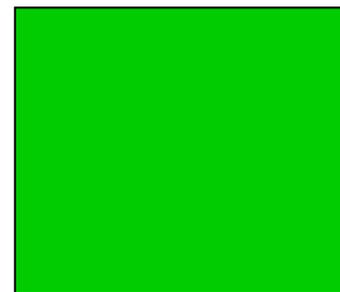
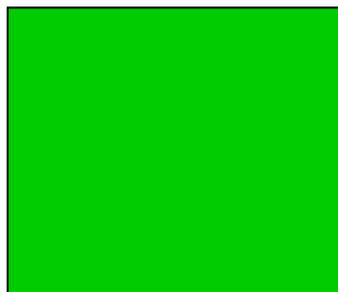


Trafford Greenspace Strategy



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Foreword

Trafford's Community Strategy recognises that high quality public spaces play a key part in achieving our aim of sustainable communities, neighbourhoods.

Trafford has a rich and diverse range of open spaces ranging from Victorian public parks such as Longford Park, Victoria Park, Stamford Park and Worthington Park to visitor attractions such as Dunham Massey and Sale Water Park as well as recreational routes such as the Trans Pennine Trail and Bridgewater Way, not to mention areas of accessible greenspace such as the Bollin Valley and the Mersey Valley. All of these multi-functional greenspaces are strongly associated with the history and culture of Trafford.

The Greenspace Strategy is therefore an important document, not only in terms of its content and action plan, but also in terms of its relationship to other key council policies such as the Community Strategy and Local Development Framework, as well as those of our partner services and organisations in the fields of housing, biodiversity, culture, heritage, health and sport amongst many others.

We have considered the views of Trafford residents and community groups in developing this Greenspace Strategy, which brings together and builds upon previous work carried out such as our recent audit of all open space to meet the recommendations of PPG17.

This strategy provides an opportunity to rethink Trafford's greenspace system and set new priorities to achieve a fairer

distribution of high quality open spaces across Trafford's neighbourhoods and communities.

In doing so, we will make a telling contribution to improving health, reducing crime, protecting and promoting heritage, supporting housing and economic growth, reducing the impact of climate change, enhancing biodiversity and creating sustainable communities.

Councillor Jonathan Coupe
Executive Member – Environment Services

Introduction

The presence and effective management of a system of accessible, high quality greenspace is central to the quality of life in communities and brings clear environmental, social and economic benefits.

Greenspace is a vital resource, supporting a range of functions including sport, play, visual amenity, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, urban regeneration and place shaping as well as attracting and sustaining economic development.

This greenspace strategy seeks to ensure that all of Trafford Council's greenspace is well managed for the benefits of those who live, learn, work or relax in Trafford, whilst also providing a framework to guide the planning and allocation of resources.

The primary focus of this strategy is council owned and managed greenspace, although sites outside the council's control are referenced in recognition of wider issues of green infrastructure, all of which have the potential to impact upon public access to open space and outdoor leisure facilities in Trafford and adjoining areas.

The increasing importance attached to Greenspace across government departments, allied to the emergence of the Green Infrastructure concept within Regional Spatial Strategies and Core Strategies, emphasises further the need for robust local Greenspace Strategies.

Trafford Council has already undertaken an in depth Greenspace Audit in line with the recommendations of PPG17 - this Strategy builds on that work and using the findings to establish a clear set of standards and action plan.

By setting out a clear typology and hierarchy of open space sites, strategic priorities can be set in accordance with key issues emerging from the quantitative assessment (PPG17) and evidence from public consultation. Improvements can then be made within available capital and revenue resources from the Greenspace Service, partner services and other organisations in the public, private and voluntary sector.

PART 1: SCOPE , VISION AND BACKGROUND



Scope

The strategy is presented in two parts. Part 1 sets out the context for the strategy, including the vision, aims, objectives and backdrop in terms of previous work, policy links and consultation results. Part 2 sets out qualitative and quantitative standards as well as 5 area profiles (based on clusters of electoral wards) accompanied by headline findings from this assessment.

This information provides a comprehensive and robust evidence base which will support planning policies in the adopted Local Plan and future Local Development Framework, shape and inform the Green Space Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents. The study also supports the implementation of Sustainable Community Plan priorities and informs other Council strategies and initiatives.

The Desired Outcomes of the strategy will be:

- *Local standards for open space provision in Trafford*
- *A clear picture of the current quality and standards of open space provision in Trafford*
- *A comprehensive action plan to address issues of quality and quantity in open space provision*
- *A framework against which future funding decisions and applications can be made.*

What is included as Greenspace?

Green space covered by this strategy refers to the network of publicly accessible green spaces within Trafford. Parks, semi natural green space, recreation grounds and sports pitches, play areas and linear green spaces of over 0.2 hectares are included in line with national policy and consistent with other local authority strategies.

What Isn't Included?

This strategy does not make recommendations regarding green spaces that are not freely accessible to the public, nor does it include cemeteries, crematoria or allotments leased to private tenants. However, these spaces are still mapped and viewed as an important part of the urban greenspace system and as key Green Infrastructure components.

Similarly, sites beneath the 0.2 Ha threshold (including highway verges, amenity space, tree belts and small areas of green public realm) will play an important role within Green Infrastructure planning.

Why Do We Need a Strategy?

A greenspace strategy is needed in order to set clear goals for the protection and improvement of Trafford's rich variety of green spaces. The benefits of a strategy are to:

- Generate political and inter-departmental support for parks and green spaces and establish clear lines of responsibility
- Develop a vision shared by politicians, officers, key partners, stakeholders and communities
- Define the value and role of parks and green spaces in meeting corporate and community aims
- Create a comprehensive policy framework for the protection, enhancement, accessibility and use of parks and green spaces
- Make sure that green spaces enhance the quality and diversity of the environment and promote social inclusion
- Ensure that the green space network meets the needs of local people now and in the future
- Provide a framework for resource allocation that maximises funding to support improvements
- Create a framework for voluntary and community groups to participate in green space provision and management





Trafford greenspace vision: “A borough with good quality, accessible and attractive green spaces that meet the needs of thriving, strong communities, reflect cultural diversity and encourage the visitor economy.”

Vision, Aims and Objectives

Vision for Greenspace in Trafford

“A borough with good quality, accessible and attractive green spaces that meet the needs of thriving, strong communities, reflect cultural diversity and encourage the visitor economy.”

Within the next ten years the plan is for all communities and neighbourhoods to enjoy access to a multifunctional green space network offering a range of different experiences including formal landscapes; heritage and biodiversity; outdoor sports; quality play facilities and informal local space for recreation. This will be underpinned by ensuring that green space is accessible to all, welcoming and well managed.

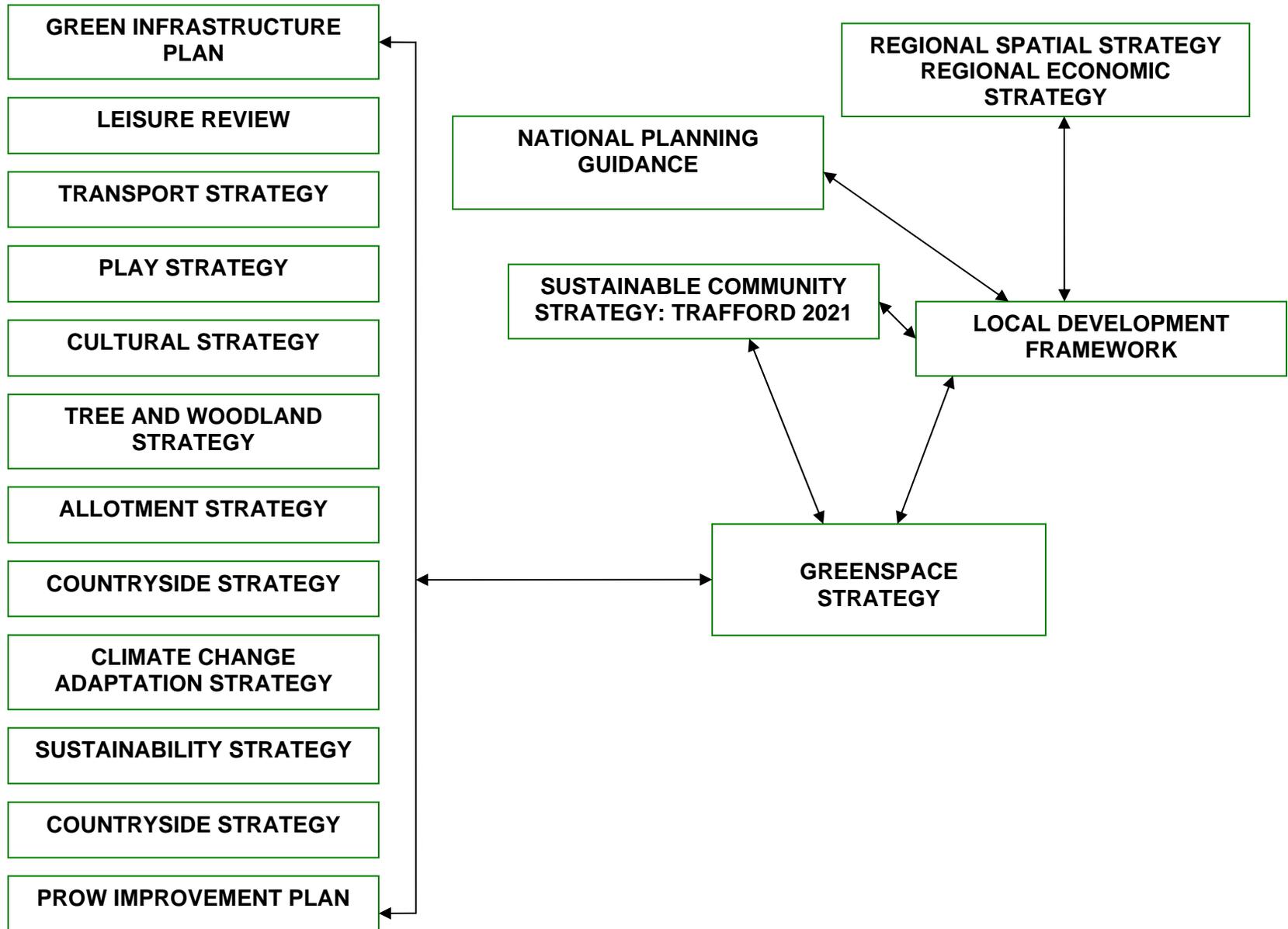
Greenspace Strategy Aims

- ***Raise the quality of parks and green spaces***
- ***Increase the use of Trafford’s greenspace by all sectors of the community***
- ***Provide a prioritised investment framework for green spaces***
- ***Increase the multi functional role of greenspace to support biodiversity and sustainability***
- ***Embed community involvement in the design and management of green spaces***
- ***Improve community safety through good design and partnership working***

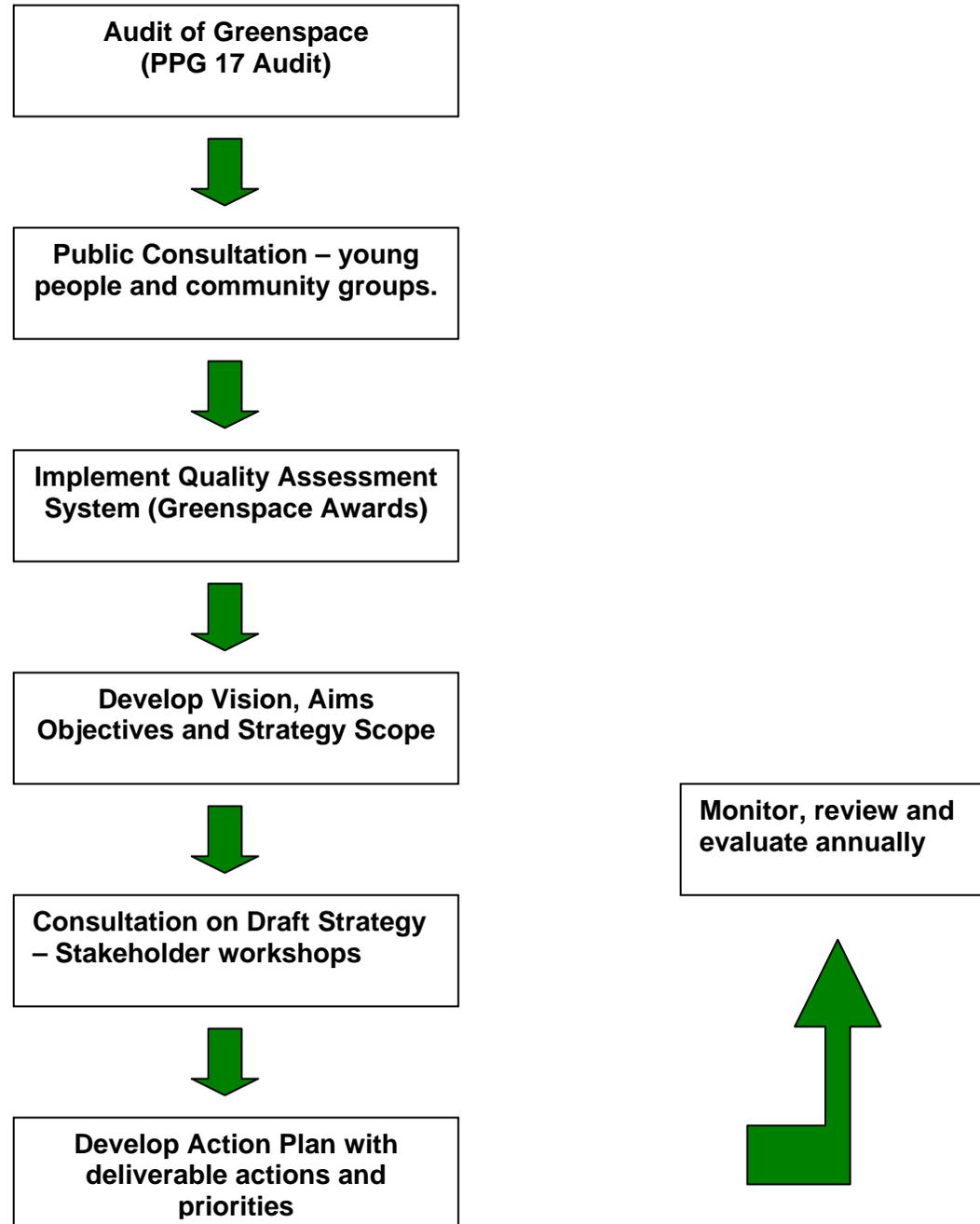
Greenspace Strategy Objectives

- ***Map all greenspaces and associated catchment areas***
- ***Develop a greenspace hierarchy with appropriate levels of staff and facilities***
- ***Produce a set of local greenspace standards for Trafford***
- ***Identify gaps in greenspace provision – quantitative or qualitative***
- ***Identify opportunities to remedy deficiencies in access to greenspace***
- ***Produce an appropriate action plan to help to deliver improvements***

Policy Context



Methodology - Stages in the Development of The Strategy



The Benefits of Greenspace

The benefits of good quality greenspace are extensive and far reaching, with clear tangible benefits such as the effect on property values, crime rates and air pollution, as well as benefits for less tangible issues such as sense of place and mental health and well being.

Economic

- *Add value to the surrounding property, both commercial and residential, consequently increasing tax yield to maintain public service*
- *Tourism and the visitor economy*
- *Encourage employment and Inward investment to area*
- *Help to create a favourable image of a place*

Social

- *Provide places for quiet contemplation and reflection, for relaxation and informal recreation*
- *Provide opportunities to improve health and personal fitness, and take part in a wide range of outdoor sport and activity*
- *Cultural links with the past, sense of place and identity*
- *Community Events and fundraising*
- *Educational resource – art, design and natural sciences*

Environmental

- *Habitats and biodiversity*
- *Stabilise urban temperatures and humidity*
- *Absorb pollutants in air and ground water*
- *Opportunities for recycling organic materials*
- *Slow storm water run off and reduce pressure on drainage infrastructure*

(Urban Greenspaces Taskforce)

Natural Economy North West identify further benefits in their publication: ***“The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure”***

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Flood alleviation and water management
- Quality of place
- Health and wellbeing
- Land and property values
- Economic growth and investment
- Labour productivity
- Tourism
- Recreation and leisure
- Land and biodiversity
- Products from the land



Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure planning is an approach endorsed at the national and regional level, with specific policies present within the NW Regional Spatial Strategy. Green Infrastructure is defined as:

***“...the region’s life support system – the network of natural environmental components and green and blue spaces that lies within and between the North west’s Cities, Towns and Villages which provides multiple social, economic and environmental benefits”
(NW Green Infrastructure Guide – NW Green Infrastructure Think Tank)***

The North West GI Guide was produced to aid the development of local GI plans and to provide further detailed information on Green Infrastructure than that contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Policy EM3 of RSS for the North West states that:

"Plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should: identify, promote and deliver multi-purpose networks of greenspace, particularly where there is currently limited access to natural greenspace or where connectivity between these places is poor; and integrate Green Infrastructure provision within existing and new development, particularly within major development and regeneration schemes".

The Regional Economic Strategy for the North West also highlights a need to:

"....develop the economic benefit of the region’s natural environment through better alignment of environmental activities and economic gain" with the reason given that this is "a key under-exploited economic resource for the region and part of our quality of life. It is important to nurture the natural resources of the region and to develop a strategy for green infrastructure and transport corridors".

What’s the Difference Between the Greenspace Strategy and Green Infrastructure Plan?

The Greenspace Strategy focuses primarily on council owned and managed greenspaces, although greenspace owned by other organisations (e.g. Housing Trusts) and maintained by the council has been included here. Privately owned, freely accessible sites are also recognised in the assessments, as it is accepted that ownership of open space is not the key consideration of users, but rather the quality on offer.

The Green Infrastructure Plan has a wider remit and is concerned with mapping all green and blue environmental assets across the Trafford area and making recommendations for intervention, with projects geared towards repairing or creating new areas of green infrastructure, with an emphasis on linkages.

In a similar way to the Greenspace Strategy, a supplementary planning document is to be developed through which developer contributions for green infrastructure improvements as part of new developments.

Definition of Strategic Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure involves both public and private assets, with and without public access, in urban and rural locations, including:

- Green corridors
 - Large urban parks and gardens
 - Registered commons and villages and town greens
 - Natural and semi-natural habitat for wildlife
 - Country Parks
 - Amenity open space
 - Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
 - Agricultural land
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
 - Watercourses and water bodies
 - Public rights of way, cycle routes and other recreational routes.
- To integrate opportunities for strategic enhancement of landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route resources, identified in consultation with stakeholders through workshops;
 - Using the analysis, to develop an integrated strategic green infrastructure network that links in with similar strategic networks in adjacent counties at the sub-regional scale.



Objectives for the Trafford Forest Plan (Local GI Plan)

- To define green infrastructure, identify key components and highlight gaps and deficiencies in provision;
- To collate available data and information on existing landscape character, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route assets;

Biodiversity

Trafford has a rich wildlife system with a great diversity of sites, species and habitats of interest. Sites in Trafford include designated sites of national, regional and local importance such as:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
Sites of Biological Importance (SBI);
Sites of geological and geomorphological importance
Local Nature Conservation Sites;
Local Nature Reserves;
Wildlife Corridors;
Open countryside landscape character area
Woodland (particularly Ancient woodland), hedgerows and hedgerow trees and trees including street trees and ancient trees;
Areas of open water and watercourses;
Areas of strategic importance as identified in The Greater Manchester Ecological Framework;
Historic Parks and Gardens and historic landscapes including Dunham Massey; and
Habitats and species identified in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

All of these sites form an integral part of the urban fabric of the borough and its green infrastructure, with a multi functional role supporting wildlife, enhancing the image of the borough and its towns and villages, whilst offering opportunities for recreation and education.

The key species and habitats supported by Trafford's sites (listed in the annexe) include

- Water Vole;
 - Brown Hare;
 - Reed Bunting;
 - Song Thrush;
 - Grey Partridge;
 - Skylark; and
 - Bluebell
-
- Canals;
 - Lowland Broadleaved woodland;
 - Neutral Grassland;
 - Ponds and Lodges;
 - Mossland; and
 - Marsh and Marshy grassland.

The key guidance and legislation relating to biodiversity are:

- *Wildlife and Countryside Act*
- *Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act,*
- *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERCA)*
- *EU Habitat Regulations*
- *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*



It is therefore important to emphasise the role of Trafford's greenspace in the context of wider ecological networks beyond Trafford's boundaries, linked to initiatives such as Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's 'Ecological Framework' study (conducted with the Universities of Manchester and Salford), which promotes the identification of 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' across Greater Manchester through the land use planning system.

Incorporating biodiversity considerations into the action plan and down to the level of individual site management plans, will also present an opportunity for Trafford to demonstrate its commitment to meeting the biodiversity duty imposed on local authorities within the NERC Act.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Trafford's greenspace system has a vital role to play in mitigating against and adapting to climate change, whilst also offering great potential to help achieve a low carbon future.

Adapting to Climate Change

Trafford is around 60% urban, is therefore vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate. Increasing temperatures bring the threat of heat waves, exacerbated by the 'urban heat island effect', a term used to describe the way urban areas heat up much faster and release that heat much more slowly than transpiring surfaces such as greenspace.

Climate forecasts also indicate increased future rainfall, which brings with it the threat of increased flooding, both from overflowing watercourses and from an overwhelmed, largely victorian drainage system which simply cannot cope with the volume of surface water runoff during periods of prolonged rainfall.

Mitigation

Greenspace has been shown to have multiple benefits which can be used to mitigate some of the risks of climate change:

- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Reducing the need to travel by car
- Fossil fuel substitutes (e.g. via woodland management)

Adaptation

- Trees and greenspace can be used to provide cooling in urban areas via evapo-transpiration
- Reducing the risk/severity of flooding – water storage, interception, infiltration, uptake and slowing surface flow
- Deciduous trees can provide shading in the summer whilst dropping their leaves in winter months to allow the heat from the sun to enter buildings. Trees have also been shown to remove atmospheric pollution such as particulate matter.

Storage and recycling of rainfall (in abundant supply throughout the year in Britain and the north west) and grey water run is therefore an obvious, yet often overlooked challenge in terms of forward thinking 'retrofit' schemes in our

greenspaces, as well as planning for new developments, settlements and landscape schemes.

Hydrology

A key feature of the Environment Agency's approach is the development of River Basin Management Plans, which incorporate greenspace issues as well as managing flood risk; managing surface water; using water wisely; preventing pollution; managing waste; recreation; land contamination and sustainable construction.

From a greenspace perspective, achievement of a healthier water environment can therefore be achieved through improving wildlife habitats, improving land management and adapting to climate change.

Children and Young People

Trafford's greenspace often provides the venue and the opportunity for children to play out in their local community.

Like other authorities, Trafford has benefited from the renewed emphasis on play at the national level through the 'Getting Serious about Play' review and the subsequent funding allocation through the Big Lottery Fund's 'Children's Play' and DCSF 'Playbuilder' programmes. These developments have taken place in tandem with an emphasis on the importance of greenspace in the DCSF Children's Plan and the development of a national Play Strategy.

Play England's 'Designing for Play' guidance emphasises 10 key principles in the successful design of high quality play environments, principles which are fundamental to Trafford's

approach to creating new and better play opportunities through the Trafford Play Partnership and its guiding document, the Trafford Play Strategy.

Some of the challenges of the play strategy are to ensure that there is an equal distribution of high quality indoor and outdoor play facilities across Trafford; inclusive access to play opportunities and a collaborative approach in terms of resource procurement.

Success on these fronts will therefore involve continued partnership working through the membership of the Play Partnership and also with residents and community groups.

The 10 principles for designing successful play spaces (Play England – Designing for Play)

Successful play spaces...

- are 'bespoke'
- are well located
- make use of natural elements
- provide a wide range of play experiences
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
- meet community needs
- allow children of different ages to play together
- build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
- are sustainable and appropriately maintained
- allow for change and evolution.

Good play provision can:

- extend the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it
- recognise the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need

- *manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm*
- *maximise the range of play opportunities*
- *foster independence and healthy self-esteem*
- *foster the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction*
- *foster the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.*

(From Best Play –NPF/PLAYLINK/Children's Play Council 2001)

Sport and Recreation

Parks and recreation grounds are the setting for a large proportion of the formal and informal sport enjoyed in Trafford, from organised football and bowls to informal sport such as tennis, basketball and football.

An assessment of need was carried out in 2008 to support the policies of the council's Core Strategy - a supplementary planning document is also being produced as part of the local development framework in order to outline developer responsibilities in terms of protecting and providing for outdoor sports facilities. Overall, there is good outdoor sports provision, particularly for football and athletics in the north of the borough, although public provision is scarcer in the south of Trafford. The quality of park tennis courts was highlighted as a key issue to be tackled due to the poor standard of provision on offer at many sites at present.

Furthermore, indoor sports provision often complements outdoor provision, often on the same site such as the successful Sports Barn facility in Seymour Park, developed in

conjunction with improvements to outdoor facilities in the shape of multi use games areas and a floodlit all weather sports pitch.

Therefore, this Greenspace Strategy should seek to complement the strategic aims and proposed hierarchy of facilities proposed by the Trafford Leisure Review, from major wet and dry facilities through to satellite facilities based in neighbourhoods and multi sports clubs. As many key Trafford Community Leisure Trust managed facilities are located on greenspace sites such as Kingsway Park (George Carnall

Leisure Centre); Crossford Bridge (Athletics Stadium); Walton Park (leisure centre) and the aforementioned Seymour Park sports barn, a co-ordinated approach is essential.

The self managed Longford Athletic Stadium at Longford Park, the home of Trafford Athletic club, is a notable further example – a situation where Trafford's main and most prestigious athletics club is housed within Trafford largest and most famous Public Park.

Health and Well Being

There are clear, widely documented links between access to the natural environment and physical, mental and emotional health and well being.

The public parks movement in England has its roots in public health reform following industrialisation and urbanisation at the turn of the twentieth century and in this respect nothing has changed – parks bring health to our towns and cities, for the

benefit of the urban environment and also the inhabitants of our towns and cities.

Good quality, well used parks and open spaces can be seen as the natural health service operating alongside the National Health Service, providing opportunities to take exercise, participate in formal or informal sport, relieve stress and to socialise.

Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

Many greenspace sites offer the potential to provide routes for sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling, often linked to strategic linear routes such as the Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail. Strengthening and promoting linkages between greenspace sites and such strategic routes is therefore imperative, as is the recognition of the role that Greenspaces can play as part of other initiatives such as 'safer routes to school' and school travel plans.

Meeting Wider Council and Partnership aims

Trafford 2021 – Sustainable Community Strategy

Trafford's Greenspace Strategy has a pivotal role to play in helping to achieve the vision and priorities of the Trafford Partnership, outline in the Sustainable Community Strategy under the themes of 'Live', 'Learn', 'Work' and 'Relax'.

The agreed vision for Trafford by 2021 is:

“Trafford is thriving, diverse, prosperous and culturally vibrant. A Borough at the heart of the Manchester City Region, celebrated as the Enterprise capital of the North West and home to internationally renowned cultural and sporting attractions”

By 2021 :*“All Trafford's people and communities will enjoy the highest quality of life in a safe, clean, attractive, healthy and sustainable environment with excellent education and first-class services”*.

The Community Strategy has identified 6 priorities following extensive consultation with Trafford's resident and business communities, all of which can be enhanced through the provision and effective management of high quality parks and open spaces.

Safety and Reassurance

- Busy, self policing parks and green space routes
- Staff presence in parks

Strong Communities

- Parks as venues for community events
- Better use of buildings in greenspace

Health and Improved Quality of Life For All

- Provision of high quality greenspaces as a setting for formal and informal recreational facilities e.g. play, sport, fitness
- Positive impact on mental health and well being

Better Homes

- Sustainable, balanced neighbourhoods need high quality greenspaces
- Improved neighbourhood image and pride

Diverse Economy

- Support the green economy, improved borough image and increased tourism

Positive Environmental Impact

- Enhanced biodiversity and flood prevention
- Climate change adaptation
- Strengthening of Green Infrastructure

Trafford Council Corporate Priorities

- Fighting Crime
- Low Council Tax and Value for Money
- Better Roads and Pavements
- **A Cleaner, Greener Borough**
- Preserving and improving educational excellence for all our children
- Quality Care for Adults

Greenspace and the Planning System

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides the local vision and context in which the Trafford Local Development Framework is being produced.

Trafford's Local Development Framework, the spatial representation of the Community Strategy, is made up of a portfolio of documents dealing with the spatial issues that will affect the people who will live, learn, work and relax in the Borough over the next 15 years. The LDF tackles spatial planning issues such as the location of new houses, businesses and transport infrastructure, along with the location of areas for conservation and for the creation of new recreational facilities. Trafford must also contribute to the delivery of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy, which forms part of the development plan for all local authorities in the region, and support the vision of Greater Manchester becoming a world class city.

Trafford's Core Strategy contains core policies on the natural environment, green infrastructure, greenbelt and protected open land, open space and recreation and also culture and tourism, whilst other policies on areas for new housing development, regeneration, sustainable transport, climate change and the historic built environment are inextricably linked with greenspace.

The Greenspace Strategy provides a key evidence base to support the core policies of the Core Strategy and must therefore complement those policies and the wider strategic objectives of the Core Strategy:

Strategic Objectives of Trafford's Core Strategy

SO1 Meeting housing needs - Promote sufficient housing in sustainable locations, of a size, density and tenure needed to meet the Borough's needs.

SO2 Regenerate the physical, economic and social fabric of the disadvantaged communities within the borough

SO3 Meeting employment need Establish the right conditions to sustain employment sites for new and diverse investment to enable Trafford to remain a competitor within the sub-region to attract and retain employment opportunities.

SO4 Revitalising Town Centres To maintain a clear hierarchy of vibrant, diverse and distinct shopping centres across the Borough to meet the needs of the local population.

SO5 Green environment - Achieve an appropriate level of greenspace to protect and enhance the landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value of the Boroughs natural environment in both urban and countryside areas.

SO6 Reducing the need to travel - Promote significant levels of development in the most sustainable locations in the Borough and make less sustainable locations accessible by improving transport links, particularly public transport.

SO7 Securing sustainable development – Promote the reuse of resources and the use of new technologies to combat climate change to minimise impact of new development on Trafford's resources.

SO8 Protect the historic built environment - Make the most of, protect and value the Borough's heritage for the maximum benefit of our residents and visitors.

As an example, Trafford Council is committed to providing approximately 12,000 new homes by 2026, to be concentrated in the urban area in parts of Trafford such as the Regional Centre (Pomona and Trafford Wharfside), the Inner Areas (Old Trafford) and South City Region (Altrincham, Carrington and Partington). This will place increased pressure on existing green spaces due to an increased number of residents within their defined catchment areas, although opportunities may be available to make improvements through planning gain, with new and enhanced provision becoming available at Irwell City Park and Stretford Meadows – 2 potential new greenspace developments outlined in the Core Strategy.

The Greenspace Strategy and Planning Obligations (Section 106)

The Government advocates the use of planning obligations to be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreational provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs. National guidance on this subject is provided by *Circular 05/05: Planning Obligations*.

This strategy will assist and determine where future allocations of section 106 funding should be targeted and will also help to determine whether the provision from a developer is in the form new open space or a commuted sum where there is sufficient quantity but insufficient quality.

A new supplementary Planning Document on Open Space will outline developer contributions required as part of new development, building on the current Supplementary Planning Guidance on children's play space and outdoor sports facilities

to enable a wider application of Section 106 funds to improve the quality of greenspace infrastructure.

Greenspace and New Development

Each Greenspace Area Action Plan will examine green space provision in that area for the next 5-10 years and make recommendations regarding provision of different types of facilities such as children's play areas, site based staff, lighting and toilets.

They may also identify opportunities to diversify green space where there is an over provision against the standards set in this strategy, which may provide opportunities to enhance the quality of other greenspace.

In order to establish clear priorities in area based action plans, it is important to work closely with stakeholders, partner organisations and community groups.

Area based action plans therefore have a role to play in the context of planning decisions and new development proposals. It is therefore essential that the policies of the Greenspace Strategy complement those of the key components of the LDF, with the Greenspace Strategy for Trafford forming the evidence base for the policies of the Core Strategy.

The aim of each of the 5 area based plans is to deliver the aims, objectives and standards outlined within the strategy, in order to ensure that the required investment for greenspace, highlighted by the Greenspace Infrastructure Audit, is prioritised with the help of stakeholders and communities.

Trafford's Greenspace in Profile

Trafford is perceived as being a green borough, a perception supported by the range of country parks, urban parks, open countryside, farm land, canal and rail corridors and also private gardens and tree cover, which are extensive in the south of the borough.

Urban Greenspace

Trafford contains many fine urban parks, all steeped in historical and cultural associations, and all making a major contribution to the urban landscape, the identity of places and to the social lives of the people that use them.

Trafford has a rich legacy of public parks such as Longford Park, with its links to the Walker Family, John and Henriqueta Rylands and the evolution of Stretford; the English Heritage listed Stamford Park in Altrincham with its ornate series of circles and ovals designed in the curvilinear style and others such as Gorse Hill Park, housing the recently restored listed Lodges and Gates which once formed the entrance to the De Trafford estate at Trafford Park. These parks are inextricably linked with the image and identity of Trafford, its places and its people.

This may explain their enduring appeal and the passion with which they are defended by the public when threatened and the anger that is provoked if they appear to have been neglected.

Trafford contains 37 Parks, 21 Sports Grounds, 86 Children's Play Areas, 6 Green Routes, 41 Woodlands, 52 Sites of

Biological Importance, 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and many more amenity green spaces, gardens and semi natural greenspaces.

Countryside

Almost two fifths (38%) of land area in Trafford is countryside and designated as Green Belt. A substantial part of this countryside (lying to the west of the main built-up area of the Borough) supports arable farming activity, including Carrington Moss and rural Dunham and Warburton. The 'Timperley Wedge' of countryside to the east of Altrincham supports a mixture of pasture, horticulture and recreation uses.

The Mersey Valley in the north of the borough and the Bollin Valley in the South contain features such as golf courses, country parks and sports grounds along with areas of woodland, open farmland and designated sites for nature conservation.

The River Mersey runs east to west across the Borough, separating the urban areas of Urmston and Stretford from Carrington and Sale. The valley either side of the river forms a unique green wedge of land which is predominately meadowland and agricultural land in the floodplain, containing few buildings and protected from development by Green Belt. It is a highly valued area balanced for nature conservation and recreation in close proximity to populated urban areas.

The Mersey Valley also contains Sale Water Park, a regional centre for water sports and recreation, and the Stretford Meadows Strategic site, which has the potential to bring benefits for improved access, recreation and nature conservation.

Audit of Open Space (PPG17 Study 2005)

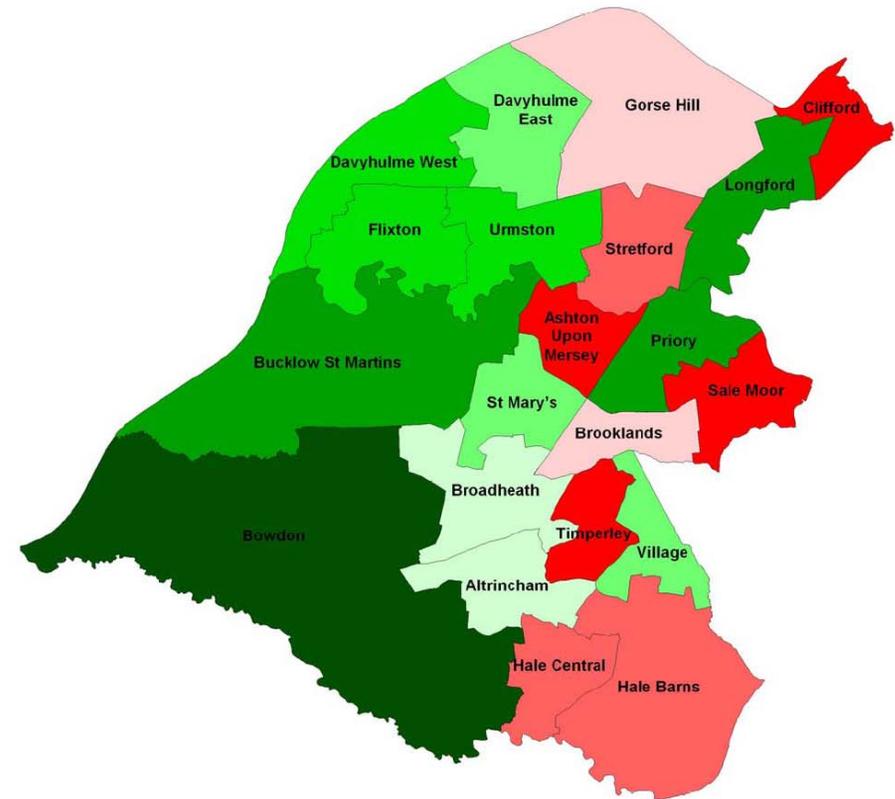
Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) requires local authorities to undertake robust assessments of open space across their areas and to then set local standards for open space provision to be introduced into land use planning policies.

A detailed assessment was carried out across Trafford in accordance with the provisions of this guidance, based on the criteria within Natural England's Locally Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard of a 2 Hectares per 1000 residents. The results of the assessment are illustrated on the map opposite, with green denoting sufficiency and red deficiency.

Following the 2005 Assessment a new piece of work was carried out looking at the distance of parks and green spaces from residential addresses in Trafford.

Natural England's standard recommends that people are within 300 metres of an accessible green space and following this new piece of work it was revealed that 70% of Trafford's residents are within 300 metres of an accessible managed greenspace area over 0.2 hectares and 97% within 600 metres.

Wards Sufficient or Deficient in Accessible Greenspace



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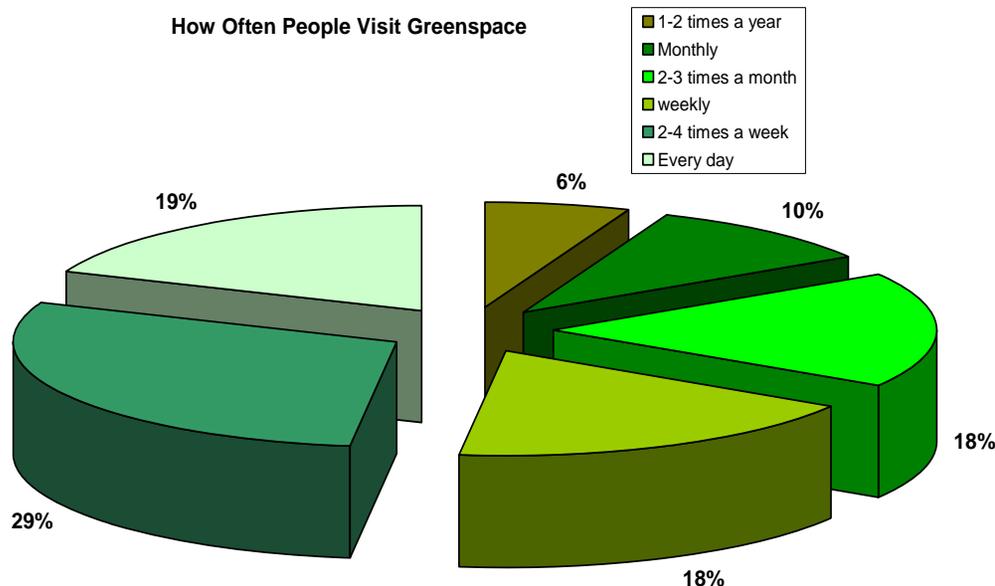
Consultation Findings

The 'Green Space, Great Places' PPG 17 Assessment (2005) surveyed local residents, schoolchildren, community groups and sports clubs in order to establish perceptions of greenspace, patterns of use and priorities for improvement.

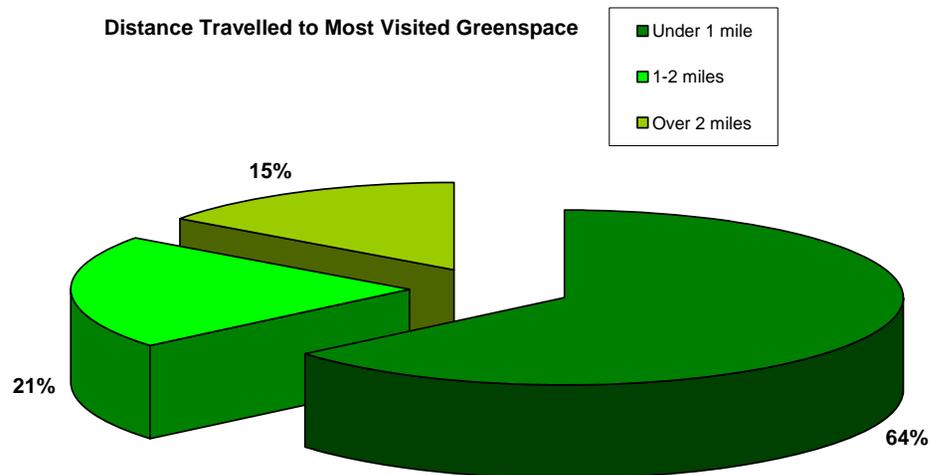
- 220 community groups responded to the survey, representing a membership of over 19,000.
- 784 individual residents responded to the survey.
- 414 young people responded, including 27 school classes and school councils

The consultation responses revealed the following:

How Often People Visit Greenspace



Distance Travelled to Most Visited Greenspace



The most popular types of improvements suggested by the different groups surveyed were:

Residents:

- Better footpaths
- Improved children's play facilities
- More dog and litter bins

Children and Young People:

- More sports areas
- More skate parks
- More bike ramps

Community Groups:

- More park keepers
- Improved lighting
- Better maintenance

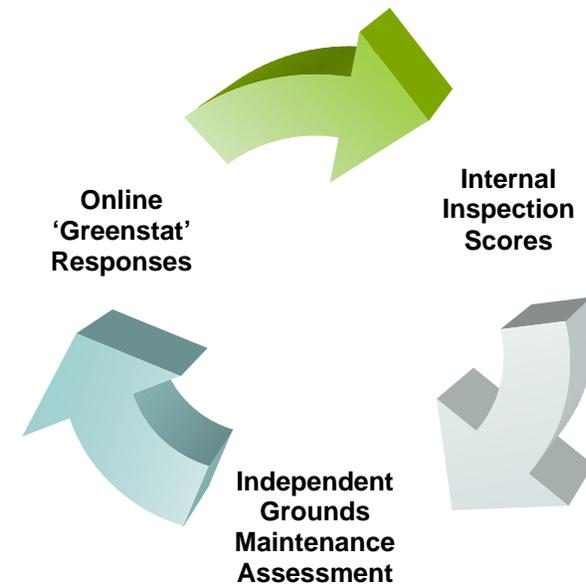
Greenspace Management and Assessment

Trafford recognizes that even if a site is easy to reach if it is of poor quality then it is of limited use for recreation. The improvement of the quality of sites is therefore a fundamental element of the Greenspace Strategy.

As a baseline for quality standards Trafford has been running an annual Greenspace Award programme since 2007. Sites are allocated one of three awards – Gold (85% and over), Silver (75-84%) and Bronze (65-74%).

This assessment incorporates 3 elements - an independent assessment, public assessment via 'Greenstat' forms, and internal inspection via parks staff which full incorporates the current Green Flag criteria. These criteria concentrate on what makes a really good park looking at all elements:

- *Be welcoming*
- *Be healthy safe and secure*
- *Be clean and well maintained*
- *Be managed in a sustainable manner*
- *Promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage*
- *Reflect community needs and promote community involvement*
- *Be well marketed in accordance with a marketing plan*
- *Be well managed in accordance with a clear management plan*



The current position on the awards is shown on the chart overleaf, which also demonstrates the target position for 2014. Currently Trafford also has 6 sites that achieve a Green Flag award – the national standard for parks and open spaces.

Not all sites listed within the strategy are currently assessed within the scheme and as a method for improving quality it is proposed that the Greenspace awards system be adopted as the standard for quality across greenspace, with sites reviewed annually against the proposed standard for that type of park.

Semi-natural and linear greenspaces are not currently not included within the Greenspace awards scheme and a proposed action for the strategy is to develop a quality

assessment system based on the current scheme to appropriate to these sites.

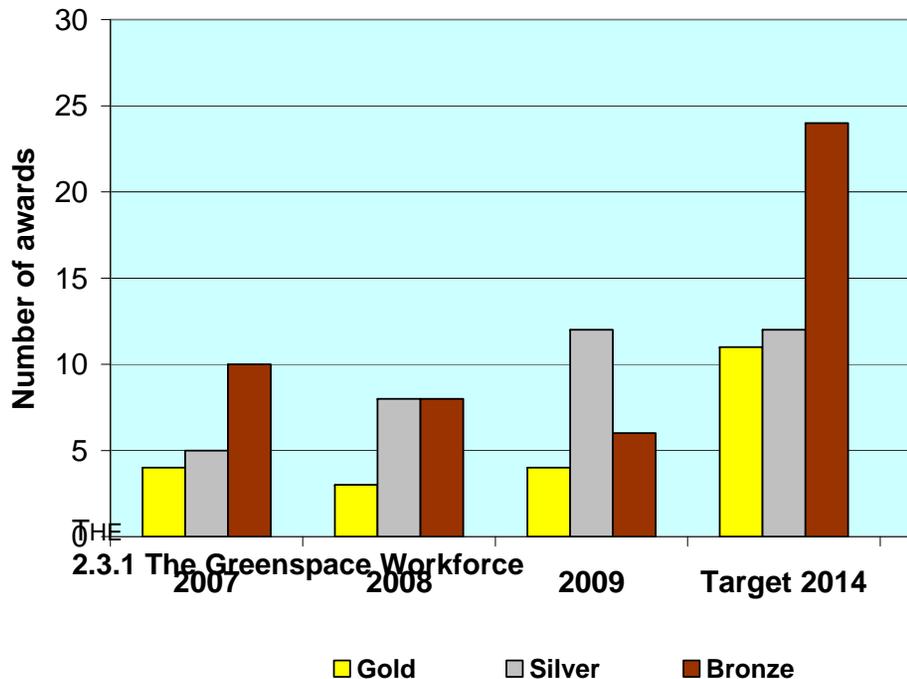
Through the hierarchy and quality framework, efforts and resources can then be channelled into ensuring that there is a comprehensive and fair system of quality accreditation across Trafford's Greenspace, with resources allocated and prioritised according to a site's status in the hierarchy.

This approach is intended to lead to a marked visible improvement in quality over the period of the strategy.

Trafford employs over 75 members of staff to plan, manage, maintain and involve the community in its greenspace, but in common with other local authorities faces particular challenges in the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Workforce Diversity
- Narrow Range of Skills
- Shortage of Management and Leadership Skills
- Lack of Co-ordinated Working Across The Sector

Greenspace Awards: Trends and Targets

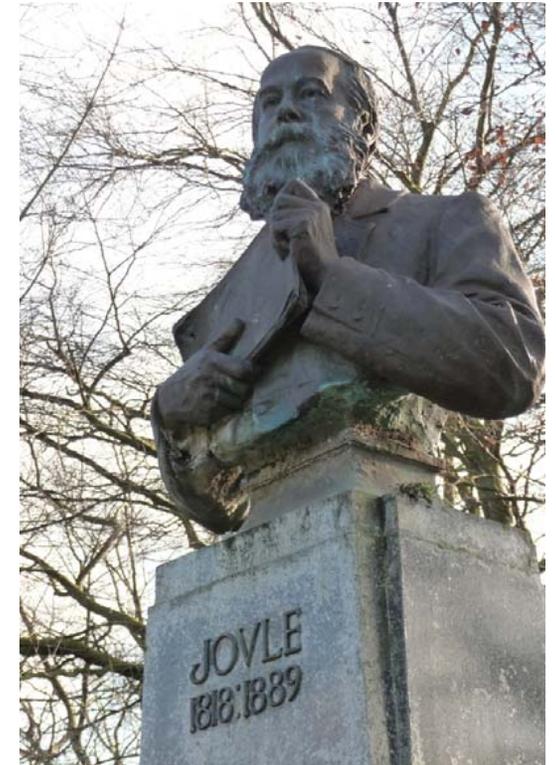


CABE Space outline seven strategic priorities to improve the image and effectiveness of the Greenspace Sector in their 'Skills to Grow (2009)' publication:

1. Increase Awareness of the sector and the opportunities it offers.
2. Improve entry routes and career paths in sector occupations.
3. Improve the availability and quality of training, including continuing professional development.
4. Improve management and leadership skills.
5. Increase the sector's investment in skills
6. Build capacity for co-ordinated working
7. Develop and maintain a strong evidence base

PART 2: LOCAL HIERARCHY AND STANDARDS

2



Trafford Parks Hierarchy

The greenspace typology attempts to describe and classify the various types of greenspace found in urban areas, and takes the PPG17 Companion Guide's typology as its starting point.

A hierarchy of parks in Trafford has also been established, which seeks to illustrate the range and quality of facilities, the standard of maintenance and the financial and staff resources than can be expected at the site. The hierarchy places each of Trafford's sites into one of the categories of the typology.

This simplified hierarchy enables standards to be established that are relevant to the size and catchment area of the different types of green space, as well as providing focus for management plans and allowing a picture to be developed of the distribution of the various types of parks across Trafford, highlighting areas of need and priority. This is illustrated in the maps contained in the appendices.

Parks Hierarchy



Trafford Greenspace Typology

Country Park	Major leisure attraction, varied landscape features e.g. natural/semi natural woodlands and plantations, sites for nature conservation, multi functional open space and recreational routes. A range of opportunities for cycling, walking, horse riding, play, events, interpretation and visitor facilities. Site based staff present.	Sale Water Park <i>*Dunham Massey – “Large Country Estate including Deer Park and Ornamental Garden</i>
Borough Park	Large parks of district-wide significance, well located for pedestrian/public transport, with appropriate level of facilities for active and informal recreation e.g. play, sport, gardens, pet’s corner, interpretation, toilets and events space. Site based staff present.	Longford Park
Town Park	Medium/large parks with distinct catchment area linked to townships of Stretford, Sale, Altrincham, Urmston and Partington. Range of facilities including play, sport, gardens, toilets. Site based staff present in most cases.	Stamford Park, Worthington Park, Davyhulme Park, Cross Lane Park, Victoria Park.
Neighbourhood Park	Medium sized parks serving the neighbourhood within which they are located, often including features such as play areas, sports facilities and ornamental gardens. Site based staff present in some cases.	Halecroft Park, John Leigh Park, Ashton Park, Walton Park, Abbotsfield Park, Hullard Park, Woodheys Park, Broomwood Park, Navigation Rd Park, Seymour Park, Gorse Hill Park, Lostock Park.
Local Park	Smaller green spaces located within residential areas, accessible on foot and containing features such as bedding displays, play areas, informal sports facilities, seating and soft landscape/nature areas. Non staffed.	Flixton Park, Kelsall Street, Timperley Green, Oak Road, Newcroft Road, Kingsway Park, Broadway Park, Golden Hill Park, Woodsend Park, Newton Park, Woodstock Park, Moor Nook Park, Sale West, Pickering Lodge, Gorse Park, Moss Park, Nansen Park.
Formal Gardens	Ornamental gardens with horticultural emphasis and heritage value	Flixton House Gardens, Denzell Gardens, De Quincey Park, Walkden Gardens
Recreation Grounds/ Sports Pitches	Large playing fields of less varied landscape character, where the primary designated use is formal sport, but often including play areas and space for informal recreation e.g. walking/jogging/cycling. Non staffed.	Grove Park, Flixton Fields, Moss View, Cecil Avenue, Clarendon Crescent, Crossford Bridge, Manor Avenue, Sylvan Avenue, Weathercock Farm, Ascot Avenue, St Brides Fields, Highfield Close, Turn Moss, Timperley Rec, Lees Field, Salisbury Road, Riddings Acre Manchester Road.
Play Area	Smaller areas of open space (under 1ha) designated primarily for children’s play, normally located in residential areas, easily accessible and supervised informally by adjacent properties. Non staffed.	Bankhall Lane, Clarke Crescent, Grange Road, Hendam Drive, Kings Acre, Bowdon Rec, Minster Drive, Stamford Road, Wellfield Lane, Oakwood Lane, The Mount, Cornbrook Street, Ackers Lane, Davis Road, Wood Lane, Baguley Lane, Oldfield Brow/Stokoe Ave, Bramhall Close, Christchurch Ave, Harley Road, Kirklands, Clifford Court, Ripon Road, Stephenson Road, Buckingham Way, Bents Lane, Higher Road, Lytham Road.
Semi Natural Greenspace	Areas of accessible woodland, nature reserves and reclaimed land of varying size with natural character, in some cases including footpaths and interpretation. High biodiversity value and rural feel.	Redbrook, King George V Pool, Priory Gardens, Wellacre, The Devisdale, Springbank, Trafford Ecology Park, *Davyhulme Millennium Nature Reserve, Rossmill, Wetland at Balfour Rd.
Linear Greenspace	Strategic recreational routes e.g. along former railway lines, canal networks and river valley courses.	Trans Pennine Trail, Bollin Valley Way, Bridgewater Way, Mersey Valley, Brookes Drive.

Trafford Greenspace Standards

The development of a set of robust local standards provides a base to ensure that provision of greenspace in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility is made across Trafford as far as possible.

Assessment of Trafford's geographical areas against standards also reveals key issues and opportunities to be tackled as part of a prioritised action plan.

The open space standards have been developed through detailed assessment of existing open space provision across the borough and are also influenced by existing guidance and standards.

There are three distinct strands to the council's open space standards:

(i) Quantity standard

How much green space of different types there should be.

(ii) Quality standard

The relevant level of quality which greenspaces should attain.

(iii) Accessibility standard

The reasonable distance people should expect to travel to reach a particular greenspace.

The standards apply to publicly accessible green space, with priority given to the portfolio of council managed greenspaces due to the greater degree of direct influence in terms of decision making and intervention.

A number of other factors have been taken into account in setting the standards, including:

- The views of Trafford residents expressed through the PPG17 Research and via 'Greenstat'.
- Comprehensive analysis of green space and testing of the potential application of the standards across Trafford's areas to gauge realism and achievability.
- Benchmarking against other comparable authorities in terms of size, population and distribution of greenspace.

Quantity Standards

TRAFFORD LOCAL OPEN SPACE STANDARD

A minimum of 1.35 Hectares of Local Open Space per 1000 population.

**Local open Space includes open space with the primary function of informal recreation or play and excludes stand alone semi natural greenspace and sports grounds. (Based on local assessment)*

This figure represents the average quantity of open space across the five areas of Trafford specified, set against the population levels in those areas and as such provides a fair standard of quantity to aim for across the borough.

TRAFFORD SEMI NATURAL GREENSPACE STANDARD

A minimum of 2 Hectares of natural or semi natural, accessible greenspace per 1000 population

**This includes woodland and natural/semi natural space outside of formal parks. (Based on Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)*

This standard employs the Natural England standard, as used in the PPG 17 study.

TRAFFORD PLAY SPACE STANDARD

- A minimum of 0.14 Hectares of equipped children's play space/1000 population, relating to the activity area of a Local Equipped Area for Play (Based on the FiT/NPFA '6 Acre Standard')*

This standard is derived from the Fields in Trust 6 acre standard, as included in Trafford's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Children's Play Space and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

OUTDOOR SPORTS SPACE STANDARD

1 Hectare per 1000 population based on the Fields in Trust (NPFA) 6 acre standard and detailed local assessment through the 2009 assessment of need.

Quality Standards

A quality rating is awarded for Trafford's greenspaces, based on the council's annual Greenspace Awards programme, which involves independent assessment, public assessment via 'Greenstat' and internal inspection via parks staff.

Through the hierarchy and quality framework, efforts and resources can be channelled into ensuring that there is a comprehensive and fair system of quality accreditation across Trafford's Greenspace, with resources allocated and prioritised according to a site's status in the hierarchy.

<i>Minimum Quality Standard to be Attained</i>	
<i>Semi Natural Play Space</i>	<i>Bronze Award *Assessed via annual play areas inspection</i>
<i>Local Park</i>	<i>Bronze Award</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Park</i>	<i>Silver Award</i>
<i>Town Park/Formal Gardens</i>	<i>Gold Award</i>
<i>Borough Park</i>	<i>Gold Award</i>
<i>Country Park</i>	<i>Gold Award</i>

Accessibility Standards

Our aim is that all residents, where possible, will be within the prescribed distances of each type of park, with highlighted deficiencies being addressed to ensure equality of access across Trafford's communities and neighbourhoods.

The catchment area and distance criteria are based on approximate walking distances and journey times to the various types of park in Trafford

	<i>Distance (m)</i>	<i>Walk Time (mins)</i>
<i>Semi Natural</i>	<i>1200</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Play Space</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Local Park</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Park</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Town Park/Formal Gardens</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Borough Park</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Country Park</i>	<i>4000</i>	<i>60</i>

Recommendations

➤ *Improved Quality*

- Concentrate efforts on raising the standard of greenspace sites in areas with poor performance in terms of quality.
- Improve the quality and connectivity of greenspaces from home to school and work, into Trafford's countryside and to community facilities and leisure/tourist destinations, with an emphasis on sustainable transport and active travel.
- Develop a network of high quality, fully inclusive children's play spaces, linked to the Trafford Play Strategy and infrastructure such as schools, colleges, children's centres and youth centres.
- Continue to increase the number and variety of skate parks provided across Trafford.
- Influence regeneration partnerships and advocate the pivotal role played by greenspace in regeneration and creating sustainable communities.

➤ *Increased Use*

- Continue to promote greenspace as the venue for a diverse range of events and cultural activity
- Promote parks more effectively through partnerships with other council services, external partners and the media.
- Use parks as a venue for delivering other council and partner activities e.g. playschemes and sports coaching sessions.
- Make more effective uses of park buildings to support council and partner service delivery and provide high quality venues for community use.

➤ *Clear Standards*

- Ensure that the strategy is used as an effective tool for maintaining an appropriate quantity and improving the quality of open space provision in the context of new residential development, in conjunction with the Open Space SPD and policies of the Trafford Core Strategy.
- Allocate resources and focus resource procurement efforts in a manner consistent with the greenspace hierarchy and identified areas of need.
- Identify priorities and sites within the context of a 5 years action plan, with relevant partners, resource

implications, performance measurement and other issues highlighted.

- Increase the number of sites assessed via the Trafford Greenspace Awards in line with the Greenspace Hierarchy in order to raise standards of quality and demonstrate the acknowledgement of the status and role of sites not currently included.
- Review the primary purpose of sites outside of the main parks categories and consider potential for altering this primary purpose and function e.g. alternative open space uses such as woodland, allotments that do not adversely impact of sufficiency against the stated open space standards.

➤ ***Biodiversity and Sustainability***

- Replenish the tree stock of parks with native species to enhance the aesthetic aspect of parks, provide valuable habitat and increase tree cover in line with the aims of the Red Rose Forest initiative and Green Infrastructure concept.
- Examine the carbon footprint and net contribution of Trafford's council owned/managed greenspaces in terms of climate change and explore opportunities to implement sustainability initiatives such as micro-generation, rain water harvesting, effective green waste recycling and woodland management for biodiversity and fuel.

- Implement a programme of biodiversity enhancement in parks and open spaces as part of site management plans.
- Improve the quality and quantity of habitats in Trafford's greenspace to support species identified in the Greater Manchester and Cheshire Biodiversity Action Plans.

➤ ***Community Involvement***

- Extend and strengthen the greenspace community across Trafford, harnessing the skills and commitment of partners in the public and third sector and through membership of Trafford's Local Strategic Partnership.
- Encourage and support the development of new Friends of groups in areas and for key sites where this valuable level of community backing is not present.
- Involve the business community of Trafford and promote the vital links between the quality of local greenspaces and employees' quality of life, corporate social responsibility and good public relations.
- Address the key issues outlined in the Greenspace Equalities Impact Assessment, thus removing barriers to access and enjoyment of greenspace for particular groups and individuals.

- Promote the 'Greenstat' online model of parks assessment, particularly amongst under represented groups and in areas of low participation, to make results more representative of Trafford's diverse community.
- Improve online consultation, for example as part of proposed improvement schemes

Trafford-wide and Area Based Action Plans

The area specific action plans to be prepared will reflect the results of the series of workshops carried out with community groups and partners.

The action plan will be developed under the key aims of the strategy, linked to those of other key strategies for Trafford Area.

Under each aim, a series of action points will be stated, set to a timetabled and assessed in terms of financial or staff resource implications in order to ensure that the action plan is SMART.

Specific – identifies your targets clearly and recognises if/when it has been achieved

Manageable – within the resources/constraints within which you are working

Achievable – that it is attainable

Relevant – to the situation and customer/service needs

Time related – so that there is a real commitment to implement, monitor and review progress to avoid slippage

Appendix (A) Trafford's Greenspace Overview - Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment.

This borough wide picture has been broken down into the 5 distinct areas of Trafford outlined in the Strategy, with more detailed analysis and recommendations, in order to highlight local issues and opportunities

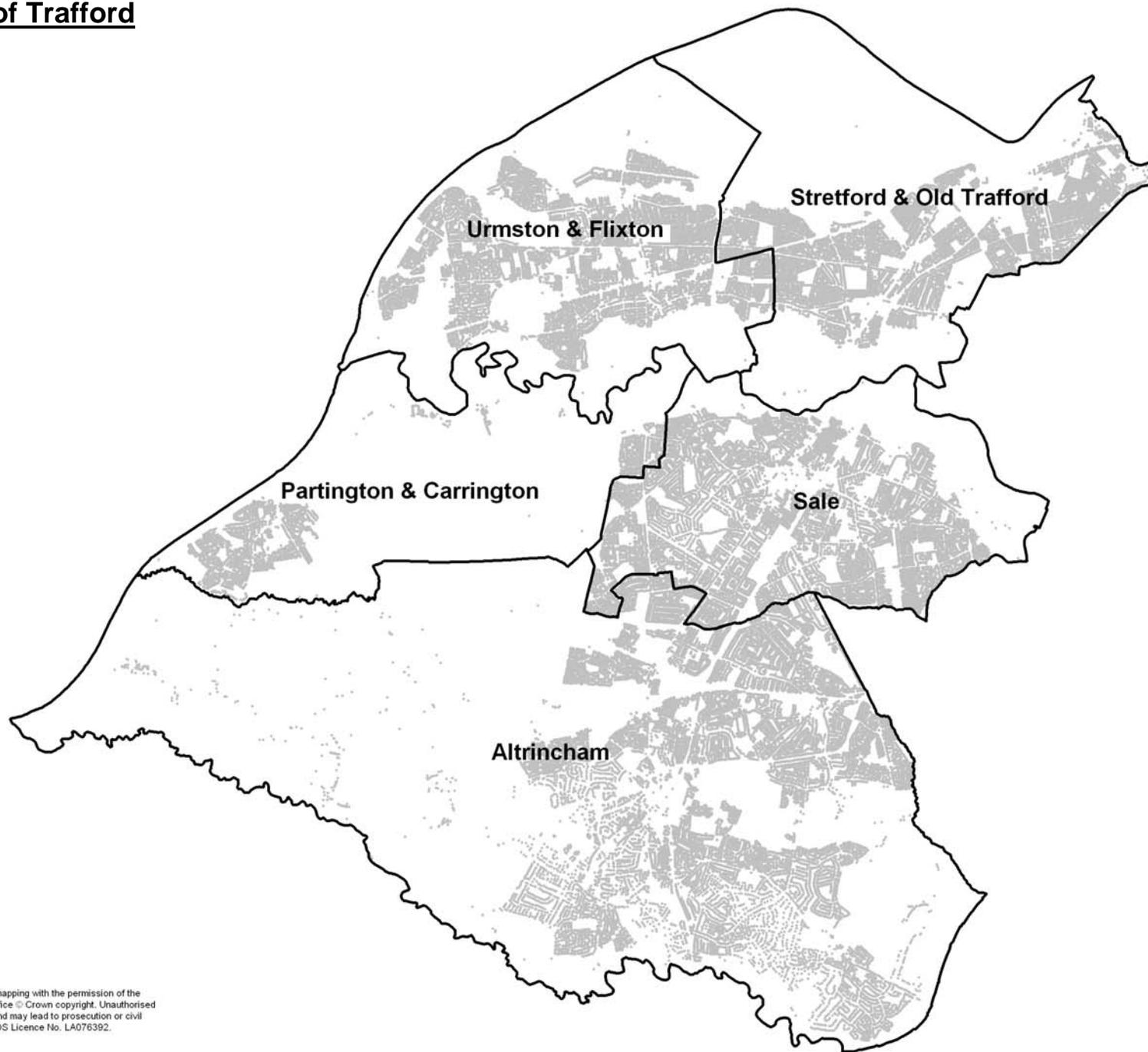
Area	Quantity			Parks Quality	Parks Accessibility	Greenspace Diversity
	Local Open Space (council)	Semi Natural Space (council)	Accessible Greenspace (all)			
Stretford and Old Trafford	Good	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Poor
Sale	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good
Altrincham	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Good
Partington and Carrington	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
Urmston and Flixton	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good

Good = above the standard

Fair = around the standard

Poor = below the standard

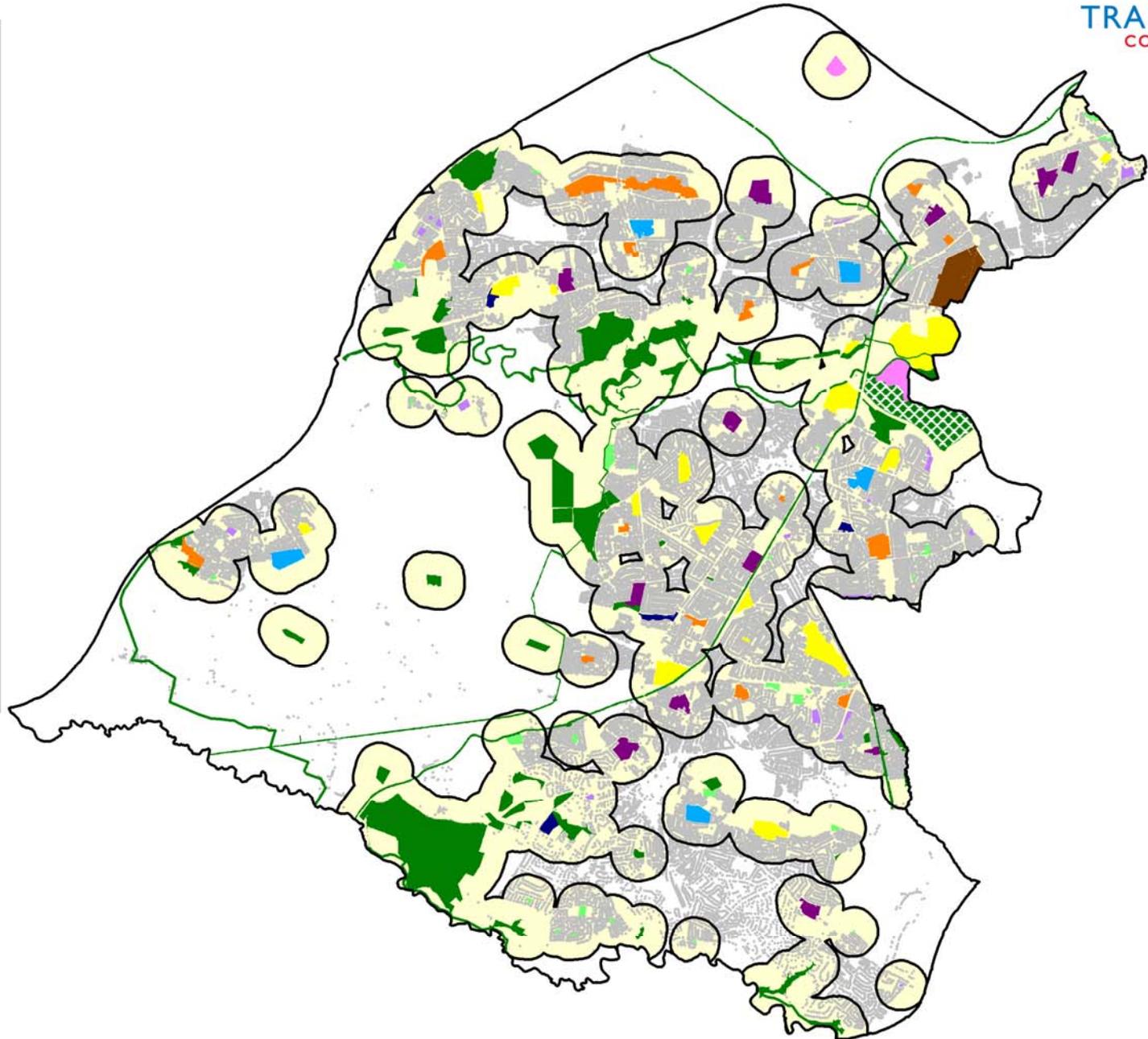
Subdivision of Trafford
into 5 areas



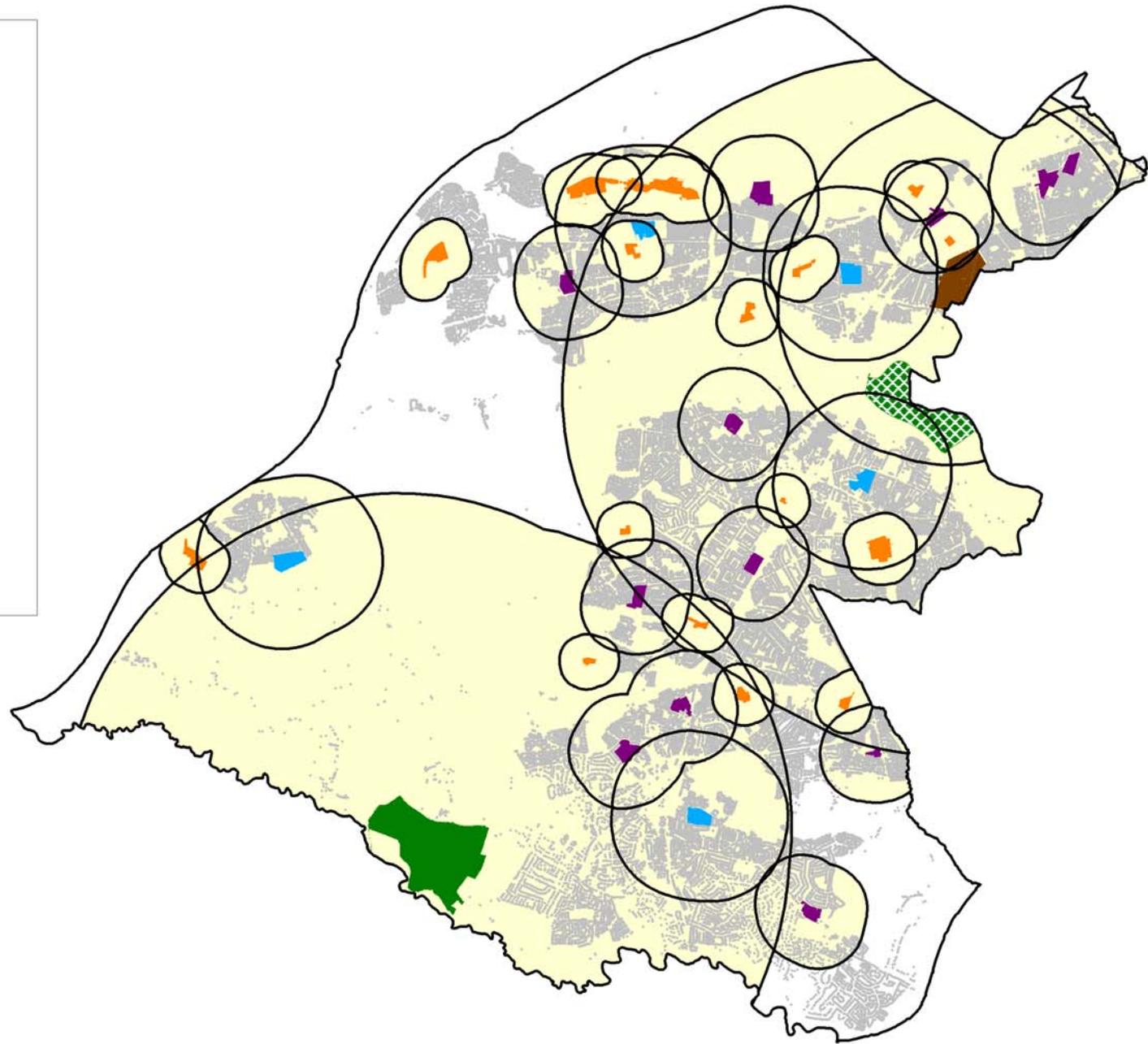
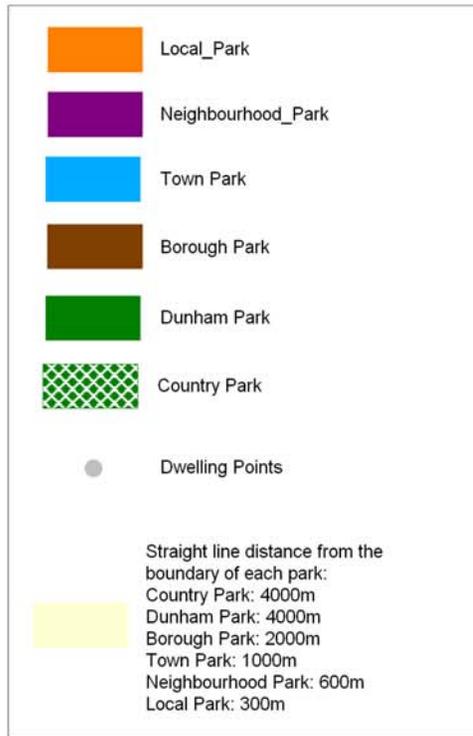
Local Open Space Assessment:
300m catchment from all open spaces
over 0.2ha



TRAFFORD
 COUNCIL



Parks Hierarchy Catchment Areas



Appendix B: Stretford and Old Trafford

Site	Size	Hierarchy Classification	Play Areas	08 Award	09 Award	Hierarchy Standard
Longford Park	32.45	Borough Park	2	No Award	No Award	Gold
Victoria Park	7.29	Town Park	2	Silver	Silver GF	Gold
Gorse Hill Park	4.41	Neighbourhood Park	1	Bronze	Bronze	Silver
Seymour Park	6.49	Neighbourhood Park	2	No Award	No Award	Silver
Hullard Park	4.01	Neighbourhood Park	1	Silver	Silver/ GF	Silver
Lostock Park	7.72	Neighbourhood Park	1	Bronze	Silver	Silver
Moss Park	2.43	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Nansen Park	2.14	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Gorse Park	1.22	Local Park	1	Not assessed	Not assessed	Bronze
Ripon Road	0.16	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Stephenson Road	0.25	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Cornbrook Street	0.92	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Tamworth Court	2.29	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Trafford Ecology Park	4.38	Semi Natural	-	Silver	Silver/ GF	Bronze
Moss Road	0.63	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Brides Fields	1.30	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Turn Moss	39.12	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Highfield Close	2.13	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Ousel Brook Wood	2.52	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Turn Moss Wood	2.24	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Ivy Green Wood	1.7	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A

Open Space Type	Quantity (ha) or No (Play Areas)	% of residents in parks catchment area from hierarchy
Large Parks (Country, Borough, Town Neighbourhood)	62.37	98
Local Open Space (All Parks and Play Areas)	74.55	70
Semi Natural (Woodland outside parks)	10.84	0
Children's Play	16 No	% reaching LEAP or NEAP
All Open Space within 300m (Natural England)	127.03	75

Trafford Local Open Space Standard (1.35 Ha/1000 population) (council managed greenspace)

Requirement = $0.00135 \times 41673 = 56.26$ Ha of local open space

Provision is 74.55 Ha therefore there is **sufficiency** of 18.29 Ha

*Old Trafford requirement is $0.00135 \times 10494 = 14.17$ Ha

Provision is 8.52 Ha therefore **deficiency** of 5.65 Ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (for council managed greenspace)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = $2 \times 41.673 = 83.35$ Ha for 41673 Population

Provision is 10.84 ha therefore **deficiency** of 72.51 Ha

*Old Trafford requirement is $2 \times 10.494 = 20.99$ Ha

Provision in Clifford ward is 0 Ha therefore **deficiency** of 20.99 Ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*all publicly accessible greenspace*)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 83.35 Ha for 41673 Population

Provision is 127.03 ha therefore **sufficiency of 43.68 Ha**

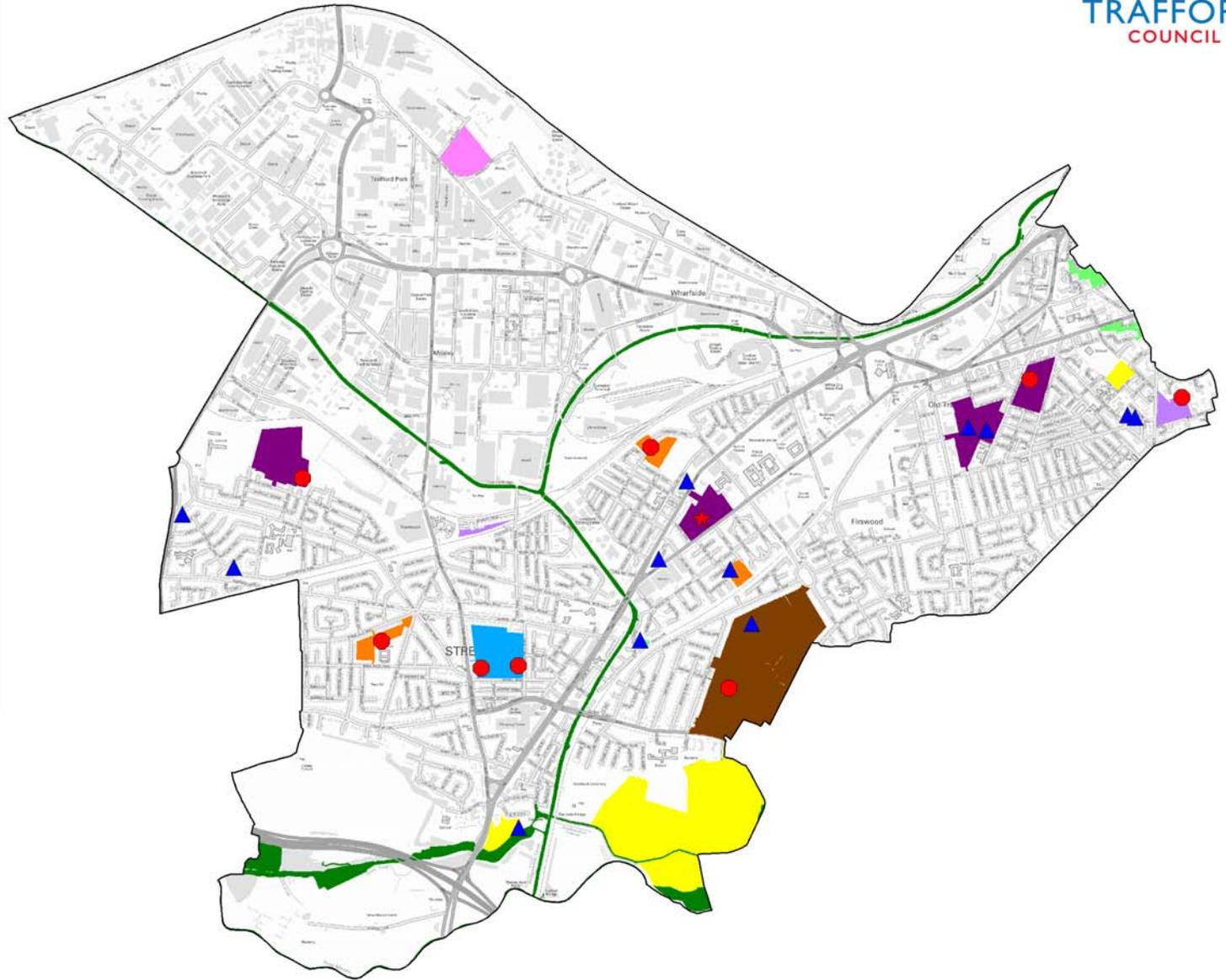
***Old Trafford requirement is 2 x 10.494 = 20.99 Ha**

Provision in Clifford Ward is 9.83 Ha therefore **deficiency of 11.16 Ha**

Issues

- ❖ Access to formal parks and open spaces is generally very good across this area, boosted by the presence of Trafford's largest and most popular park – Longford Park.
- ❖ The entire range of parks is available in this area from Longford Park (Borough Park) to Victoria Park (Town Park), Hullard, Seymour, Lostock and Gorse Hill Parks (Neighbourhood Parks) and others such as Moss Park, Nansen Park and Gorse Park.
- ❖ However, access to a diverse range of greenspaces is more limited, with relatively few natural greenspaces present outside of urban parks, although access to the Mersey Valley, Trans Pennine Trail and Bridgewater Way linear/countryside routes is available close to Stretford Town Centre, which helps to mitigate against this lack of stand alone semi natural sites such as accessible woodlands.
- ❖ Trafford Ecology Park provides an exception to this apparent shortage, although accessibility to inhabitants of the residential areas of the borough.

Stretford and Old Trafford: Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas



Appendix C: Sale

Site	Size	Hierarchy Classification	Play Areas	08 Award	09 Award	Hierarchy Standard
Sale Water Park	63.71	Country Park/Semi Natural	-	Bronze	Bronze	Gold
Worthington Park	6.52	Town Park	2	Silver	Silver/GF	Gold
Walton Park	4.41	Neighbourhood Park	2	Bronze	Silver	Silver
Ashton Park	4.51	Neighbourhood Park	2	No Award	Bronze	Silver
Moor Nook Park	8.18	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Kelsall Street	0.55	Local Park	1	Not assessed	Not assessed	Bronze
Sale West Park	1.36	Local Park	-	Not assessed	Not assessed	Bronze
Walkden Gardens	2.01	Formal Gardens	-	Gold	Gold/GF	Gold
Brooklands Rest Gdns	0.41	Formal/Memorial Gardens	-	N/A	N/A	Gold
Northenden Rd Gdns	0.24	Formal/Memorial Gardens	-	N/A	N/A	Gold
Arnesby Avenue	0.44	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dalebrook Road	2.09	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pimcroft Way	0.47	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arnesby Avenue	1.31	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Priory Gardens	11.60	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Willow Wood	0.86	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Priory Gardens	2.74	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Crossford Bridge	0.97	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Plane Wood	0.51	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Granary Wood	0.28	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Sylvan Avenue	3.11	Sports Ground/Play	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Weathercock Farm	4.86	Sports Ground/Play	1	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A

Manor Avenue	2.90	Sports Ground/Play	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Crossford Bridge	12.53	Sports Ground/Play Area	1	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Clarendon Crescent	4.99	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Cecil Avenue	5.21	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Baguley Ave	0.22	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Bramhall Close	0.990041	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Hornbeam Close Park	3.92	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Harley Road	0.154611	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Christchurch Ave	0.196747	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Kirklands Play Area	0.281351	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A

Open Space Type	Quantity (ha) or No (Play Areas)	% of residents in parks catchment area from hierarchy
Large Parks (Country, Borough, Town Neighbourhood)	79.15	100
Local Open Space (All Parks and Play Areas)	56.71	59
Semi Natural (Woodland outside of Parks)	92.45	16
Children's Play	16 No	16 Play Areas (a) (b)
All Open Space within 300m (Natural England)	155.14	78

Performance against Trafford Open Space Standard (1.35 Ha/1000 population)

Requirement = 0.00135 x 50044 = 67.56 Ha

Provision is 56.71 Ha therefore there is **deficiency of 10.85**

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*against council managed greenspace*)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 100.09 Ha for 50044 Population

Provision is 92.45 ha therefore **deficiency of 7.64 Ha**

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*all publicly accessible greenspace*)

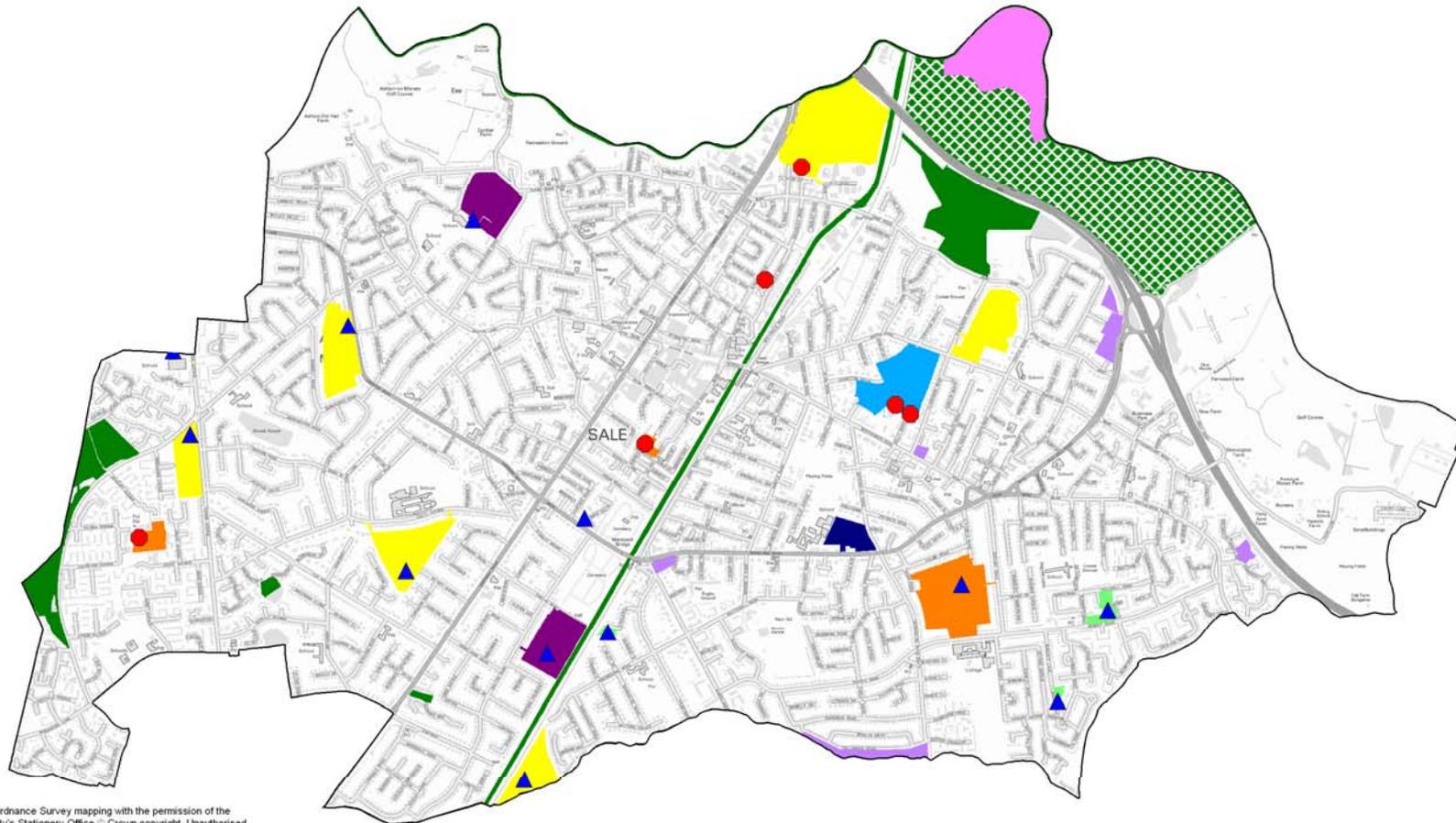
Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 100.09 Ha for 50044 Population

Provision is 155.14 ha therefore **sufficiency of 55.05 Ha**

Issues:

- ❖ Very good access to large parks in this area, enhance through the presence of Sale Water Park. Access to urban parks is more moderate, with only 59% of residents of the area falling within the catchment of the main public parks.
- ❖ Quantitatively, there is a significant (10.85ha) deficiency of parks and play area provision when assessed against local population and Trafford's adopted local open space standard.
- ❖ However, quality is generally reasonably high, with the main town park (Worthington Park) narrowly missing out on a gold award (84%) at last inspection, but retaining its Green Flag status. A gold award winning site is present at the widely acclaimed Walkden Gardens (also Green Flag), with a silver site at Walton Park, in line with the greenspace hierarchy standard for a Neighbourhood Park.
- ❖ Despite this success, Ashton Park narrowly failed to attain the relevant quality standard of silver for a Neighbourhood Park, whilst Sale Water Park, despite achieving bronze, fell some way short of the desired gold standard in keeping with a high profile visitor attraction. Moor Nook Park, a local park, also failed to attain the bronze standard at last inspection.

Sale: Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas



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Appendix D: Urmston and Flixton

Site	Size	Hierarchy Classification	Play Areas	08 Award	09 Award	Hierarchy Standard
Davyhulme Park	5.99	Town Park	2	Bronze	Bronze	Gold
Abbotsfield Park	5.10	Neighbourhood Park	2	No Award	No Award	Silver
Woodsend Park	6.07	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Flixton Park/Gardens	2.07	Formal Gardens	1	Silver	Gold	Gold
Broadway Park	11.39	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Golden Hill Park	2.46	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Kingsway Park	14.51	Local Park	1	Not assessed	No Award	Bronze
Newcroft Road	3.31	Local Park	1	Not assessed	Not assessed	Bronze
Lytham Road	1.35	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Bents Lane	0.40	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Higher Road	0.61	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Lees Field	2.10	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Flixton Fields	6.78	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Chassen Rd Football	1.02	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Wellacre/De Brook Crt	4.41	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Wellacre/Jack Lane	2.75	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Wellacre/irlam Road	1.02	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Wellacre	11.1	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows Cob Kiln Lane	11.27	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows Old Ees Brook	8.15	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows 1	3.23	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows 4	2.06	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A

Pike Wood	6.52	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows	42.64	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Carrington Road	6.80	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Woodsend Green	0.59	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Norfolk Gardens	0.33	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lowther Gardens	0.76	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A

Urmston and Flixton (continued)

Open Space Type	Quantity (ha) or No (Play Areas)	% of residents in parks catchment area from hierarchy
Large Parks (Country, Borough, Town Neighbourhood)	11.10	58
Local Open Space (Parks, Play and Informal)	53.26	60
Semi Natural (Woodland outside of parks)	99.95	24
Children's Play	13No	13 Play Areas (a) (b)
All Open Space within 300m (Natural England)	158.19	79

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*against council managed greenspace*)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 80.68 ha for 40341 Population

Provision is 99.95 ha therefore **sufficiency** of 19.27 ha

Performance against Trafford Open Space Standard (1.35 Ha/1000 population)

Requirement = 0.00135 x 40341 = 54.46 ha

Provision is 53.26 Ha therefore there is **deficiency** of 1.2 ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*all publicly accessible greenspace*)

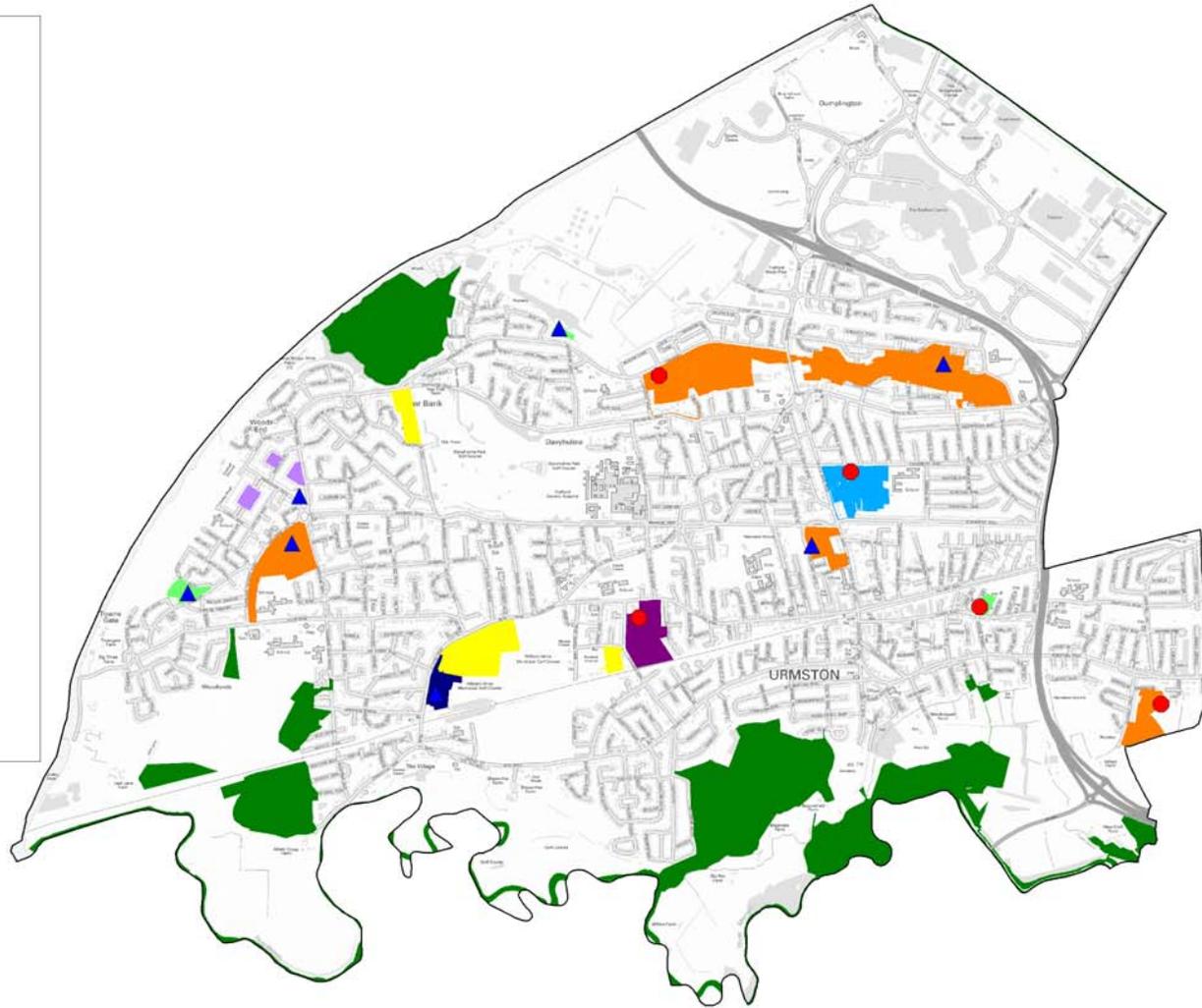
Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 80.68 Ha for 40341 Population

Provision is 158.19 ha therefore **sufficiency of 77.51 ha**

Issues

- ❖ This part of Trafford enjoys a very high level of accessibility to natural and semi natural greenspace such as Urmston Meadows and Wellacre, with potential for improvements at both these sites.
- ❖ However, access to large parks and local open space is more limited with under 60% of residents in this area falling within the catchment areas of the various types of park, as set out in the greenspace hierarchy.
- ❖ Similarly, children's play provision is low in quality across the area, partly attributable to the lack of Section 106 developer contributions forthcoming across this area in recent years, despite the fact that Abbotsfield, Davyhulme, Goldenhill, Higher Road and Woodsend meet the FiT (NPFA) LEAP standard and Broadway Park meeting the NEAP standard.
- ❖ In terms of quality, the key town park in the area achieved Bronze at last inspection – 2 steps down from the gold standard proposed in the greenspace hierarchy.
- ❖ Flixton Park and Gardens represents the only gold award winning greenspace across the area, with no green flag award winners present.
- ❖ The Urmston and Flixton area also contains the highest proportion of sites failing to achieve an award at inspection – 2 key Neighbourhood Parks (Abbotsfield and Broadway) which should be achieving a minimum of silver according to the greenspace hierarchy. Local parks failing to achieve the minimum bronze award include Goldenhill Park, Woodsend Park and Kinsway Park.

Urmston and Flixton: Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas



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Appendix E: Altrincham

Site	Size	Hierarchy Classification	Play Areas	08 Award	09 Award	Hierarchy Standard
*Dunham Park	117.82	Country Park	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stamford Park	6.21	Town Park	2	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Halecroft Park	4.26	Neighbourhood Park	1	Silver	Silver	Silver
Broomwood Park	1.41	Neighbourhood Park	2	Not assessed	Not assessed	Silver
Woodheys Park	4.83	Neighbourhood Park	1	Gold	Gold	Silver
John Leigh Park	6.14	Neighbourhood Park	2	Silver	Silver	Silver
Navigation Road Park	4.33	Neighbourhood Park	1	No Award	Silver	Silver
Newton Park	2.04	Local Park	1	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Woodstock Park	1.36	Local Park	2	No Award	No Award	Bronze
Pickering Lodge	2.79	Local Park	1	No Award	Bronze	Bronze
Timperley Green	2.21	Local Park	1	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
Grange Road	0.30	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Wellfield Lane	0.76	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Hendam Drive	0.74	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Kings Acre	0.39	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Bankhall Lane	0.16	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Bowdon Rec Grnd	1.10	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Minster Drive	0.30	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Clarke Crescent	0.07	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
The Mount Play Area	0.13	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Welman Way	1.54	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Oldfield Brow	2.44	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Buckingham Way	1.35	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Timperley Rec Grnd	2.12	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Oakwood Lane	0.38	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Stelfox Avenue	0.44	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A

Grove Park	8.19	Sports Ground	1	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Beech Avenue Playing	17.95	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Riddings Acre	0.36	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
De Quincey Park	3.17	Formal Gardens	-	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Larkhill	1.71	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marfield Road	0.18	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shaftsbury Avenue	1.64	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Altrincham Memorial Gardens	0.63	Formal/Memorial Gardens	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Denzell Gardens	3.83	Formal/Memorial Gardens	-	Gold GF	Gold GF	Gold
Redbrook	2.18	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
King George V Pool	2.73	Semi Natural	-	Silver	Silver	Bronze
The Devisdale	6.16	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Tomfield Bank	5.82	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Wood adj to Bollin	2.53	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Moss Wood	2.19	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Bluebell Wood	3.89	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Convent Wood	0.82	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Wood near Broadheath	2.52	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dark Lane Wood	2.49	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham Hall 1	14.08	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham Massey Lodge Wood	6.10	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham New Park 1	3.78	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham New Park 3	3.56	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham New Park 2	3.17	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham Park 1	3.02	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham New Park 4	2.75	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Back Lane Wood	2.68	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham Hall 2	2.64	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A

Dunham New Park 5	2.52	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dunham Park 2	2.04	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Woodheys Park Wood	2.21	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Fairywell Wood	1.90	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Broom Wood	0.92	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A

Open Space Type	Quantity (ha) or No (Play Areas)	% of residents in parks catchment area from hierarchy
Large Parks (Country, Borough, Town Neighbourhood)	27.18	83
Local Open Space (Parks, Play and Informal)	74.30	54
Semi Natural (Woodland outside of parks)	39.04	21
Children's Play	32* (2 in Dunham)	32 Play Areas (a) (b)
All Open Space within 300m (Natural England)	272.32	73

Performance against Trafford Open Space Standard (1.35 Ha/1000 population)

Requirement = $0.00135 \times 69420 = 93.71$ ha

Provision is 74.30 Ha therefore there is a **deficiency** of 19.42 ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*against council managed greenspace*)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 138.84 ha for 69420 Population

Provision is 39.04 ha therefore **deficiency** of 99.8 ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*all publicly accessible greenspace*)

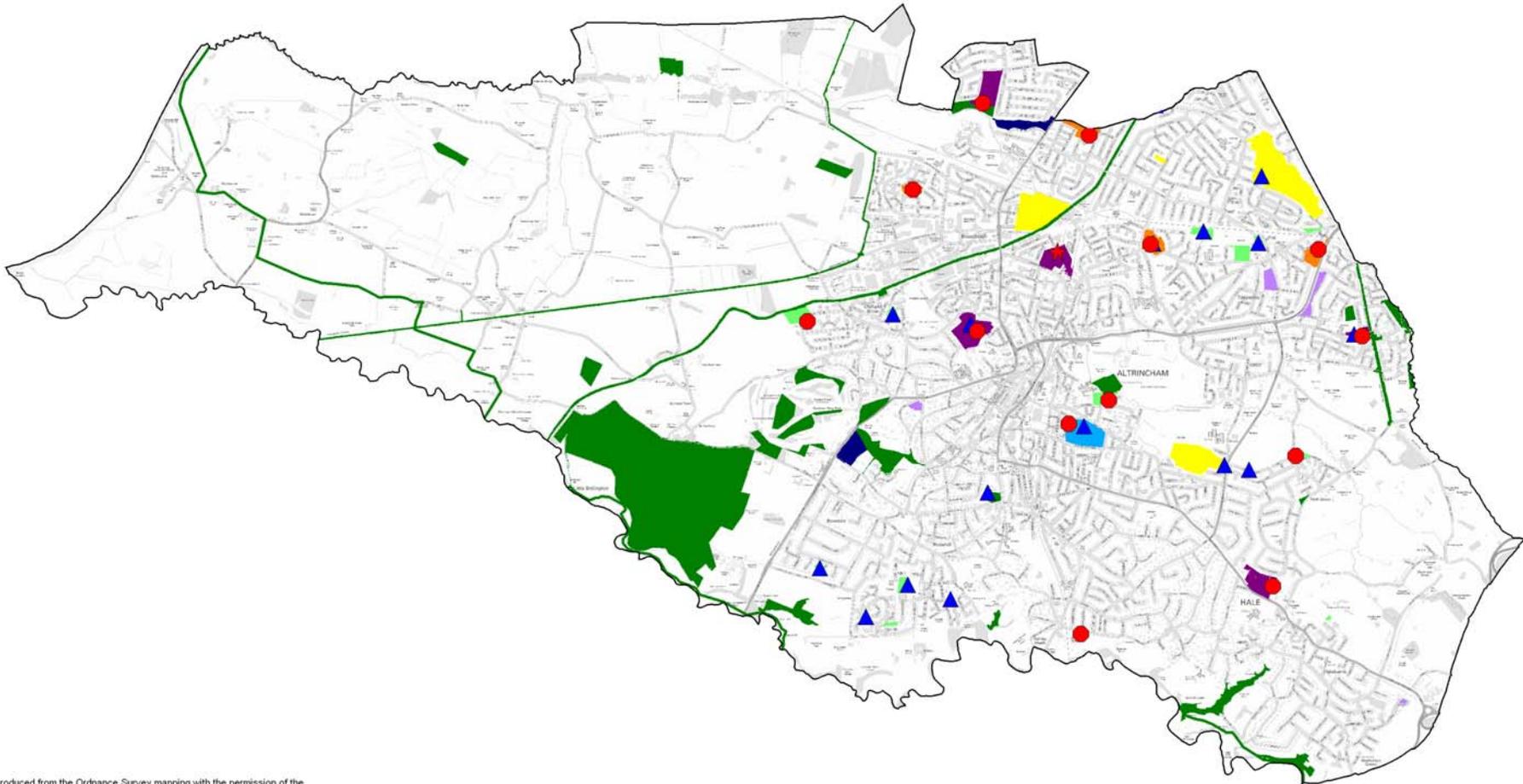
Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 138.84 Ha for 69420 Population

Provision is 272.32 ha therefore **sufficiency of 133.48 ha**

Issues

- ❖ Very good access to large parks, attributable to the presence of Dunham Massey (83%).
- ❖ At the more local level, access to local open space i.e. urban parks such as Borough, Town, Neighbourhood and Local Parks, along with children's play areas is much more restricted, with only 54% of residents falling within their catchment areas.
- ❖ At the local level, there is a significant shortage of parks and play areas, with poor quality children's play areas in the Bowdon area in particular.
- ❖ However, the area features 3 NEAP play areas and 9 LEAP play areas, although issues of quality of facilities and landscape setting are apparent at many sites across Altrincham in the context of the council's Play Strategy and Play England guidance.
- ❖ Similarly, there is very strong deficiency in access to semi natural greenspaces outside of formal park, although this is mitigated by the presence of linear routes such as the Trans Pennine Trail, the Bridgwater Canal and also the public right of way network which permeates the Bollin Valley.
- ❖ Quality is inconsistent with the greenspace hierarchy in that the main Town Park (Stamford Park) is not achieving a gold award, although only 2 Altrincham sites involved in the assessment failed to achieve an award following the most recent assessment, Newton Park narrowly (63%) and Woodstock Park by a wider margin (52%).
- ❖ Neighbourhood Parks are achieving the appropriate silver minimum standard e.g. John Leigh Park and Halecroft Park.

Altrincham: Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas



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Appendix F: Partington and Carrington

Site	Ward	Size	Hierarchy Classification	Play Areas	08 Award	09 Award	Hierarchy Standard
Cross Lane Park	Bucklow	7.98	Town Park	1	No Award	No Award	Gold
Oak Road	Bucklow	5.34	Local Park	1	Not assessed	Not assessed	Bronze
Valley Fields	Bucklow	0.36	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Stamford Road	Bucklow	0.27	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Ackers Lane	Bucklow	0.08	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Davis Road Play Area	Bucklow	0.10	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
*Hornbeam Close Park/Sale West	Bucklow	3.92	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
*Christchurch Ave	Bucklow	0.20	Play Area	1	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A
Manchester Road	Bucklow	1.49	Amenity Greenspace	-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wood Lane	Bucklow	0.98	Amenity Greenspace	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Moss View Playing Flds	Bucklow	1.93	Sports Ground	-	**N/A	**N/A	**N/A
Brick Wood	Bucklow	1.43	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows 3	Bucklow	2.47	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Urmston Meadows 5	Bucklow	5.58	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Dainwell Wood (part of 50.06 ha)	Bucklow	38.72	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A
Coroners Wood	Bucklow	2.23	Semi Natural	-	***N/A	***N/A	***N/A

Partington and Carrington

Open Space Type	Quantity (ha) or No (Play Areas)	% of residents in parks catchment area from hierarchy
Large Parks (Country, Borough, Town Neighbourhood)	7.98	58
Local Open Space (Parks, Play and Informal)	18.25	60
Semi Natural (outside of parks)	50.43	24
Children's Play	9 No	9 Play Areas (a) 1 NEAP (b) 3 LEAPs
All Open Space within 300m (Natural England)	73.09	79

Performance against Trafford Open Space Standard (1.35 Ha/1000 population)

Requirement = $0.00135 \times 10277 = 13.87$ ha

Provision is 18.25 ha therefore there is a **sufficiency** of 4.38 ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*against council managed greenspace*)

Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 20.55 ha for 10277 Population

Provision is 50.43 ha therefore there is a **sufficiency** of 29.88 ha

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (*all publicly accessible greenspace*)

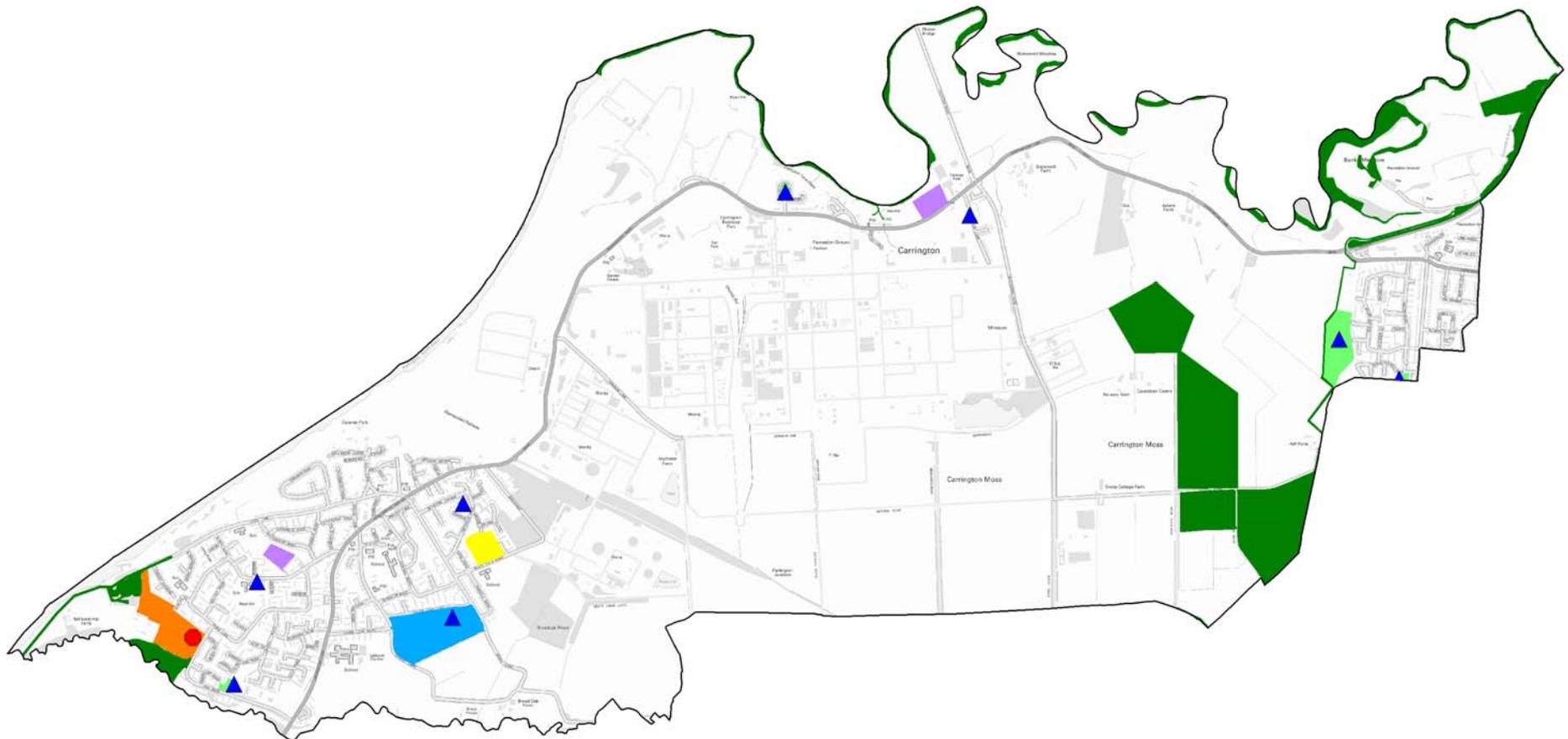
Requirement = 2 Ha/1000 population = 20.55 ha for 10277 Population

Provision is 73.09 ha therefore there is a **sufficiency** of 52.54 ha

Issues

- ❖ There is a high quantity of open space across Partington and Carrington, with sufficiency demonstrated against the council's local open space standard and also the Natural England accessible greenspace standard, whether
- ❖ However, quality is a key issue as there are no green flag or Greenspace award winning sites across the Partington area, although it should be noted that only Cross Lane Park is included in the Greenspace Awards annual assessment.
- ❖ Although greenspace provision is high in terms of quantity, accessibility to a range of parks and open spaces is poor, with only 58% of residents across the Partington area falling within the prescribed catchment areas of large parks i.e. Country, District, Town or Neighbourhood Parks and only 60% of residents falling within the catchment areas for local open spaces including all types of park and also children's play areas.
- ❖ The quality of children's play provision is also poor across the area, despite recent improvements at Cross Lane through the addition of the skate park, outdoor gym, refurbished MUGA and play area improvements, despite the fact that play areas at Ackers Lane, Davis Rd and Oak Rd do meet the Fit (NPFA) LEAP standard. This assessment is predominantly based on quantitative assessments such as number of activities offered by equipment rather than broader aesthetic judgements in keeping with recent guidance from Play England e.g. 'Designing for Play' – standards to which Trafford aspires for all play spaces.

Partington and Carrington: Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas



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