NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Date of meeting	**Thursday, 24th November, 2016**
Time	**6.30 pm**
Venue	**Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG**
Contact	Jayne Briscoe 2250

Civic Offices
Merrial Street
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 2AG

Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

1   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.

2   MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 12 OCTOBER 2016   (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee.

3   Consultation - Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure   (Pages 7 - 140)
Strategy

4   PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

5   UGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

6   Date of next meeting - 14 December 2016

Members: Councillors Allport, Burgess (Vice-Chair), Cooper, Dillon, P Hailstones, Mancey, Naylon (Chair), Olszewski, Panter, Reddish and G Williams

Co-operative Councils
Innovation Network

Working to be a co-operative council

FIELD_TITLE

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

CLEANER GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12th October, 2016
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:-	Councillor Wenslie Naylon – in the Chair
Councillors	Burgess, Cooper, Dillon, P Hailstones, Olszewski and Reddish
Officers	Jayne Briscoe (Scrutiny Officer)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Allport, Mancey, Panter and G. Williams.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONDITION OF THE SUBWAYS**

With regard to the investigation being undertaken by members of the Committee into the maintenance of subways within the Borough the Chair was pleased to note that the remainder of the condition surveys had were collected. Members were reminded to ensure that all paperwork was to be completed and returned to the Chair by no later than 31 October.

Members went on to consider their next steps in completing the investigation.

- It was agreed that the Chair would present an interim report for input by members at a meeting of the Committee during December.

- It was agreed that the Chair request a meeting with the Portfolio Holder at Staffordshire County Council, Mr Mark Deaville and Inspector Mark Barlow from Staffordshire Police to discuss possible ways forward. Members of the Committee would be invited to attend the meeting).

It was agreed that the following issues would be examined at the meeting

- That, where there is sufficient footfall, Staffordshire County Council be asked to investigate the siting of electronic advertising boards as a way to help offset the cost of maintenance and cleaning of the subways.

- That Staffordshire County Council be asked for their views on the Borough assuming responsibility for the maintenance of the subways via funding from the District Deal.

- The Senior Partnerships Officer and Inspector Barlow be invited to contribute information regarding anti-social behaviour incidents within the subways to help support a business case.

- Staffordshire County Council be asked to have regard to the relationship of the condition and use of subways to their Safer Routes to School policy.

The Chair of this Committee agreed, in consultation with the Regeneration and Economic Development Manager, to investigate Arts Council funding for town centre subways and to also engage in a dialogue with Newcastle College regarding the College taking over the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the subway nearest to the college.

With regard to the use of unpaid work to help improve the condition of the subways the Chair of this Committee agreed to contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to investigate a possible solution to funding the cost of supervision for the services of the Community Payback Team and the Youth Offending Team.

The Chair agreed to contact the responsible officer for Britain in Bloom to look at the possibility of a subway business sponsor.

That the LAPs be asked for their views regarding subways including usage.

Members noted that, whilst subways were being closed as part of the redevelopment in major cities because they were no longer considered to be fit for purpose this could result in traffic disruption within our town centre. A member reported that the Dimsdale subway across the A34 was well used especially by patrons of the nearby McDonalds.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair reported on correspondence received from by Mr Kozlowski concerning the Boroughs commitment to the principles contained within the Carbon Management Plan as compared with the investment strategy of the Staffordshire Pension Fund.

Continuing, the Chair referred to the written response to Mr Kozlowski from the Leader of the Council concerning the obligations of the Fund to over 150 employers across Staffordshire to achieve the best financial return on the fund's assets.

6. **UGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Scrutiny Committee will meet during December as an addition to the next scheduled meeting on 23 January, 2017.

COUNCILLOR WENSLIE NAYLON
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.50 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

Cl

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CLEANER, GREENER & SAFER COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HEADING: **Draft Open Space Strategy & Green Infrastructure Strategy**

Submitted by: **Head of Operations – Roger Tait**

Portfolio: **Environment & Recycling**
                       Planning & Housing

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

- To consider and comment on the draft Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy

Recommendations

- That the Cleaner, Green and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee provide comments on the draft Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy which will be reported to Cabinet as part of the wider consultation process.

Reasons

- To provide the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Strategies.

At the meeting of 19th October 2016, Cabinet approved the draft strategies for wider consultation with stakeholders. A copy of the Cabinet report is in your agenda. It was also resolved that as part of the consultation process, the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee received a copy of the draft strategies for consideration and comment.

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT TO THE CABINET

D E C I S I O N

HEADING: Draft Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategies – Consultation

DATE: 19th October 2016

SUBMITTED BY: Head of Operations – Roger Tait

PORTFOLIO: Planning and Housing/Environment and Recycling

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose of the Report

- To approve the draft Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategies for consultation.

Recommendations

- **That the Cabinet receive the draft Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders as detailed in this report.**

- **That as part of the planned consultation process, the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee receive a copy of the draft strategies for consideration and comment.**

- **That a report on the outcome of the consultation is brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration prior to adoption of the strategies.**

Reasons

- This report presents the first draft of the reviewed Open Spaces Strategy (formerly the Green Space Strategy) and the new Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategies identify a range of strategic aims and objectives for open space requirements in the borough as well as green infrastructure planning, provision, management, maintenance and alternative use to ensure that these assets fulfil their potential to deliver a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. A number of key stakeholders – Locality Action Partnerships, parish council, local councils – have been involved in developing the documents. Once adopted, they will form part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

1.   **BACKGROUND**

    1.1   On 10 December 2014, Cabinet resolved that, in order to ensure that the existing Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy remains a robust evidence base for the emerging Joint Local Plan, it should be reviewed to reflect changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local government finance and projected resources.

1.2   Cabinet considered a report on 16 September 2015 which provided a progress report on the delivery of the Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and an update on the commissioning of a review of the strategy. The link between the Green Space Strategy and the Asset Management Plan was re-affirmed. This means green spaces which are identified as not required to deliver local standards for green space nor for operational purposes are included in the Asset Management Plan for consideration for alternative uses.

1.3   During the early stages of the review, it was identified that a Green Infrastructure Strategy was also required to complete the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. This was commissioned and has been prepared at the same time as the review of the Green Space Strategy.

2.   ISSUES

2.1   Consultants have now completed a review of the existing Green Space Strategy using the National Planning Policy Framework to give the review context. They have also produced a draft Open Space Strategy and a draft Green Infrastructure Strategy with associated Action Plans. The strategies cover the whole of the borough and include 553 sites - 326 in urban areas and 227 in rural areas. The sites are owned by a range of organisations or individuals, but most have some degree of public access. The draft strategies are appended to this report at Appendix one.

2.2   Discussions were held with a number of stakeholders as part of the preparation of the strategies. This included workshops with council officers and operational staff; elected members and representatives of Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs), parish councils and environmental organisations; representatives of Friends' Groups and residents. A "Great Outdoors Survey" was also carried out both online and manually to get the views of the community including young people. A summary of the consultation results can be seen in Appendix two.

2.3   The consultants also analysed the quantity and accessibility of the sites against national standards, as well as a "nearest neighbour" comparisons with the 16 councils that provide the closest match to the borough in terms of size, population and character.

2.4   All of the work outlined above has enabled the consultants to come up with a set of proposed local standards for open space and these are in Appendix three for consideration by Cabinet. The main difference from the previous local standards is the inclusion of a standard for allotment provision, reflecting the resurgence of popularity in allotment gardening and its associated health and well-being benefits, and the inclusion of a local standard for amenity green space, reflecting feedback from local people who place a value on having access to such spaces close to where they live for general recreational purposes. Standards for outdoor sport have been omitted from the Open Spaces Strategy as they are set out in the Council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy.

2.5   The consultants assessed the quality of open spaces as well as quantity and accessibility. Their assessment is that around four out of every five sites in the borough can be regarded as "good quality" sites.

2.6   The draft strategies outline the current position in relation to open space and green infrastructure and provide a framework for moving forward. They take into account reducing resource levels at the Council and limited capacity to develop opportunities for alternative delivery models. The strategies include draft Action Plans which prioritise projects to enable limited resources to be focused onto key objectives

which will provide the greatest overall benefits for our communities. The Action Plan is attached to the report as Appendix four.

2.7 The draft Open Space Strategy outlines the requirements for high quality, accessible open space to ensure community needs across the borough are met. It also indicates where the use of open space can be increased by improving the range of purposes it is used for how this will, in turn, enable resources to be focused on a smaller number of higher quality and more accessible sites. The strategy also considers maintaining areas for biodiversity and encouraging links to other open space sites to improve green infrastructure and make it more resilient.

2.8 The Open Space Strategy discusses planning for open space and new open space in developments to ensure that quantity and accessibility standards are maintained in growth areas and that open space is provided in the most suitable places to meet the needs of our communities. The strategy also covers funding options for open space over the life of the strategy through the use of Section 106 Agreements and other   sources to maintain quality standards.

2.9 Cabinet is now being asked to consult on the draft strategies and for the documents to be available on the Council's website for an appropriate period to allow community comment and feedback. It is proposed that the documents and response questionnaire are also e-mailed to interested parties. All responses will be forwarded to the consultants for inclusion into the consultation report and this will be presented to Cabinet along with officer responses and any proposed amendments to the strategies early in 2017.

3. <u>**OPTIONS CONSIDERED**</u>

3.1 The options considered are to receive the draft strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders to ensure that a robust evidence base can be provided to support the emerging Joint Local Plan.

3.2 Not receive the draft strategies nor approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders and fail to provide sufficient evidence to support the emerging Joint Local Plan.

4. <u>**PROPOSAL**</u>

4.1 It is proposed to receive the draft open space and green infrastructure strategies and approve them for wider consultation with stakeholders and for the outcome to be reported to Cabinet prior to adoption.

5. <u>**REASONS FOR PROPOSAL**</u>

5.1 This report presents the first draft of the reviewed Open Spaces Strategy (formerly the Green Space Strategy) and the new Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategies identify a range of strategic aims and objectives for future open space and green infrastructure planning, provision, management and maintenance to ensure that these assets fulfil their potential to deliver a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits.

6. <u>**OUTCOMES LINKED TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES**</u>

6.1 Creating a clean, safe and sustainable borough.
6.2 Creating a healthy and active community.
6.3 A borough of opportunity.
6.4 Becoming a co-operative Council, delivering high-value, community-driven services.

7. **LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

   7.1   There are no direct legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

   7.2   The preparation of the Joint Local Plan is a statutory process and although the Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy are not statutory documents, they support and form part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan.

8. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

   8.1   It is considered that there would be a positive impact on equality issues resulting from this project.

9. **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

   9.1   There are no direct budget or resource implications associated with this report at the present time.

   9.2   The future delivery of the strategies, if approved and adopted, will involve a number of providers and the financial implications will not rest solely with the Borough Council. The delivery and timescale of identified projects and actions will be dependent on funding being secured from appropriate sources.

   9.3   The delivery of the strategies will have an impact on the Council's Asset Management Plan and the ability to fund future capital programmes.

   9.4   The development of the strategies has been funded from within approved revenue budgets for the delivery of the Joint Local Plan.

10. **MAJOR RISKS**

    10.1   Major Risks
    - Failure to provide robust evidence base for the emerging joint Local Plan.
    - Failure to meet the timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Joint Local Plan.
    - Failure to transparently engage and consult with stakeholders on strategy development.

11. **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

    11.1   It is considered that the project will have a positive impact on sustainability and climate change by identifying greater opportunities for open space and green infrastructure as part of the strategic level planning for the borough.

12. **KEY DECISION INFORMATION**

    12.1   It impacts directly all wards of the borough, and is included in the Forward Plan.

13. **EARLIER CABINET/COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

    13.1   Cabinet 10th December 2014   Item 5
              Cabinet 16th September 2016

14. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

14.1 Appendix 1 – draft Open Space Strategy and draft Green Infrastructure Strategy (available online)

14.2 Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation

14.3 Appendix 3 – draft Local Standards for Open Space

14.4 Appendix 4 – draft Action Plan and table of sites required to meet local standards

This page is intentionally left blank

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Consultation Draft Open Space Strategy

'We all want quiet; we all want beauty for the refreshment of our souls.'

Octavia Hill
b.1838 – d.1912

Page 16

Contents

Executive Summary

The Open Space Strategy is a review and future guide to how the Borough Council manages its open space asset base to ensure that the needs of the community are met in the most appropriate way. It seeks to ensure that high quality, accessible open space can continue to be provided at appropriate locations for residents and visitors to the Borough to enjoy. The strategy review also addresses how land outside of the Council's ownership is maintained, with the intention that it is managed in a complementary way with municipal land. Produced in parallel with the Open Space Strategy (and with a shared evidence base) is a Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers open space at the 'landscape scale'.

The audit of existing open space includes the following types of open space; (i) Parks & gardens (ii) Amenity green spaces, (iii) Natural and semi-natural green spaces (iv) Designated play spaces for children and young people, (v) Allotments and (vi) Green corridors. Outdoor sports facilities are not part of the Open Space Strategy review as this is dealt with through the Sport England compliant Playing Pitch Strategy.

Research undertaken in preparing the Open Space Strategy review has shown that Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has a valued and well-distributed network of open space comprised of spaces of varying sizes that have historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational significance – in a word the open space asset is 'diverse'. The research has also shown that the quality of open space in the Borough is generally good or very good. This finding does not extend to all of the buildings located in open space, some of which are clearly a challenge to maintain and their original purposes have long since passed. New methods are needed for managing these and where these challenges cannot be addressed removal may be the only remaining option.

There are great challenges going forward, especially with regards to municipally owned and managed open space. These challenges are greater than at any time in the last 70 years. The most significant of these is reduced staff and financial capacity to deliver open space services. A further notable challenge lies in the relationship between open space and new development; as the Borough Council needs to allocate more land for economic purposes; including housing and commercial.

It is certain that the model of municipal management that has been in-place for generations will have to change to reflect new realities and this will not be an easy process. However, change presents opportunities as well as threats; for example, it is clear that some open space areas can be more multifunctional and better connected to communities and any reduction in the area of open space can free resources to invest in improved facilities on other sites.

The single greatest challenge will be to bring the 'wider community' and 'users' along with changes. Loss of local amenity will almost certainly be met with resistance even when alternatives are made available. Good communication and transparency are prerequisites for addressing these issues but objections will occur wherever rationalisation is proposed. The Borough Council needs to have clear and well-articulated counter-arguments in support of rationalisation.

The Open Space Strategy review contains ten strategies which provide a road map for the duration of the new Joint Local Plan; encompassing quality, quantity, developer contributions and access among others.

1: Introduction and purpose

The review team and overall approach

1.1 In August 2015, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council appointed a team led by MD2 Consulting Ltd to review and update an existing Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and a separate Rural Green Space Strategy. The strategy review and project management were conducted by MD2 Consulting Ltd with mapping support, data production and GIS by The Mersey Forest project. Included in the review was the data, approaches and outcomes of previous studies. The resulting review documents and this strategy report form part of the supporting evidence base for the emerging Newcastle under Lyme/City of Stoke on Trent Joint Local Plan. The review has been prepared in a way that maintains a joined up approach between the two authorities with a view to ensuring that green space planning, management and maintenance, is underpinned by a strategic and operational framework that is:

a. solution orientated;
b. fully integrated with a suite of allied studies and planning documents and
c. realistic & achievable both in terms of delivery and maintenance and set within existing and future budgetary constraints.

The National Planning Policy framework

1.2 The methodology for the strategy review conforms to meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance on Open Space. The NPPF in paragraphs 73 and 74, identifies the need for high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation, as an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It is further stated in the NPPF that planning policies need to be based on robust and up to date assessment of needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built upon unless it is shown to be surplus to requirements or can be replaced in a suitable location.

1.3 The NPPF also highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing public rights of way and access by linking existing networks, planning for biodiversity and ensuring that local ecological networks are considered within planning policy. Paragraph 114 requires local planning authorities to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure within their Local Plans. In support of this the Council has appointed MD2 Consulting Ltd to prepare a

Image 1: above, Wolstanton Play Area

Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Borough which meets this requirement. The evidence base for both the Open Space Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy is shared.

Planning Practice Guidance

1.4 The Government has issued Planning Practice Guidance to local authorities on how open space should be accounted for in planning for new development and when considering proposals that may affect existing open space. They state that "open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development". The guidance also states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. They should also have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

1.5 Planning Practice Guidance replaces earlier Planning Policy Guidance and a companion guide[1] to the earlier Planning Policy Guidance (PPG17) is still highly regarded as good practice and has influenced the approach to the preparation of this Strategy update. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council have decided to assess their open space requirements in a robust way this has involved a consultation exercise, an audit of sites, update of the North Staffordshire and Rural Green Space Strategy's and proposals to address management challenges in a resource limited environment.

1.6 It should be noted that the Open Space Strategy update addresses the open space network across the Borough, notably but not exclusively from a recreational perspective. Produced in parallel with the Open Space Strategy (and with a shared evidence base) is a Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers open space at the 'landscape scale'. This pays particular regards to ecological networks, biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services to local people such as the ability of green areas to mitigate against climate change.

Image 2: above, Cotswold Avenue

1.7 An open space network may also contain designated local green space which is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. The Local Green Space designation is for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). Designating a local green space needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the local green space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making. Because an area appears in this strategy update as open space does not mean it is automatically a designed local green space.

[1] Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17.

The nature of the guidance

1.8 The Open Space
Strategy is intended to guide
how the Borough Council
manages its open space asset
base to ensure that the
needs of the community are
met in the most appropriate
way. However, the strategy
review also addresses land
outside of the Council's
ownership, with the
intention that it is managed

Image 3: above: Silverdale Cemetery

in a complementary way with municipal land. In the climate of reducing local authority resources, it
has proven necessary to review how the Borough Council approaches it's role in the future and to
explore different mechanisms for delivering open space services in line with projected capacity and
resource reductions.

Open Space Strategy structure

1.9 The commission has led to the production of suite of documents:

- A **report** (this document) which updates the findings of previous studies and describes the
  findings.   It is intentionally an extended summary report, brief and to the point and summarising
  the whole suite of documents produced which are listed below.
- A **spreadsheet** which is a working document for the Borough Council and which is the main
  output of the study covering over 500 sites across the entire Borough.
- A standalone document on how the **Open Space Standards** were determined and what the
  standards are (summarised in this document).
- **Framework plans** for three spatial subdivisions of the Borough, these being Newcastle under
  Lyme (Urban), Kidsgrove (Urban), Rural including smaller settlements.
- **Report of consultation**, notably recording the findings of the Great Outdoors Survey
  undertaken as part of the evidence gathering.
- An **Action Plan** of which key elements are summarised in this report.

Geographical scope

1.10 The geographical scope of the review is the whole of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme.
The Borough is broken down into three 'framework areas' to assist assessment and planning; these
are Newcastle under Lyme (Urban), Kidsgrove (Urban), Rural including smaller settlements. The
audit, community needs assessment and Open Space Strategy includes the following types of open
space:

- **Parks & gardens** (this includes urban parks, country and formal gardens)
- **Amenity green spaces** (over 0.25ha) (includes informal recreation spaces, village greens, etc.)
- **Natural and semi-natural green spaces** (this includes woodland and scrub, grassland, heath
  or moor, wetlands, open and running water, bare rock habitats)
- **Designated play spaces** for children and young people.
- **Allotments** (this includes other forms of urban agriculture such as community orchards)
- **Green corridors** (this includes river and canals (including their banks), cycling routes,
  pedestrian paths etc.)

Outdoor sports facilities are not part of the study as this is dealt with through the Sport England compliant Playing Pitch Strategy.

Lifetime of the strategy review

1.11 The intended time span of the reviewed Open Space Strategy is for the life-time of the Joint Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme and City of Stoke-on-Trent. It is anticipated that the Open Space Strategy will be refreshed mid-way during this period.

Legacy documents

1.12 As stated in paragraph 1.1 this report updates a North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy and a Newcastle under Lyme Rural Green Space Strategy. Both of these former strategies are superseded by this strategy report. However, these former strategy documents are not entirely redundant and should be considered as an extension of the evidence base for this updated Strategy; since they provide historical context and useful site information.

Image 4: above, Thomas Street Kidsgrove.

Open Space vs. Green Space

1.13 Previous reviews in Newcastle under Lyme have been headed as 'Green Space Strategies'. The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance makes preferential reference to 'Open Space'. It is clear that these term are interchangeable with regards to this strategy review but to be consistent with NPPF parlance the term 'Open Space' is now used.

A responsible approach

1.14 Preparing an Open Space Strategy is not a task to be undertaken lightly. Those involved shoulder significant responsibility in making recommendations that affect the quality of life of residents and visitors for the next generation and have the additional responsibility of fairly representing the intent and good-works of previous generations whose legacy they are dealing with. These points have not been forgotten

Image 5: above, Lyme Brook

when preparing the Open Space Strategy and for the most part irreversible actions have been avoided so that future decisions can be taken without prejudice.

2: Open Space within Newcastle under Lyme

Overview

2.1 The Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has a valued and well-distributed network of open space comprised of spaces of varying sizes that have historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational significance – in a word the open space asset is 'diverse'. As with most other local authority areas, open space in Newcastle under Lyme is, to a large extent a 'public good' enjoyed by many and bringing benefits to individuals and whole communities. It is also a well-used resource and is inter-generational, serving the needs of the very young through to the very old. It is high in social equity too, as it is, in the most part, free to use at the point of delivery and is well spread throughout all areas. The privatisation of open space which has become a highly controversial issue in some parts of the country (notably in London), has not yet impacted on the Borough.

2.2 The Borough has distinct urban settlements in the towns of Newcastle under Lyme and Kisdgrove but also an extensive rural area, interspersed with smaller settlements and villages. The open space in the towns typically reflects the overall urban structure with town parks, amenity grassland and playing fields dominating the open space. Generally, access to these areas is good. In rural areas natural green space dominates open space, however access to natural green space is variable and this limits the

Image 6: above, Allotments at Loggerheads

recreational potential in some instances.

Quality and sensibility

2.3 Work undertaken in preparing the Open Space Strategy review has shown that the quality of open space in the Borough is generally good or very good. There are some areas that are deficient in quality and require improvement; however, in the opinion of the consultants these are fewer than might normally be expected in a review. Hence it is possible to say that the management of open space is at the time of the review good and

Image 7: above, The Wammy

that the sites are consequently of a good quality too. This does not extend to all buildings located in open space, some of which are clearly a challenge to maintain and their original purposes have long since passed. New methods are needed for managing these and where these challenges cannot be addressed removal may be the only remaining option.

2.4 The review has shown that in the urban areas there is a valuable history of traditional open space creation and management, exemplified by the 'Britain in Bloom' participation and formal bedding. This has led the consultants to the conclusion that there is a notable 'heritage sensibility' in

Newcastle under Lyme. This was not anticipated prior to the review and is more typical of tourist destinations such as Buxton, Harrogate or Shrewsbury. This discovery is to be welcomed and maintaining this sensibility is part of this Strategy.

Countryside sites

2.5 There are important countryside sites in the Borough of which Apedale Country Park, Silverdale Country Park and Keele University are notable examples. These sites have a particular value in providing 'close to nature' experiences and a more informal recreational experience. Access to these sites is such that a significant number of the visitors travel to these sites by car, bicycle and to an extent by public transport. Hence they can be regarded as excursion destinations. Keele University campus is the largest in England and has an exceptionally good landscape; however, it is thought that many residents are not aware that the campus is accessible to non-university users. Of particular note at Keele University are the lakes, parkland and arboretum.

Open Space and Green Infrastructure

2.6 Open space is a vital component of the Borough's overall 'Green Infrastructure'. It is also the most accessible Green Infrastructure. Accompanying the Open Space Strategy review is a new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Newcastle under Lyme. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is a separate document. In addition to the role of open space for recreation, play and its aesthetic
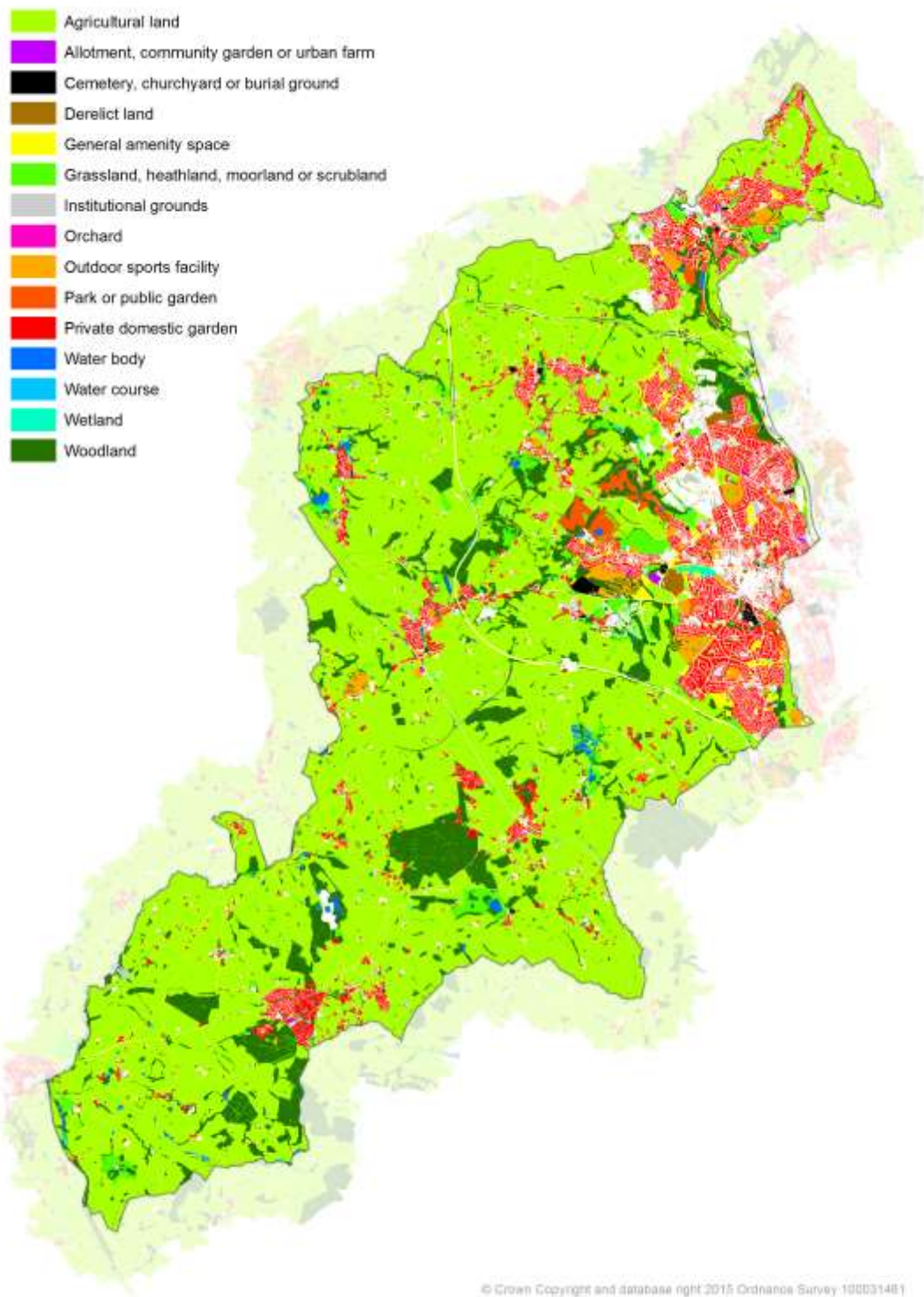

Image 8: above, Arnold Grove

value; it is as important to recognise the role of open space in terms of habitats for wildlife, as a multifunctional landscape, providing connectivity for people, and for the ecosystems services (life support system) it provides. In future open space will provide land for delivering nature based solutions, which help the locality to adapt to the extremes of global changes of which flooding is expected to be a major factor. Plan 1 shows a Green Infrastructure typology map for the Borough, of which the open space included in this Open Space Strategy review is included.

Challenges going forward

2.7 There are great challenges going forward, especially with regards to municipally owned and managed open space. These challenges are greater than at any time in the last 70 years. The most significant of these is reduced staff and financial capacity to deliver Open Space services. A further notable challenge lies in the relationship between open space and new development; as the Borough Council needs to allocate more land for economic purposes; including housing and commercial. It is certain that the model of municipal management that has been in-place for generations will have to change to reflect new realities and this will not be an easy process. However, change presents opportunities as well as threats; for example it is clear that some open space areas can be more multifunctional and better connected to communities and any reduction in the area of open space can free resources to invest in improved facilities on other sites.

2.8 The single greatest challenge will be to bring the 'wider community' and 'users' along with changes. Loss of local amenity will almost certainly be met with resistance even when alternatives

are made available. Good communication and transparency are prerequisites for addressing these issues but objections will occur wherever rationalisation is proposed. The Borough Council needs to have clear and well-articulated counter-arguments in support of rationalisation.

Agricultural land	
Allotment, community garden or urban farm	
Cemetery, churchyard or burial ground	
Derelict land	
General amenity space	
Grassland, heathland, moorland or scrubland	
Institutional grounds	
Orchard	
Outdoor sports facility	
Park or public garden	
Private domestic garden	
Water body	
Water course	
Wetland	
Woodland	

© Crown Copyright and database right 2015 Ordnance Survey 100031461

Plan 1: above; A Green Infrastructure (GI) typology map for Newcastle under Lyme places 'open space' in a Borough–wide context. The GI typology is more extensive than that for open space as it includes all non-sealed surfaces. The map clearly shows that open space types are very important in terms of the Borough's overall Green Infrastructure.

3: Vision

3.1 Developing the vision statement was one of the key steps in preparing the Open Space Strategy. It is shown below along with a process diagram showing the stages of preparing the Open Space Strategy (see Figure 1).

> Our vision is to maintain the traditions and quality of the Borough's open space for the continued enjoyment, health and recreation of residents and visitors. We will do this by, prioritising quality over quantity, celebrating our green heritage, giving space to nature and seeking innovative ways to fund our work. We will know we have succeeded if we hand over the Borough's open spaces to the next generation and they are able to enjoy its benefits as we have.

Review of documents and previous strategies → Establishing a draft Vision statement → Setting of Standards → Mapping

Creating an updated database → Site reviews → Public and stakeholder consultation including the Great Outdoors Survey → Analysis of results

Finalising the Vision statement → Developing strategic recommendations → Strategy document

Figure 1: above; the main stages of undertaking the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space review.

Image 9: above, accessible woodland is of high recreational value and important for biodiversity

4: Open Space Standards

4.1 A separate report details how the standards for open space were determined. The key processes involved included a bespoke consultation process – *The Newcastle Great Outdoors survey and a benchmarking comparison with similar local authorities' provision*. With the exception of the City of Stoke on Trent (included as this strategy update is part of the evidence based for a Joint Local Plan with them) all the local authorities were identified through use of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour model and are listed below in order of their statistical nearness in descending order (i.e., No.1 – Amber Valley is the nearest):

> Standards are not the same as targets and the two terms should not be confused. In this Strategy review, 'standards' refers to (i) a measure that supports comparative evaluations and (ii) a measure of performance at the strategic (Borough-wide). level.

1. Amber Valley
2. Chorley
3. Wyre Forest
4. Erewash
5. Gedling
6. Broxtowe
7. Chesterfield
8. South Staffordshire
9. Cannock Chase
10. High Peak (inside and outside the National Park)
11. Newark and Sherwood
12. Fenland
13. Bassetlaw
14. South Ribble
15. Carlisle
- Stoke-on-Trent

4.2 In preparing the Standards reference was made to key guidelines of which the former Companion Guide to PPG17 (still regarded as good practice) and the Fields in Trust (FiT) 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' were influential. In respect of development the FiT recommended application of quantity benchmark guidelines for equipped/designated play space has been adopted for the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy review (Table 1).

Scale of Development	Local Area for Play (LAP)	Locally equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Area for Play (NEAP)	Multi-use games area (MUGA)
5 - 10 dwellings	√			
10 – 200 dwellings	√	√		Contribution
201 – 500 dwellings	√	√	Contribution	√
501+ dwellings	√	√	√	√

Table1: 'Fields in Trust' guidelines for equipped/designated play space have been adopted in this Open Space Strategy review and should be read in conjunction with Table 2. The tick next to an item refers to provision on-site as part of a development scheme rather than through developer contributions.

4.3 The Open Space Standards table is reproduced at Table 2. The column headed (AREA HA) is the total area in hectares calculated for each type of open space in the Borough. For reference, one hectare is approximately the size of a full-sized rugby pitch.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)		15 min* drive
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Table 2: The Open Space Standards table for Newcastle under Lyme. A Playing Pitch Strategy addresses outdoor pitch sports facilities.

4.4 It can be seen from Table 2 that the Borough is relatively well provided for in terms of open space. Most notable is the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace. Only the provision of allotments is below the set standard. It should be noted that as the population of the Borough grows, localised deficits of open space will increase; hence there is a need for new open space to accompany new development, to ensure that open space provision keeps pace with population growth. The present distribution is shown in the three Framework Plans which accompany both the Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Image 10: above, Pool Dam Playing Fields

5: Open Space Strategy

Open Space Locations

5.1 Knowing where Open Space is located is essential to devising a Strategy. The Consultants team have produced a highly detailed spreadsheet to accompany the Open Space Strategy review. This spreadsheet provides Borough Council Officers with an analysis of recorded open space sites in the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme including their condition. Having recorded the Open Space sites, it is possible to devise an Open Space Strategy to accompany the new Joint Local Plan.

Quality Strategy

5.2 The quality of sites in Newcastle under Lyme is good to very good (see Table 3). This is a strong foundation for maintaining quality. There are good reasons to maintain high quality:

- Site usage, as measured by the number of visits and repeat visits, is higher when the site is of a good quality
- A greater mix of people use sites of good quality, hence there is less social exclusion
- It is a lower cost to maintain a site in a good condition than to let it decline and then have to invest a large amount of money to return it to a good quality
- Good quality sites are more likely to secure the interest and involvement of volunteers in its maintenance and in running events.
- Good quality sites are a tourism asset and hence contribute to the visitor economy
- Quality allows the Borough Council and its partners to seek recognition in the form of awards and grants. This in turn builds 'pride of place' in the community.

5.3 'Fields in Trust' have issued quality guidelines and these are recommended as the principles of quality management. The list below is an embellishment of these:

- Parks should be of 'Green Flag' standard or equivalent
- Open space should be appropriately landscaped
- There should be positive (as opposed to reactive) management in place
- Open space sites should include the provision of paths
- Fear of crime or harm should be designed out

Image 11: above, Church Lane

5.4 The 'Green Flag Award' standard or equivalent should be sought for all public-run open spaces, this requires annual renewal. A similar award, the Green Pennant, is available for community managed open space and participation is also encouraged. The checklist for 'Green Flag' ('Green Pennant' is similar except the marketing) and is recommended as an ongoing checklist of quality.

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure

- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

	Urban (no.)	% of urban	Rural (no.)	% of rural	Total (no.)	% Total
Total no. of sites	326		227		553	
Total no. of sites audited/scored	176		81		257	46.5
Score > 80%	104	59.1	8	9.81	112	43.5
70 – 80%	60	34.1	38	46.9	98	38.2
< 70%	12	6.8	35	43.2	47	18.3

Table 3: Open space results from 2015/16 site audits. Of the sites audited in 2015/16 only 18.3% fell below a quality score of 70%; overall this is a very strong performance.

Quality Strategy

The recommended strategic target for quality is 80%. Sites below a threshold of 70% are a priority for further assessment as follows:

Step 1: understand why the site is below target, this is a role for the land owner, planners and site managers. This step will generally involve a further site visit to check that the scoring is still correct (or has risen or deteriorated further)

Step 2: decide on a corrective course of action for example: (i) *Site requires investment – seek funding*, (ii) *Site has a number of limitations which need overcoming – resolve limitations*, (iii) *Site is not valued or in the wrong place – consider alternative use*

Step 3: Carry out courses of action

Step 4: Ensure that these sites are audited when an open space audit is next carried out.

'Green Flag' and 'Green Pennant' awards or equivalent should be sought for key open space sites. Key open spaces are those which are a major focus for visitors and include urban parks, country parks and equipped play areas.

Image 12: above, Ickey Pickey Teen Play

Quantity Strategy

5.5 Table 2 indicates that with the exception of allotments the quantity of different open space types (referred to as the typology) is ahead of the standard. At first appearance this gives the Borough Council flexibility in terms of quantity across many open space types. However localised factors as shown in the Framework Plans provide a more detailed and nuanced understanding of distribution. In view of this the Borough Council is not free of constraints on what can or cannot be rationalised if this proves necessary. In practice any reduction in quantity has to be justified on a case-by-case basis and also be in general alignment with either extant legacy planning policies or the new Joint Local Plan when it is approved. In reality it is probable that there be some losses and some gains in terms of open space during the life of the new Local Plan. Losses are likely to take place in underused, wrongly located or uneconomic open space and gains made in open space required as part of new developments or because of the need to provide land for nature based solutions to combat global change (e.g. flood management etc.).

5.6 In line with most local authorities a standard has not been set for Green Corridors, however this is a typology where the evidence points to an increasing demand. Linear corridors are valuable as cycleways, habitats, walking & running routes and importantly for Green Infrastructure connectivity. Because of these uses green corridors make a particular contribution to health and wellbeing and also act as a transport alternative when they also function as cycleways.

5.7 The quantity of natural and semi-natural green space is greatly in excess of the standard; however, this quantity needs further interpretation. The majority of this open space type is not in Council ownership and hence subject to many variables especially in terms of access. Furthermore, some areas of natural and semi natural greenspace are subject to nature or economic management (e.g. woodland). In view of the importance now being given to Green Infrastructure it is the case that having a large area of natural and semi-natural green space is a strong-positive in terms of providing ecosystem services to the local population.

Quantity Strategy

Every effort should be made to maintain the quantity of open space at the highest level possible subject to:

(i) economic viability,
(ii) planning policy and
(ii) sustenance and improvement of the Borough's Green Infrastructure network.

Rationalisation, when considered, should be the subject of careful site planning and local consultation (including site master-planning notably where an existing open space may have the potential to accommodate other uses whilst maintaining its primary open space function).

Opportunities for new open space should be seized on the back of new development and a formula for assessing this adopted in the new Joint Local Plan.

The Borough Council's Development Control function should ensure that developers fully meet their agreements in practice.

Wherever possible opportunities to create new or upgrade existing green corridors should be taken.

The Strategy for allotment provision needs to be updated in the light of the Open Space Strategy review.

Access Strategy

5.8 The Newcastle under Lyme access standards apply equally to urban and rural areas with the exception of allotments. In this case the urban standard is set as a walking distance (400 metres) and in the rural area a driving time (15 minutes). These are within the range of other authorities and recognise that in rural areas it is not practical for pedestrian only provision. Distance standards are shown as a linear distance but when making planning decisions the route to an open space type should also be considered. In practice, very few routes follow straight lines and users will normally follow pavements, green corridors and cross busy roads at traffic lights.

5.9 The needs of different users also need to be factored both in terms of the distance standard but also in respect of internal circulation patterns. Path surfaces should be on the one hand as unobtrusive as possible but simultaneously as multi-purpose as possible and cost effective to maintain. Providing access for people that might not otherwise be able to use a site due, for example, due to to disability is a priority and guidelines are available on surfaces and access systems. Infrastructure is necessary at major sites for disabled parking.

5.10 Site entrances and exits are an important part of access. They function as gateways and should as far as possible be conveniently located subject to amenity constraints of nearby residents and safe ingress/egress to adjacent roads. Site entrances are also natural locations for site interpretation including circulation route maps showing how to access key features.

Image 13: above, Fitness Equipment at Clough Hall Park

5.11 During the lifetime of the Open Space Strategy it is expected that the use of 'smart' devices to navigate and measure distance travelled, calories expended, and market events and facilities etc. will continue to increase. The Borough Council is advised to keep new technology under review and coordinate access to open space with Apps & mobile mapping.

> **Access Strategy**
>
> Distance standards should be used as a target in future open space planning.
>
> Full consideration should be given to how people access sites in practice (i.e. via pavements, major road crossings etc.) alongside the linear access figure when decision making is taking place.
>
> The needs of special groups (such as those with disabilities, parents with buggies etc.) should be factored in when planning access to and within key sites.
>
> The use of new technology should be kept under under review and appropriate provision made to promote access to open space with Apps & mobile mapping.

Diversity of Provision Strategy

5.12 Maintaining a diversity of provision is necessary if the needs of the whole community are to be met. This includes having some open space sites that can meet a wide range of minority interests. In many cases this requires little more than access to land, water or air without undue restrictions. It

Page 32

may be beneficial to consider site provision under the NPPFs 'duty to cooperate' as suitable sites may exist close to the Borough boundary. Some types of open space are well understood and there are clear processes in place for identifying these and having appropriate management in place, for example in relation to play provision. However, this does not extend to hobby interests and a number of hobby-areas have been identified in Table 4, the list is not exhaustive:

Radio controlled models – boats, planes, drones	Kites	Non pitch sports such as orienteering and archery	Non pitch reactional activities/games such as boules, geocaching, drafts, chess.
Bouldering	Bird watching	Overnight camping and BBQs	Tai Chi
Extreme challenges and boot camps	Trim trails	Cloud watching	Dark skies/ astronomy
Pond dipping	Nature Watching	Fishing	Water based recreation

Table 4: Hobbies and other interests that make use of open space, the list is not exhaustive.

5.13 There is a need to create and maintain biodiverse areas. This clearly links with the Borough's Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Former industrial or housing areas may have developed valuable natural vegetation and should be protected from redevelopment whenever possible, even though they may be registered as brownfield land. Biodiverse areas provide food for wildlife and also support foraging. There is currently great interest in foraging to the extent that it has become a problem is some areas (e.g. Bristol). However, foraging for wild food and craft materials is to be applauded, hence the need for areas where people can gather without undue constraint. Setting aside areas of amenity green space for wildflower meadow management is increasingly popular and can create a positive image for the Borough and potentially save maintenance costs through reduced cutting.

5.14 The typology for youth provision is one of the most challenging as it is known to cause conflicts with other users notably through littering, graffiti and bad-language. However, problems are often over-inflated and the positive benefit to young people in terms of outdoor activity and avoiding anti-social behaviour is of great significance. Ideally street workers/volunteers should support activities on the ground. The types of provision include: Skateboarding, BMX, Table Tennis, Hang-out shelters and Basketball hoops.

Diversity of Provision Strategy

Maintain a wide diversity of open space types, plan for some minority interests on a regional or on a 'duty to co-operate' basis.

Cater for minority interests as these are often overlooked this includes ensuring an adequate provision for youth and support this through grass roots street workers etc.

Maximise biodiversity, especially to foster visual impact (e.g. wild flowers) and meet the demand for foraging. Place a high-value on established brownfield land as nature areas.

Existing Planning Policy and the New Joint Local Plan

5.15 The Borough Council has saved policies relevant to open space provision which remain extant beyond September 2007. These are drawn from the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) and remain in place until the new Joint Local Plan is formally adopted. These policies have both influence and relevance to the open space strategy review. The most relevant saved policies are to be

Image 14: above, Orme Road, Skate Park

found in Section 6 - Community Facilities and Section 7 – Natural Heritage, of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003). There are further policies in other sections which are also relevant. The key legacy policies from the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) are summarised in table 4.

N2: Development and nature conservation – site surveys	N3: Development and nature conservation – protection and enhancement measures	N4: Development and nature conservation – use of local species	N8: Protection of key habitats	N9: Community woodland zones
N10: New woodland - considerations	N12: Development and the protection of trees	N13: Felling and pruning of trees	N14: Protection of landscape features of major importance to flora and fauna	N16: Protection of a green heritage network
N17: Landscape character – general considerations	N18: Area of active landscape conservation	N19: Landscape maintenance areas	N20: Area of landscape enhancement	N21: Area of landscape restoration
N22: Area of landscape regeneration	N24: Water based landscape features	S3: Development in the green belt	H1: Residential development: sustainable location and protection of the countryside	H7: Protection of areas of special character
E2: Chatterley Valley	E3: Lymedale Park extension	E5: Church Lane, Knutton	E8: Keele University and Keele Science Park	T12: M6 Corridor
T16: Development - general parking requirements	T20: Telecommunications development – required information	C2: Retention of allotment gardens	C3: Publically accessible open space, Poolfields, Newcastle	C4: Open space in new housing areas.
C8: Country Parks	C9: Countryside Parks	C11: New footpaths, horse routes and cycleways	C13: Additional facilities at Apedale Community Country Park	C17: Camping and caravan sites
C19: Burial ground Bradwell	C20: Madeley Village Hall	C21: White Rock – Apedale Road	B9: Protection of harm to conservation areas	B10: The requirement to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area
B13: Design and development in conservation areas	B14: Development in or adjoining the boundary of conservation areas	B15: Trees and landscape in conservation areas.	IM1: Provision of essential supporting infrastructure and community facilities	IM2: Compliance with policy concerns

Table 5: Saved policies from Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) relevant to open space. Each grouping is colour coded to show which part of the Plan the policy refers to.

5.16 The Newcastle under Lyme & Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy was adopted in October 2009 with the intention that it would serve the period from 2006 to 2026. Relevant policies within this document (see Table 6) also form part of the current development plan until the new Joint Local Plan is adopted. The Core Spatial Strategy has a strategic vision and aims and says that 'The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the City of Stoke-on-Trent will be a prosperous, vibrant, environmentally responsible and successful area of choice for businesses, visitors and residents in the period up to 2026.' It goes on to say that the outcomes of this transformation will be - population retention, rising income levels, strengthened housing markets, healthier people with a strong sense of well-being and an enhanced reputation. The vision is based upon strategic aims related to people, prosperity, place & image. All of these strategic aims are reflected in policy. Open space is highly relevant to the strategic aims by providing high quality living places for people; helping to create settings for development which fosters prosperity; and through enhanced image, civic pride and environmental resilience.

CSP1: Design Quality	CSP2: Historic Environment	CSP3: Sustainability and climate change
CSP4: Natural assets	CSP5: Open space/sport/recreation	CSP6: Affordable housing
CSP7: Gypsy and travellers		

Table 6: Relevant core strategic polices - those highlighted in green are strongly linked to open space. Those highlighted in orange are less strongly linked. Any not listed are not relevant or very marginally so.

5.17 The core spatial strategy has three key spatial principles; (i) Targeted Regeneration, (ii) Economic Development and (iii) Movement and Access. This is supplemented by area spatial policies for Newcastle Town Centre (ASP4), Newcastle and Kidsgrove urban neighbourhoods area (ASP5) and Rural area spatial policy (ASP6). There is a strong coalescence between the spatial areas and the Framework Plans produced for the Open Space Strategy review.

Existing Planning Policy and the New Joint Local Plan Strategy

Open Space is a cross cutting policy theme because it strongly influences quality of life and place shaping. However, to emphasise its importance it is recommended that the new Joint Local Plan should contain a specific policy on Open Space as well as a separate specific policy on Green Infrastructure. These should between them cover the issues of connectivity, multifunctionality, landscape, recreation, health & wellbeing and biodiversity.

The policies on Open Space and Green Infrastructure should also reflect the current focus on housing led growth and the need to accommodate new residential development within the urban area wherever practically possible.

There may be Open Spaces that can be rationalised and reallocated for development. However, strong recognition is also needed of the importance of Open Space and Green Infrastructure in respect of maintaining quality of life for new residents as well as existing residents and that housing development should not break 'green' connectivity which is essential in the delivery of ecosystem services and resilience to climate change impacts.

Development Strategy

5.18 Saved policy C4 of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2003) is a detailed policy which endeavours to secure appropriate amounts of new open space in new housing areas as set out in Figure 1 below. Relevant policies designed to secure new open spaces within the joint Core Spatial Strategy are far less specific, since they are not designed to be overly prescriptive with regard to the facilitation, delivery and maintenance of new open space, which is instead covered

much more generally in policies CSP1-7 in table 5 above. The Council's intention was to address more detailed polices covering new open space provision in a new "Site Allocations and Policies DPD's" specifically relating to areas and topics covering not just housing (Newcastle Town Centre, Areas of Major Intervention, General Renewal Areas and Other Areas of Housing Intervention). Since these DPD's have never been produced and adopted; suitably robust, yet flexible planning policy designed to facilitate the required quality, quantity and typology and maintenance of new open spaces will be a requirement that will need to be addressed and included within the new Joint Local Plan.

POLICY C4: OPEN SPACE IN NEW HOUSING AREAS Appropriate amounts of publicly accessible open space must be provided in areas of new housing, and its maintenance must be secured. To this end, on sites with ten or more dwellings, or at least 0.4 hectares with fewer dwellings, taking a gross figure for all contiguous development areas, developers will be expected to provide for open space in accordance with the following: i) Publicly accessible open space must be provided pro rata at a scale of 0.1 hectares for each 50 houses. ii) Appropriate play equipment must be provided within new housing areas with 100 or more dwellings, taking a gross figure for all contiguous development areas. The amount of equipment required will be appropriate to the size of the development. iii) Where new play areas are provided within the development, each must be of at least 0.1 hectare and be located so that no child has to walk more than 0.4 km (0.25 mile) or cross a major road to reach such an area from home. iv) In the case of developments of fewer than 50 dwellings, areas of new housing development or in other situations where the Council considers that such a course of action would be more appropriate, developers will be invited to make some other contribution in accordance with a scale to be determined by the Council. v) The design and location of new play areas must take into account community safety issues.

Figure 1: Saved Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Policy C4: Open Space in new Housing Areas.

5.19 In order to develop appropriate new Local Plan policies to be used in circumstances where new development is proposed, credence must be given to the pros, cons and overall effectiveness of legacy policy, which needs to be adapted, updated, redrafted and improved as necessary to reflect the aims and objectives of current national planning policy guidance. There are a number of current drivers intended to achieve sustainable development, notably the current national planning policy focus upon housing led regeneration, which may lead to new residential development on some open spaces. The opposite side of the coin is that budgets are declining quickly, such that new ways must be found to maintain new open spaces, which must also be recognised and reflected in new planning policy and associated planning agreements. Moreover, there is a need and requirement to facilitate delivery of new open spaces in all other types of new development. New open space provision must be integral to a development to add value to new developments and not provided as an afterthought or on left over pieces of land (cross ref to Quantity Policy). Credence must also be given to the potential connectivity between new open spaces and existing open spaces, when this proves practical and possible (cross ref to Green Infrastructure Strategy).

5.20 In circumstances where there are clear surpluses in open space provision, in terms of quantity relative to location and/or typology, it may be appropriate to consider reallocation of land for the provision of new development, in whole or in part. In particular, this will help the Borough Council to deliver its required housing numbers in order to meet its evidence based targets, although land may be given over to other non-residential uses when circumstances indicate or dictate there is a proven market need or demand.

5.21 Reallocation of land to hard end uses, particularly housing, when the evidence supports it, will help contribute towards the emerging spatial strategy in the new Joint Local Plan. There is an added advantage that cash from the sale of open space land for development, if an appropriate proportion can be ring-fenced, may be generated and utilised to provide new facilities on open spaces in the

Page 36

form of new capital projects to enhance their attractiveness, or otherwise generate maintenance budgets for their future management /improved management at a time when maintenance budgets are diminishing quickly. In addition, development on parts/areas of some sites may be set towards their ongoing viability when ongoing provision is threatened through lack of maintenance revenues, provided that monies are ring fenced for future maintenance.

5.22 There are some key provisos however:

- This approach may apply both to sites within development limits and for open space on the edges of settlement boundaries in accordance with an agreed spatial strategy, but care must be exercised in consideration of any potential development on open spaces in the open countryside well beyond settlement limits;
- Open spaces with development potential will have to be assessed, screened and analysed for development constraints that have potential to prevent or seriously compromise new development, unless suitable mitigation proves possible; and crucially;
- That a suitable communications strategy is developed and articulated which explains the need and logic of the approach, because removal of or development on open spaces can be highly sensitive. This has to be addressed through the political process in concert with Council Members.

| Locate new development within open spaces that are underperforming or surplus to requirements. | For this strategy to be implemented a number of sequential steps should be followed:

Step 1: Can evidence be provided that an open space is surplus to requirements relative to local availability/quantity of existing provision/typology.

Step 2: Is its development or partial development consistent with all other relevant policies in the new Local Plan.

Step 3: Consider whether any loss of amenity will be offset locally by improvements elsewhere.

Step 4: Has the resultant loss of Green Infrastructure been satisfactorily addressed in plans for the redevelopment of the site.

Step 5: Is a master-plan needed, or has one been prepared to address development constraints and opportunities that arise, including the creation of new open spaces.

Step 6: Can remaining and newly created green areas be properly managed in the long term. |

The Open Space Standards (see Table 2) are central to the future planning and provision of facilities

Figure 2: Procedure for Reallocation of Open Spaces to Alterative Uses

linked to development. The standards have been used to identify:

- areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus
- deficiencies in accessibility;
- quality deficiencies.

5.23 The quantity, quality and access standards described above should also be used to guide the level of developer contributions to ensure that adequate provision is made for green infrastructure as a consequence of development. Since opportunities to provide additional open space in the urban areas of the Borough are known to be limited, it will be necessary in some cases to substitute the provision of new green infrastructure with a financial contribution. In the first instance these financial contributions should be used to invest in existing open spaces to make them more useable, to increase the range of offerings within each open space, and to improve their capacity to support ecosystem services.

5.24 To secure financial contributions, the Council could use the complementary mechanisms of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or planning obligations (as authorised under the Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). If the Council uses a S106 based tariff system, its use will be severely restricted in taking further contributions because of 'Pooling Restrictions'. CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions whilst S106 obligations are for site specific mitigation. Decisions on CIL will be taken within the context of the scaling back of S106 obligations and the potential income streams for funding infrastructure. The CIL Regulations 2010 defined the circumstances where each can be used and where they are not appropriate. Subsequent changes in the regulations (amended 2011, 2012 and 2013) and experience in setting and using CIL have led to a clearer picture of how they can be best utilised. With respect to CIL, The Borough Council will need to prepare a charging schedule and this should support the development strategy of the new Joint Local Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is also a material factor in this regards. Contributions secured by planning obligations will need to meet the statutory test set out in Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms,
- Directly related to the development, and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale to the development.

Each individual case will need to be looked at carefully before seeking S106 tariff payments. If there is not sufficient evidence to meet the statutory tests the authority may risk challenge that the decision has been taken unlawfully. It will also be vulnerable at any planning appeal. To make optimum use of the CIL and S106 requires pro-active infrastructure planning and funding.

5.25 The Council's approach in deciding whether all or some of the contribution are secured via planning obligations or via CIL will therefore need to factor what can actually be secured in terms of new Green Infrastructure or open space development which is manageable and significant without pooling finance from more than one development (see Figure 3). This might be resolved by defining a range of 'strategic projects' drawing from the Green Infrastructure Strategy spatial strategy map. Alternatively, this might be considered on a type-by-type basis.

The Council may well find that Green Corridors, Parks and Gardens, Allotments, and Natural and Semi-natural Green Space might benefit from a strategic approach, based on pooling of contributions (i.e. CIL), while Children's Play Provision, Amenity Greenspace, and trees can be handled through Planning Obligations.

Figure 3: CIL vs Planning obligations by type

5.26 If the Council is minded to use CIL, interim requirements and procedures related to commuted sums might be required. This can be achieved through an SPD with pre and post CIL introduction provisions. All guidance relevant to on-site provision will remain applicable post CIL introduction. CIL offers greater flexibility than Section 106 Agreements: it can make it easier to mitigate the impact of development by using CIL funds to provide new as well as enhance existing open space. The CIL regulations do not cover change of use: CIL cannot be charged on development that involves a change of use from non-residential to residential. If the Council wishes to ensure a contribution can be secured under a change of use from non-residential to residential scenario, this should be explicitly captured in the Council's SPD. Even if a specific formula is agreed, it must not compromise development viability, otherwise decisions may be challenged at appeal.

5.27 Applying the standards also requires determining the type of development to which the standards apply. The selection of types of development the standards should apply to will need to be informed by the scale, location and range of new developments anticipated for the new Local Plan period. If the Council anticipates significant large commercial/business developments, it would be desirable to ensure such developments contribute to the Borough's overall green infrastructure by featuring an adequate canopy cover in their parking area, while contributing to other green infrastructure provision which might be used by their customers or employees (e.g. amenity green space and green corridors so that employees and customers can access the development by cycle).

5.28 If, however the Council only anticipates small scale commercial/business developments, an argument can be made in favour of concentrating on residential developments for the application of the standards through planning permission and build commercial and other development into CIL where the cumulative benefit could be directed to a significant new GI development defined by the authority. If the Council is aware of major non-residential sites or redevelopments, the open space requirement could also be secured through site specific allocation policies or development briefs.

5.29 Since Council budgets are declining rapidly, local authorities will have to address the prospect of having to maintain open spaces to agreed standards differently than is possible under current arrangements. New open spaces will no longer be able to be realistically maintained by the public purse since budgets will not likely be sufficient to even maintain existing open space resources in future. Since there is a drive towards housing based regeneration to promote economic recovery and to meet housing need, it will be necessary to introduce private maintenance agreements for new open space provided as part of new residential development schemes. This is effectively a supplementary tax payable by the owners/occupiers of new residential estates.

5.30 Private maintenance agreements from occupiers must be transferrable upon sale or transfer of a property and logically, Section 106 agreements are the logical mechanism to secure and implement them. These agreements will be secured from developers, who will be required to include appropriate provision within formal terms and conditions of plot sales. However, additional information should be provided to prospective and actual purchasers to make it crystal clear that this requirement is obligatory and necessary and will require a dedicated supplementary monthly, annual or term contribution to be paid, as may be agreed. If the Local Authority decides to adopt schemes for future maintenance, then cash contributions should be the minimum sought, but should be sufficient to cover a period of at least 20 years.

5.31 It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who or what types of organisation will be responsible for undertaking the works. Ideally, contributions should be co-ordinated by a charitable trust or possibly by a dedicated residents' association with a formal legal charter. Maintenance needs to be delivered to a set standard which must be produced and agreed prior to formal completion of new open

spaces; works must be tendered to suitably qualified organisations or contractors; and regular independent inspections must be undertaken to ensure standards are being maintained, again paid for as part of the global agreement. This can include play area inspections, which require much more frequent inspection. Independent organisations undertaking and monitoring maintenance must provide evidence of their maintenance works/ inspection regime to the organisation responsible for organising maintenance.

5.32 An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new green areas, inspection of open spaces, as well as the standard to which they will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance/inspection are likely to be two separate but related issues.

5.33 A cost model for off-site contributions was produced (see Table 7) by updating the cost-model from the 2007 "Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy". This is now based on the Standards set out in the in the "Newcastle Under Lyme Open Space Strategy." The model was cost indexed to account for inflation using the Bank of England RPI rates for 2007 – 2015, this remains a fair model to secure contributions. New Open Space Standards for amenity green space and allotments have been added. This creates a total contribution for new open space/improvement of existing open space of £4,439 per dwelling at current rates, which will need to be reviewed periodically or index linked to inflation. However, there are a range of important changes to be highlighted:

- In 2007 the cost contribution standard was set below the funding required per dwelling. This equated to 53% being met by the developer and 47% by the Borough Council or another public provider. At that time, it was reasonable to assume that the Borough Council or other public providers would 'make good' the shortfall. This is no longer considered the case as the Borough Council's budgets have been dramatically reduced. For that reason, developers are now normally expected to meet all of the costs. However, the impact is significant due to increased costs and the funding required per dwelling to the developer has risen from £1,791 to £4,427. If the Borough Council's offset is removed, then the rise is more modest from £3,391 to £4,427.
- The calculation now includes 'Allotments' for the first time which is benchmarked in cost terms as equivalent to 'Designated Play Space' or 'Outdoor Sports' in terms of the cost of management and maintenance. Amenity green space is included at the same rate as natural and semi-natural green space.
- The Outdoor Sports figure is included for benchmarking only and to avoid an unintentional absence. The Open Space Strategy review no longer considers 'Outdoor Sports' which is dealt with under the Newcastle under Lyme Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). If a separate contribution schedule is agreed by the Borough Council for 'Outdoor Sports', then this item can be removed and will hence reduce the overall open space contribution costs from £4,427 to £3,317. It should be noted however that the PPS does not deal with all 'Outdoor Sports' only those specified in the Sport England PPS methodology or those added to at the Borough Council's request.
- If the Council uses CIL then a new charging schedule will be required which will replace Table 6.

Page 40

Open Space Typology	Rate (£/m2)*	Rate (£/ha)*	Local Standard (ha/1,000 pop.)	Funding Required per Dwelling*	Contribution Standard (ha/1,000 pop.)	Funding Required per dwelling*
Parks and Gardens	£24	£239,112	3.10	£1,853	3.10	£1,853
Amenity green space	£6	£66,925	0.90	£151	0.90	£151
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	£6	£66,925	3.60	£602	3.60	£602
Designate play spaces for children and young people	£50	£499,333	0.41	£512	0.41	£512
Allotments	£50	£499,333	0.15	£187	0.15	£187
Outdoor Sports	£50	£498,705	0.90	£1,122	0.90	£1,122
Total				£4,427		£4,427

Table 7: Cost model for offsite contributions, updated from Urban North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy 2007. Based on a figure of 2.5 people per dwelling

Development Strategy

In respect of on-site provision within new developments the following are recommended as good practice measures for Newcastle under Lyme:

- For residential; 0.004 hectares (0.01 acres) per dwelling of open space shall be provided for the total number of dwellings, irrespective of type or tenure; notwithstanding
- That such open space will be provided in areas of not less than 0.1 hectares (0.25 acres) regardless of development size;
- Roadside landscaping will not be counted as open space towards this requirement;
- In locating open spaces within new developments due consideration should be given to the incorporation of features of ecological interest, linkages with existing footpaths and open space networks and the need to avoid nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.

And that where appropriate, a satisfactory scheme for the provision of open space in an alternative location will be acceptable.

A cost model for off-site contributions will need to be agreed based on Table 7. The resulting cost schedule should be indexed to inflation and account for both capital and maintenance costs over a defined period. For on-site provision, cash contribution towards maintenance should be the minimum sought, unless private maintenance arrangements are proposed. Amongst other authorities investigated through desk study, the sums required to cover maintenance costs range from 10 to 20 years. Given the financial situation that local authorities face there is a strong argument in favour of seeking private maintenance contributions from occupiers which are transferrable upon sale. It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who is responsible for undertaking the works.

An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new

greenspace, as well as the way that it will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance are likely to be two separate but related issues.

Financial Strategy

5.34 Budget reductions are anticipated up to and beyond 2020. Since open space functions delivered by the Borough Council are mostly non-statutory; budget reductions are expected to exceed those of other service areas. Income generation potential is unlikely to wholly bridge the gap; although it should be part of the financial strategy.

5.35 In the short term budget reductions are inevitable and this will lead to reduced capacity and level of service. However, the precautionary principle can be applied here, so it is recommended that the Council avoids making irreversible decisions. Historically, the public sector economy has grown and shrunk in cycles and it would be deleterious to the community if the Council had closed off the opportunity for growth in capacity at a later stage.   An example of this is that workforce reductions may be necessary in the short term, but recruitment could recommence at a future date if the public sector is allocated more money. So whilst the loss of skills will be hard to replace and in the absence of recruitment a whole generation of workers may be excluded from open space management this situation may turn around in 10 – 15 years' time.

5.36 Given the reduction of both staff and financial capacity it is necessary to look towards a mixed economy of providers. Whilst the providers of services may be different the transfer of ownership is to be strongly resisted; to paraphrase "when its gone – its gone forever". Some of the opportunities in developing the mixed economy of open space management include:

- Requiring associate open space landholders/managers to take direct responsibility for open space management, this may include land held by educational establishments, highways, playing fields and developers.
- Clubs and leagues can be asked to accept the management responsibility for playing fields and contract the Council or an alternative provider to undertake the grass-cutting.
- As described in the development strategy; developers should be required to put in place schemes where residents pay directly for the open space created as part of the development, and, this should be transferrable to new householders through sale. Collection of funds from householders can be problematic so the Council should insist that the developer has a robust and automated collection system in place as a condition of planning approval.
- Transfer of land management responsibility to Parish and Town Councils. Parish and Town Councils can levy a precept on the local community to generate funds for management. The precept is collected by the Borough Council but allocated to the Parish or Town Council. It should be noted that at the time of the preparation of the Open Space Strategy that the precept is not capped, however this could change. Some Parish and Town Councils are reluctant to fully use their precept which is an issue for Council members and beyond the remit of the Open Space Strategy. Allied to this is the use of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to create new open space in local communities. NDPs can also be used to designate local green space if approved by the examiner and voted for in a local referendum.

5.37 The Borough Council should use this Open Space Strategy review to address the overall open space asset base using the three Framework Plans, new Open Space Standards, Audit spreadsheet, Action Plan etc. A smaller asset base is the consequence but has the benefit of enabling reinvestment onto sites which provide a higher profile and greater public benefit. However, at this point, it is necessary to repeat that the transfer of ownership of open space, where it will remain as

open space, is to be strongly resisted. Where the open space in question is no longer to remain as open space but be subject to a change of use then guidance on this can be found in the development strategy above. Where disposal accompanied by a change of use is intended then a consultation process is required prior to is transfer to an asset management plan.

5.38 Increased commercialisation can go some way to offset budget reductions and may generate increased activities. There are numerous ways to achieve this. Some of the most popular and replicable are:

- Offering franchising opportunities in major open spaces (e.g. Country Parks and Urban Parks) such as (i) cafes and restaurants (ii) sport and active recreation minor retail outlets (of a scale suited to the sensibility to the space) – such as skate board, rock climbing and bouldering, BMX and mountain biking etc. (iii) paid for attractions (e.g. high ropes courses); (iv) markets such as street food, flea markets, art markets etc.; (v) music and theatre including promenade events and festivals.
- Sponsorship of open space by a Company who can then display their marketing information at key visual points and can also use the open space for corporate events ranging from entertaining business guests through to staff development. Sponsorship opportunities include parks, roundabouts and prominent amenity green space.

5.39 The Council may need to organise in a new way to meet future challenges with respect to its open space services. The characteristics of a smaller, leaner organisation are:

- Entrepreneurial in generation of income and creative in delivering services in new ways
- More commercial in making its services available to others and attracting money generating activities into its open space
- Significantly increasing its role as an enabler, facilitator and commissioner of services
- Adept at partnership working
- Strong on marketing and communications
- Dedicated to attracting grants and funds from outside the area, which are secured through competitive processes

5.40 The Council should fully understand all of the costs of providing its open space services and practice full cost recovery when offering services internally and externally. The full cost of an activity or output or project is the direct costs of the activity and the appropriate portion of all other costs of that service.

Financial Strategy

Address budget reductions and consequent reduction of services but seek to offset in part by increased commercial activity.

The Borough Council should have a good understanding of total cost and practice 'full cost recovery'.

Avoid irreversible decisions notably to allow for future expansion when the economic cycle changes. It is acceptable to transfer land management of open space to alterative providers but with the Borough Council retaining the ownership of sites (example is Parish and Town Councils who can use precepts to fund management works).

Organise the service department as an entrepreneurial enabler and facilitator.

Consider alternative use of sites no longer fit for purpose, noting the constraints found elsewhere in this Strategy, to reduce the asset size.

Consider reducing maintenance operations on sites which are not required to meet local standards or which have a lesser community value and use

Reinvest funds from rationalisation into open space improvements

Require developers to have mechanisms in place where residents pay directly for the open space created as part of the development and that this is transferable on sale. It is essential to have a robust and automated collection mechanism.

Image 15: left, Pool Dam Marshes

Investment Strategy

5.41 It is anticipated that resources for Open Space investment will remain severely limited until at least 2020 and possibly beyond. In a resource limited environment the potential for investment is highly limited but not impossible. Realistic instances of investment opportunities include:

- Funds released from rationalisation
- Funds generated through new development (planning agreements or S106), CIL
- Local authority invest-to-save funds
- Grants from external organisation including National Lottery funders.
- One-off grants from governmental sources
- Sponsorship from business

5.42 The investment strategy (Table 8) is a, listing-in-priority-order, of how investment funds should be deployed. It should be made clear that investment is an entirely different consideration to management funds or revenue associated with current staffing; these are dealt with under the financial strategy. The proposal to increase the staffing resource in support of increased volunteering (see Volunteer Strategy) is not included in the list as it is a revenue cost. It is assumed that existing management funds are sufficient to retain the standard of current open spaces above the 80% quality threshold.

Investment Strategy	
1	Sites which currently fall below the 80% quality standard which it is determined should be retained as open space.
2	Open space that provides (or could provide) enhanced open space connectivity including green corridors or improved multifunctionality.
3	Sites where a capital investment could significantly reduce ongoing revenue running costs and/or increase income earned from a site.
4	Sites where a funding opportunity presents itself (although this does not appear at the top of the list they should almost invariably be taken in a resource limited environment)

Page 44

5	Sites where investment would lead to improved ecosystem services or protection of neighbouring communities from climate change impacts (an example is the re-engineering of amenity grassland as flood retention areas)
6	Sites new/or existing which attract or retain significant new economic investment in the Borough, for example through attracting more tourists to stimulate the visitor economy.
7	Refreshment of facilities that are nearing their end of life e.g. play equipment
8	Improvements to open space path networks, parking, on-site interpretation, shelter, provision for youth.
9	Refurbishment or removal of time-expired built structures if these have not been dealt with under a higher listing.

Table 8: Investment strategy in priority order. 1 is highest and 9 is lowest.

Volunteer Strategy

5.43 Volunteers are already involved in open space within the Borough. They have a key role to play which extends beyond the obvious roles which lie in site care, events and general oversight. Volunteering also builds a 'sense of ownership', builds skills, enables a knowledge exchange between the young and the old (intergenerational), reduces isolation of individuals and provides health and well-being benefits; in other words, open space not only needs volunteers - volunteers also need open spaces. The most common form of volunteering is through groups such as 'friends of parks' etc. but there are various opportunities to extend this into conservation volunteering, woodland management, tree-wardens (see Tree Council for more information) and organising and supporting a larger number of events.

5.44 The Borough Council already has staff active in support of such activities and this is seen as a crucial service and one which should be expanded. Whilst additional revenue costs would be involved the positive gearing ratio is very considerable, both in terms of the financial offsets made and the opportunities created. Creativity is needed in delivering support to volunteers for instance; (i) in recruiting a wider range of participants especially from non-typical social milieu, (ii) finding new ways for volunteers to be involved, (iii) providing training support so that volunteers are competent in a wider range of tasks, (iv) providing insurance cover for volunteer activities (Linking to TCV could be useful here), (v) accessing college students such at those at Keele University. Whilst to some extent these activities may already be in place, as stated there is considerable opportunities for further development.

Volunteer Strategy

Volunteer involvement is critical to the successful management and development of the Borough's open space assets. Whilst the Borough Council is already successfully involved it is an area for further revenue/staffing investment with potentially large returns.

The strategy for volunteering should not be undertaken in isolation from the offer/support available through other organisations, of which TCV, Groundwork, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are amongst those mentionable. However, there are a myriad of existing local volunteer organisations which can be used as a platform to connect with potential volunteers.

The approach to volunteering should also involve developing skills, supporting inter-generational activities, reducing social exclusion and supporting health and wellbeing. In respect of these linking with NHS service providers, GPs, offender rehabilitation and community & neighbourhood services are desirable attributes.

Targets should be set for the number of volunteers involved and expanded upon annually.

Events strategy

5.45 Key open space such as urban parks and country parks are highly suited as event venues. Events can deliver a wide range of benefits; these include:

- Introduce new users to sites which in turn may lead to independent repeat visits. There is some evidence in research that this can lead to increased participation from hard to reach groups.
- Perform an educational role especially in:
    - raising understanding of the facilities available in a given open space,
    - environmental education,
    - family and 'fun' events which deliver social cohesion,
    - demonstrating local crafts and the work of artisans,
    - music making introductory sessions on new activities that they can participate in.
    - growing plants, saplings and learning about planting and basic horticulture
    - venue for skills training especially manual dexterity, horticulture and urban forestry
- Lead to greater awareness of local authority services and support local studies
- Increase community pride in the Borough
- Attract visitors from outside of the Borough hence providing a 'show-casing' opportunity

5.46 The Borough has long participated in 'Britain in Bloom' and had considerable success. This is to be celebrated and should be continued. It is an evidential activity which reaches many citizens and apart from the physical results of attractive plantings and community participation it also raises awareness of open space management as a valued council service.

Events Strategy

Maintain events as a key feature of open space use whilst accepting that in a resource limited environment more efficient approaches will be required. This will be an ongoing activity and require continued creative thinking at the management level. In particular, the Borough Council should continue the existing trend by moving from being an 'organiser' to an 'enabler & facilitator'. Staffing should be used, as far as possible, to support events created and led by volunteers.

The Borough Council's main contribution is access to the open space, publicity support and the training and insuring of volunteers as required.

There may be exceptions to the 'enabler and facilitator' role created through activities requested through other service departments or events that are part of externally funded projects, in which case, full cost recovery should be sought.

Acronyms and other terms used in this document

Biodiverse/biodiversity:	The variety of natural life
BMX:	Bicycle motocross
Brownfield:	Previously developed land
CIL:	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA:	The Chartered Institute for Public Finance & Accountancy
Core Strategy:	Compulsory local development document
FiT:	Fields in Trust
Framework Plans:	Three technical appendices to the strategy review that apply the standards at a local level.
GPs:	General Practitioners
Great Outdoors Survey:	Public consultation undertaken between October and December 2015
Green Flag/Green Pennant:	Nationally recognised quality awards
Ha or HA:	Hectare
Local Plan:	Statutory document which sets out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area.
NDP:	Neighbourhood Development Plan(s)
NHS:	National Health Service
NPPF:	National Planning Policy Framework
S106:	Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
SPD:	Supplementary Planning Document
TCV:	Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Photographic credits

Credits

Page 48

MD2 Consulting Ltd
The Dene
36 Nevilledale Terrace
City of Durham
DH1 4QG

www.md2.org.uk
info@md2.org.uk

Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Cover picture: Woodland path at Arnold Grove.

Contents

Summary

Green Infrastructure is the network of multifunctional green open space, in urban and rural areas, that delivers a wide range of 'environmental' and 'quality of life' benefits to Newcastle under Lyme. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is the guide to planning and implementation of Green Infrastructure across the Borough.

Four challenges have been identified to be addressed through the Green Infrastructure Strategy these are; working with urban growth; meeting public demand; making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy and improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity.

Image 1: (above) Silverdale Country Park is centrally located in a Green Infrastructure node - the 'Newcastle West Green Gateway'. The landscape at Silverdale Country Park is immature but already exhibits many features strongly beneficial to Green Infrastructure. These functions will grow as the landscape matures.

To address these challenges four strategic objectives have been identified; securing quality of place and positive development; enabling healthier lives and stronger communities; capturing the benefits of Green Infrastructure for all and making the Borough more resilient and biodiverse.

Research has shown that in Newcastle under Lyme the services provided by the environment such as the provision of clean air and water are vulnerable to external factors such as climate change; that the opportunities to use natural solutions to environmental problems over civil 'built' infrastructure is currently low; that nature habitats are fragmented and this makes the Boroughs' wildlife vulnerable and that public access is limited in some areas meaning that the potential of the natural environment to contribute to the health and wellbeing of people is also limited. For the Strategy to make a difference specific objectives have been set to address these findings. The specific objectives range from addressing the uneven distribution of Green Infrastructure through to planning Green Infrastructure at all scales from the very local to the whole Borough scale. In particular, there is an emphasis on focusing on the basics first.

The Strategy is in two parts; a spatial strategy and a thematic strategy. The core elements of the Spatial Strategy are twofold; the nodal areas – *these are existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value* and green corridors - *which provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being ecological connectivity; recreational/access connectivity or landscape connectivity*. Five nodal areas have been identified and six green corridors. Interventions have been identified for these areas; those requiring conservation/preservation and those requiring new Green Infrastructure.

With respect to the thematic strategy, out of a potentially very long list, 12 themes have been identified which can help deliver the specific objectives of the Strategy. The themes include, among others; urban design, food security, biodiversity and landscape.

A delivery framework document accompanies the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy. Since Green Infrastructure crosses multiple land uses and ownerships no one organisation has sole responsibility for Green Infrastructure across the Borough. The core approach to delivery of Green Infrastructure in the Borough is through 'partnership'. The Borough Council has a key role as coordinator.

Section 1: Context setting

Green Infrastructure Vision

Our vision is that by working in partnerships we can manage and enhance the quality, connectivity and multifunctionality of the Borough's Green Infrastructure. This will enable our Green Infrastructure to support the needs of people and wildlife. We wish to contribute to halting the long term decline in the natural environment nationally and internationally not only in recognition of our collective responsibility but also in recognition of the value of the natural environment on maintaining and improving quality of life.

Justification and purpose

The evidence base for the new Joint Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme (with the City of Stoke-on-Trent) requires an assessment to be made of existing and potential Green Infrastructure in the Borough in line with National Planning Policy Guidance within a framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is being delivered through the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy which considers the distribution, quality, quantity of this resource in order to address deficiencies, surpluses and resilience.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy helps the local planning authority to understand where the Borough is now in terms of Green Infrastructure and where they should aim to be at the end of the Local Plan period. It is also a guide to how this can happen through planning and delivery processes. Examples of this include the shaping of new developments and how existing open space can be managed for multiple benefits. The environment, is under pressure as never before and human induced global change is acting out at the local level, through for example, flooding. The Green Infrastructure Strategy can help make Newcastle under Lyme more resilient as society gets closer to its environmental limits.

Understanding what Green Infrastructure (GI) is and how it is distinguished from traditional open space planning.

1.1 Green Infrastructure is the network of multifunctional green space, in urban and rural areas, that delivers a wide range of 'environmental' and 'quality of life' benefits to the community of Newcastle under Lyme. Green Infrastructure is not an alternative description for conventional 'green' or 'open' space in the Borough but it does include it. It describes the Borough's entire network of 'green' spaces. This includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments and private gardens. It also includes the Borough's 'blue features' such as streams, canals and other water bodies as well as any 'green' architectural features such as green roofs and green walls. It includes land in public, private and other ownerships.

1.2 Green Infrastructure planning is supported by Government. The Department for Communties and Local Government (DCLG) believes that Green Infrastructure is important for the delivery of high quality sustainable development, alongside other forms of infrastructure such as transport, energy, waste and water. They believe that it provides multiple benefits, notably ecosystem services, at a range of scales, derived from natural systems and processes, for the individual, for society, the economy and the environment. To ensure that these benefits are delivered, Green Infrastructure must be well planned, designed and maintained. Hence

Government believes that Green Infrastructure should be a key consideration in both local plans and planning decisions where relevant (see table 1).

1	Building a strong, competitive economy
2	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
3	Requiring good design
4	Promoting healthy communities
5	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
6	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Table 1: DCLG has issued Planning Practice Guidance, 2016 to show how Green Infrastructure can help deliver planning policies. The six key issues in this table are the areas of planning where Green Infrastructure can make a significant impact in Newcastle under Lyme.

1.3 Green Infrastructure is also considered as a cost-effective alternative to, or complementary with, 'grey' (human-made engineered) infrastructure as it is the basis for developing and delivering *Nature Based Solutions* (NBS). These are solutions which tackle urban and environmental management challenges ranging from drainage, air quality through to public health.

1.4 The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy is a guide to planning and delivery processes. Examples include the shaping of new developments and how existing open space is managed for multiple benefits. Given that the environment is under pressure as never before and that human induced global change is acting out at the local level, through for example, flooding; the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy is not only necessary but also timely.

Image 2: (above) Keele University, a historic landscape with significant biodiversity and amenity values. The University campus is an important Green Infrastructure asset for the Borough.

The Geographical Scope of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

1.5 The geographical scope of the Green Infrastructure Strategy includes the whole of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme. It also identifies key linkages with adjoining local authority areas, which is also important in respect of the duty to cooperate, as set out in the NPPF. The reason for highlighting these

linkages is that Green Infrastructure assets (for examples rivers or woodlands) do not end at municipal boundaries. To fully understand and plan for Green Infrastructure the Borough has been subdivided into three 'framework' plan areas covering:

- Newcastle Urban
- Kidsgrove Urban
- Borough-wide Rural

The geographical coverage of the three framework plans ties in with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy (see Plan 1).
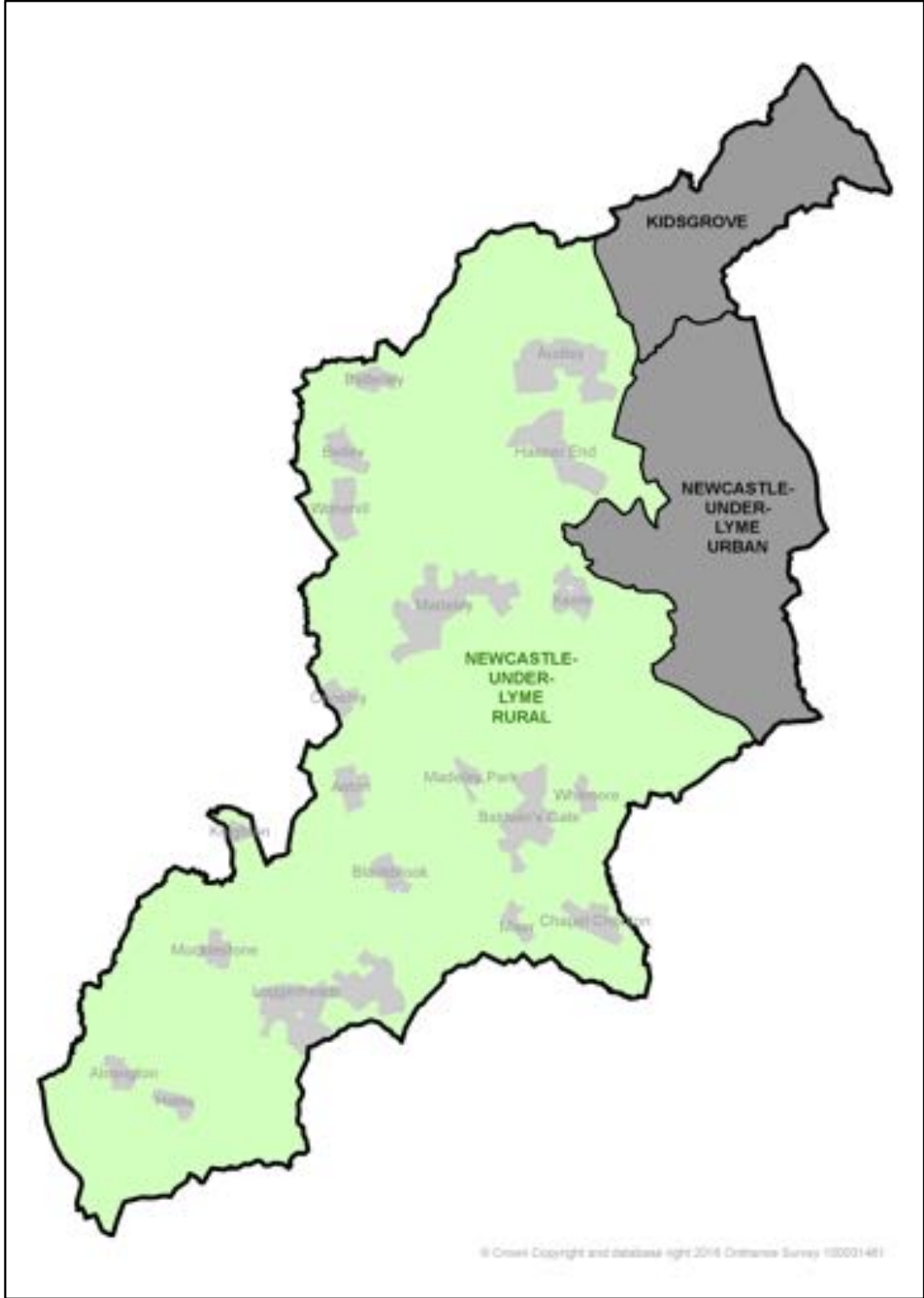
Plan 1: (left) the Green Infrastructure plan area, which shows both the geographical extent of the Borough (also the Strategy area) is broken down into three 'framework plan' areas. The framework plan boundaries are aligned to Borough Council ward boundaries. The three framework plans should be read in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

An evidence based approach

1.6 Preparation of this Strategy required the undertaking of an evidenced based study by specialists from MD2 Consulting Ltd who designed an approach to support the Council's requirements including preparation of the new Joint Local Plan.

1.7 Three complementary approaches to evidence gathering, analysis and priorities setting were employed. These are shown in Figure 1. Work on each of these three approaches was conducted between 2015 and 2016.
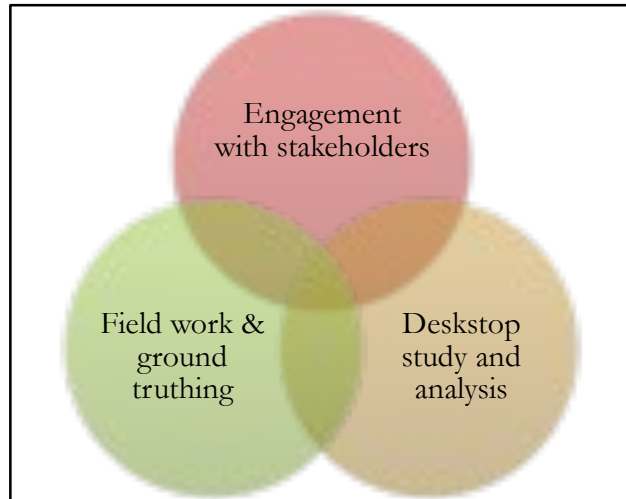
Figure 1: Infographic showing the three complementary approaches to evidence gathering.

1.8 The evidence base includes nine elements:

a. Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Audit and Open Space Strategy review undertaken concurrently with the Green Infrastructure Strategy
b. Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey (Adult)
c. Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey (Young People)
d. Stakeholder workshop
e. Local Authority workshop
f. Community/user group workshop
g. GIS[1] and desktop[2] analysis
h. Benchmarking exercise with other local authority areas with similar characteristics derived from ONS datasets
i. Meetings with and comments received from adjacent local authorities.

1.9 In addition to this Green Infrastructure Strategy report a series of outputs supporting the Green Infrastructure Strategy have been produced these include:

a. A delivery framework
b. Framework Plans which are shared with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy
c. A technical appendix
d. GIS mapping held by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.

Image 3: (left) Green Infrastructure operates at the local, as well as at the landscape scale. Informal access in urban fringe areas is important for active recreation such as jogging and dog-walking. Even small areas can provide communities with experience of nature and these small habitats are foraging grounds for birds and small mammals and also protect urban soils.

---

[1] Geographical Information System (GIS)
[2] A study of peer-reviewed publications, case studies, internet articles, strategies and actions plans.

Section 2: Newcastle under Lyme's Green Infrastructure

2.1 This section describes the distribution of the Borough's Green Infrastructure and identifies the areas of greatest need. The distribution of Green Infrastructure forms the basis for the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Further information on the Borough's Green Infrastructure is provided in an accompanying technical appendix.

Types of Green Infrastructure found in Newcastle under Lyme

2.2 The existing network of Green Infrastructure in Newcastle under Lyme has been mapped. To ensure that user needs can be identified broad types (called the typology) of 'green spaces' has been prepared which includes all vegetation and surface water areas, in public and private ownership. The typology map (Plan 2) illustrates the distribution of the Borough's Green Infrastructure.

What we know about the Borough's Green Infrastructure typology:

- Green Infrastructure is not evenly distributed across the Borough
- Agriculture, built-urban and woodlands dominate the Borough's Green Infrastructure typology
- The area of water bodies and wetlands in the Borough is low
- In the urban areas, private gardens contribute significantly to the total area of urban Green Infrastructure
- Key designated nature sites are fragmented, however at the landscape scale there are some areas which have a nodal character and are hence important landscape and ecological resources
- National Grey/Built Infrastructure[3] greatly impacts on the Borough and disrupts local Green Infrastructure connectivity
- There are clusters of important post-industrial Green Infrastructure sites in the urban fringe
- Disused railway lines are important for connectivity between urban settlements and nearby nature.

Image 4: (above) The Village Pond, Madeley - as a Green Infrastructure type open water is low in the Borough, except in the area of Betley and Balterley.

---

[3] M6 corridor, West Coast Mainline and the proposed route of HS2.

Legend:
- Agricultural land
- Allotment, community garden or urban farm
- Cemetery, churchyard or burial ground
- Derelict land
- General amenity space
- Grassland, heathland, moorland or scrubland
- Institutional grounds
- Orchard
- Outdoor sports facility
- Park or public garden
- Private domestic garden
- Water body
- Water course
- Wetland
- Woodland

© Crown Copyright and database right 2015 Ordnance Survey 100003166

Plan 2: Existing Green Infrastructure Plan for the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme and a 1km buffer zone. The typology map is subdivided into 15 types. The map should be looked at this scale as its purpose is to provide a 'landscape scale overview'. Details on how this and other maps were prepared can be found in the technical appendix.

Page 60

Landscape character

2.3 The Borough has a distinct and varied geography, with a mix of countryside, towns and villages. The main urban areas lie to the north and east of the Borough. Road and rail corridors are notably intrusions into the Borough's landscape. The Borough is split between two National Landscape Character Areas (LCA); the built up area including the whole of Newcastle under Lyme and Kidsgrove falls within the Potteries and Churnet Valley LCA No. 64 which coincides with the coal measures. The rural and larger part of the Borough falls within the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain; LCA No. 61. This plain is an expanse of flat or gently undulating, lush, farmland. It's landscape character is a reflection of its glacial origins, which contains isolated lowland open water and peatland sites.

What we know about the Borough's landscape character:

- The Borough has two distinct Landscape Character Areas and a good degree of landscape diversity.
- The landscape has a predominately lowland character, rolling hills are important in the landscape and at vantage points provide good views.
- Within the Borough, the Potteries and Churnet Valley LCA, is dominated by urban and urban fringe landscapes.
- Some urban fringe areas may look unkempt but brownfield sites within them can be valuable for nature, recreation and play.
- The Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain LCA is dominated by agriculture, woodlands and small settlements, this landscape is attractive, especially when farmland and woodland coincide. Access to this landscape is principally through Rights of Way.
- Parklands and well-structured field boundaries can be found in the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain and hedge boundaries are important for connectivity and foraging.
- Both of the Boroughs LCA's contain important ecological sites but this is more so in the Shropshire and Staffordshire Plain, notably ancient sites of glacial origin.
- There are large woodland blocks in the Borough, these are important landscape features.
- The urban landscape between the City of Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme is indistinct.
- Staffordshire County Council lead on landscape character and maintain information relating to landscape.

Ecology

2.4 With respect to biodiversity the Borough includes important national and international designated sites[4] spanning the urban and rural areas. In particular, the rural south-west and western parts of the Borough are characterised by a large number of small ancient woodlands and remnant heathland, grassland and meres and mosses sites, which act as ecological stepping-stones. The highest priority is given to Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites. Betley Mere and Black Firs and Cranberry Bog Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are Ramsar sites and are part of the internationally important West Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar designation. There are other SSSIs including Burnt Wood, Metallic Tileries and Maer Pool as well as Local Wildlife Sites, which are sites of biological importance selected by the Staffordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership. Equivalent to these for geodiversity are Local Geological Sites (LoGS) also known as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

What we know about the Borough's ecology:

- There are internationally and nationally important wildlife sites in the Borough
- Coordination and management of the Borough's important ecology is already based on established partnerships
- The voluntary sector, such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, play a key role in ecological management
- Ecological connectivity is strongly influenced by the Borough's grey infrastructure of which road and rail corridors are the most significant

---

[4] The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), Europe-wide network of sites tasked with the preservation of natural heritage (Natura 2000), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites (RIGS), Local Geological Sites, (LoGS)

- Urban fringe sites generally and the country parks in particular are important destinations where the local community can get close to nature
- HS2 is likely to further affect the Borough's ecological network. Amelioration measures such as green bridges are an appropriate response.

Public Rights of Way

2.5 Public Rights of Way are critical to allowing the public to access and enjoy the Borough's Green Infrastructure. The statutory duty to assert and protect the rights of the public belongs to Staffordshire County Council. To take account of budget reductions they have been steadily increasing their work with volunteers to assist with maintaining the path network. In the Borough, there is a single major long distance trail, The Newcastle Way, which is also part of the Staffordshire Way. It runs through the Borough at its northern end.

What we know about the Borough's Rights of Way

- Rights of Way are the principle means by which people can access the Borough's Green Infrastructure especially, but not exclusively, in rural areas
- Managing the 'Rights of Way' network is a challenge especially at a time when budgets have been cut.
- The Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey has shown that there is a demand for more linear access especially over longer distances
- The proposed route of HS2 will have an impact on public rights of way.
- The Borough's rights of way are more than access routes as they often follow ecological corridors and some have heritage significance.
- The Borough's rights of way, when they are close to where people live, are important to the health and well-being of the community as they are a venue for active recreation and stress reduction.

Public and Private Land

2.6 In Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure exists on both public and private land. No single organisation or individual controls it. Whilst it is a shared resource which benefits everyone, equally there is a shared responsibility to protect and conserve it. To maximise the benefits of Green Infrastructure a partnership approach has to be the basis for delivery.

What we know: Public and Private Land

- The majority of the Borough's Green Infrastructure is on private land. How private landowners manage their land is crucial to the maintenance of the entire Green Infrastructure network. This is especially so in respect of agriculture which is the largest land use but also in respect of private gardens which when considered as a whole, contribute significantly to the Borough's open space
- The role of the Borough Council in influencing the management of private land is limited; nevertheless, when determining planning applications, it can influence the quantum of open space, connectivity and typology
- The Borough Council has a key role in managing Green Infrastructure within its own ownership. There are significant areas of municipal land especially in the urban and urban fringe areas of the Borough
- Unsealed surfaces are under pressure from development. Unsealed surfaces help to protect urban soils, nutrient cycling and have a beneficial impact in respect of flood management
- Brownfield land has ecological and recreational importance especially in the urban fringe.

Standards

2.7 Both the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space Strategy are based on common standards (see Table 2). It should be stressed that the standards are not targets but a planning tool to assist in decision-making. Whilst the standards are common to both strategies they are applied in fundamentally different ways. For the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the application is based on ecosystem

services[5] and ecological networks[6]. In the Open Space Strategy, the standards are used to determine public recreation needs, especially in respect of accessibility, quality and quantity. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) using the standards may be prepared to support the planning, design and management components of the Green Infrastructure and/or the Open Space Strategy.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)	15 min drive	
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Table 2: The Open Space Standards are shared between the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space Strategy but are applied in different ways. For the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the application is based on ecosystem services and ecological networks. The Borough Council has the option to produce supplementary planning documents (SPD) using the standards in support of the planning, design and management components of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

What we know about the Boroughs standards:

- The Borough's open space standards are generally on or above average when compared to other similar local authorities.
- The Borough is well provided for in respect of natural and semi-natural green space.
- There is growing interest in urban agriculture and cultivation and hence a demand for allotments that presently exceeds supply; the Borough Council is already addressing this finding.
- Research has shown that quality matters to the community as well as quantity.
- The standards should not be equated to ecosystem values since ecosystem valuation is a separate research based activity.
- Outdoor sport facilities are now considered through playing pitch strategies (PPSs) using a methodology developed by Sport England.

---

[5] Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living.
[6] Ecological networks are intended to maintain environmental processes and to help to conserve biodiversity where remnants of semi-natural habitat have become fragmented and isolated.

Multifunctionality

2.8 Multifunctionality describes how Green Infrastructure can provide benefits concurrently on a given site. Hence, planning for multifunctionality is the pursuit of added value through the provision of many different functions on the same site e.g. biodiversity, recreation and amenity. However, conflicts can and do occur between different uses and user groups so there are practical limits to achieving multifunctionality. Nevertheless, the pursuit of multifunctionality is a desirable policy goal but within limits.

What we know about the Borough's Green Infrastructure multifunctionality:

- In Newcastle under Lyme most municipal owned and run open spaces are already managed for multifunctionality, for example urban parks provide for public recreation whilst concurrently nature is also encouraged
- There are perceived or actual conflicts between different users of Green Infrastructure and these require management, sometimes this is achieved by setting aside different areas for different interest or time sharing areas. Realistically not all conflicts can be resolved so sometimes land managers have to favour one user over another
- In the Borough, as elsewhere in lowland England, agricultural land is generally managed for a single purpose i.e. food production or industrial crops; however, appropriate management of field boundaries can make the agricultural landscape multifunctional. Considered as a whole the Borough has good field boundaries hence maintaining these in good condition is important to the landscape and rural biodiversity
- There are areas where multifunctionality is not a desirable goal however these occasions are very limited. An example is designated sites such as SSSI's, although even in these opportunities may exist for multiple uses such as conservation grazing.

Analysis of Needs

2.9 A geographical analysis was conducted to prepare the strategy (see technical appendix). It considered all of the different functions that Green Infrastructure can perform. The demand for each function was mapped to help identify areas where needs are/or are not met. Plan 3 shows the percentage of functions for which need exists and is currently met/not met in the Borough.

What we know about the Borough's analysis of needs

- Plan 2 shows the areas of the Borough where Green Infrastructure needs are and are not being met. The mapping shows an unequal distribution
- The areas where needs are most met are clustered together often coinciding with ease of access to important landscapes and features such as country parks and woodland
- Generally, the least needs met can be correlated to inaccessible agricultural land; this is not unique to the Borough and can be found in most lowland parts of England
- There is no discernible differences between rural and urban fringe areas, however, urban areas generally have fewer needs met
- The linear verges of transport infrastructure can be positively correlated to the meeting of needs but the relationship is not strong, however it is sufficient to indicate that verge management is important.

Percentage of needs met

- 0 - 10%
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100%

© Crown Copyright and database right 2016 Ordnance Survey 100031461
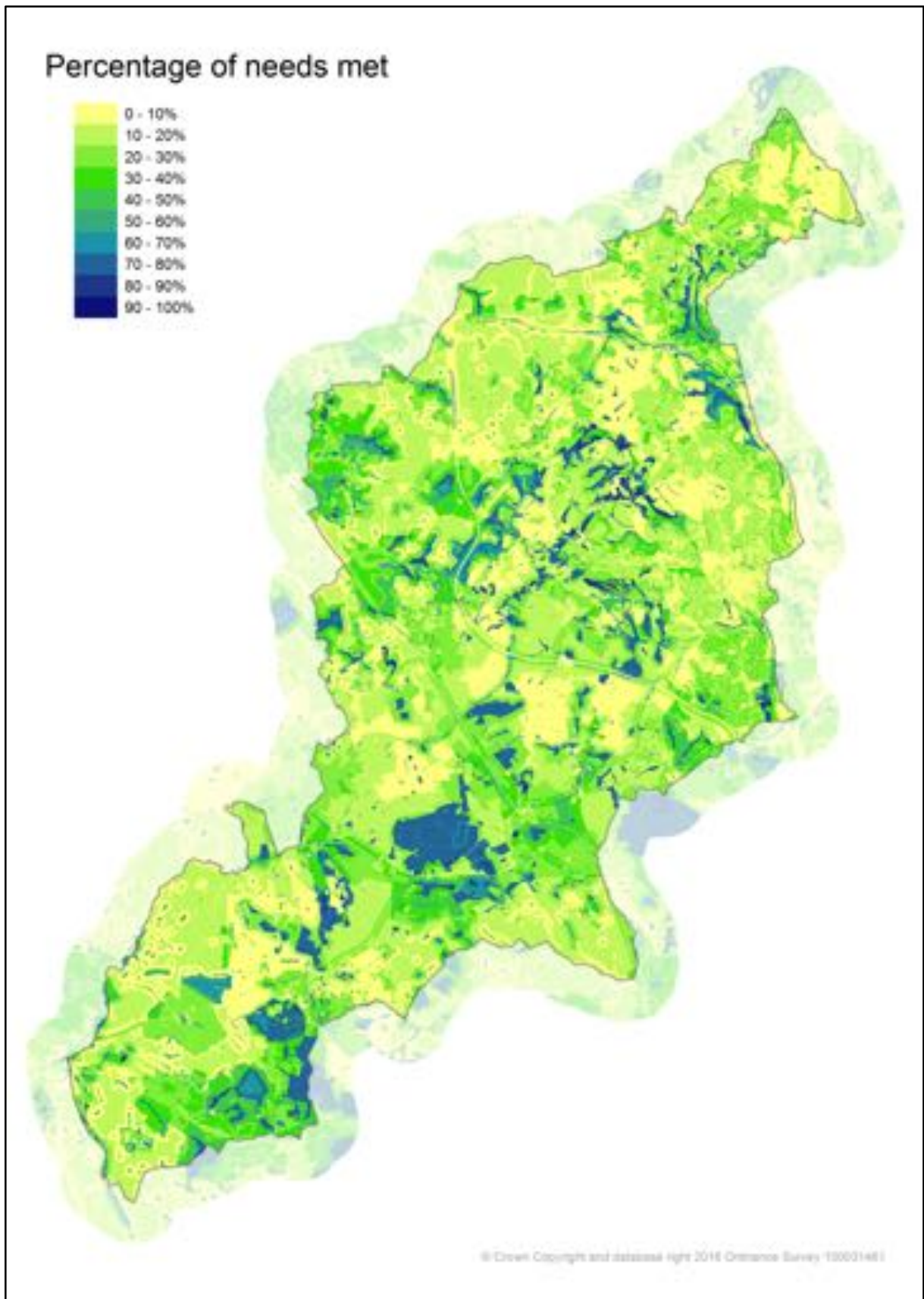
Plan 3: Green Infrastructure percentage of needs met map. This shows the percentage of functions for which need exists that is met in each location in the Borough.

Section 3: Challenges and opportunities

3.1 Green Infrastructure can help to address challenges and exploit new opportunities during the life of the new Joint Local Plan. An analysis of issues papers, historical documents, meetings and consultation on Green Infrastructure identified four particular areas of challenge and opportunity that Green Infrastructure can help address.

Working with urban growth

Challenge	Opportunity
Newcastle under Lyme is required by Government to accommodate substantial new physical growth and the new Joint Local Plan will provide the template for that growth. A substantial number of new homes and employment land will need to be developed. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and the City of Stoke-on-Trent have undertaken a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and an Employment Land Review as part of the Joint Local Plan Supporting Evidence. The SHMA has identified an objectively assessed housing need for between 1,177 and 1,504 new dwellings to be delivered across both Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent over the period 2013 to 2039, whilst the Employment Land Review has identified a need for between 190 and 334 hectares of employment land to be developed across both areas over the same period.	Green Infrastructure sensitive urban design should be used to minimise the built footprint of development. The Green Infrastructure palette includes green roofs and green walls, sustainable urban drainage systems, preference of non-sealed surfaces over sealed surfaces, new tree planting, creation of species rich grasslands and provision of recreational open space facilities in accordance with the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy standards. Brownfield land can contribute towards the supply of new housing land. However, care must be taken to avoid over-development on sites of ecological and landscape importance some of which are on former brownfield land.

Meeting public demand

Challenge	Opportunity
There is public demand for Green Infrastructure as seen through the results of the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey. For example, there is a demand for more green corridor and more tree planting in the right places. People also value the Green Infrastructure they already have. There is a cost to the management of Green Infrastructure and the money for management is getting tighter.	Public interest in Green Infrastructure should be harnessed by encouraging more voluntary effort in Green Infrastructure management and maintaining activities already in place. Voluntary involvement is not for free and requires coordination – a role for both the local authority and environmental NGOs. Creating new and managing existing Green Infrastructure can help the Borough manage climate change impacts by seeking Nature Based Solutions over grey infrastructure solutions. Three key area to focus on are (i) urban drainage, (ii) air pollution and (iii) sustainable transport routes e.g. greenways. Whilst the payback is not always obvious, avoidance of a single flood event can for example, save many £ millions.

Making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy

Challenge	Opportunity
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council recognises that there are barriers to investment (such as a poor environment or lack of infrastructure) and that there is a need to identify areas for regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement. There is also a need to increase the attraction of the area as a tourist destination based on its industrial heritage, existing and future magnets of tourism and leisure interest and the high quality environment in the Borough's rural area, as well as transforming the local image and perceptions. A challenge is to have in place policies that can turn the benefits that Green Infrastructure can provide into reality. Natural England has summarised these as (i) making a local area more attractive to business investors so attracting inward investment (ii) increasing visitor spend which makes a local area more attractive to service industries (iii) saving environmental costs, which improves air quality, reduces the urban heat island effect, filters diffuse pollution and helps to manage flood risk (iv) providing health benefits through improved air quality and surroundings which encourages activity and improves mental health and well-being (v) generating employment by attracting new businesses and residents to the area, increasing office occupancy rates and increasing the number of jobs in the area and (vi) promoting food production by enabling increased productivity in urban areas.	Green Infrastructure as an 'urban brand' is now rapidly developing both in the UK and internationally and there is no reason why this cannot happen in the Borough too. The Borough already has some outstanding assets such as its urban and country parks, although there is always a challenge to meet maintenance costs and link these sites to wider networks. There are also opportunities to improve access to Green Infrastructure which improves quality of life, health and wellbeing which has a positive spin in terms of reduced sickness and stress. This can be achieved, in part, by working with developers to design in local Green Infrastructure to new developments and including it with urban regeneration schemes. In respect of employment sites, those with little prospect of early development can be temporarily greened whilst those with realisable development potential can benefit from advanced structural landscaping. The timing of this Strategy which coincides with the production of a new Joint Local Plan enables the local authority to incorporate supportive policies.

Improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity

Challenge	Opportunity
A well-functioning Green Infrastructure network should have a high degree of connectivity between ecological nodes and a good spatial distribution of nodes and inter-connections. Whilst in practice this rarely occurs, in policy terms this is the desirable end result of planning and implementation processes. The Green Infrastructure network in Newcastle under Lyme is a significant resource but has weaknesses meaning that habitats are fragmented and the ecosystem services that Green Infrastructure already provides is vulnerable to externalities. The challenge is to improve ecosystem connectivity between nodal areas and to ensure that the ecosystem values of nodal areas is maintained and when possible improved.	By using a geographical information system, it has been possible to identify the areas of Newcastle under Lyme that are performing well in terms of their ecosystem performance. This is mapped in terms of needs met/not met (see Plan 2). Once core nodal areas have been identified, it is possible to determine a thematic and spatial strategy that will improve the connectivity, distribution and health of the Green Infrastructure network. Hence through a combination of a partnership approach, seeking funding, planning and policy making it is possible to identify which Green Infrastructure resource should be protected or conserved and where new Green Infrastructure creation is required.

Table 3: The challenges and opportunities that Green Infrastructure can help to address challenges and exploit new opportunities during the life of the new Joint Local Plan.

Examples of how Green Infrastructure acts as a Nature Based Solution.

Air Pollution

Air pollution can cause or intensify a range of health conditions notably respiratory and cardiovascular illness. Of notable concern are very fine particles called $PM_{2.5}$. These particles result from a variety of industrial processes, transportation and burning of fossil fuels. They are especially concerning because unlike larger particles they can pass straight into the blood-system. Scientific research has shown a positive correlation between the lowering of $PM_{2.5}$ and the density and distribution of Green Infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure is being proposed as a Nature Based Solution for localities with air pollution problems. Of particular value are large trees and woodlands which intercept $PM_{2.5}$ and remove them from the atmosphere by dry and wet deposition. The benefits are seasonal and are at their highest in spring, summer and autumn. To maximise the air filtration benefits trees and urban woodlands, should have the most 'edge-effect' (e.g. long and thin woodlands are to be preferred over large blocks), include coniferous as well as broadleaved species and be as local to known pollution sources as possible (e.g. close to major transport routes). Woodlands should not be too dense either as for wet deposition a degree of openness is required. The selection of trees should avoid those known to emit significant quantities of VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) as this can counter the benefits.

Other Examples

*   A pilot study in Manchester has shown that trees, green space and vegetation can attenuate urban heat stress and reduce temperatures by up to 13°C compared to full sunlight
*   In Germany, restoring 10% of drained peat-lands has been shown to avoid damages worth €22m/year from CO2 emissions
*   In Amsterdam, it has been calculated that 10% more green space can reduce health care and sick leave costs by €400m/year per 10m inhabitants
*   In North West England, recovering peat-lands is estimated to have achieved ~€3m/year of saved water supply and purification costs
*   In Malmo, the city has invested in sustainable urban regeneration, and installed green roofs and an open storm water system; the result: -50% run-off; +50% biodiversity and -20% environmental impact.

Image 5: Green Bridge across a new high speed rail line near Brussels; this was constructed to allow movement of mammals and ecological connectivity across the railway between two nature hubs (woodland blocks) hence avoiding animal collisions, damage to rolling stock and line disruption. Such an approach should be advanced for HS2.

Section 4: Objectives and mechanisms

The Objectives

4.1 Based on the National Planning Policy Guidance, the Government's Planning Practice Guidance, examples from elsewhere in the UK and the latest international research, four strategic objectives[7] have been identified which are considered as especially relevant to the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme, these shown in Figure 2.

4.2 The strategic objectives, shown bulleted below, cover relevant social, environmental and economic considerations and can be cross referenced with the challenges and opportunities set out in the preceding chapter (Chapter 3). The strategic objectives are overarching and are the basis for the research undertaken to determine how the Borough is performing against each (see 4.3 below):
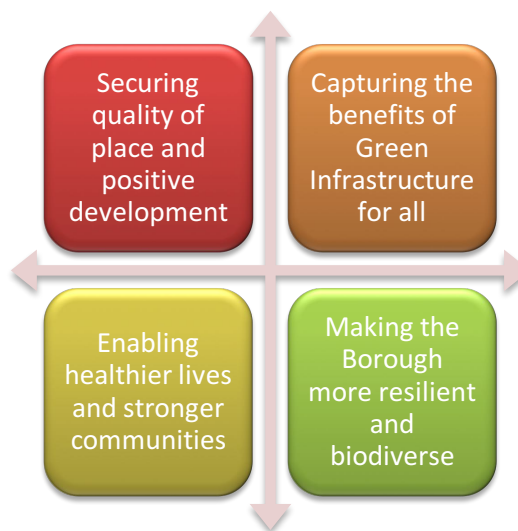
Figure 2: Infographic showing in abbreviated form the four strategic objectives have been identified which are considered as especially relevant to Newcastle under Lyme.

- Securing quality of place and positive development can help the Council and stakeholders to work with urban growth and contribute towards improving the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity.
- Enabling healthier lives and stronger communities can help the Council and stakeholders meet public demand.
- Capturing the benefits of Green Infrastructure for all can help the Council and stakeholders meet public demand, improve the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity and contribute to making Green Infrastructure central to the future economy.
- Making the Borough more resilient and biodiverse can help the Council and stakeholders improve the Green Infrastructure network and its connectivity

4.3 The consultants research has shown that the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme has some geographical and functional deficiencies in terms of Green Infrastructure. The main implication of this is that:

Ecosystems services are sub-optimal.	The baseline for NBS is currently low.	Fragmentation leads to vulnerability.	There are hidden costs.
The Borough's Ecosystem services are sub-optimal and vulnerable to externalities, most notably in respect of a given ecosystems ability to cope and mitigate climate change impacts. In ecosystem terms the Borough has a lack of 'ecosystem resilience'.	The baseline for nature based solutions (NBS) is currently low and building this capacity requires determination and long term change. If it does not change the Borough will have to reply to a greater extent on 'built' grey infrastructure solutions than would otherwise be the case.	Some habitats and landscapes are fragmented and in these biodiversity and the landscape is vulnerable.	Public access to GI is limited in some areas hence the potential of the natural environment to contribute to public health and wellbeing is limited where this occurs. This places hidden costs on the NHS, social services and private healthcare providers.

Table 4: Research conducted by the Consultants team and based on the four strategic objectives has shown that there are functional deficiencies that require to be addressed through the Green Infrastructure Strategy. This has led to the setting of eight specific objectives.

---

[7] The strategic objectives provide the over-arching framework to convert the vision statement (see section 1) into a Strategy.

4.3 Eight specific objectives[8] have been identified for the Borough to address the implications of the deficiencies in terms of Green Infrastructure.

Ref No.	Specific Green Infrastructure objective
1	**Increase the robustness of ecosystems** through long-term management planning, starting with those areas most at risk of further decline.
2	**Address spatial deficiencies in Green Infrastructure** as shown on the mapping.
3	**Build the 'capacity', which can support Green Infrastructure** notably by partnership building, increasing the input of volunteers and reducing the reliance on the local authority. However as a democratic organisation it remains necessary for the local authority to still be seen as the competent body for Green Infrastructure and offer leadership
4	**Ensure a suitably worded policy on Green Infrastructure is included in the Local Plan** and that clear guidance is available to those in development control on how to maximise Green Infrastructure through the development process.
5	**Seek nature-based solutions on all major developments and infrastructure projects** such as H2S, road improvements, housing and commercial development sites.
6	**Plan Green Infrastructure at all scales from the neighbourhood to the landscape scale**.
7	**Place Green Infrastructure as central to resilience planning** (notably in connection with climate change) and health and wellbeing planning (notably in connection with the cardio-vascular, obesity, mental health and children's development agendas)
8	**Focus on the basics first.** Namely focusing on nodes and improving connectivity & designing in multifunctionality.

Table 5: Specific Green Infrastructure Objectives for the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Image 6: Formal bedding and open space is as much part of Borough's Green Infrastructure as natural areas. In the urban parts of the Borough public open space provide porous surfaces, trees, 'breathing' spaces and maintain urban soils in good order.

---

[8] The specific objectives describe the intended results from delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Mechanisms

4.5 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is a high-level plan to achieve the specific objectives. The necessary strategic mechanisms to be put in place are listed below. These can be considered as a toolkit for use by the Borough Council and stakeholders.

Strategic mechanism	Fulfils specific objective	Why	How
Improve the interconnection of green spaces	1, 2, 4, 6, 8	Biodiversity benefits Extend recreational opportunities Enhance the regulating services provided by ecosystems	Opportunities created/taken through planning agreements Embed in local plan policy Develop & deliver projects that join key green assets together through corridors Enhance existing green corridors
Enhance the multi-functionality of green spaces	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Improve the environmental performance of open space Opportunity to reduce management costs Biodiversity benefits Improved aesthetics e.g. flower meadow creation Enhance the regulating services provided by ecosystems Enhance the provisioning services provided by ecosystems	Review and then change land management regimes when appropriate Seek professional land management inputs and advice from multiple stakeholders Challenge landowners/land managers in a positive way and incentivise where possible
Integrate green space with other infrastructure and the built environment	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Resource efficiency Improved design Green Infrastructure improvements on the back of new development Enhance the cultural services provided by ecosystems	Promote co-design and co-delivery Embed green urban infrastructure in design guidelines Upskills development planning professional in Green Infrastructure. Empower/educate high level politicians and corporate management to understand how Green Infrastructure can be brought into major infrastructure projects through application of the principle of 'nature based solution' Engage with professional advisors operating in the area and promote Green Infrastructure through continuing professional development (CPD)
Plan Green Infrastructure at different scales	4, 6	Green Infrastructure exists at different scales, local action can bring Borough wide benefits Enhance the supporting services provided by ecosystems	Work across boundaries and between tiers of local government Work with landholder sectors through representative bodies such as the CLA and NFU Work with environmental regulators and key non-departmental public bodies including; Environment Agency, Natural England and Forestry Commission
Pursue a strategic and holistic approach to Green Infrastructure	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Cost effectiveness through sharing resources Added value over a fragmented approach Provides clear direction, milestones and destinations Provides clarity to funders that individual Green Infrastructure	Ensure that Green Infrastructure is a 'golden thread' at the centre of local planning. Seek nature based solutions first before adopting 'grey' engineered approaches

		projects fit within a 'bigger picture'	
Deliver through partnership	3	No one organisation can plan or deliver on its own Realistic in a resource limited economic environment Green Infrastructure requires the engagement of multiple stakeholders not least due to land ownership/management responsibilities	Embed the Green Infrastructure strategy within existing partnership forums Encourage existing organisations to see their role in terms of ecosystem services e.g. nature organisations, utility companies etc.
Provide equal access to the services Green Infrastructure provides	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	Social equity Supports biocultural diversity e.g. legacy landscapes that speak to sections of the community Health and wellbeing benefits and local pride.	Link Green Infrastructure strategy to NHS and health providers Link Green Infrastructure strategy to sports providers e.g. in how they maintain, manage and promote their green spaces Encourage intervention programmes to build confidence in communities not yet using Green Infrastructure to do so Better 'signposting' and materials

Table 6: Strategic mechanisms for the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy

Image 7: Lyme Valley Parkway - an important Green Corridor. See Spatial Strategy G5.

Section 5: Strategy

5.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is in two part. The first of these is the 'spatial strategy' and the second the 'thematic strategy'. The spatial strategy is based on identified localities within the Borough. The thematic strategy covers the whole Borough.

Spatial Strategy

The core elements of the Spatial Strategy are;

- **Nodal areas** – these are existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value. These areas function at the 'landscape scale' rather than at the 'local scale', hence isolated Green Infrastructure assets are not included. Nodal areas can be likened to when jigsaw pieces of green spaces and their functions are joined together.
- **Green corridors**– these may be corridors that provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being (i) ecological connectivity, (ii) recreational/access connectivity or (iii) landscape connectivity.

and Interventions:

- Areas requiring **conservation/preservation.**
- Areas requiring **new Green Infrastructure.**

The balance of the two interventions based on the consultant's research is shown in the pie chart. **Conservation/preservation** is shown green and **new Green Infrastructure** shown brown. It should be noted that Conservation/preservation does not imply that development within these areas is inappropriate. The Spatial Strategy is shown on Plan 4.
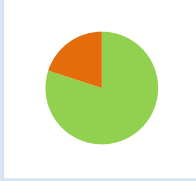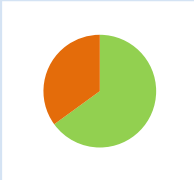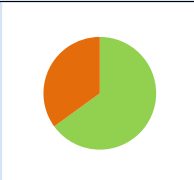
Image 8: Black Firs and Cranberry Bog SSSI, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve is located in nodal area N3. This nodal area is especially important for its high value conservation sites.
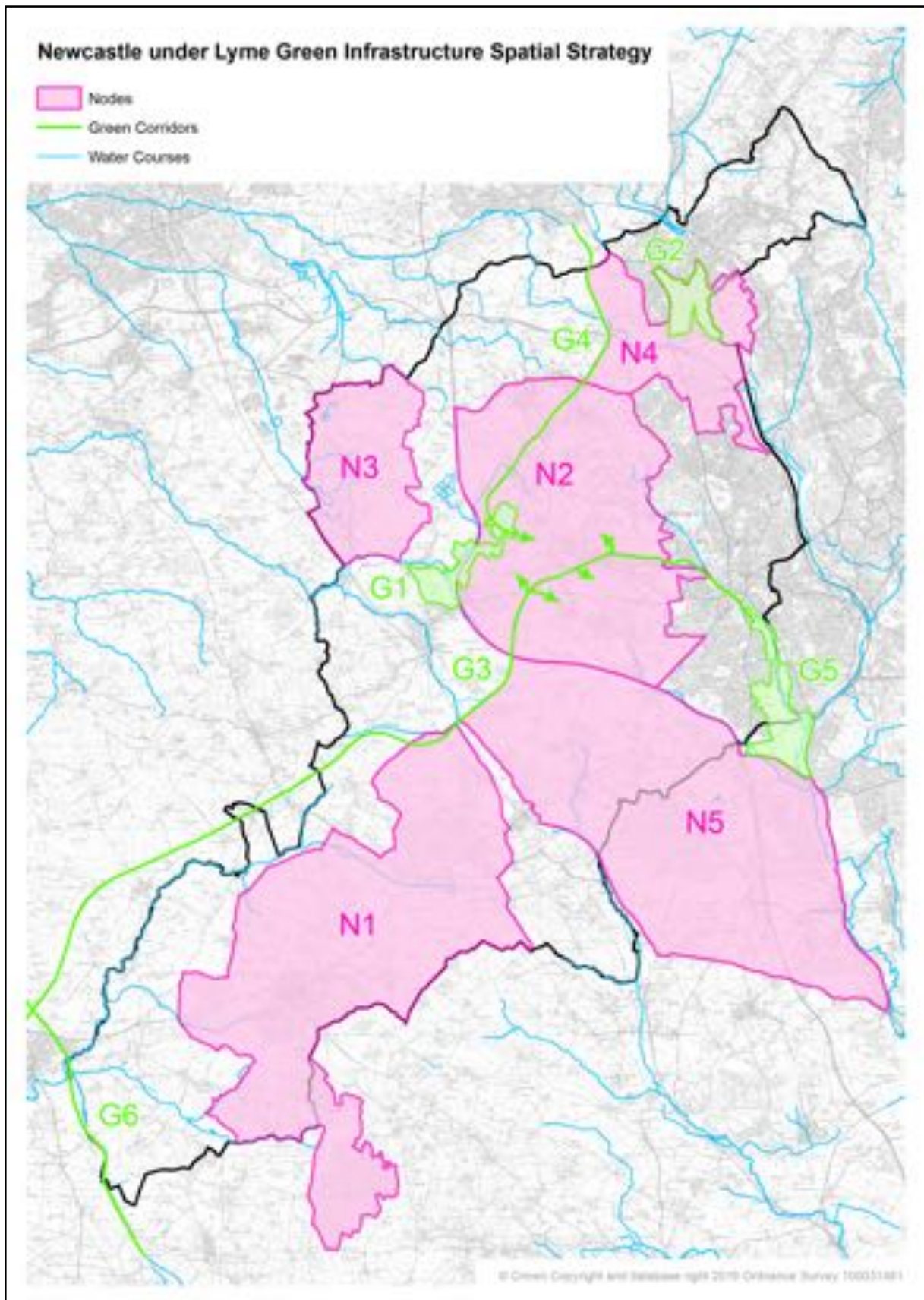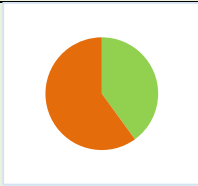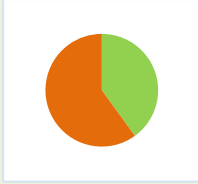
Plan 4: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Spatial Strategy mapped. Note that the water courses refer to thematic strategy T3.

Ref No.	Name	Description	Strategy	Interventions balance
Nodal Areas				
N1	Bishops Wood to River Lea.	This is a predominantly landscape driven node with strong woodland cover within a rural rolling landform. Woodland cover and agriculture defines the character of this area. The node commences outside of the Borough at Bishops Wood and follows a matrix of woodland past Loggerheads (the only major settlement in the node) to the Maer Hills which has an active Landscape Protection Group, before finishing at the minor water course the River Lea. The West Coast Main line presently provides an abrupt end to this node.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection but there also with opportunities for new Green Infrastructure. b. Protection of the wooded landscape is necessary and opportunities to create new woodland in this area should be sought. c. A special focus on proposals that would join existing woodlands physically together (such as shelterbelts and new broadleaved woodland) would benefit the overall Green Infrastructure network. d. Access to this area is likely to remain via 'rights of way' however new permissive access and improvements to existing rights of way should be sought. e. A key opportunity is to link this node with the former railway line that runs from the River Lea to Silverdale, to facilitate non-motorised access from the urban areas of the Borough (N2). f. Over development of this node should be resisted although 'key hole' and 'minor development' could release resources for interventions listed above. New development should be screened wherever possible by trees.	
N2	Newcastle West Green Gateway	This is an area with urban influence and includes former mining communities. It is more urban in the east and rural in the west and south. Included is Keele University Campus, Bateswood Nature Reserve and the Country Parks at Apedale and Silverdale. It is crossed by a number of transport corridors and these define the boundaries to the	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection but there also ample opportunities for new Green Infrastructure, especially to improve linkages between existing key sites. The proximity of this area to the urban centre of Newcastle under Lyme is a major asset to the Borough especially in given people access to nature. b. Existing 'key' sites, such as Silverdale Country Park, are	

		node; namely the A53, M6, B5500. The area is used for a variety of recreational purposes including golf and other sports. The landscape can be described as urban fringe, interspersed with settlements.	immature in term of landscape and need both time and management input to help them mature. A 'long-term' perspective is needed in respect of management planning. c. Keele University is major 'green' asset but not one fully used by the wider community, this is an opportunity for the Borough Council and the University to work together. d. Development of the former Keele Golf course would be an opportunity to create new off road access from Silverdale to the Campus. The landscape of the former Keele Golf course is good and should be incorporated in any development through masterplanning. e. The M6 is an abrupt boundary to the west and the separation of The Glading's from Walton's Wood is a notable break in ecological connectivity. This would be an ideal location for a green bridge which would extend the node Westwood towards Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill (N3) and towards Old Madeley Manor.	
N3	Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	This area features a number of high value conservation sites situated amongst a rolling landscape. Betley Mere is of considerable natural and heritage importance. The node is well served with 'rights of way' and the route from Cracow Moss to Bateswood Nature Reserve is of notable importance. The presence of surface water in this area is greater than elsewhere in the Borough, giving it a unique character.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection, especially but not exclusively focused on water environments and associated woodland. Whilst the focus of this is Betley Mere the wide landscape includes numerous smaller water bodies of importance. b. This is a sensitive landscape and development needs to be handled with care for example in respect of avoiding any diffuse pollution. c. The footpath between Cracow Moss to Bateswood includes an on-road section at Adderley Green, off road	

			access should be created if possible. d. A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is currently awaiting a decision on designation. As an NDP proceeds it should reflect the importance of the designed area to the Borough's overall Green Infrastructure.	
N4	Newcastle and Kidsgrove Green Gateway	This is an urban fringe gateway giving access to both Newcastle under Lyme, Talke, Kidsgrove and north Stoke-on-Trent. It is traversed by the A500 and is a major Gateway to the 'Potteries'. The landform is undulating and has an urban fringe character and includes former extractive industry sites as well as notable areas of woodland and Bathpool Park. There are a number of commercial business centres and forward logistics in the area.	a. Landscape improvements can help reinforce this area as a welcoming approach to the Potteries. b. Key elements of Green Infrastructure are already in place especially on former industrial land and these should whenever possible be preserved. c. In this area Urban Forestry is a valuable technique to achieve landscape improvements with new structural plantings enabling the joining of existing woodland together and tree belts parallel to road corridors providing air filtration, noise attenuation and screening bland industrial structures. d. New development is unlikely to damage the Green Infrastructure of this node if offsetting actions are delivered. e. The area crosses into Stoke on Trent, hence the Green Infrastructure should be considered in parallel with the City Council.	
N5	Hanchurch Hills, Swynnerton Old Park and Trentham Gardens	These are long established recreational area with walks in a strong landscape setting with interesting heritage features, parkland and established woodland. The majority of the area falls with the City of Stoke-on-Trent but extends into the Borough. It is used by Borough residents and exhibits ecological connectivity. There is a notable link to the Lyme Valley Greenway.	a. This is node principally requiring conservation and protection. b. Extensive areas of woodland require ongoing woodland management, such as selective felling, new planting and habitat enhancements. c. Ongoing countryside management to address recreational pressures are needed at key locations. d. Rights of way are important for linking larger sites together.	

	Green corridors			
G1	Old Madeley Manor – The Glading's – Walton's Wood - Newcastle West Green Gateway	Old Madeley manor is an important heritage building and parkland landscape with nearby water bodies and set amongst well connected woodland – connectivity to the east is compromised by the M6 corridor. The Glading's and Walton's Woodlands are separated by the M6 motorway with the two sides otherwise well-connected into wider wooded landscapes. This is an ideal area for a Green Bridge project hence making connectivity between node N2 and areas to the west of the M6.	a. New Green Infrastructure in the form of a Green Bridge is advocated, such a major undertaking should appear as a long term objective and could likely be developed at the time of a major re-engineering project on the M6 as an adjunct project.	
G2	Bathpool Park and adjacent open spaces – woodland and open spaces.	Bathpool Park is an urban influenced open space and natural area with water features and an extensive network of adjacent urban woodland. These are important for ecological connectivity and recreation.	a. Maintain key open space resources and seek to improve connectivity, enhance biodiversity and maintain recreational potential.	
G3	Newcastle to Shropshire Union Canal Greenway	Based on a dismantled railway line which runs with gaps from the centre of Newcastle to the River Lea, and beyond in a less complete form to the Shropshire Union canal with crossings of the M6 and the West Coast Main line, this is a major opportunity for Green Infrastructure connectivity and links to Silverdale and Apedale Country parks. To some extent connectivity already exists but there are opportunities for enhancement. The greenway should be considered as a braided route (landscape corridor with access whenever possible) rather than solely linked to the former track bed. Beyond the River Lea towards Market Drayton the route is more	a. New Green Infrastructure can be used to to enhance the route and provide side branches. b. Wooded vegetation to be maintained and managed for biodiversity c. As far as possible surface to be suitable for cycling and walking. d. Opportunities for interpretation and signage to be taken and clear links make to rights of way. e. Create off road green route (cycle/pedestrian) through Former Keele Golf Course to Keele University as a project within G3(a).	
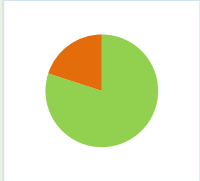
		conceptual but could be developed in partnership with Shropshire County Council.		
G4	Bateswood to Alsager Greenway	Based on a dismantled railway which runs from Alsager to Bateswood, this is a major opportunity for Green Infrastructure connectivity. The route is already in place. The greenway should be considered as a braided route (landscape corridor with access) rather than solely linked to the former track bed. A key opportunity is to link the Greenway with G3 hence creating wider network connectivity.	a. New Green Infrastructure can be used to to enhance the route and provide side branches. b. Linkage through Parrot's Drumble to Kidsgrove and seek further connectivity to G2. c. As far as possible surface to be suitable for cycling and walking. d. Opportunities for interpretation and signage to be taken and clear links make to rights of way. e. Create Bateswood Circular route as a project within G4(a) above f. Use existing PROW to link with G3, cost, agree land issues and seek funding for improvements.	
G5	Lyme Valley Parkway	Existing Green Infrastructure following the Lyme Brook links to River Trent and to G3 and N2. Strongly urban influenced, with some wooded areas, water features, open grassland and sports facilities.	a. Existing Green Infrastructure to be maintained b. Avoid further urban encroachment c. Use landscape planting to screen urban features. d. Enhance biodiversity through small scale interventions e. Enhance path surfaces, signage and increase interpretation.	
G6	Shropshire Union Canal	Existing green corridor following the Shropshire Union Canal.	a. Protect existing Green Infrastructure. b. Work in partnership with other stakeholders. c. Link to G3.	

Table 7: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Spatial Strategy

Thematic Strategy

Ref No.	Description	The Strategy
T1	Quality vs. quantity	**Where a decision needs to be taken between 'quality' and 'quantity', for instance in respect of public open space management, then quality will be preferred.** **MORE:** *Quality is not only a measure of public amenity since of equal value in Green Infrastructure are the ecosystem services the open space provides. Hence the decision will reflect the public benefit <u>and</u> the wider ecosystem benefit.*
T2	Urban design	**Development planning should require that developers include green design to the satisfaction of the local planning authority, in line with Council guidance.** **MORE:** *'Green design' no longer or very rarely entails significant additional costs that can affect the viability of new urban development. Green design principles, ranging from SUDS, green roofs through to incorporation of niche habitats on buildings are well understood by architects and landscape architects and other urban professions. Commercial/business locations should feature robust landscaping with preference given to indigenous planting and naturalistic landscapes. Whenever possible linkages should be made between new landscaping and neighbouring 'green areas'.*
T3	Green corridors	**Recognition is given that connectivity is an essential part of the Borough's Green Infrastructure approach. Hence wherever possible green spaces will be linked together, although this can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. Cross reference should be made with spatial strategy and synergies looked for.** **MORE:** *In urban areas street trees can provide 'bridges' between green spaces hence the street scene is seen as a connectivity management issue. Accessible green corridors also act as travel routes for pedestrians and cyclists, albeit this requires planning and design to be factored in. Green corridors are not just linear routes, boundaried corridors featuring verges, ditches and hedgerows are habitats too. Such corridors support foraging both by people and wildlife. The Borough's water courses are of importance as green corridors, especially so as the quantity of surface water is low in comparison with other areas (except in the area around Betley and Balterley). Water courses offer movement for wildlife and are often associated with public access especially across agricultural areas. For this reason, water courses are shown on the Spatial Strategy Plan.*
T4	Off-setting	**Losses in Green Infrastructure should normally be offset by commensurate increases in provision elsewhere in terms of overall environmental performance. Where financial contributions are involved these can be pooled to maximise the benefits.** **MORE:** *It is unrealistic to expect that all area of Green Infrastructure can be preserved; indeed, in some situations the loss of green spaces which are either poorly preforming, surplus to requirements or in the wrong place can actually lead to gains in terms of environmental performance through the process of off-setting. For example, through the creation of a new habitat rich area with good public access. Ecosystem values could require the application of an ecosystem valuation tool as part of determining the viability of off-setting a given development, this will normally be the responsibility of the applicant to the satisfaction of the local planning authority. There are numerous tools available and guidance is available at the Government's Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website.*
T5	Transportation and movement	**Civil engineering operations commissioned by the Borough Council and other public agencies working in the Borough; should normally utilise the regulatory services provided by Green Infrastructure to**

		offset their environmental impact in preference over grey infrastructure solutions. **MORE:** *Nature based solutions should be pursued in preference to hard 'grey' infrastructure. Where grey infrastructure is used then links to adjacent Green Infrastructure should be made. Civils' operations should seek to make access improvements for pedestrians and cyclists whilst respecting existing nature.*
T6	Food security	**Encouragement should be given to local food production, local food marketing, foraging, composting and waste recycling.** **MORE:** *Community food production (such as allotment gardening) is generally environmentally friendly and maintains urban soils. It is also contributing to health and well-being through physical activity and is known to improve mental health. The Council need to coordinate the provision of allotments and other food spaces in keeping with the Open Space Strategy. Temporary sites can be used for urban growing that can then be moved when a site is developed. Community food production is allied to recycling activities and can be co-promoted.*
T7	Economy and jobs	**Public Policy should encourage employment and training in land based industries and facilitate volunteer involvement in Green Infrastructure project delivery.** **MORE:** *Green Infrastructure makes a large impact in respect of employment. Land management is a relatively easy point of entry to the employment market especially for people with a low skills base and this can lead to progress in vocational training. Green Infrastructure is also a major reason why people visit an area and hence assists in the tourist and visitor economy. Volunteering is also a major contributor to Green Infrastructure management and the act of volunteering builds social cohesion.*
T8	Health and wellbeing, education & social cohesion	**Encouragement and when possible funding should be deployed to facilitate green exercise and other activities that strengthen well-being and social cohesion in open spaces; for example, through activity and event programmes that target those who currently do not use open space or are socially excluded from it.** **MORE:** *Peer reviewed research has shown that access to and use of Green Infrastructure is strongly beneficial to human health and well-being and can help bridge numerous areas of social exclusion and support lifelong learning. Especially strong results are found in terms of cardio-vascular condition and mental health such as stress reduction. Activity started in outdoor spaces is more likely to have been continued one-year hence than if exercise was taken in a Gym. Green Infrastructure is a venue for formal teaching, training and informal lifelong learning.*
T9	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	**Areas of high ecological value including designated sites should be protected from development. Advice should be sought from competent authorities where there is a question of potential development impacts. There is a need maintain the quality of sites to prevent or reduce the risk of habitat losses across all key sites.** **MORE:** *Biodiversity and geodiversity is a barometer of the overall health of the the local environment. The most important sites are designated and should always be protected from development. There is planning practice guidance issued by government. Competent authorities include Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Areas of high ecological value also contribute to the quality of the landscape of the Borough. There are a range of practical measures that the Borough Council can support these include; (i) the enhancement of existing ecological corridors for nature and access to allow for the movement and distribution of wildlife and public enjoyment of the natural environment, (ii) increasing the ecological diversity of amenity Open Space – e.g. by reseeding and management as meadows rather than amenity grassland, (iii) Working in partnership with other bodies to encourage whole farm planning for*

		nature improvements, (iv) look to hedgerow management and biomass planting and harvesting for small scale local energy production
T10	Trees	**Trees should normally be protected from the adverse impacts of development and veteran trees should only be removed in extremis (for example when they are a risk to human well-being). Whenever possible existing trees should be incorporated into new developments and protected during the building phase. Tree planting should normally be required on all development sites to the satisfaction of the local planning authority, in line with Council guidance. The Borough Council should seek manage trees using the principles of urban forestry. In Newcastle under Lyme, Kidsgrove and urbanised villages the Borough Council should seek opportunities to plant trees within the street scene to encourage ecosystem connectivity.** **MORE:** The Trees of the Borough are more than just landscape features as they regulate air quality, provide evaporate cooling and particulate filtering. Trees grouped into woodland as well as field and hedgerow trees are vital to the landscape of the Borough. It is highly desirable to create new urban and peri-urban woodland and manage trees in the urban areas as an 'urban green canopy' (urban forest) – this will enhance connectivity in urban areas.
T11	National and regional infrastructure	**National and regional infrastructure in the Borough should be audited with a view to agreeing with operator's/agencies long term objectives for enhanced Green Infrastructure performance and improved connectivity.** **MORE:** The Borough is greatly influenced by national and regional infrastructure most noticeably the M6, West Coast mainline, A500 and the proposed HS2. These all impact on the Borough's Green Infrastructure. In particular, they divide the landscape and impact on ecological connectivity. It is recognised that the Borough Council has limited responsibilities and resources to affect change, however the Council could audit the corridors and identify Green Infrastructure improvements as part of future infrastructure works. The priority is to seek opportunities for green bridges and wildlife underpasses and niche habitats with respect to HS2.
T12	Landscape	**The landscape of the Borough should be protected from degradation and enhanced whenever possible.** **MORE:** The Borough is fortunate in having a well structure landscape albeit one greatly influenced by national and regional infrastructure. However, the landscape is vulnerable to decline and can be negatively impacted by poorly sited developments. Landscape advice should be sought from the County Council where there is concern about the detrimental impact of a given development. Landscape enhancements should be sought through the Borough's involvement in partnership projects.
T13	Neigbourhoods Development Plans (NDPs)	**Designated bodies should be invited to include Green Infrastructure in their NDPs and cross reference to this Strategy.** **MORE:** NDP's are part of the statutory planning process and inclusion in them of supportive Green Infrastructure polices will benefit the delivery of this Strategy. NDPs are underway in Loggerheads; Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston and Whitmore. A neighbourhood area is also proposed covering the parish of Keele and another for Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill.

Table 8: The Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Thematic Strategy.

Section 6: Delivery and the role of the Borough Council

The delivery framework

6.1 A delivery framework document accompanies the Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy. Green Infrastructure crosses multiple land uses and ownerships so no one organisation has sole responsibility for Green Infrastructure across the Borough. The core approach to delivery of Green Infrastructure in the Borough is through 'partnership'. There are existing partnerships in place that can add Green Infrastructure to their remit. Having the appropriate 'tools' available to achieve the spatial and functional strategies is important.

The role of the Borough Council

6.2 The role of the Borough Council in delivery is:

Coordinate Green Infrastructure activities across the Borough in cooperation with Staffordshire County Council and as needed other adjacent local authorities. The relationship with the City of Stoke is notable as the new Joint Local Plan is being produced with the city. There is also a notable overlap with the City of Stoke in respect of Node N5.

Nominate a local authority officer as principle 'Green Infrastructure' advocate with the option to mirror this role at member level. Their role(s) is within the Council as well as externally.

Ensure that there are suitably worded planning policies that recognise the role of Green Infrastructure in the new joint Local Plan.

Manage the Council's land assets in a way that supports the Green Infrastructure Strategy, notably by using the Open Space standards to guide decision making and through the deployment of existing budgets.

Consider the Green Infrastructure Strategy as a consideration when determining planning applications.

Review the Green Infrastructure Strategy from time-to-time to take account of changes.

Ensure that there is awareness of Green Infrastructure and of the existence of the Green Infrastructure Strategy across all service areas.

That the Council's Senior Management and Member's are upskilled and knowledgeable about Green Infrastructure.

Raise awareness and interest in Green Infrastructure across the community through media activity such as the Council's website and twitter feed.

Figure 3: Infographic showing the role of the Borough Council in the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Funding

6.3 Funding for the Green Infrastructure will come from a number of sources both monetary and in-kind. It is not the responsibility of the Borough Council to provide the resources for Green Infrastructure delivery beyond their own land and securing funding through planning agreements; however, the Borough Council can facilitate access to external funds for delivery by supporting or leading external funding applications, for example to the National Lottery or Government Grants. Securing funding normally requires a partnership approach since funders require the involvement of many stakeholders and evidence of community support. The Borough Council should give full consideration to mounting a landscape partnership application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project based on the Strategy's nodal areas and green corridors.

Section 7: Abbreviations used in this report, acknowledgements, photographic credits.

Abbreviations and definitions used in this Strategy or referenced in allied literature

CO_2	Carbon Dioxide – the most common greenhouse gas.
GI	Green Infrastructure.
Green Corridor	Landscape corridors that provide various forms of connectivity, the most notable being (i) ecological connectivity, (ii) recreational/access connectivity or (iii) landscape connectivity.
HS2	High Speed 2 (HS2) is the planned high-speed railway linking London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.
Joint Local Plan	The Joint Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme and the City of Stoke-on-Trent. A framework that guides the long term future growth of an area over a period of 15 to 20 years, including how much development there should be, where it should go, and how land should be used.
NHS	National Health Service.
Node (Nodal) Area	Existing areas where Green Infrastructure is concentrated and/of notable value. These areas function at the 'landscape scale' rather than at the 'local scale'.
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework.
Open Space Strategy	Accompanying Strategy to the Green Infrastructure Strategy with shared evidence base
$PM^{2.5}$	Microscopic particulates which can cause respiratory and other diseases. They can pass straight into the blood stream.
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance.
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UGI	Urban Green Infrastructure.

Acknowledgments

Photographic credits

MD2 Consulting Ltd

36 Nevilledale Terrace
Durham
DH1 4QG

www.md2.org.uk
info@md2.org.uk

MD²

Planning | Regeneration
Green Infrastructure

Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy

Appendix: Background Report on Recommended Standards

DRAFT FINAL

This page has been left deliberately blank to facilitate two-sided printing. Please print sparingly, use a conservation grade paper and ensure that the virgin pulp content is from FSC certified sources.

Appendix: Background Report on Recommended Standards

Content:

1: Introduction

1.1 Green infrastructure and open space types covered

This appendix provides background explanations on the recommended open space[1] and green infrastructure standards for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. The standards are common to both the Open Space and Green Infrastructure strategies and cover the following types:

- Parks and gardens;
- Amenity green space;
- Accessible natural and semi-natural green spaces;
- Designated play spaces for children and young people;
- Allotments;
- Green corridors; and
- Outdoor sports facilities.

Standards for sports playing pitches no longer apply. A separate Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been produced for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. It should be noted that Sport England no longer supports local standards in its approved methodology (Sport England 2013).

1.2 National planning policy context

The key relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework are:

- Paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which requires that Local Planning Authorities "*set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure*."

- Paragraph 73 of the NPPF planning policies requires local authorities to have robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. "*Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required*."

As referred to in 1.1 above, playing pitches are now dealt with outside the open space audit framework, in line with Sport England guidance. Although sport pitches can still be considered as an open space typology, Sport England guidance does not deal with non-pitch sport users of informal open space (such as MUGAs [*multiuse games area*] and Green Corridors). These categories are considered in this study as active recreation/non sport pitch uses; other examples include equestrian activities, mountain biking and water sports.

1.3 Local context: Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Audit (Urban 2007, Rural 2011 and Combined 2015)

In September 2007, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council produced the North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy (jointly with the City of Stoke on Trent). As part of this study, 132 urban sites were visited and audited within Newcastle under Lyme. In 2011, rural open space sites were audited as part of a fresh study, when a total of 65 sites were visited and audited.

---

[1] It should be noted that sometimes the term 'green space' is used in place of 'open space' (e.g. NPPF para 73). In this study the terminology 'green space' and 'open space' are considered as interchangeable.

A critical review and data refresh was conducted by MD2 Consulting Ltd, (involving another set of site visits focusing on 'key' sites, many of which had been visited previously, some of which were visited in circumstances where investments and upgrades had taken place; and others which had not been visited before). The audits took place between August 2015 and February 2016 and a total of 179 sites were visited. In total, 26 new sites have been identified.

The Council now has an open space database identifying 553 sites. This currently comprises 326 urban sites and 227 rural sites (which includes 257 sites visited and audited). The resulting updated findings have provided the basis for understanding current levels of provision of open space and recreational facilities.

2: Newcastle under Lyme Green Infrastructure (GI) and Open Space (OS) Quantity and Access Standards.

2.1 General approach and factors considered

The evidence base for the green infrastructure/open space quantity and access standards for Newcastle under Lyme is drawn from four major sources:

- Benchmarking with national guidance: sources consulted to identify national standards are listed in the notes on sources and methodology at the end of this appendix.
- Benchmarking with similar authorities: the methodology used to identify similar authorities and sources consulted on their green infrastructure standards are presented in the notes on sources and methodology at the end of the appendix.
- Reflecting existing provision: background information for the figures used below can be found in the North Staffordshire Green Space Strategy Final Report Version 02 – September 2007.
- Reflecting consultation results: a detailed presentation of the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey and other consultation activities undertaken to support and inform the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy, including the recommended standards, can be found in this appendix. The analysis below particularly draws from the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors Survey, which included questions about appropriateness of current levels of provision, preferred methods of travel to each type of provision, and expected travel time. A total of 544 responses (81 adult and 463 young people (ages 5-16)) were received.
- Street Scene Survey (2015 – 2016): each year the Council undertake a Street Scene Survey and the results are compiled online, via face to face interviews and via the Reporter. The current results obtained are based on 242 respondents, 110 from face to face surveys, 35 from the Reporter surveys and 97 from our e-panel and surveys carried out by the Street Scene Team.

Throughout the exercise, the following factors and assumptions were used:

- When having to translate national standards expressed on a per household basis (e.g. National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners' standard for allotment) into a per person figure, the national average of 2.2 persons per household was used.
- Fields in Trust Guidelines - *Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard.* The 2015 guidance backed up by research retains the same headline rates of provision, but draws out new recommendations for accessibility, the application of standards and the minimum dimensions of formal outdoor space. The standards also no longer differentiate between urban and rural areas. Using this current guidance will help to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

The Fields in Trust Guidelines - Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard recommends that Equipped/Designated Play Spaces be promoted in the form of:

- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children;
- Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently; and
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children.

These can be complemented by other facilities including Multiuse Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks etc.

The insert table below sets out the Field in Trust Benchmark guidelines for open space and equipped play areas. These benchmarks reflect the findings of the survey of local standards for open space applied by local planning authorities. Note that just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used. As a result, the quantity standards recommended below are for minimum guidance levels of provision.

Accessibility guidelines are provided as walking distance from dwellings. Indicative walking distances can be determined from the accessibility guidelines as set out below.

- 250m = 2 – 3 minutes walk;
- 400m = 5 minutes walk;
- 800m = 10 minutes walk;
- 1,200m = 15 minutes walk;
- 1,600m = 20 minutes walk.

It should be recognised that when applying these benchmarks, local features and obstacles to pedestrian and cycle movement should be taken into account. In doing so, accessible and sustainable play and sport facilities will be maximised.

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	QUANTITY GUIDELINE (Hectares per 1,000 pop.)	WALKING GUIDELINE
Playing Pitches	1.20	1200m
All outdoor sports	1.60	1200m
Equipped/Designated Play Areas	0.25 (additional criteria for recommended minimum sizes)	LAP's – 100m LEAP's – 400m NEAP's – 1,000m
Other outdoor provision (MUGA & skateboard parks)	0.30	700m

With regards to outdoor sport pitches local standards are no longer accepted by Sport England so setting a new standard is meaningless and has been removed.

2.2 Overview of recommended quantity and access standards

The 2007 quantity and access standards covering open space types for Newcastle under Lyme are summarised in the table below.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population unless indicated otherwise)	ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line)		
*Parks and gardens	2.35	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1200m
*Amenity green space	No standard	No standard		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	0.76	LAP 220m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 800m
*Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.90	1200m		
*Allotments	No standard	No standard		
*Green Corridors	No standard	No standard		
TOTAL open space* (sum from above)	7.61	N/A		N/A

The recommended quantity and access green infrastructure standards (2016) covering open space types for Newcastle under Lyme are summarised below and discussed in detail within this appendix:

OPEN SPACE TYPES	QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population unless indicated otherwise)	ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
*Parks and gardens	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
*Amenity green space	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
*Outdoor Sports Facilities	No standard	No standard		
*Allotments	0.15	400m (5- 10 min walk)	*15 min drive	
Green Corridors	No standard	No standard		
TOTAL open space* (sum from above)	8.16	N/A	N/A	

The current provision within Newcastle under Lyme is as follows:

Based on a population of 124,183 the current provision of open space per 1,000 head of poulation is as follows :			
Type	Count (no. of sites)	Area (ha.)	Current Provision (ha. per 1,000 population)
Accessible natural greenspace	181	1746.22	14.0
Allotments	12	13.60	0.11
Amenity greenspace	112	128.31	1.03
Green corridor	16	46.03	0.37
Park	35	436.29	3.51
Provision for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41

2.3 Nearest Neighbour Comparator Exercise

A total of 16 no. comparator local authorities have been included in benchmarking open space/green infrastructure provision. The authorities were identified through use of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour (NN) model and are listed below:

- Amber Valley;
- Chorley;
- Wyre Forest;
- Erewash;
- Gedling;
- Broxtowe;
- Chesterfield;
- South Staffordshire;
- Cannock Chase;
- High Peak (inside and outside the National Park);
- Newark and Sherwood;
- Fenland;
- Bassetlaw;
- South Ribble;
- Carlisle;
- Stoke City (not in the NN exercise but included as the new Local Plan is joint with Stoke on Trent).

Page 94

2.4 Total Open Space standards

Newcastle under Lyme's total historic figure of 7.61 for total open space quantity per 1,000 population (2007) is third highest with the requirements adopted by comparator authorities, as shown on figure A1 below. This is above average and only bettered by Gedling and High Peak (inside the National Park) - (N.B. Four comparator authorities did not have a total figure for open space):

Fig. A1: Benchmarking against other local authorities – total quantity requirement for open space
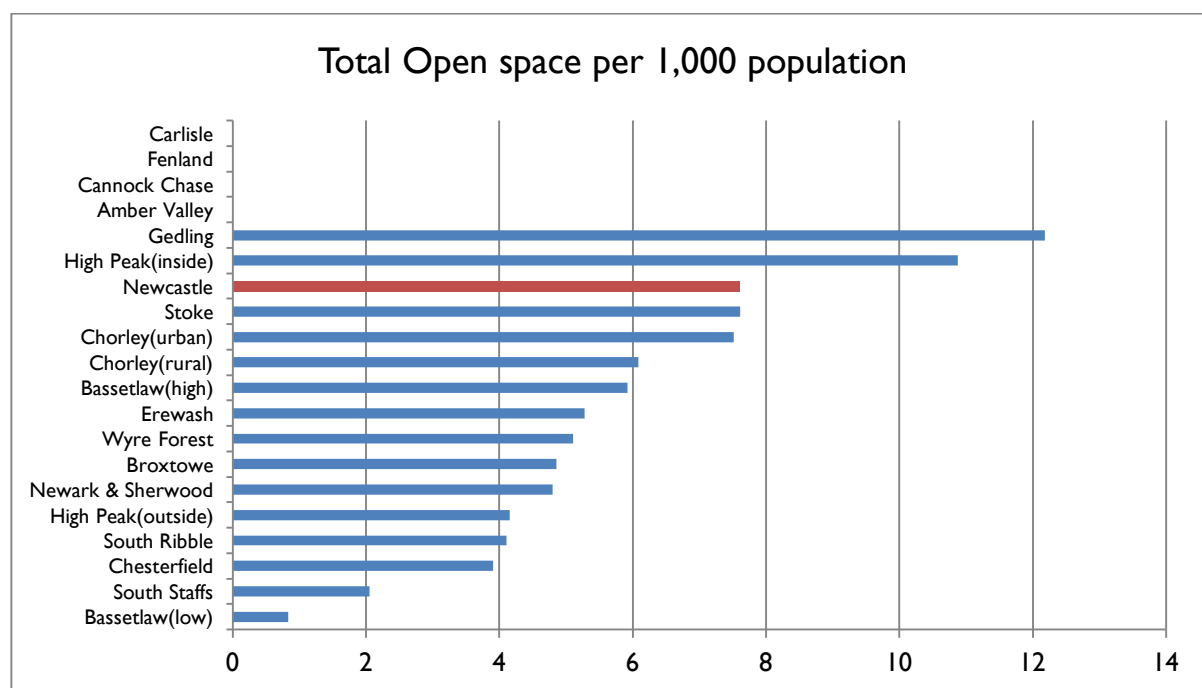
Note: The diagram above, as well other benchmarking charts below, only show standards figures when such figure exist for the typology considered and their format is conducive to comparisons. See the table at the rear of this appendix for further details on each comparator local authority's standards provision.

2.5 Parks and gardens

The recommended minimum quantity standard for parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.10 ha. per 1,000 people. The recommended associated access standard is 400 metres for a local park, 800 metres for a neighbourhood park and 1,200 metres for a district park.

National standards: none applicable. There is no national standard for benchmarking regarding this green infrastructure/open space type. Quantity standards used by 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities range from 0.11 to 4.15 ha.

Standards for parks and gardens in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.11 to 4.15 ha. per 1,000 people with some authorities distinguishing standards between local, neighbourhood or district parks. Newcastle under Lyme's current standard is 2.35 ha. and the recommended standard of 3.10 ha. per 1,000 residents also sits within this range and is equal second highest behind Gedling which has a high standard of 4.15 ha.

Fig. A2: Current Benchmarking against other local authorities – Parks and gardens quantity standards

Parks & Gardens (ha. per 1,000 population)
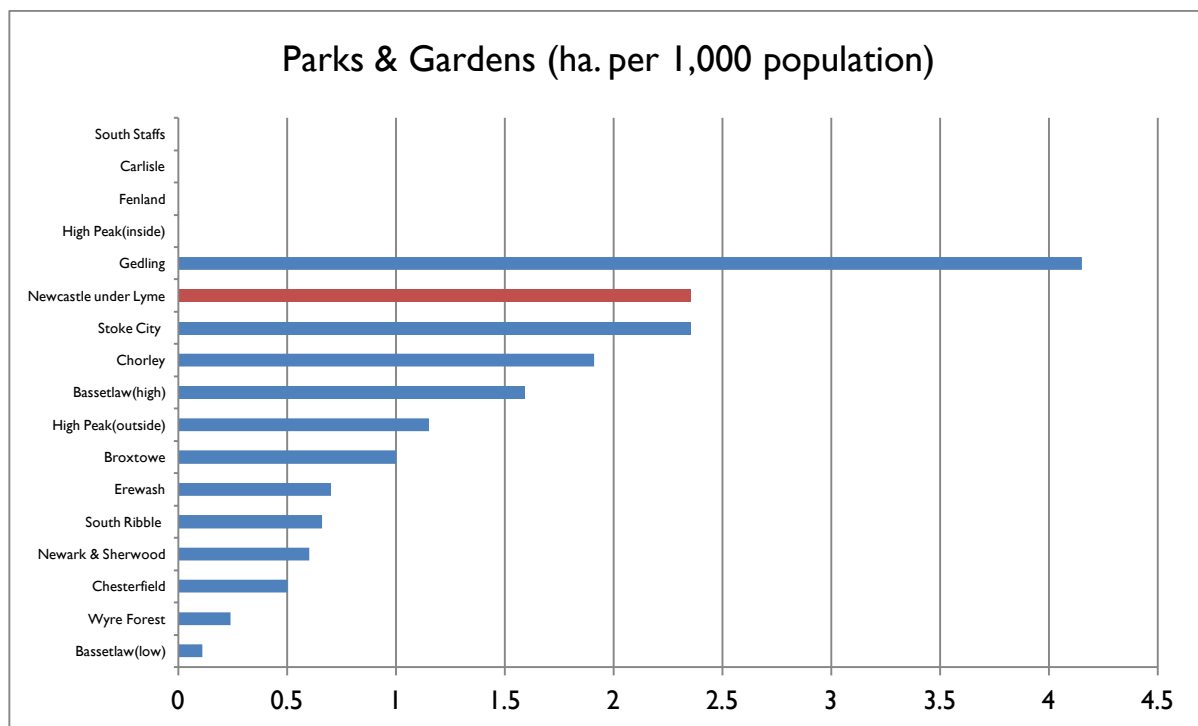
Existing provision: 3.51 hectare per 1,000 person

Newcastle under Lyme currently has 436.29 ha. of Parks and gardens (based on a population of 124,183) which represents 3.51 ha. per 1,000 head of population. Based on 81 adult and 463 young people (age range 5 – 16) respondents to The Newcastle under Lyme's Great Outdoors Survey 56% of adults and 69% of young people felt the provision was 'about right ' or 'more than enough'. 39% of adults and 40% of young people felt there was 'not enough'. Based on Streetscene Survey 80% of respondents were happy with the parks and felt they were safe and well maintained.

Fig. A3: % consultation result on quantity of parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme (Great Outdoors Survey)
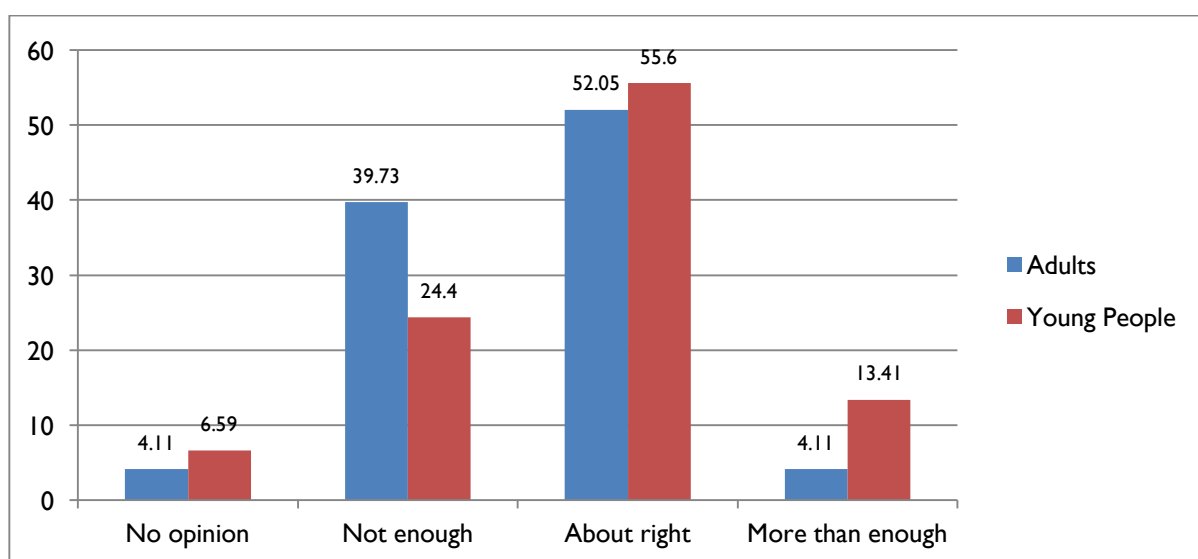
Page 96

The recommended minimum quantity standard for parks and gardens in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.10 ha. per 1,000 people. The current provision is 3.51 ha. per 1,000 people and 56% of adults and 69% of young people survey respondents believed this to be adequate and 80% of respondents from the Street Scene Survey felt the parks currently meet their expectations. This result shows that the provision is 'about right'.

Fig. A4: % consultation results on preferred travel mode (Great Outdoors Survey)

Type of transport you would expect to use to reach Parks
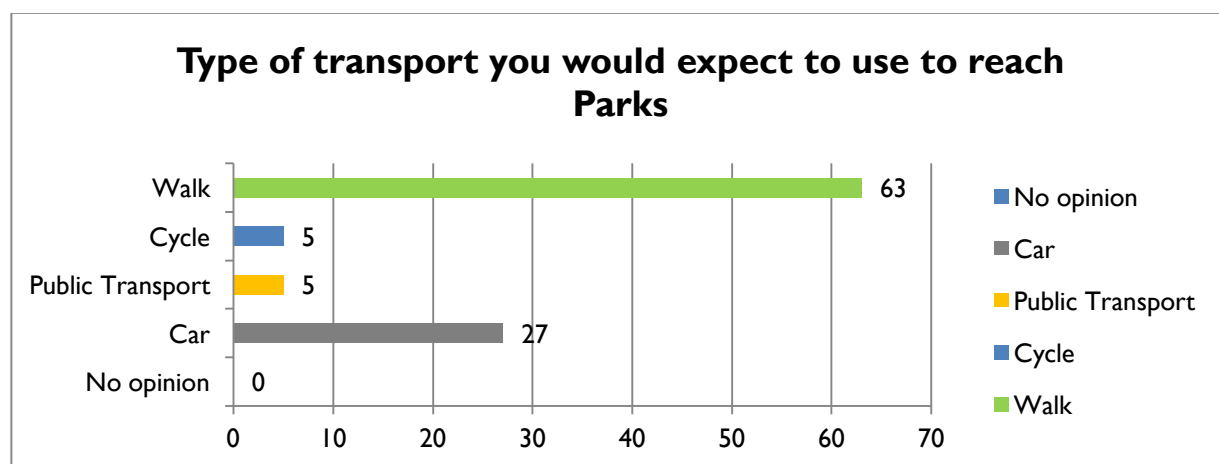
Length of time willling to travel to parks

Fig. A5: % adult consultation results on expected travel time to parks & gardens (Great Outdoors Survey)

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
51%	40%	6%	2%

62% of adult respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors survey indicated they expected to be able to get to parks and gardens by foot. The drop-off effect associated with travel time is only pronounced after 20 minutes: 51% of respondents expect to get there in 10 minutes or less, 40% in 20 minutes or less and 8% greater than 20 minutes.

Conclusions on standard justification

The recommended quantity standard (3.10 ha. per 1,000 population) for parks and gardens is in line with requirements adopted by comparator local authorities and slightly below the existing level of provision (3.51 ha. per 1,000 population), which a majority of people who took part in the consultation conducted to develop this standard are either satisfied with or consider it to be more than enough (56% of adults & 69% of young people) however it must be noted that 39% of adults and 40% of young people considered the current provision to be 'not enough'. In contrast 80% of respondents to the Street Scene Survey felt that the current provision of parks met their expectations.

The recommended accessibility standard is directly derived from the consultation results and based on an "effective catchment" approach – i.e. the distance that 75% of people are willing to travel to something. This is generally regarded as a realistic compromise between the minimum and maximum range people are prepared to travel to different types of provision. 400 metres is a 5-minute walk and 800m is a 10-minute walk.   51% of respondents expect to reach a park within 10 minutes therefore the accessibility standard is set as 400m for a local park, 800m for a neighbourhood park and 1,600m for a district park.

2.6 Amenity green space

The recommended minimum quantity standard for amenity green space in Newcastle under Lyme is 0.90 ha. per 1,000 people. The recommended associated access standard is 220 metres to an open green and 700m to a MUGA. Newcastle under Lyme has previously not had a standard for amenity green space.

National standard: Whilst there are no authoritative standards or guidelines for amenity green space categorisation can be difficult. Amenity green space may be incidental green space such as grassed verges, but can also include highly valuable spaces such as village greens. Standards used by similar local authorities range from 0.25 to 1.62 ha.

Standards for amenity green space in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.25 to 1.62 ha. per 1,000 people. Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard of 0.90 ha. per 1,000 residents will sit midway within this range.

Fig. A6: Benchmarking against other local authorities – Amenity green space quantity standards (proposed standard included for Newcastle as currently no standard)
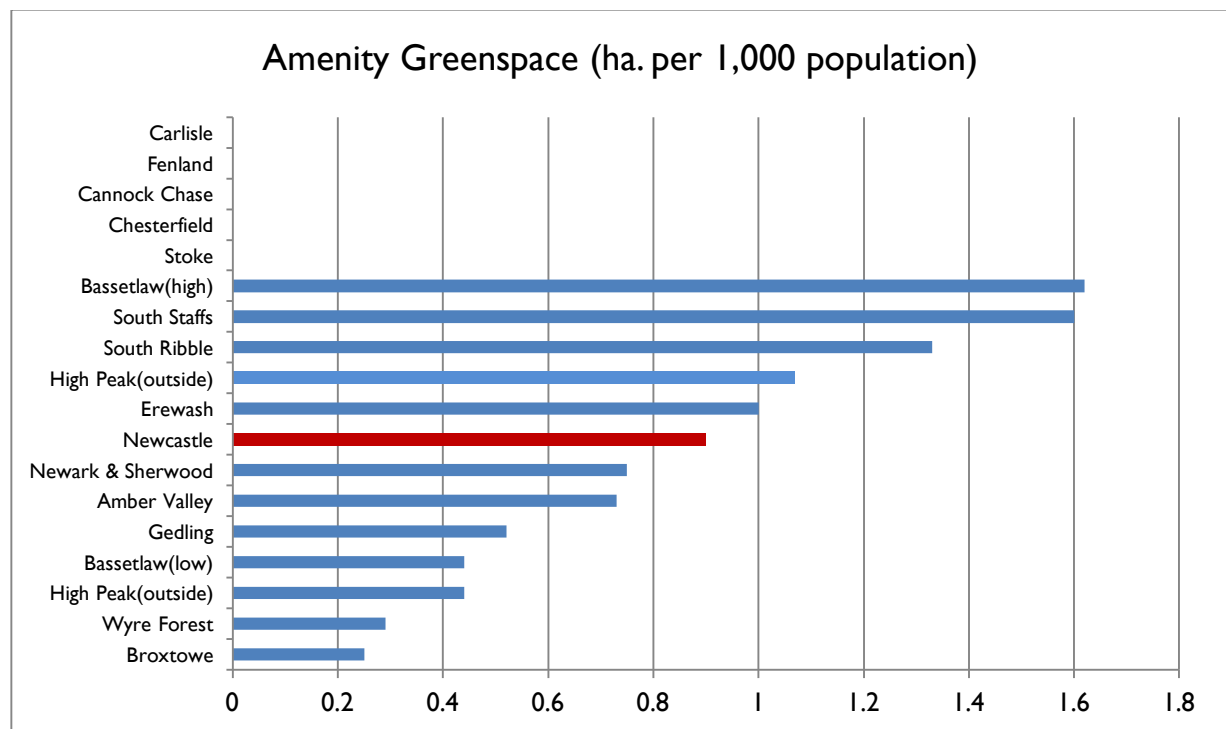
Current provision: 1.03 hectares per 1,000 people

Newcastle under Lyme currently has 128.31 ha. of amenity greenspace (based on a population of 124,183) this represents 1.03 ha. per 1,000 head of population.

The survey results identified a stark difference of opinion between adults and young people. 55% of adult repondents felt that the provision was 'not enough' and 30% felt it was 'about right' whilst 84% of young people felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'. In addition 80% of repondents to the Street scene survey felt the open space provision met their expectations.

Consultation results: 55% of adults are not satisfied with the existing provision whilst 84% of young people are satisfied.

Fig. A7: % consultation result on quantity of amenity green space in Newcastle under Lyme (Great Outdoors Survey)
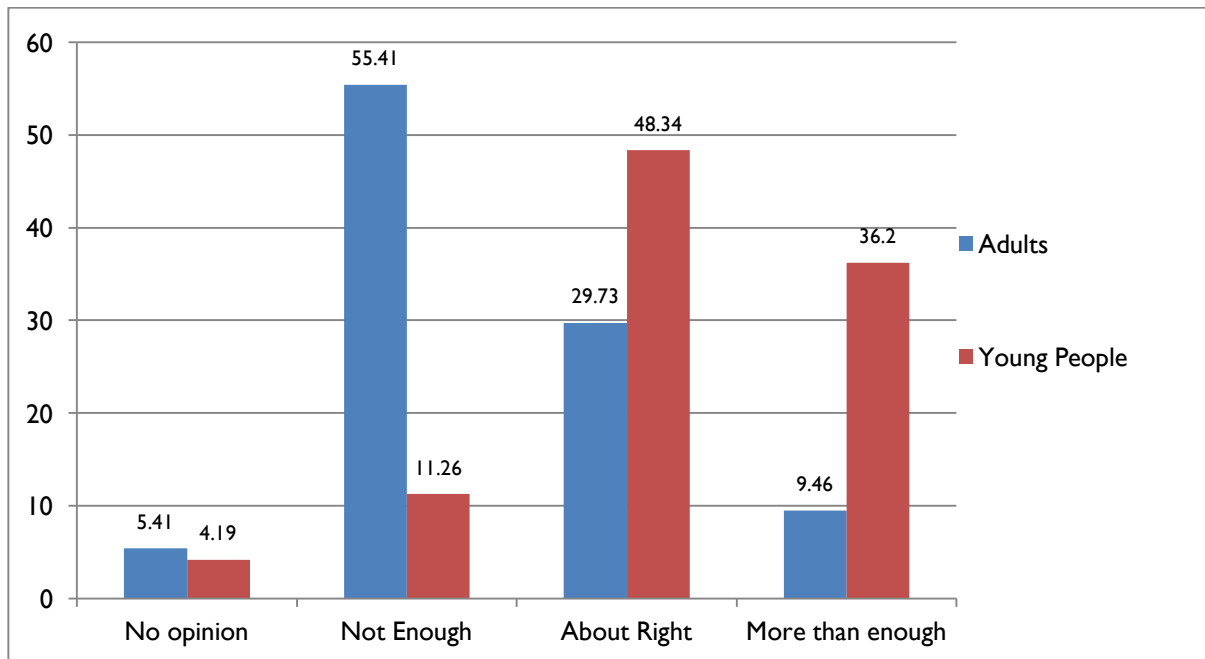
Fig A8: % adult consultation results on preferred travel mode (Great Outdoors Survey)
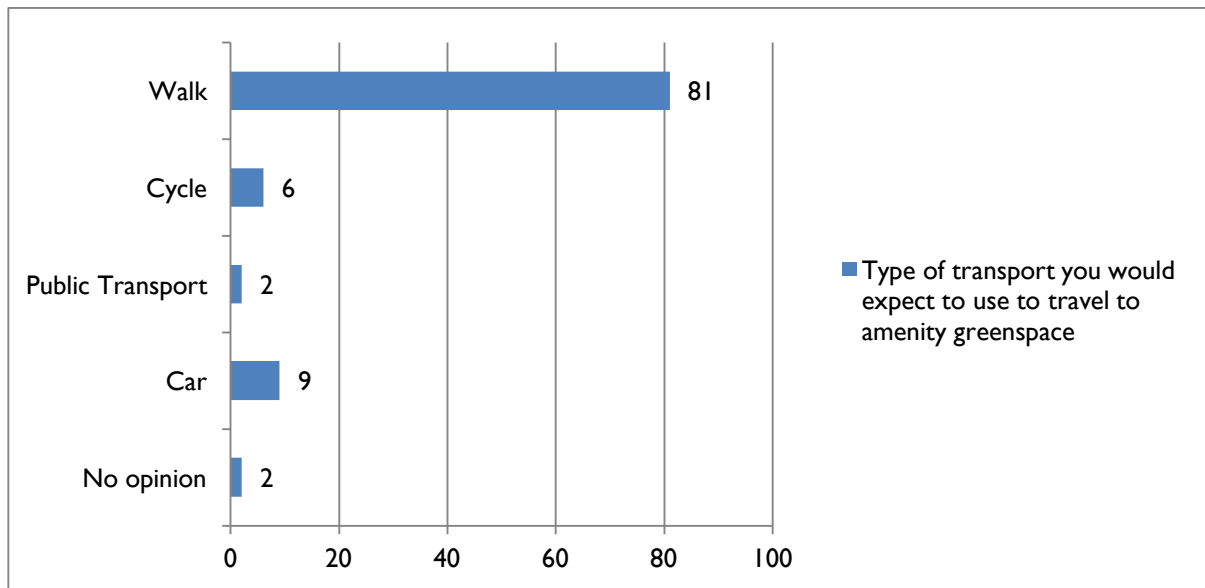
81% of adult respondents expect to walk to amenity green space.

Fig A9: % Length of time willling to travel to amenity green space: (Great Outdoors Survey)

0 -10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
71%	27%	2%	0%

81% of adult respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoors survey indicated they expected to be able to get to amenity greenspace by foot. The drop-off effect associated with travel time is pronounced after 10 minutes: 71% of respondents expect to get there in 10 minutes or less, 27% in 20 minutes or less and 2% greater than 20 minutes.

The current provision is 1.03 ha. per 1,000 people and 55% of the adult survey respondents believed this was not enough whilst 84% of young people felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'. However 80% of respondents to the Streetscene Survey felt the provision for open space met their expectations.

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended quantity standard for amenity green space (0.90 ha. per 1,000 people) is comparable to that adopted by neighbouring or other similar local authorities. Newcastle under Lyme's access standard for amenity green space of 220m is also aligned with the consultation results. It is designed to ensure all residents – both rural and urban – have access to a 'doorstep green' within a 5 – 10 minute walk.

2.7 Natural and semi-natural green spaces

The recommended minimum standard for natural and semi-natural green spaces in Newcastle under Lyme is 3.60 hectare per 1,000 people. The recommended access standard is 600m.

National standards: ANGSt and WASt. Two types of national guidance are of relevance regarding natural and semi-natural green space: Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) and the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard (WASt). Both standards are primarily driven by accessibility criteria.

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have:

- An accessible natural green space of at least 2 ha. in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home;
- At least one accessible 20-hectare natural green space site within two kilometres of home;
- One accessible 100 ha. natural green space site within five kilometres of home; and
- One accessible 500 ha. natural green space site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- One ha. of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population.

WASt is based on a similar principle of accessibility as ANGSt:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 ha. in size;
- There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 ha. within 4 kilometres (8 km round-trip) of people's homes.

Standards used by similar local authorities

Standards for natural and semi-natural green space in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.02 to 8.05 ha. per 1,000 people. The higher figure is for High Peak inside the National Park therefore for the majority of authorities, the standard is between 1.00 and 4.86 ha. per 1,000 people. Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard of 3.6 ha. per 1,000 residents falls to the higher end of this range.

Page 100

Fig. A10: Benchmarking against other local authorities – natural and semi-natural green space
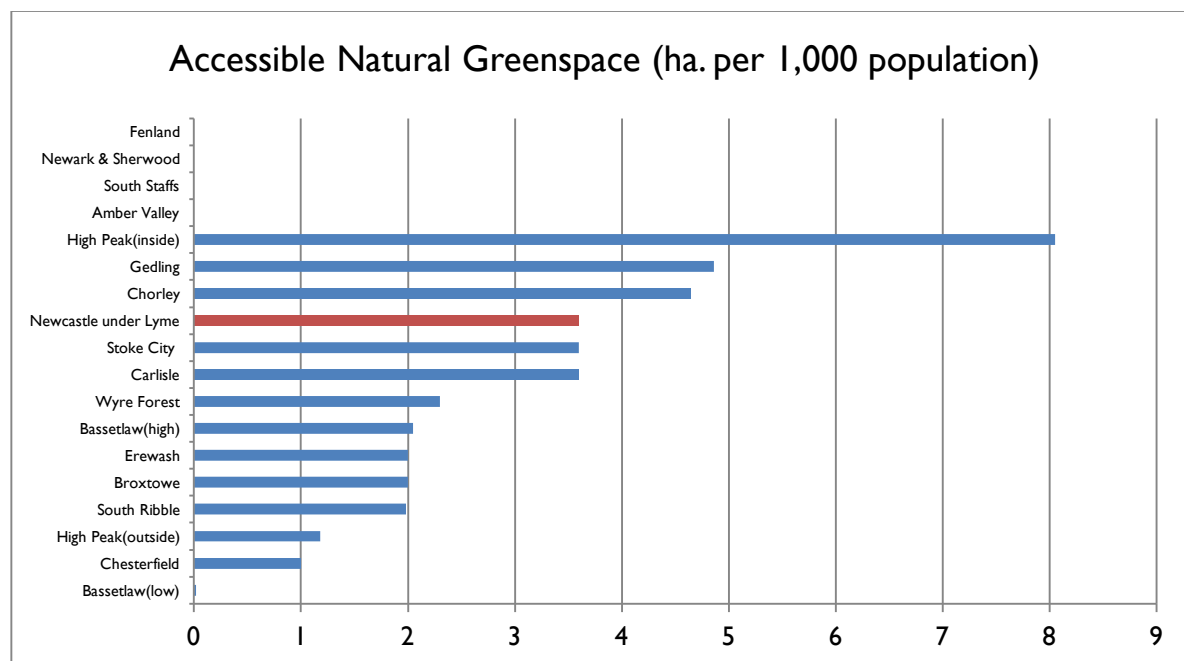
Existing provision: 14.0 ha. per 1,000

Newcastle under Lyme totals 1,746.22 ha. of natural and semi-natural green space, which translates to an average 14.0 ha. per 1,000 people.

Consultation results: 49% of respondents not satisfied with woodlands provision;

The Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey invited respondents to express their view on existing provision by differentiating between three broad categories of natural and semi-natural green space:

- Woodland
- Wetland (like marshes)
- Other natural green spaces (grasslands, moorland, heathland)

As shown in figures A11, A12 and A13 below:

Woodland

50% of adults and 46% of young people are not satisfied with current provision of woodland and 43% of adults and 38% of young people feel provision is about right or more than enough.

Wetlands

A difference of opinion between adults and young people 52% of adult respondents are not satisfied with current provision of wetlands whilst 58% of young people feel provision is about right or more than enough. 36% of adults and 26% of young people feel it is about right.

Natural Greenspace – like grasslands, moorlands

49% of adults and 47% of young people respondents are not satisfied with current provision of other natural greenspace like grasslands, moorlands and heathlands and 40% of adults and 29% of young people

feel provision is about right or more than. Overall around 50% of adult and 39% of young people respondents feel that there is not enough accessible natural greenspace.

Fig. A11: % consultation results on quantity of woodlands in Newcastle under Lyme
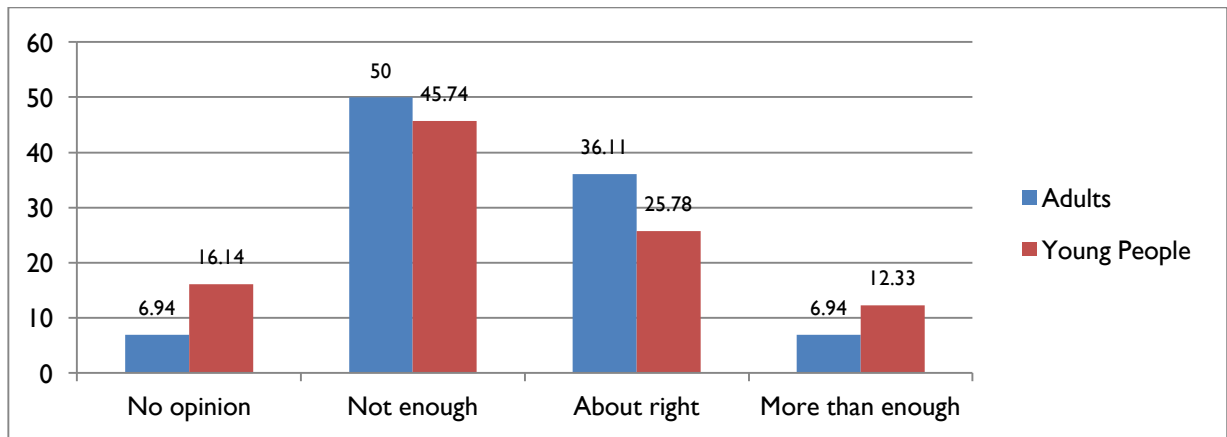
Fig. A12: % consultation results on quantity of wetland (like marshes) in Newcastle under Lyme
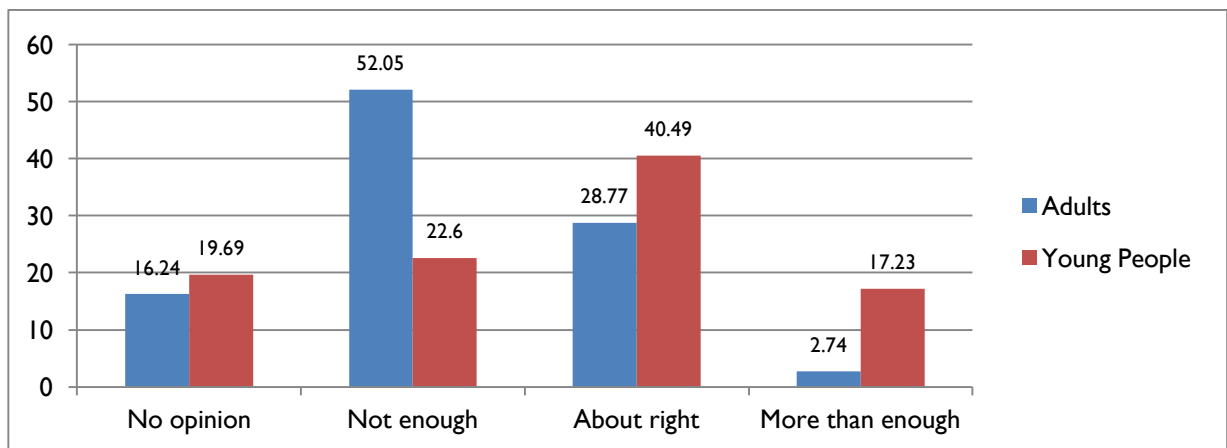
Fig. A13: % consultation results on quantity of other natural greenspaces in Newcastle under Lyme
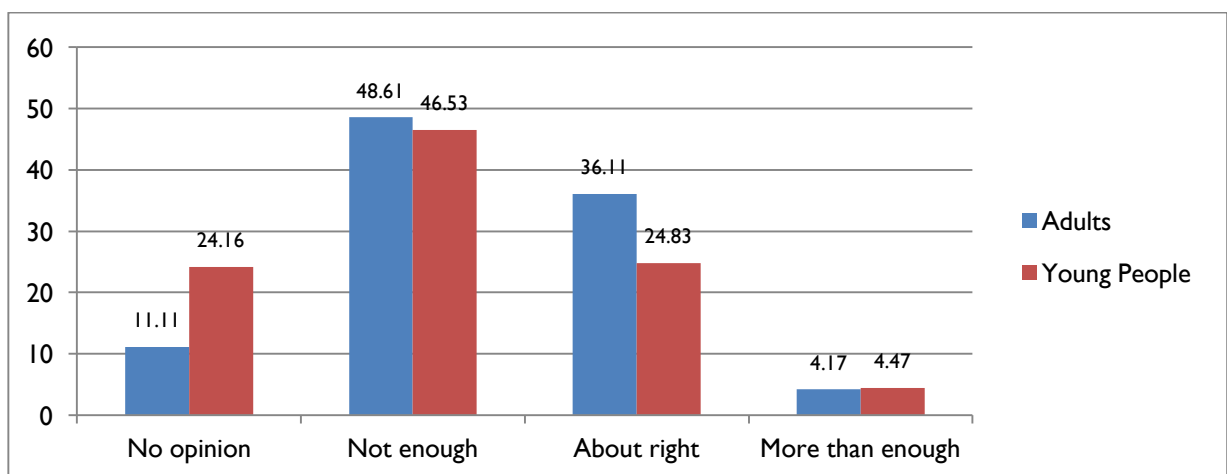
When adults were asked how they expected to be able to get to natural and semi-natural sites, 50% of the adults respondents to the Newcastle under Lyme Great Outdoor Survey indicated they were happy

to walk to woodland however 46% expected to travel by car to wetlands and 48% expected to travel by car other natural green space. Only 5% expected to use public transport to access other natural greenspace.

Fig A14: % consultation results on preferred travel mode to woodlands
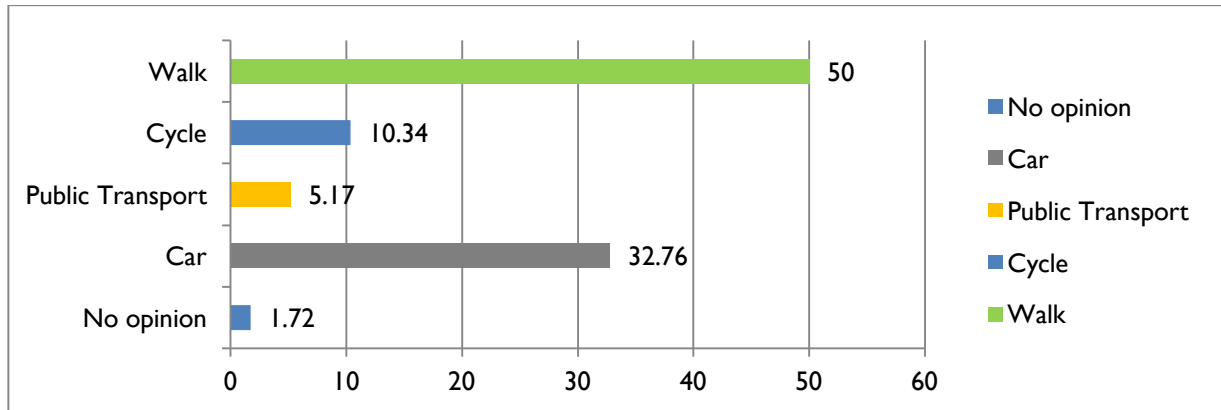
*Fig A15: % consultation results on **preferred travel mode to wetlands***
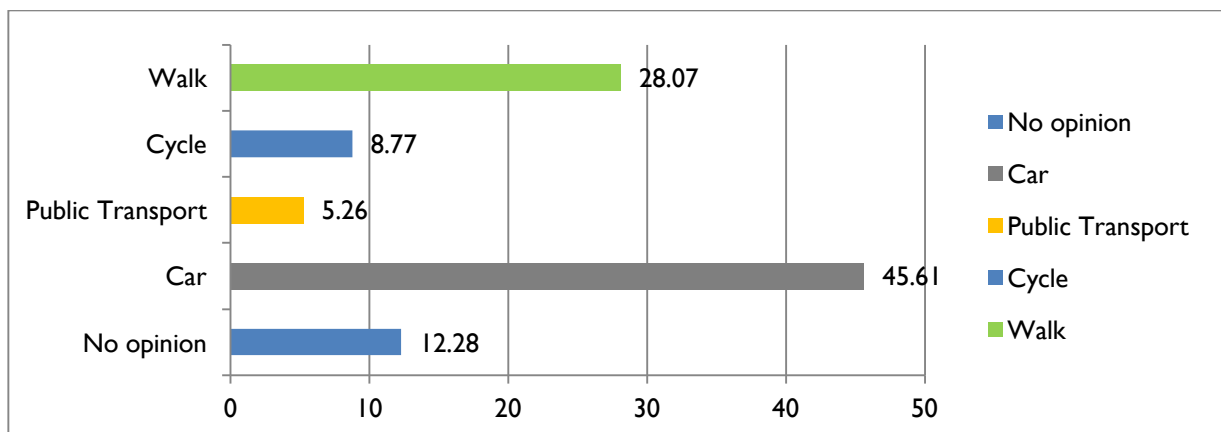
Fig A16: % consultation results on preferred travel mode to other natural greenspace
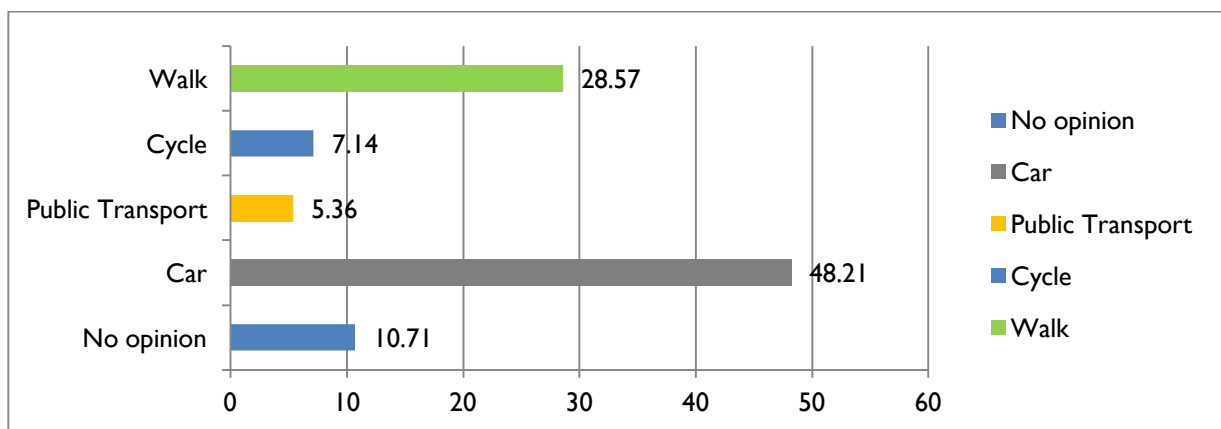
0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
32%	42%	13%	13%

Length of time willling to travel to wetlands

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
12%	40%	22%	13%

Length of time willling to travel to other natural greenspace

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
31%	33%	20%	16%

Overall the majority of people only expect to travel to accessible natural greenspaces within 20 minutes (74% to woodland within 20 minutes, 52% to wetland within 20 minutes and 64% to other natural greenspace within 20 minutes).

Conclusions on standard justification

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended quantity standard for natural and semi-natural green space (3.60 ha. per 1,000 population) is comparable to that adopted by other local authorities and actual current provision is 14.0 ha. per 1,000 population. It is above current average levels of provision. However, overall around 50% of respondents feel that there is not enough accessible natural greenspace; so given that the Borough already exceeds the standard any loss of natural green space is likely to lead to strong opposition. Furthermore, an excess of natural green space is beneficial to the Boroughs ecosystem services which are not presently valued in open space audits. The recommended distance standard of 600m reflects consultation results where overall the majority of people only expect to travel to accessible natural greenspaces within 20 minutes.

2.6 Designated play space for children and young people

The recommended minimum standard for designated play space for children and young people is 0.41 hectares per 1,000 people. The associated access standard is 100 metres for a Local Area for Play (LAP), 400m for a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and 1,000m for a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).

National standard: FIT's Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play

The National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust, 'FiT')'s six-acre standard (2.43 ha.) per 1,000 population has been superseded by FIT's Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard. The Standard recommends dedicating 1.20 Ha. for Playing Pitches, 1.60 Ha. for all outdoor sports (i.e. ha. per 1,000 population) and to children's play of which 0.25 ha. per 1,000 should be equipped space. 0.30 ha. is dedicated to other outdoor provision including MUGA's and skateboard parks.

Regarding accessibility, Beyond Six Acre Standard suggests that there should be a Local Area Play (LAP) within 100 metres of every home, Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) within 400 metres, and a Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) within 1,000 metres.

Page 104

Standards for designated play space for children and young people in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle under Lyme range from 0.03 to 1.21 hectares per 1,000 people. Newcastle's recommended standard of 0.41 hectares per 1,000 residents sits within this range.

Fig. A17: Benchmarking against other local authorities – designated play space for children and young people indicating proposed standard for Newcastle of 0.41
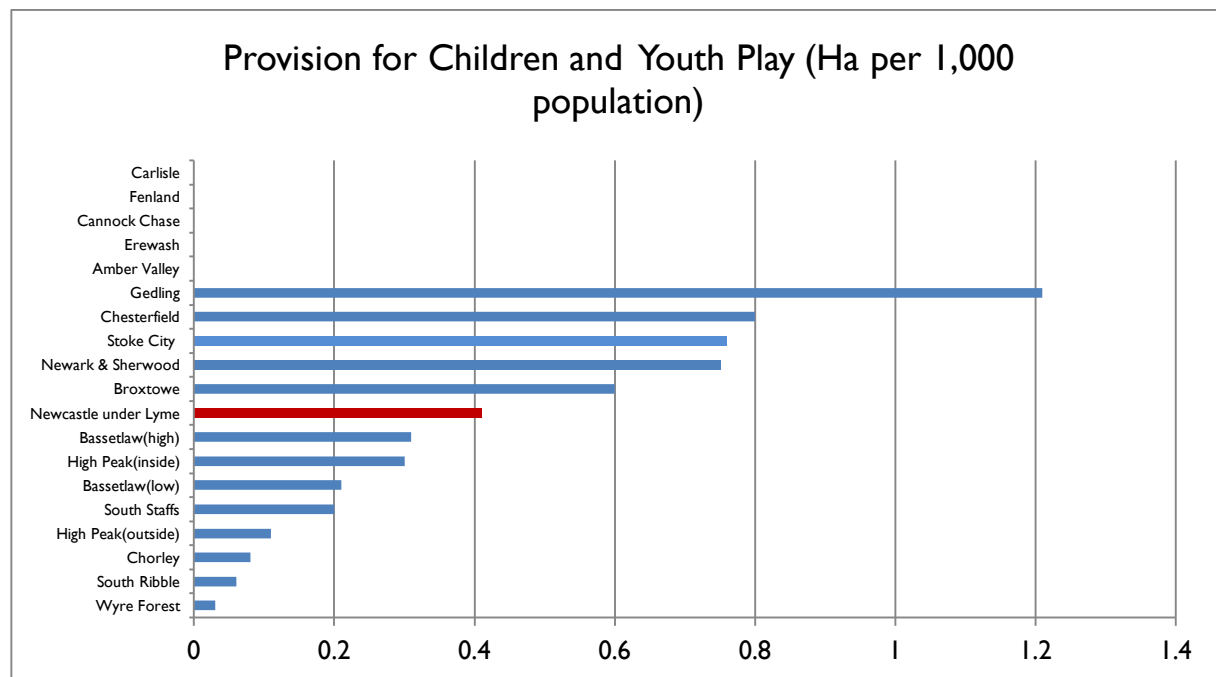
Existing provision: 0.41 hectare per 1,000 people

Newcastle under Lyme currently provides 51.35 hectares of designated play space, which translates to 0.41 hectares per 1,000 population.

Consultation results: 54% of adult respondents believe there is not enough Play space whilst 57% of young people are satisfied.

54% of adult and 36% of young people respondents believe there is not enough play space available. However, 57% of young people and 40% of adults felt the provision was 'about right' or 'more than enough'.

Fig. A18: % consultation results on quantity of designated play space for children and young people in Newcastle under Lyme
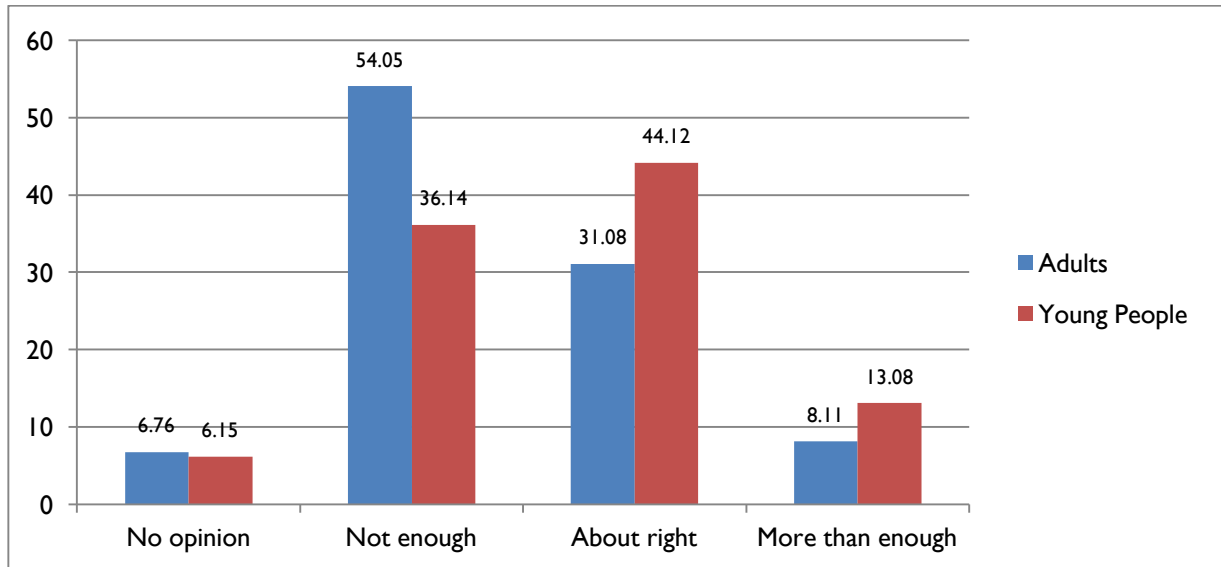
Regarding access, as with amenity green space, a very high proportion of adult respondents (66%) to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey indicated they expected to be able to get to designated play area by foot. 69 % also indicated they expected to travel no more than 10 minutes to get there.

Length of time willling to travel to play space

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
69%	20%	9%	2%

Fig A19: % adult consultation results on preferred travel mode

Page 106
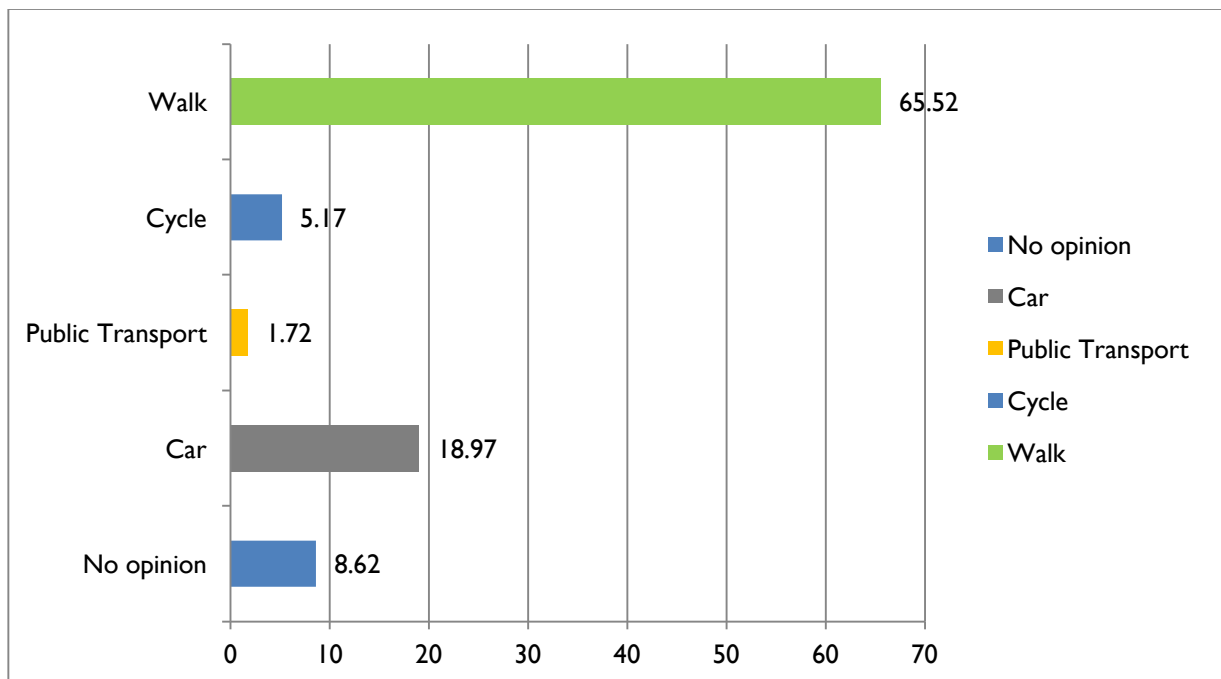
Newcastle under Lyme's recommended standard for designated play space for children and young people (0.41 ha. per 1,000 population) is equal to the existing provision of 0.41 ha. per 1,000 population.

The adult consultation results show a large majority, 54%, believe that current provision is 'not enough', however 57% of young people feel the provision is 'about right' or 'more than enough'.

Many local authorities no longer put emphasis on providing LAPs so that better facilities with more to offer can be created and therefore improve opportunities for meaningful play spaces. This helps councils save time and money as the expenses of travelling to and maintaining many small sites with very limited equipment often far exceeds their benefits. However, there is an inbuilt contradiction as people clearly wish to be able to walk to play areas.

The associated access standard of 100 metres for a Local Area for Play (LAP), 400m for a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and 1,000m for a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) reflect local expectations to be able to walk to play areas in approximately 10 minutes.

2.7 Allotments

Newcastle under Lyme's recommended minimum standard for allotments is 0.15 hectares per 1,000 population. The associated access standard is 400 metres (5 - 10-minute walk) in urban areas and a 15-minute drive in rural areas.

National standard: National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' standard

Newcastle under Lyme Allotment Strategy 2014 states:

'As there are no nationally agreed standards for the provision of allotments either in terms of quality or quantity it is difficult to judge how well the Borough compares nationally. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest that there should be a minimum of 15 plots per thousand households (or 1 plot for every 65 households). For Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and other providers (Parish and Town Councils/voluntary and charitable organisations) there are 8.6 plots per thousand households. Other authorities compare the number of plots per thousand populations; this would give the Borough a figure of 3.9 plots per thousand population'.

It should be noted that the current standard equates to 0.0975 per thousand population and there is according to the allotment strategy a waiting list. Current levels are too low to meet demand and an increase is recommended. It is further recommended that for benchmarking purposes a switch should be made from considering plots/1,000 population to area/1,000 population which is a more common practice.

Standards used by similar local authorities

Standards for allotments in neighbouring local authorities and other authorities with a similar profile to Newcastle range from 0.07 to 0.31 hectares per 1,000 people. Two authorities have 20 and 21 plots per household.

Fig. A20: Benchmarking against other local authorities – allotments N.B. Gedling standard – 20 per 1,000 households in urban area, 30 per 1,000 households in rural area. Chesterfield standard – 21 per 1,000 households.

Provision for Allotments (ha. per 1,000 population)

Authority	Value
Broxtowe	0
Amber Valley	0
High Peak(inside)	0
Fenland	0
Carlisle	0
Stoke City	0
Newcastle under Lyme	0
Newark & Sherwood	0.5
Bassetlaw(high)	0.35
Erewash	0.31
South Staffs	0.25
High Peak(outside)	0.22
Wyre Forest	0.19
South Ribble	0.08
Chorley	0.07
Bassetlaw(low)	0.05
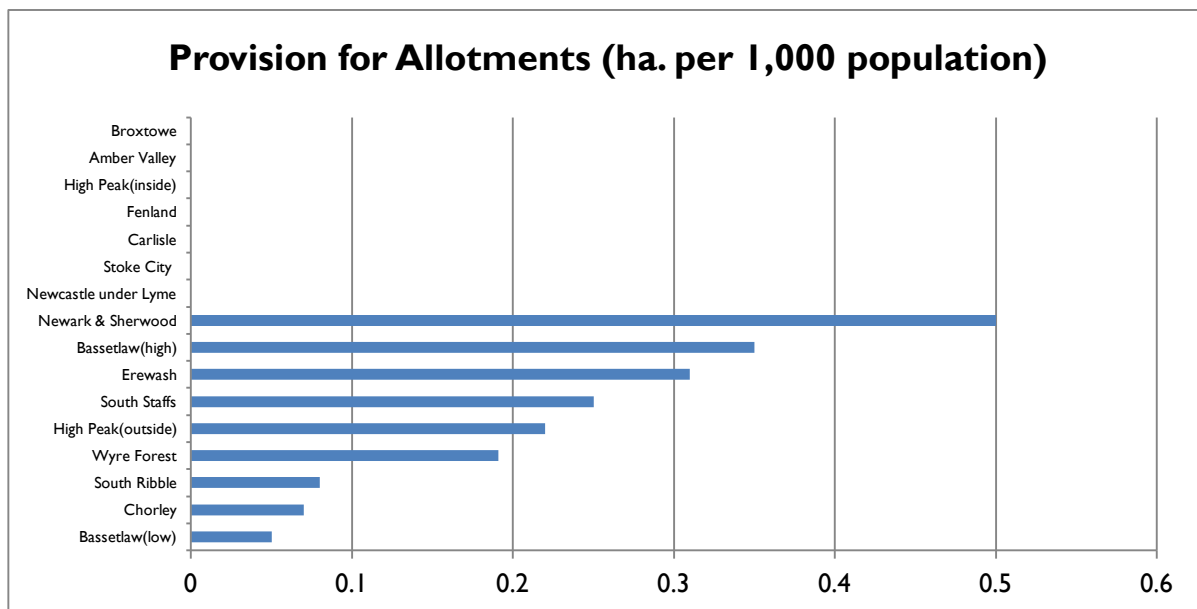
Existing provision:

For Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and other providers (Parish and Town Councils/voluntary and charitable organisations) there are 8.6 plots per thousand households. Other authorities compare the number of plots per thousand populations; this would give the Borough a figure of 3.9 plots per thousand population which a majority of respondents (44% of adults and 38% of young people) to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey felt is 'not enough' whilst 36% of adults and 25% of young people felt it was 'about right'. However, 31% of young people had 'no opinion'.

Consultation results: Average - 41% of respondents not satisfied; 31% about right

Fig A21. Consultation results on the quantity of allotments

	No opinion	Not enough	About right	More than enough
Adults	16.44	43.84	35.62	4.11
Young People	31.04	38.31	24.94	5.35
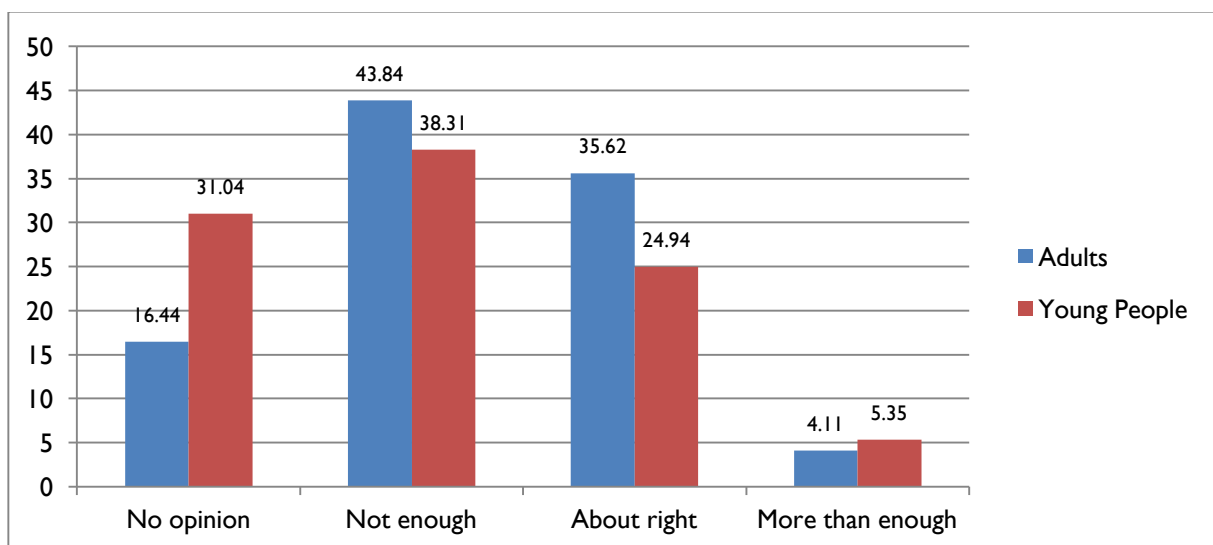
Concerning preferred mode of travel to get there, walking came first amongst adult responses (50%), followed by driving (36%). Given the need to transport equipment to and from sites it is accepted that users may often need to drive to the site. A travel time within 20 minutes is acceptable as expressed by 91% of respondents (50% within 10 minutes, 41% within 20 minutes).

Fig. A22: Consultation results on preferred travel mode to allotments
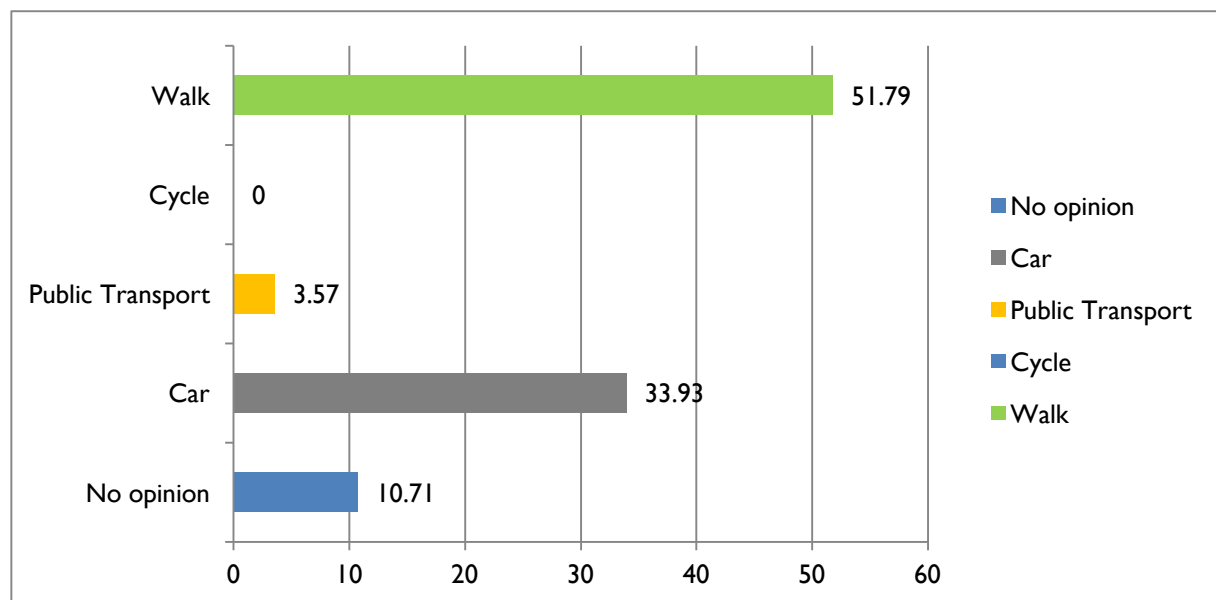
Length of time willling to travel to allotment

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
50%	40%	4.5%	4.5%

Conclusion on standard justification

The recommended quantity standard of 0.15 allotments per 1,000 population is in line with requirements adopted by comparator authorities, but not especially generous. Nevertheless, achieving this standard will help meet demand from the local population.

The recommended access standard for allotments of 400m or 5-10-minute walk in urban areas or a 15-minute drive in rural areas reflects local expectations to be able to access this type of green infrastructure/green space in about 10-20 minutes either by foot or by car when transport of equipment is needed.

2.8 Green corridors

There is no recommended quantity standard for green corridors. There is no recommended access standard for green corridors.

National standard. There is no applicable national standard.

Standards used by other local authorities

Other comparator local authorities did not set quantity standards for green corridors.

Existing provision: There are 46.03 ha. of accessible green corridors in Newcastle under Lyme.

Consultation results: 57% of adults and 40% of young people feel there's 'not enough';

Fig. A24 Consultation results on quantity of green corridors
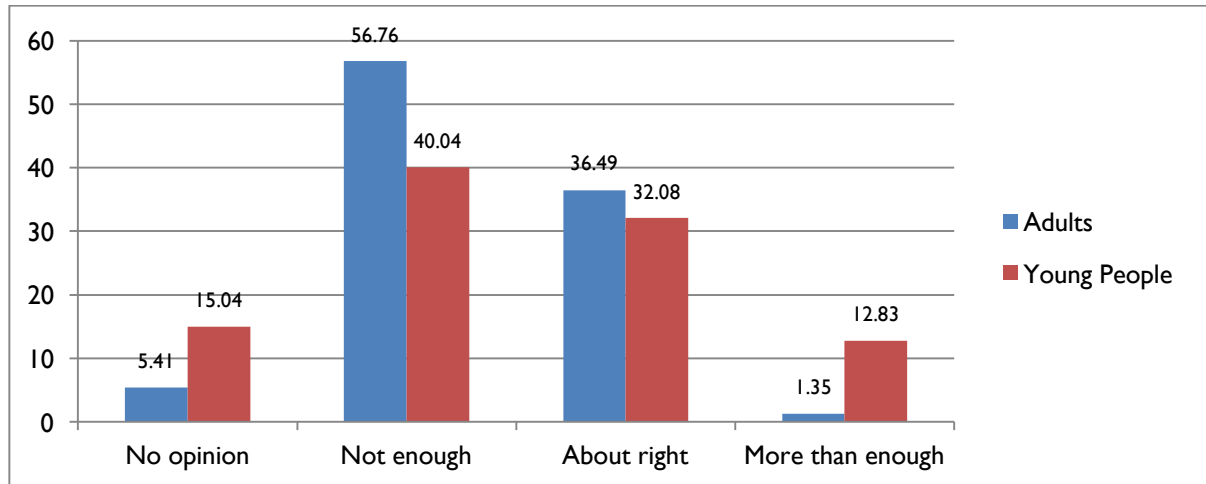
57% of adults and 40% of young people respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey feel there is not enough, while 38% of adults and 45% of young people feel current provision is satisfactory. This is a semi negative result and is it could be interpreted as meaning that there is an actual or perceived under-provision in the opinion of those surveyed. Green corridors include nature walks as well as routes used for recreational activities notably cycling and dog-walking. Green corridors are also a facility greatly used by horse-riders. There is a need to investigate the relationship between the location of liveries/stables with bridleways to ascertain whether localised provision is adequate especially in urban fringe areas. Horses using public highways are dangerous to riders and motorists.

Fig. A25: % adult Consultation results on preferred travel mode to reach green paths and trails

Page 110
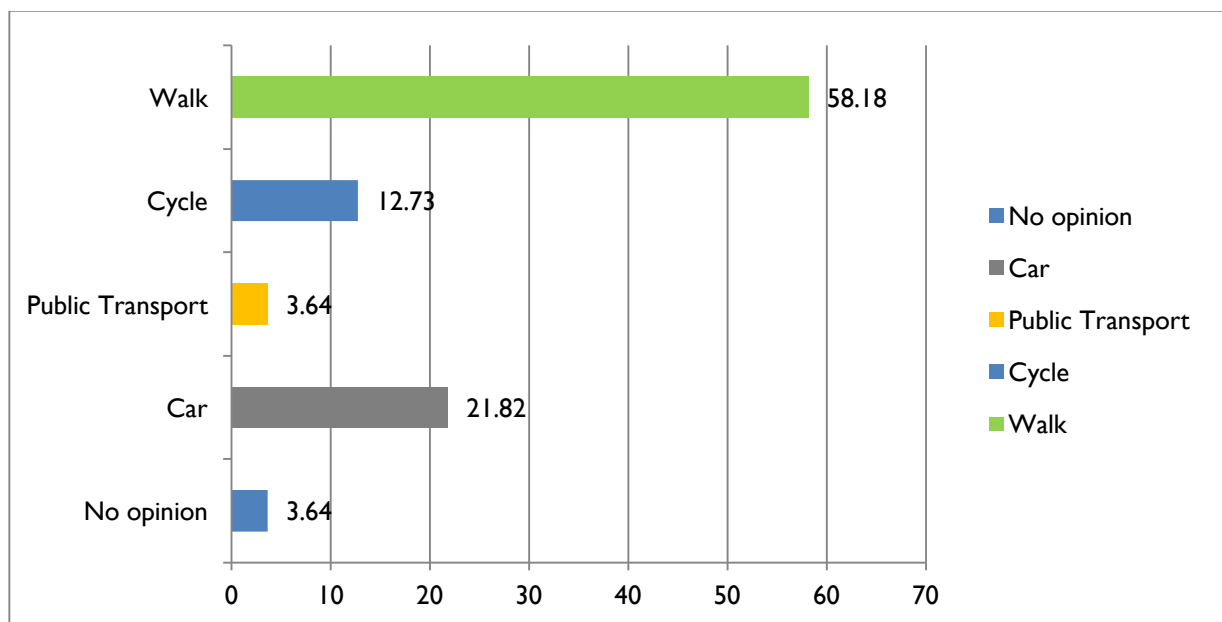
Length of time willing to travel to green paths and trails

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
58%	28%	9%	5%

A majority of adults (58%) expect to be able to get to green corridors by foot. A non-negligible proportion of respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey (13%) also mentioned cycling as a preferred travel mode to get to and enjoy green paths and corridors. A travel time of about 10 minutes meets 58% of respondents' expectations on how long it should take them to get there.

Conclusions on standard justification

In the absence of examples from the nearest neighbour exercise from elsewhere a standard has not been set. However, this is an area which the Council may wish to investigate further by undertaking a green corridors study and planning for new provision and better connectivity.

2.9 Outdoor Sports pitches

Local standards are no longer accepted by Sport England so setting a new standard is meaningless and has been removed.

Fig. A26: % Consultation results on quantity of Outdoor Sports pitches
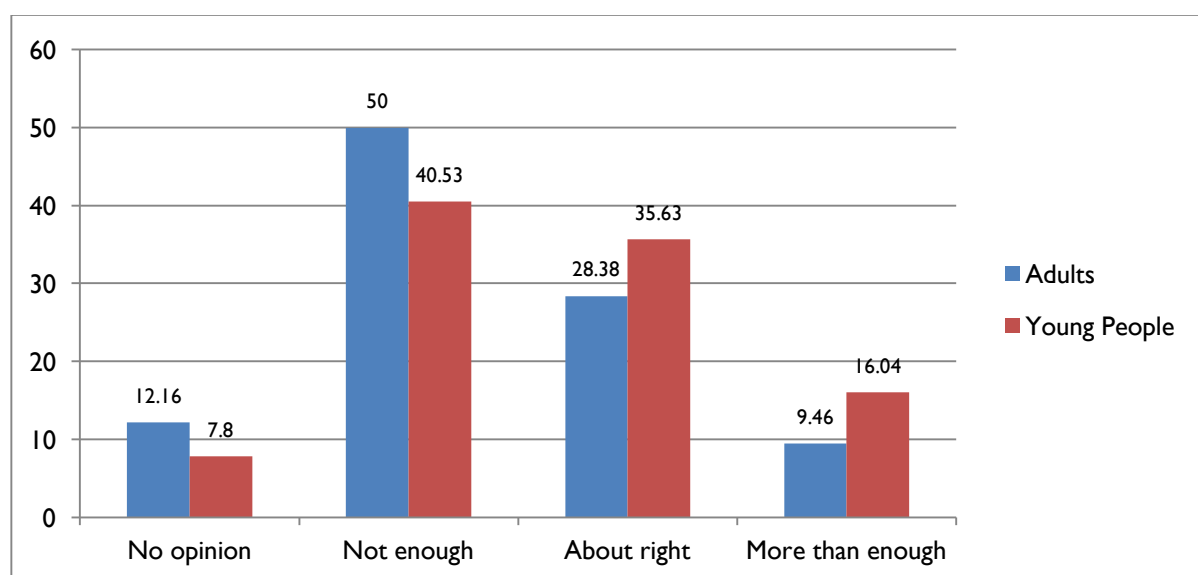
It should be noted that 50% of adults and 40% of young people respondents to the Newcastle Great Outdoors Survey feel there is not enough outdoor sports pitches, although 38% of adults and 52% of young people feel current provision is satisfactory. A majority of people (46%) expect to be able to get to outdoor sports pitches by car and 33% expect to walk. A travel time of about 10 - 20 minutes meets 80% of respondents' expectations on how long it should take them to get there.

Length of time willling to travel to outdoor sports pitches

0-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	Over 30 min
41%	39%	11%	9%

Fig. A27: % adult Consultation results on preferred travel mode to reach outdoor sports pitches

Legend:
- No opinion
- Car
- Public Transport
- Cycle
- Walk

Travel mode	%
Walk	33.33
Cycle	1.75
Public Transport	8.77
Car	45.61
No opinion	10.53

Page 112
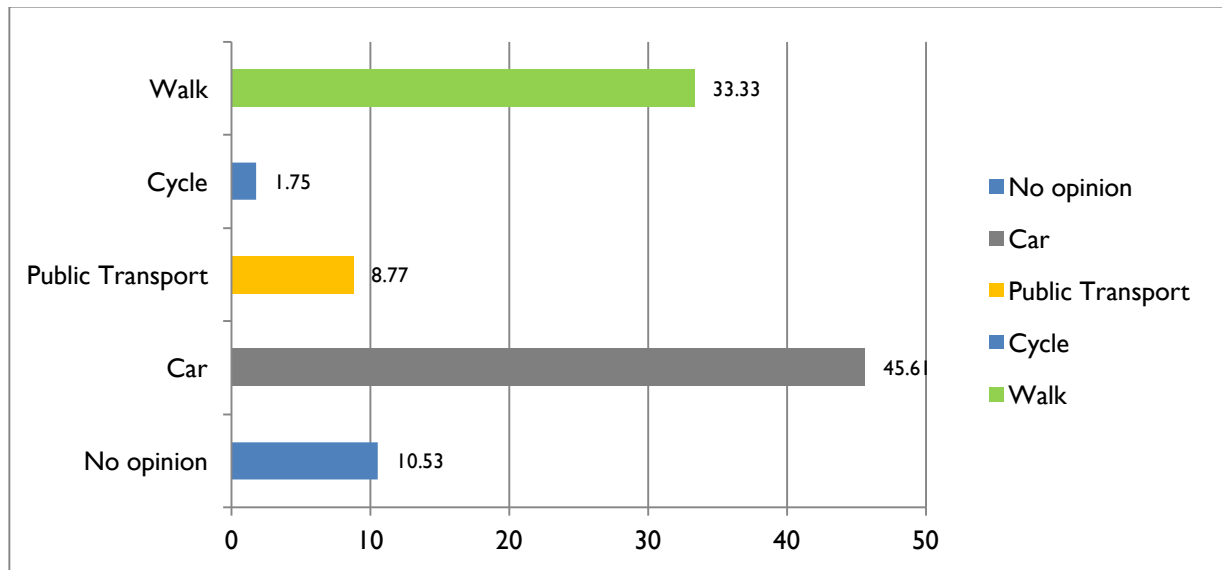
3: Newcastle under Lyme green infrastructure/green space quality standards

The Fields in Trust (FiT) Guidelines - Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard recommends quality guidelines. These are recommended for the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy

- Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.
- Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.
- Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.
- Appropriately landscaped.
- Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.
- Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.
- Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.
- Provision of footpaths.
- Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool.

3.1 Quality score improvement threshold

A strategic overview of the quality of Newcastle under Lyme's green infrastructure/open space is available in the Newcastle under Lyme Open Space Strategy 2016. It is recommended that open space sites scoring less than 80% of the potential total quality score are considered as needing qualitative improvements. There are good reasons to maintain high quality:

- Site usage, as measured by the number of visits and repeat visits, is higher when the site is of a good quality;
- A greater mix of people use sites of good quality, hence there is less social exclusion;
- It is a lower cost to maintain a site in a good condition than to let it decline and then have to invest a large amount of money to return it to a good quality;
- Good quality sites are more likely to secure the interest and involvement of volunteers in its maintenance and in running events;
- Good quality sites are a tourism asset and hence contribute to the visitor economy;
- Quality allows the Borough Council and its partners to seek recognition in the form of awards and grants. This in turn builds 'pride of place' in the community.

	Urban (no.)	% of urban	Rural (no.)	% of rural	Total (no.)	% Total
Total no. of sites	326		227		553	
Total no. of sites audited/scored	176		81		257	46.5
Score > 80%	104	59.1	8	9.81	112	43.5
70 – 80%	60	34.1	38	46.9	98	38.2
< 70%	12	6.8	35	43.2	47	18.3

Open space results from 2015/16 site audit:

Of the 176 sites audited in 2015/16 only 18.3% fell below a quality score of 70%; overall this is a very strong performance

3.2 Quantity comparison

OPEN SPACE TYPES	COUNT	AREA (HA.)	CURRENT PROVISION (Hectares per 1,000 population based on 124,381 pop)	PREVIOUS STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED QUANTITY STANDARD (Hectares per 1,000 population)	PROPOSED ACCESS STANDARD (measured in straight line) URBAN RURAL*		
*Parks and gardens	35	436.29	3.51	2.35	3.10	Local 400m	Neigh 800m	District 1600m
*Amenity green space	112	128.31	1.03	No standard	0.90	220m [open green] & 700m [MUGA]		
*Natural and semi-natural green space	181	1746.22	14.0	3.60	3.60	600m		
*Designated play spaces for children and young people	81	51.35	0.41	0.76	0.41	LAP 100m	LEAP 400m	NEAP 1,000m
*Allotments	12	13.60	0.11	No standard in last audit	0.15	400m (5-10 min walk)		15 min* drive
Green Corridors	16	46.03	0.37	No standard	No standard	No standard		
Outdoor Sport Facilities	NO STANDARD							

Applying the standards: key factors to take into consideration

4.1 Identifying surpluses and deficiencies

The green infrastructure/green space standards are central to the future planning and provision of facilities. The standards are used to identify:

- areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus;
- deficiencies in accessibility;
- quality deficiencies.

Results from the analysis of surpluses and deficiencies are available in the three 'Framework Plans'.

4.2 Determining how developer contributions towards green infrastructure will be collected (CIL vs Planning Obligations)

The quantity, quality and distance standards described above should also be used to guide investment and to calculate the level of developer contributions to ensure that adequate provision is made for open space/green infrastructure as a consequence of development. Since opportunities to provide additional green spaces in the urban areas in Newcastle under Lyme likely to be limited, it will be necessary in some cases to substitute the provision of new green infrastructure with a financial contribution. These financial contributions should be used to invest in existing green spaces to make them better and more useable, to increase the functionality of each space, and to improve their capacity to support ecosystem services.

To secure financial contributions, the Council could use the complementary mechanisms of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and/or planning obligations (as authorised under the Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). Whereas CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions, S106 obligations are intended for site specific mitigation. Decisions on whether to adopt CIL should be taken within the context of the scaling back of S106 obligations and the potential income streams for funding infrastructure.

The CIL Regulations 2010 defined the circumstances where each can be used and where they are not appropriate. Subsequent changes in the regulations (amended 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014) and experience in setting and using CIL has led to a clearer picture of how they can be best utilised.

If an authority has a S106 based tariff system, it is very likely that it will be severely restricted in taking further contributions post April 2015 because of the Pooling Restrictions. When CIL is introduced by a Local Authority, pooled contributions may only be secured from up to five (5) separate planning applications for one item of infrastructure that is not intended to be covered by CIL. These five planning applications will also need to consider those agreements which have been entered into since 6th April 2010 which provide funding for this piece of infrastructure. It is also possible for the Council to collect five pooled S106 obligations for a piece of infrastructure and then after that add it to the list of infrastructure to be funded/part funded through CIL.

Contributions secured by planning obligations will need to meet the statutory test set out in Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- Directly related to the development; and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale to the development.

Each individual case should be looked at carefully before seeking S106 tariff payments. If there is not sufficient evidence to meet the statutory tests the authority may risk challenge that the decision has been

taken unlawfully. It will also be vulnerable at any planning appeal. To make optimum use of the CIL and S106 requires pro-active infrastructure planning and funding.

The Council's approach in deciding whether all or some of the contribution are secured via planning obligations or via CIL will therefore need to factor what can actually be secured in terms of new GI/GS development which is manageable and significant without pooling finance from more than one development.

This might be resolved by defining a range of 'strategic projects' drawing from the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposal map. Alternatively, this might be considered on a type-by-type basis.

The Council may well find that Green Corridors, Parks and Gardens, Allotments, and Natural and Semi-natural Green Space might benefit from a strategic approach, based on pooling of contributions (i.e. CIL), while Children's Play Provision, Amenity Greenspace, and trees can be handled through Planning Obligations.

If the Council is minded to use CIL, interim requirements and procedures related to commuted sums might be required. This can be achieved through an SPD with pre and post CIL introduction provisions. All guidance relevant to on-site provision will remain applicable post CIL introduction.

CIL offers greater flexibility than Section 106 Agreements: it can make it easier to mitigate the impact of development by using CIL funds to provide new as well as enhance existing open space.

CIL is only be chargeable in respect of change of use applications where new floor space in excess of 100 square metres is being added, except where the change of use is creating one or more new dwellings, in which case it may be payable even if no new floorspace is being created. Should the Council decide to adopt CIL, it should capture its potential to improve open spaces and green infrastructure by commissioning a Supplementary Planning Document.

Even if a specific formula is agreed in an open space strategy, it must not compromise development viability, otherwise decisions may be challenged at appeal.

4.3 Determining the developments that qualify

Applying the standard will also require determining the type of development to which the standards apply.

The selection of types of development the standards should apply to will need to be informed by the scale, location and range of new developments anticipated for the new Local Plan period.

If the Council anticipates significant large commercial/business developments, it would be desirable to ensure such developments contribute to the Borough's green infrastructure by featuring an adequate canopy cover in their parking area, while contributing to other green infrastructure provision which might be used by their customers or employees (e.g. amenity green space and green corridors so that employees and customers can access the development by cycle).

If, however the Council only anticipates small scale commercial/business developments, an argument can be made in favour of concentrating on residential developments for the application of the standards through planning permission and build commercial and other development into CIL where the cumulative benefit could be directed to a significant new GI development defined by the authority. If the Council is aware of major non-residential sites or redevelopments, the open space requirement could also be secured through site specific allocation policies or development briefs.

The following are recommended as good practice measures for Newcastle under Lyme:

Page 116

A. For residential; 0.004 hectares (0.01 acres) per dwelling of amenity open space shall be provided for the total number of dwellings, irrespective of type or tenure; notwithstanding

B. That such open space will be provided in areas of not less than 0.1 hectares (0.25 acres) regardless of development size;

C. In circumstances where back-land development is deemed permissible on sites less than 0.1 hectare (0.25 acres) where there is ecosystem loss, it will still be necessary for developer contributions to be paid and pooled as may be appropriate in accordance with the requirements of the CIL regulations;

D. Roadside landscaping will not be counted as open space towards this requirement;

E. In locating open spaces within new developments due consideration should be given to the importance of open space within developments as integral design features. Accordingly, consideration should be given to good natural surveillance; incorporation of features of ecological interest; linkages with existing footpaths and open space networks and the need to avoid potential for nuisance to neighbouring residential properties. Where appropriate, a satisfactory scheme for the provision of open space in an alternative location may be acceptable;

F. New policy needs to identify specific triggers for the provision of LAP, LEAP and NEAP in new developments.

Examples of criteria applied by a randomised sample of other authorities are listed below (unless otherwise mentioned, the provisions listed are part of an adopted SPD or Local Plan policy):

Central Lancashire (except South Ribble) [Lancashire]: all new developments are required to contribute towards open space and playing pitches provision, with the exception of nursing/rest homes, sheltered accommodation, replacement homes. There is no minimum size threshold for residential developments.

South Ribble [Lancashire]: open space and playing pitch provisions are only required for residential developments resulting in 5 new dwellings or more.

New Forest [Hampshire]: open space requirements only apply to proposals resulting in a net increase in dwelling units. Replacement dwellings or extensions to existing dwellings are not within the scope of application of the Council's open space standards.

Tendring [Essex]: As in South Ribble and New Forest, the Council's open space standards are applied where new residential development leads to a net gain in residential units. Extensions to existing dwellings do not require contributions; neither do homes for the elderly (except for informal open space), replacement dwellings, individual bedsits or nursing homes.

Rother [East Sussex]: All residential developments are expected to make a contribution.

Blackpool [Lancashire]: open space requirements apply only apply to residential developments of 3 dwellings of more, including conversions from non-residential use and replacement dwellings

Dover [Kent]: Dover's recommended Open Space Standards Proposal published alongside the Dover Green Infrastructure Strategy, the approach proposed is as follow:

	Open Space (parks, gardens, amenity space and green corridors)	Outdoor Sports	Children's Play Space	Community Gardens
Open Market Housing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Affordable Housing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flats	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial Development	✓	✗	✗	✗
Active Elderly	✓	✓	✗	✓
Less Active Elderly	✓	✗	✗	✗

4.4 Off-site versus on-site provision

Applying the standards will also require determining under which circumstances (in respect to assessed deficiencies) and for which types of green infrastructure on-site green infrastructure will be sought. To a large degree, the choices made regarding green infrastructure to be covered through CIL will limit the range of choices to be made.

Examples of criteria applied by other authorities are listed below:

Central Lancashire: the only typologies for which a developer may be required to provide on-site provision are amenity green space and children's play provisions. Regarding amenity green space: onsite provision is expected for developments of 10 or more dwellings. In respect to children's Play, onsite provisions are expected for development of 100 or more dwellings.

New Forest: decided on a case by case basis, based on scale/viability of development

Tendring: decided on a case-by-case basis, based on the scale of the development and the assessed deficiency in green infrastructure in the surrounding area – except for residential development sites greater than 1.5 hectares.

Rother: decided on a case-by-case basis, based on scale of development and existing surrounding provisions

Blackpool: A grading scale is provided, started with developments below 1 ha. (7 sq.m. of onsite children play/casual space for developments of more than 57 person, typically about 20 dwellings. In central Blackpool, where feasible the threshold for this is lowered to smaller sites of about 10 dwelling). The onsite requirement increases as the development size increases, with distinct provision for onsite play and onsite amenity green space.

4.5 Defining the policy implementation process

Examples of processes Newcastle under Lyme Council might choose to adopt to define planning obligations in respect to the proposed green infrastructure/green space standards are outlined below.

Option 1:

Step 1

Is there currently a deficit in the area?

Yes → *It is recommended that new provision is required in accordance with the standards described in this document. Provision will either be on-site or by way of a financial contribution for off-site provision.*

No ↓

Step 2

Is the development within the recommended accessibility catchment of the type of green space considered?

Yes → *It is recommended that new provision is required in accordance with the standards described in this document. Provision will either be on-site or by way of a financial contribution for off-site provision.*

No ↓

Step 3

Are any of the relevant green space sites within the accessibility catchment below the recommended quality standard?

Yes → *It is recommended that a financial contribution towards improvement of the quality of the nearest site of that typology is required.*

No ↓

It is recommended that no contribution is sought for that typology.

Option 2:

Step 1

Does the development generates any demand for any open space typology (see table 6.1, presented under para. 4.3 – Dover above)?

No → **No contribution towards open space is sought.**

Yes ↓

Step 2

Calculate the number of children/adults generated by the new development

How? *A table is provided:*

In the case of commercial developments the Council seeks contributions at a rate of 34 sqm per person (B2, GIA) 50-80 sqm per person (B8, GEA) and 19 sqm per person (B1, GIA) in line with English Partnerships guidance on density (2001)

Type	Population	Child Yield (0.14)
1 bed house	1.30	0.00
2 bed house	2.11	0.45
3 bed house	2.62	0.74
4+ bed house	3.25	1.00
1 bed flat	1.25	0.01
2 bed flat	1.64	0.10
3+ bed flat	2.17	0.24

Step 3

Calculate the open space requirement by typology

How? *by multiplying the standard per person by the number of new resident (or equivalent, based on conversion rate provided for commercial developments) to be generated by the new development.*

Step 4

Does the development fall within accessibility distance of existing open space ?

No → **The full amount of open space calculated during Step 3 will need to be provided. Negotiations with the Council will be conducted to determine how much is provided on-site or towards new or improved off-site provision.**

Yes ↓

An equivalent contribution may be sought in lieu of on site provision to enhance the capacity of the existing provision so that it can meet the additional demand and fully meet the quality standards. Where off site provision is proposed then the Council will determine the appropriate contribution towards capital and maintenance provision as an equivalent for on site provision

4.6 Setting commuted sum payments

A cost model for off-site contributions will need to be defined. The resulting cost schedule should be indexed to inflation and account for both capital and maintenance costs over a defined period. For on-site provision, cash contribution towards maintenance of existing open space should be the minimum sought, unless private maintenance arrangements are proposed.

Amongst other authorities investigated through desk study, the sums required to cover maintenance costs range from 10 to 20 years:

- Central Lancashire: 10 years;
- New Forest: 10 years;
- Sefton: 10 years;
- Dover: 15 years;
- Teignbridge: 20 years;
- Tendring: 20 years.

4.7 Private maintenance arrangements

Given the financial situation that local authorities face and the possibility of long-term austerity then there is a strong argument in favour of seeking private maintenance contributions from occupiers which are transferrable upon sale. It will be important to ensure that robust means are needed to collect contributions (through direct debit) and agreement on who is responsible for undertaking the works. An SPD is recommended as the optimum way to address the implementation of private maintenance agreements. This may, for example, set out the method for delivery or provision of new greenspace, as well as the way that it will be maintained. It is important to note that delivery and maintenance are likely to be two separate but related issues.

Notes on sources and methodology

5.1 National standards guidance

For the avoidance of doubt the former PPG17 companion guide, still representing 'good practice' has been used in the preparation of the GI/OS strategies. It stresses that standards should be local and reflect local demand and needs. Notwithstanding this there is a range of national standards guidance which is referenced below.

The sources consulted on national standards and benchmarks for green infrastructure and open space are as follow:

Fields in Trust's "Beyond the Six Acre Standard"
Reference document: *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play*, FIT, 2015

Natural England's "Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard"
Reference document: *Nature Nearby, Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (NE265)*, Natural England, 2010

The Woodland Trust's "Woodland Access Standard"
Reference document: *Space for People*, The Woodland Trust, 2004

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' standard
Reference document: *Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments*, H. Thorpe, 1969. Cmnd., 4166: Parliamentary Papers, London.

The Trees and Design Action Group best practice guides
Reference document: Trees in the Townscape, A Guide for Decision Maker, TDAG, 2012

5.2 Benchmarking with other local authorities

To allow for benchmarking comparisons, a cross-section of 15 local authorities was selected on the basis of the CIPFA Nearest Neighbour model which utilises the Nearest Neighbour algorithm and ONS datasets. This is widely regarded as an authoritative model and is used by the Audit Commission in their value for money profiling. In addition, the City of Stoke on Trent was included due to its geographic proximity and the fact that a joint local plan is being prepared with them. For each local authority selected, a review of the adopted green infrastructure/green space standards was carried out based on the supporting evidence, adopted strategies and/or planning policies.

* The office of National Statistics classifies Urban/Rural local authority in one of the following categories

- MU: Major Urban, the "most" urban authorities;
- LU: Largely Urban;
- OU: Other Urban;
- SR: Significant Rural, indicates tha.t a district has between 26 and 50 percent of its population in rural settlements and large market towns;
- R50: Rural-50 authorities have between 50 and 80 percent of their population living in rural settlements or large market towns.

For the determining how developer contributions towards green infrastructure will be collected exercise, a different set of local authorities were investigated based on a previous and illustrative desk study undertaken by MD2 Consulting Ltd.

NEAREST NEIGHBOURS OPEN SPACE ACCESS STANDARDS COMPARISON REVIEW

#		Total Population (2001 estimate)	Area(Ha.)	Population Density (based on 2011 estimate)(Number of persons per Ha.)	Greenspace Access Standards (measured as minimum distance to Greenspace)																		Source
					Parks		Amenity Greenspace		Accessible Natural Greenspace		Childrens Play		Youth Provision		Outdoor Sports Facilities		Allotments		Green Corridors		Total		
					Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	Amber Valley	122,746	2,654,400	4.6	1200m		600m		1200m		600m		1200m		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2018. Amber Valley Play Strategy 2010-2015
2	Chorley	109,077	2,028,000	5.45	12 min. Walk	15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		No standard		10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	No standard		N/A		Open Space Strategy 2013-2018, Playing Pitch Stragey 2013-2018
3	Wyre Forest	98,074	1,954,000	5.04	Town Park - Urban 15 min. walk(720m)/Rural 20 min. Drive	Local Park - Urban 10 min. walk(720m)/Rural 15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		10 min. Walk (480m)		15 min. Walk (720m)		Grass Pitches - 10 min. walk(480m)/ 15 min. Drive to public outdoor facilities		10 min. Walk (480m)		No standard (National Guidance)		N/A		Wyre Forest Sport and Recreation Assessment 2008. (* 0.24 for Local Parks/0.33 for Town Parks)
4	Erewash	112,809	1,096,300	10.33	700m	1,000m	100m		300m		1-4 equipment - 1 min. Walk, 5-8 equip -5 min., 9+ - 15 min. Walk		15 min. Walk (720m)		No standard		100 plots - 1200m, 50 plots - 900m, 10 plots - 600m, 1-9 plots - 300m		No standard		N/A		Erewash Greenspace Strategy 2007, Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment 2006
5	Gedling	114,052	1,199,800	9.57	14 min. Walk(510m)		8 min. Walk(386m)		16 min. Walk		5 min. Walk or 15 min. Walk for NEAP(Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play)		10 min. Walk	15 min. Drive	20 min. Walk/10 min. Drive		No standard				N/A		Gedling Greenspace Strategy 2012 - 2017
6	Broxtowe	110,716	801,000	13.88	500m		300m		500m		No standard				500m		No standard		No standard		N/A		Green Spaces Strategy 2009-2019
7	Chesterfield	103,782	660,400	15.75	Large Country Park - 3200m, Local Park - 10 min. Walk(480m)		No standard		720m		480m, 10 min. Walk		No standard		No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Chesterfield Parks and Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2024, Chesterfield Allotment Strategy 2012-2106
8	South Staffordshire	108,441	4,073,200	2.71	No standard		No standard		No standard		400m				No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		South Staffordshire Open Space Audit April 2008, Playing Pitch Strategy October 2007
9	Cannock Cha.se	97,940	788,800	12.44	No standard																N/A		Cannock Cha.se Local Plan Adopted 2014 makes reference to delivering Standards in 2016
10	High Peak (outside National Park) / High Peak (inside National Park)	91,118	5,391,400	1.69	15 min. Walk	20 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	20 min. Walk	20 min. Drive	10 min. Walk to LEAP, 10 min. Drive to NEAP. In rural access to at least informal provision.				20 min. Walk	10 min. Drive	10 min. Drive		No standard / No standard				N/A		Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009 Standards Paper
11	Newark & Sherwood	115,761	6,513,400	1.79	No standard		No standard		5 min. Walk/300m		No standard				No standard		No standard		No standard		N/A		Green Space Strategy 2007 - 2012
12	Fenland	95,996	5,464,500	1.77	Fenland ha.ve moved away from the National Standards and created a very detailed standard application to each site use based on developable space and distance to green space																		Open Space Standards Evidence Base Report February 2013

#	Name	Population	Area (Ha.)	Density	Parks	Amenity Greenspace	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Childrens Play	Youth Provision	Outdoor Sports	Allotments	Green Corridors	Total	Source
13	Bassetlaw	113,178	63,790	1.78	All residents to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision	All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	All residents to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision	All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	No standard	All residents to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision	No standard	N/A		Open Space Study March 2010
14	South Ribble	108,971	1,129,600	9.64	12 min. Walk / 15 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	10 min. Walk / 10 min. Drive	10 min. Walk	No standard	10 min. Walk / 10 min. Drive	No standard	N/A		Central Lancashire Open Space Study March 2012
15	Carlisle	107,952	10,393,100	1.04	All dwellings should be within 3000m of an open space of at least 20ha. which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 1,000m of an open space between 5 and 20 ha. which provides general facilities for recreation provision within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 400 metres of an open space of between 2 and 10ha. which caters for informal recreational needs • all dwellings should be within 200 metres of a small formal or informal open space between 0.2 and 2 ha. that is suitable or informal use and has high amenity value.									Carlisle District Council Local Plan - Chapter 8
16	Stoke City	249,903	934,500	26.77	Local -400m,N'hood -800m,District - 1200m	No standard	600m	LAP - 220m, LEAP - 400m, NEAP - 800m	1200m	No standard	No standard	N/A		Stoke on Trent Greenspace Strategy May 2014 N.B. The standards for Stoke are also taken from North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007
17	Newcastle under Lyme	124,183	2,109,600	5.93	Local -400m,N'hood -800m,District - 1200m	No standard	600m	LAP - 220m, LEAP - 400m, NEAP - 800m	1200m	No standard	No standard	N/A		North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007, Newcastle Allotment Strategy 2014 - 2020

NEAREST NEIGHBOURS OPEN SPACE QUALITY STANDARDS COMPARISON REVIEW

#	Name	Total Population (2001 estimate)	Area (Ha.)	Population Density (based on 2011 estimate) (Number of persons per Ha.)	Parks Urban	Parks Rural	Amenity Greenspace Urban	Amenity Greenspace Rural	Accessible Natural Greenspace Urban	Accessible Natural Greenspace Rural	Childrens Play Urban	Childrens Play Rural	Youth Provision Urban	Youth Provision Rural	Outdoor Sports Facilities Urban	Outdoor Sports Facilities Rural	Allotments Urban	Allotments Rural	Green Corridors Urban	Green Corridors Rural	Total Urban	Total Rural	Source
1	Amber Valley	122,746	2,654,400	4.6	The threshold for the provision of Recreational Open Space is 36+ dwellings (10-35 dwellings contribution to off site facilities)				No standard		65+ dwellings requirements for provision		65-89 dwellings requirements for provision		90+ dwellings requirements for provision		No standard		No standard		N/A		Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2018. Amber Valley Play Strategy 2010-2015
2	Chorley	109,077	2,028,000	5.45	1.91	No provision	0.73	No provision	4.64		0.08		0.08		1.21		0.07		No standard		7.51	6.08	Open Space Strategy 2013-2018, Playing Pitch Stragey 2013-2018
3	Wyre Forest	98,074	1,954,000	5.04	Town Park - 0.33	Local Park - 0.24	0.29		2.3		0.05		0.03		1.91		0.191		No standard (National Guidance)		5.1		Wyre Forest Sport and Recreation Assessment 2008. (* 0.24 for Local Parks/0.33 for Town Parks)
4	Erewash	112,809	1,096,300	10.33	0.7		1		2		4m² of equipped play space/6m² of informal play space per U16 child		4m² of equipped play space/6m² of informal play space per U16 child		1.25 - Playing Pitch, 0.02 - bowls, 0.01 - Tennis		0.31		No standard		5.28		Erewash Greenspace Strategy 2007, Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment 2006
5	Gedling	114,052	1,199,800	9.57	4.15		0.52		4.86		1.21				1.44		20 per 1,000 households	30 per 1,000 households	No standard		12.18 (not including allotments)		Gedling Greenspace Strategy 2012 - 2017
6	Broxtowe	110,716	801,000	13.88	1		0.25		2		0.6				1		No standard		No standard		4.85		Green Spaces Strategy 2009-2019
7	Chesterfield	103,782	660,400	15.75	0.5		No standard		1		0.8				1.6		21 per 1,000 households		No standard		3.9 (not including allotments)		Chesterfield Parks and Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2024, Chesterfield Allotment Strategy

													2012-2106
8	South Staffordshire	108,441	4,073,200	2.71	No standard(current provision 0.00004)	1.6	No standard(current provision 7.383)	0.2	Included within PPS	0.25	No standard	2.05	South Staffordshire Open Space Audit April 2008, Playing Pitch Strategy October 2007
9	Cannock Cha.se	97,940	788,800	12.44	No standard								Cannock Cha.se Local Plan Adopted 2014 makes reference to delivering Standards in 2016
10	High Peak (outside National Park)	91,118	5,391,400	1.69	1.15	0.44	1.18	Childrens Play Equipment - 0.11	1.05	0.22	No standard	4.15	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009 Standards Paper
	High Peak (inside National Park)				No standard	1.07	8.05	Childrens Play Equipment - 0.30	1.46	No standard	No standard	10.88	
11	Newark & Sherwood	115,761	6,513,400	1.79	0.6	0.75	Suggested 10 - however due to wide spread disparity of greenspace area it decided to use Distance from home parameters for differing sizes of greenspace	0.75	2.2	0.5	No standard	4.8	Green Space Strategy 2007 - 2012
12	Fenland	95,996	5,464,500	1.77	Fenland ha.ve moved away from the National Standards and created a very detailed standard application to each site use based on developable space and distance to green space								Open Space Standards Evidence Base Report February 2013
13	Bassetlaw	113,178	63,790	1.78	0.11 - 1.59	0.44 - 1.62	0.02 - 2.05	0.21 - 0.31	No standard	0.05 - 0.35	No standard	0.83 - 5.92	Open Space Study March 2010 - N.B. Bassetlaw ha.s been sub divided into 5 areas each with a standard so the figures identified depict the range.
14	South Ribble	108,971	1,129,600	9.64	0.66	1.33	1.98	0.06	No standard	0.08	No standard	4.11	Central Lancashire Open Space Study March 2012
15	Carlisle	107,952	10,393,100	1.04	3.6ha. of land per 1,000 population of informal and formal grassed, wooded or landscaped land, and small amenity areas of public open space; • 1.86ha. of playing pitches per 1,000 population; • all dwellings should be within 3km of an open space of at least 20ha. which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 1km of an open space between 5 and 20 ha. which provides general facilities for recreation provision within a landscaped setting • all dwellings should be within 400 metres of an open space of between 2 and 10ha. which caters for informal recreational needs • all dwellings should be within 200 metres of a small formal or informal open space between 0.2 and 2 ha. tha.t is suitable or informal use and ha.s high amenity value.								Carlisle District Council Local Plan - Cha.pter 8
16	Stoke City	249,903	934,500	26.77	2.35	No standard	3.6	0.76	0.9	No standard	No standard	7.61	Stoke on Trent Greenspace Strategy May 2014
17	Newcastle under Lyme	124,183	2,109,600	5.93	2.35	No standard	3.6	0.76	0.9	No standard	No standard	7.61	North Staffordshire Greenspace Strategy 2007, Newcastle Allotment Strategy 2014 - 2020

		AMENITY GREENSPACE required to meet local standards					
Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
3	N102	Cedar Road Open Space	Waterhays	Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	6.97	87
4	N103	Applecroft Island Plot		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	79
9	N107	Walnut Grove Open Space		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.35	72
10	N108	Gibson Grove Open Space		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.36	79
12	N110	Church Street Flats		Chesterton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.72	79
23	N119	St Barnabas Open Space	Bradwell Shops OS	Bradwell Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	85
40	N132	Ash Grove Playground		Silverdale and Parksite WardA	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
44	N136	Etruria Way Open space		May Bank Ward	Amenity Greenspace	4.7	
45	N137	Marsh Hall Community Centre		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.49	
48	N140	Highfield Avenue Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.7	
50	N142	Golf Course Walks		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.33	83
51	N143	Coppice View Flats		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.3	84
57	N149	St Michaels Road Corner Plot		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	85
61	N153	Albermarle Road Island Plot		Cross Heath Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
64	N155	Gort Road Open Space		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.42	70
76	N172	Mount Street Open Space		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.39	72
77	N173	Hogarth PlaceOpen Space	Castle Street Open Space	Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.32	76
87	N181	Broad Meadow Playing Field		Holditch Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.82	72
104	N206	Church Lane Dismantled Mineral Railway	(right hand part) Donkey Field / Land off Church lane	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.86	89
106	N207	Corner Plot	Mill Lane open Space	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	
109	N209	Open Space	Ashbourne Drive Open Space	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.25	72
118	N218	Jobs Wood Open Space	Former Keele Golf Course	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	9.15	
119	N219	Glenwood Close Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	
124	N225	Droitwich Close Play Space Plot side of No 8		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	
125	N226	Scot Hay Road Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.3	74
127	N231	Pepper Street Corner Plot		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.32	
130	N236	Ashfields Grange		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.34	
131	N237	Prospect Terrace		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.23	
132	N24	Morris Square (South)		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	88
133	N240	Castle Hill		Town Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.36	
155	N265	Paris Avenue Corner Plot		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.17	
158	N268	Sneyd Avenue Island Plot		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.47	
161	N270	Wedgwood Ave Open Space	Howard place	Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.84	92
163	N272	Milford Road Open Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.16	
165	N274	Cross May Street Open Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	
170	N280	Wedgewood Avenue Corner Plots		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
171	N281	The Square		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.26	80
172	N282	Queensway		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.23	
175	N285	Langdale road Island Plot		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.18	
185	N295	Kingsbridge Avenue Corner Plot		Westlands Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.14	
186	N296	Clayton Library Open Space	Kingsbridge Avenue	Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	1.77	84

189	N298	Grasmere Avenue Island Plot		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.19	77
190	N299	Coniston Grove Island Plot		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.28	
193	N300	Thames Road Play Area		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.51	84
195	N303	The Saplings Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.21	
196	N305	Rutherford Avenue Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.14	78
197	N308	Wye Road		Seabridge Ward	Amenity Greenspace	13.07	81
207	N321	Clayton Lane Corner Plot		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	
208	N322	Gloucester Grange Open Space	Stafford Avenue Open Space	Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	5.04	78
209	N323	Cambridge Drive Open Space		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	3.05	72
211	N325	Clayton Hall Playing Field		Clayton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.98	
222	N36	Brieryhurst Road Corner Plot		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
223	N37	Trubshaw Place		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
224	N38	Hillary Road Island Plot		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
227	N40	Lapwing Road Plot front of houses		Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.15	
243	N48	Birchenwood Open Space	Birchenwood Country Park	Kidsgrove Ward	Amenity Greenspace	14.41	77
264	N612	Marsh Way Play Area		Wolstanton Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	93
281	N8	Basford Park Road		May Bank Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.12	
295	N902D	Seabridge Road		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	
297	N903D	Myott Avenue Play Space		Thistleberry Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.11	
298	N904B	Mitchell Avenue Play Space		Butt Lane Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	
301	N91	Chester Road Island plot		Talke Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.15	
305	N95	Former Playground		Talke Ward	Amenity Greenspace	0.31	
311	N908	Site 2 Poolfields	Gallingale View OS and SUDS		Amenity Greenspace	0.72	85
316	N914	Site 9 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue OS		Amenity Greenspace	0.28	82
317	N915	Site 10 Silverdale Heritage Park	Heritage Park Watercourse South		Amenity Greenspace	0.19	82
318	N916	Site 11 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue OS		Amenity Greenspace	0.22	89
320	N918	Site 13 Silverdale Heritage Park	Heritage Park Watercourse North		Amenity Greenspace	0.51	86
321	N919	Site 15 Beasley	Bamber Place Play Area		Amenity Greenspace	0.23	83
322	N920	Site 16 Lyme Valley	Tansey Way Open Space		Amenity Greenspace	0.51	84
325	N923	Beattie Avenue			Amenity Greenspace	0.09	
		RURAL SITES					
396	381	The Green		Loggerheads	Amenity Greenspace	0.72	75
407	412			Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.48	
408	419	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	0.97	
409	421	A51 Roadside Verge		Maer	Amenity Greenspace	0.90	
410	432	Keele Road		Thistleberry	Amenity Greenspace	0.81	
411	435	Beck Wood		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.58	
412	438	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	1.11	
413	439	A525 Roadside Verge		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	3.94	
423	570	(568) College Gardens	Madeley High - detached Playing Field	Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	2.77	76
428	575	Newcastle Road		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.15	
429	670	Westfield Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.42	86
430	684	Chapel Chorlton Village Green		Chapel and Hill Chorlton	Amenity Greenspace	0.78	66
431	700	Rowney Close Playing Field		Loggerheads	Amenity Greenspace	0.13	60
432	701	Furnace Lane		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.03	74
433	702	Bevan Place		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.2	80
434	703	Heath Row		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.26	71
435	705	Station Road		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.17	68

437	707	Knights Croft		Keele	Amenity Greenspace	0.66	73
438	772	Victoria Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	68
440	809	Ravens Close		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.52	74
498	970	Betley Village Green		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Amenity Greenspace	0.06	91
500	972	Common Lane		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Amenity Greenspace	1.13	
541	1023	Hilwood Road		Madeley	Amenity Greenspace	0.25	63
545	1087	Turner Avenue		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.21	73
546	1091	Church Street		Audley	Amenity Greenspace	0.27	74

	Area (Ha)
Total (URBAN)	83.85
Total(RURAL)	17.79
Total	101.64

GREEN CORRIDORS

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
55	N147	Lyme Brook open space		Cross Heath Ward	Green Corridor	1.22	**74**
72	N167	Laxey Road Dismantled Railway	Newcastle Greenway	Cross Heath Ward	Green Corridor	2.82	**84**
105	N206B	Church Lane Open Space	Newcastle Greenway	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Green Corridor	1.98	**75**
123	N223	Moffatt Way Open Space		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Green Corridor	0.40	**75**
136	N243	Station Walks		Town Ward	Green Corridor	1.74	**84**
169	N279	The Parkway	Three Parks	Westlands Ward	Green Corridor	4.12	**85**
181	N291	Guernsey Drive Open Space		Westlands Ward	Green Corridor	5.81	**61**
194	N301	Kennett Close Open Space		Seabridge Ward	Green Corridor	0.16	
221	N35	Trubshaw Farm	Woodhall Park	Newchapel Ward	Green Corridor	2.59	
244	N49	Loopline dismantled railway	Kidsgrove Loopline	Ravenscliffe Ward	Green Corridor	1.22	**83**
246	N52	Loopline dismantled railway	Kidsgrove Loopline	Ravenscliffe Ward	Green Corridor	5.96	**84**
292	N901D	Silverdale Road Corridor	part - Lyme Brook Greenway	Thistleberry Ward	Green Corridor	2.29	**71**
319	N917	Site 12 Silverdale Heritage Park			Green Corridor	0.06	**83**
		RURAL SITES					
528	1009	Marion Platt walkway		Audley	Green Corridor	6.21	**68**
535	1016	Bateswood Bridle Paths		Audley	Green Corridor	5.56	**67**
553	1098	Bateswood Dismantled Railway		Audley	Green Corridor	3.84	**66**

	Area (Ha)
Total (URBAN)	27
Total(RURAL)	16
Total	46

ALLOTMENTS required to meet local standards

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
1	N0	Basford Allotments		May Bank Ward	Allotments	1.56	
30	N124	Allotment Gardens	Dimsdale Allotments	Porthill Ward	Allotments	0.85	
75	N171	Hill Street Allotments	Jason Street	Cross Heath Ward	Allotments	0.18	
93	N195	Cotswold Avenue Allotments	Blackbank	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Allotments	0.29	
112	N212	Park Road Allotments		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Allotments	1.24	
116	N216	The Acre Allotments		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Allotments	4.37	
164	N273	Thistleberry Allotments		Thistleberry Ward	Allotments	0.4	
232	N43	Dove Bank Allotments	Lamb Street	Kidsgrove Ward	Allotments	1.04	
323	N921	Site 17 Allotments Lyme Valley	Lyme Valley Allotments		Allotments	0.53	**86**
		Salvation Army Allotment		Chesterton	Allotments	0.12	
		Crown Bank		Talke	Allotments	0.6	
		RURAL SITES					
501	973	Loggerheads Allotments		Loggerheads	Allotments	1.1	**81**

520	1000	Halmer End Allotments		Audley	Allotments	0.25	
523	1003	Audley Allotments		Audley	Allotments	1.27	
547	1092	Manor Road Allotments		Madeley	Allotments	1.20	

	Area (Ha)
Total(URBAN)	11.18
Total(RURAL)	3.82
Total	15.00

This page is intentionally left blank

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES					
17	N114	Bradwell Wood LNR		Bradwell Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	84.39	**75**
33	N126	Ridgeway Place Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.34	
35	N128	Orford Street Open space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.61	
36	N129	Grange Lane Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.24	
38	N130	Grange Lane Open Space		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.16	
39	N131	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.22	
41	N133	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.63	
42	N134	Wolstanton Retail Park		Wolstanton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.12	
43	N135	Wolstanton Retail Park		May Bank Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.63	
90	N185	Ore Close Open Space		Holditch Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.52	
91	N186	Cheviot Close Wood		Holditch Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.88	**68**
103	N204	Proposed Open space	Knutton Quarry(including Jollies Field)	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	42.94	**78**
114	N214	The Racecourse	The Racecourse	Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.79	**71**
117	N217	Job's Wood		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.07	
152	N261	Poolfields Open Space	Pooldam Marshes LNR	Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.36	**76**
156	N267	Butts Walk		Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.71	**76**
157	N267A	Flagstaff planation		Thistleberry Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.82	
168	N277	The Parkway		Westlands Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.18	**72**
200	N310	Rowley Wood		Seabridge Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.96	**85**
201	N311	Westomley Wood		Seabridge Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.33	**78**
210	N324	Clayton Hall Woodland		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.4	
213	N327	Coedbach Open Space	Woodland off The Green, Clayton	Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.54	**65**
215	N329	Dark Wood		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.49	**67**
217	N330	Lees Wood		Clayton Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.98	**64**
248	N58	Kidsgrove Open Space	Woodland Kidsgrove Bank	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.54	
249	N60	Birchenwood	Stone Bank Road Open Space & Birchenwood	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.43	**81**
262	N61	Kids Wood		Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.73	**73**
271	N66	St Johns Wood Cemetery	Liverpool Road Cemetery(St Thomas')	Ravenscliffe Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.79	**74**
275	N72	Hollinwood woodland	Clough Hall Woodland	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.07	
276	N73	Kinnersley Avenue Open Space	Kinnersley Avenue Woodland	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.39	
277	N74	Clough Hall Road Open Space		Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.96	
282	N80	Hardings Wood	Slacken Lane	Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.36	
285	N86	Walton Way Open Space		Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.74	
286	N87	Milton Crescent Open Space		Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1	
287	N88	Hardings Wood		Butt Lane Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.33	
302	N92	Dee Close Open Space	Newcastle Road Woodland	Talke Ward	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.52	
312	N909	Site 3 Poolfields	Gadwall Croft SUDS		Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.35	**86**
		RURAL SITES					
327	1	Maer Hall		Loggerheads and Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	82.34	
328	2	Keele University		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	92.64	**86**
329	3	Leycett LNR		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	28.65	
330	5	Betley Mere		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible natural greenspace	29.64	**67**

331	6	Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.49	**72**
332	52	Wrench's Coppice		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.94	
333	53	Foxley Drumble		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.37	
334	54	Birk's Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.38	
335	55	Mill Dale & Jacob's Ladder		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.06	
336	59	Steele's Coppice		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.09	
337	71	Bluebell Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.52	
338	72			Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.74	
339	73	Bullhorns Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.86	
340	74	Hayes Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.61	**71**
341	75	Holly Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.93	
342	76			Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.11	
343	77	Dunge Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.08	
344	78			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.80	
345	79	Walton's Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	29.64	
346	80	Bullhorns Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.33	
347	81	Heighley Castle Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	12.29	
348	82			Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.52	
349	83	Bowsey Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.72	
350	84	Beck Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.86	
351	85	Bryn Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.53	
352	86			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.62	
353	87	Graftons Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.03	
354	88	The Lum		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.05	
355	89	Wrinehill Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	25.10	
356	90	Beech Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.81	
357	91			Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.72	
358	92	Barhill Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.43	
359	93	Upper Bitterns Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.96	
360	94	Lower Bitterns Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.44	
361	95	Hey Sprink		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	39.33	
362	96	Radwood Corpse		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.77	
363	97	Moat Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.60	
364	98	Moat Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.85	
365	99	Pleck Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.32	
366	100	Holbrook Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.33	
367	101	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.88	
368	102	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.00	
369	110	Knights Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.37	
370	111	Grange Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.80	
371	112	Church Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.79	
372	113	Oak Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.54	
373	123	The Forty Acres		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	31.14	
374	126	Willoughbridge Bogs		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.15	**74**
375	127	Bishops Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.04	
376	128			Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.16	
377	129	Burnt Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.24	
378	131	Bishops Wood	Smiths Rough	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.31	

379	132	Badger Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.12	
380	133	Smiths Rough		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.59	
381	134	Park Springs		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	44.29	
382	135	Lloyd Drumble		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.57	
383	136	Burrows Rough		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.03	
384	137	Dales Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	6.08	
385	149	Whitmore Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.85	
386	151	Bateswood LNR		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	55.82	72
387	152	The Gladings		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	16.69	
388	154	Bishops Wood	Burnt Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	53.18	
389	163	Audley Millennium Green		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.08	63
391	165	Arbour Close Playing Field		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.43	62
397	384	Stocking's Cote		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	10.03	
398	385	Berry Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.14	
399	386	The Bogs		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.31	73
400	387	Lordsley		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	18.99	
401	389	War Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.24	
402	390	Red Hill		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	11.51	
403	391	Maer Hills	Camp Hill/Camp Wood	Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	219.2	62
404	396	Bonker's Wood		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.92	48
405	397	Cowleasow		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	12.41	
406	407	Boyles Hall Estate		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	28.34	
422	569	Land off New Road / Heighley Castle Way		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.02	75
427	574	Land off New Road / Heighley Castle Way		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.74	62
439	781	Bignall End Stream		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.39	
441	905	The Folly		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	53.29	71
442	906	Mucklestone Wood End	Woodlake	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.42	
443	907	Buckley's Drumble		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.60	
444	908	Lower Bogs Plantation		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.94	
445	909	Maer Moss		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.30	69
446	910	Sniggle Pitts		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.41	
447	911	Castle Hill		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.89	
448	912	Johnson's Wood		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	7.75	
449	913	Old Springs Hall	Sawpit Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.51	
450	914	Saw Pit Wood	Hall Wood	Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.82	
451	915	Tyrley Locks		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.81	
452	916	Little Heath Green		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.69	
453	917	Old Pool Plantation		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.98	
454	919	Elmer Riddings		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.15	
455	921	Shuffers Wood		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.76	
456	924	Heath Wood		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.91	71
457	925	Craddocks Moss		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	18.91	
458	926	Brockwood Hill		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.21	
459	927	Foxley Gorse		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.81	
460	931	Redheath Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.96	
461	932	Quarry Bank		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.90	
462	933	Haying Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	16.97	
463	934	Birch Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.56	

464	935	Weburgh's Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.21	
465	936	Rosemary Hill Wood		Thistleberry	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.11	
466	937	Barker's Wood		Thistleberry	Accessible Natural Greenspace	9.58	
467	938	Aldersey's Rough		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	8.29	
468	939	Penfields Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.13	
469	940	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.01	
470	941	Bentilee Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.46	
471	942	The Rookery		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.18	
473	944	Shropshire's Wood		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.93	
474	945	Whitehouse Wood		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.21	
475	946	Whitmore Heath		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	5.57	
476	947	The Lymes		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.51	
479	950	Bear's Rough		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.08	
480	951	Alder	Springpool Wood	Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.17	
481	952	Springpool Wood		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	17.79	
482	953	Brickkiln Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.63	
483	954			Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.10	
484	955	Whitmore Hall		Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	21.04	
485	956	Verdun Plantation		Keele	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.05	
486	957	Leddy's Field Wildlife Area		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.67	**73**
488	959	Turner Hodgkiss Community Nature Reserve		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.65	
489	960	Heronpool	Lakeside Close Open Space	Whitmore	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.16	**71**
492	964	Madeley Pool		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.49	**80**
503	975	Dorothy Clive Garden		Maer	Accessible Natural Greenspace	3.61	**79**
504	976	Tadgedale Brook		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.64	**74**
508	978	Almington		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.47	
510	980	Castle Mill		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.79	
511	981	Knighton Cutting		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	2.85	
515	985	Bignall End Road		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.2	**59**
521	1001	Bartomley Road Pond		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.01	**73**
532	1013	Burnt Wood SSSI		Loggerheads	Accessible Natural Greenspace	81.32	**76**
536	1017	Holm Oak Drive		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.24	**78**
538	1019	Bower End Lane		Madeley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	0.35	**55**
539	1020	Cloggers Pool		Audley	Accessible Natural Greenspace	4.96	**69**
548	1093	Heath Grove Woodland		Loggerheads	Accessible natural greenspace	0.49	
549	1094	Apedale Waste Tips			Accessible natural greenspace	14.91	**62**
550	1095	Chorlton Moss			Accessible natural greenspace	10.56	**70**
551	1096	Parrots Drumble			Accessible natural greenspace	12.08	**69**
552	1097	Willoughbridge Park		Maer	Accessible natural greenspace	21.87	**69**

			Area (Ha)
		Total (URBAN)	244.52
		Total (RURAL)	1486.81
		Total	**1731.33**

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME OPEN SPACE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN SPREADSHEET

Open Spaces required to meet local standards and where improvements have been identified to maintain quality and accessibility (14 no.)

Action Plan Number	Database Site No.	Reference No.	Scheme/Project Name	Short Description	Need for Scheme/Project	Ward	Inclusion in other Strategies / Policies
1	99 & 100	N2 & N2A	Brampton Park Masterplan Implementation	Planning Implementation & Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Maybank	
2	18	N115	Bradwell Crematorium Extension	Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Bradwell	
3	19 & 20	N116 & N116A	Arnold Grove Redesign & Masterplan	Planning Implementation & Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Bradwell	
4	70	N162 & N162A	The Wammy - Phase 3	Youth Provision in the newly created Neighbourhood Park	Youth Provision in the newly created Neighbourhood Park	Cross Heath	
5	70	N162 & N162A	The Wammy - Phase 4	Pavilion	Upgrade to existing facilities	Cross Heath	
6	111	N211	Keele Golf Course (Municipal Golf Course)	Masterplan	Scope for new development within large urban biodiverse setting	Silverdale & Parksite	
7	138	N246	Queens Gardens Improvements	Upgrade to existing facilities	Upgrade to existing facilities	Town	
8	154	N263	Thistleberry Parkway - Phase 2	Cycle Path and lighting	Access & Security Route for schools	Thistleberry	
9	67	N159	Douglas Road	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers	Cross Heath	
10	14	N112	Chesterton Memorial Park	Scope for new facilities for adventure play for teenagers in the main park area	Areas of dereliction currently unused	Chesterton	
11	273	N71	Clough Hall Park	Clough Hall Masterplan	Upgrade to bowling greens etc., potential community allotments	Butt Lane	
12	17	N114	Bradwell Wood	Maintenance Management Strategy	Upgrade to path, lighting and overall safety	Bradwell	
13	152	N261	Pooldam Marshes	Habitat & Interpretation Improvements	Environmental Management and Community Liaison	Thistleberry	

| 14 | 271 | N66 | St Johns Wood Cemetery | Historical/Biodiversity Project | Project to link biodiversity, history and access | Ravenscliffe | |

All remaining sites identified as being needed to meet open space standards, with a quality score of 79% or less will be scoped for qualitative improvements. The implementation of such works will be subject to the site priority, resources and the securing of suitable funding.

PARKS & GARDENS required to meet local standards

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Play Space - Equipped or Non Equipped - LAP, LEAP, NEAP	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES						
7	N106	Crackley Recreation Ground		Chesterton Ward	Park		3.62	**80**
14	N112	Chesterton Memorial Park		Chesterton Ward	Park		2.89	**81**
18	N115	Newcastle Crematorium	Bradwell Crematorium	Bradwell Ward	Park		5.84	**93**
19	N116	Arnold Grove Recreation Ground		Bradwell Ward	Park		7.76	**78**
25	N121	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Ward	Park		2.92	**84**
27	N122	Bradwell park	Bradwell Lodge	Porthill Ward	Park		1.16	**85**
29	N123	Oaklands Park (The Dingle)	Porthill Dingle	Porthill Ward	Park		1.27	**88**
59	N152	Brampton Recreation Ground	Icky Picky	Cross Heath Ward	Park		1.92	**82**
62	N154	Meadow Lane Green Space		Cross Heath Ward	Park		1.96	**80**
67	N159	Douglas Road		Cross Heath Ward	Park	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	2.46	**83**
70	N162	The Wammy		Cross Heath Ward	Park		3.92	**90**
82	N179	Tuscan Way Recreation Ground	Loomer Road	Holditch Ward	Park		0.7	**79**
84	N18	Wolstanton Park		Wolstanton Ward	Park		0.73	**92**
99	N2	Brampton Park		May Bank Ward	Park		2.85	**93**
107	N208	Silverdale Park		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Park		0.99	**87**
121	N222	Ilkley Place Recreation Ground		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Park		0.6	**83**
128	N234	Apedale Community Park		Halmerend Ward	Park		162.81	**90**
134	N242	Wilson Street		Town Ward	Park		0.41	**84**
138	N246	Queens Gardens		Town Ward	Park		0.23	**88**
140	N248	Grosvenor Island	The Bearpit	Town Ward	Park		0.17	**89**
142	N250	Stubbs Walks		Town Ward	Park		1.21	**92**
149	N258	Queen Elizabeth Park		Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.84	**83**
150	N259	Lyme Brook	Open space at corner of Orme Road	Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.28	**70**
159	N27	Wolstanton Marsh		Wolstanton Ward	Park		10.86	**86**
187	N297	Rydal Way		Westlands Ward	Park		1.35	**82**
203	N315	Lyme Valley Parkway		Clayton Ward	Park		24.61	**77**
205	N32	Long Lane Playing Field		Newchapel Ward	Park		3.03	**78**
236	N46	Whitehill Road Open Space	Mount Road Open Space	Kidsgrove Ward	Park		3.44	**85**
247	N57	Birchenwood Open Space	Birchenwood Country Park	Ravenscliffe Ward	Park	LEAP,Skate	17.77	**81**
255	N605	Underwood Road		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Park		0.52	**76**
257	N606	Orme Road Skate Park		Thistleberry Ward	Park		0.15	**90**
273	N71	Clough Hall	Clough Hall Park	Butt Lane Ward	Park		6.17	**85**
283	N82	Bathpool Park		Talke Ward	Park		61.08	**93**
303	N93	Chester Road Open space		Talke Ward	Park		1.07	**75**
306	N96	Red Street Sportsground	Red Street	Chesterton Ward	Park		2.06	**84**
324	N922	Silverdale Country Park			Park	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,MUGA	92.06	**92**
		RURAL SITES						

						Area (Ha)
				Total(URBAN)		432
				Total(RURAL)		0
				Total		**432**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S FACILITIES required to meet local standards

Site No.	Reference	Name	AKA(also known as)	Ward	PPG17 classification (primary purpose) - OS Typology	Play Space - Equipped or Non Equipped - LAP, LEAP, NEAP	Area (Ha)	Overall % Quality Score
		URBAN SITES						
2	N101	Barbridge Road	Waterhays	Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People		6.89	**78**
8	N106A	Crackley Recreation Ground		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.05	

11	N109	Douglas Road Playground			Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.16	
15	N112A	Chesterton Memorial Park Play Area		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.2	
16	N113	Ironbridge Drive Playground			Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
20	N116A	Arnold Grove Recreation Ground Play Area		Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.12	
26	N121A	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Dingle	Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,BMX,MUGA	0.07	
28	N122A	Bradwell park	Bradwell Lodge	Porthill Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.12	
32	N125A	Woodhall Park Play Area	Land off St Andrews Drive (Rookery)	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.14	
34	N127	Cotswold Avenue Playground		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	4.53	77
46	N138	Cheswardine Road	Cheswardine Road Play Area	Bradwell Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
60	N152A	Brampton Recreation Ground	Icky Picky	Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.15	
63	N154A	Meadow Lane Green Space Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP	0.08	
65	N156	Thompstone Avenue Playground	Thompstone Avenue Ball Court	Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	NEAP,MUGA	0.35	65
71	N162A	The Wammy Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.11	
83	N179A	Romney Avenue Open Space	Loomer Road	Holditch Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.05	
85	N18A	Wolstanton Park Play Area		Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.05	
98	N199A	Acacia Avenue Play Area	Acacia Avenue Play Area / Pocket Park	Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.09	
100	N2A	Brampton Park Play Area		May Bank Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP	0.07	
108	N208A	Silverdale Park Play Area		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,MUGA	0.13	
120	N221	Back Lane Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.65	81
122	N222A	Ilkley Place Recreation Ground Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.89	
135	N242A	Wilson Street Play Area		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
143	N250A	Stubbs Walks		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
154	N263	Thistleberry Parkway		Thistleberry Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	6.21	80
160	N27A	Wolstanton Marsh		Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
188	N297A	Rydal Way Play Area		Westlands Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	
199	N31	Arthur Birchall Recreation Ground		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.36	
202	N313	Wroxham Way		Seabridge Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	8.01	82
204	N315A	Lyme Valley Parkway Play Area		Clayton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP,LEAP,NEAP,Skate,BMX,MUGA	0.52	
206	N32A	Long Lane Playing Field Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	

229	N41A	Salop Place	Salop Place	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.08	
235	N45A	Attwood Street Play Area		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
237	N46A	Mount Road (1)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.01	
238	N46B	Mount Road (2)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
239	N46C	Mount Road (3)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
240	N46D	Mount Road (4)		Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.02	
242	N47A	Birchenwood recreation Open Space Play Area	Birchenwood Country Park	Kidsgrove Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,Skate	0.04	
250	N600	Moorlands Road Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.14	**55**
251	N601	Dales Green Road Play Area		Newchapel Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.21	**85**
252	N602	Townfields Close Play Area		Butt Lane Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.15	**81**
253	N603	Bamber Place Play Area	Bamber Place Open Space	Holditch Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	**95**
254	N604	Rogers Avenue Play Area		Cross Heath Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.19	**87**
256	N605A	Underwood Road Play Area		Silverdale and Parksite Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.07	
258	N606A	Orme Road Skate Park		Thistleberry Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	Skate	0.11	
259	N607	Guernsey Drive Play Area		Seabridge Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.26	**87**
260	N608	Lockwood Street Play Area		Town Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.04	**80**
261	N609	Moran Road Play Area		Knutton and Silverdale Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.15	
263	N610	Bluebell Drive Play Area		Westlands Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.1	**87**
274	N71A	Clough Hall Play Area	Clough Hall Park	Butt Lane Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.15	
284	N82A	Bathpool Park Play Area		Talke Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP,NEAP,MUGA	0.06	
304	N93A	Chester Road Open space Play Area		Talke Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.1	
307	N96A	Red Street Play Area		Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.4	**83**
309	N99	Waterhays	Waterhays No. 2 and 3	Chesterton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	6.7	**80**
310	N907	Site 1 Poolfields	Gallingale View Play Area		Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.45	**91**
313	N910	Site 5 Wolstanton	Minton Street Play Area	Wolstanton Ward	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP(to be constructed 2016	0.14	**76**
314	N912	Site 7 Silverdale Heritage Park	Piren Green Play Area		Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP (not NBC)	0.16	**87**
315	N913	Site 8 Silverdale Heritage Park	Sutton Avenue LAP		Provision for Children and Young People	LAP(not NBC)	0.32	**89**
326	N924	Butt Lane			Provision for Children and Young People	New LEAP (not yet built)	0.06	
RURAL SITES								
394	167A	Queen Street Playing Fields Play Area	Wereton Road Play Area	Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.17	
395	227	Madeley Heath Playing Fields		Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.91	**72**

421	568	College Gardens		Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.51	
436	706	Station Road		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.29	67
487	958	Miles Green Recreation Ground	Station Road Play Area	Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.53	60
491	963	Scot Hay Play Area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.35	61
493	964A Birchdale, Madeley			Madeley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.12	
496	968	Burntwood View & Heathgrove Woodland	2 sites - woodland and amenity play space	Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.8	75
499	971	Betley Village Hall Play Area		Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	(Excluded from analysis)	LEAP	0.09	
505	976A Tadgedale Brook Play Area			Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LAP	0.11	75
507	977A Whitmore Playing Field			Whitmore	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.03	
509	979 Bell Orchard			Loggerheads	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.10	
513	983	Tomfields		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.4	66
514	984	Rileys Field		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	Non Equipped	0.29	58
516	986	Bignall End play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.42	56
517	987	Albert Street play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	1.36	62
519	999	Halmer End playing field		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.43	55
524	1004	Alsager Road play area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.67	67
529	1010	Alsagers Bank Play Area		Audley	Provision for Children and Young People	LEAP	0.97	58

		Area (Ha)
Total(URBAN)		40.57
Total(RURAL)		10.55
Total		51.12