – Priestfield Disused Railway (North) SLINC / greenway and loss of Albany Crescent Open Space for housing / reconfigured school playing fields as part of Ward Street Masterplan development. Developer has commenced part fill and will carry out landscaping works.	Sufficient quantity of amenity open space in Bilston area / small area of low value. Part of overall open space improvements to be delivered through Ward Street development.
n/k	Stowheath Lane Open Space (feasibility work: 2018-2020) Consider potential for small part to be developed for housing subject to quality improvements to remainder of site.	Sufficient quantity of amenity open space in Bilston area. Large site of average quality / high value.
Included in Bilston Urban Village Environmental Infrastructure above	Bilston Urban Village Natural Areas (2016-2019 - see also Bilston Urban Village Environmental Infrastructure above) Improve quality of natural areas to create a Local Nature Reserve, as part of Bilston Urban Village Environmental Infrastructure.	Average quality / high value
c.£10.0 million (potential external funding and developer contributions)	Former Bradley Arm Canal (2020-2026) Protect the line of the former Bradley Arm Canal (Great Bridge Open Space and Stirling Road Open Space), which currently acts as a greenway, and look to reinstate the canal itself as a link between the Birmingham Mainline and Walsall Canals, or canal features, as and when opportunities arise.	Average quality open space with potential to promote regeneration through creation of new environmental infrastructure
£50,000 to £200,000	Ladymoor Pool Open Space (2016-2020)	Key canal-side natural greenspace, part-owned by

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
(potential developer contributions)	Look at potential to improve the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (to serve existing and new residents and as part of the ecological network including Bilston Urban Village to the north. To include investment in Ladymoor Pool. Improvements undertaken in 2017 to stabilise bank, improve paths, create barriers to manage Canada Geese and to create fishing platforms.	the Canal and River Trust, adjoining Bilston Urban Village
£15,000 (secured developer contributions)	Rocket Pool (2018-2020) Improvements to periphery e.g. fishing points, erosion around pool, fencing	Locally important natural space and angling opportunity
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (on-going) Programme of surveys on key sites to ensure habitats are identified, protected and well managed.	Large quantity of natural greenspace in Bilston but quality is often not good.
Provision for children and young people		
The key areas of deficiency for children's facilities are to the north of this Analysis Area. Play areas provided in new parks created through development may address access issues for many residents. Provision of further play facilities to address gaps would also ensure that residents are able to access facilities.		
Included under other actions	Improvements to Hickman Park play provision (2016-2018 - see above)	Poor access to play provision identified to the north of the Bilston Area.
Included under other actions	Play Provision on New Housing Developments (on-going) Creation of new play provision on major housing sites, including Bilston Urban Village and Ward Street.	New play provision will be required to serve the needs of new residents on larger housing developments.
Amenity greenspace		
There is about the right amount of amenity greenspace across Bilston, but quality can be poor.		
n/k	Bilston Town Centre (2018-2020) Various improvements to open spaces in Bilston Town Centre, including God's Acre and Churchyards, and to the public realm. To include building on improvements carried out to St Leonard's Churchyard, and rejuvenation of poor quality open space areas to provide opportunities for multi-functional spaces in line with the Bilston Business Improvement District business plan, including open space adjacent to Stafford Street in Bilston.	It is important that greenspace / public realm in and around Bilston Town Centre is improved, to reinforce the benefits provided by regeneration
Allotments		
There are significant parts of Bilston which do not have good access to allotments, and existing allotments are full.		

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
To be provided through development and self-managed	Allotment Opportunities (on-going) Subject to monitoring of local demand and ground condition constraints, explore opportunities to provide self-managed community allotment sites.	Gap in provision identified for Bilston area, however currently low demand.
Total outstanding works with costs known or estimated		
£14.3 - £14.5 million (where known), including £0.22 million secured developer contributions, £0.50 million ERDF Capital and £1.25 million secured Local Growth Fund		

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Central and South

Total ha's Open Space for the Central & South Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2016)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
Central & South Analysis Area	246.0	67,885	55.3	75.8	1.1	0.9	23.6	10.2	70.0	7.9	-
Wolverhampton	1119.9	255,915	254.1	319.6	4.5	4.4	129.5	35.4	303.3	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.38	0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19
Central & South Analysis Area	3.62	0.82	1.12	0.016	0.014	0.35	0.150	1.03
Totals	-0.76	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
<p>Parks</p> <p>West Park (the “City” Park) falls within this Analysis Area and, due to its size, the Area is above standard for District Parks. However, there is a lack of Neighbourhood Parks to serve the rest of the area. Increasing the range of functions provided by larger amenity greenspace and natural open spaces, such as Taylor Road, can help address gaps in provision. There are plans for housing growth and regeneration in the City Centre, which already has a large student population. The City Centre has little open space but is served by a network of canals which link to open spaces further afield, and by the new Youth Zone.</p>		
c £450,000 (potential developer contributions - £10,000 secured)	West Park (2016-2022) Improvements to create City Park standard play facilities. Phase 1 delivered 2016. Phase 2 to be delivered 2019-2022	To provide high quality play facilities to serve the City.
£150,000 (potential developer contributions)	Taylor Road Open Space (2019-2021) Continue improvements to create a Neighbourhood Park to serve the area east of Birmingham New Road, with emphasis on nature conservation, pathway network and access.	To provide a quality Neighbourhood Park to serve the area east of Birmingham New Road.
c £211,000 (secured developer contributions)	City Centre Canal Network / Hay Basin Open Space (2016-2018) - COMPLETED Continue improvements to the City Centre canal network linked to Canal-side Quarter regeneration as set out in the City Centre Area Action Plan. Current phase will deliver a Managing Short Trips project to create better access to the canal.	To provide a quality open space resource serving the City Centre and providing a focus for canal-based recreation as part of a wider greenway network.
c £30,000 (secured developer contributions)	City Centre Canal Network (2018-2019) To enhance the Managing Short Trips scheme, provision of canal tunnel lighting.	To provide a quality open space resource serving the City Centre and providing a focus for canal-based recreation as part of a wider greenway network.
c £500,000 (£150,000 capital funding; potential partner and developer contributions)	Lights and Leaves (2017-2019) – Phase 1 elements included within the capital programme Phase 1 completed 2017/18 – lighting improvements and four Pocket Parks. Phase 2 - tree installation and lighting of iconic buildings, and potential further installation of Pocket Parks.	To provide a flexible open space resource to serve the City Centre as part of a wider greenway network.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
c.£15m (potential partner and developer contributions, and capital funding)	Westside Link (2018-2020) Creation of new public squares, installation of trees and planting beds as part of pedestrianisation scheme.	
£102,000 (secured developer contributions)	All Saints Neighbourhood Park (2019-2022) First phase to rationalise / improve play provision completed 2015. Further refurbishment / upgrade required.	To provide a quality pocket Park serving an area which has been subject to housing renewal.
£120,000 (potential Fmr St Luke's School developer contribution)	Graiseley Recreation Ground (2019-2022) Play, recreation and access improvements to support regeneration as set out in City Centre Area Action Plan.	To provide a quality Park serving an area which is a focus for regeneration.
Outdoor Sports		
The Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) concludes that there are sufficient football pitches across the area to meet current and future needs, and recommends improvements to pitch quality and exploring the potential to provide a full size Artificial Grass Pitch to serve the Tettenhall or Central & South Analysis areas. A future shortfall in cricket provision is identified which could be addressed through new Non-Turf Pitches. It is also recommended to improve pitch and changing facility quality at Newbridge Playing Fields.		
c.£30,000 (potential developer contributions)	Rooker Avenue Sports Ground / Lawn Road Open Space (2018-2020) Improve and potentially extend Rooker Avenue Sports Ground, where there is one adult football pitch, through creation of a new pitch at the adjoining Lawn Road Open Space.	The pitch cannot currently be used, resulting in a loss of adult pitch provision.
n/k (potential School funding and developer contributions)	Colton Hills High School (2018-2021) Improve quality of two adult football pitches, half size Artificial Grass Pitch, cricket pitch and tennis courts for school use.	Low quality of existing facilities.
n/k (potential School funding)	Royal Wolverhampton School (2018-2019) Re-surfacing of sand AGP planned to ensure continued hockey use.	To ensure quality is maintained.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Fmr Parkfield High School (2018-2020) Look at potential to maximise community use of playing fields and sports facilities.	The site provides one youth and one adult pitch which could be used to address local deficiencies.
c £80,000 (potential developer contributions)	Creation of Bowling Green (2019-2021) Use of former bowling green loss mitigation funding to provide new bowling green in the area.	There is a deficiency in bowling provision in the area.
£190,000 (capital funding and ECB funding)	Peace Green (2017-2018) – elements included within the capital programme Provision of caged cricket lanes and small-sided basketball and netball court	To help address a future shortfall in cricket facilities.
n/k	St Luke's Primary School (2016-2017) - COMPLETED Create new pitch on land adjoining School to replace playing field to be lost at former St Luke's Junior School, and promote community use of both pitches at the School.	To mitigate for loss of playing fields and address local deficiencies.
c £197,000 (£79,000 secured developer contributions, capital funding and £12,000 ECB for NTP)	Newbridge Playing Fields (2016-2018) – elements included within the capital programme The Council is working in partnership with Whitmore Reans Cricket Club to use developer contributions to redevelop the derelict pavilion and provide cricket and football clubs with changing facilities and meeting space. Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) under construction.	Identified as a key site which requires an increase in quality to accommodate more matches.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
There is little natural greenspace in the north of the Area, where housing growth is planned in the City Centre and areas to the south, and some existing areas are of poor quality. There is little potential to provide new open space through development in this area, and so opportunities to improve the quality of existing sites or to provide more natural habitat in existing open spaces should be explored.		
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Taylor Road Open Space Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (2018-2020) Improve quality and value for wildlife and access. Investigate potential for NIA funding.	The site is a Neighbourhood Park with potential to improve nature conservation value.
n/k	Quality improvements to Amenity Green Space (2018-2021)	To address poor quality of some amenity green spaces

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
(potential developer contributions)	Explore potential to improve quality and create habitat on low quality amenity green spaces, or if not possible consider potential for disposal, as is being progressed for Foster Avenue Open space.	
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (on-going) Programme of surveys to recognise nature conservation value of some amenity greenspaces and amend management accordingly.	Appropriate management may increase quality.
Provision for children and young people		
In general standards are met, although there is a gap in access to children's play provision to the south of the analysis area, and the quantity (area in ha) of provision for young people is below standard.		
£80,000 (potential developer contributions)	Muchall Park (2019-2022) Refurbishment of formal play area	To maintain the quality of local play provision
£80,000 (potential developer contributions)	Peace Green (2019-2022) Renovation of existing play area	To maintain the quality of local play provision
c £80,000 (potential developer contributions)	Merridale Street Open Space (2019-2022) Upgrade existing play facilities and look at potential for healthy lifestyle improvements.	Regeneration area with below standard quantity of open space and play facilities.
Amenity greenspace		
The Analysis Area has good access to amenity greenspace, although there is a shortfall against quantity standards of 0.14 ha per 1,000 population and a number of sites are of a poor quality. The priority should be to first address qualitative issues at sites. An approach may be to consolidate sites in order to provide fewer but better quality levels of provision. Long term any opportunities to provide new amenity greenspace should be explored to meet quantity shortfalls.		
c. £200,000 (£100,000 secured and potential developer contributions)	Farndale Open Space (2018-2021) Improvements to infrastructure and facilities, and amenity greenspace in the vicinity.	Lack of amenity greenspace in the area.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Rough Hills Open Space (2019-2021) Look to improve quality.	Site scores low for quality.
Total outstanding works with costs known or estimated		
£16.9 million (where known), including £0.32 million secured developer contributions		

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North

Total ha's Open Space for the North Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2016)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
North Area	232.7	40,370	73.1	48.0	0.8	0.5	27.2	5.0	61.6	15.0	1.2
Wolverhampton	1119.9	255,915	254.1	319.6	4.5	4.4	129.5	35.4	303.3	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.38	0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19
North Area	5.76	1.81	0.82	0.019	0.002	0.67	0.125	1.53
Totals	1.38	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks Although there is a large quantity of parkland in the area, there are a number of parks and amenity greenspaces in the area which are of an average quality. There is a gap in park provision in the Oxley area, which is being addressed through provision of a new, high quality Neighbourhood Park as part of the Goodyear housing development.		
c. £1.5 million	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park (2018-2020)	To address a gap in Parks provision in the Oxley area

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
(developer funded)	Provide a new Neighbourhood Park as part of the Goodyear housing development, to include a play area, multi-use games area, tennis court, football pitch, changing rooms and sustainable drainage features. Under construction.	and to meet the needs of new residents.
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Northwood Park (2019-2022) Infrastructure and sports facility improvements.	Neighbourhood Park serving an area with significant housing development proposed.
n/k	Bushbury and Low Hill Open Spaces (2018-2021) Explore potential to improve amenity greenspace in the Bushbury and Low Hill area, including infrastructure and access.	Poor quality of amenity open space in the Bushbury and Low Hill area
Outdoor Sports		
There is a large amount of outdoor sports space in the area, which has benefitted from installation of a new artificial grass pitch at Our Lady and St Chad's School and Sports College and completion of the new multi-pitch site at Barnhurst Lane. There is a current and future over-supply of adult pitches and the Pitch Strategy (2018) recommends improvements to football pitch quality.		
c. £2.7 million (including £450,000 Football Foundation funding)	Barnhurst Lane (2015-2018) – COMPLETED Creation of a new multi-pitch site to serve the north of the City on land in South Staffordshire, adjoining Aldersley High School. To include 9 mini, junior and adult pitches, a running and walking track and changing rooms (due to be completed 2018). Monitor use of pitches once complete.	To mitigate for loss of playing fields through Building Schools for the Future projects and to create new pitches to meet shortfalls in the north analysis area.
n/k (developer funded; £12,000 ECB funding for NTP)	Goodyear Neighbourhood Park (2016-2018) Improvements to changing rooms completed in 2015. Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to be provided during 2018.	
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Bee Lane Playing Fields (2018-2021) Improve quality and make more attractive to potential users.	Poor quality pitches unused by the local community.

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Goodrich Sports Ground (2018-2021) Look for opportunities to secure community use of stadia quality adult pitch and bowling green and improve changing facilities.	Adult pitches and bowling green unused by the local community.
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Northwood Park (2018-2021) Reconfigure site to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams, in conjunction with redevelopment of the adjoining former Northcote School site.	Adult pitches unused by the local community.
n/k	Westcroft School (2018-2021) Improve pitch quality and explore community use options.	Poor quality pitches unused by the local community.
n/k	Bowling Green Improvements (2018-2021) Improve quality of bowling greens at Fordhouses Cricket Club and EEC Sports Club.	To meet local demand for quality bowling provision.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
There is generally good access to natural greenspace, but the majority of sites are of an average to poor quality. The area benefits from good access to the City's only Country Park - Northcote Farm and Country Park is a 35 ha site located on the urban/rural fringe with good public transport access and acting as a large visitor draw for the area, with capacity to expand its attractions. The area also has good access to Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve, in the Tettenhall Analysis Area, which is programmed for improvements.		
n/k	Northcote Farm Country Park (2018 - 2019) Consultation is planned on future proposals for the site.	To increase access to good quality natural greenspace
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Rakegate Wood (2018-2021) Management plan / tree survey completed 2014/2015. Where opportunities arise, secure developer contributions for safety / tree work to allow public access.	To increase access to good quality natural greenspace and promote community involvement
Provision for children and young people		
There is a gap in children's play provision in the north of the area, which is well served by amenity greenspace which could accommodate new facilities, and also a shortfall in quantity of young people's provision.		
£109,000 (secured developer contributions)	Bushbury Recreation Ground (2019-2021) Complete play area refurbishment and infrastructure improvements.	

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
£100,000 (potential developer contributions)	Northwood Park (2019-2021) Complete play area refurbishment.	Neighbourhood Park serving an area with significant housing development proposed.
c £220,000 (secured developer contributions)	Children's play facilities to serve the north of the area (2018) – elements included within the capital programme Improve Renton Road Open Space and play facilities and rationalise remaining play provision in the area.	To address a gap in children's play provision.
Total outstanding works with costs known or estimated		
£1.9 million (where known), including £0.33 million secured developer contributions		

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Tettenhall

Total ha's Open Space for the Tettenhall Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2016)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
Tettenhall Analysis Area	233.9	50,955	41.3	47.8	1.1	0.6	21.8	14.6	80.9	25.9	-
Wolverhampton	1119.9	255,915	254.1	319.6	4.5	4.4	129.5	35.4	303.3	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.38	0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19
Tettenhall Analysis Area	4.59	0.81	-0.31	0.021	0.011	0.43	0.286	1.59
Totals	0.21	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09

Tettenhall benefits from good access to the only Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Wolverhampton, Smestow Valley, which acts as a green lung extending throughout the area with a range of functions. A Management Plan is in place for the LNR to guide future improvements. The Compton, Wightwick and Castlecroft areas do not have access to a Park, and also have poor access to amenity open space and provision for children and young people. Tettenhall Upper Green / Lower Green and Penk Rise do not provide the full range of facilities which would be expected for Neighbourhood Parks and Oak Street Open Space is the only Park in the City of low quality. There are few opportunities to provide new open space in the area, however disposal of small areas of surplus open space and new housing developments have the potential to fund improvements and provide new facilities. A Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted for the Tettenhall area, which incorporates proposals for protection and improvement of open space in the area. The table below provides an indication of the level of priority attached by the Neighbourhood Plan Group to actions falling within their area (1 = top priority).

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The area benefits from access to Aldersley Leisure Village, with a range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities including two recently resurfaced artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey. The Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) concludes that there is a large surplus of adult football pitches in the area, however there will be a future shortfall of youth and mini football pitches and cricket and rugby pitches and there is a need to provide a full size Artificial Grass Pitch to serve the Tettenhall or Central & South Analysis areas.

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing) – Neighbourhood Plan Group priority	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks		
c £70,000 (secured developer contributions)	Tettenhall Upper Green (2019-2021) – 1 Improve pathways, access and landscaping and provide a natural area and information displays, in consultation with the local community and all in a manner which respects their local character and historic setting, so that the Upper Green can act as a Neighbourhood Park to serve the Tettenhall area.	To provide a quality Park serving the Tettenhall area
c £110,000 (secured developer contributions)	Penk Rise (2019-2021) – 1 Improve the Neighbourhood Park at Penk Rise for different age groups, including refurbishment of formal play area and fitness facilities. Secured Local Green Space status for the site to protect it in the long term, through Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan process, in 2014.	To provide a quality Park to serve the Tettenhall Wood area
c £200,000 (potential developer contributions)	Henwood Road Open Space (2019-2021) – 4 Develop a Pocket Park at Henwood Road Open Space, including provision of a play area and multi-use games area. Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan proposal.	To address the lack of a Park / play facilities to serve the Compton / Wightwick area
c £110,000 (secured developer contributions, including max £20,000 for maintenance)	Windsor Avenue Open Space (2019-2022) Improve the Neighbourhood Park at Windsor Avenue, by modernising play facilities.	To provide a quality park

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing) – Neighbourhood Plan Group priority	Reasons why this is a priority
c £35,000 (potential developer contributions)	Oak Street Open Space (2019-2022) Infrastructure improvements.	Oak Street Open Space is the only Park in the City of low quality.
Outdoor Sports		
n/k (£12,000 ECB funding for NTP)	Claregate Playing Fields (2018-2021) Improve quality of cricket square and install cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to enable site to be brought into use.	Poor quality cricket square.
n/k (potential developer contributions)	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields (2018-2021) Improve changing provision for seven football pitches.	Large site with poor quality changing rooms.
n/k (potential Club funding)	Wolverhampton RUFC (2018-2021) Improvements to three rugby union pitches and provision of additional floodlighting.	To enable continued use.
n/k	Uplands Junior School / Warstones Primary School (2018-2021) Explore options to maximise community use of the youth and mini pitches at these schools.	To address future shortfalls in youth and mini pitches.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
£550,000 (£70,000 secured developer contributions; £275,000 secured ERDF funding; £205,000 capital borrowing)	Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve - ERDF Blue Network Project (2018-2019) – 3 – elements included within the capital programme Improve quality and value for wildlife and visitors, including access routes / pathways, stiles and fencing, with reference to Management Plan. Access and nature conservation improvements to open part of former Wolverhampton Environment Centre (WEC) site to create additional 4 ha of Local Nature Reserve, including potential to expand self-managed community allotment provision in line with Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan.	The site is the only Local Nature Reserve in Wolverhampton and also functions as a greenway network and amenity open space for local residents. Lack of amenity greenspace in the Castlecroft area

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing) – Neighbourhood Plan Group priority	Reasons why this is a priority
n/k (partner funded)	Further De-culverting of Penk Rise (2018-2021) Project to open up Penk Rise where it currently passes in a culvert beneath Penk Rise Open Space, to include some re-profiling of the open space. This will assist natural drainage and promote biodiversity. Project to be funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.	To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity, as promoted in the Wolverhampton Surface Water Management Plan and Black Country Core Strategy.
n/k (partner funded)	De-culverting of Smestow Brook (2018-2021) Project to open up part of the Smestow Brook where it passes in a culvert beneath Smestow Valley LNR, to include some re-profiling of the open space, in order to promote biodiversity. Project to be funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.	To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity, as promoted in the Wolverhampton Surface Water Management Plan and Black Country Core Strategy.
Small amount	Ecological Surveys (on-going) Programme of surveys to recognise nature conservation value of some amenity greenspaces and amend management accordingly. Former Wolverhampton Environment Centre and Woodlands Walk surveys completed in 2015.	Appropriate management may increase quality.
Mitigation payment of £50,000	Quality improvements to Amenity Green Space (2018-2021) Explore potential to improve quality and create habitat on low quality amenity green spaces, or if not possible consider potential for disposal. Current disposal site: Reedham Gardens Open Space which is a small, low quality open space allocated for housing, with mitigation payment agreed to improve play facilities at Kingsclere Walk (see below).	To address poor quality of some amenity green spaces
Provision for children and young people		
£82,000 (secured developer contribution)	Play Provision for Castlecroft (2016-2017) – COMPLETED Improved play facilities at Castlecroft Avenue Play Area completed in 2017.	Gap in provision for young people in the Castlecroft area
c. £50,000 (potential developer contributions)	Kingsclere Walk (2019-2022) Replace play area equipment	Need to maintain quality of play provision
Total outstanding works with costs known or estimated		

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing) – Neighbourhood Plan Group priority	Reasons why this is a priority
£1.13 million (where known), including £0.36 million secured developer contributions and £0.28 million ERDF funding		

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Wednesfield

Total ha's Open Space for the Wednesfield Analysis Area and Wolverhampton

Area	Total open space (ha)	Current population (2016)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries & Church yards	Green Corridor
Wednesfield Analysis Area	163.8	49,223	43.5	27.6	0.8	1.5	29.9	5.0	48.6	3.8	3.0
Wolverhampton	1119.9	255,915	254.1	319.6	4.5	4.4	129.5	35.4	303.3	62.8	5.1

Comparison with Wolverhampton Standards for Each Type of Open Space (ha per 1,000 popn *below/above standard*)*

	Total	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)
Standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	4.38	0.99	1.25	0.017	0.017	0.51	0.14	1.19
Wednesfield Analysis Area	3.33	0.88	-0.69	0.017	0.030	0.61	-0.037	-0.20
Totals	-1.05	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.09

Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Parks	There is a minor quantitative shortfall for parks, however the even distribution of District and Neighbourhood Parks means that all areas have good access to a park. Quality is average for some parks. Housing growth is planned in the Stafford Road Corridor, which will increase pressure on Fowlers Playing Fields, a District Park. Proposals in the North Analysis Area to develop a Neighbourhood Park at Tennyson Road Open Space will also benefit the north west part of the area.	

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
c £500,000 (£200,000 secured and potential developer contributions; £12,000 ECB funding for NTP)	Fowlers Playing Fields Park (2016-2026) – elements included within the capital programme Improve to serve existing and new residents within the Stafford Road Corridor Area Action Plan. Improvements to include improved pedestrian and cycling access, improving links with the adjoining canal, general infrastructure, sports facilities, play equipment, CCTV and car parks, to increase use of the Park. Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to be provided during 2018.	To improve quality and meet the needs of new residents.
£162,000 (£62,000 secured and potential developer contributions)	Ashmore Park (2016-2022) Increase quality through improving facilities on site. Phase 1 (£62,000) completed 2017. Phase 2 programmed for 2019-2022.	Park of average quality. Area with poor access to natural green space.
c £100,000 (£72,000 secured and potential developer contributions)	Heath Town Park (2018-2021) – elements included within the capital programme Phase 1 to extend Park completed 2016. Further investment in infrastructure and play facilities planned.	Park of average quality.
£415,000 (£415,000 secured developer contributions)	Colman Avenue Park/ Perry Park (2016-2020) Improvements completed during 2016/2017 to create a Neighbourhood Park to serve the area, including new pitches, improvements to play facilities, environmental improvements, a path network and a trim trail. Substantially completed, c.£70,000 developer contributions available for further improvements.	Park of average quality. Area with poor access to natural green space.
Outdoor Sports The area is well-served by outdoor sports space and pitches and benefits from recent completion of new pitches at Perry Park. There is a large surplus Of adult pitches and a future shortfall of one youth 11v11 football pitch identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018). A current shortfall in artificial grass pitch provision can be addressed through community use of the new 3G AGP at Heath Park Business & Enterprise College and the Sporting Kalsa project to create a new AGP, located nearby in Walsall. Fowlers Playing Fields Park requires improvements to maximise its ability to function as a		

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
multi-pitch site.		
Included in Coleman Avenue Park above	Colman Avenue / Perry Park Football Pitch Creation (2016/2017) - COMPLETED Create two new youth football pitches.	To address local demand for youth pitches and compensate for loss of playing field at former Wednesfield High School site.
Included in Fowlers Playing Fields Park above	Fowlers Playing Fields Park (2018-2021) Improve sports facilities (see Parks above), to include changing facility improvements and possible pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Large pitch site with poor quality changing rooms. Adult pitches currently used by youth teams.
n/k	Heath Town Park (2018-2021) Look to improve use and quality of three adult football pitches.	Adult pitches unused by the local community.
n/k	Heath Park Business Enterprise College (2018-2021) Secure community access to new 3G Artificial Grass Pitch.	To address local shortfall in AGP provision.
Included in Ashmore Park above	Ashmore Park (2018-2022) Improve sports facilities on site.	Good quality adult football pitches used to capacity.
£12,000 (£12,000 ECB funding)	King George V Playing Fields (2018) Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) to be provided during 2018.	
Developer funded	Grosvenor Street Open Space (2018-2019) Part of Heath Town Estate Masterplan (see below). Creation of new 7v7 football pitch to mitigate for loss of playing field at the Burton Crescent site, which was allocated in the Heathfield Park Neighbourhood Plan and now has planning permission for housing.	To support major regeneration project and new housing development at Heath Town Estate.
n/k	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields / Wednesfield Town Football Club (2018-2020) Monitor to ensure full community use of fenced pitch at Bellamy Lane Playing Fields and support future improvements to the site.	Over-played stadia quality adult pitch adjoining playing field unused by the local community.
Natural green space		

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
<p>The Wednesfield Analysis Area has the greatest shortfall in the City against the quantity standard for natural green space. There are also large areas with poor access to natural green space, particularly in the centre of the area, and there are few natural green space sites in total, with only one good quality site. However, this does not take into account the presence of the Wyrley and Essington Canal running through the area, which is potentially of SINC value and could provide better access to quality natural green space.</p> <p>c £150,000 (£60,000 secured and potential developer contributions; £59,000 ERDF funding)</p>	<p>Black Country Wyrley and Essington Canal Local Nature Reserve (2017-2021) – elements included within the capital programme Local Nature Reserve designated in 2017/18, in partnership with Canal & River Trust and Walsall MBC. Phase 1 signage, access and landscaping improvements (£119,000) to be delivered in 2018-19 through ERDF Blue Network Project.</p>	<p>To address significant access / quality shortfalls in natural green space</p>
Provision for children and young people		
<p>£75,000 (potential developer contributions)</p>	<p>Long Knowle Open Space (2020-2022) Play area improvements</p>	<p>To improve the quality of play provision</p>
Amenity green space		
<p>The area has good access to amenity green space and has a surplus of amenity green space against the quantity standard. However, quality of amenity green space is variable with a number of sites of a poor quality. Prioritisation of existing provision should look to address these deficiencies in quality whilst helping to meet identified shortfalls in other typologies such as natural green space.</p>		
<p>n/k</p>	<p>Quality improvements to Amenity Green Space (2018-2021) Explore potential to improve quality and create habitat on low quality amenity green spaces, or if not possible consider potential for disposal e.g. Brackenwood Drive, Calver Crescent. Current disposal site: Cambridge Street Open Space, allocated for housing with mitigation of £60,000 agreed for improvements to Fowlers Park.</p>	<p>To address poor quality of some amenity green spaces</p>
<p>n/k (potential developer contributions)</p>	<p>Heath Town Estate Masterplan (2018-2021) – elements included within the capital programme As part of Masterplan, carry out a range of open space and public realm improvements to Heath Town Estate, including improvements to existing ball court and creation of a play hub (play area and outdoor</p>	<p>To improve the quality and accessibility of amenity space and play provision across the Heath Town Estate</p>

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Indicative Cost (funding sources)	Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
	gym) on adjoining land; creation of two further play areas; and creation of a new football pitch at Grosvenor Street Open Space (see above).	
Total outstanding works with costs known or estimated		
£1.4 million (where known), including £0.91 million secured developer contributions and £0.06 million ERDF funding		



APPENDIX ONE: QUALITY AND VALUE SCORING METHODOLOGY

Site by site quality and value scoring has been carried out as a desk based exercise in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council Parks Team and Open Space Steering Group. The scoring should be used by COWC to create a quality and value matrix for sites within the City. Quality and value scores are provided in a separate Excel database.

KKP developed specific quality and value criteria to assess sites against. To give a consistent and robust approach to scoring, workshop sessions were facilitated with Area Managers to score sites for quality. Value scoring was initially carried out by KKP and checked with COWC officers.

Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores as follows. This will also allow application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology in the future.

Analysis of quality

A desk based scoring system has been devised in order to provide sites with a quality score. The criteria used is derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales) and KKP's own site visit assessment pro-forma. The quality criteria used to allocate sites with a quality score are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space sites (score)

- ◀ Welcoming place e.g., safe, secure entrances that open onto busy areas with good natural surveillance.
- ◀ Information/signage e.g., visible, well located and maintained notice boards and directional sign posts.
- ◀ Provision of ancillary facilities e.g., sufficient presence of provision such as seats, benches, bins and toilets.
- ◀ Quality of ancillary facilities e.g., level of condition of ancillary provision.
- ◀ Conservation and biodiversity e.g., level of opportunities for wildlife habitats i.e. woodland areas, ponds and streams etc.
- ◀ Paths e.g., condition of pathways.
- ◀ Access for all e.g., level of access throughout the site for individuals with a disability.
- ◀ Overall maintenance and cleanliness e.g., general condition of site and features.



For the typologies of provision for children and young people, allotments and natural/semi-natural green space separate criteria are used to score the quality of sites. This is due to many of the criteria used to score general open spaces not being applicable to sites of this type. For example, it is not anticipated that biodiversity and conservation is a key component of the quality of a children's play area. Nor is it appropriate for ancillary facilities of allotments to be scored in the same way as ancillary facilities for other types of open space (i.e. parks, amenity green space). For natural green space the criteria of conservation and biodiversity has been used to establish a sites level of quality. This is as the category is the most appropriate to identify the level of wildlife opportunities and conservation status of a site. Other elements such as path and provision of ancillary facilities are often not applicable or relevant when considering a sites natural quality.

The desk based criteria to score quality of children's play areas looks at two elements. These are set out in the table below.

Quality criteria for play provision sites (score)

- ◀ Range of play equipment e.g., is there a wide variety of equipment which caters for different age groups.
- ◀ Quality of play equipment e.g., level of condition of the equipment found onsite.

A separate set of criteria is also used to score the quality of allotment sites. These are set out below.

Quality criteria for allotment sites (score)

- ◀ Water supply e.g., is there a source of water supply on site for plot holders to utilise.
- ◀ Toilet provision e.g., is toilets available onsite or off site.
- ◀ Parking availability e.g., is specific parking available for users of sites.

For allotments most sites are given a quality score with the exception of those which are outside of the Council's regular maintenance (it is assumed that these are of a high quality given their private ownership).

Analysis of value

Similarly to quality, a desk based scoring system, has also been created for assessing value. The more criteria a site meets, the higher the value is placed on a site. Value is defined in PPG17 guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its access, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

The value criteria set is initially derived from PPG17 guidance. However, this has been amended to reflect the desk based nature of the assessment. Therefore it focuses on elements that utilise GIS data available and local knowledge within COWC Parks Team. All sites within the audit have been assessed for value.



The criteria used is summarised as:

Value criteria for open space sites (score)
◀ Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank - sites in an area ranked as being more deprived receive a higher value mark than those sites of a lower ranking.
◀ Proximity of other greenspace - sites close to other sites of the same typology will score lower than sites which are the only one of their kind in the area.
◀ Access - site is within two minutes walk time (96m) of an identified bus stop.
◀ Sites with a designation - located within or adjacent to a SINC or SLINC.
◀ Sites within a conservation area - located within or adjacent to an identified conservation area.
◀ Historic interest - site is identified as containing or being adjacent to a listed building or monument.
◀ Level of use - whether the site is popular and well used.
◀ Green Flag Award - site has achieved Green Flag Award status.
◀ Community interest - site has a formal group associated to it or it has a known strong community interest/ownership.
◀ Multi-functional benefit - site contains other open space features such as a play area or sports facility.
◀ Unique benefit - site offers or provides features or a role which is unique in the City such as hosting city wide events.

Quality and value thresholds

In order to determine whether sites are high, adequate or low quality/value (as recommended by PPG17 guidance); the results of the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green, amber being adequate and low being red).

The primary aim of applying a threshold or standard is to identify and justify sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed (particularly when compared with its respective value score/threshold).

Quality is scored on the basis of allocating good, adequate or poor to each element assessed. For example, if a park site scores poor for all elements it can only achieve a maximum of nine points out of 27 (33%). Similarly if it scores adequate for all criteria it can only achieve a maximum of 18 points (66%); and if it scores for all criteria it can achieve 27 points (100%).

Mean scores are used as a guide to set the thresholds to identify high, adequate or low quality (as summarised in Table 1) for each typology. Thresholds for amenity green space and natural green space are set lower to better reflect their characteristics; as sites of these typologies are anticipated to have fewer features compared to park provision, for example.

Baseline thresholds to identify high/low value are usually set at 20%. However, this is adjusted for some typologies (amenity green space, provision for children, parks and natural green space) depending on the amount of criteria used to assess the value of each typology.



For example, the maximum score a park and garden site can receive for value is 52. Whereas the maximum value a play area site can attain is 15. Therefore play sites have an overall higher level of percentage scores compared to other typologies (as demonstrated by the higher mean score). This means play sites only need to score once against the criteria in order to be rated as high for value. Subsequently, in a similar way to quality, value thresholds are set for each individual typology based on the mean and lowest scores recorded.

The following table provides a summary on the quality and value thresholds applied to identify low/adequate/high scores.

Table 1: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality thresholds			Value threshold
	Low	Adequate	High	
Allotments	< 40%	40-75%	> 75%	20%
Amenity green space	< 40%	40-75%	> 75%	15%
Provision for children and young people	< 50%	50-84%	> 84%	35%
Parks	< 55%	55-80%	> 80%	15%
Natural green space	< 35%	35-66%	> 67%	15%

Scoring summary

This section describes the findings from the quality and value assessment for each typology.

The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies (2018 Update Review)

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites		
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	Adequate	High
Allotments	5	20%	54%	80%	1	25	6
Amenity green space	24	0%	69%	100%	19	126	52
Provision for children & young people	6	33%	93%	100%	1	28	100
Parks	24	42%	81%	100%	1	24	32
Natural green space	3	0%	65%	100%	26	37	40
TOTAL	-	0%	-	100%	48	240	230

Most sites score either adequate (46%) or high (44%) for quality with only a small proportion of all sites (9%) receiving a low quality score.



Provision for children and young people scores well compared to other typologies; with 77% of such sites scoring high for quality. Play areas generally have a good range of equipment. The lowest scoring site is Laburnum Street Play Area which is identified as having a poor range and quality of equipment.

More natural and semi natural green space sites (25%) score low for quality compared to any other typology. This reflects the generally lower mark sites receive for conservation and biodiversity such as non designated SLINC and SINC sites.

The typologies of allotments, parks, amenity green space and natural green spaces are generally all of an adequate or high quality. In particular most allotments (78%) and amenity green spaces (64%) are rated as being of an adequate quality.

The one allotment site with a low quality score is Slim Avenue Allotments. This site has no toilet provision, water supply or onsite parking. Two allotment sites do not receive a quality score. These sites, Lich Avenue and Elmdon Close, are managed by the Council but are identified as currently being closed for allotment purposes.

Oak Street is the only park site to receive a low quality score. The site scores poorly on quality of paths and access for all. The site also has low scores for ancillary facilities, information, conservation and biodiversity and its general maintenance.

Value

The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces in Wolverhampton. All sites receive a value score.

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies (2018 Update Review)

Typology	Maximum score	Percentage (%)			Number of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	30	17%	33%	53%	2	30
Amenity green space	37	11%	26%	46%	9	188
Provision for children & young people	15	33%	49%	93%	0	129
Parks	52	13%	28%	50%	1	56
Natural green space	35	9%	27%	51%	9	94
TOTAL	-	9%	-	93%	21	497

The majority of sites (96%) are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores, provision for children and young people is highly valued with nearly all sites (100%) being assessed as high value. This reflects the unique benefits such sites provide to local communities, particularly for children and families. A similar very high proportion of parks (98%) also score high for value. This is due to the number of sites identified as providing a range of different and popular uses.



A higher proportion of natural green space sites (9%) score low for value compared to any other typology. This is a reflection of the number of sites that do not have a particular designation, either historic or conservation, and/or lack a multi-functional role. However, the value these sites play in providing a visual amenity and a break from the built form remains important in a wider context.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered of a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland or unattractive.

Quality and Value Matrix

The assessment of open space quality and value has been used to help develop the action plan by identifying sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which should be prioritised require enhancement and those which may be surplus to requirements as open space.

Typical issues to address in order to increase quality include examples such as increasing the regularity of maintenance at the site, provision of litterbins and provision of benches. Typical issues to address in order to increase value include widening the range of open space functions it performs, raising awareness of the site and increasing community engagement in the site.

If there is a choice of spaces or facilities of equal quality (e.g. low quality), and no need to use one or part of one site to remedy a quantity or access deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider disposing of the one with the lowest value. Similarly, if two sites are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to dispose of the one of lower quality.

Each site has been allocated a quality and value score (provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet) and in line with the criteria detailed above. This score allows each site to be placed in a high/average/low category for quality and a high/low category for value. This categorisation can then be used to inform recommended actions for each site, as detailed below:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should fall into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them. Sites in this category should be recognised as forming a key part of the open space network.

High quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater community involvement.



Average quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality where possible and to protect through the planning system.

Low quality/high value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance quality as a priority and to protect through the planning system.

Average quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to enhance its value by widening the range of open space functions it performs and / or by securing greater community involvement. Quality improvements may also be necessary to achieve increased value. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' if value cannot be increased.

Low quality/low value

The preferred approach to an open space in this category should be to seriously consider if there is any potential to enhance both value and quality. If this is not practical or viable, the open space may then be considered 'surplus to requirements'. If the site is not suitable for any purpose other than open space in the long term, value and quality improvements may still need to be considered.



APPENDIX TWO: OPEN SPACE STANDARDS REVIEW

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STANDARDS REVIEW

APRIL 2018

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

OSANA STANDARDS REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Council (COWC) undertook an Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (OSANA) in 2007-8 as part of a Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the City. Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been appointed by the Council to produce a strategy and action plan for parks and open spaces in Wolverhampton up to 2026. As part of this (Stage 1), it is considered that there is a need and opportunity to re-appraise the provision standards first recommended in OSANA, particularly given the time that has elapsed since it was completed, and in order to robustly develop its recommendations into a phased deliverable action plan.

This document sets out the proposed open space standards and the rationale behind them. The subsequent Open Space Strategy will prioritise the application of the standards in order to be deliverable within the current economic climate.

OSANA

The 2008 OSANA report provides an audit of all recreational open space within the City by type of use. It recommended local provision standards up to 2021 and made recommendations based on the framework of open space provision, with the view to improving the quality, quantity and access of all types of recreational open space for the future. The study uses the five step methodology set out in PPG17 Companion Guide for undertaking an open space local needs assessment. In general, OSANA covers all the types or typologies set out in PPG17 guidance:

- Allotments
- Amenity green space
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Green corridors
- Natural green space
- Parks (Town/District, Neighbourhood)
- Provision for children
- Provision for young people
- Outdoor sports facilities

For the purposes of the 2008 OSANA, civic spaces were included within the typology of green corridors due to their often linear nature.

Identifying local needs

The previous OSANA report comprised a series of consultations to identify local needs. This included meeting with Council officers and external partners as well consulting with members of the general public. A number of methods were used in order to gather individuals' views towards open space provision. For general public consultation the following took place:

- ◀ *Residents' consultation* – this involved an on-street survey in five different locations across the City. A total of 800 responses were generated with results used within the individual typology sections.

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- ◀ *Neighbourhood drop-in sessions* – five sessions were held throughout the City, enabling residents to voice their views on open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ *Workshops and focus groups* – these were held with a number of groups such as children and young people, over 50's forum, sports clubs and friends of groups.
- ◀ *Internet survey for young people* – this was a web-based questionnaire aimed at school children and sent to all schools within in the City. A total of 774 responses were received.
- ◀ *Other* – dedicated email, text and freepost addresses were created for anyone wishing to respond separately. These were advertised in local papers.

The access standards (i.e. maximum distances) set out in OSANA are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. Given the evidence to support them, we therefore recommend that these remain unchanged.

Audit

Following scrutiny, 1,055 sites were included within the audit, covering circa 1,084 hectares of recreational open space, including school playing fields. Golf courses and 16 sites located just outside the Wolverhampton City boundary were excluded from the analysis.

Several assumptions were made when the open space was identified and audited for the 2008 OSANA. These included:

- ◀ No application of a minimum size threshold. Therefore all publicly accessible open space provision was audited.
- ◀ Open spaces were categorised using PPG17 typologies.
- ◀ Provision for young people included skate parks, BMX tracks, MUGAs, teenage shelters and informal kick-about areas.
- ◀ Provision for children included children's play areas and adventure playgrounds that are freely accessible.
- ◀ Parks provision was grouped into two classifications (i.e. town/district, neighbourhood (including newly created pocket)).

As part of the process site assessments were undertaken for 613 (71%) open space sites. A standardised pro forma was used to gather the information for each site. The site assessment sheet looked at elements related to:

- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Site access
- ◀ Wider benefits

More details on the site assessment methodology can be viewed in the quality section detailed in the OSANA Review Report submitted in December 2011. The subsequent quality standards developed from the audit and consultation have been retained as there has been no further evidence to suggest amending them at this stage.

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The following quantity standards were originally derived from the audit:

Typology	OSANA standard (2008)
Parks	0.87
Natural green space	1.50
Provision for children	0.05
Provision for young people	0.05
Amenity green space	0.62
Allotments	0.15
Civic spaces	Not set
Outdoor sports facilities	1.50

The quantity standards have now been amended and updated to take account of changes to the audit as detailed in subsequent sections of this report.

QUALITY STANDARDS

The quality standards are provided on a typology basis and present a holistic approach to improving quality across the City. It is likely that more specific standards will be set within the Strategy to further help prioritise the need for investment, together with design guidelines to ensure that improvements are made to the highest possible standard.

Parks

“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility which is accessible to all and has a range of facilities and other types of open space within it. District Parks should be attractive, well designed and maintained, providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees, adequate lighting and other appropriate safety features, as well as suitable ancillary accommodation (including seating, toilets, litter bins and play facilities). Sites should be safe and secure and easily accessible.

Where appropriate, the Park Ranger scheme should be implemented to enhance the quality of the environment and facilitate community interaction. Encouraging community involvement through organised events should help to increase usage and activities. Sites should promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage and provide links to the surrounding green infrastructure”

“Striving to achieve a national standard for quality, all Neighbourhood Parks should be a facility serving the immediate needs of local people for active recreation. They should provide a welcoming, clean and litter free environment. Maintenance should focus on providing well-kept grass, flowers and trees and encourage wildlife to flourish with the use of varied vegetation through appropriate management. Park Rangers should work with the community and other organisations to provide a hub of interest, activities and local events as well as establishing a safe network of local open spaces. Good quality and appropriate ancillary facilities (toilets, litter-bins, dog-bins and benches) should be provided to facilitate the needs of users and encourage greater use.”

Natural and semi natural green space

“A clean and litter free site with clear and obvious pathways that provide opportunities to link other open spaces together and where appropriate link in to the outlying countryside. Sites should encourage wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness, maximised through appropriate natural features. Litter-bins, dog-bins, benches and picnic areas should be provided where possible and there should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, whilst ensuring public access to all. Increased community involvement through management, maintenance and promotion of these sites should be encouraged where possible. ”

Provision for young people

‘A well designed, high quality site that provides a meeting place for young people, encompassing the needs of all users with varied formal and informal equipment / space. The site should be located in a safe environment that is accessible to all, without compromising neighbouring land users. The focus should be on providing a well-maintained, clean and litter free area with appropriate lighting and shelter, promoting a sense of community ownership.’

Provision for children

“A well designed, well-maintained, clean site of sufficient size to provide imaginative formal equipment and / or an enriched play environment in a safe and convenient location. Equipped play spaces should be fun and exciting and should have clear boundaries with dog free areas and include appropriate ancillary facilities such as seating, litter-bins and toilets in the locality of larger sites. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety and safeguard the amenity of neighbouring land users. The site should also be accessible to all.”

Outdoor sport facilities

‘A well-planned, clean and litter free sports facility site that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should be well maintained to an appropriate match play standard, with good grass coverage and well-drained quality surfaces. Appropriate ancillary accommodation should be provided at sites with consideration given to providing toilets, changing rooms and car parking. Community-use synthetic turf pitches should be floodlit to comply with quality standards and maximise usage. Meeting places should be provided for both formal and informal sports pitch sites inclusive of sheltered areas and benches, encouraging participation and access for all. The site should be managed appropriately to ensure community safety and provide a local amenity that is close to people’s homes, contributing to the health agenda”.

Amenity green space

“A clean and well-maintained green space site that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate ancillary furniture (litter-bins, etc.), and pathways and landscaping designed to provide a safe secure and site with a spacious outlook that enhances the appearance of the local environment and provides a safe area for young people to meet. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus, while smaller sites should at the least provide an important visual amenity function.”

Allotments

‘A clean and well-kept secure site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education objectives, with appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. provision of water and toilets) to meet local needs, clearly marked pathways and good quality soils. The site should be spacious, providing appropriate access for all and clear boundaries.’

Cemeteries and churchyards

A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity (where appropriate), an area of quiet contemplation and a sanctuary for wildlife. Sites should have clear pathways and varied vegetation and landscaping and provide appropriate ancillary accommodation (e.g. facilities for flowers, litter-bins and seating).

Green corridors

Linear open spaces and canals should be clean and litter-free, safe and convenient corridors with clear pathways, linking major residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas, that promote sustainable methods of transport. Appropriate ancillary facilities such as litter and dog bins, seating in appropriate places and signage to and within the sites should be provided to encourage access for all. The corridor should also seek to encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats, enabling the movement of both wildlife and people between open spaces, linking in specifically with natural areas of open space.”

Civic spaces

“A clean, well-maintained and safe civic space that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate infrastructure for holding community events (i.e. electric points and access for vehicles), ancillary furniture (i.e. seats and bins, etc.), and landscaping designed to enhance the appearance of the predominately hard surface area.”

QUANTITY STANDARDS

The quantity standards are based on the amount of current provision per 1,000 head of population. A quantity standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries. This is in line with the guidance set out within PPG17. The guidance recommends no quantity standard is set for green corridors or cemeteries respectively due to their often linear form and requirement to be driven by burial need.

Standards are produced for individual typologies as opposed to grouping similar typologies together. This was done in order to recognise the different values placed on each typology identified during site visits and inferred by residents during consultation. However, on a local level some typologies such as amenity green space and parks will be viewed in context of one another and are recognised in some instances as fulfilling a similar function.

Review 2012

One standard is provided for all parks in Wolverhampton. This helps to simplify the setting of standards as opposed to having an individual standard for each sub-category of parks. This provides a greater level of flexibility in seeking developer contributions across the City for all forms of parks provision.

A citywide standard is provided in order to allow a greater level of flexibility in the setting of standards for each typology. By doing this, factors such as a residents ability to travel across the City to access/use certain types of sites can be recognised. This flexibility would be reduced if standards were provided on a catchment area basis.

Site size thresholds have been applied to amenity green space and natural green space. PPG17 guidance recommends that sites smaller than 0.2 hectares in total size, are generally of less recreation value and, as such, can be discounted from the quantity standards. The impact of reducing the total number of sites is most significant in the amenity green space typology; 250 sites, equating to circa 26 hectares has now been removed.

In addition to applying thresholds, there was also an opportunity to reduce the total hectares of provision classified as provision for young people. The typology previously included informal kick-about areas, which tended to be large sized areas within other typologies (e.g. amenity green space or parks). A process of applying a set universal site size of 0.045 hectares to all sites identified as an informal grass kick-about area (21) has been undertaken. The five additional sites initially identified as provision for young people have been re-classified as the same designation as their adjoining or surrounding typology.

The following table summarises the specific actions applied for each typology as part of the 2012 review:

Typology	Action
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Retained sub categories of district, neighbourhood and pocket. Prioritise parks for investment within SPD. The action plan should also prioritise on this basis.
Natural green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Applied a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares and where possible merged sites within close proximity of each other. This reduced the number of sites by 22 and the total hectares by approx 2.8 ha. ◆ Sites perceived to be of high value to the community have been retained.

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Typology	Action
Provision for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Explored areas of shortfall via catchment mapping to ensure robustness. ✦ Applied a set universal standard (0.1 ha) for the three adventure playground sites. ✦ Removed four sites identified as having closed.
Provision for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Young people's facilities consisted of skate parks, BMX tracks, informal kick-about areas, Multi-Use-Games-Areas (MUGAs) and teenage shelters. Applied a set universal standard (0.045 ha) for informal kick-about areas to reduce the significant contribution these sites made to the overall hectares. Five sites counted within amenity green space/parks provision in order to recognise value but not for their size to add to overall provision for young people. This reduced the total hectareage by approx 2 ha.
Amenity green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Applied a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares and where possible merged sites within close proximity of each other. This reduced the number of sites by approx 230 (over 20 ha). ✦ Sites perceived to be of high value to the community have been retained. ✦ Applied a 10 minute access standard (so that it is consistent with the street survey findings). This increases the catchment of existing sites and the number of people living within a 10 minute walk of an amenity green space (see maps).
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Unable to recalculate quantity standards taking account of demand by using waiting list figures as the data is considered unreliable.
Cemeteries & churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ No action required. Should be led by the burial strategy.
Green corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Removed hard surface civic spaces from calculation of standards and provided a quantity standard for civic spaces.

In order to address the issues raised and to ensure the robustness of the standards, and in particular the open space quantity standards, we have revised the standards to ensure that they more accurately reflect current local needs and are achievable and sustainable.

The quantity standards provide a guideline as to how much open space, sport and recreation provision per 1,000 people is required in the City to meet current demand.

Quantity change from OSANA (2008) to Review (2012)

Typology	OSANA 2008 standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Proposed quantity standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Explanation of change
Parks	0.87 (District Parks and Neighbourhood Parks)	0.99	Increase due to reclassification of some sites previously in different typologies, including pocket parks and playing pitches.
Natural green space	1.50 (Actual: 1.47)	1.33	Decrease due to removal of small sites and setting standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.
Provision for children	0.05 (Actual: 0.027)	0.026	Decrease due to redrawing of site boundaries and setting

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL OSANA STANDARDS REVIEW

Typology	OSANA 2008 standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Proposed quantity standard (ha per 1,000 popn)	Explanation of change
			standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.
Provision for young people	0.05 (Actual: 0.03)	0.018	Decrease due to redrawing of site boundaries to more realistically reflect area available for play, and setting standard at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.
Amenity green space	0.62	0.56	Decrease due to removal of small sites and reclassification of some sites as Parks
Allotments	0.15	0.15	Remained same
Civic spaces	Not set	0.005	Newly created standard
Outdoor sports facilities	1.50 (Actual: 1.44) 0.53 of which should be pitch area (Actual: 0.54)	1.35 0.74 of which should be pitches available for community use ³	Decrease due to reclassification of some playing pitches as part of Parks
Total	4.74	4.43	Decrease due to reduction in total amount of open space in individual typologies and setting standards at current levels following a reassessment of OSANA survey responses.

The proposed quantity standards are generally lower or have remained the same compared to the current OSANA standards for all typologies, with the exception of parks, which has increased due to reclassification of some sites previously in amenity green space and outdoor sports facility typologies.

³ From Playing Pitch Strategy (population figures based on 2001 Census data as it is only dataset with breakdowns for gender and age groups required. Also incorporates latent demand)

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL OSANA STANDARDS REVIEW

Update Review (2018)

The quantity standards have been revised as part of the 2018 update review to ensure they accurately reflect current local levels and are achievable and sustainable.

The quantity standards provide a guideline as to how much open space, sport and recreation provision per 1,000 people is required in the City to meet current demand.

Quantity standard from Review (2012) to Update Review (2018)

Typology	2012	2018	Explanation of change
	(hectares per 1,000 population)		
Parks	0.99	0.99	Quantity level maintained due to increase in actual parks provision of 16 hectares since 2012 review.
Natural green space	1.33	1.25	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Provision for children	0.026	0.017	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 1.8 hectares since 2012 review.
Provision for young people	0.018	0.017	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has increased by 0.1 hectares (as a result of new provision) since 2012 review.
Amenity green space	0.56	0.51	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 4.6 hectares since 2012 review.
Allotments	0.15	0.14	Decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Civic spaces	0.005	0.005	Negligible decrease due to population growth. Actual level of provision has remained the same since 2012 review.
Outdoor sports facilities	1.35	1.19	Decrease due to population growth and reduction in actual level of provision by 19.1 hectares (as a result of loss of provision and more accurate boundary drawing) since 2012 review.
Total	4.43	4.38	Decrease due to reduction in total amount of open space in individual typologies (coming to 9.4 hectares) and increases in population figures since 2012 review.

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

OSANA STANDARDS REVIEW

Identifying future need

We would advocate use of the latest ONS population estimates to provide an indication of future trends by age and gender. ONS based estimates indicate a population increase of 6% between 2016 and 2026, resulting in a future population total of 270,313. In light of population estimates, the population percentage increase is applied to the citywide standard for each typology below to identify how much provision is required to service the future population.

The '*Total new provision 2026*' column substantiates the actual deficiency in terms of the difference in hectares between current provision and future provision in 2026 (based on future population figures and using the standards shown below). The total requirement is an additional 43.02 ha if standards are to be met by 2026.

A standards-based approach is not endorsed by Sport England for outdoor sports provision. The Playing Pitch Strategy should help identify and guide future need for such forms of provision.

Parks

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	254.09	0.99	270,313	13.52

Natural and semi/natural green space

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	319.57	1.25	270,313	18.32

Provision for children

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	4.45	0.017	270,313	0.14

Provision for young people

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	4.41	0.017	270,313	0.18

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Amenity green space

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	129.51	0.51	270,313	8.35

Allotments

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	35.43	0.14	270,313	2.41

Civic spaces

Current population (ONS 2016)	Total provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population	Total new provision 2026 (ha)
255,915	1.25	0.005	270,313	0.10

Total hectares of provision for the typologies of Cemeteries & Churchyards and Green Corridors are set out in the appendix. Totals are not provided above as no Standard is set for these open space typologies as explained earlier.

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ACCESS STANDARDS

Access standards are effectively the distance thresholds that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each typology using different modes of transport. Catchment areas are based on them and are a tool to identifying communities currently served/not served by existing provision. An access standard has been set for each typology with the exception of green corridors and cemeteries, as recommended by PPG17 guidance.

The access standards (i.e. maximum distances) set out in the OSANA are (in the main) derived from the findings of the local needs assessment. Given the evidence to support them, we therefore recommend that these predominantly remain unchanged. However, the challenging 5 minute walk time standard set for amenity green space has been increased to a 10 minute walk time standard, in accordance with survey results.

Typology	Access standard
Parks	District - 20 minute walk Neighbourhood - 10 minute walk Pocket – 10 minute walk
Natural green space	15 minute walk
Provision for children	10 minute walk
Provision for young people	20 minute walk
Amenity green space	10 minute walk
Allotments	15 minute walk
Outdoor sports facilities	15 minute walk 20 minute drive for STP and golf courses

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

APPENDICES

Total figures by Analysis Area (Update Review 2018)

Analysis area	Current population (MYE 2016)	Total open space (ha)	Parks	Natural	Provision for children	Provision for young people	Amenity	Allotments	Civic space	Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	Cemeteries and Church yards	Green Corridor
Bilston	47,482	243.597	40.9324	120.3311	0.6935	0.9473	26.9699	0.6285	-	42.1285	10.0992	0.8663
Central & South	67,885	245.965	55.3564	75.7790	1.0784	0.9250	23.6219	10.1914	1.0331	70.0409	7.9386	-
North	40,370	232.670	73.0703	48.0043	0.7727	0.4925	27.2143	5.0421	0.2150	61.5872	15.0213	1.2506
Tettenhall	50,955	233.888	41.2717	47.8182	1.0748	0.5645	21.8002	14.5526	-	80.8766	25.9295	-
Wednesfield	49,223	163.822	43.4613	27.6369	0.8325	1.4852	29.9065	5.0166	-	48.6465	3.8362	3.0007
TOTAL	255,915	1119.942	254.0921	319.5695	4.4519	4.4145	129.5128	35.4312	1.2481	303.2797	62.8248	5.1176

Breakdown of Standards by Analysis Area (below/above) (Update Review 2018)

Current population (MYE 2016)	Parks		Natural		Provision for children		Provision for young people		Amenity		Allotments		Civic space		Outdoor sports (w/o golf)	
	0.99	1.25	1.25	1.29	0.017	-0.003	0.017	0.020	0.51	0.06	0.14	0.005	0.005	1.19		
47,482	0.86	-0.13	2.53	1.29	0.015	-0.003	0.020	0.003	0.57	0.013	-0.125	-	0.89	-0.30		
67,885	0.82	-0.18	1.12	-0.13	0.016	-0.002	0.014	-0.003	0.35	0.150	0.012	0.015	1.03	-0.15		
40,370	1.81	0.82	1.19	-0.06	0.019	0.002	0.012	-0.005	0.67	0.125	-0.014	0.005	1.53	0.34		
50,955	0.81	-0.18	0.94	-0.31	0.021	0.004	0.011	-0.006	0.43	0.286	0.147	-	1.59	0.40		
49,223	0.88	-0.11	0.56	-0.69	0.017	level	0.030	0.013	0.61	0.102	-0.037	-	0.99	-0.20		
255,915	0.22	0.10	0.001	0.002	0.09	-0.017	0.010	0.005	0.010	0.005	0.010	0.005	0.09	0.09		