

KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN NEEDS ASSESSMENT - APPENDICES



A

REPORT

BY

PMP

DECEMBER 2007

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Demographics
- Appendix B - Benefits of open space
- Appendix C - Open space typology
- Appendix Di - Analysis areas
- Appendix Dii - Identifying local needs
- Appendix Ei - Site assessment definitions
- Appendix Eii - Site assessment matrix
- Appendix F - Steps 3 and 4 setting and applying standards
- Appendix G - National strategic context
- Appendix H - External agencies
- Appendix Ii - Quantity standards
- Appendix Iii - Quantity standards benchmarking
- Appendix Iiii - Quantity standards worksheet
- Appendix J - Quality standards
- Appendix K - Assessability standards
- Appendix L - Quality benchmark calculator

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics

Summary of demographics for the borough of Kettering

Implications for the provision of open space and indoor facilities and benchmark for consultation responses

Demographic Indicator	Key issues emerging for open space provision in Kettering
Kettering Borough has a population of 81,844 (2001 census) (mid 2003 estimate of 84,300)	
In the twenty years between 1982 and 2002 the population of Kettering grew by 16 per cent, compared with an increase of 10 per cent for the East Midlands region as a whole, showing a high growth rate. This is expected to grow further with the planned growth of between 13,000 and 15,000 additional dwellings by 2021 (Milton Keynes/South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy).	High existing growth rate and expected growth will have significant implications in the need to provide for the increased demands on existing open spaces and the opportunity to provide new open spaces.
57% of the population live within the town of Kettering. The population density of Kettering in 2002 averaged 355 people per square kilometre, compared with an average of 270 for the region and 380 people per square kilometre for England overall.	This is a relatively high density and a high percentage living within Kettering town. It is important that provision of open space is a priority in the urban areas, particularly in new developments
96.7% of the population are white, which is high compared to the rest of the region and England and Wales	

The age breakdown for the Borough is as follows:

Percentages (%)	Kettering	East Midlands	England and Wales	Key issues emerging for open space provision in Kettering
People aged 0-4	5.99	5.73	5.95	Number of young people aged between 0 and 14 years is higher in Kettering than the region and England and Wales. The provision of facilities for children and young people will be particularly important.
People aged 5-7	3.83	3.72	3.74	
People aged 8-9	2.71	2.63	2.62	
People aged 10-14	6.76	6.70	6.58	
People aged 15	1.24	1.28	1.27	Number of people aged 15 – 24 is lower in Kettering than the rest of the region and England and Wales.
People aged 16-17	2.43	2.49	2.51	

APPENDIX A – DEMOGRAPHICS

Percentages (%)	Kettering	East Midlands	England and Wales	Key issues emerging for open space provision in Kettering
People aged 18-19	2.07	2.46	2.40	
People aged 20-24	5.16	5.87	6.00	
People aged 25-29	6.77	6.10	6.60	
People aged 30-44	22.79	22.35	22.55	Number of people aged 25 – 59 is higher in Kettering than the rest of the region and England and Wales.
People aged 45-59	20.12	19.62	18.93	
People aged 60-64	4.60	4.97	4.89	Number of people aged 60 – 74 is lower in Kettering than the rest of the region and England and Wales.
People aged 65-74	7.79	8.53	8.39	
People aged 75-84	5.72	5.70	5.64	Number of people aged 75 + is higher in Kettering than the rest of the region and England and Wales. This may need to be considered in the provision of open space and its suitability for all ages.
People aged 85-89	1.33	1.24	1.30	
People aged 90 and over	0.69	0.60	0.65	

Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Wider Benefits of Open Space

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

APPENDIX C
OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY

Open space types and descriptions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife conservation, • biodiversity • environmental education and awareness.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal activities close to home or work • enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play areas • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and 'hangouts'
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growing vegetables and other root crops <p>N.B. does not include private gardens</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet contemplation • burial of the dead • wildlife conservation • promotion of biodiversity

APPENDIX C – OPEN SPACE TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking, cycling or horse riding leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration.
Civic Spaces	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designed for pedestrians primary purpose of providing a setting for public events.

- 1.1 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment of open space in conjunction with PPG17, namely:
- grass verges on the side of roads
 - small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of 2 roads
 - SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e in and around a block of flats)
 - farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.
- 1.2 As a result of the multi-functionality of open spaces there is a requirement to classify each open space by its '**primary purpose**' as recommended in PPG17 so that it is counted only once in the audit.
- 1.3 This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example - in areas of deficiency of amenity greenspace, playing pitches may exist that provide the function of required amenity greenspace but its primary purpose is as an outdoor sports facility.

APPENDIX D
IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEEDS

Step 1: Identifying local needs

Household Survey

- 1.1 Officers at the Council randomly selected 5,000 addresses across the six analysis areas. The distribution of these addresses was based on the proportion of the total Borough population in each of the analysis areas. 670 responses were received from the questionnaire and analysed as part of the study. A map showing the analysis areas is shown at the end of this appendix.
- 1.2 A comprehensive household questionnaire was designed by PMP. The questionnaire was intended to explore user and non-user attitudes to the range of open spaces and indoor sport and recreation facilities available near to their homes and explored people's views on quantity, quality and accessibility. A covering letter explaining the purpose of the survey and providing instructions for completion accompanied the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at the end of this Appendix.

Drop In Sessions

- 1.3 PMP undertook three 'drop in' sessions at
 - Gold Street, Kettering, Outside the Newlands Centre - Monday 5th December
 - 10am - 4pm
 - Tesco Extra store, Rothwell - Wednesday 7th December 9.30am - 12.30pm
 - Desborough Library - Wednesday 7th December 1.30pm to 4.30pm.
- 1.4 The purpose of these sessions was to determine the views, attitudes and expectations of local groups and residents on open spaces throughout the analysis areas and across the Borough.

Press release

- 1.5 A press release, approved by the Council, was circulated by the Council's press department to many of the local newspapers at the beginning of the study and to advertise the drop-in sessions. The press release advertised an email address (srbcopenspace@pmpconsult.com) text messaging service and freepost service to allow the general public to forward their comments on open space provision in the Borough.

Young People Internet Survey

- 1.6 PMP set up an on-line survey for school children to complete as part of either lessons or as homework. A good response rate was received with 539 responses. The survey is designed to gain the views of young people who are a traditionally difficult stakeholder group to access during consultation.

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

- Graham Soulsby - Acting Deputy Chief Executive
- Martin Hammond - Deputy Chief Executive
- Jackie Scott-Low - Personal Assistant - Chief Executive
- Allen Graham - Deputy Chief Executive
- David Allen - Community Partnerships Manager
- John Nichols - Community Safety Officer
- Claire Bonnie - Economic and Community Development Officer
- Val Hitchman - Head of Community Services
- Cath Harvey - Head of Development Services
- Steve Isbister - Head of Environmental Health
- Chris Stopford - Environmental Protection Manager
- John Bugby - Waste Policy and Amenities Manager
- John Conway - Head of Housing Services
- David Coren - Housing Needs Manager
- Sue Hottinger - Housing Strategy Manager.

Consultation with external agencies

1.11 There were no responses to the external agency consultation. Telephone interview were then held with:

- The Wildlife Trust
- Rockingham Forest Trust
- Kettering Voluntary Network
- Groundwork UK
- Ramblers Association Footpath Secretary for Warkton, Weekley, Grafton
- Underwood, Geddington and Newton.

Internal consultation

1.12 The following sections summaries comments and views expressed by internal members regarding open spaces in Kettering Borough

General

- 1.13 Vandalism can be an issue at all open space sites. The key issues are:
- dog bins being set on fire
 - vandalism of play areas - including deliberate harm being caused to young children
 - vandalism to fencing
 - broken glass on sites - Saturday/Sunday/Monday.
- 1.14 Grounds maintenance does not receive many general complaints about the quality of open spaces in the borough suggesting a good quality of sites. The main complaints tend to come from people living very close to open space complaining about ball game noise etc.

Levels of usage of open spaces is high across the borough.

- 1.15 Kettering Borough Council maintains the majority of open spaces within the borough. Improvements are constantly made to the open spaces. Shrub beds have been reduced by 50% overall and new areas are also being considered for permanent planting or turfing.
- 1.16 The different council departments involved in the provision of open space have good levels of communication.

What can be provided

- 1.17 People will pay less for facilities in Kettering than they will elsewhere. This put some constraints on what can be provided.
- 1.18 There is a long way to go in terms of quality and public perception of quality.
- 1.19 There are a number of villages that would not consider Kettering as their mainservice centre. For example Wilboston particularly would look to Corby for facilities. Stoke Alabny, Ashley, Brampton Ash, Dingley, Weston by Welland, Sutton Bassett and Braybrooke all look towards Market Harborough. The borough would also look towards Leicester particularly for employment, which may impact on user patterns.
- 1.20 In terms of development pressures, there tends to be proposals for the edges of open spaces for example with the proposed gardens around houses taking up the open space. there can be a lack of understanding about what protection of open spaces constitutes.
- 1.21 It can be difficult to protect open spaces, particularly when balanced against the provision of facilities for wider public benefit (e.g. doctors surgery).
- 1.22 There is no information as to how the designated open space has been allocated as such. It may have included a character assessment.

Growth

- 1.23 Looking at an urban extension for Kettering of 4 - 5,000 dwellings. Green infrastructure and open spaces will be important. The preferred location is to the east of Kettering.
- 1.24 Do not want to use the existing policy framework for the growth areas as do not consider this will be adequate.
- 1.25 Desborough and Rothwell are also planned to have urban extensions of around 700 dwellings each. Desborough has recently seen growth with the development of the Grange. This included open space facilities.
- 1.26 The town centre Area Action Plan will be about protecting existing open spaces as they will be under development pressure.
- 1.27 There is a concern at the North Northants level that the need for the provision of major sporting facilities will be missed and there is a need to address this at this more strategic level.

Section 106

- 1.28 Future provision of open space has been assessed in light of the expected growth in Kettering. This has been based on consultations and surveys undertaken previously by the council, using Sport England planning tools, comparisons against the Six Acre Standard and looking at the provision of education and dual use facilities.
- 1.29 KBC are looking for off-site contributions in the growth of Kettering. Existing sites will come under increasing pressure and improvements to these sites will not be adequate. Currently asking for about 3 years maintenance.
- 1.30 Northfield Avenue, Kettering is a previously developed site that is being developed for housing. It is inappropriate for on-site provision as it surrounded by industrial. Open space improvements have been provided off-site but residents need to cross a couple of roads to get to it.
- 1.31 It is particularly difficult to provide open space on-site in the urban area. It can often be the land left over after development and is not of very good quality.
- 1.32 Open space can often be provided in floodplains and can be the last thing thought about in designing a new development.
- 1.33 A recent development that Peter Harris is working on has involved consultation with Grounds maintenance to determine which areas grounds maintenance will maintain. This ensures that small areas of open space that are difficult to maintain will not be transferred to the council's responsibility.
- 1.34 Where there is a development for less than 50 dwellings, the council only ask for amenity greenspace and not outdoor sports or play areas. Urban Capacity Sites are often unsuitable for on-site facilities.
- 1.35 There can be difficulties with the phasing of open space provision, for example, Grafton Street Park housing development has been completed but the open space is

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

not yet finished. There is a preference for on-site provision unless other circumstances dictate.

- 1.36 With higher densities being pushed, there is an increased pressure for open space provision as backyards are smaller and streets are narrower.
- 1.37 Need to strengthen up on ensuring the money from section 106 is used for open space provision. The money is currently coming into a centralised fund and is not always spent in the right place. Section 106 monitoring is a priority area within the council.
- 1.38 The adoption process also need strengthening up. For example in Rothwell, there is a designated open space that is now overgrown because nothing has happened on the site.
- 1.39 Section 106 monies are also not being ring-fenced into maintenance.

Sports Pitches

- 1.40 Weekley Glebe has 9 full size pitches and is the main football facility in the borough. It is a heavily used site. £48,000 was spent on drainage around three years ago and the quality is therefore excellent. Users tend to stick to the required rotation and do not over use the site. The changing pavilion has also undergone a recent refurbishment but is still considered to require improvements, particularly to address the graffiti etc. There is a good sized car park on the site however due to it's heavy usage is limited and does cause some conflicts. Overall the quality of pitches is relatively good.
- 1.41 In terms of changing facilities, Desborough use the playschool, Burton Latimer use a community centre and Rothwell use a cricket club pavilion.
- 1.42 Internal consultations indicated that there are not enough sports pitches, particularly in light of the expected growth in the borough. The provision of informal kick-about areas is also of great importance - sites need to be large enough.
- 1.43 This was supported by other council officers who felt that there are more teams than pitches. This situation could however be alleviated by changing the kick-off times of junior teams in particular. The pressure is on the use of changing facilities and the fact that junior and adult teams cannot use the facilities at the same time. In addition, there are a lot of adult teams playing at Weekley Glebe. If these teams were to form one club, there could be better organisation of where each team plays.
- 1.44 Conversely another officer felt that the number of adult teams were reducing which is causing problems for juniors as they outgrow the junior teams and want to move into adult teams.
- 1.45 There are only four tennis courts in the borough and there is some pressure for additional courts. Facilities at Northampton Road are of good quality.
- 1.46 There is a need particularly for football facilities for younger children (8 - 14 year olds). North Park (North Park Drive) has not been designed for football but is well-used as such. Cricket has reduced in popularity considerably and there is little demand.
- 1.47 All weather pitches are provided at Kettering Leisure Village, Ise Valley, North Park and Northampton Road.

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

- 1.48 There are a lot of bowling greens in the borough. Although expensive to maintain, they are well used in the summer. There is some potential to use any surplus bowling greens for tennis courts.
- 1.49 There is a strong gymnastics club in the borough. They are now based in the town centre but need a permanent site.
- 1.50 Football and tennis are the main issues in the borough. Both have grown within the borough but need some guidance from the council to improve development and facilities.
- 1.51 Weekley Glebe is currently run and staffed by Kettering Borough Council. The council are in negotiations with Weekley Rovers to run the site themselves.
- 1.52 The boxing club are also looking for somewhere to re-locate to have their own facility. This is a well-run club that provides something to do for young people.
- 1.53 The main sports development activity in Kettering is targeted at low participation groups. A scheme currently in place involves working closely with St Mary's Hospice (mental health institution). The next objective for the scheme is to provide an activity club working as a halfway house into the community.
- 1.54 There is a Healthy Lifestyles campaign in place. This is particularly aimed at older people and encouraging people into a wider range of sports.
- 1.55 The focus of the leisure department has previously been about providing a service. The focus of the department is however widening to increase development, particularly aimed at target groups rather than focus sports. This may increase participation and therefore a need for a wide range of open spaces in the future.
- 1.56 Bowling is done predominantly on the council's park sites.
- 1.57 There is a need to review the Sports Development Strategy.
- 1.58 The pavilions attached to sports facilities have all gone past their life span and need replacing/improving. The interior of the Ise Valley pavilion is the best quality, however this pavilion and Northampton Road are structurally rotten due to their wooden materials. Ise Valley is planned for external improvements next year.
- 1.59 Currently trying to widen the use of the pavilions for example boxing and karate. Greater use of the pavilions is working as a vandalism deterrent.

Play Areas

- 1.60 Vandalism can be an issue at sites across the borough. Play areas are particularly prone to vandalism and glass tends to be a problem after the weekend.
- 1.61 Conflicts between older and younger users of play areas can be a major problem. There have been incidents in the past where items have been left in young children's play areas for them to injure themselves on.
- 1.62 There is a refurbishment programme underway for play areas. A three year programme has been agreed.

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

- 1.63 Play areas are inspected weekly by a trained inspector and every 6 months by an external inspector (Zurich Insurance). Council officers also carry out a daily inspection of most sites.
- 1.64 The level of provision is satisfactory. Those areas without play areas tend to be in villages where there are a very limited of young people.
- 1.65 It is considered that there is a need for play area facilities at Burton Latimer. There is a rectangular piece of open space in the area which has been considered for equipped play but residents have objected. Similarly, there is a need for a play area to the west of Desborough but it is difficult to locate a site that can be equipped.
- 1.66 Open space for children to play informally is as important as equipped play areas.
- 1.67 There are a large number of play areas that provide skate ramps and youth shelters for young people. It is however considered that there is a need for additional MUGAs in some areas.
- 1.68 Sites with youth shelters can often be prone to greater levels of vandalism.
- 1.69 Ise Valley Skate Park is a very well used site and has a borough-wide and beyond significance. The site is particularly expensive to maintain. This approach of having a smaller number of larger facilities that attract young people from a wide catchment is considered desirable, rather than lots of small facilities.
- 1.70 The larger villages support the provision of youth facilities although some areas object to facilities. Ise Lodge is a very contentious site and is currently being vandalised seemingly by adults in the area.
- 1.71 Parts of Desborough are considered to be deficient in open space generally. In particular, there are two play areas to the east of Desborough but nothing to the west.
- 1.72 There are eight play areas that do not currently conform with guidelines (mainly NPFA and safety surfacing guidelines). These are a priority for improvements.
- 1.73 Capital investment improvements planned for the next few years are:

Mile End Lane, Broughton	£21,000
Charlotte Place, Kettering	£21,000
Blythe Close, Rothwell	£11,000
Middle Lane, Stoke Albany	£61,000
Loddington	£71,000
Greys Field (young people)	£11,000

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

Dunkirk Avenue Recreation Field	£?
---------------------------------	----

- 1.74 BIG Lottery Fund have allocated £200,000. There is a need to have a Play Strategy in place which is planned for completion in November 2006.
- 1.75 Kettering Borough Council run a number of play schemes which are well supported in the borough. Around 6,000 took part in last years schemes.
- 1.76 Play facilities should be planned into a large park as it does not seem to be working when placing open space right next to housing. Smaller sites tend to get conflicts between ages as well.
- 1.77 No final area for a play facility has been agreed in Mawsley, despite being a planned village of around 10 years.

Amenity greenspace

- 1.78 Smaller areas of open space tend to cause more problems that the larger park facilities.
- 1.79 There are a lot of small areas that need to be maintained in the borough and one of the key issues is determining who owns them to work out who should be maintaining it.
- 1.80 There is a lot of open space in Rothwell. There is a lot of green space in easy access of people, including the estates.
- 1.81 There are a number of scraps of open space in the Ise Lodge/village area. These are no good to anyone and have problems with nuisance.
- 1.82 Some schools are opening up their facilities for informal use for example providing areas of grass for use or use of the basketball hoop.
- 1.83 Kettering Borough Council are receiving enquiries for sites which provide visual breaks rather than recreational function. It can be difficult to protect these sites and to justify their protection.

Allotments

- 1.84 The leisure department would like to refer people to allotments as a place to get healthy. There is currently a scheme at the Grange Estate that is holistic providing healthier lifestyles through exercise at the allotment and better diets in using the vegetables in cooking. The site includes a computer which includes recipes and information.

Parks and Gardens

- 1.85 Rockingham Road Pleasure Park had been awarded the Green Flag for several years running and is considered to be an excellent facility that is well used.

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

- 1.86 Kettering Borough Council will be applying for the Green Flag Award at Grey Fields in the near future. It is expected that other sites will be put forward for the award in the coming years.
- 1.87 Mill Road Park and Meadow Road Park cause the biggest problems in terms of antisocial behaviour and vandalism.
- 1.88 Meadow Road Park has timber equipment and loose surfacing and this is prone to vandalism. It is hoped that this will be improved in a phased programme to remove all loose surfacing.
- 1.89 There are some early discussions underway with regards relocating Mill Road Park onto the adjacent school site and vice versa. The school site is currently restricted. This would mean a smaller park site but would provide the opportunity to design the site properly. The school would become more of a community resource. Mill Road is currently considered to be restricted in its design as it is square and sterile.
- 1.90 There is a tenants and residents association for Mill Road Park (formerly part of a Friend's of group) that meet every couple of months because it is a problem site. A large range of agencies are involved in this including Groundwork.
- 1.91 There is a need for a management plan for every park to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of local residents and do not become outdated. Parks are currently maintained as they are.
- 1.92 The Paddocks at Burton Latimer are not used to the site's full potential.
- 1.93 Manor House Gardens located by the town centre hold events.
- 1.94 The gardens around the council offices and Westfields Gardens are well-used, particularly at lunch-times.
- 1.95 There is a Heritage Quarter in Kettering including the art gallery and museum. Gated Victorian gardens provide the setting for these buildings. There are no large enough for informal recreation such as a kick about but provide an attractive quiet recreational environment. Events are held in the parks re-enacting historical events.

Green Corridors

- 1.96 There are a lot of footpaths in Kettering and a lot of people who use them. There are a number of villages that have footpath wardens.
- 1.97 There is a good provision of open space at Brambleside, particularly green corridors and pathways.
- 1.98 There are many tree-lined streets in Kettering which add to the visual appearance of the borough.

Natural and semi-natural open space

- 1.99 Ise Valley (TYPOLOGY?) - People will drive to Ise Valley to walk dogs. It is currently a borough-wide facility. There are also plans to improve the site further by improving bio-diversity on the site and increasing community involvement. In

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

particular schools will be involved as an educational site and there will be community planting schemes. Access to the site will be improved by improved walks and bridges. People do not currently use the site as a country park but future improvements should create a country park type of facility.

- 1.100 The countryside as a natural and semi-natural open space resource is an issue in the rural areas. Although there is extensive countryside it is all arable and there are only small pathways through the rural area. Although some villages can be under-rated as there are some attractive open spaces in villages in conjunction with the open countryside.
- 1.101 There are also a large number of woodlands in the borough but there are a large number which are not publicly accessible. The Duke of Buccleuch owns a lot of the land.
- 1.102 There are a lot of pocket parks in the borough, managed by local people. This can cause difficulties with only a couple of keen volunteers having to take on too much work or alternatively unable to cope with the level of maintenance required.

External consultation

- 1.103 Below are details from a number of discussions regarding Kettering's open space with various relevant external agencies. The Wildlife Trust: Terry Smithson Conservation Manager, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire (Terrysmithson@wildlifebcnp.org).
- 1.104 Wildlife Trusts are involved in a large number of sites around the borough.
- 1.105 Sites there are involved in are nature reserves, county wildlife sites and SSSIs. These sites are either WT owned and managed or simply managed (on behalf of KBC or some other organisation). Emphasis at the country wildlife sites is on protection from development and the promotion of good management.
- 1.106 In terms of quantity, he felt there were lots of sites and some were of high biodiversity value. Nature reserves and county wildlife sites were thought to play an important role in terms of biodiversity. Some sites under threat and needed to be known about so that they could be addressed appropriately.
- 1.107 Keen to see that biodiversity and nature conservation value were incorporated into the study. Open space as multi functional and most important in terms of biodiversity and nature conservation. Also important that the right type of public access and usage was in place so that biodiversity and nature conservation were not compromised.
- 1.108 Knowing the value of sites is key in the process of conservation and enhancement. ie if site is well used and valued by community it should be even more greatly protected and invested in.
- 1.109 Need to identify those sites under threat of being lost or of losing their value. The WT are surveying CW sites as well as identifying SSSIs and nature reserves this summer. The WT are also currently identifying potential CWs which they will highlight to the KBC and which may help to contribute to green infrastructure.
 - Rockingham Forest Trust: Karen Edwards.

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

- 1.110 RFT works with communities within the Rockingham Forest area on a variety of projects including those around urban areas within the Rockingham Forest.
- 1.111 Part of the organisation is concerned with planning and development within the area. Particular concern with East of Kettering and threat posed to the villages here as well as the urban areas. Issues that concern KE at RFT are traffic (poor public transport and A14 already currently overcrowded), the fact that they are already at capacity at the hospital in Kettering, the adverse affect on the water supply in terms of fresh water and amount of water and the impact of the 5000 houses on the open space provision (these houses will be built on land which is currently green fields).
- 1.112 No intimate knowledge of open spaces in the borough but felt that there wasn't enough in Desborough.
- 1.113 RFT currently producing a business plan for the outline of a new greenspace associated with a development in Desborough (The Grange) which is tied to an S106 agreement.
- 1.114 Kettering Voluntary Network aims to support and represent the needs of local voluntary and community groups. This includes business planning services, identifying funding streams, volunteer brokerage, promoting the sector and ensuring its voice is heard in the public arena.
- 1.115 The key role is to work with communities to increase the quality of green space in the community. This is done through community based projects that are often linked to other agendas such as education and health.
- 1.116 Susan Warern's role involves forming networks with key stakeholders and groups in order to develop projects.
- 1.117 Kettering Voluntary Network is a recent project of Groundwork North Northamptonshire (June/July 2005). It is an infrastructure support service delivering services on behalf of KBC. Provide information and support to all voluntary organisations in Kettering Borough. For instance, setting up committees and sources of funding.
- 1.118 Key project is the Mill Road Park. A large parkland in St Marys Ward. Susan is leading the project group with the aim to improve the park over time. The project is largely dependent on the decision by KBC of whether or not to relocate the school and to what location it would be relocated. One idea is to move the school onto the park and release its current space, which would potentially then be used to construct a new and better park. Usage at this site is currently moderate with focus on certain times of the day (eg just after school closing time). Some feeling of threat from certain users (eg those drinking during the summer).
- 1.119 Recent work by Groundwork UK has focused on consultation to understand the parks role and the problems within as well as the desires for the new park. Main issues with the park currently are: no natural surveillance, isolated location, unattractive entrance. These are partly to blame for the anti social behaviour problems that currently exist within the park and the subsequent low level of use.
- 1.120 SW's felt that the quantity of green space was limited in certain areas. Particularly the densely populated urban areas.
- 1.121 The quality of urban areas was considered to be adequate in comparison with other areas covered by Groundwork North Northamptonshire. Felt that signage and basic

APPENDIX D – STEP 1: IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL NEEDS

amenities within green spaces could be more inspiring and that this could perhaps be attributed to long term maintenance issues. Also suggested that some borough wide consistency in terms of standards and type of signage would help to clarify to local residents who was in charge of maintaining and improving the open space. May also serve as way of measuring. Also issues around safety and fear of use by many groups in society, which need to be addressed.

- 1.122 Regarding accessibility, SW felt that there was perhaps a lack of marketing and informing residents of location of open spaces. Also issues regarding the lack of provision of cycle ways and bicycle parking areas in the borough.
- 1.123 Suggested consulting with Kevin Burn (at Corby Police Station) who has something to do with the Mill Road Park project.
- 1.124 Chris Eilbeck Ramblers Association Footpath Secretary for Warkton, Weekley, Grafton Underwood, Geddington and Newton.
- 1.125 Advised that Bob Coles is the more appropriate person to contact. CE felt that there was a need for greater promotion of certain green corridors in order to achieve greater usage, in particular the footpath between Warkton and Barton Seagrave.

APPENDIX Ei

SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

APPENDIX E - SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

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

APPENDIX E - SITE ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

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

WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT (Definitions)

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

APPENDIX Eii
SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

APPENDIX E - SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID
 Date of Visit

Site Name
 Specific Facilities

Address / Street Name

OS Type (tick) P&G NSN Green Corridors OSF AGS Children Young People Allotments/Community Gardens Cemeteries/Churchyards Civic Spaces Accessible Natural Countryside

PMP Audit Codes

Scoring (5=Highest)

		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Not Applicable	Weighting
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Litter problems	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Dog Fouling	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Noise	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. condition and maintenance of equipment in play areas or recreation provision)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Smells (unattractive)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Maintenance and Management	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
Security and Safety	Lighting	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. protection of equipment and appropriate flooring and surfaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Vegetation	Planted areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Grass areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Ancillary Accommodation	Toilets	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Parking (related to open spaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Seats / Benches	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
	Pathways (within the open space sites)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3

Assessor's Comments

APPENDIX E - SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

SITE ACCESS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID Date of Visit

Site Name Specific Facilities

Address / Street Name

OS Type (tick) P&G NSN Green Corridors OSF AGS Children Young People Allotments/Community Gardens Cemeteris/Churchyards Civic Spaces Accessible NC

PMP Audit Codes

		Scoring (5=Highest)						
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Not Applicable	Weighting
General	Entrance to the sites (i.e. are the entrances to sites easily seen, easily accessible etc)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Roads, paths and cycleways and accesses	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Disabled Access	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
Transport	Accessible by public transport	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
	Accessible by cycleways	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
	Accessible by walking	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Information & Signage	Information & Signage (i.e. is the signage to the open spaces appropriate where required and clear to see and easy to follow)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1

Assessor's Comments

APPENDIX E - SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

WIDER BENEFITS SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID

Date of Visit

Site Name

Specific Facilities

Address / Street Name

OS Type (tick) P&G NSN Green Corridors OSF AGS Children Young People Allotments/Community Gardens Cemeteries/Churchyards Civic Spaces Accessible NC

PMP Audit Codes

		Yes	No	Assessor's Comments
Wider Benefits	Structural and landscape benefits	Yes	No	
	Ecological benefits	Yes	No	
	Education benefits	Yes	No	
	Social inclusion and health benefits	Yes	No	
	Cultural and heritage benefits	Yes	No	
	Amenity benefits and a "sense of place"	Yes	No	
	Economic benefits	Yes	No	

APPENDIX F

STEPS 3 AND 4 SETTING AND APPLYING STANDARDS

Steps 3 and 4 : setting and applying provision standards

Quantity

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

Basic methodology: Setting the quantity standard

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

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

Quality

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

Basic methodology: setting a quality vision

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

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

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

Accessibility

- 1.11 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value. The overall aim of an accessibility assessment should be to identify:
- how accessible sites are
 - how far are people are willing to travel to reach open space
 - areas of the Borough deficient in provision
 - areas of the Borough suffering in accessibility and therefore of priority importance

- key accessibility factors that need to be improved
- 1.12 Setting accessibility standards for open space should be derived from an analysis of the accessibility issues within the audit and in light of community views.

Basic methodology: setting the accessibility standard

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

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

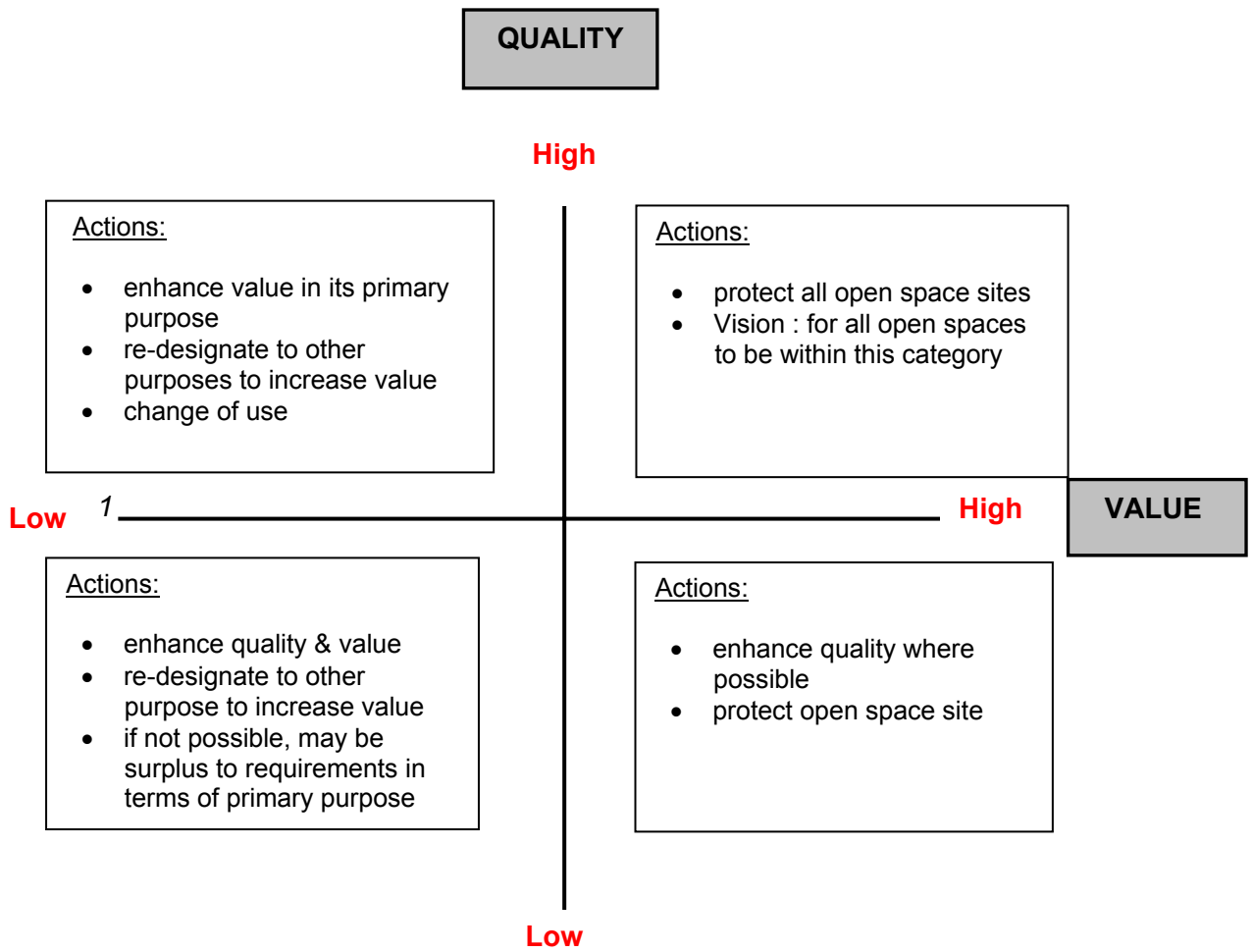
- 1.13 PPG17 encourages any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites to be accessible by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. There is a real desire to move away from reliability on the car.

Level of usage and value

- 1.14 The value of an open space site is entirely different to quality and relates mainly to three key factors as described in PPG17 companion guide:
- **Context** – a site that is inaccessible is irrelevant to potential users and therefore is of little value irrespective of its quality. Also, in areas where there is a large amount of high quality open space or more than is actually required, some of it may be of little value. In contrast to this, a site of low quality but in an area of low provision maybe of extremely high value to the public.
 - **Level and type of use** – poorly used open space sites may be of little value while highly used sites may be of high value
 - **Wider benefits** – there are many wider benefits of open space sites that should be taken into account when analysing the results of particular sites e.g. visual impact, benefits for biodiversity, education, cultural, economy etc. These benefits are difficult to assess in a systematic way and would require detailed site visits.
- 1.15 Evaluating value therefore involves attempting to assess these factors, in particular relating the context of the open space site (quality and accessibility) against the level of use of each site.
- 1.16 From the assessment of the value of sites, we are able to start to determine policy options in terms of feeding into a specific action plan. This is fundamental to effective planning:

APPENDIX F – STEPS 3 AND 4 : SETTING AND APPLYING PROVISION STANDARDS

1.17 The figure below provides a simple means of determining the most appropriate policy approach to each existing open space site.



APPENDIX G

NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

National strategic context

DLTR

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

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

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



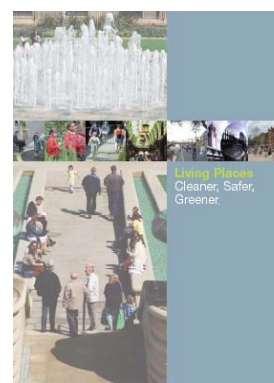
Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)

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

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

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

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



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

- 1.5 In May 2002 the DTLR produced this linked research report to Green Spaces, Better Places which looked at patterns of use, barriers to open space and the wider role of open space in urban regeneration.
- 1.6 The vital importance of parks and other urban green spaces in enhancing the urban environment and the quality of city life has been recognised in both the Urban Taskforce report and the Urban White Paper.



Wider Value of Open Space

- 1.7 There are clear links demonstrating how parks and other green spaces meet wider council policy objectives linked to other agendas, like education, diversity, health, safety, environment, jobs and regeneration can help raise the political profile and commitment of an authority to green space issues. In particular they:
- contribute significantly to social inclusion because they are free and accessible to all
 - can become a centre of community spirit
 - contribute to child development through scope for outdoor, energetic and imaginative play
 - offer numerous educational opportunities
 - provide a range of health, environmental and economic benefits.
- 1.8 The report also highlights major issues in the management, funding and integration of open spaces into the wider context of urban renewal and planning:
- 1.9 **Community Involvement** - Community involvement in local parks can lead to increased use, enhancement of quality and richness of experience and, in particular, can ensure that the facilities are suited to local needs.
- 1.10 **Resources** - The acknowledged decline in the quality of care of the urban green space resource in England can be linked to declining local authority green space budgets but in terms of different external sources for capital development, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Section 106 Agreements are seen as the most valuable.
- 1.11 **Partnerships** - between a local authority and community groups, funding agencies and business can result in significant added value, both in terms of finances and quality of green space.
- 1.12 **Urban Renewal** - Four levels of integration of urban green space into urban renewal can be identified, characterised by an increasing strategic synergy between environment, economy and community. They are:
- attracting inward economic investment through the provision of attractive urban landscapes

- unforeseen spin-offs from grassroots green space initiatives
- parks as flagships in neighbourhood renewal
- strategic, multi-agency area based regeneration, linking environment and economy.

Sport England

Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)

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

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



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

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

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



CABE Space



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

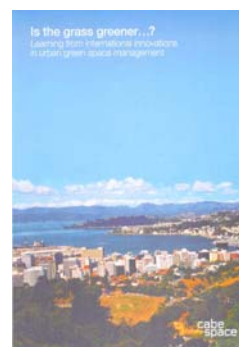
- **Stage 1:** Preliminary activities
 - provides the foundation of a successful strategy
- **Stage 2:** Information gathering and analysis
 - provides the objective and subjective data necessary to make informed judgements
- **Stage 3:** Strategy production
 - preparing g consultation draft and final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



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

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

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



The problem in England!

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

Manifesto for better public spaces, CABE Space (2003)

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

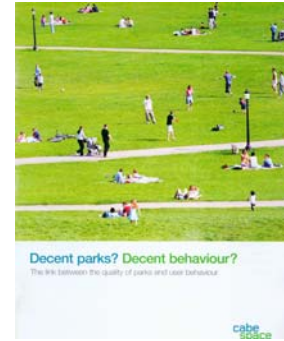
1.27 The guide presents ideas on benefits of management plans identifying steps to be taken to writing the plan. It also provides a list of subject areas that need to be addressed in any comprehensive management plan. The document has been split into two sections, providing a logical explanation of the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



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

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

1.28 Based on research that supports public consultation that poor maintenance of parks, in turn, attracts anti-social behaviour. Encouragingly it provides examples of places where a combination of good design, management and maintenance has transformed no-go areas back into popular community spaces.



1.29 There are nine case studies explored in the report. Below are some of the key elements that have made these parks a better place to be:

- take advantage of the potential for buildings within parks for natural surveillance e.g. from cafes, flats offices
- involve the community early in the process and continually
- involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible and work hard to avoid single group dominance in the park
- provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young peoples fear of crime as well as that if adults

1.30 The evidence in this report suggests that parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic, however by investing and creating good-quality parks and green spaces, which are staffed and provide a range of attractive facilities for the local community, can be an effective use of resource.

APPENDIX H
EXTERNAL AGENCIES

External agencies

- 1.1 There are a number of external agencies that impact on the provision of open space within the Kettering Borough.

English Nature

- 1.2 English Nature is a government agency concerned with wildlife and geology and is a key partner of the Countryside Agency, which aims to achieve an improved understanding of the relationship between access and nature conservation. English Nature is responsible for selecting and designating Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI's).

English Nature attempts to:

- facilitate and encourage access to National Nature Reserves
- support initiatives aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of open cohabitats
- monitor the effects of access on wildlife sites across the country
- stress the value of local sites and recommend that local authorities develop partnerships for the provision of local sites and SSSI's.

- 1.3 The English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) require:

- that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size
- provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population
- that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home
- that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km
- that there should be one 500ha site within 20 km.

- 1.4 The standards were justified in the following ways:

- everyday contact with nature is important for well-being and quality of life
- everyone should be able to enjoy this contact, in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so
- natural greenspace in towns and cities can play an important role in helping safeguard our national treasure of wildlife and geological features
- accessible natural greenspaces give everyone an excellent chance to learn about nature and help to protect it in practical ways
- adequate provision of vegetated areas helps to ensure that urban areas continue to function ecologically.

- 1.5 In 2001 a review of the standards was commenced as English Nature was concerned to find that its accessible natural green space standards seemed to be little used.

The key recommendations of the review include:

- that English Nature should provide additional support to the model by providing practical guidance, implementing an outreach strategy to raise the profile of the model
- that local authorities should develop green space strategies as a means of ensuring balanced green space planning, and should set locally appropriated green space standards
- that central government should work towards the development of a single framework for integrated green space planning.

The Environment Agency

- 1.6 The Environment Agency is the leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. Its remit covers air, land and water.
- 1.7 The East Midlands region is stated to be a diverse environment, that is at risk from pressures such as water abstraction, pollution, fragmentation of habitat areas and flooding.

Wildlife Trust

- 1.8 The Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation charity dedicated exclusively to wildlife. There are 47 county/local Wildlife Trusts, with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough Trust covering the Northamptonshire area. The Wildlife Trust campaigns for the sensitive and sustainable management of wildlife in the countryside and the urban landscape and manages areas for wildlife and people.

National Children's Bureau – Children's Play Council

- 1.9 A review of children's play was undertaken between October 2002 and April 2003. This review takes into account the needs, aspirations and "play" of children between the ages of 0 and 16. The report identified four principles of successful projects:
- they are centred on children and young people – it was suggested that the most successful play spaces focus on a neighbourhood rather than catering for a whole town
 - they have an attractive location with high quality play opportunities
 - they fit in well with local circumstances
 - they give both children and young people and parents a sense of security.
- 1.10 In addition, the report promotes the use of school facilities out of hours, as this offers additional play opportunities and space for young people. Young people were questioned as to the type of facility that they would like to see, and it was concluded that young people appreciated both sites that were not staffed by adults and sites where adult helpers were present.
- 1.11 Suggestions for facilities included:

APPENDIX H – EXTERNAL AGENCIES

- adventure playgrounds
- play centres
- youth cafes
- bike tracks
- skateparks
- informal shelter and youth shelters.

1.12 The report discusses the appropriate size of provision for young people and children, and consultation questioned the benefits of providing a small number of large-scale sites in comparison to a larger number of smaller local sites. Findings indicated that young people prefer a larger number of smaller facilities that are closer to their home where they are able to meet with friends on an informal basis.

APPENDIX ii

QUANTITY STANDARDS

APPENDIX - I QUALITY STANDARDS BENCHMARKING

Local Authority Benchmarking			
Typology	LA Name	Provision per 1,000 pop	Local Standard Set
Park and gardens	South Northamptonshire DC	1.18 (Recreational Open Space inc. P&G & AGS)	1.55 (urban inc 0.4 formal)
	East Northamptonshire	0.58	0.6
	Corby BC	2.85	2 (Urban) and 1 pocket park per rural village
	Tamworth BC	0.51	0.6
	Northampton BC	1.79	1.8
	Oswestry BC	0.25	0.35
	Wellingborough	0.7	0.7
	Stevenage BC	0.73	0.73
	Knowsley MBC	0.59	0.8
Natural and Semi-natural	South Northamptonshire DC	0.59	1.15 (Urban) and 0.5 (Rural)
	East Northamptonshire	1.3 (exc. Rural)	1.3 (urban) and 8.79 (rural)
	Corby BC	1.84	1.6 (Urban) and 4.12 (Rural)
	Tamworth BC	2.68	2.7
	Northampton BC	2.44	2.45
	Oswestry BC	3.11	0.9 (urban) / 5 (rural)
	Wellingborough	1.93	1.8 urban / 0.38 rural
	Stevenage BC	1.78	1.78
	Knowsley MBC	1.18	No standard set
Amenity greenspace	South Northamptonshire DC	1.18 (Recreational Open Space inc. P&G & AGS)	1.55 (urban inc 0.4 formal)
	East Northamptonshire	0.72	0.8
	Corby BC	1.4	1.51 (Urban) and 0.37 (Rural)
	Tamworth BC	1.15	1.15
	Northampton BC	1.37	1.07
	Oswestry BC	0.97	1.2 (urban) / 0.5 (rural)
	Wellingborough	1.2	1.6 urban / 0.5 rural
	Stevenage BC	1.09	1.1
	Knowsley MBC	1.31	0.5

APPENDIX - I QUALITY STANDARDS BENCHMARKING

Local Authority Benchmarking			
Typology	LA Name	Provision per 1,000 pop	Local Standard Set
Provision for Children and Young People	South Northamptonshire DC	0.85 play areas per 1000 population - CHILDREN 0.13 play areas per 1000 population - YOUNG PEOPLE/TEENAGERS	0.95 play areas (CHILDREN) 0.2 facilities (YOUNG PEOPLE)
	East Northamptonshire	0.07 (Urban) and 0.13 (Rural)	0.1 (Urban) and 0.14 (Rural)
	Corby BC	0.05ha per 1,000 pop (Children) 0.05ha per 1,000 pop (Young People)	0.8 Play areas(Children) 0.35 young people facilities (Young People)
	Tamworth BC	0.27 (number)	0.5 (number)
	Northampton BC	0.02 (Children) 0.01 (Young People)	0.12 (Children) 0.12 (Young People)
	Oswestry BC	0.18	0.3
	Wellingborough	0.55 play areas	0.625 urban / 0.5 rural
	Stevenage BC	1.35 play areas	0.8 play areas (result of rationalisation programme)
	Knowsley MBC	0.03	0.2
Outdoor Sports Facilities	South Northamptonshire DC	2.48	2 (excl. golf courses)
	East Northamptonshire	1.69 (exc. Golf)	1.69 (exc. Golf)
	Corby BC	2.02 (exc. Golf)	1.8 (exc. Golf)
	Tamworth BC	1.92	1.5 (excl golf courses)
	Northampton BC	1.78 (exc. Golf)	1.88
	Oswestry BC	2.69	2.5
	Wellingborough	2.37	2.4
	Stevenage BC	2.2 (exclduing golf courses)	2.2
	Knowsley MBC	1.77 (excluding golf courses)	1.85 (exc. Golf courses)

APPENDIX - I QUALITY STANDARDS BENCHMARKING

Local Authority Benchmarking			
Typology	LA Name	Provision per 1,000 pop	Local Standard Set
Allotments and Community Gardens	South Northamptonshire DC	0.38	0.383
	East Northamptonshire	0.34	0.34
	Corby BC	0.16	0.15
	Tamworth BC	0.05	0.05
	Northampton BC	0.47	0.2
	Oswestry BC	0.03	0.05
	Wellingborough	0.75	0.38 urban / 1.3 rural
	Stevenage BC	0.17	0.09
	Knowsley MBC	0.03	0.05

APPENDIX Iii

QUANTITY STANDARDS BENCHMARKING

APPENDIX I - QUALITY STANDARDS CALCULATOR

Setting Quantity Standards Calculator

Council Name	Kettering BC
Borough / District Population	81,844

NOTE: Complete Yellow Boxes Only

Typology	Existing Provision (per 1,000 population)	Recommended Local Standard (per 1,000 population)	Increase / Decrease (ha per 1,000 population)	ACTUAL Increase / Decrease (hectares)	ACTUAL Equivalent Increase (No of football pitches)	
Parks & Gardens (Urban)	0.22	0.30	0.08	5.84	6.63	
Natural & Semi Natural	0.79	0.90	0.11	9.00	10.23	
Amenity Greenspace	0.74	0.80	0.06	4.91	5.58	
			Number of play areas			
Children	0.41	0.45	0.04	3.27		
			Number of facilities			
Young People	0.20	0.25	0.05	4.09		
Outdoor Sports Facilities (excluding golf and including all school sites)	1.72	1.80	0.08	6.55	7.44	ACTUAL Equivalent Increase (No of allotment plots)
Allotments	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Assumptions

Football Pitch size is 110m x 80m which is an adult size football pitch

Allotment plot size is an average 250 sq/m

APPENDIX Iiii

QUANTITY STANDARDS WORKSHEET

Kettering Borough Council – Setting Quantity Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. National Playing Fields Association for playing pitches
Current Provision (per 1,000 population)	This is the current provision in hectares per 1,000 population within the Local Authority area
Existing Local Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Benchmarking	These are figures detailing actual provision and local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities, particularly in Northamptonshire. This is provided as a separate sheet.
Consultation (too much/about right/not enough)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire and needs to be applied and reported per analysis area to provide some detailed local analysis.
Consultation Comments (Quantity)	<p>A summary of reasons behind peoples choices of whether they feel there provision is about right or not enough in some areas. PPG 17 indicates that where local provision is regarded as inadequate it is important to establish why this is the case. The a feeling of deficiency can sometimes be due to qualitative issues of existing open space sites rather than actual quantity issues.</p> <p>Any other qualitative consultation / information that has been extracted on local needs in terms of quantity of provision e.g. from neighbourhood drop-in sessions and local strategic documents</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

Field	Comment
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in hectares per 1,000 population
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the local standard that has been recommended
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis.

PARKS AND GARDENS	
National Standards	No National Standards
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.7 ha (0.2 ha excluding Wicksteed Park). The rural analysis areas do not currently have any provision of parks and gardens. The provision in the urban area (excluding Wicksteed Park) is 0.22ha
Existing Local Standards	Local Plan: Neighbourhood Parks – 0.3ha per 250 persons/100 dwellings – 2.28 per 1875 persons/750 dwellings. 1.2ha per 1000 persons
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet
Consultation (too much /about right/not enough)	2% - More than enough 57% - About Right 15% - Nearly Enough 24% - Not Enough

PARKS AND GARDENS	
<p>'Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>Household survey: There is an emphasis on the level of provision being enough borough-wide (57%). This is reflected across the analysis areas with the exception of Burton Latimer with only 40% considering there to be enough parks and gardens, suggesting locational deficiencies.</p> <p>With regards reasons for people feeling there are enough parks and gardens, a high number of people stated that there was a good distribution of parks with most areas able to access them. Many people stated that having Wicksteed Park meant that there was plenty of provision in Kettering and that residents were lucky to have access to the site. People also appreciated the positive impact the parks had on the areas they lived in.</p> <p>Of those respondents that felt there is not enough provision, the majority of the comments did refer to the quantity of parks and gardens and the need for one. One of the strongest concerns was with the loss of parks to development and the need to provide for the continued growth of the towns. There were a small number of comments which highlighted that Wicksteed Park is a commercial park and there is an entrance fee, as a barrier to use. (although internal consultations indicated that there is no entrance fee to the park for people walking to the park, the fee is for parking vehicles)</p> <p>Other Consultation: The value of parks is recognised by residents and the council, with some sites having quality issues.</p> <p>Internal consultations indicate that the focus should remain on existing sites, producing management plans, rather than any identified need for new sites. However there is also a need to address any specific deficiencies and surpluses as well as meeting the need for future populations.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>The Local Plan identifies a need for a Country Park in Kettering. A country park will be delivered in Desborough on the new Grange development in the future. There are also plans to provide a more naturalised country park area at Ise Valley and there are a number of pocket parks. There are also country parks in adjoining East Northamptonshire (Brigstock) and Corby (East Carlton). Drop-in session comments regarding parks and gardens centred mainly around the quality of parks but one resident did state that there was an inadequate provision of parks and gardens</p>

PARKS AND GARDENS	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	URBAN STANDARD: 0.3 ha per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>There is a general emphasis on the level of provision being enough and a good level of satisfaction with the quality of existing parks and gardens.</p> <p>Parks and gardens are located only within the urban analysis areas of Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell. Despite this consultations from the rural analysis areas shown a similar level of satisfaction to the urban areas, suggesting that there is an acceptance that traditional parks and gardens provision is not appropriate within the rural villages.</p> <p>However when both the overall provision (0.2ha) and the provision in the urban area only (0.22ha) are benchmarked against other local authorities, the level of provision is very low. The level of provision in other authorities ranges from 0.51 to 2.85ha per 1000 population, with a number around 0.5ha/1000 population. This does however exclude Wicksteed Park which is noted in the consultations as ensuring that the borough has sufficient provision as it is a large and varied facility. This also excludes sites which are included under other open space typologies but which provide multi-functional open spaces helping to alleviate deficiencies in certain areas, e.g. Ise Valley (Valley Walk) and Pocket Parks.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>In light of the relatively low level of provision, the standard should be raised higher than the existing level of provision. However due to the general levels of satisfaction, it is recommended that this be a slight increase to 0.3ha. This will ensure that the existing level of provision is protected, that locational deficiencies can be prioritised through the application of the accessibility standards (potentially in Burton Latimer where levels of satisfaction were lower) and to ensure there is sufficient park provision to meet increasing demands.</p> <p>The need for a naturalised area of open space/country park will be addressed through the natural and semi-natural open space standard and other sites that provide multi-functional open spaces will be addressed in other typologies but may be referred to within the parks and gardens analysis.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
National Standards	<p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha</p> <p>English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population</p>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	4.07 per 1000 population overall, 0.798 ha per 1000 excluding sites in excess of 50ha
Existing Local Standards	No existing standards
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>2% - More than enough</p> <p>41% - About Right</p> <p>14% - Nearly Enough</p> <p>39% - Not Enough</p>
'Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Household survey:</p> <p>There is mixed opinion as to whether the provision of natural and semi-natural open space is enough – 41% feel it is about right compared to 39% who feel there is not enough. However, when adding on those people who feel there is “nearly enough” to this (53%), the emphasis is more on there not being enough. Across the analysis areas, the rural area were more satisfied with the level of the provision (52%) than the rest of the urban areas.</p> <p>Of those respondents that felt there is enough open space, the majority of comments were around the value of these open spaces.</p> <p>Comments were also made about there simply being enough and that the area they lived in was rural and therefore enough open space.</p> <p>Of those that felt there is not enough, there was a mixture of responses with two key points around the loss of natural spaces to development and the lack of public access to existing sites.</p> <p>Other Consultation: Drop-in sessions identified concern over the loss of natural areas and the countryside to development. There is some mention of the pocket parks from respondents to the household questionnaire and parish council responses. There is a good provision of pocket parks in the borough (11 sites). Although, comments through the internal consultations did indicate the difficulties in managing some of these sites as they are left to individual volunteers.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
	<p>The Local Plan states a need for an additional country park. A country park will be delivered in Desborough on the new Grange development in the future. Although within the park and garden category this indicates a need for a naturalised facility. The Borough Council do however have plans to improve Ise Valley (Valley Walk) to provide a naturalised facility indicating the council considering this still to be a deficiency in the authority area.</p>

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.9 ha per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>There is a slight emphasis on the level of provision not being enough which may be due to the limited public access to some sites. In terms of benchmarking against other authorities, the level of provision is lower than a number of authorities with provision ranging from 0.59ha to 3.11, with a number around 1.8ha. In terms of standards set for other authorities, this ranges from 0.5 to 8.79ha, again with a number around 1.8. The level of provision excludes sites above 250 ha – this involves 3 sites which are actually all above 50ha in size and are located within the rural area. Across the analysis areas, the level of provision is much higher in rural west and rural east than in the remaining analysis areas, which is reflected in the level of satisfaction in the rural area. As such, it is considered appropriate to raise the standard to 0.9ha per 1000 population to reflect the consultation responses and to move the level of provision toward other authorities in the area and across the analysis areas. This slight increase should also encourage a focus on existing sites to improve public access and would support the development of a country style park, which the authority is currently working towards.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
National Standards	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <p>LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.74 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards	No existing local standards
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>3% - More than enough</p> <p>36% - About Right</p> <p>18% - Nearly Enough</p> <p>33% - Not Enough</p>

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
'Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Household survey: There is a fairly mixed response in terms of whether people feel there is enough/not enough amenity greenspace with 36% of respondents feeling it is about right versus 33% stating there is not enough. When added to those who feel there is nearly enough provision, (51%), the emphasis is more on there not being enough. Across the analysis areas, Burton Latimer analysis area has a much higher dissatisfaction rate than the other analysis areas (48% not enough, compared to 32%, 33% and 29%).</p> <p>Of those respondents that felt there is enough amenity greenspace, there were no common themes, although a number of respondents did comment on the poor maintenance of some sites, the benefit of them to break up the urban area and the issues with youths congregating on them.</p> <p>Of those that felt there is not enough amenity greenspace, the key theme is that people refer on the whole to “some” areas. This suggests that some areas are much better than others and deficiencies may be locational. Other issues raised related to the need to provide areas of open space close to people’s homes for informal use, particularly young people.</p> <p>Other Consultation: Internal consultations identified that smaller areas of open space can create more problems than the larger park facilities. These create problems with increased maintenance and tend to attract more anti-social behaviour incidences. Internal consultations also identified the difficulties in protecting some areas that provide visual amenity rather than any function. It can be difficult to protect these sites and justify their protection.</p> <p>Internal consultations also identified that areas of open space are as important as equipped play areas for children to use informally. Drop-in sessions did highlight some concern with the loss of open space to development.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.8 ha per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>Comparing against other local authorities, the level of provision is slightly less with the range from 0.72ha to 1.37ha, with the majority over 1ha. In terms of standards set, they range from 0.5ha to 1.6ha. The consultation responses indicate a mixed message in terms of whether there is enough and there is some concern from a quality perspective about the provision of small areas of functionless open space. In addition to this however, the visual amenity of amenity greenspace sites is also important.</p> <p>The level of provision across the analysis areas varies slightly with a good level of provision in the urban areas of Kettering and Burton Latimer. The level of satisfaction with the level of provision was highest in the rural areas.</p> <p>As such, the standard is set higher than the existing level of provision to align the borough more with other authorities and in response to the slightly higher proportion of people who felt there is not enough of this type of open space. This will protect the existing level of provision and will ensure that an appropriate level of provision will be provided in future developments.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
National Standards	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace 2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	<p>0.35 play facilities per 1,000 population.</p> <p>0.04ha per 1000 population</p>
Existing Local Standards	<p>Local Plan: Toddlers play areas: 0.1ha per 125 persons/50 dwellings – 1.52ha per 1875 persons/750 dwellings. 0.8ha per 1000 population.</p>
BENCHMARKING	<p>See attached sheet</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>3% - More than enough</p> <p>35% - About Right</p> <p>19% - Nearly Enough</p> <p>34% - Not Enough</p>
Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Household survey: Across the whole borough, there was a fairly even split between people who felt that provision was about right (35%) and those that felt that it not enough (34%) (53% nearly enough/not enough). In the more rural areas (AA 1, 2 and 6) there was a perception that provision was adequate (46% indicated provision was about right or more). In Burton Latimer, more than half (53%) of the respondents felt that there was not enough provision.</p> <p>The reasons commonly given for inadequate level of provision were related to the poor quality of the sites, often in terms of quality of equipment, safety and anti-social behaviour problems. Although these are quality issues they have clearly affected the public perception of quantity of provision.</p> <p>Drop in sessions reflected the perception that major issues with provision for children were quality related. It is likely that safety and other concerns at certain sites mean that they are not currently utilised by children (and their parents) and as such there is a perception of a lack of provision. However, several comments were made specifically regarding the lack of provision in the Desborough area. Several comments were also made regarding the need to ensure that new housing developments had associated children’s play provision nearby so that they catered for the needs of the families moving into the developments.</p> <p>Internal consultation with council officers indicated that overall there was a good level of provision for children. However, there was an identified need for greater provision in certain areas of the borough, particularly the west side of Desborough and Burton Latimer.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.4 play facilities per 1,000 population
PMP Justification	<p>There is a slight emphasis on the level of provision not being enough but a number of the qualitative comments suggest site specific issues with particular sites. In terms of benchmarking against other authorities, the level of provision varies considerably and varies between hectare and number of facilities standards. It is considered that the level of provision in Kettering is around the same level of provision as other authorities.</p> <p>Due to the small size of play areas it is recommended that the standard be set by number of play areas to ensure the standard is meaningful and can be implemented effectively. Design guidelines should be put in place to ensure that a varied and imaginative facility is provided rather than ticking off the number of facilities to be provided.</p> <p>The standard is set slightly higher than the existing level of provision at 0.4 play facilities per 1000 population. This reflects the emphasis on the level of provision not being enough, but is only a slight increase to account for the majority of comments being around the quality of provision and area specific deficiencies. The application of the accessibility standards will identify locational deficiencies.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	
National Standards	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p> <p>1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line); min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>2) 2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.2 young people facilities per 1,000 population 0.04ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards	No existing local standard
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>5% - More than enough</p> <p>14% - About Right</p> <p>12% - Nearly Enough</p> <p>52% - Not Enough</p>

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	
'Consultation Comments (quantity)	<p>Household survey: The emphasis of responses is on there level of provision not being enough (52%) and nearly enough/not enough 64%. This is reflected across the analysis areas. Of those limited number of respondents that felt there is enough young people facilities, people felt that those that were provided were vandalised or caused a nuisance to surrounding residents. Of those respondents that felt that there is not enough provision, a large number of people felt that more facilities would keep teenagers off the streets and give them something to do. The majority of comments were around the quantitative lack of provision.</p> <p>Other Consultation: Internal consultations identified conflicts between younger and older users of the same sites suggesting a need for clearly defined areas and the need for youth areas where there are younger children play areas to prevent older children hanging around in the play areas. Internal consultations also identified that there are a number of skate ramps across the borough providing a relatively good level of provision. There is also a large facility at Ise Valley.</p> <p>The Community Plan identified that youth shelters have been put into a number of large parks and have contributed to moving young people away from gathering points where they have caused nuisance in the past. Drop-in sessions identified a need for more shelters and support for these as a place to 'hang-out'.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.25 young people facilities per 1,000 population
PMP Justification	There is a relatively strong emphasis on the level of provision of young people facilities not being enough. There is limited information available for other authorities in terms of comparing provision, but this is considered to be a relatively good level of provision which is supported through consultations that identify a number of skate ramps etc. at recreation grounds across the borough. Young people and anti social behaviour is considered to be an issue in Kettering, although in a number of cases this is site specific rather than across the board and it may be that additional youth facilities would alleviate this issue. As such, the standard is increased slightly to reflect the higher levels of dissatisfaction with the existing level of provision and to provide the flexibility to combat specific areas where youths hanging around and creating a nuisance is a particularly issue due to a lack of alternative facilities. As with children facilities, the standard is set at number of facilities rather than hectares. This is due to the variety in site sizes (e.g youth shelter versus MUGA) and the lack of meaning of setting a hectare standard.
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
National Standards	NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (ie 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquet lawns NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and 'leisure areas' or something similar that mat not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	3.09 ha, 1.72 ha excluding golf courses. If school sites which are not available to the community are also excluded, provision decreases to 1.49 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards	<p>Sports Facilities Strategy – this recommends that in village communities of more than 400, provision for outdoor sports should include a playing field for cricket and football, a tennis court, an informal play area.</p> <p>Local Plan states: neighbourhood parks may need additional land to be made available for formal playing fields dependent on the circumstances of the case; for sites of 400 dwellings (1000 people) or more playing fields provision will normally be expected in addition to informal open space</p>
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	<p>General Outdoor Sports Facilities:</p> <p>3% - More than enough 37% - About Right 17% - Nearly Enough 32% - Not Enough</p> <p>Specific types of outdoor sports facilities:</p> <p>Grass pitches - 40% about right STP's – 66% (of those with an opinion) felt there was not enough provision Tennis Courts - 59% (of those with an opinion) felt there was not enough provision Bowling Greens - 40% about right Golf Courses - 41% had no opinion and 26% felt provision was about right</p>

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
<p>'Consultation Comments (quantity)</p>	<p>Household survey: The majority of respondents to the household survey indicated that provision was poor for outdoor sports facilities. 59% of people stated there was Nearly Enough/Not Enough provision of this typology, However, a good percentage also suggested provision was adequate (40%). In the Burton Latimer sub area there was an even stronger perception of a lack of provision (with 46% of the respondents indicating there was insufficient provision). Specific comments explaining the lack of provision were related to the loss of outdoor sports pitches (and other facilities) to housing and industrial development. There were also a number of comments directly related to the lack of provision of outdoor tennis courts in the borough. Both the household survey and the drop in sessions across the borough highlighted a problem with gaining public access to school sites as they are a resource that could be used to increase supply.</p> <p>Other consultations: Drop in sessions revealed that members of the public felt that there was a gradual decline in the quantity of council provided football pitches which should be addressed. Consultation with council officers indicated that there are not enough sports pitches, particularly when considering the expected growth in the borough. It was felt that a more strategic approach to the scheduling of matches would contribute to alleviating this problem. As highlighted by the drop in sessions and the household survey, there is a shortage of tennis courts in the borough.</p> <p>Playing Pitch Strategy undertaken in 2002 for Northamptonshire identified a current shortfall of 24.8 junior football pitches, a surplus of 11.2 adult football pitches, a shortfall of 1.5 rugby pitches and a shortfall of 0.47 synthetic turf pitches. Current demand equals supply of cricket pitches.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	1.8ha per 1000 population
PMP Justification	<p>The standard for sports pitches is set for broad planning need only. The level of provision compared to other authorities (excluding golf but including all schools) is relatively similar with the provision ranging from 1.69 to 2.69 ha per 1000 population. Standards are also set around this range with a higher number around 2ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>In terms of consultations, there is an emphasis on the level of provision not being enough, although other consultations suggest that a re-organisation of pitches and management of pitches may alleviate this deficiency considerably.</p> <p>Providing adequate pitches for the growth of the borough was however a particular concern. When removing schools that do not offer dual use the provision drops to 1.49ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>As such, the standard is set slightly higher than the existing level of provision (including all schools but excluding golf). This protects the existing level of provision and allows a greater level of provision in future developments due to the existing level of dissatisfaction with provision. In addition, this provides greater flexibility in terms of meeting the standard either through new provision or through increased public use of school sites.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
ALLOTMENTS	
National Standards	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households (ie 20 allotments plots per 2,200 people (2.2 people per house) or 1 allotment plot per 200 people. With an average allotment plot of 250 sq/m this equates to 0.125 ha per 1,000 population 1970 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population
Current Provision ha per 1,000 population (ha)	0.40 ha per 1000 population
Existing Local Standards	No existing standards
BENCHMARKING	See attached sheet
Consultation (too much / about right / not enough)	5% - More than enough 34% - About Right 9% - Nearly Enough 17% - Not Enough
'Consultation Comments (quantity)	Household survey: the emphasis is slightly on the level of provision being enough (34% about right / 26% nearly enough/ not enough), although the response rate is much lower for this typology. This response was reflected across the analysis areas with the exception of Burton Latimer where a higher number of respondents felt that there was not enough (25%). With regards respondents reasons for answers, of those that felt there is enough allotments, the general themes of the responses were that they are important but that a number are not used enough and that they are prone to vandalism and can make the area look 'scruffy'. Of those that felt there is not enough, great emphasis was placed on the importance of allotments and indicated that some sites had long waiting lists.

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS	
	<p>Consultations with existing allotment managers indicate a recent high increase in the interest in allotment plots and take-up rate. The majority of sites are fully used and have a waiting list of a limited number of people. There is also an innovative scheme ran at Margaret Road Allotments where a foods-operative is run with 120 members. There are some sites, however that are not ran to capacity in part due to the current state of sites or extent of clearance that would be required to bring the site into use.</p> <p>Other consultations:</p> <p>Internal consultations highlighted a scheme at the Grange Estate (Margaret Road) where allotments were used as part of a holistic approach to healthier lifestyles and noted a growing interest in allotments and their benefits in terms of growing own produce.</p> <p>Drop-in sessions highlighted a concern with the loss of allotments to development.</p>

ALLOTMENTS	
'PMP Recommendation (per 1,000 population)	0.40 ha per 1,000 population
PMP Justification	<p>Allotments are very much a demand led-typology.</p> <p>Consultations indicate that there is a slight emphasis on the level of provision being about right. More importantly, consultations with allotment managers show a good level of interest in allotments which is increasing rapidly. There is a mixed response in terms of sites that are used to capacity and sites that have some plots currently un-used. The level of provision compared to other authorities is high, although when looking specifically at Northamptonshire, the level of provision is similar to some of the other authority areas. This may be a county/regional specific trend.</p>

APPENDIX I – QUANTITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS	
	In light of the consultation responses and the need to support allotments as a holistic approach to healthier lifestyles through exercise on the site and the production of health food, the standard is set at the existing level of provision. This may provide some flexibility in terms of a re-organisation of allotments plots but essentially protects the existing level of provision and ensures that where required, new allotment plots can be provided in new developments.
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX J

QUALITY STANDARDS

Kettering Borough Council - Setting Quality Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. Green Flag criteria for parks produced by Civic Trust
Existing Local Quality Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Results from the household survey with regards to users of each typology in relation to their aspirations and needs and existing quality experiences
Consultation (other)	Results from all the consultations undertaken with regards the quality issues for each typology

Field	Comment
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local quality standard for discussion and approval by the client
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the locals standard that has been recommended
CLIENT APPROVAL	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA - Welcoming Place / Healthy, Safe and Secure / Clean and Well-maintained / Sustainable / Conservation and Heritage / Community Involvement / Marketing / Management
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, well kept grass, flowers, trees and shrubs, toilets and seating. Respondents to the survey highlighted specifically adequate lighting, staff on site and CCTV as being key to providing safe open spaces. Litter and vandalism, dog fouling and graffiti are considered to be the worst current quality issues in parks in Kettering.
Consultation (Other)	<p>Residents at the drop-in sessions across the borough considered the quality of parks and gardens to be good. Rockingham Road Pleasure Park was highlighted as being a site of particularly high quality. This park has been awarded the Green Flag award for several years running. Site specific issues focused primarily on problems generated through antisocial behaviour, such as vandalism, misuse of equipment within the park and littering. Residents suggested the introduction of park wardens to combat this problem.</p> <p>The Young People's Internet Survey revealed that parks were the most commonly used open space type indicating the importance of this open space typology to young people and families. Across all open spaces, the most popular theme in terms of what children like least about the open space in question was the general appearance of the site e.g. dog fouling. Quality is clearly important to these young users.</p>

PARKS AND GARDENS	
	<p>Consultation with key external agencies also suggested that in general the borough was well served in terms of the quality of parks and gardens when considered in comparison to other local authorities in Northamptonshire, particularly the urban areas of the borough. However, these consultations also highlighted site specific issues related to anti-social behaviour within parks and the detrimental effect this is having on usage levels at parks. The anti-social problem was felt to be related to poor design of certain parks in terms of natural surveillance, design and maintenance. The ongoing Groundwork North Northamptonshire project at Mill Road Park is seeking to address these issues.</p> <p>Consultation with internal council officers indicated that parks and gardens in the borough were generally of a high standard. Rockingham Road Pleasure Park and Gray's Fields were highlighted as sites of the highest quality in the area. Greys Field will be applying for Green Flag status in the near future and other sites will also be put forward. Although there was not felt to be a 'borough wide' issue with anti-social behaviour, Mill Road Park and Meadow Road Park were felt to be the most problematic sites in this regard. Designing sites to minimise the potential for anti-social behaviour was thought to be important. ie limiting timber equipment and loose equipment within parks and gardens. The need for a management plan for every park and garden site, to address key issues including anti-social behaviour, was expressed during this stage of consultation.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS	
PMP Recommendation	“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility with a wide range of leisure, recreational and enriched play opportunities for all ages. Parks and gardens should be well maintained, providing varied vegetation, clear pathways, appropriate lighting and ancillary accommodation (including seating and litter bins) and well-signed to and within the site. Sites should have a written management plan and measures should be taken to address identified issues at these sites.”
PMP Justification	With an existing aim of improving the quality of Parks and Gardens in Kettering and emphasis placed on retaining Green Flag status and achieving this accreditation at other sites it is essential that the Council implement a quality standard so as to improve provision across the whole borough. The recommended standard incorporates the National Green Flag Award criteria for quality, safety, recreation benefit and facility mix. However, owing to the nature of our methodology in line with PPG17 it is important that local community aspirations form the basis of the local standards. Therefore, it is suggested that parks should be clean and litter free and provide a mix of appropriate recreational and ancillary facilities. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks, the addressing of key issues restricting usage and the promotion of best practice sites such as Rockingham Road Pleasure Park should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of Parks.
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Countryside Agency - land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Highest rated aspirations from the household survey include clean and litter free, dog walking areas, flowers, trees and shrubs, clear footpaths, nature features and nature conservation areas. Respondents to the household survey indicated that a clear route to the open space, adequate lighting and reputation of open space are important to help people feel safe in open space. Dog fouling and litter problems are currently considered to be the worst quality issues in natural open space sites.
Consultation (Other)	<p>Consultation with key external agencies revealed that nature reserves, county wildlife sites and SSSIs were of high biodiversity value. It was felt that any plans for natural and semi-natural sites should show an appreciation of the multi-functional nature of such sites, whilst paying particular mind to their biodiversity and nature conservation role.</p> <p>The large number of pocket parks in the borough means that maintenance of these sites by a handful of volunteers is difficult. The Ise Valley site was highlighted during consultations with council officers for its strategic importance. It was felt to be a high quality site which catered for the borough-wide population. Plans exist to improve the site and also to increase community involvement. Improvements could result in the site becoming a country park. The need to make full use and increase public access to high quality, but currently under-appreciated, rural natural and semi natural sites was also revealed during consultations.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A clean, well vegetated, litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness. Management of local sites should involve the community/stakeholder if at all possible and there should be a clear focus on maintaining and increasing the conservation and biodiversity value of these sites and ensuring public access where appropriate. Sites should have a written management plan and measures should be taken to address identified issues at these sites.”</i>
PMP Justification	It is clear that natural and semi-natural open space provides an important community function. The standard suggests that by increasing functionality and overall quality of such open spaces where appropriate then the community will benefit. By introducing this quality standard and quality benchmarking the Council will be able to assess the value of sites and identify those sites which need improvements.
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national quality standards
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, well kept grass and flowers trees and shrubs. Adequate lighting was a key safety concern at amenity greenspace sites. Similar to other open space types, anti social behaviour, vandalism/graffiti, dog fouling and litter problems were considered to be the worst quality issues at the current time.
Consultation (Other)	<p>Consultation with external agencies revealed that the quality of general amenity areas was considered to be high in comparison with other areas in North Northamptonshire. However, it was felt that signage and basic amenity greenspaces could be improved by making them more inspiring and also by standardising signage so members of the public were more aware that they were entering a KBC maintained space. Council officers suggested that there are too many small, incidental open spaces causing more problems with anti-social behaviour and littering than the larger park sites.</p> <p>The difficulty and high relative cost of maintaining these sites was also emphasised by officers. Council officers also emphasised the importance of amenity greenspace for informal play. Consultation at drop-in sessions did not identify any specific quality issues but did identify a concern about the loss of open space to development demonstrating the value of the visual amenity as well as the recreational value of open space.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
PMP Recommendation	<p><i>“A clean and well-maintained green space site. Sites should have appropriate ancillary accommodation (dog and litter bins etc), pathways and landscaping in the right places providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the appearance of the local environment. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus. Smaller sites should adopt a design led approach to discourage inappropriate informal play”</i></p>
PMP Justification	<p>It is recommended that amenity green space provides an important community function. The standard suggests that by increasing functionality of such open space then the community will benefit . The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice encouraging informal play where sites are large enough.</p> <p>By introducing this quality standard and quality benchmarking the Council will be able to assess the value of sites and identify the poorest quality sites which could potentially be disposed of in areas with provision above the minimum standard and in turn help improve the overall quality of open space.</p> <p>In conjunction with this standard it may be appropriate to set a minimum size standard to avoid smaller sites that create maintenance issues and ensure informal play is possible.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs indicate some quality aspirations in terms of needing seating for adults, varied range of equipment and teenager meeting place
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, well kept grass, toilets and facilities for young people. CCTV and adequate lighting were suggested as ways of improving the safety of such sites. Vandalism and graffiti, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour and litter problems were considered to be the worst quality issues at present.
Consultation (Other)	<p>At drop in sessions, sites tended to be highlighted by residents if they were considered to be of particularly high or low quality. Children’s play provision was felt to be of high quality at Wicksteed Park and Rockingham Road Pleasure Park. Grafton Park and Mill Road Park were mentioned for residents for concerns regarding the quality of the site. Also at drop in sessions, concerns were expressed regarding the misuse of children’s play areas by older children. This was partly attributed to lack of good quality provision for this age group.</p> <p>Consultation with council officers revealed that a number of play areas do not currently conform to required quality guidelines and a program of work to improve these sites is underway. To ensure quality is met, play areas are inspected daily by a council officer; weekly by a trained inspector; and at six month intervals by an external inspector. Similar to residents, council officers also identified conflict between older and younger users as a major problem affecting sites. Council officers also emphasised that play facilities were usually of a higher quality when located within larger park sites instead of as small ‘stand alone’ sites near to housing.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A site providing a mix of well-maintained formal equipment and enriched play environment in a safe and secure convenient location overlooked by housing and footpaths or located within a larger park facility. The site should have clear boundaries; be clean; be litter, dog, vandalism and graffiti free; and be lit, where appropriate. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety”</i>
PMP Justification	In order to address security issues at play areas, the standard states that play areas should be located close to housing or footpaths or within larger park sites as an additional level of security to be provided through natural policing e.g. overlooking houses. Lighting should be provided where appropriate. The standard encompasses the need for play areas to be both sustainable in management terms but also to provide a mix of facilities and an enriched play environment and also for the site to be clean and safe to use. This is reflected in the aspirations for play areas and within this standard. In addition sites should include NPFA design guidelines where appropriate.
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs indicate some quality aspirations in terms of needing seating for adults, varied range of equipment and teenager meeting place
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Only a limited number of the respondents to the household survey indicated that the most frequently used open space typology was young people.
Consultation (Other)	<p>The drop in sessions indicated concerns regarding vandalism and also the mis-use of the facilities. There was also concern expressed by young people at the design and maintenance of skate parks. There was a perception from young people that KBC wished to build these sites at minimum cost and with minimum maintenance costs. Adults also commented at the drop in sessions that skateparks sites were mis-used, particularly at night time.</p> <p>Consultation with council officers indicated that youth shelters within sites in the borough seemed to lead to greater levels of vandalism. The material used were also an issue with timber skate park facilities easier to vandalise. The Ise Valley Skate Park was felt to be a very good site, if somewhat expensive to maintain. The consensus was that larger sites such as the Ise Valley site are more desirable in terms of maintaining quality than a number of smaller sites. A conflict between younger and older users was also identified creating unsafe environments for younger children.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
PMP Recommendation	“A site providing a robust yet imaginative play environment for older children in a safe and secure location, with clear separation from younger children facilities, that promotes a sense of ownership. The site should include clean, litter and dog free areas for more informal play and areas of shelter (with seating) and where appropriate sites should be well lit. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety”
PMP Justification	Although based on the consultation responses, the standard also incorporates elements of standards set for other authorities due to the limited response rate. Vandalism and security are issues for young people's play areas and as such the focus of this standard is on the issue requiring robust and varied equipment and shelter. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure to use which was reflected in the drop in consultation and the consultation with council officers. National design guidelines provided by NPFA (Fields In Trust).
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	NPFA - quality of provision could include gradients, orientation, ancillary accommodation, planting and community safety
Existing Local Quality Standards	Sports Facilities Strategy – this recommends that in village communities of more than 400, provision for outdoor sports should include a pavilion
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	The household survey indicated that 45% of respondents felt that outdoor sports facilities were good or very good. Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, toilets, well kept grass and ancillary facilities. Highest rated safety factors included adequate lighting, CCTV and car parking. Vandalism and graffiti, anti-social behaviour and litter problems, were considered to be the worst quality issues at the present time.
Consultation (Other)	<p>Consultation with local sports clubs revealed that these clubs felt that the quality of provision in the borough was good. However, several clubs commented on the inadequacy of changing facilities at Weekley Glebe.</p> <p>Residents attending drop in sessions indicated that the provision of outdoor sports facilities adjacent to Kettering Leisure Village was good quality and well used.</p> <p>Internal consultations with Council officers revealed that Weekley Glebe is the main football facility in the borough and that due to recent investment the quality was now excellent in terms of the playing surface. It was felt though, that the changing facilities require further improvements, particularly to address the level of graffiti. Generally across the borough, it was felt that although pitches were of a high standard, there was a need to update and improve pavilions and provide better changing facilities for teams. The design of many changing facilities meant that there were issues regarding simultaneous use by males and females or by children and adults. By increasing use of the pavilions and also by opening them up for use by other sports teams (apart from football), it is felt that vandalism and graffiti problems can be reduced.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A well-planned, clean and litter and dog fouling free sports facility site, with level and well-drained good quality surfaces, appropriate good quality ancillary accommodation including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking . The site should have appropriate management ensuring community safety and include lighting and the use of mobile CCTV where appropriate to address anti-social behaviour.”</i>
PMP Justification	<p>The public consultation responses to the quality of outdoor sports facilities tend to centre around poor changing facilities, safety issues anti-social behaviour problems. These are therefore reflected in the quality standards. Importantly, ancillary facilities such as changing facilities, car parking and toilets were also highly rated aspirations. The consultations also indicated that Sports Clubs and users had issues with poor ancillary accommodation.</p> <p>The standard incorporates "appropriate management" to ensure that where appropriate, management issues are addressed and also increase the usage of sites to continue to combat anti-social behaviour. Community safety is also incorporated to reflect NPFA design guidelines.</p>
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	NONE
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Only a limited number of respondents to the household survey stated that allotments were their most frequently used type of open space. For these users, the highest rated aspirations were: clean and litter free, quality soils, well kept grass and access to the site. The major problems reported at allotment sites were dog fouling and vandalism and graffiti.
Consultation (Other)	Residents attending the drop in sessions highlighted misuse of allotments and related vandalism and graffiti. Consultation with council officers indicated that the overall quality of allotments in the borough was good although there were some site specific issues regarding misuse by unauthorised users. They also highlighted the scheme at Grange Estate, aimed at providing healthier lifestyles through exercise and also improved diets through eating the vegetables that are grown at the site.

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A clean, secure and well-kept site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education objectives with appropriate ancillary facilities (eg litter bins and water supply) to meet local needs, well kept grass and good quality soils. The site should be spacious providing appropriate access and clear boundaries and conform to current best practice and local policy for allotment management.”</i>
PMP Justification	Provision of allotments is demand driven. However, in times when the wider health agenda is important such sites need to be promoted. Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities which promote sustainable development will help attract more people to allotment sites in Kettering.
Client Approval	Local Quality Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	NONE
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Only 10 respondents to the household survey indicated that cemeteries and/or churchyards were their most frequently visited open space type in Kettering. Nearly all of these respondents stated the same highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, well kept grass, flower, trees and shrubs, and ancillary accommodation. These respondents indicated that the highest rated safety measures are CCTV and staff on site. The users did not indicate that there were any current problems at these sites.
Consultation (Other)	Attendants at drop in sessions tended to focus on the specific churchyard/cemetery sites that they frequently visited. Churchyards in Kettering were generally perceived to be good quality sites which are well maintained and generally free from anti-social behaviour problems that afflicted some of the other open space typologies.

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity, 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 (eg. facilities for flowers litter bins and seating.) Access to sites should be enhanced by parking facilities and by public transport routes, particularly in urban areas”</i>
PMP Justification	It is important for the Council and the public to acknowledge the important open space function that churchyards and cemeteries provide. This can be particularly the case in rural areas where cemeteries and churchyards may be the only open space in the village. However, it is essential that sites are regularly maintained with clear footpaths so as to increase the ease of access and safety for those who visit the sites. It is important that good practice is promoted throughout the Borough.
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

GREEN CORRIDORS	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Countryside Agency - what the user should expect to find is i) a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation; ii) ground not soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink into it; iii) a path on unvegetated natural surfaces.
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	The household survey indicated green corridors to be one of the most frequently used of all open space typologies in the borough. Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free, clear footpaths and nature features, Highest rated safety factors included adequate lighting, clear route to open spaces and CCTV. Dog fouling and litter problems were considered to be the worst quality issues at the current time.
Consultation (Other)	<p>Consultation with external organisation closely involved in using the green corridors indicated that the existing green corridors were of a good standard. Usage could be increased if marketing and promotion of these green corridors was made a priority.</p> <p>The North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure provides a strategic framework for the provision of green corridors in the county. It emphasises the importance of green corridors particularly in those areas where high levels of growth is anticipated.</p>

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

GREEN CORRIDORS	
PMP Recommendation	<i>“A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure corridor with clear pathways, linking major open spaces together and enhancing natural features. Corridors should provide ancillary facilities such as bins, seating and lighting in appropriate places and signage.”</i>
PMP Justification	Green corridors play an important role in linking communities and provide an opportunity for exercise for local residents. It is therefore important that any new provision meets this local quality standard which incorporates the Council’s visions and public aspirations. This is particularly in light of the strategic function of green corridors highlighted in the North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Study. Ultimately sites need to be safe with clear pathways and well maintained to encourage usage. These major routes also need to be well lit and secure.
Client Approval	Local Quantity Standard

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

CIVIC SPACES	
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No existing quality standards.
Existing Local Quality Standards	No existing quality standards.
Consultation (Household Survey - aspirations)	Highest rated aspirations: clean and litter free; flowers, trees and shrubs; and toilets, Highest rated safety factors included adequate lighting, CCTV and reputation of area/space. Litter problems, vandalism and graffiti and anti-social behaviour were considered to be the worst quality issues at the current time.
Consultation (Other)	The consultation conducted for the Kettering Masterplan 2005 revealed that a new public square and a better area for the market were desired in Desborough. A few residents attending the drop in sessions in Kettering town centre commented on the unsuitable nature of the 'clock tower' in the market square in Kettering. Some positive comments were also made regarding the market square and the importance of this site to the town historically. Many of these comments appeared to be in relation to the rumour of imminent development at this site.

APPENDIX J – QUALITY STANDARDS

CIVIC SPACES	
PMP Recommendation	“A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure site, with generally hard landscaping but may accommodate soft areas. Sites should be adequately designed and maintained in order to serve a particular civic function. Ancillary accommodation, including toilets, lighting and CCTV should be provided where appropriate.”
PMP Justification	Although based on the consultation responses, the standard also incorporates elements of standards set for other authorities due to the limited response rate. Vandalism and security are issues for civic spaces and as such the focus of this standard is on this issue requiring increasing perceptions of safety amongst local users.

APPENDIX K
ASSESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Kettering Borough Council – Setting Accessibility Standards

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. English Nature make recommendations of access for 'Natural Greenspace'
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards
Other Local Authorities Standards within Northamptonshire (by PMP)	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities.
Consultation (Household Survey - establish 75% threshold catchments)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire - need to take the 75% level as recommended by PPG 17 Companion Guide (ie from a list of responses - what is the time 75% are willing to travel)

Field	Comment
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in time and/or distance
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the locals standard that has been recommended
Client Approval	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis
Local Accessibility Standard	Final Local Standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in time and/or distance

Accessibility standards - assumptions

Walking	All areas	average of 3mph
----------------	------------------	------------------------

Conversion (walking)

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

Assumption

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

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing local standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive)	Corby BC – 10-15 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk) (incorporated amenity greenspace)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 15 min (walk)	Northampton BC – 10 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk)
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 77% of people (who stated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space) currently walk to park and gardens facilities and 20% drive. 35% travel less than 5 minutes, 69% up to 10 minutes and 85% up to 15 minutes.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 29% travel less than 5 minutes, 54% up to 10 minutes and 83% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by car (51%), by walking (34%) and cycling (9%).</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire: 80% of respondents would expect to walk to a park and garden facility 75% threshold level: 10 minutes Average: 8.8 minutes Median: 10.4 minutes Across analysis areas: 75% threshold level ranges from 5 to 10 minutes</p>		

PARKS AND GARDENS

Other consultations:

All of the consultations highlighted the importance of parks both to residents and to the council as service providers. One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.

Drop-in sessions did indicate that some people would be prepared to travel further to a higher quality site

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS	
PMP Recommendation	10 minute walk time – (480 metres)
PMP Justification	<p>There is a large majority in favour of walking to parks and gardens facilities both in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. The standard is set at 10 minutes walking to parks and gardens, based on the 75% threshold level borough-wide (PPG17 compliant). The median and average support the 75% threshold as they are close at 8.8 and 10.4 minutes. This is also supported on the whole through the responses at an analysis area level which range from 5 – 10 minutes.</p> <p>This standard is in line with the standard set for other authorities in the area as these range from 10 – 15 minutes. There is therefore a slightly higher expectation than in some authorities with the emphasis being on 10 minutes (and even 5 minutes) rather than 15 minutes. This may be due to the importance placed on parks and gardens by residents and the council alike increasing local expectations.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha . Woodland Trust Access Standard recommend that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people’s homes		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 20 min (walk)	Corby BC – 15 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 20 min (walk - urban), 15 min (walk – rural)	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk)
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 78% of respondents (who stated natural and semi-natural open space as their most frequently used open space) currently walk to natural and semi-natural open spaces. 48% of respondents travel up to 5 minutes and 82% travel up to 10 minutes.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 29% travel less than 5 minutes, 54% up to 10 minutes and 83% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by car (51%), by walking (34%) and cycling (9%).</p>		

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
	<p>Expectations – household questionnaire: 54% of respondents would expect to walk to a natural and semi-natural open space and 33% would expect to drive 75% threshold level: 20 minutes drive or walk Average: 8.0 minutes Median: 9.7 minutes Across analysis areas: 75% threshold level ranges from 10 to 20 minutes</p> <p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>The drop-in sessions noted that generally natural and semi-natural sites were not accessible by public transport</p> <p>Internal consultations indicated that there is not a country park in Kettering (parks and gardens typology) but there are plans to provide a borough-wide natural open space at Ise Valley</p> <p>Internal consultations highlighted that access to natural and semi-natural sites in the rural area may be limited as a lot of the land is arable farming.</p> <p>Similarly, although there are a large number of woodlands in the borough, there are a large number which are not publicly accessible.</p> <p>External consultations highlighted the importance of balancing appropriate access to sites against the need to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL	
PMP Recommendation	URBAN STANDARD: 15 minutes walk time - (720 metres)
PMP Justification	<p>The large majority of respondents currently walk to natural and semi-natural open spaces. However in terms of expectations, although the emphasis is still on walking at 54%, 33% would expect to drive. In line with existing travel patterns and the promotion of sustainable transport patterns a walking distance standard has been set.</p> <p>There is a large gap between the median/average (9.7 minutes/8.0 minutes) and the 75% threshold level borough-wide of 20 minutes. As such, the standard is recommended at 15 minutes walk between these two discrepancies. This is also in line with the individual responses across the analysis areas which ranges from 10 to 20 minutes. This is also in line with standards set for other authorities in the area, ranging from 10 to 20 minutes, with a number set at 15 minutes.</p> <p>The lack of public access to natural and semi-natural sites in the rural area both through transport and through sites being publicly available limit the appropriateness of setting standards in the rural area. In addition, a number of sites have been identified in the audit within the rural area, but walking to these sites will be difficult as they are outside of settlements. As such, it is not considered appropriate to set an access standard within the rural area but to undertake a spatial analysis focusing on sites with public access and improving transport links.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (walk)	Corby BC – 5 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk) (incorporating parks and gardens)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 10 min (walk)	Northampton BC – 5 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk)
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 100% of respondents (who stated amenity greenspace as their most frequently used open space) currently walk to amenity greenspaces.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 29% travel less than 5 minutes, 54% up to 10 minutes and 83% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by car (51%), by walking (34%) and cycling (9%).</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire: 94% of respondents would expect to walk to an amenity greenspace site 75% threshold level: 10 minutes Median: 5 minutes Average: 6.1 minutes Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: ranges from 5 – 10 minutes</p>		

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
	<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>There is generally a lot of greenspace across the borough that is easy to access</p>

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

AMENITY GREENSPACE	
PMP Recommendation	10 minutes walk (480 metres)
PMP Justification	<p>A walking standard has been set in line with the consultation responses and the fact that this is a local type of open space that should be easy for residents to access.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level borough-wide is 10 minutes. The median and average are lower than this (5 and 6 minutes), however not significantly so. Across the analysis areas, the 75% threshold ranges from 5 to 10 minutes (with only two out of the six analysis areas). Standards set for other authorities also ranges between 5 and 10 minutes but are generally set around 5 minutes walk.</p> <p>It is therefore a mixed picture with the general emphasis from the consultations on a 10 minute walk time standard. Although benchmarking is important, PPG17 stipulates that the standard should reflect local needs. The standard is set at 10 minutes in line with the 75% level.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>(1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line) ; min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p> <p>(3) NEAPs aged min 8 ; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line)</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no existing local standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 5-10 min (walk)	Corby BC – children 8 min (walk), young people 10 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 10 min (walk – children and young people)	Northampton BC – children 5 min (walk), young people 10 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk)

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: Children – 70% of respondents (who stated children as their most frequently used type of open space) would walk to a facility. 33% would travel less than 5 minutes, 63% would travel up to 10 minutes and 93% would travel up to 15 minutes. Young people – low response rate but emphasis on walking and travelling up to 10 minutes.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 29% travel less than 5 minutes, 54% up to 10 minutes and 83% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by car (51%), by walking (34%) and cycling (9%). This is of particular relevance to this typology</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire:</p> <p>Children: 94% of respondents would expect to walk to a children’s facility 75% threshold level: 10 minutes Median: 7.5 minutes Average: 7.9 minutes Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: ranges from 5 – 10 minutes (five out of six analysis areas = 10 minutes)</p> <p>Young people: 83% of respondents would expect to walk to a young people facility 75% threshold level: 10 minutes Median: 9.2 minutes Average: 10.3 minutes Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: ranges from 10 – 15 minutes</p> <p>MUGAs: Mode of transport: 39% walk / 54% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk / drive</p>

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
	<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>Internal consultations indicated that where villages did not have play area provision, this was predominantly due to the age range of people living within the village not warranting a facility.</p> <p>Internal consultations also identified that the provision of open space to play informally was as important as providing equipped areas.</p> <p>Ise Valley skate park is considered to have a borough-wide (and beyond) significance due to the quality of the facility. This approach of having a smaller number of larger facilities is supported by internal officers although the demand for local facilities has led to the current situation of a larger number of small facilities.</p>

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
PMP Recommendation	<p>URBAN - 10 minute walk time for both provision for children and provision for young people - (480 metres)</p> <p>RURAL – 10 minute walk time for children</p>
PMP Justification	<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a children or young people facility. This also reflects the fact that young people and children with parents should be able to access play sites easily. The 75% threshold level for both children and young people facilities is 10 minutes. The emphasis with the median and average for children was less than 10 minutes and for young people, greater than 10 minutes. However in line with the 75% threshold level and benchmarking against nearby local authorities, the standard for children and young people is set at 10 minutes.</p> <p>Young People:</p> <p>Youth facilities can however range from a smaller facility such as a youth shelter and basketball hoop to a floodlit MUGA. However, it may be onerous to have a youth facility within ten minutes of every resident, particularly in the rural areas and in light of comments regarding the support of a smaller number of larger facilities. This is also supported by the expectations of travel to a MUGA (included within the outdoor sports questions) where the emphasis was on driving and the travel time was 15 minutes. As such, the standard for young people is set for the urban area only, although an assessment of provision in the rural area will be made.</p> <p>Children:</p> <p>Again, it is considered onerous to expect every village to have a play area. This standard will be applied to the rural area, however the analysis will identify those villages without access to a play facility and it will be for the council to determine the appropriateness of providing facilities subject to detailed consultation.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards (includes any past surveys)	No existing standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive)	Corby BC – 15 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire - Grass pitches, MUGA's, Tennis Courts - 10 min (walk). Golf Courses, Bowling Clubs, STP's - 20 min (drive)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 15 min (drive)	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (drive)
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>31% of respondents (who stated outdoor sports as their most frequently used open space) walk and 64% drive to facilities</p> <p>22% would travel up to 5 minutes, 61% would travel up to 10 minutes and 97% would travel up to 15 minutes</p>		

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		
<p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces, 29% travel less than 5 minutes, 54% up to 10 minutes and 83% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by car (51%), by walking (34%) and cycling (9%).</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire:</p> <p>Outdoor sports facilities: Mode of transport: 47% walk / 41% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk/drive Median: 11 minutes walk / 12 minutes drive Average: 12.7 minutes walk/ 13.8 minutes drive</p>		
<p>Grass pitches:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 60% walk / 35% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk</p>	<p>STPs:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 44% walk / 48% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk / drive</p>	
<p>Tennis Courts:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 44% walk / 46% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk / 20 minutes drive</p>	<p>Bowling:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 76% drive 75% threshold: 20 minutes drive</p>	<p>Golf:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 86% drive 75% threshold: 20 minutes drive</p>
<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>Sports club survey identified that a number of clubs felt that access by public transport was poor. 39% of sports clubs considered accessibility to sports clubs good or very good.</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p>		

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
PMP Recommendation	20 minute walk time for outdoor sports facilities, 960m (exc. bowls and golf) 20 minute drive for golf courses and bowling greens
PMP Justification	<p>There is a relatively even split between walking and driving overall although a slight emphasis on walking for grass pitches and an emphasis on driving for bowling and golf. In line with ensuring sustainable transport choices, to account for the wide mix of outdoor sports facilities within the standard and to meet all expectations (driving expectations will be covered by a walk time standard), a walk time standard has therefore been set.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level overall for outdoor sports facilities is 15 minutes and with the exception of golf and bowls, is 15 minutes for the sub-categories. This is further supported by the median and average which are above 10 minutes at 11 and 12.7 minutes. However as there is an even split between driving and walking, a walk time standard of 20 minutes is set (above the 75% level on account of the high proportion of people who would travel by car, a 15 minute walk time is considered unrealistic).</p> <p>This should exclude golf and bowls. If required, a 20 minute drive time is appropriate for this sub-category, reflecting the 75% threshold for these sub-categories.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards (includes any past surveys)	No existing standards		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive)	Corby BC – 15 min (walk)	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk)
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 20 min (walk - urban), 10 min (walk – rural)	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk)	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk)
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: Of those respondents that stated they most frequently use allotments (low response rate), a high number of people would walk and the majority would walk up to 10 minutes.</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire: 47% of respondents would expect to walk to an allotment and 46% would expect to drive 75% threshold level: 15 minutes walk / 20 minutes drive Median: 10 minutes walk / 13 minutes drive Average: 11.3 minutes walk / 15 minutes drive Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: ranges from 5 – 20 minutes</p>		

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

ALLOTMENTS	
PMP Recommendation	15 minutes walk time - (720 metres)
PMP Justification	<p>There is a mixed response in terms of walking versus driving to allotment facilities. In line with creating sustainable transport patterns a walk time standard has been set. However this should be applied as a guide only as it is a demand led typology and will not be appropriate to always have allotments within this catchment. The 75% threshold for walking was 15 minutes and although the median and average are slightly lower at 10 and 11.3minutes there is not a major discrepancy. In addition, benchmarking across other authorities shows standards set between 10 and 15 minutes.</p> <p>The application of this standard will identify key areas of deficiency, which should be the focus for further investigation into the demand for allotments in that area.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard

APPENDIX K – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Typology	Comments
Green Corridors	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation
Cemeteries / Churchyards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation
Civic Spaces	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation

APPENDIX L

QUALITY BENCHMARK CALCULATOR

Kettering Borough Council - Quality Benchmarking

The quality standards set as part of the study are intended as an aspirational vision that reflect what the community want. The vision should be applied to existing open spaces but also to provide a benchmark when designing and creating new areas of open space.

Site assessment benchmark

The site assessment matrices completed for the open spaces across Kettering provide a score for quality, site access and an assessment of any wider benefits such as educational benefits.

The quality scores are broken down to reflect the factors of:

- cleanliness and maintenance – vandalism and graffiti, litter problem, dog fouling, noise, equipment, smells, maintenance and management
- security and safety – lighting, equipment, boundaries
- vegetation – planted areas, grassed areas
- ancillary accommodation – toilets, parking, provision of rubbish/litter bins, seats/benches and pathways

These scores are then weighted to reflect the importance of the factors. These scores are then translated into a percentage. Where the site assessor considered a particular factor to be “not applicable”, the percentage does not take account of this factor and is therefore not biased by these

By using the percentage score, the quality of sites can be benchmarked against each other and against the site assessment matrix to provide a ranki

The scores provided to each site are shown with the full site database provided on CD following the project sign-off

Quality Vision benchmark

An aspirational quality vision benchmark can also be set linking to the quality vision for each typology. The following method sets appropriate scores for each factor of the site assessments drawing out the areas of importance identified through the quality vision. An overall aspirational quality vision percentage can then be set.

APPENDIX L - QUALITY BENCHMARK CALCULATOR

Parks and Gardens

"A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility with a wide range of leisure, recreational and enriched play opportunities for all ages. Parks and gardens should be well maintained, providing varied vegetation, clear pathways, appropriate lighting and ancillary accommodation (including seating and litter bins) and well-signed to and within the site. Sites should have a written management plan and measures should be taken to address identified issues at these sites."

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	"Clean"	5	15
	Litter problems	3	15	"litter free site"	5	15
	Dog Fouling	3	15	"Clean"	4	12
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15	"Providing a one-stop community facility with a wide range of leisure, recreational and enriched play opportunities" "well maintained"	4	12
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance and Management	3	15	"management plan and measures taken to address identified issues at these sites" "well maintained"	5	15
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5	"appropriate lighting"	4	4
	Equipment	3	15	"management plan and measures taken to address identified issues at these sites" "well maintained"	4	12
	Boundaries	2	10		3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10	"varied vegetation"	5	10
	Grass areas	2	10		4	8
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5	"appropriate ancillary accommodation (toilets)"	4	4
	Parking	1	5		3	3
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	"appropriate ancillary accommodation (litter bins)"	4	12
	Seats/Benches	2	10	"appropriate ancillary accommodation (seating)"	4	8
	Pathways	3	15	"clear pathways"	4	12
						Benchmark Score
						83

Natural and Semi Natural

"A clean, well vegetated, litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness. Management of local sites should involve the community/stakeholder if at all possible and there should be a clear focus on maintaining and increasing the conservation and biodiversity value of these sites and ensuring public access where appropriate. Sites should have a written management plan and measures should be taken to address identified issues at these sites."

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality		
Cleanliness and	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	"Clean"	4	12		
	Litter problems	3	15	"Litter free site"	4	12		
	Dog Fouling	3	15	"Clean"	4	12		
	Noise	1	5		4	4		
	Equipment	3	15		3	9		
	Smells	1	5		3	3		
	Maintenance and Management	3	15	"Management of local sites should involve the community if at all possible and there should be a clear focus on maintaining and increasing the conservation and biodiversity value of these sites"	4	12		
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5		3	3		
	Equipment	3	15		3	9		
	Boundaries	2	10		4	8		
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10	"well vegetated" "natural features"	5	10		
	Grass areas	2	10	"Well vegetated"	5	10		
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5		3	3		
	Parking	1	5		3	3		
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	"Litter free site"	5	15		
	Seats/Benches	2	10		4	8		
	Pathways	3	15	"clear pathways"	5	15		
							Benchmark Score	80

185

148

Amenity Green Spaces

"A clean and well-maintained green space site. Sites should have appropriate ancillary accommodation (dog and litter bins etc), pathways and landscaping in the right places providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the appearance of the local environment. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus. Smaller sites should adopt a design led approach to discourage inappropriate informal play"

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	<i>"clean"</i>	5	15
	Litter problems	3	15	<i>"clean" "litter bins"</i>	5	15
	Dog Fouling	3	15	<i>"clean" "dog bins"</i>	5	15
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		N/A	0
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance and Management	3	15	<i>"well maintained"</i>	5	15
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Boundaries	2	10		3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10	<i>"landscaping in the right places"</i>	4	8
	Grass areas	2	10	<i>"enhancing the appearance of the local environment"</i>	4	8
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5		N/A	0
	Parking	1	5		n/a	0
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	<i>"appropriate ancillary accommodation (dog and litter bins etc)"</i>	4	12
	Seats/Benches	2	10	<i>"appropriate ancillary accommodation"</i>	3	6
	Pathways	3	15	<i>"pathways and landscaping"</i>	4	12

Benchmark Score

74

175

130

Children

"A site providing a mix of well-maintained formal equipment and enriched play environment in a safe and secure convenient location overlooked by housing and footpaths or located within a larger park facility. The site should have clear boundaries; be clean; be litter, dog, vandalism and graffiti free; and be lit, where appropriate. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety"

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality	
Cleanliness and	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	"be vandalism and graffiti free"	5	15	
	Litter problems	3	15	"be litter free"	5	15	
	Dog Fouling	3	15	"dog free"	5	15	
	Noise	1	5		3	3	
	Equipment	3	15	"well-maintained formal equipment"	5	15	
	Smells	1	5		3	3	
	Maintenance and Management	3	15	"well maintained"	4	12	
Security and Sa	Lighting	1	5	"be appropriately lit"	4	4	
	Equipment	3	15	"well-maintained formal equipment"	3	9	
	Boundaries	2	10	"safe and secure location"	4	8	
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10		3	6	
	Grass areas	2	10		3	6	
Ancillary Facilitie	Toilets	1	5		3	3	
	Parking	1	5		3	3	
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	"be litter free"	5	15	
	Seats/Benches	2	10		4	8	
	Pathways	3	15	"overlooked by housing and footpaths"	3	9	
						Benchmark Score	81

185

149

Young People

"A site providing a robust yet imaginative play environment for older children in a safe and secure location, with clear separation from younger children facilities, that promotes a sense of ownership. The site should include clean, litter and dog free areas for more informal play and areas of shelter (with seating) and where appropriate sites should be well lit. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety"

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism & Graffiti	3	15	<i>"clean"</i>	5	15
	Litter problems	3	15	<i>"litter free"</i>	5	15
	Dog Fouling	3	15	<i>"dog free areas"</i>	5	15
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15	<i>"robust"</i>	4	12
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance & Management	3	15		4	12
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5	<i>"where appropriate sites should be well lit"</i>	4	4
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Boundaries	2	10	<i>"with clear separation from younger children facilities"</i>	3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10		4	8
	Grass areas	2	10		4	8
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5		3	3
	Parking	1	5		3	3
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	<i>"litter free"</i>	4	12
	Seats/Benches	2	10	<i>"areas of shelter (with seating)"</i>	4	8
	Pathways	3	15		3	9
						Benchmark Score
						78

Outdoor Sports Facilities

"A well-planned, clean and litter and dog fouling free sports facility site, with level and well-drained good quality surfaces, appropriate good quality ancillary accommodation including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking . The site should have appropriate management ensuring community safety and include lighting and the use of mobile CCTV where appropriate to address anti-social behaviour."

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism & Graffiti	3	15	"clean"	5	15
	Litter problems	3	15	"litter free"	5	15
	Dog Fouling	3	15		5	15
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		4	12
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance & Management	3	15	"appropriate management"	4	12
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5	"include lighting"	4	4
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Boundaries	2	10		3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10		3	6
	Grass areas	2	10	"well drained good quality surfaces"	5	10
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5	"toilets"	4	4
	Parking	1	5	"car parking"	4	4
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	"litter free"	4	12
	Seats/Benches	2	10		4	8
	Pathways	3	15		3	9
						Benchmark Score
						80

Allotments

"A clean, secure and well-kept site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education objectives with appropriate ancillary facilities (eg litter bins and water supply) to meet local needs, well kept grass and good quality soils. The site should be spacious providing appropriate access and clear boundaries and conform to current best practice and local policy for allotment management."

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	<i>Clean and well kept</i>	4	12
	Litter problems	3	15	<i>Clean and well kept</i>	4	12
	Dog Fouling	3	15	<i>Clean and well kept</i>	4	12
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance and Management	3	15		4	12
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		4	12
	Boundaries	2	10	<i>Clear boundaries</i>	5	10
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10	<i>"Good quality soils", "encourages biodiversity"</i>	4	8
	Grass areas	2	10		3	6
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5		3	3
	Parking	1	5		3	3
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15	<i>"appropriate ancillary facilities (eg litter bins)"</i>	4	12
	Seats/Benches	2	10		4	8
	Pathways	3	15	<i>"clear boundaries"</i>	4	12
						Benchmark Score
						76

185

140

Cemeteries and Churchyards

"A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity, 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 (eg. facilities for flowers litter bins and seating.) Access to sites should be enhanced by parking facilities and by public transport routes, particularly in urban areas"

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	<i>Clean and well maintained</i>	4	12
	Litter problems	3	15	<i>Litter free</i>	4	12
	Dog Fouling	3	15		3	9
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance and Management	3	15		4	12
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Boundaries	2	10		3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10	<i>varied vegetation and landscaping</i>	4	8
	Grass areas	2	10		3	6
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5		3	3
	Parking	1	5		4	4
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15		3	9
	Seats/Benches	2	10	<i>seating where appropriate</i>	5	10
	Pathways	3	15	<i>Clear pathways</i>	4	12

Benchmark Score

70

185

130

Civic Spaces

"A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure site, with generally hard landscaping but may accommodate soft areas. Sites should be adequately designed and maintained in order to serve a particular civic function. Ancillary accommodation, including toilets, lighting and CCTV should be provided where appropriate."

Quality Category	Quality Feature	Weighting	Maximum Possible Score	Key points that link into consultations/quality vision	Score Required	Contribution to overall quality
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	3	15	<i>Clean and well maintained</i>	4	12
	Litter problems	3	15		4	12
	Dog Fouling	3	15		3	9
	Noise	1	5		3	3
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Smells	1	5		3	3
	Maintenance and Management	3	15	<i>"well maintained"</i>	4	12
Security and Safety	Lighting	1	5	<i>"Lighting"</i>	4	4
	Equipment	3	15		3	9
	Boundaries	2	10		3	6
Vegetation	Planted areas	2	10		4	8
	Grass areas	2	10		3	6
Ancillary Facilities	Toilets	1	5	<i>"including toilets...where appropriate"</i>	4	4
	Parking	1	5		3	3
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	15		3	9
	Seats/Benches	2	10		4	8
	Pathways	3	15		3	9

Benchmark Score

68

185

126

APPENDIX L - QUALITY BENCHMARK CALCULATOR

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID

Site Name

Address / Street Name

OS Type (tick) P&G NSN Green Corridors OSF AGS Children Young People Allotments/Community Gardens Cemeteries/Churchyards

Civic Spaces Accessible Natural Countryside

PMP Audit Codes

Date of Visit

Specific Facilities

		Scoring (5=Highest)						
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Not Applicable	Weighting
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Litter problems	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Dog Fouling	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Noise	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. condition and maintenance of equipment in play areas or recreation provision)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Smells (unattractive)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Maintenance and Management	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
Security and Safety	Lighting	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. protection of equipment and appropriate flooring and surfaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Vegetation	Planted areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Grass areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Ancillary Accommodation	Toilets	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Parking (related to open spaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Seats / Benches	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
	Pathways (within the open space sites)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3

Assessor's Comments

APPENDIX L - QUALITY BENCHMARK CALCULATOR

QUALITY SCORING ASSESSMENT

Site ID

Site Name

Address / Street Name

OS Type (tick) P&G NSN Green Corridors OSF AGS Children Young People Allotments/Community Gardens Cemeteries/Churchyards

Civic Spaces Accessible Natural Countryside

PMP Audit Codes

Date of Visit

Specific Facilities

		Scoring (5=Highest)						
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Not Applicable	Weighting
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Vandalism and Graffiti	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Litter problems	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Dog Fouling	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Noise	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. condition and maintenance of equipment in play areas or recreation provision)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Smells (unattractive)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Maintenance and Management	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
Security and Safety	Lighting	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Equipment (e.g. protection of equipment and appropriate flooring and surfaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Vegetation	Planted areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Grass areas	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
Ancillary Accommodation	Toilets	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Parking (related to open spaces)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x1
	Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3
	Seats / Benches	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x2
	Pathways (within the open space sites)	5	4	3	2	1	N/A	x3

Assessor's Comments

