

WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

PPG17 Open Spaces, Indoor Sports and Community Recreation  
Assessment

An

Executive Summary

By

Strategic Leisure Limited

July 2006

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -  
INTRODUCTION*

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

- i. Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) was appointed by the City of Worcester in December 2004 to undertake a PPG 17<sup>1</sup> compliant assessment of open space, sport and recreational facilities. The objective of the study was to identify local needs for provision, and opportunities for enhancement, development or replacement of current facilities. The study covers provision in the public, educational (primarily Local Education Authority Schools (LEA), commercial and voluntary sectors. The study's results have been assessed Citywide and on a ward by ward basis, for the following:
  - Quantity
  - Quality
  - Accessibility
- ii. It is important that a vision is adopted to reflect the aspirations for open space, sport and recreation in meeting the City's corporate objectives. An extension of the vision's detailed in the City's community strategy and the local plan (CWLP) is proposed, and has been reflected in the undertaking of the assessment:

*"Working together to create and sustain an environment across the City of Worcester which stimulates prosperity and a good quality of life for all"*

## Context and Rationale for the Study

- iii. The study will inform and help to develop future policy, provide the evidence to safeguard and protect open space, and support the policies for the future provision of indoor and outdoor sports, and open space, by reflecting the key issues identified through the audit and consultation.
- iv. The PPG17 Companion Guide's five key stages were used as a framework for assessing playing pitches, indoor facilities and open space.
  - **Stage 1 – Identifying Local Needs** – what do local people think of existing provision, provision are they using, or not using, and why, what do they think is needed, and how could existing provision be improved
  - **Stage 2 – Auditing Local Provision** - what is the existing level of provision, what condition is it in, where is it, and is it 'fit for purpose'
  - **Stage 3 – Setting Provision Standards** – how much provision is there at the moment, and of what type; how much should be provided
  - **Stage 4 – Applying Provision Standards** – what is the impact of applying new standards of provision, and where is there surplus or deficiency
  - **Stage 5 – Policy Options** – what are the options for addressing surplus or deficiency in provision, and how can they best be implemented
- v. The desirable outcomes from undertaking a PPG 17 Assessment are to:

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<sup>1</sup> Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002), PPG 17 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - INTRODUCTION***

- Provide local people with networks of accessible, high quality open space and sports and recreational facilities in both rural and urban areas, which will meet the needs of local people and visitors
- Ensure appropriate levels of provision, which will involve enhancing existing provision and/or new provision.

### **Planning Policies**

- vi. The need to better recognise, enhance and protect existing areas of open space in the City, in the environment, open spaces have an important visual amenity value, as well as providing for recreational activity; they also provide a means of increasing informal activity, and addressing the need to improve the health of the local community.

### **Key Principles of this Assessment and Strategy**

- vii. There are several key principles in the development of this Study, which are:
- To concentrate on providing quality provision, accessible to all, to enhance local quality of life, and provide attractive facilities for visitors to the City
  - To work in partnership to benefit local communities through the provision of high quality and accessible open space, sport and recreation provision
  - To develop wider use of facilities with restricted access e.g. school facilities
  - To secure high levels of sustainable access at a local level to a range of facilities (variety of greenspaces and sport/recreation facilities)
  - To respond to local needs when there is a clear articulated consensus of opinion
  - To concentrate on providing sports pitches at strategic locations fit for purpose
  - To ensure maintenance requirements are adequately resourced, to maintain quality of provision
  - To develop local standards to meet local needs, or if appropriate, ensure national standards are met in the City
  - To adopt a policy of providing sites rated as a minimum as Good
- viii. The City's planning policies are already seeking to secure appropriate developer contributions to existing, or new open space or indoor sports provision, as a result of any new residential developments. The City wishes to use this assessment to strengthen existing policies, which will further strengthen the ability to secure developer contributions.

### **The Audit and Consultation Methodology**

### **Demographic Summary**

- ix. The current needs for provision are based on the City's population of 93,353 (2001 Census). The population is expected to grow to around 100,000 over the next 15 years.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - INTRODUCTION

## Consultation Process

- x. In order to identify local need for future provision, an extensive consultation process was undertaken across the City. This included
- 20 face to face interviews key stakeholders, cabinet members and key staff
  - An internet based self completion questionnaire, plus questionnaires in local libraries, youth and community centres
  - 5 focus groups with young people
  - 1000 door to door surveys
  - A questionnaire survey of the 'Friends of Parks'
  - Freephone consultation over an 8 week period advertised and promoted on local radio and in the local press
  - 160 postal surveys to schools, sports clubs and local organisations
  - Postal survey of the City's 35 elected members
  - Face to face interview with the Local Strategic Partnership
  - A questionnaire survey to the Worcester Allotment Forum, and site representatives

## Audit Process

- xi. All known open spaces and parks and gardens in the City were audited along with the City's indoor sports facilities and community centres using the quantity, quality and accessibility process. Each site was allocated into one of 11 different typologies for analysis and the production of provision standards for the City:

## Typologies

- Indoor Sports Facilities
  - Natural/Semi Natural Open space
  - Amenity Space
  - Cemeteries/Churchyards
  - Community Recreation Facilities
  - Outdoor Sports Facilities
  - Provision for Young People/Play Areas
  - Parks and gardens
  - Green Corridors
  - Allotments
- xii. The assessment of **quantity** was undertaken on the basis of:
- A review of the number of sites and size of provision, in relation to local population
  - Comparison of specific types of facilities e.g. playing pitches and allotments against known demand (from consultation)
- xiii. The assessment of **quality** was undertaken on the basis of:

## *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - INTRODUCTION*

- Site visits to community accessible facilities to rate a number of key criteria affecting quality
  - Quality ratings from key users, residents and specific user groups (from consultation)
  - Quality ratings have been applied using the individual scores from the site elements e.g. bins, seating and signage as appropriate to the typology assessed. The scoring system has been developed using national assessment schemes (e.g. Green Flag) and is rated out of 100.
- xiv. The assessment of **accessibility** was undertaken on the basis of:
- Auditing factors known to affect the access to certain types of facilities
  - Consultation with local residents
  - Mapping exercises to identify catchment areas for different types of provision

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

## Key Findings

### STAGE 1 - Identifying Local Need

1.1 The table below provides a summary of key findings by typology in terms of quality and accessibility from the consultation undertaken

Table 1 Consultation Findings

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
<b>Indoor Sports Facilities</b>  (Ref: Main report Section III Page 39)	4 Council facilities: Nunnery Wood, Perdiswell Leisure Centre, St Johns Sports Centre, City of Worcester Swimming Pool  (in addition to these there are a number of facilities within the City that are owned privately or through Education)	Score Range <b>65%-75%</b>  Average <b>70%</b> Rating Good	Within 3.2 miles of home when travelling by car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward Councillors identified improvement to existing facilities as their priority</li> <li>• Local residents identified the main barriers to use as being lack of time, age, disability, cost of hire, distance i.e. too far and lack of facilities</li> <li>• 32% of the people surveyed use indoor sports facilities in the City as follows                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ 42% Worcester Swimming and Fitness</li> <li>➢ 34% Perdiswell Leisure Centre</li> <li>➢ 12.5% St Johns/12.5% Nunnery Wood</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Residents rated the quality of indoor sports facilities as good or average</li> <li>• Cost, location and activities for all ages are the top three issues identified as important to people's enjoyment when using Indoor Sports facilities</li> <li>• Respondents would like to see the City continue to provide indoor sports facilities and 56% believe the City facilities are well managed</li> <li>• Residents believe that the level of provision is acceptable</li> <li>• Young people rated the sports facilities that they use as good</li> <li>• The University has identified aspirations to improve their current sports and recreation provision to provide for increased student numbers; it would seem sensible for both City and the University to identify opportunities that may arise for closer partnership working</li> <li>• Internal consultation revealed that the dual use facilities do present operational issues and limit opportunity for expanded programming</li> </ul>
<b>Indoor Community Recreation Facilities</b>  (Ref: Main report Section III Page 47)	<u>Dines Green-</u> (Youth Club and Community Centre) (Two separate buildings) <u>Ronkswood</u> – (Community Centre) (One building) <u>City Centre</u> – (Youth Centre and Community Centre)	Score Range N/A Average N/A Rating N/A	Within 10 minutes walk from home or 0.6 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward Councillors identified a lack of provision as a key issue</li> <li>• Local residents identified the main barriers to use as being lack of time, age, disability, cost of hire, too far away and lack of facilities</li> <li>• 72% of respondents would like to see more community facilities in their local area; this should be an aim that City seek to address</li> <li>• Residents identified that the priority for future provision needs to be for young people</li> <li>• Young people rated the indoor community facilities as average</li> <li>• Internal consultation identified that community services is facing budget reductions at a time when one of the main social issues facing the City is the needs of young people and increased levels of antisocial behaviour</li> </ul>



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
	<p>(Two separate buildings)  <b>Tolladine – (Community Centre)</b>                      (one building)  <b>Old Warndon – (Youth Club and Community Centre)</b>                      (two separate buildings)  <b>Lyppard Grange – (Community Centre)</b>                      (one building)  <b>St Johns – (Youth Centre -County Council)</b>  <b>St Peters – (Community Centre)</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the City is serious about addressing these needs, appropriate resources will need to be made available</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parks and Gardens</b>                      Parks and gardens provide accessible, high quality opportunities for a range of informal recreation, formal sporting opportunities and community events.</p> <p>(Ref: Main report Section III Page 51)</p>	<p><b>56.72</b> hectares</p> <p>3 Major Parks,  <b>Cripplegate Park</b>  <b>Gheluvelt Park</b>  <b>Fort Royal Park</b></p> <p>1 Country Park  <b>(Worcester Woods split over two sites- Nunnery Woods and Perry Woods)</b></p> <p>4 Local Parks-  <b>Oldbury Road</b>  <b>Hylton Road</b>  <b>Springfield Road</b>  <b>Cromwell Cresnet</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b>  <b>17%-64%</b></p> <p><b>Average</b>  <b>44%</b></p> <p><b>Rating</b>  <b>Average</b></p>	<p>Local people travel an average of 10.02 minutes to access the park they use most. This equates to a travel distance of 0.67 miles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward Councillors identified under investment as an issue in the parks and gardens within their ward</li> <li>• Quality is important to the residents across the City</li> <li>• Although Consultee's have high satisfaction rates with parks and gardens there is still recognition of the need for improved maintenance, cleanliness and safety</li> <li>• Improvements to the park infrastructure e.g. tennis courts, toilets, benches, footpaths, signage is likely to encourage more use by the local community</li> <li>• Provision for people with disabilities, particularly accessibility and the ability to move around in a park, needs to be addressed, to facilitate greater use</li> <li>• Establish areas within parks and gardens for nature conservation e.g. flora, fauna, and wildlife, should be considered as part of future site-specific developments</li> <li>• Local people and organised groups such as the 'Friends of Parks' wish to see park staff reintroduced (this is also a national recommendation for the future provision of parks and gardens through CABE)</li> <li>• The main barriers to use are lack of time, vandalism, dog fouling and not feeling safe</li> <li>• Most residents walk to the parks and gardens they use most</li> <li>• Young people do not necessarily use parks and gardens on a regular basis</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
<p><b>Natural &amp; Semi Natural Greenspace (Including Green Corridors)</b> Natural and semi natural open spaces within the City are comprised of a variety of different sites e.g. woodlands, meadows etc these are either public or privately owned</p> <p>(Ref: Main report Section III Page 57)</p>	<p>57 sites that have been classified within this typology. (18 Private 49.92Ha / 39 Public 147.69 Ha) occupying a total of <b>203.20 hectares</b> (of which <b>149.69 hectares</b> are publicly accessible The Current level of provision of sites with public access equates to 1.58 hectares per 1000 population</p>	<p><b>Score Range</b> 20%-67%</p> <p><b>Average</b> 41%</p> <p><b>Rating</b> Average</p>	<p>Local people travel an average of 21 minutes to access the natural/semi natural greenspace they use most. This equates to a travel distance of 1.4 miles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of sites is perceived as good by local residents including young people, whereas Ward Councillors rated sites as average</li> <li>• Ward Councillors identified under investment, accessibility and lack of facilities as the main issues facing the natural/semi natural green spaces in their ward</li> <li>• Sites are used on a regular basis by residents</li> <li>• Residents believe there is enough natural and semi natural greenspace where they live</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outdoor Sports</b></p> <p>Community Accessible football pitches, cricket wickets, rugby pitches, hockey pitches, City Council bowling greens and tennis courts (Ref: Main report Section III Page 65)</p>	<p><b>118.20 hectares</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b></p>	<p>Within 15 minutes travel time or 1 mile from where they live</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The City</b> provides 35 pitches on 14 sites across the City. <b>Education</b> has 31 sites with 75 pitches and is the main provider of pitches. <b>Private/ Voluntary Sector.</b> Facilities are also provided via the private and voluntary sector. These encompass private sports clubs (e.g. Worcester Rugby Club) and facilities which are leased on a long term basis for self-management by local clubs. 21 pitches have been identified. (Not all of these pitches are available for community use).</li> <li>• The different sports clubs had varying opinion on the quality of the pitches they use</li> <li>• Football rated as average</li> <li>• Cricket rated as very good</li> <li>• Rugby rated as very good</li> <li>• Bowls rated as average</li> <li>• Ward Councillors identified lack of facilities as the main issue for sports pitches in their area</li> <li>• Local residents rated the pitch sites as good</li> <li>• The main issues identified by clubs are vandalism, security and maintenance</li> <li>• Young people use school playing fields outside school hours to simply hang about with friends</li> <li>• Consultation with local sports clubs identified lack of good quality facilities, maintenance and a need for greater support from the Council as the main issues</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Pitches</b></p>	<p><b>44%-90%</b></p>		
	<p><b>Bowls</b></p>	<p><b>56%-82%</b></p>		
	<p><b>Tennis</b></p>	<p><b>45%-89%</b></p>		
<p><b>Pitches</b></p>	<p><b>Average</b></p>	<p><b>72%</b></p>		
<p><b>Bowls</b></p>	<p><b>70%</b></p>	<p><b>61%</b></p>		
<p><b>Tennis</b></p>	<p><b>Rating</b></p>	<p><b>Good</b></p>		
<p><b>Bowls</b></p>	<p><b>Good</b></p>	<p><b>Good</b></p>		
<p><b>Tennis</b></p>	<p><b>Good</b></p>	<p><b>Good</b></p>		

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
<p><b>Amenity Space</b> Amenity greenspace fulfils a number of purposes, including enhancing the appearance of local areas and providing opportunities for informal activities such as jogging, dog walking and informal play. In built up areas, amenity greenspace can also provide space for worker or visitors to eat lunch or go for a walk. Amenity greenspace can also help reduce noise and generally provide a natural break in the urban street scene.</p> <p>(Ref: Main report Section III Page 83)</p>	<p><b>34 sites</b> <b>52.85 hectares</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b> <b>22%-73%</b></p> <p><b>Average</b> <b>55%</b></p> <p><b>Rating</b> <b>Good</b></p>	<p>Local people travel an average of 10 minutes to access the amenity space they use most. This equates to a travel distance of 0.67 miles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward Councillors rated amenity space as good</li> <li>• Lack of investment and poor accessibility are the key issues identified by the Ward Councillors</li> <li>• These sites are not used on a regular basis by local residents, whilst young people identified using them on a daily basis</li> <li>• Local residents rated the quality as good whilst young people rated the quality as average</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
<p><b>Provision for Young People and Children</b>                      Provision for Children and Young People consists of equipped play areas and specialist provision for young people, including skate parks and Teen Shelters. The provision of facilities for children and young people is important in facilitating opportunities for physical activity and the development of movement and social skill.</p> <p>(Ref: Main report Section III Page 88)</p>	<p><b>52 play areas</b>   <b>8.34 hectares</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b>  <b>7%-71%</b></p> <p><b>Average</b>  <b>43%</b></p> <p><b>Rating</b>  <b>Average</b></p>	<p>Local people travel an average of 7.5 to access the provision for young people and children they use most. This equates to a travel distance of 0.5 miles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people rated the facilities as average or good</li> <li>• Young people have concerns over the facilities that are provided for them e.g. lack of floodlighting to multi use games areas and therefore they cannot make use of them after school during winter months</li> <li>• The majority of young people who responded to the consultation(31%) do not use skate parks</li> <li>• Local residents and Ward Councillors rated the quality of play provision as good or average</li> <li>• 50% of the ward councillors who responded to the survey identified lack of investment and lack of facilities as the main issue with regards to play provision in their ward</li> <li>• There is concern within the City Council with regards to the maintenance funding for the fixed play areas being inadequate and increased vandalism putting increased pressure on already over stretched budgets</li> <li>• Given the large number of smaller play areas, City could adopt a more strategic approach to provision by focussing the available resources on the development of good quality NEAPS, and changing existing LEAPS into LAPS by removing the poor quality fixed equipment</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE I: IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Consultation findings
<p><b>Allotments</b> Allotments provide a key type of provision within the overall portfolio of open space, sport and recreation facilities. From the consultation undertaken, the value of allotments is significant, providing facilities for physical activity in addition to the promotion of healthy eating and educational value. The provision of allotments is a statutory function for local authorities under a number of legislative acts including the 1950 Allotment Act. (Ref Main report Section III Page 97)</p>	<p><b>23 Allotment sites (approx 1020 plots)</b>  <b>32.05 hectares</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b> <b>10%-58%</b>  <b>Average</b> <b>40%</b>  <b>Rating</b> <b>Average</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward Councillors rated allotments in their ward as good in terms of quality</li> <li>• The Worcester Allotment Forum has identified considerable unmet demand</li> <li>• Plot holders walk to their site and visit their plot 2-3 times per week</li> <li>• Vandalism is a key issue and secure fencing is a key priority</li> <li>• The City has a national profile in the provision of allotments, having been awarded Allotment Management Award in 2005.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cemeteries and Churchyards</b> Cemeteries, disused church yards and other burial grounds can provide a valuable contribution to the portfolio of open space provision within an area. (Ref Main report Section III Page 102)</p>	<p><b>3 Cemeteries (2 audited)</b></p>	<p><b>Score Range</b> <b>77%-88%</b>  <b>Average</b> <b>83%</b>  <b>Rating</b> <b>Excellent</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation revealed that opinions varied with regards to cemeteries and churchyards in terms of quality and accessibility. Local residents that did respond rated the quality as excellent whilst ward councillors identified under investment as the main issue</li> <li>• The Muslim Cemetery was not audited at the time</li> <li>• Only Council Managed Cemeteries were audited there are some 40+ churchyards identified within Worcester</li> </ul>

# *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION*

## **Quantity Findings**

- 2.1 The local plan forms the policy basis for decisions on planning applications, and provides a framework for the nature of development that will be permitted or not permitted over the lifespan of the plan. The assessment of open space, sport and recreation will be critical to informing future development of these policies and planning guidance.
- 2.2 The City has recognised the importance of open space and the contribution it makes to the natural environment and quality of life for people living and working in, and visiting the City.
- 2.3 Within the local typology for the City the quantity audit has been identified for outdoor provision, indoor sports and indoor community recreation facilities. The Audit has revealed the following provision by typology across the City:



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology	Population	Provision	Provision in Hectares	Provision per 1000 population	Comment
<b>Indoor Community Recreation Facilities</b>		29 Church Halls 25 Private Clubs 11 Youth Facilities  Council facilities include: 4 Youth Centres 7 Community Centres	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Centres need to be considered within the context of the findings of the Indoor Sports Facility assessment – Community Centres, and other venues such as Church Halls, Scout Huts and Civic Halls can all provide valuable indoor space for a range of sport and recreation activities.</li> <li>The audit focuses on the extent and location of existing provision, rather than the quality. Given the wide range of halls, their provision, and focus, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons in relation to quality, as there are few similarities between the different buildings, how they are operated, and for what they are used. However, it is important to know the distribution of community halls provision, as it has potential to contribute to outreach development work, in terms of accessing hard to reach groups to encourage them to participate in sport and physical activity, and being able to accommodate activities at local level.</li> </ul>
<b>Parks and gardens</b>		8 sites (Worcester Wood split over two sites- Nunnery Wood and Perry Wood)	56.72	0.61 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The audit of provision has identified a significant variance in the type of provision across the City on a ward by ward basis, with some wards being better served by formal parks and gardens, whilst others have a substantial provision of informal natural and semi natural greenspace; these are identified within the appendices of the main report.</li> </ul>



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology	Population	Provision	Provision in Hectares	Provision per 1000 population	Comment								
<b>Natural and Semi Natural Green Space (Including Green Corridors)</b>		57 sites that have been classified within this typology. (18 Private 49.92Ha / 39 Public 147.69 Ha) occupying a total of 203.20 hectares (of which 149.69 hectares are publicly accessible The Current level of provision of sites with public access equates to 1.58 hectares per 1000 population	149.69 Publicly accessible	1.52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32% of the natural and semi natural greenspace within the City is in private ownership and therefore access for the public may be restricted or removed at any given time.</li> <li>Therefore, for the purpose of calculating current provision, only public sites have been used in the calculations. This equates to 141.1 hectares out of the overall total of 201.53 ha identified</li> <li>In assessing Natural and Semi-natural greenspace, consideration has been given to English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. English Nature present a number of recommendations in relation to provision levels, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provision of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 population. This equates to <b>186.7ha</b> of provision within the City. As the guidance identifies publicly accessible greenspace then it is important to recognise that provision is split in terms of ownership between sites publicly owned and sites in private ownership (several with developers awaiting handover) then the amount of accessible semi/ natural greenspace is <b>201 ha</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>								
<b>Outdoor Sports</b>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Total Pitches</td> <td>133</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community accessible pitches</td> <td>98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bowls</td> <td>10(Greens)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tennis</td> <td>42(Courts)</td> </tr> </table>	Total Pitches	133	Community accessible pitches	98	Bowls	10(Greens)	Tennis	42(Courts)	118.20	1.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details relating to all pitch provision and analysis of the applied Sport England Methodology can be found in the strategy document from page 66.</li> </ul>
Total Pitches	133												
Community accessible pitches	98												
Bowls	10(Greens)												
Tennis	42(Courts)												

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology	Population	Provision	Provision in Hectares	Provision per 1000 population	Comment
Amenity Greenspace		34 sites	52.85	0.57	<p>A number of key findings can be made in relation to the quantity of amenity greenspace provision across the City. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A variance in the quantity of provision across the City in relation to both number of sites and hectares.</li> <li>• 25% of the provision is located within 2 of the wards (Bewardine and Warndon Parish South)</li> <li>• 2 wards have no identified amenity provision according to the classifications identified by Council staff(Rainbow Hill and St Stephen)</li> <li>• A current provision standard of 0.56 Hectares per 1000 population</li> </ul>
Provision for Children and Young People	20,869	52 sites	8.34	0.39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a marked difference in what is categorised as a play area across the City, varying from a solitary old piece of equipment to a number of pieces of equipment designed to suit a wide age range fenced and appropriately signed</li> <li>• There are examples of best practice provided within the City that need to be used as a model for future developments</li> <li>• Engaging young people in the design process is a positive way forward for future planned provision</li> <li>• Play areas are lacking in basic signage, benches and bins. 11 Sites out of the 52 sites audited lacked appropriate signage that contained corporate information, an emergency telephone number, 12 sites lacked seating and 21 lacked litter bins</li> <li>• The control of dogs in play areas is a major issue</li> </ul>
Allotments		23 (1020 plots)	27.30	0.29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan identifies allotment provision occupying 32.05 Hectares and equating to 0.4ha per 1000 population. The Local plan also identifies the opportunity for further provision of two new sites (1 in St Peters and 1 in the Trotshill area of Warndon).The audit undertaken has revealed that there are currently <b>23</b> active allotment sites providing in the region of <b>1020 plots</b>. (The exact number of plots is not available as a number of allotment societies failed to complete a questionnaire or return phone calls and as such it is unclear how many plots have been divided into half plots).</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology	Population	Provision	Provision in Hectares	Provision per 1000 population	Comment
<b>Churchyards and Cemeteries</b>	93,353	2 Council Cemetery 1 Muslim Cemetery at Perdiswell  40+ churches and church yards not audited within the scope of this study	N/A	N/A	The following comments are made in relation to cemeteries and closed church yards on the basis of the sites audited and consultation undertaken. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churchyards and cemeteries are potentially under-utilised areas of open space</li> <li>• Quality is fairly consistent the sites inspected, with the main deficiencies relating to signage, information boards and the need to improve side entrances.</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	-	-	419.46	4.53	

Note: Operational land is excluded from total provision as it is not accessible and is primarily agricultural land. Details of the provision within each typology can be found in the main report Section III Page 38

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

## Quality Findings

- 2.4 Quality ratings used for indoor facilities are based upon the Quest assessment scores; the continuous improvement framework in which the City has self assessed the Council indoor sports facilities. This assessment is based on criteria such as operation, delivery and improvement.
- 2.5 For all greenspace, outdoor sports and recreation provision quality audits have been undertaken on the basis of site visits to community accessible facilities to rate a number of key criteria affecting quality; open spaces have been measured against the nationally recognised standards namely the Green Flag Award, play areas have been assessed against recognised criteria adapted from those stipulated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), Indoor sports facilities have been assessed from a visitor's perspective and measured against identified criteria including access, signage, cleanliness etc. These are included in the appendices of the main report.
- 2.6 The quality assessments have been undertaken on a site by site basis with each site being assessed against key criteria. The assessments are undertaken to include a visitor's perspective, e.g. is the site safe? is it welcoming?, does it provide the relevant information to the visitor? Is it clean, tidy, and well maintained? Etc. Sites are given an individual score ( Key criteria varies by typology ) and the score is then translated into a percentage value which then enables the site to be compared to a quality value line that varies from very poor to excellent. The quality value line for open space is illustrated below: (further value lines relating to all typologies can be found in the main report within each typology, refer to Section III – Auditing Local Provision).

### Quality Line –Green Space (Parks and Gardens, Natural/Semi Natural, Amenity)

0% - 15%	16% - 30%	31% - 45%	46% - 60%	61% - 75%	76% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent

- 2.7 An example being Field Walk scoring a total of 143 out of 220 =65% and a rating against quality value line of very good
- 2.8 The quality standard the City aspires to provide should be good as a minimum standard. The following table demonstrates the summary of the quality ratings across all typologies, including some of the key issues influencing the quality rating for each typology.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Table 3 - Current Quality of Indoor Provision

Typology		Quality Range	Quality Average	Quality Rating	Quality Issues	Comments
<b>Indoor Sports Facilities</b>	Nunnery Wood Sports Centre	75%	<b>70%</b>	<b>Good</b>	Ref – ‘Quest’ Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This information clearly identifies that the majority of existing City indoor facilities are in a reasonably good condition, but are in need of investment e.g. St John’s Sports Centre , Nunnery Wood Sports Centre, City of Worcester Pool and Fitness Facility) to modernise facilities, and specifically address design issues due to the age of facilities. The £2.8m already invested by the City in indoor sports facility provision has ensured that the condition of facilities remains reasonably good. This raises two specific issues:</li> <li>Despite the need for investment in provision (investment needs relate to design and date of facilities, rather than physical condition), there is generally a high level of usage, at local level</li> <li>Given the need for investment, there is an opportunity to critically review whether the existing facility portfolio is still relevant to local needs, and whether the current range of opportunities and activities could/should be provided through alternative/more effective means. This could mean the replacement/rebuilding of facilities. Consideration is currently being given to the potential for the relocation of the City of Worcester Swimming Pool to the Perdiswell Sports Centre site, as part of the corporate plan 2007/08.</li> <li>Only the City indoor sports facilities have been quality rated as access to private facilities was either unobtainable or discouraged by the owners. The quality scores are rated against a maximum of 5 and take into consideration key criteria such as cleanliness, staff customer care, signage etc</li> <li>No quality assessments of indoor community recreation facilities have been undertaken as the audit focused on the extent and location of existing provision, rather than the quality. Given the wide range of halls, their provision, and focus, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons in relation to quality, as there are few similarities between the different buildings, how they are operated, and what they are used for. However, it is important to know the distribution of community halls provision, as it has potential to contribute to outreach development work, in terms of accessing hard to reach groups to encourage them to participate in sport and physical activity, and being able to accommodate activities at local level.</li> </ul>
	St. John’s Sports Centre	75%		<b>Good</b>	Ref –‘Quest’ Assessment	
	Perdiswell Leisure Centre	67%		<b>Good</b>	Ref – ‘Quest’ Assessment	
	Worcester Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	65%		<b>Good</b>	Ref – ‘Quest’ Assessment	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology		Quality Range	Quality Average	Quality Rating	Quality Issues	Comments
Parks and gardens		17%-64%	44%	Average	33% of parks and gardens no signage or bins... 66% of parks and gardens no benches 88% of parks and gardens had no lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City should aspire to provide facilities that are a good quality or above</li> <li>The key issues with the open space facilities in terms of quality is that sites provided as recreational resources for local people to use were found to be in need of improvement in terms of basic provision namely signage, benches and bins. Provision of basic facilities such as signage help people feel confident and comfortable when using sites, if people know who owns a site they can then report any problems or issues, provision of bins is good practice as it is easier to empty a bin than litter pick a whole site and the provision of benches not only encourages people to sit and stay a while it also helps older people who often may need to sit and rest. For other facilities such as allotments the provision of water, toilets and car parking are important to the quality value of a site.</li> </ul>
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space (Including Green Corridors)		20%-64%	42%	Average	64% no signage, 79% of sites no litter bins, 85% of sites no benches, 97% of sites had no information or interpretation on site	
Outdoor Sports	Pitches	44%-100%	72%	Good	15% had slight evidence of dog fouling, 27% had slight evidence of stones/glass/debris on the playing surface 11% had no access to changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality varies significantly across sites with ratings varying from 44% (below average) through to 90% (excellent).</li> <li>The City average for pitch quality is 72% (good). This finding needs to be treated with caution given that a significant percentage of site visits were undertaken at the start of the season (when pitches are generally in good condition). The other consideration is the impact of changing rooms on the pitch score – the presence of changing rooms on a site (regardless of their quality) increases each pitch score by 15%.</li> <li>Unfortunately access to the changing rooms was not available at the time of the survey and as a result ancillary facilities have not been rated</li> <li>Rugby pitches had the least variance in quality with all pitches above average</li> <li>The wards Arboretum, St Peter's Parish, and Warndon North and Warndon South have no identified sites with community use</li> <li>Bedwardine, Claines and St Stephen have the highest number of pitches available for community use</li> </ul>
	Bowling Greens	56%-82%	70%	Very Good	None of the greens are floodlight	
	Tennis Courts	45%-89%	61%	Very Good	75% have no floodlighting	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE II: AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Typology	Quality Range	Quality Average	Quality Rating	Quality Issues	Comments
<b>Amenity Green Space</b>	22%-77%	<b>55%</b>	<b>Good</b>	82% of sites had no signage, 47% had no bins, 75% had no benches, 84% had no lighting	<p>A number of key comments can be made in relation to the quality audit results, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A City average quality score of 55% (good). Although 6 sites were found to be below the City average (2 sites in St John's, 2 sites in Bedwardine 1 in Nunnery and 1 in Gorse Hill)</li> </ul>
<b>Provision for Children and Young People</b>	7%-71%	<b>43%</b>	<b>Average</b>	68% of sites had limited / no access for people with disabilities, 55% had no emergency vehicle access, 45% provide no shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of quality audits in relation to provision for children and young people and each criteria can be found in the strategy document.</li> </ul>
<b>Allotments</b>	10%-58%	<b>40%</b>	<b>Average</b>	95% of sites have no toilet provision, 25% of plots have no access to water on site, 70% of sites do not have car park provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 sites were rated for quality, with approximately 1020 plots in total. Quality varies significantly across the City with site ratings ranging from 10% to 58% across the City, 4 sites were classified as average and 7 sites were rated as poor and 3 sites rated as very Poor</li> <li>• The average (mean) score for allotment sites across the City was 40% (average)</li> <li>• 22 allotment sites (out of 23) are not served by any toilet provision (95% of provision or 971 plots).</li> <li>• Only 5 of the allotment sites (out of 23) are not served by a water supply. Even though this is only 21% of all of the plots it does account for approximately 254 of the 1020 plots (25%).</li> <li>• More than 70% of the sites do not have access to car parking.</li> </ul>
<b>Churchyards and Cemeteries</b>	78%-88%	<b>83%</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Signage and the quality of the entrance to St John's requires upgrading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An average quality score across of 83% excellent</li> <li>• St John's would benefit from improvement to the signage and information boards and also the side entrance is in need of upgrading</li> <li>• A project is currently underway to improve the safety at cemeteries in relation to headstones.</li> </ul>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

## Accessibility Findings

- 3.1 Accessibility has been based on local needs and time to travel to local facilities by local people. The consultation with residents revealed that people in Worcester will generally walk to access their local facilities, with the exception of allotments and indoor sports centres where people identified their main mode of travel being the car. Walking distance has been translated in to distance based on the nationally recognised average walking speed of 4 miles per hour for the average person. The following accessibility distance thresholds have therefore been established to illustrate accessibility surplus and deficiencies of provision. The deficiencies are illustrated within the section of the executive summary relating to applying the accessibility standards. (ref paragraph 4.14 page xxxv)

Table 4 Accessibility Thresholds

Typology		Average Travel Time (minutes)	Travel Distance
Indoor Sports Centres		9.60	3.2 miles by car at 20 mp.h
Indoor Community facilities		9.28	0.62 miles
Parks and Gardens		10.02	0.67 miles
Semi Natural Green space		21.00	1.4 miles
Outdoor sports	Pitches	15 Minutes	The public have indicated a travel time of 15 minutes, this equates to a distance of 1 .4mile to access sports pitches and the school field
	Bowling Greens	N/A	As these are generally demand based facilities travel times using public responses are not appropriate
	Tennis Courts	N/A	As these are generally demand based facilities travel times using public responses are not appropriate
Amenity		10.00	0.67 miles
Provision for Children and Young People		7.5	0.5 miles
Allotments		15.00	1 Mile by car at 20mph
Churchyards and Cemeteries		N/A	N/A

## Current and Previous Local Standards of Provision

- 3.2 In the past, as a means of securing open space, the Council has sought contribution to provision of open space, play areas and sports facilities from developers. The Council has developed local standards of provision loosely based on the National Playing Fields Guidance (NPFA 6 acre standard). The Council has advocated a slightly higher provision standard of 8.25 acres, and in doing so, has aimed at providing as a minimum standard the following levels of provision.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

Table 5 City of Worcester Local Plan Recommended Standards of Provision

Outdoor Playing Space Provision per 1000 Population	
Equipped Children's Play Areas	0.61 hectares (1.50 acres)
Youth and Adult Use (Sports)	1.80 hectares (4.50 acres)
Allotments	0.40 hectares (1.00 acres)
Casual /Informal Open Areas	0.50 hectares (1.25 acres)
<b>Total provision</b>	<b>3.31 hectares (8.25 acres)</b>

- 3.3 This includes open space requirements with the exception of woodland areas, private golf courses, cemeteries and areas of amenity land for which additional provision will be required
- 3.4 PPG 17 guidance advises the setting of standards for different types (typology) of open space provision and to move away from the traditional NPFA type standards as outlined above. However in order to review the effectiveness of existing planning policy it is necessary to draw some similarities from the typologies developed and the former NPFA classification.
- 3.5 For this purpose the following assumptions have been made to compare the former standards set by the Council (NPFA derived standards), against the PPG17 typology provision. These are illustrated in Table 6 below:

Table 6 NPFA Standards Compared to PPG17 Typology

NPFA Classification	Policy provision per 1000 Population (ha)	PPG17 Typology	Actual Provision per 1000 Population (ha)	Comparison of Levels of Provision, NPFA v PPG 17 (ha)
Equipped Children's Play Areas (excludes unequipped play areas)	0.61 (based on NPFA standard)	Provision for Children and young people (based on the fenced, equipped area only)	0.18 (PPG 17 assessment criteria)	-0.43 (this is due to the change in definition between the NPFA and PPG17 assessment i.e. PPG 17 assessment focuses on actual equipped area, rather than whole site))
Youth and Adult Use (Sports)	1.80	Sports Pitches / Bowls and Tennis	1.27	-0.63(this is due to the change in definition between the NPFA and PPG17 assessment)
Allotments	0.40	Allotments	0.29	-0.11(this is due to the change in definition between the NPFA and PPG17 assessment)
Casual /Informal Open Areas	0.50	Amenity Space	0.57	+0.07(this is due to the change in definition between the NPFA and

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

NPFA Classification	Policy provision per 1000 Population (ha)	PPG17 Typology	Actual Provision per 1000 Population (ha)	Comparison of Levels of Provision, NPFA v PPG 17 (ha)
				PPG17 assessment)
<b>Total Provision</b>	<b>3.31 ha (based on NPFA standards of provision)</b>		<b>2.31 ha (based on PPG17 assessment criteria)</b>	<b>-1.0ha</b> (this is due to the change in definition between the NPFA and PPG17 assessment)

3.6 The above table shows how the City has set a minimum standard of **3.31 ha** slightly higher than the NPFA 2.4 ha standard per 1000 population.

3.7 The local plan identifies that the following land is excluded from the above standards

- Outdoor sports facilities which are not available for public use
- Verges, woodlands, commons, ornamental parks and gardens except for defined sports, games, practice and play areas
- Golf facilities
- Water used for recreation, except where it forms a play feature of an outdoor play area

3.8 The figure provided for outdoor sports has been calculated on the number of pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts with community use, this figure falls short of the 1.80 ha per 1000 population identified in the local plan and again needs to be treated with caution as the audit of provision using Sport England methodology has identified a surplus of pitches across the City. The pitch figure is subject to change as pitches are provided for community use through schools and this can change if schools withdraw pitch use. This is critical, as education sports facilities (indoor and outdoor), can provide additional and accessible local facilities, to complement those provided through the City and the private sector. The schools interpretation of community use may also be questioned.

### Quantity Standards

#### Indoor Sports Facilities

3.9 The calculation for indoor sports provision is not shown in the above table as the applied methodology is based on square metres per person; based on the current levels of provision identified in Section III of the main strategy the following standards have been established for indoor sports centre provision, based on Sport England methodology:

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

## Standard of Current Swimming Pool Water Space required per person

### Swimming Pool Provision –

Current water space in Worcester = 1136m<sup>2</sup>  
(Note this figure includes the Canon Health Club 160m<sup>2</sup>, Kings 312.5m<sup>2</sup> and RNIB 207 m<sup>2</sup>)

Current publicly accessible water space in Worcester (figure based on City of Worcester Pool @ 312.5 m<sup>2</sup> and Worcester Citizen's Pool @144 m<sup>2</sup>)

= 456.5m<sup>2</sup>  
2001 population Worcester = 93,353

Current level of provision for swimming pool water space (based on all water space) = 0.0121m<sup>2</sup> per head of population (Note that the Sport England Facility Calculator recommends a figure of 0.0104m<sup>2</sup> (based on the calculator identifying a total water space of 823.5 m<sup>2</sup>) – the database has omitted the 25 m pool at Kings School),

Current level of provision for swimming pool water space (based on publicly accessible pool space only = 456.5m<sup>2</sup>) = 0.004 m<sup>2</sup> per head of population

The Sport England recommended standard of provision based on the Facility Calculator parameters) standard for water provision in Worcester is 0.0104 m<sup>2</sup> per head of population or 976.12m<sup>2</sup> of publicly accessible water space.

The Actual Current water space = 1136 m<sup>2</sup> of overall water space, which gives 0.0121 m<sup>2</sup> per head of population, based on a population of 93,353. Therefore if all water space is included the City has a very slight surplus when measured against the Sport England Standard.

However in calculating standards it is community accessible water space that counts and as such the City has a required provision (in accordance with the Sport England Calculator) of 976.12m<sup>2</sup> and an actual provision of community accessible water space of 456.5m<sup>2</sup> or 0.004m<sup>2</sup> per head of population. This is below the Sport England (based on the Facility Calculator parameters) recommended provision per head of population.

It is equally important to consider the quality of the publicly accessible provision in the longer term with both the publicly accessible pools being old, dated and in need of substantial upgrade or replacement especially with regards to be compliant with the latest DDA requirements.

### Indoor Sports Provision

Standard of m<sup>2</sup> space for badminton court space per person Worcester (The Sport England Indoor Facility Model calculates provision based on a 4 court badminton hall)

Size of four court sports hall (Sport England Guidance) = 594 m<sup>2</sup>

Divide by 4 (badminton Courts) = 148.5m<sup>2</sup>  
badminton court

Worcester current community use supply = 20  
badminton Courts

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

Total current m<sup>2</sup> = 2970 m<sup>2</sup>

Total population = 93,353

Required standard of badminton court provision (28 badminton courts divided by 4 x 594m<sup>2</sup>) = 4158 m<sup>2</sup>

Sport England required standard = 0.043 m<sup>2</sup> of badminton court space per 1000 head of population

**Actual Standard for Worcester of badminton court space = 0.031m<sup>2</sup>**

The current level of indoor sports hall space is therefore below the actual standard required for the City, based on a population of 93,353

(It is important to note that Halls that only accommodate 1 or 2 Badminton courts have limited use for the community. The Sport England Methodology is based on a four court hall and as such the facility calculator identifies a need for 7 halls based on current population)

It is important to note the Governments agenda is to increase participation in sport and as such demand for facilities is likely to increase, it is also important to recognise the University of Worcester has plans and aspirations to increase its intake of students in the near future, again potentially placing increased demand on facilities.

- **Sports Halls** – Sport England required provision of 28 Badminton courts = 4158m<sup>2</sup> in total based in population of 93,393. Sport England Recommend the required a standard of 0.043m<sup>2</sup> of badminton court space per 1,000 population
- **Health and Fitness Provision** – The City currently has 667 fitness stations (387 in private clubs requiring membership and therefore not readily available for public use) The City has a required provision of a total of 276 fitness stations across the City available through pay and play based on 10.3% penetration rate of usage pattern there are currently 280 fitness stations available through pay and play and therefore there is a very slight surplus of publicly accessible fitness stations.

### Indoor Community Recreation facilities

- 3.10 Current community hall provision across the City totals 69. These are well distributed across the City. Management of the community halls is varied, but all offer a range of recreational and active recreational activities. Only a small number of the community halls offer formal sporting activities, with purpose built provision and one offers purpose built youth facilities at the Perdiswell Young People's Centre. During the course of this study, the New Horizon's facility (City Centre) has opened with purpose built provision for young people.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS

- 3.11 Future provision needs to ensure that it is compliant with the recommended Disability Discrimination Act accessibility guidance
- 3.12 The quality of the existing community halls is variable, given that all are managed and funded differently, and all provide different levels and scale of provision. Cultural traditions also mean that some provision is accessed and provided differently.

## Quantity Recommendations

- 3.13 Table 7 below identifies the current level of provision by typology the table also identifies the current provision per 1000 population on a City wide basis and equates to a total provision of **4.53 hectares per 1000 population**.

Table 7 City of Worcester Current and recommended standard of Provision per 1000 population for Outdoor Typologies

Typology	Provision per 1,000 population	Recommended Standard per 1000 population	Comment
Parks and Gardens	0.61	0.61	The actual provision can be used as a guide to establish provision standards for the future. The City does not currently have a standard for parks and gardens and there is no recognised national standard of provision for parks and gardens. Therefore to ensure that the current level of provision is met in the future the 0.61 hectares per 1000 population currently provided should be adopted as the <b>Minimum</b> standard for future provision. This follows the guidance identified within the PPG17 companion guide as a means of establishing standards and is supported by local residents who have identified they believe they have enough open space within their area.
Natural/ Semi-natural Greenspace (including Green Corridors)	1.58	2.0	For natural/ semi natural greenspace there is a nationally recognised standard of provision, (English Nature 2ha per 1000 population standard). The City currently provides 1.51 hectares of natural/ semi natural greenspace per 1000 population and is therefore deficient against the English Nature standard by 0.49 hectares per 1000 population.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS**

Typology	Provision per 1,000 population	Recommended Standard per 1000 population	Comment
<b>Outdoor Sports</b>	1.27	1.8	The Local Plan also identifies the opportunity to develop a hierarchy of provision in terms of outdoor playing pitches with multi pitch sites (4 or more pitches) and facilities to cater for a wide range of sports serving a City wide catchment area; sites of 2 or more pitches being aimed at the community level catchment area, and single pitch sites being used by a very local catchment area.. This approach would create opportunities at all levels, enabling clubs to develop and to have access to facilities for out of season training whilst also being able to play competitively in their local area.
<b>Provision for Children and Young People</b>	0.39	0.6	0.6 per 1,000 (0.4 per 1,000 for 13-19 Yrs and 0.2 per 1,000 up to 12 yrs)
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	0.57	0.5	The City needs to move away from small fragmented amenity space provision and provide larger more purposeful spaces
<b>Allotments</b>	0.4	0.40	The figure for allotments also needs to be treated with caution as current provision falls some way below the identified standard of 0.4 hectares per 1000 population identified in the City Local Plan.  Allotments are very much a demand led facility and as such people should have access to a plot if they want one and the current waiting list is significant .i.e. on every site except the two sites identified as being difficult to let.

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS***

- 3.14 The table above shows the variance by typology per 1000 population across the City. The main report identifies the deficiencies and surplus on a ward by ward basis. On a ward by ward basis several wards are found to be lacking in certain Typologies and this should be used as a guide for future provision.
- 3.15 It is not possible to calculate standards of provision for Churchyards and Cemeteries in the context of this study, it is important to acknowledge that Churchyards are not created with the intention of providing informal or passive recreation opportunities. Churchyards only exist where there is a church and as such, standards of provision need to usually focus on quality, rather than quantity.
- 3.16 The above figures represent the minimum standard based on current provision, it is important to note that certain provision is demand led such as provision of pitches, bowls, tennis and allotments, therefore provision is inextricably linked to market forces and the implementation of sports development programmes, support for local clubs and a proactive marketing and management strategy for provision such as allotments
- 3.17 A more detailed analysis on a ward by ward basis of the surplus and deficiencies is included within section V of the main report

### **Recommended Qualitative Standards**

- 3.18 The City should aspire to provide 'Good' Quality Facilities as a minimum, across all identified typologies; in order for this to be achieved the City Council will need to allocate sufficient resources, and/or work in partnership, to improve the identified (See Appendix 7 of main report) open spaces and indoor facilities that fall below this standard. This approach will ensure equality of access for all residents within the City Council boundaries, to a consistent quality of provision.
- 3.19 As an illustration of applying this standard, the City should aim to have signage, clearly identifying ownership, and contact information, a bench and a bin on all publicly accessible recreational sites, and ensure that each site is well-maintained and managed.

### **Recommended Accessibility Standards**

- 3.20 In order to establish the minimum size of future provision, the average size of each typology has been calculated from current levels of provision; it is recommended that this average figure should be used as the minimum size of future provision. The recommended minimum size by typology is outlined below, along with the recommended accessibility standards for each typology. The accessibility standards have been developed on the basis of both the current levels of provision (location, quality, typology), and the feedback from the community consultation.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS**

Table 8 Average Size and Accessibility for Future Provision

Typology		Minimum Size of Future Provision	Recommended Accessibility Standards
Indoor Sports	Sports Hall	0.043 m <sup>2</sup> per 1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 3.2 miles of home when travelling by car</li> </ul>
	Swim Space	0.0104m <sup>2</sup> per population	
Indoor Community Recreation Facilities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents should have access to a good quality indoor community recreation facility within 0.62 miles of where they live</li> </ul>
Parks and gardens		6.1ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents should have access to a good quality park within 0.67 miles of their home</li> <li>• Within a mile of their home</li> </ul>
Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace ( Including Green Corridors)		3.8ha	Residents should have access to good quality natural/semi natural greenspace within 1.4 miles of their home
Outdoor Sports		1.8ha	Residents should have access to a good quality facility within 1.4 miles of where they live
Amenity		1.61ha	Residents should have access to good quality amenity space within 0.67 miles of their home
Allotments		1.3ha	Allotments are demand led and as such provision should be to the current City Standard of 0.4 ha per 1000 pop as demand exceeds supply with 100+people on waiting lists across the City
Provision for Children and Young People		400m <sup>2</sup>	Resident should have access to good quality play provision within 0.5miles of their home
Churchyards and Cemeteries		No standards to be set	Churchyards and cemeteries should be maintained to the highest possible standard as a mark of respect

N.B the City aspires to provide play areas that will meet the current nationally recognised LEAP standard (Locally Equipped Areas for Play) as such the NPFA guidance that advocates the development of a LEAP



## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE III: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS***

has a minimum size established for LEAPS of 400m<sup>2</sup>, the NPFA Standard also identifies a LEAP having 5 pieces of equipment.

With regards to Playing Pitch Provision, if dual use facilities are excluded from the calculations results in a deficiency of provision against Sport England standards, however the opening of facilities at the Elgar School will be reduced.

- 3.21 Accessibility also needs to give consideration to other factors such as programming of activities, opening time arrangements and cost especially in consideration of paid facilities such as indoor sport, indoor community facilities. Whereas for outdoor provision pitch hire, availability, membership policies and waiting lists all influence the perceived accessibility of facilities
- 3.22 From the audit it is clear that cost of hire across the City varies significantly between type of facility and ownership for example the cost of playing bowls on a casual basis per season varies across the City from £55 to £75 per season, whereas membership of a club entitles players to unlimited use.
- 3.23 With regards to allotment provision there is space to improve the site security and facilities at a number of sites which could in turn facilitate additional, wider use.
- 3.24 The links to other strategies to enhance benefits such as improved physical activity, healthy eating initiatives and such like could be explored further if sites were further accessible to all groups and individuals.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE IV: APPLYING PROVISION STANDARDS

## Introduction

### Applying Provision Standards to Indoor Sports Facilities

4.1 Table 9 demonstrates the comparison of provision of indoor sports facilities against the identified recommended standards of provision

Table 9

Type of Provision	Standard	Current Provision	Difference	Comments
<b>Sports Halls</b>	Sport England recommend a standard of 4158m <sup>2</sup> for the existing population this equates to a requirement for 28 badminton courts or a requirement of 0.043m <sup>2</sup> of badminton space per head of population	The City currently has 20 badminton courts that are publicly accessible in recognised four court sports halls or 0.31m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population	+ 8 badminton court (0.12m <sup>2</sup> per head of population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sport England recommended standard is 0.031 m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population based on all above facilities, inclusive of all dual-use facilities. On the basis of all current indoor sports hall space in the City there is a standard of 0.025 m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population. <b>This is a deficiency compared with the recommended Sport England standard. This deficiency has been reduced with the opening of the new NOF 3 sports hall at Elgar School.</b></li> <li>The position regarding existing sports hall provision in the City is misleading; there is little provision for casual access to sports halls during the day except at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, given that the dual use facilities are not available for casual use during the day.</li> <li>Given that there is currently sufficient quantity of indoor facility provision in the City, the key issue to be addressed is quality (given the age and design of some existing City facilities). It is also critical to stress that current sufficiency of provision does not mean that existing facilities can be 'lost'. The assessment of need supports the case for retention of the existing level of provision, but does not rule out rationalisation and replacement on alternative sites; this approach retains the quantity of the local provision whilst addressing the issues of quality at City facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Requirement for 976.12m <sup>2</sup> water space (0.0104m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Total accessible water space =456.5m <sup>2</sup> (0.004m <sup>2</sup> )	-519.62m <sup>2</sup> (0.006m <sup>2</sup> per person )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the standard calculation is based on there being a current water space supply of 456m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. excluding private provision with limited club use), then the current provision is 0.004 m<sup>2</sup> of publicly accessible water space per head of population, which is below the recommended standard for the City (based on Sport England guidelines). This does mean that there should be no loss of publicly accessible water space, without alternative provision being made</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Fitness Provision</b>	276 Fitness Stations (based on 10.% penetration rate)	280 Public Sector provision	+ 4 stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small surplus exists against the current required provision for pay and play stations. This needs to be treated with caution, as population figures indicate an expected increase, especially with the proposed expansion.</li> </ul>

# ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STAGE IV: APPLYING PROVISION STANDARDS***

## **Applying Provision Standards for Outdoor Facilities**

- 4.2 It is important when setting standards of provision to recognise that the distribution of provision by Typology varies significantly across the City. The City's Local Plan does not identify specific standards of provision for formal parks and gardens or natural/ semi natural greenspace. The Local Plan identifies a standard for casual and informal space that excludes parks and gardens and as such it is difficult to compare the current provision of parks and gardens against the Local Plan standards. Therefore the current provision for parks and gardens (0.61ha per1000 population) should be used as a **minimum** standard to guide future provision, so as to ensure, at least, the current level of provision is maintained.
- 4.3 The recommended standards for open space have been developed using Current provision per typology measured against the total population. The exception to this has been for natural and semi natural greenspace where the English Nature 2ha per 1000 population has been applied.
- 4.4 Table 10 below illustrates the variance in provision of open space across the City Wards by Typology for outdoor facilities. Where there is no current standard set, the recommended standard is based upon the current level of provision, with the suggestion that this is the minimum standard of provision for the particular typology. The figures provide an assessment of the current City wide standard for each particular typology against the actual provision per 1000 population. This is then compared against the recommended standard to demonstrate on a ward by ward basis the surplus/deficiency in the actual level of provision.
- 4.5 N.B Minus figures are the total deficiency by typology against the provision standards
- 4.6 Existing deficiencies have been calculated City wide and for each ward.
- 4.7 Table 10 below also shows where future provision, by typology needs, to be targeted to meet the City standards based on current levels and locations of provision. It is clear from the table that deficiencies exist in the provision of formal parks and gardens, natural and semi natural greenspace and amenity space on a ward by ward basis. As stated earlier the figure for allotments needs to be treated with caution as allotments are a demand based facility.

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Table 10 Surplus / Deficiencies in Provision of Outdoor Facilities

Typology		Parks and gardens	Natural/ Semi Natural (English Nature Standard)	Amenity	Allotments	Provision for Young People/ Children	Outdoor sports	Churchyards and Cemeteries	
Surplus deficiency based on identified standards		0.61	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.61	1.8	N/A	
Ward	Population	Actual surplus or deficiency against the above standards						Standards set by Sport England towards a level playing field supply and demand calculation	(see PPG17 Annex - Typologies / PPG 17 process is not appropriate)
Arboretum	5612	0.36	-11.22	5.83	1.77	0.15			
Battenhall	5214	-1.84	-5.74	-2.52	3.02	-0.57			
Bedwardine	7876	-4.80	2.82	8.14	-1.90	-0.83			
Cathedral	7458	-2.45	-14.22	-1.52	-0.06	-0.59			
Claines	7875	-1.02	-11.35	-2.34	3.31	-0.68			
Gorse Hill	5523	-3.37	-2.35	-2.38	-2.01	-0.80			
Nunnery	8011	23.34	3.21	-2.92	-3.20	-1.02			
Rainbow Hill	5845	-3.56	-11.68	-2.92	-2.34	-0.40			
St Clement	5493	0.85	6.21	-1.60	-1.75	-0.70			
St John	8033	-0.70	-11.83	0.82	2.76	-1.09			
St Peter's Parish	5622	0.21	-3.11	2.29	-2.05	0.43			
St Stephen	5047	-3.08	-7.99	-2.52	-1.29	-0.62			
Warndon	5294	-3.23	-8.59	-2.45	-2.12	0.70			
Warndon Parish North	5229	-3.19	31.27	2.73	-2.09	0.44			
Warndon Parish South	5225	2.26	5.52	7.52	-2.09	0.98			

4.8 The table above shows the actual surplus or deficiency of land provision in hectares by typology when measured against the recommended standard. For example Arboretum shows a slight surplus of +0.36 hectares of park provision when measured against the 0.61 hectare per 1000 population standard, yet it has a deficiency of -11.22 hectares of natural and semi natural greenspace when measured against the 2 hectare per 1000 population standard set for natural and semi natural greenspace. The City could therefore consider a change of use of those typologies showing an excess in Arboretum (namely parks, amenity and allotments (although allotments needs careful consideration as they are demand led facilities)). However in Arboretum even changing the surplus demonstrated within these typologies would still equate to a deficiency of natural and semi natural greenspace within the ward of 3.11 hectares. It is important to note that this would need further research to identify on a site by site basis what local people require and would have to be subject to extensive consultation.

## ***SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS***

4.9 Table 11 below highlights the areas above or below the minimum standard within the wards across the following typologies parks and gardens, natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people, allotments. The analysis has been based on the following thresholds

- Extensive Over Provision(**EOP**) – above the minimum standard by over 5 hectares
- Over Provision(**OP**)- above the minimum standard by between 1- 5 hectares
- Average (**AV**)-above or below the minimum standard by up to 1 hectare
- Under provision (**UP**)- below the minimum standard by 1 – 5 hectares
- Extensive under provision(**EUP**) – below the minimum standard by 5 hectare or more

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

**Table 11 Level of Provision per Typology Compared Against the Recommended Standards**

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
Arboretum	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Extensive over provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standards for allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Battenhall	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and allotments Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Bedwardine	EOP						Extensive under provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standards for parks and gardens Below the minimum standards of provision for children and young people
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Cathedral	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and amenity greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Claines	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standards for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Grorse Hill	EOP						Below minimum standards of provision for

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Nunnery	EOP						Below minimum standards of provision for allotments, provision for children and young people and allotments Extensive over provision of parks and gardens
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Rainbow Hill	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Over provision of parks and gardens and below minimum standards for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St Clement	EOP						Significant over provision of natural and semi natural greenspace, under provision of amenity greenspace and allotments when compared to minimum standards
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St John	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for provision of allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St Peter's	EOP						Above minimum standard for amenity greenspace, extensive under provision against the minimum standard for natural and semi natural greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
St Stephen	EOP						Above the minimum standard of provision for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon Parish North	EOP						Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and amenity greenspace, Below the minimum standard for natural and semi natural greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon Parish South	EOP						Extensive over provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standard for provision of parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						



- 4.10 From the above figure it is clear that the City has to make some informed decisions with regards to future provision, the information above needs to be considered in terms of where can planning policy govern a change of land use to ensure that residents have equal accessibility to provision.
- 4.11 Planning policy needs to redress the surplus and deficiencies on a ward by ward basis; policy needs to consider the disposal of sites in areas above the minimum standard to cater for the deficiencies in other typologies or to ensure that disposal secures funding for outdoor sport and open space facilities.
- 4.12 The City needs to implement area focused protective policies guided by the local development framework for those areas low in provision.
- 4.13 In terms of future provision, outlined below in table 12 are an indication of where the City needs to protect, provide new provision or potentially change use to fill the gaps in the provision across the wards. It is important that disposal of sites is seen very much as a last resort. Disposal also should only be considered following further consultation with the local community that will be most affected.
- 4.14 It is important to note that no recommendations regarding allotments have been made. Allotments are demand led and further to the consultation undertaken it is not clear if the current allotments are in the right place to meet local needs as sites have traditionally been hard to let or generate low interest

**Table 12 Indication of options for future provision**

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
Arboretum	EOP			Change/Dispose		
	OP					
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
Battenhall	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av					
	UP			Protect	Protect	
	EUP		New Provision			
Bedwardine	EOP			Change/Dispose		
	OP	Protect				
	Av		Protect			
	UP				New Provision	
	EUP					
Cathedral	EOP					
	OP	Protect		Protect		
	Av				Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
Claines	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
Gorse Hill	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP		Protect	Protect		
	EUP					
Nunnery	EOP	Protect				
	OP		Protect/Change			
	Av					
	UP			New Provision	New Provision	
	EUP					
Rainbow Hill	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
St Clement	EOP		Protect/Change			

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
	OP					
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP			Protect		
	EUP					
St John	EOP					
	OP					
	Av	Protect		Protect	Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
St Peter's	EOP					
	OP			Protect		
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
St Stephen	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
Warndon	EOP		Protect/Change			

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			Protect		
	EUP					
Warndon Parish North	EOP					
	OP	Protect		Protect		
	Av				New Provision	
	UP		New Provision			
	EUP					
Warndon Parish South	EOP			Protect/Change		
	OP	Protect				
	Av		Protect		Protect	
	UP					
	EUP					

## Applying Accessibility Standards

### Indoor Sport

- 4.15 Based on the 2001 Census figure of 93,353,. This level of population is predicted to increase to 96,400 by 2011; to 98,400 by 2016, and to 100,000 by 2020. On the basis of the identified need, this would require the following level of provision:

Population	2006	2011	2020
	93,353	96,400	100,000
Water space Required per person (0.0121m <sup>2</sup> per head of population)	970 m <sup>2</sup> (4.60pools) 18.38 Lanes	1008.5m <sup>2</sup> (4.75 pools) 18.98 Lanes	1046.21 m <sup>2</sup> (4.92 pools) 19.69 lanes
Badminton Court Space Required	Need 28 courts (7 x 4 court sports halls)	Need 28.22 courts 7.05x 4 court sports halls)	Need 29.27 courts 7.32 x 4 court sports halls

- 4.16 It is important to note that these standards need to be applied not just to the current population level in Worcester, but to future levels too. The additional requirements for indoor facility provision, to meet the needs of the increased population, are based on the identified local standards for the City.
- 4.17 It is clear from the figures above, that the existing deficiencies in swimming facilities need to be addressed to meet current demand, and future demand, given the identified increases in population.
- 4.18 In order to increase provision, the existing facilities in the City, which are not available for community use e.g. education sports halls, or facilities which are only available for limited community use e.g. swimming pools at Kings, RNIB New College etc, should be further investigated, to see if there is potential to open up access for community use. Equally, there is potential to open a dialogue with the commercial sector e.g. Cannons, to identify whether there is potential for some community access to the swimming pool.

### Applying Accessibility Standards Outdoor Provision

- 4.19 Against the above distance thresholds the following deficiencies of accessible provision have been identified;
- **Formal Parks and gardens** - deficiencies of provision in Claines, Warndon, Warndon North, Rainbow Hill, Gorse Hill and Bedwardine
  - **Natural /Semi natural greenspace** - no accessibility deficiencies

## ***SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS***

- **Amenity Space** - accessibility deficiencies occur in Claines, St Stephen, Cathedral and Nunnery, slight deficiencies occur in Warndon, St John's, Bedwardine, Battenhall and Warndon South
- **Provision for Young People and Children** - for fixed play equipment there is an accessibility deficiency in Claines for teenage provision the accessibility deficiencies are Claines, Battenhall and St. Peters with slight deficiencies also in St Stephen ,Arboretum, Warndon, Cathedral, Bedwardine and St .Clement

# ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE V: DRAFT POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

## **Introduction**

- 5.1 The PPG17 audit and assessment has identified several specific issues relating to the provision, quality, accessibility and quality of open space, indoor sport and indoor community recreation facilities across the City.
- 5.2 The key priority the City needs to consider is to redress the deficiencies in provision as appropriate both in terms of quantity and quality. The GIS has identified accessibility issues faced by local residents when trying to use facilities at a local level.
- 5.3 The following recommendations are made to address the findings of the assessment undertaken. A number of recommended actions are proposed relating to sites in general, and in relation to specific typologies.

## **Generic Recommendations**

- 5.4 A number of recommendations are made in relation to all sites and the assessment undertaken. These are concerned with the use of information gathered and the further development of the study in future years. The following recommendations are made:
  - Audit sport, leisure and open spaces on a regular basis (every two/three years) and publish findings. This will allow trend data to be collated and improvements to be tracked. It is important that findings are published to enable wider stakeholders to track progress.
  - Develop a central record of all sports and leisure facilities (indoor and outdoor), and open space to include the findings of the assessment undertaken. Currently many different sections of the Council hold this information; this information is not always consistent (sites listed by different names etc). The central record should include access to GIS mapping.
  - Establish a central consultation database for the Council, using the data and contacts gathered through this study. This information is held currently by a number of different sections/individuals in the Council; in the course of this study, a number of inaccuracies/wrong contact details etc have been identified; establishing a central database, which is regularly updated, will address these issues for the future.
  - Establish a consultative Steering Group, involving representatives from both sport and leisure, and planning, to consider specific site development proposals relating to existing, former and proposed sport and leisure provision. This inter-departmental group should be established to share, and utilise the expertise of leisure and planning officers, to ensure that specific site development issues are fully considered, and the implications shared, before a planning decision is made.
  - Continue to develop the marketing information produced about the parks and garden facilities available, key activities accommodated and access arrangements. The Council should seek to work with key partners in future marketing, such as the local Primary Care Trust (PCT), the wider voluntary sector, education, the Youth Service etc to ensure that open space fulfils a valuable role in meeting wider social objectives (e.g. health improvement, increased active participation).



## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - STAGE V: DRAFT POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

- Develop an access standard regarding physical access for those users and potential users with a disability; this should relate to both programming, and operational accessibility.
- Review maintenance standards for open space, and agree with local people any changes. Report on performance annually. It is important to set quality standards for each of the open space categories.
- Develop and fund a programme of signage installation. The absence of signage or the presence of outdated signage was found to be a key weakness of many sites audited. Develop a consistent approach to the provision of signage at all sites, through a rolling programme of installation and improvement. All sites should have a sign with site details, ownership and contact numbers. This can address a number of issues including helping with the reporting of vandalism and improving community safety.
- Continue to work towards the reduction of the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour in parks and gardens
- Establish and implement a programme of action to address the actual, and perceived, issues of safety in parks and gardens and open spaces. This could take the form of installing CCTV at identified sites, resourcing Park staff posts, or investing in park/open space infrastructure to encourage increased use, which in turn may have a positive impact on the fear of crime because more people are likely to be around.

N.B More detailed recommendations for each typology can be found in Section V of the main report.

**WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL**

PPG17 Open Spaces Indoor Sports and Community Recreation  
Assessment

*A Final Report*

*By*

**Strategic Leisure Limited**

**July 2006**

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# SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

- 1.1 Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) was appointed in December 2004 to undertake an assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities (PPG 17<sup>1</sup> compliant) to identify local needs for provision, and opportunities for enhancement, development or replacement of current facilities.

## Scope of the Study

- 1.2 The study adheres to the guidance detailed in *“Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17”* which details guidance on undertaking local assessments of open space, sport and recreation provision. The study has included an audit of all existing indoor and outdoor open space, sport and recreational facilities in terms of:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Accessibility

- 1.3 The study has also given consideration to the following factors:

- Different uses of facilities
- Classification and differing typologies of provision
- The scale and availability of resources for maintenance / management
- English Natures *“Natural Accessible Greenspace Standards”*

- 1.4 The study undertaken has included:

- Consideration of the likely needs up to 2010
- A review of existing open space, leisure and recreation policies contained within the adopted plan 2004
- A range of consultation exercises to ascertain the views of the local community, key interest groups and wider stakeholders
- Consideration to all appropriate facilities within the City including provision by the local authority (including education), private and voluntary sectors
- An assessment of playing pitch provision using the methodology detailed in *“Toward a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies”* (Sport England, 2002)
- Recommendations for local standards of provision with regard to quantity, quality and accessibility for inclusion within the developing Local Development Framework

## The Vision

- 1.5 It is important that a vision is adopted to reflect the aspirations for open space, sport and recreation in meeting the City Council's corporate objectives. An extension of the vision detailed in the Council's Community strategy (2003) has been adopted:

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<sup>1</sup> PPG17 – Planning Policy Guidance Note 17

## SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

*“Working together to create and sustain an environment across the City of Worcester which stimulates prosperity and a good quality of life for all”*

### Overview of City of Worcester

- 1.6 The City of Worcester comprises of urban settlements spreading from the inner City to the more rural fringes of its boundaries with its neighbours. The River Severn cuts through the City and creates a natural East and West Bank. The City centre is one of the main shopping centres in the West Midlands .The City covers a geographic area of 3,327 hectares.
- 1.7 City of Worcester is a “green” Council, and indeed providing a cleaner greener area is one of the key objectives of the Council Community strategy. Open countryside, attractive scenery, riverside walks and historic trails all feature within the local landscape.
- 1.8 It is also important to consider the demographic make up of the City as key demographic and socio-economic characteristics are known to influence demand characteristics. For example certain age-groups are known register higher participation rates in a number of sport and leisure activities; deprived communities often experience issues relating to access to services and opportunities; cultural backgrounds may result in some passive and active recreation pursuits being favoured over others; car ownership levels can impact on the range of facilities that can be accessed. A brief review of the key demographics for the area show that:
- 1.9 **Overall population;** the City has a population of 93,353 of which 49% are male and 51% female according to the Office of National Statistics 2001 (ONS).
- 1.10 The Office of National Statistics (ONS) profile of the City population (2001) shows that the distribution across key age groups is in line with the average in England & Wales. The age structure is essentially a middle aged one 42.6% between the 30-59 years old. It is important to consider key differences in profile as some age groups have a higher propensity to participate in sport and active recreation than others (particularly young people). Key differences within the City are:
- A higher percentage of people aged 20-29 years old than the average in England & Wales
  - A slightly lower percentage of young people aged 16-19 when compared to the national average for England and Wales
  - 96.6% of the population are white, in comparison to the England & Wales average this is very high (90.9%), the next largest ethnic group is Pakistani comprising 1.3% of the total population
- 1.11 **Ethnicity.** Approximately 3.4% of the City population are from an ethnic minority, principally from Pakistani origin (Based on 2001 Census data). Compared to regional and national comparisons. The City has a low minority ethnic population.

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- 1.12 **Deprivation Indices.** Levels of deprivation are measured on a localised basis through data from “super output areas”. These provide a clearer picture to ward data (on which previous indices of deprivation were based) of deprivation at a local level. Deprivation (indices of multiple deprivation) and areas where a significant proportion of local residents are on a low income have recently been mapped by Community Services. These show that:
- There are pockets of deprivation in Warndon
  - The most deprived area is Tollandine
- 1.13 Population is projected to increase over the next 10 years with population projected to be at 98,400 Based on the 2001 Census figure of 93,353. (The current population of the City is 94,200; this is a predicted estimate and is slightly higher than the previously recorded population in the 2001 Census see paragraph 1.9). This level of population is predicted to increase to 96,400 by 2011 and to 100,000 by 2020.

### Strategic Review & Policy Background

#### National Policy

- 1.14 The need for improved use and management of open spaces particularly public parks in urban areas has seen increased commitment demonstrated in national regional and local government policy. The following key documents summarised in Figure 1.1 below have provided the impetus for the development and preparation of this strategy. They include:

Figure 1.1 National and Local Planning Guidance Strategic Framework

PLANNING GUIDANCE	Objective
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17.	Outlines the importance for local authorities to undertake robust assessments of the local need for quality open spaces. In order to develop local standards which are based on local supply and demand for facilities.
<i>“Living Places – Cleaner, Safer, Greener”</i> (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2002)	Gives a commitment to develop a clearer national framework for urban parks and greenspaces
Urban Greenspaces Task Force <i>“Greenspaces, Better Places”</i>	Recognises that parks and open spaces have the potential to make a significant contribution to urban regeneration by making places more liveable and sustainable whilst also enriching the quality of people’s lives and local communities
The Framework for Sport in England	These documents provide the national sporting context for this study.



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PLANNING GUIDANCE	Objective
	The importance of a range of facility provision is identified, encompassing formal sporting facilities, and an environment that facilitates informal active recreation.
City of Worcester Local Plan adopted 2004 and supplementary planning guidance	The Local plan forms the basis for decisions on planning applications and provides the policies and proposal framework the Council believe will strike the right balance between the need to cater for development requirements across the City and the need to protect and enhance the environmental qualities of the area.
Liveability Fund Project Plan 'Sustainable Communities building for the future'	The Council was part of a Worcestershire partnership that was successful in 2003 in securing £3.4 million from the Liveability fund to meet the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve service delivery through strategic partnership working, benchmarking and capital works for physical improvements to sites</li> <li>• Creation of a new Countryside volunteer agency 'Worcestershire Wardens'</li> <li>• Achieving new standards in design and service delivery/ management</li> <li>• Dissemination and sharing best practice with other districts and counties across the country</li> </ul>
City of Worcester Community Strategy 2001-2021	The strategy aspires to connect communities through a shared vision and key priorities. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prosperous City</li> <li>• A green and healthy City</li> <li>• A safe City</li> <li>• An inclusive City</li> </ul>

- 1.15 In the recent **Urban Parks Assessment** undertaken through the DETR the study illustrates the shortfall in budgets for public Greenspace nationally to be in excess of £1.3 billion.
- 1.16 A prescribed methodology for the assessment of playing pitch provision is detailed in "*Toward a Level Playing Field*" (Sport England, CCPR, 2002). In addition to the assessment methodology, a number of policies to oppose the loss of playing fields are detailed.
- 1.17 The Local Strategic Partnership '**The Worcester Alliance**' has developed the Community Strategy for the City.

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1.18 This provides a working plan designed to shape the City over the next 10 years, based on the views of the local people and sets out a vision of the kind of place the local community want to live, work, volunteer and study. The strategy sets out how the objectives can be achieved.

1.19 The Community Strategy covers issues such as:

- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Reducing crime
- Transport & Traffic congestion reduction
- Environmental issues reducing litter, recycling
- Heritage, culture and leisure
- Education improving attainment
- Lifelong learning improving health

1.20 Examples of Community Strategy objectives to be achieved:

- To give the City Centre a facelift and to enhance the riverside
- To improve cycle paths and routes
- Increase litter collections
- Reduce fly-tipping by 33% at Offerton lane
- To increase physical activity amongst young people by 61%
- Secure funding for the refurbishment of Worcester Swimming Pool and Perdiswell Sports Centre
- Use the planning system to link up greenspace and enhance biodiversity and nature conservation

### **Rationale: Why Develop a Strategy?**

1.21 The provision of good quality, accessible open spaces, sport and recreation facilities can make a positive contribution to a number of key social objectives. These include:

1.22 **Promoting and supporting the urban renaissance** agenda through the provision of local networks of well maintained and well managed, open spaces sports and recreational facilities help to create urban environments that are safe, attractive and clean. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality.

1.23 **Supporting rural renewal** – the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas. Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sport and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of those people that live in the remoter areas.

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- 1.24 **Promoting social inclusion and community cohesion** – well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activity, they can bring people from deprived communities together providing opportunities for wider social interaction.
- 1.25 **Health and well being** – open space, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play promoting healthy living and preventing illness and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.
- 1.26 **Promoting more sustainable development** – by ensuring that open space , sports and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking or cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned in locations well served by public transport.
- 1.27 By undertaking an assessment at a local level, the development of a strategy can help to Improve, Protect and widen involvement in the open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.28 **Improve** open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and to encourage greater use by all members of the community. A key driver for this is to provide the residents of the City with safe, accessible, attractive provision and facilities that are of the right type and meet the needs of the communities that use them.
- 1.29 **Protect** valuable provision from development, ensuring that new landscape schemes contribute to improving an area and to ensure quality is maintained by making sure the correct levels of funding are in place.
- 1.30 Identify processes for **involvement** – the Council is keen to involve local communities in the management of green spaces and wishes to create opportunities for people to be involved and have ownership, working together to improve the green space.

### **Key Principles of the Strategy**

- 1.31 There are several key principles in the development of Strategy they are to:
- To concentrate on providing quality provision
  - To develop wider use of facilities with restricted access e.g. school 'facilities'
  - To secure high levels of access at a local level to a range of 'facilities' (variety of greenspaces and sport/recreation facilities)
  - To ensure the Council is providing 'Good' quality sustainable services and 'facilities'
  - To identify opportunities for partnership working and encourage cross service working whilst also providing opportunities for the local community to be proactively involved in local 'facilities'
  - To respond to local needs when there is a clear articulated consensus of opinion

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- To concentrate on providing sports pitches at strategic locations fit for 'purpose'
- To develop local standards to meet local needs

### **Summary of Key Tasks**

1.32 In summary the following key tasks have been undertaken to inform the study:

- Site visits to over 365 sites identified in the City Council's Green Space Register, including 145 playing pitches on 39 sites, 23 Allotment Sites, over 50 Play Areas, 4 Indoor Sports Facilities and 5 Community centres
- Postal surveys to more than 100 sports clubs to ask for views about quantity, quality and access
- Stakeholder Interviews with more than 20 identified stakeholders
- A postal survey of the Council's 35 Elected Members
- A Door to Door survey encompassing 1000 interviews with local residents
- An internet based self-completion questionnaire
- Consultation via questionnaires in local libraries, youth and community centres
- A postal questionnaire to all Friends of Parks Groups
- A postal questionnaire to all Allotment Societies
- A review of existing consultation and market research undertaken
- A FREEPHONE consultation service operating for an eight-week period which was promoted in a number of local newspapers
- Consultation with 90+ young people across the City
- A number of mapping exercises to assess levels of provision and accessibility
- Demand Modelling for indoor facilities using the parameters of the Sport England Facilities Planning Model
- The use of demographic data sets to determine the propensity to participate in key leisure activities

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### **Types of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities**

- 2.1 In order to assess in some detail the adequacy of open space, sport and recreation provision, it is necessary to consider the different types of provision and their primary role and function. Knowing why and what an open space or sports facility is there "to do" is critical to making judgements about its adequacy in respect of quantity, quality and accessibility.

### **The City of Worcester Approach: Methodology**

- 2.2 For the assessment, the Companion Guide to PPG17 identifies five key Stages to undertaking an assessment of playing pitches, indoor facilities and open space. These are broadly:

- **Stage 1** – Identifying Local Needs
- **Stage 2** – Auditing Local Provision
- **Stage 3** – Setting Provision Standards
- **Stage 4** – Applying Provision Standards
- **Stage 5** – Policy Options

- 2.3 The desirable outcomes from undertaking a PPG 17 Assessment are to provide local people with networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sports and recreation facilities in both rural and urban areas, which will meet the needs of **LOCAL** people and visitors. PPG 17 strives to provide a balance between enhancing existing provision and new provision. The study undertaken in the City has followed the framework provided.

- 2.4 A number of key tasks have been undertaken to complete the assessment and develop standards of provision and recommendations. These are summarised below:

- 2.5 **Stage 1: Identification of local needs:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:

- A review of the implications and priorities of existing strategies to identify links with existing strategic priorities
- A review of existing policies and provision standards relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities
- Consultation with the community and stakeholders via Sports Club Surveys, School Surveys, Young People Survey and Face-to-face meeting. Additionally a door to door survey to 1000 householders has been undertaken across the wards to capture the views of facility users and non-users the sample was specifically weighted in those areas the City Council anticipated where the 'hard to reach' groups were located
- An ethnic origins survey was undertaken with a group of young people unfortunately the response was poor and the sample size statistically invalid

- 2.6 **Stage 2: Audit of local provision:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:

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- Review of quantitative information held by the City
- Site visits to all known open space, sport and recreation facilities with community use (across all sectors)
- Consultation with facility providers
- Mapping facilities in respect of location and catchment area

2.7 **Stage 3: Setting Provision Standards:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:

- Quantity Standards set using the findings of facility audits, local consultation and demand modelling
- Quality Standards set using the findings of facility audits and local consultation.
- Accessibility Standards set using the findings of facility audits, local consultation and mapping catchment areas

2.8 **Stage 4: Application of Provision Standards:** On the basis of the set standards, application of these, such as defined catchment areas, the impact of poor quality, allows the:

- Identification of deficiencies in accessibility
- Identification of deficiencies in quality
- Identification of surpluses or deficiencies in quantity

2.9 **Stage 5: Recommendations:** The findings of the process undertaken have allowed a number of key recommendations to be made and the identification of a number of key strategic priorities for the future.

2.10 The assessment and strategy development have been undertaken with consideration to the **quantity, quality and accessibility of facilities**. The **value** of facilities has also been considered.

2.11 The assessment has considered:

2.12 **Quantity.** A number of key questions have been considered, including:

- Is there enough provision to adequately serve the needs of local residents and the sporting community?
- Is current provision in the right place?
- Is there enough provision to adequately serve the City in the future, taking into account changes to demography and the national and local strategic context?
- What is the current mix of provision across all providers?

### **Assessing Quantity**

2.13 The assessment of quantity has been undertaken on the basis of:

- A review of the number of sites and size of provision, in relation to local population

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- Comparison of specific types of facilities e.g. playing pitches and allotments against known demand

2.14 **Quality.** The assessment has considered a number of key questions, including:

- Is the provision available of sufficient quality to be “fit for purpose”?
- Does the quality of provision affect usage and potential usage?
- How is quality perceived by users and non-users?

### Assessing Quality

2.15 The assessment of quality has been undertaken on the basis of:

- Site visits to community accessible facilities to rate a number of key criteria affecting quality
- Quality ratings from key users, residents and specific user groups

2.16 The site quality audits undertaken are based upon the National quality standard for parks and open space ‘The Green Flag Award’. The assessment considers sites from a visitor’s perspective. Appendix 1 contains the site audit proforma.

2.17 The overall quality scores place a site within certain key categories along the “quality value line”. Given the variations in quality assessments undertaken for certain typologies, the various quality lines are illustrated below:

#### Quality Line – Open Space (Parks, Natural, Green Corridors, Amenity)

0% - 15%	16% - 30%	31% - 45%	46% - 60%	61% - 75%	76% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent

#### Quality Line - Allotments

0% - 19%	20% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 79%	80% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent

#### Quality Line – Playing Pitches

0% - 30%	31% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 89%	90% +
Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

#### Quality Line – Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts,

0% - 19%	20% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 79%	80% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent

2.18 Play areas are assessed against a model based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) play value criteria, these are identified later in the report in Section 3, paragraph 3.131 Provision for Young People and Children (Appendix 1a contains the play area proforma).

2.19 **Accessibility.** In relation to accessibility, a number of key questions were posed, including:

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- Is provision physically accessible to the local community?
- Is pricing (where prices apply), and the level of fees and charges a barrier to usage?
- Is provision in the right place to serve local communities?
- How does the management of facilities impact on access?

### Assessing Access

- 2.20 The assessment of accessibility has been undertaken on the basis of:
- Auditing factors known to affect the access to certain types of facility
  - Consultation with local residents
  - Mapping exercises to identify catchment areas for different types of provision
- 2.21 **Map 1** (in the attached document) shows the location of all sites by Typology, (colour coded to reflect the primary typology of the site).
- 2.22 The assessment has looked at facilities on both a City-wide basis and with consideration to the Council's 15 ward areas.
- 2.23 The PPG17 Companion Guide provides guidance on a number of key categories (Typology) of open space, sport and recreation provision. Some partial classification of parks and open spaces has previously been undertaken through the development of the greenspace survey undertaken by the Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust and the City. This led to the development of the City of Worcester greenspace register. Consultation with officers from Leisure Services and Planning Services together with a review of key audit data has led to the adoption of a typology of provision, specific to the City, these are summarised in Figure 2.1 below.

Figure 2.1 City of Worcester Typology

Typology		Primary Purpose
Indoor Sports Facilities		Provision of facilities (sportshall, swimming pool, health and fitness) for participation in indoor sport and leisure activities.
Community Recreation Facilities		Facilities for local people to engage in a variety of activities such as keep fit, yoga and organised activity and for young people to meet and participate in activities in a supervised environment
Parks And Gardens:	Major Park	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
	Country Park	
	Local Park	



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Typology		Primary Purpose
Natural And Semi Natural Green Spaces (Countryside And Woodland) including Green Corridors		Including woodlands. Wildlife conservation, bio diversity and environmental education awareness
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Sports Pitches		Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports
Amenity Green Space	Active	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
	Passive	
Provision For Children And Young People		Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
Allotments		Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
Cemeteries And Closed Churchyards		Quiet contemplation. Site for natural wildlife.

### City of Worcester Local Plan & Supplementary Planning Guidance Review

- 2.24 The Local Plan forms the policy basis for decisions on planning applications, and provides a framework for the nature of development that will be permitted or not permitted over the lifespan of the plan. The assessment of open space, sport and recreation will be critical to informing future development of these policies and planning guidance.
- 2.25 The objectives of the Local Plan linked to Open Space, Indoor and Outdoor Recreation provision can be summarised as follows:
- To encourage environmental improvement, the re-use of land and buildings in urban areas and minimise the use of Greenfield sites for development
  - To protect and enhance the natural environment including biodiversity, urban greenness and landscapes
  - To protect and enhance recreation and amenity open space
  - To provide the best shopping, recreation, education, health and community facilities accessible to all
- 2.26 The Council intends to ensure that the City's leisure needs are met by:

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- Promoting and safeguarding a wide range of well designed sport, leisure, library, cultural and entertainment facilities in accessible and otherwise suitable locations
  - Retaining, enhancing and extending formal and casual recreational open space, and resisting the loss of such assets where provision is below an acceptable standard
  - Maintaining and improving access to the countryside
- 2.27 The leisure policies identified in the Local Plan aim to protect existing facilities provide guidelines for new recreational developments identify standards of provision and maintain and enhance countryside recreation opportunities.
- 2.28 The Local Plan provides a framework for the planning of leisure facilities under the following sections:
- (i) Nature and Landscape Conservation ( Policies NE1 –NE7)
  - (ii) Children’s Play(Policy CLT27,CLT 34)
  - (iii) Contributions to the Open Space resource (Policy CLT33-CLT34)
  - (iv) Indoor Sport/Recreation and Leisure facilities (Policy CLT 12 –CLT 21)
  - (v) Tourism (Policy CLT 35- CLT 37)
  - (vi) Outdoor leisure facilities(Policy CLT 28 –CLT 32)
  - (vii) Green Network and new development ( Policy NE9)
  - (viii) Open playing fields (Policy CLT9)
  - (ix) Youth Facilities (Policy CLT 11)
  - (x) Cemeteries and Crematorium(Policy CLT 11)
  - (xi) Sport pitches (Policies CLT 28- CLT 29)
  - (xii) The River and Canal potential (Policy CLT 42-CLT45)
  - (xiii) Allotments ( Policy CLT 5 –CLT 10)
- 2.29 **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG11)** provides additional guidance for Recreational Open Space and Commuted Sum Payments in support of Policy CLT 34 *Open space standards* within the Local Plan. The Council's Supplementary Guidance outlines prospective developers' responsibilities and requirements in relation to open space and play provision.
- 2.30 The City Council have identified within the Supplementary Planning Guidance (Number 11 April 1988) that it does not consider that any area of the City is over provided in terms of open space and open space facilities and whilst some areas are better served than others there is still a constant need to enhance, upgrade and improve.
- 2.31 The Supplementary Planning Guidance identifies four schedules for calculating levels of provision for new developments, these are:
- **Schedule One Equipped Play Provision**
    - Every house with two or more bed rooms requires 15 square metres of play space
    - The minimum size of an equipped site would be 2000 square metres
    - For a 2000 square metre play space that equates to 133 dwelling units of 2 or more

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- The calculation is cost of 2000sqm+design/capital cost of play x number of units with 2 or more beds ÷ 133 =£'s
  - This has led to a common contribution figure of £320 per 2bed unit
  - **Schedule Two Sports Facility Contributions**
    - 40 square metres of open space provision per every dwelling
    - The schedule recognises that individual dwellings will not provide a full size provision
    - The calculation is therefore –cost (40sq m assuming planning permission exists for four laid out pitches, changing accommodation, appropriate parking, landscape/boundary treatment x No of residential units = £'s
    - This has led to a common figure of £469 per unit
  - **Schedule Three - Allotments**
    - Each residential unit equals a 10sqm contribution
    - The calculation is: cost of land (based on 3 acre site)x No of Residential units =£'s
    - This has led to a common figure £109 per unit
  - **Schedule Four- Casual Informal Open Space**
    - Each residential unit equals a contribution of 12.5 sq m
    - The calculation is based on the cost of 12.5 sq m x No of residential units =£'s
- 2.32 The Supplementary Planning Guidance makes no provision for Parks, Semi natural greenspace. It also identifies that the figures will be reviewed periodically.
- 2.33 The key concern with the current Supplementary Planning Guidance is that it out of date and is not necessarily securing the correct level of provision from developers or meeting current local needs.
- 2.34 The Council has recognised the importance of open space and the contribution it makes to the natural environment and quality of life for people living and working in, and visiting the City.
- 2.35 In the past, as a means of securing open space, the City has sought provision of sports pitches from developers. The Council has developed local standards of provision loosely based on the National Playing Fields Guidance (NPFA 6 acre standard). The City has advocated a slightly higher provision standard of 8.25 acres), and in doing so, has aimed at providing as a minimum standard the following levels of provision.

Figure 2.2 City of Worcester Recommended Standards of Provision

Outdoor Playing Space Provision per 1000 Population	
Equipped Children's Play Areas	0.61 hectares (1.50 acres)
Youth And Adult Use (Sports)	1.80 hectares (4.50 acres)
Allotments	0.40 hectares (1.00 acres)
Casual /Informal Open Areas	0.50 hectares (1.25 acres)
<b>Total provision</b>	<b>3.31 hectares (8.25 acres)</b>

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- 2.36 This includes open space requirements with the exception of woodland areas, private golf courses, cemeteries and areas of amenity land for which additional provision will be required.
- 2.37 PPG 17 guidance advises the setting of standards for different types (typology) of open space provision and to move away from the traditional NPFA type standards as outlined above. However in order to review the effectiveness of existing planning policy it is necessary to draw some similarities from the typologies developed and the former NPFA classification.
- 2.38 For this purpose the following assumptions have been made to compare the former standards set by the City (NPFA derived standards), against the PPG17 typology provision. These are illustrated in Figure 2.3 below:

Figure 2.3 NPFA Standards Compared to PPG17 Typology

NPFA Classification	Policy provision per 1000 Pop	PPG17 Typology	Actual Provision per 1000 Pop	Surplus or Deficiency
Equipped Children's Play Areas	0.61	Provision for Children and young people	0.18	-0.43
Youth And Adult Use (Sports)	1.80	Sports Pitches / Bowls and Tennis	1.17	-0.63
Allotments	0.40	Allotments	0.29	-0.11
Casual /Informal Open Areas	0.50	Amenity Space	0.57	+0.07
Total Surplus /Deficiency	3.31		2.21	-1.1

- 2.39 The above figure illustrates that the City Council currently has a deficiency of provision of -1.1 hectares across the current standards of provision for the identified typologies when compared to the City NPFA provision standards.
- 2.40 However this figure needs to be treated with caution as the NPFA based standards are primarily based on formal provision and do not take into account areas such as semi natural greenspace. The City does not currently include Parks or Natural/semi-natural greenspace within its standards of provision.
- 2.41 The audit of provision has revealed that the current level of provision (per 1000 population), for Parks and natural/semi natural greenspace is:

Parks	0.61
Natural Semi Natural Greenspace	1.36

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- 2.42 English Nature has recommended that a standard of Natural and semi natural greenspace should equate to 2 hectares per 1000 population. The setting of standards of provision is discussed in greater detail in section IV of this strategy (page 105, Paragraph 4.1).
- 2.43 The local plan also identifies the opportunity to develop a hierarchy of provision in terms of outdoor playing pitches with multi pitch sites (4 or more pitches) and facilities to cater for a wide range of sports serving a City wide catchment area; sites of 2 or more pitches being aimed at the community level catchment area, and single pitch sites being used by a very local catchment area..This approach would create opportunities at all levels, enabling clubs to develop and to have access to facilities for out of season training whilst also being able to play competitively in their local area.
- 2.44 In terms of open space contributions within new residential development, developers are required to provide outdoor playing space at a standard of not less than 3.34 Hectares (8.25 acres); where onsite contributions are not appropriate a financial contribution to off site provision is required from developers (Refer to 2.31).
- 2.45 The above provision standards do not appear to consider the long term maintenance and staff resource implications to ensure the facilities are maintained to appropriate standards. Nor is it based on demand for facilities; this often results in facilities that do not best fit with local people's needs or aspirations and can potentially lead to conflict of opinion e.g. the standards stipulate that play provision is to be made, it does not identify for which age group the play area is to cater, nor recognise that the demands made by toddlers and juniors is far different from the needs of teenagers.
- 2.46 The current provision standards are generic in approach and do not appear to consider the need for quality e.g. provision of a sport pitch on its own is inadequate and will have a limited purpose if it is not supported by appropriate drainage, car parking and changing facilities; most importantly it needs to be clear that there is a need for such provision. Likewise the provision of allotments, which is very much demand led; as a minimum quality, provision should be served by water, toilets and car parking to ensure best practice standards are met, and are not just quantitative provision standards. The quantitative findings and an overview of the effectiveness of these provision standards are detailed in Section V of this strategy.
- 2.47 Developers are given clear guidance as to the amount of space or type of provision required dependant upon the size of the potential development proposed. What appears to be lacking is design guidance to ensure provision is made to a 'good quality' and is consistent with recognised 'Best Practice,' or the requirement for additional provision based on local need.
- 2.48 The PPG 17 guidance advocates a move away from the NPFA standard and for Local Government to develop standards of provision that best fits the typology of provision of the local area.

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### **Identifying Local Needs**

- 2.49 In order to develop a Strategy and set local policies from it, it is essential to consult with the local community to gain an insight into local needs and aspirations. It is also important to ascertain the views of local communities as part of the Best Value and community planning process.
- 2.50 Consultation with the community was undertaken to establish and identify:
- The views of local residents according to the levels of appropriate provision of different types of open space, indoor sports facilities and Community provision within the neighbourhoods within the City
  - Local people's attitude to existing provision
  - The expectation and needs of local people in terms of the quality of provision of greenspaces, sport and community recreation facilities in their area
  - To identify the reasons for non use
- 2.51 In order to identify the needs for open space, outdoor sport and recreational facilities a wide range of consultation has been undertaken, with the following methods being applied:
- A Door to Door survey encompassing 1000 interviews with local residents
  - Postal surveys to more than 100 sports clubs to ask for views about quantity, quality and access
  - A postal survey of the Council's 35 Elected Members
  - Stakeholder Interviews with more than 20 identified stakeholders
  - An internet based self-completion questionnaire
  - Consultation via questionnaires in local libraries, youth and community centres
  - A postal questionnaire to all Friends of Parks Groups
  - A questionnaire survey of church halls, halls and national societies such as scouts
  - A postal questionnaire to all Allotment Societies
  - A review of existing consultation and market research undertaken
  - A FREEPHONE consultation service operating for an eight-week period which was promoted in a number of local newspapers
  - Consultation with 90+ young people across the City

### **Local Consultation Key Findings**

#### **Background and Methodology**

- 2.52 Organisations clubs and groups were identified by officers at the City of Worcester Council as consultee's along with 1000 households that were randomly selected across the 15 wards within the City ; the distribution was targeted to those wards with hard to reach groups across the wards.

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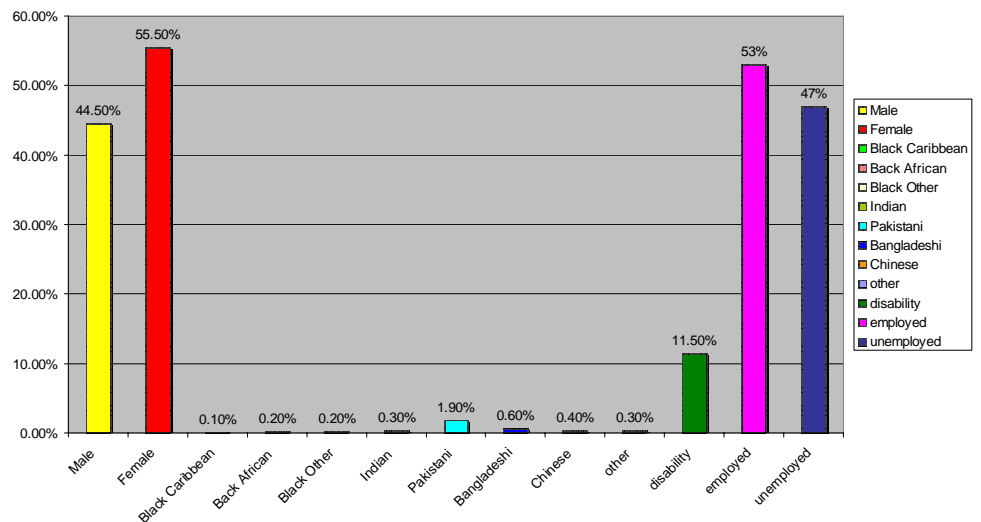
- 2.53 The questionnaire responses have been analysed, and a database has been established that will provide Council with detailed analysis for types of open space and areas of residence.
- 2.54 The survey was designed to assess views of residents, their attitude and aspirations with regard to open space, indoor and outdoor sport and community recreational facilities across the City. In particular the survey set out to identify and establish the following:
- The usage of open space, sport and community recreational facilities by residents within the City
  - The value local people attach to open space, sport and community recreational facilities
  - The attitude of local residents towards open space, sport and community recreation facilities
  - Attitudes to the level of existing provision and facilities
  - The frequency of use by local residents to the differing types of provision
  - Main mode of transport local resident use to access open space, sport and community recreational facilities
  - The views of residents to the accessibility of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
  - The barriers that prevent or reduce local use of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
  - Local needs and expectations

### **Sample Selection**

- 2.55 Participants from the random sample addresses, provided by the Council, were selected to cover all demographic aspects of the population. The results of the door to door survey are attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.56 46.7% of respondents were male and 52.6% were female, with the majority of people surveyed being white (92%).
- 2.57 Figure 2.4 overleaf outlines the demographic profile of participants in the survey.

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Figure 2.4 Demographic Profile



2.58 A variety of key findings have emerged from the household survey and highlight the relevance of open space, sport and Community recreational facilities to the residents of the City. More detailed analysis for the different types of provision is summarised later in this strategy under the specific typologies (Section III). Detailed results for the 15 Wards can be found in the appendices.

### Quality Findings

2.59 The following information summarises the views of City residents:

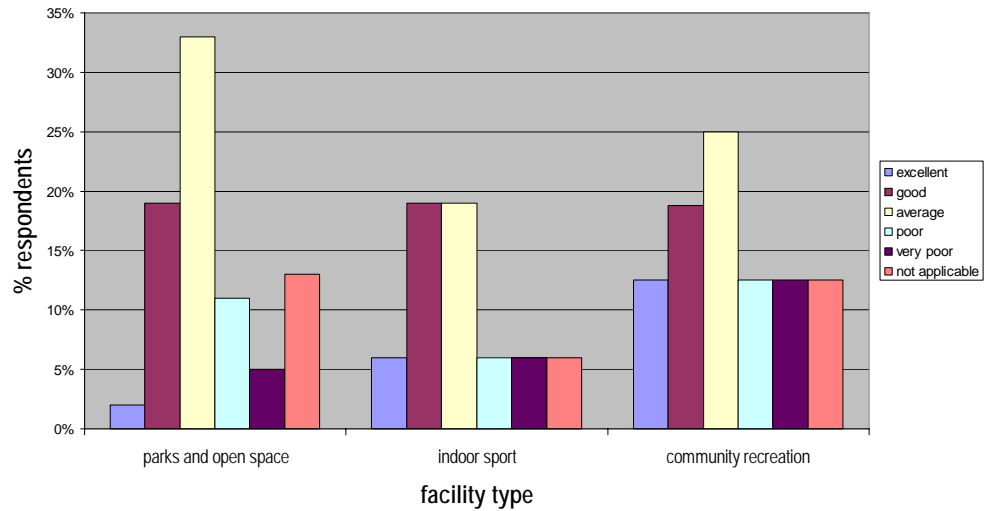
#### (A)Ward Councillor Consultation

2.60 Each of the City Council ward Councillors were sent a questionnaire and guidance notes explaining how to complete the questionnaire survey. 15 councillors (43%) responded to the survey. The Councillors quality findings identified for the facilities in their ward are illustrated in Figure 2.5 below and the results from the Ward Councillor Consultation are included within Appendix 2a.



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Figure 2.5 Ward Councillor Facility Rating

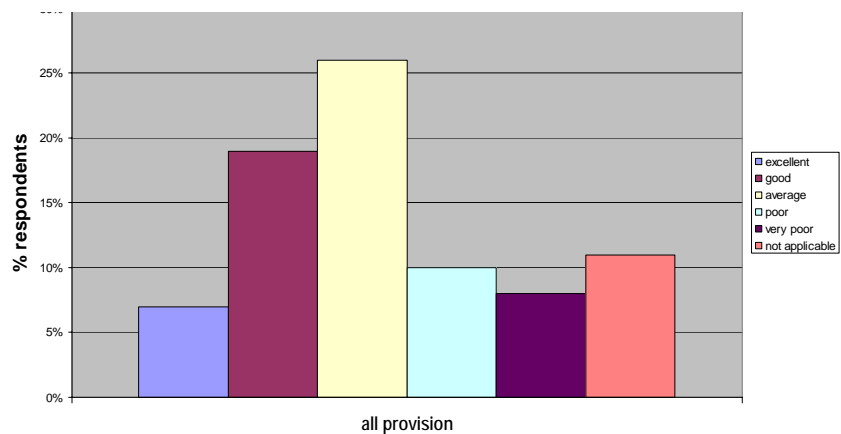


2.61 The ward councillors (33%) rated parks and open spaces in their ward as average, opinion regarding indoor sport was equally split in responses with councillors rating the indoor sport facilities as good or average. Community recreation facilities were also rated as average by most Councillor respondents (25%).

2.62 Community recreation facilities were rated as excellent by 13% of the ward councillors whilst indoor sports facilities were rated excellent by 6% of the ward councillor respondents and parks and open spaces were only considered to be excellent by 3% of the ward councillors.

2.63 Figure 2.6 overleaf illustrates the ward councillor overall rating for facilities within their ward.

Figure 2.6 Ward Councillor overall facility rating



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2.64 The above figure shows that Councillors rate the provision of all facilities within their wards (parks and open spaces, indoor sports facilities and community recreation facilities) as average (26% of respondents) whilst 18% also rated the facilities as good. Less than 10% rated facilities as poor and 7% rated them as excellent.

2.65 It is important to consider the ward councillors' views in relation to the specific type of provision. Outlined below are the key findings from the ward councillor responses.

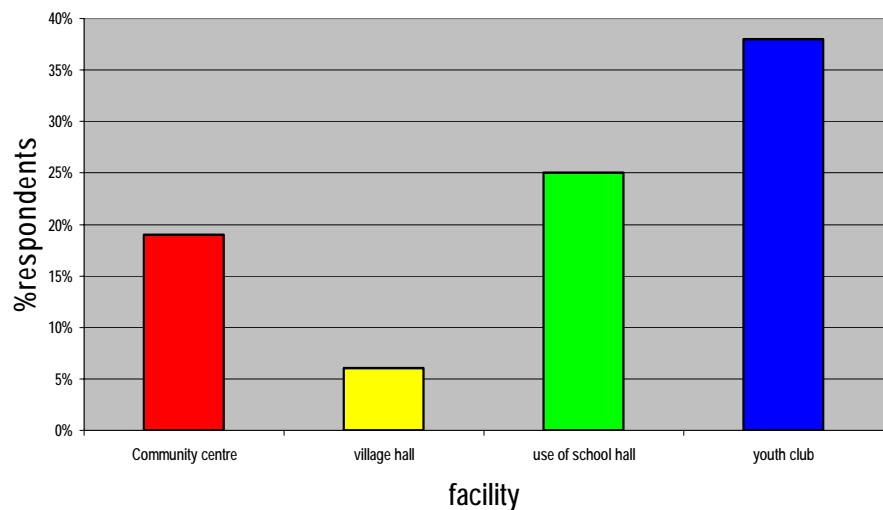
### Indoor Sports Facilities

- Ward Councillors identified that the priority would be to improve the quality of existing facilities (19%) and to secure capital investment to improve and maintain the indoor facilities (19%), 12% of the respondents see new facilities as a priority and to improve access for target groups such as the elderly, disabled, young people and people from ethnic origins (12%).
- 44% of the ward councillor respondents make use of the City of Worcester Swimming and fitness centre, 6% use St. Johns and 6% make use of Nunnery Wood. None of the ward councillors who responded identified making use of the centre at Perdiswell.

### Community Recreation Facilities

- 36% of the ward councillors who responded identified a lack of community recreation facilities in their ward as the main issue. Other issues raised include- 25% of respondents identified under investment, 25% poor quality and accessibility 25%
- In terms of new provision for indoor community recreation facilities the ward Councillors identified the following priorities (Figure 2.7)

Figure 2.7 Ward Councillor New Provision Priorities



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### **(B) Young People Consultation**

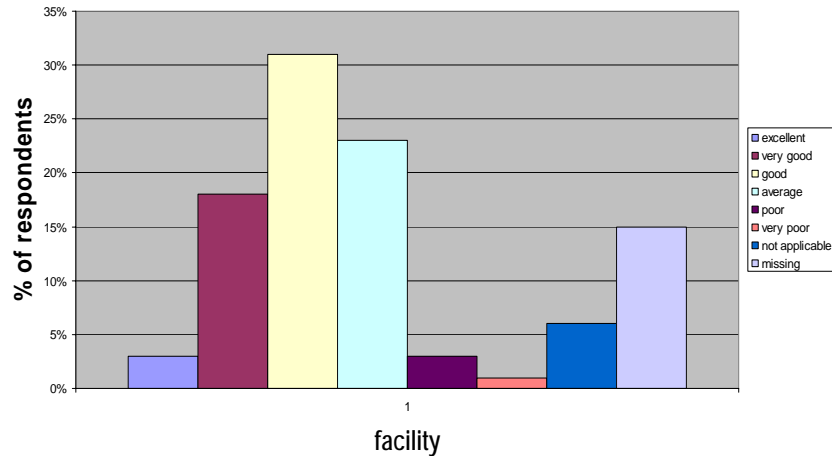
- 2.66 It was agreed that the most effective way of consulting with young people was to meet them face to face as groups in their own environment. As a result young people were consulted during the evening at Dines Green, Ronkswood, St Peter's and Perdiswell youth clubs, additional young people were consulted at Perdiswell leisure centre during an after school sports session. The Councils Community Development team organised the meetings and helped facilitate at the consultation. The young people 80+ in number were polite, interested in the work being undertaken and completed a questionnaire survey to establish their opinion. 75% of the respondents use parks and open spaces, 79% use Indoor sports facilities and 85% use their local community facilities on a regular basis. The key findings are outlined below and the results of the Young People survey are included in Appendix 2b.

### **Young people's perceptions on the quality of facilities**

- 2.67 Young people rated parks as average to good (22%), 40% of respondents rated indoor sports facilities as good and 35% rated community recreation facilities as average.
- 2.68 Less than 10% rated parks as very good whereas 30% of respondents rated the indoor sports facilities that they use as very good, 16% of respondents rated community recreation facilities as very good.
- 2.69 2% of the young people rated parks and open space as very poor, none of the respondents rated indoor sports facilities or community recreational facilities as very poor. Figure 2.8 overleaf identifies young people's overall rating of facilities.
- 2.70 Parks and open space were identified by the highest number of young people as the facility they do not use with just fewer than 10% of respondents identifying parks as not applicable.

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Figure 2.8 Young people's overall facility rating

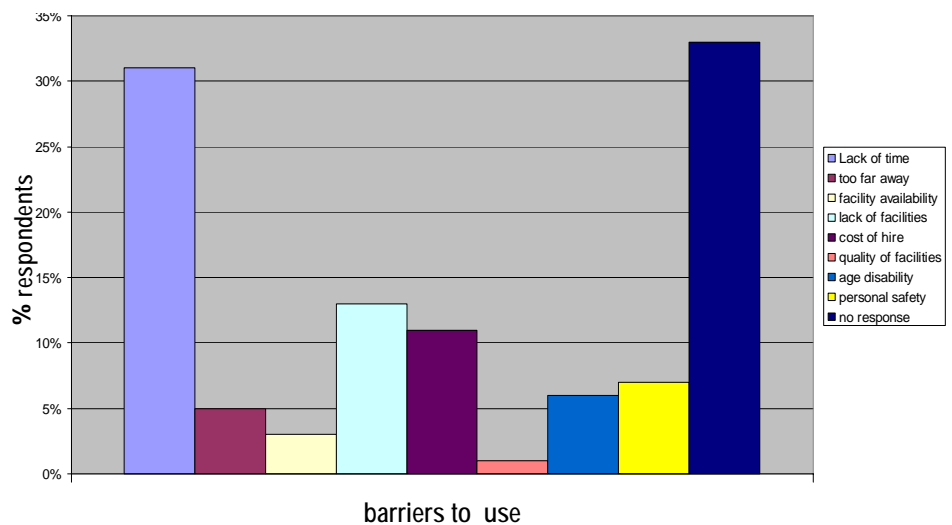


- 2.71 Young people rate the overall quality of facilities that they use as good, less than 3% of respondents rated the facilities they use as poor.

### Young people's perceived barriers to use

- 2.72 Young people were asked to identify what prevents them from making use of the facilities and spaces provided. Figure 2.9 overleaf outlines the responses given.

Figure 2.9 Young people's barriers to use



- 2.73 Similar to responses given through the door to door survey, young people have identified a lack of time as the biggest barrier to their use of facilities and spaces(31%), lack of facilities(13%) and cost of hire(11%) are the other main barriers to use.

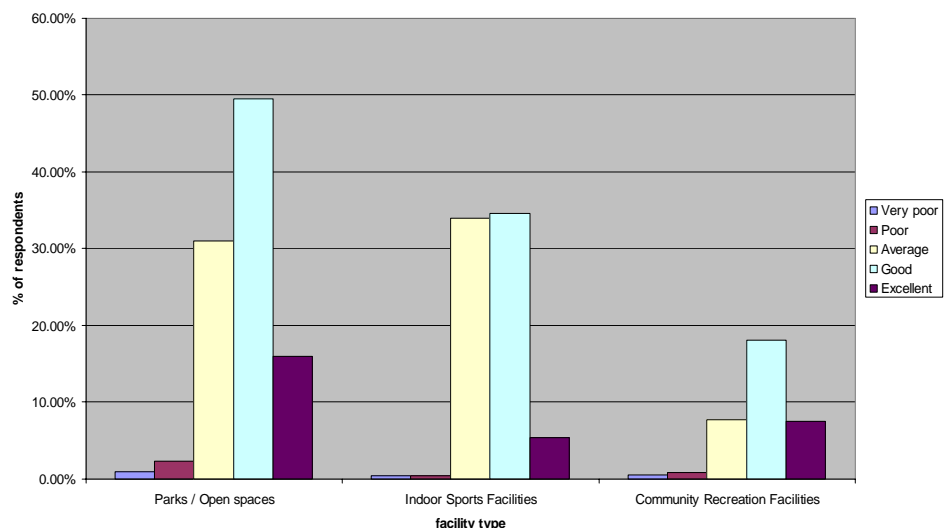
## SECTION IIa - PPG17 STAGE I IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED

- 2.74 Quality of facilities was not considered as a barrier to use and only 1% of respondents identified quality as an issue. 5% of the respondents identified facilities as being too far away and 7% identify personal safety as a barrier to use.

### (C) Local Residents Consultation

- 2.75 In a recent survey of residents undertaken by the City as part of its Best Value Performance monitoring, 3000 households across the City were sent a questionnaire survey to establish 'General User Satisfaction levels'. 71% of the respondents stated they are satisfied with the Parks and open spaces within the City Council's control. This was an 8% increase on previous years.
- 2.76 Participants in the door-to-door survey were asked their opinion on the quality of open space, indoor sport and community recreation facilities. For open space they rated quality on a scale from 1 to 10 (with 10 being very satisfied) for indoor sport they rated facilities on a satisfaction scale ranging from very dissatisfied through to very satisfied. For community recreation facilities they rated facilities from very poor to excellent.
- 2.77 For illustrative purposes these varying scales have been interpreted to match the scale very poor to excellent. Figure 2.10 overleaf illustrates the satisfaction levels expressed by residents.

Figure 2.10 Local resident satisfaction with provision



For illustrative purposes the very dissatisfied responses given for indoor facilities have been split 50/50 to represent responses very poor and poor.

### Local Resident satisfaction with facilities

- 2.78 Cost, location and activities for all ages were the top three issues identified as important to people's enjoyment when visiting Indoor Sports facilities.

## **SECTION IIa - PPG17 STAGE I IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED**

- 2.79 77% of respondents believe the City Council should continue to provide Indoor sports facilities and 56% agreed the indoor facilities are well managed.
- 2.80 It is important to note that for the parks and open spaces respondents also rated the different typologies under the headings parks and gardens, open space near their home, wild areas e.g. woodland, play areas, off road pathways, churchyards and cemeteries, sports pitches and school playing fields. These are detailed later in this section.

### **Quantity findings**

- 2.81 66% of respondents believe there to be an acceptable level indoor sport and community recreation provision within the City.
- 2.82 80% of respondents believe they have enough parks and open spaces in their area.
- 2.83 72% of respondents would like to see more community facilities and 49% of respondents believe the priority for community recreation facilities should be for young people.
- 2.84 47% of respondents believe the City needs more public sector sports facilities.

### **Accessibility Findings**

- 2.85 The main reason given for not using facilities (parks and open space 48%, Indoor sports facilities 49% and community recreation facilities 59%) identified by respondents was lack of time. The second highest response identified as a barrier to use across all three provision types was age and disability (parks and open space 18%, Indoor sports centres 22% and community recreation facilities 21%) Other barriers to use identified by respondents are outlined below:
- Parks and Open Spaces- vandalism 19%, dog fouling 16%, not feeling safe 17%
  - Indoor Sports Centres- cost of hire 5.4%, too far away 5%, quality of facilities 4.1%
  - Community recreation facilities- too far away 5.2%, cost of hire 3.6%, lack of facilities 3.1%
- 2.86 Respondents' main mode of travel to Indoor sports facilities (64%) and community recreation facilities (46%) is by car, and respondents believe the travel time is acceptable (31% Indoor sports facilities and 97% Community recreation facilities).
- 2.87 32% of respondents use Indoor Sports Facilities within the City and of the respondents:
- 42% use Worcester Swimming & Fitness (49% of the respondents use it on a weekly basis)
  - 34% use Perdiswell (70% of those who identified using Perdiswell use it on a weekly basis)
  - 12.5% use St Johns Sports Centre (48% of respondents use it on a weekly basis)

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- 12.5% use Nunnery Wood (63% of the respondents who use Nunnery Wood use it on a weekly basis)

2.88 Accessibility of the different Typologies is based on the respondents average walking time which is then translated into travel distance, travel distances identified within each individual typology and also in section IV paragraph 4.63 'Accessibility Standards'.

### **(D) Internal Consultation**

2.89 A number of Council officers were consulted with regards to the current provision and the potential needs of open spaces, indoor sport and community recreation facilities.

### **Internal Stakeholder Views on Indoor Sports Facilities**

2.90 The Council currently operates two (Nunnery Wood and St John's) of its indoor sports and leisure facilities on a dual-use basis, through an in-house operation, and two through an externalised management contract with Leisure Connection (Worcester Pool and Fitness Facility and Perdiswell).

2.91 The provision of facilities through dual use presents some operational issues, as there are limits on accessibility, programming and the development of activities through the day.

2.92 Access to dual use facilities for sports development activities can also be an issue, as accessing day time use is difficult, depending on the school's requirements. It is also sometimes difficult to encourage young people to participate in activities in a school environment.

2.93 The Council's Indoor Sports facilities have achieved QUEST (Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure) status and Nunnery Wood and St Johns achieved high quality ratings from the QUEST inspection and are registered as 'Highly Recommended'. The facilities operated by Leisure Connection are also going through the QUEST process.

2.94 There is currently discussion over the levels of provision being planned at the University of Worcester where expansion of student numbers is due to increase significantly. As such it is expected the University will be developing its sports facility provision.

### **Internal Stakeholder Views on Community Recreation Facilities**

2.95 The Community Services is facing budget reductions at a time when one of the main issues facing the Council is Young People and anti social behaviour.

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- 2.96 There are examples of best practice within the City of work carried out by Community Development to combat the levels of disengaged young people including the development and design of a young people's safe space by young people for young people facilitated by the Community development team.
- 2.97 The Council's Community development team maximise the opportunity to work in partnership for the benefit of local people.
- 2.98 The Safer community partnership is working to engage local people to improve their neighbourhoods.
- 2.99 The City Council role in its Community facilities is to empower and support local people and communities, some areas are more advanced in their community development than others.
- 2.100 The Community Park warden at King George V playing field is seen as a great success but there is a feeling amongst staff that there should be one in each area.



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### **Consultation Findings by Typology**

#### **(I) Parks and Gardens**

##### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.101 69% of the Councillors identified under investment in the parks and gardens in their ward as an issue, other issues identified include –lack of facilities 26%, poor quality 9%, and accessibility 15%.

##### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.97 Young people rated parks and gardens as average to good (22%), less than 10% rated parks and gardens as very good 2% of the young people rated parks and gardens as very poor.
- 2.98 Parks and gardens were identified by the highest number of young people as the facility they do not use with just fewer than 10% of respondents identifying parks and gardens as not applicable.
- 2.99 Consultation revealed that 75% of the respondents use the parks and gardens provided across the City. 12% of the respondents use parks and gardens on a daily basis, whilst 23% use them weekly. 1.2% of the respondents never use parks and gardens.

##### **(C) Local Residents Consultation**

- 2.100 The resident's survey asked the local community opinions about local parks and gardens. Key findings included:
- High usage of parks and gardens (mirroring the findings of earlier consultation results)
  - Positive ratings on quality (41.2% rating facilities as excellent or good)
  - Most residents access parks and gardens on foot and travel between 1 minute and 1 hour to visit their preferred facility (normally the one closest to home).
  - The main reason given for not using facilities (parks identified by respondents was lack of time
  - Other barriers to use identified by respondents are outlined below:
    - Vandalism 19%
    - Dog fouling 16%
    - Not feeling safe 17%

##### **(D) Internal Stakeholder Consultation**

- 2.101 There are a number of views held by internal stakeholders these are outlined in the paragraphs overleaf:
- 2.102 There are concerns over the levels of vandalism and anti social behaviour to which open space is continually subjected .

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- 2.103 The work of the Park Wardens is still very much in its infancy; however, the benefits of increased parks staffing to proactively engage local people in greenspaces is well documented at a national level. The Wildlife Rangers have been engaging communities for a number of years.
- 2.104 The City has a playground refurbishment programme of three play areas per year. Whilst the general consensus is that there are too many play areas and not of the right type or size. The City would be better to reduce the number and provide fewer bigger, better play facilities supported by the adoption of a play strategy.
- 2.105 The general consensus is the parks and open spaces should be seen as an asset that can contribute to the wider agenda of developing the City as a major tourist attraction to do this the parks need investment.
- 2.106 The riverside has tremendous potential as an asset especially as there is a perceived shortage of open space in the City. The Riverside has already been identified as a major element of the City's tourism strategy, and a priority area for investment.
- 2.107 The Parks' budgets have been reduced by 25%; this has resulted in reductions in frontline staff resulting in inappropriate levels of monitoring yet the City aspires to be Cleaner, greener, safer.
- 2.108 A general view was that the section 106 methodology used to negotiate developer contributions is out of date and does not reflect today's prices. However this has been recognised internally and efforts are underway to develop a new methodology for Section 106 contributions, which could provide additional funding for ongoing maintenance.
- 2.109 The existing promotion and marketing of parks is limited due to financial constraints.
- 2.110 A number of consultation exercises have been undertaken in recent years, including a residents' survey as part of information collation for national performance indicators (BVPI119). These have been supplemented with a number of study specific consultation including stakeholder interviews (with Parks Managers, Grounds Maintenance Staff, Community Safety stakeholders), consultation with Friends of Parks Groups, a survey of local Ward Councillors and a Street Survey. The consultation provides a number of varying opinions about the current quantity, quality and accessibility of parks facilities across the City. Key results include:
- 2.111 **BVPI119 Results.** There appears to be high levels satisfaction amongst local residents with the results of consultation undertaken as part of BVPI119 showing:
- 71% of residents are satisfied with parks and open spaces provided. (Although not directly comparable, this figure represents an 8%+increase in previously recorded satisfaction levels).

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### **(E) Friends of Parks Consultation**

- 2.112 The consultation identified underinvestment in maintenance and improvements as the main issue facing parks. Key priorities for the future included reducing vandalism and improving general maintenance resources and regimes.
- Friends of Gheleveult Park-, General maintenance needs improving, play area equipment is poor and old. The friends are producing a newsletter and hope to work in partnership with the City Council to install information boards.
  - Friends of Fort Royal Park- Playground equipment could be better, the friends feel the park is well used as it is and identified the crazy paving and Wyld lane wall is unsafe. The friends rated the overall quality of the park as average.
  - Friends of Brickfield Park- the main issue is a handful of young people riding motorbikes across the field due to the fact that there are too many openings onto the park. Another issue is teenagers gathering in the play area.
  - Friends of Cripplegate Park – the main issue for the Friends is their perceived neglect of the park and the need for an allocated site specific maintenance team. The Friends also believe the park needs the wardens back. The Friends are working to promote, monitor and improve the park and to have the community involved in the park.
  - The Friends of Gheleveult, Brickfields and Cripplegate all rated their park as good whilst the Friends of Fort Royal rated the park as average. The Friends of Ronkswood Meadow rated the site as excellent.
  - Friends of Ronkswood Meadows believe their meadows are not used enough by people and are looking for help in promoting the fields.

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### **(II) Natural /Semi Natural Greenspace**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.113 The Ward Councillor consultation identified that local councillor's rate the overall quality of Natural /semi natural greenspace as average. 25% rated the sites within their wards as good whereas 19% rated semi natural sites in their ward as poor.
- 2.114 The wards councillors identify a lack of investment, lack of facilities and the accessibility to Natural / semi natural green space as the three main issues faced by people when using semi natural greenspace sites across the City.

#### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.115 13% of young people identified using semi natural green space at least once a week whereas 11% only make occasional use of this type of provision. 6% of the respondents use semi natural sites daily.
- 2.116 40% of the respondents rated the quality of natural/ semi natural greenspace as average to good.

#### **(C) Local Resident's Consultation**

- 2.117 Relatively high levels of use, with 60% of respondents making regular use of natural/ semi-natural greenspace. The majority of users are occasional users.
- 2.118 The majority of residents interviewed felt that there were enough natural and semi natural greenspace.
- 2.119 Over 60%of residents thought that quality was good or above.

#### **(D) Internal Stakeholders Consultation**

- 2.120 There is a hierarchy of accessibility to natural and semi natural greenspace with a number of sites being in private ownership.
- 2.121 The Countryside sites are subject to external grant funding; this supports ongoing site improvements, maintenance and staff. Whilst their may be opportunities for further funding this needs to be treated with caution as funding criteria can change and often have revenue funding implications.
- 2.122 There is real concern that the natural and semi natural countryside sites are not under routine maintenance; effective woodland management is not taking place to the extent that will ensure the long term sustainability of the woodlands as valuable habitats and resources for local people. The infrastructure of the countryside sites are in need of investment.

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### **(III) Green Corridors**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.123 Under-investment was regarded as the main issue with lack of facilities and accessibility identified as the other two main issues.
- 2.124 Ward Councillors rated the green corridors within their ward as excellent (12%), 31% good, 25% average and 19% poor.

#### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.125 40% of young people rated the green corridors that they use as good or average, 6% rated them as very good and 8% rated them as poor.
- 2.126 6% of the young people surveyed stated they do not make use of this type of provision.

#### **(C) Local Resident's Consultation**

- 2.127 30% of the respondents identified using green corridors on a daily basis (although great care was taken by the interviewers to clarify what a green corridor is ) this figure needs to be treated with some caution as some respondents may still have identified using public rights of way within this response.
- 2.128 Mixed opinions on quality (4% excellent, 30% good, 59% average, 4% poor 4% very poor).

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### **(IV) Sports Pitches**

2.129 A number of consultation exercises have been undertaken to inform the study. This has largely comprised of a number of stakeholder interviews, consultation with a number of sports specific forums and governing bodies.

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

2.130 62% believe a lack of facilities is the main issue that affects the outdoor sports pitches within their ward.

2.131 A consensus stated that current quality is average (25%). A further 18% of the councillors believe that the quality of outdoor sports provision in their ward is poor. Only 6% of the councillors rated outdoor sports pitches as good.

#### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

2.132 17% of the respondents use school playing fields on a weekly basis (outside of school time) and 21% will use sports pitches on a weekly basis (the figure does not necessarily represent use for sport it was clear from the discussions with young people that they will simply hang out on the sports pitch).

2.133 47% of young people rated school playing fields as an average to good quality 39% of young people rated sports pitches as average to good.

#### **(C) Local Resident's Consultation**

2.134 7.3% of residents make use of school playing fields and 10.3% use sports pitches of which 4% of the respondents use them on a weekly basis.

2.135 37% of respondents who use school playing fields rated them as average and 37% rated them as good.

2.136 26% of the respondents rated sports pitches as average and 55% rated them as good.

2.137 Perceptions on quality were generally negative, with more residents rating the current facilities as poor or very poor than excellent or good.

#### **(D) Sports Club Consultation**

2.138 **Sports Clubs** provided varied feedback about quantity and quality via a questionnaire survey, which yielded the following headline findings:

- Football clubs varied in their opinions on pitch quality. The most common rating was average.(36%) or good (36%) 17% rated pitches as poor
- Cricket clubs generally rated pitches used positively – with clubs rating pitches as very good
- Rugby clubs reported positive pitch ratings – 63% of pitch ratings were very good or good

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- Hockey club consultation was limited. Only 1 club was identified and provision was rated as average.
- Clubs generally anticipated an increase in their club membership over the next few years (39% of football clubs, 100% of rugby clubs, 50% of cricket clubs, 67% of lacrosse clubs)
- Bowls clubs consultation included stakeholder interviews, a postal survey of all known bowls clubs, informal consultation with providers and users during quality audits. The key findings are reported below:
  - Clubs identified the main issues they face relate to maintenance, vandalism and security. Vandalism was also an issue raised by stakeholders as an issue, particularly with public provision in a park setting.
  - The majority of bowls provision is served by pavilion facilities, and a significant number (predominantly private) have access to social facilities
  - 65% of residents expressing an opinion about the quality of outdoor sports facilities, thought that local provision was average or good
  - Respondents were positive about the future of their club and saw expansion of numbers as a result of the popularity of the sport in the City

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### **(V) Amenity Space**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.139 The Ward Councillors (12.5%) believe amenity green space suffers from a lack of investment, a lack of facilities (12.5%) whilst 12.5% believe amenity green space is poor quality and 12.5% that there is poor accessibility to the amenity green space within their ward.
- 2.140 12% of the respondents rated the amenity green space as good.

#### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.141 26% of the respondents use open space near their home on a daily basis.
- 2.142 54% of the respondents walk for less than 5 minutes to access the space near their home.
- 2.143 51% of respondents believe there is enough space near to their home.
- 2.144 32 % of the respondents rated the quality as average whilst 5% rated the quality of this type of provision as poor.

#### **(C) Local Resident's Consultation**

- 2.145 Surprisingly low usage of amenity greenspace, with over two thirds of interviewees stating that they never make use of local provision. This finding needs to be viewed from the perspective that many people "use" amenity greenspace in a less formal way, e.g. via walking past a site, looking at a site.
- 2.146 15% of respondents rated the quality of the space near their home as average whereas 55% rated it as good and 10% rated the spaces as excellent whilst 12% rated them as poor.



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### **(VI) Provision for Young People and Children**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.147 50% of respondents identified under investment in facilities and a lack of facilities as the main issues with regards to play provision.
- 2.148 37% of the respondents rated the quality of play facilities as average 25% rated the facility quality as good and 19% rated the play facilities within their wards as poor quality.

#### **(B) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.149 18% of respondents use play areas on a weekly basis, 19% use them occasionally and 10% of the respondents never make use of the play facilities provided for them.
- 2.150 15% of the respondents occasionally use skate parks whilst 31% never use skate park facilities.
- 2.151 37% of respondents identified walking for less than 5 minutes to access their local play area.
- 2.152 25% of the respondents rated the play facility they use as average, 23% rated them as good.
- 2.153 Young people are frustrated at the way facilities such as the multi games area at Dines Green cannot be used in the evening due to no floodlighting.

#### **(C) Local Resident's Consultation**

- 2.154 A high percentage of respondents to the door to door survey do not make use of the play areas (78%).
- 2.155 Opinion varied with regards to the perceived quality of provision with 38% of respondents rating the facilities as average and 47% rating them as good.
- 2.156 63% of the respondents identified that if they were to walk to their nearest play area they would expect to walk for up to 10 minutes.

#### **(D) Internal Stakeholder Consultation**

- 2.157 Internal Stakeholder Consultation was undertaken with the Council's Parks Manager, Community Development Team, and the following was identified:
- Inappropriate levels of revenue funding to maintain or further develop the play areas
  - Increasing vandalism at the Council's play areas which puts pressure on resources
  - A number of recent very successful youth consultation exercises have been undertaken. The majority of these have concluded that young people would

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like to see more provision aimed at teenagers, including ball courts, teen shelters and skate park facilities

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### **(VII) Allotments**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Perceptions on Allotment provision**

- 2.158 38% of the respondents rated the provision in their ward as good, 13% rated them average and 13% rated them as poor or very poor.
- 2.159 The main issues identified by the elected members are under investment, lack of facilities and poor quality.
- 2.160 Owing to allotments being a very specific demand led interest consultation with the wider public and young people did not consider the provision of allotments in terms of the quality or quantity as very few people in a random sample or young people would have experience or an opinion on allotment. The Consultation therefore concentrated on plot holders and existing surveys.
- 2.161 Consultation findings are based on a review of recent consultation exercises undertaken and on additional consultation as part of the study. Postal surveys of Allotment Society representatives and questions to local elected members. Consultation has revealed a number of varying opinions about the current quantity, and whether current facilities in place at present are adequate. Key findings are reported below.

#### **(B) Allotment Society Consultation**

- 2.162 The **Allotment Society** questionnaire revealed that:
- The City has an active overarching allotment society with individual sites being represented by a secretary or site representative
  - A response rate of 33% was received to a questionnaire survey and follow up telephone calls
  - There is considerable unmet demand with 8 individual site representatives reporting waiting lists for their sites
  - Marketing Activity is undertaken through the Worcester Allotment Society and is usually in the form of newsletters. The society operates a web site at [www.Worcester.allotments.co.uk](http://www.Worcester.allotments.co.uk) ( at the time of this study the site was not active)
  - The "value" of allotments, particularly for education and health purposes is not being fully achieved. Only 1 site reported any links with local schools or community groups
  - Relatively few sites have a Plot Watch or similar scheme in place
  - Allotment representatives believe allotments to be low on the City Councils priority list
  - Site representatives are frustrated at not replacing the allotment officer and have a belief that complaints are ignored
  - Vandalism and theft is an occasional issue for some sites

## ***SECTION IIa - PPG17 STAGE I IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED***

2.163 A review of the **Plot Holders** Survey undertaken by the Council in 2002 found that:

- Nearly two third of plot holders live within 1 mile of their plot and that the majority walk or use the car to travel to the site
- The majority of plot holders tend to their site 2-3 times per week
- Vandalism is a common issue (42% reported some vandalism to the site on which their plot is located)
- Secure fencing was regarded as a key priority

## **SECTION IIa - PPG17 STAGE I IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED**

### **(VIII) Cemeteries and Churchyards**

#### **(A) Ward Councillor Consultation**

- 2.164 Few members had an opinion about this type of provision. Those that did make comments highlighted under investment, and lack of facilities as the main issues.
- 2.165 The consultation revealed that opinions about church yards and cemetery provision were limited with in relation to quantity, quality and access. However, this could be viewed as an interesting finding in itself, as it suggests that this type of provision is not widely viewed as accessible or usable open space provision.

#### **(B) Local Resident's Consultation**

- 2.166 32% rated the quality of cemeteries as excellent this is in keeping with the findings from the site audits.
- 2.167 76% of residents stated a travel time of up to 30 minutes to walk to their nearest cemetery.

#### **(C) Young People's Consultation**

- 2.168 Young people were not asked specific questions relating to their opinion on the quality of churchyards and cemeteries nor were they asked about their use of this type of provision. It was felt more beneficial to seek responses on more popular provision types such as indoor sports facilities, community recreation facilities, play areas, parks and outdoor sport.

### **Accessibility Consultation Findings**

#### **(I) Indoor Sports Facilities**

- 2.169 There are some concerns in the local community about access to facilities due to the dual use arrangements, potentially denying access to people at times when there is demand e.g. daytime use.
- 2.170 Although centres are linked to the public transport network the need to use public transport at peak times may deter people from travelling to facilities.
- 2.171 The promotion of the sports centres through the numerous leaflets available help raise the profile of the sites.

## **SECTION IIa - PPG17 STAGE I IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEED**

### **(II) Community Recreation Facilities**

- 2.172 The main access issues regarding community recreation facilities are linked directly to the operational hours of facilities, for example young people from St. Peters are picked up and taken via minibus to St. Johns Centre twice per week, Dines Green youth club operates 5 sessions (Monday, Wednesday, Friday evening and Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning) whereas the Perdiswell young peoples centre is open 7 days a week.

### **(III) Open Spaces**

- 2.173 The main issue raised regarding accessibility is the problem experienced by people with disabilities particularly when visiting countryside sites. Access needs to be considered holistically rather than in isolation, e.g. improvements to gates is not supported by improvements to footpaths therefore whilst people can get through the gate they then cannot travel any further due to inaccessible, and poor footpaths. (The audit has revealed that for natural and semi natural greenspaces the average quality score for footpaths is 14 out of 30 or 46%).
- 2.174 It is important to note that if sites are not easily accessible to people with disabilities, then it is likely they will also exclude the elderly and young parents with pushchairs and buggies.
- 2.175 No disabled groups have responded to the consultation despite numerous attempts to engage groups through meetings, Focus groups questionnaires and telephone survey.
- 2.176 There is a need for greater understanding, marketing and development of circular routes for people to use.
- 2.177 Tackling issues such as reducing opportunities for illegal motorbike use of Countryside sites is also potentially reducing opportunities for local people with disabilities, who find it difficult to access the sites, as they simply cannot negotiate the site entrance access point control measures installed to prevent motorbikes.

### **Other Consultation**

- 2.178 Unfortunately no groups or organisations representing people with disabilities or minority ethnic origins responded to the consultation or focus group that where organised to specifically identify issues faced when using parks and open space, indoor sports facilities and community recreation facilities within the City. However, it should be noted that of the respondents to the door to door survey, 12% of respondents identified themselves as having a disability and 4% identify themselves as being of a minority ethnic origin. These individuals are represented as part of the general resident findings.

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

### **Types of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities**

- 3.1 In order to assess in some detail the adequacy of open space, sport and recreation provision, it is necessary to consider the different types of provision and their primary role and function. Knowing why and what an open space or sports facility is there “to do” is critical to making judgements about its adequacy in respect of quantity, quality and accessibility. Appendix 3 identifies the sites by typology and Appendix 3a contains the site by site assessment results.
- 3.2 The PPG17 Companion Guide provides guidance on a number of key categories (Typology) of open space, sport and recreation provision. Consultation with officers from Leisure Services and Planning Services together with a review of key audit data has led to the adoption of a typology of provision, specific to the City, these are:
- Indoor Sports Facilities
  - Community Recreation Facilities ( Indoor)
  - Formal Parks including Major Parks, Country Parks and Local Parks
  - Natural and Semi Natural Green Space( Including Green Corridors)
  - Outdoor sports facilities
  - Amenity space
  - Provision for Young People and Children
  - Allotments
  - Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards

### **Current Indoor Sport and Recreation Provision in the City of Worcester**

#### **Context for Sports Provision in the City**

- 3.3 The Worcester Sports Partnership Strategy (WSP) provides the framework for future sports planning in the city. The WSP partners include the City Council, Worcestershire County Council, and Worcester College of Technology. Worcester Sixth Form College and the University of Worcester. The identified priorities of the strategy are:
- To develop the provision of sport through education – both facilities and participation
  - To develop sport in the community, through increased involvement and participation
  - To develop those gifted and talented at sport
  - To develop those interested or involved in, sport
- 3.4 The strategy reflects the need to focus on developing sport, and opportunities for participation in the City's deprived wards and specifically Rainbow Hill and Gorse Hill(in the top 20% of deprived wards in the country, and in Cathedral and St John's which are in the top 25% of all deprived wards in the country).

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

### **The Existing Vision for Sport and Leisure in the City**

- 3.5 The importance of sport and recreation to tourism, regeneration, lifelong learning, and health, was recognised by the Council as part of the Best Value Review of the Sport and Recreation Service (2000). A five year improvement plan was developed from the review, which set out a clear direction for the future provision of the Sport and Recreation Service.
- 3.6 The Sport and Recreation Service Mission is:
- 'Provide good quality opportunities which are accessible to everyone'**
- 3.7 This mission statement is supported by the principles of participation, service delivery, equality, external links, and raising the profile, to increase participation, the profile of sport and recreation, and its contribution to the wider social agenda within the City's catchment area.
- 3.8 One of the key outcomes of the Best Value Review in 2000 was the identified need to seek capital investment in the two major leisure facilities – Perdiswell Leisure Centre and Worcester Swimming Pool, and to improve and extend the health and fitness facilities at all four of the City Council centres. The investment secured was through a partnership with Leisure Connection (£3m), as part of a partnership for management of the two major facilities.

### **City of Worcester – Regional Role**

- 3.9 In considering the current level and nature of indoor sports and leisure provision in the City, it is important to reflect the role of the City as the regional focus. Worcester has a large rural hinterland, and is seen as the main centre (commercial, cultural, tourist) for the region. This status is underpinned by the City's attractions e.g. the racecourse, shopping, arts and cultural facilities. Given this role of the City; it is important to consider the role of indoor sports facilities in catering for this regional catchment. The current level and nature of indoor sports and leisure facilities in the City does not include facilities of regional status. The main opportunity to address this 'gap', if the Council identifies it as a priority, is the potential re-development of a swimming pool on the Perdiswell Leisure Centre Site. Such a facility would be likely to include leisure water. Whilst it may be an aspiration of the City to have regional status sport and leisure facilities (indoor), there are three specific issues to consider:
- The assessment of local community need does not support the need for a regional facility
  - The capital cost of providing a regional status facility
  - The ongoing revenue costs of providing and operating a regional indoor sports facility

### **Quantity**

- 3.10 Provision across the City falls within three categories namely:



## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

- City of Worcester Public Indoor Sports Facilities (Map2)
- City Of Worcester Private Indoor Sports Facilities (Map 3)
- City of Worcester Indoor Education Sports Facilities (Map 4)

3.11 Figure 3.1 below identifies the provision within these three categories:

Figure 3.1 Indoor Facility Provision within the City of Worcester

Public	Private	Education
St John's Sports Centre	Life @ Whitehouse	King School (Swimming Pool)
Nunnery Wood Sports Centre	Butlers Health and Fitness	University of Worcester (Sports Hall/ Fitness suite)
Perdiswell Leisure	Sheriff St Gym ( Energy)	Bishop of Perowne C of E High School
City Of Worcester Swimming And Fitness Centre	Nicolas Fitness Centre	Elgar High School
	One on One Fitness	
	Cannons Health Club	
	Abbey Court Leisure Centre	The Alice Otley Junior School
	Worcester Citizens Swimming Pool	Blessed Edward Oldcorne R.C. School St. Josephs Primary
	Simply Active	Pitmaston Primary Norwick Manor Junior
	Nature's Way	Gorse Hill Community Primary Northwick Manor Infants
	ProFitness	Oldbury Park Primary Stanley Road Primary

NB. Education sites with Community Use are shown in bold.

3.12 The calculation of water space and sports hall provision is outlined below:

Figure 3.1 (a) Water Space in Worcester

Pools	Pool Size	Pool Depth	M <sup>2</sup> Water Space	Accessibility
City of Worcester Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	25 x 12.5m	0.9m to 1.6m	312.5	Community Use
Worcester Citizens Swimming Pool	20 x 7.5m	1.2m to 1.6m	144	Community Use
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>456.5</b>	<b>Accessible for community use</b>

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

<b>Pools</b>	<b>Pool Size</b>	<b>Pool Depth</b>	<b>M<sup>2</sup> Water Space</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
Kings School	25x12.5m	1m to 1.2m	312	Organised groups only
RNIB New College	23 x 9m	1.2m x 3.8m	207	Organised groups only
Cannons Health Club	16m x 10m	1.5m	160	Members only
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>679</b>	<b>Restricted Use</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>1135.5</b>	<b>Total Water Space</b>

(\*Note this excludes Diving Pool and Toddler Pools within Worcester)

- 3.13 From the above the City has a total water space of **1135.5m<sup>2</sup>**, (The Sport England Facilities Calculator identifies a total water space in the City of **823.5 m<sup>2</sup>** owing to the pool at Kings School being omitted from the database). The Sport England Facility Calculator identifies the need for **976.12 m<sup>2</sup>** of water space for swimming (across the City) based on the current population, however it is important to note that the water space with community use is **456.5m<sup>2</sup>**.

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

### Indoor Sports Halls

3.14 The calculations for indoor sports halls are outlined below

Table 3.1(b) Identified Indoor Sports Halls In the City of Worcester

Site Name	Public Private	Community Use	Number of Badminton courts	Number of fitness stations
Nunnery Wood Sports Complex (Dual Use)	Public	Yes	4	17
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	Public	Yes	8	70
St Johns Sports Centre (Dual Use)	Public	Yes	4	25
University of Worcester (Community Use - organised group basis, except fitness)	Public	No	6	18
Simply Active	Pay & Play	No	0	30
Worcester Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Public	Yes	0	25
Natures Way	Pay & Play	No	0	15
Butlers Health and Fitness	Private	No	0	61
Sheriff St Gym	Private	No	0	61
Life @ Whitehouse	Private	No	0	36
Peak Fitness	Pay & Play	No	0	34
Pro-Fitness	Pay & Play	No	0	32
Nicolas Fitness Centre	Private	No	0	20
One on One Fitness	Private	No	0	72
Worcester Citizens Swimming Pool	Public	Yes	0	14
Cannons Health Club	Private	Yes	0	97
Abbey Court Leisure Centre	Private	No	0	40
Bishop Perowne C of E High School	Education	No	4	0
Elgar High School	Education	No	1	0
The Alice Ottley Junior School	Education	No	4	0
Blessed Edward Oldcorne R.C School	Education	No	4	0
St Josephs Primary	Education	No	1	0
Nunnery Wood Primary	Education	No	0	0
Pitmaston Primary	Education	No	2	0
Norwick Manor Junior	Education	No	1	0
Gorse Hill Community Primary	Education	No	1	0
Northwick Manor Infants	Education	No	1	0
Oldbury Park Primary	Education	No	2	0
Stanley Road Primary	Education	No	1	0
Worcester Grammar School	Education	No	4	0
Kings School (limited community use - organised groups only)	Education	Yes	4	0
RNIB New College (limited community use - organised groups only)	Private	Yes	0	0

### **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

<b>TOTAL Badminton Courts</b>	52	<b>Total number of Fitness stations</b>	667
<b>Badminton Courts Available for Community Use</b>	20	<b>Fitness Stations Available for Community Use</b>	280

- 3.15 The Table above shows the number of Badminton courts across the City, this identifies a total of 52 courts of which 20 are identified as being accessible for community use. However it is important to note that the Sport England Facilities Calculator identifies that the City has a requirement for 28 Courts or 7 sports halls based on current population.

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

### Health and Fitness

- 3.16 There are currently 667 fitness stations (Individual items of fitness equipment such as rowing machines, resistance training machines etc) in the City, provided across the public and commercial sectors. There are 280 stations provided in Public Sector facilities and available through pay and play. In relation to demand, this level of supply is more than sufficient for both the current, and predicted, level of population.
- 3.17 Current demand equates to 276 stations (current supply in public facilities is 280 stations); there is therefore currently a surplus in supply of public health and fitness provision of 4 stations. However, given the nature of this provision, and the level of private sector facilities, overall, the City is well provided for in terms of health and fitness.

### Indoor Sports Facility Provision Neighbouring Authorities

- 3.18 Indoor sports facilities in authority areas immediately adjacent to Worcester include

Figure 3.2 Facility Provision outside the City Boundaries

Facility Name	Access	Distance from WR1	Gym stations	Hall	Pool 1 (lanes)	Pool 2 (lanes)
Sport Martley	Pay & Play	6.6 miles	17	4 courts	N/A	~
Droitwich Sport And Leisure	Pay & Play	5.26 miles	51	5 courts + 1 court	25m x 13m	~
Planet Fitness Ltd	Membership	5.79 miles	40	~	~	~
One On One Fitness Centre	Membership	6.43 miles	42	~	~	~
Malvern Splash	Pay & Play	7.55 miles	54	~	25m x 13m	14m x 10m
The Bodyworks Fitness Studio	Membership	7.73 miles	90	~	~	~
Pershore Leisure Centre	Pay & Play	8.47 miles	40	3 courts	25m x 11m (5)	11m x 7m

N.B taken from Active Places website

- 3.19 Given that there is currently sufficient quantity of indoor facility provision in the City, the key issue to be addressed is quality. It is also critical to stress that current sufficiency of provision does not mean that existing facilities can be 'lost'. The assessment of need supports the case for retention of the existing level of provision, but does not rule out rationalisation and replacement on alternative sites; this approach retains the quantity of the local provision whilst addressing the issues of quality at the City facilities.
- 3.20 The facilities most likely to have an impact on the usage of these in Worcester are the existing facilities at Droitwich Leisure Centre, Pershore Leisure Centre, and at Malvern Splash. There is some anecdotal evidence at local level that City residents travel to use these facilities; the Leisure pool at Malvern in particular offers facilities which are not currently available in the City.

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

- 3.21 However, current levels, locations, and the nature of existing provision may now need to be challenged, given the changes in community needs and expectations, and the changes in the physical infrastructure of the City e.g. the transport network, plus the proposals for facility development e.g. Sainsbury's supermarket, the proposals for the expansion of University of Worcester at the Castle Street site (achievement of University status will double the student population in the City from around 5k to 10k over the next 6 years).

### Assessment of Indoor Facilities - Quality

- 3.22 The quality of the existing leisure facilities is a key factor in planning for the future, given the level of investment required.

### Qualitative

- 3.23 No audit of private or Educational facilities has been possible due to providers not wishing to participate, and not allowing access to complete a qualitative audit assessment.
- 3.24 The City's Indoor sports facilities have been visited and assessed against the nationally recognised QUEST. As part of a QUEST audit the following criteria are considered in terms of condition and quality.

Figure 3.3 Assessment Criteria for Indoor Facilities

Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Road/pathway</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Main entrance</li> <li>• Internal signage</li> <li>• Information boards</li> <li>• Bins</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• General cleanliness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing rooms</li> <li>• Reception</li> <li>• Sports Hall</li> <li>• Learner Pool</li> <li>• Swimming Pool</li> <li>• Fitness suite</li> <li>• Squash</li> <li>• Bar / restaurant</li> </ul>

- 3.25 The QUEST qualitative assessment of the City Council facilities has attributed the following scores for each centre:

Figure 3.4 City of Worcester Sports Centre Quality Scores

Facility	Total Score (Max 5)
Nunnery Wood	75%
St. John's Sports Centre	75%
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	67%
Worcester Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	65%
<b>AVERAGE TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>70%</b>

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

- 3.26 This information clearly identifies that the majority of existing City facilities are in a reasonably good condition, but are in need of investment e.g. St John's, Nunnery Wood, City of Worcester Pool and Fitness Facility) to modernise facilities. This raises two specific issues:
- Despite the need for investment condition of the facilities, there is generally a high level of usage, at local level
  - Given the need for investment, there is an opportunity to critically review whether the existing facility portfolio is still relevant to local needs, and whether the current range of opportunities and activities could/should be provided through alternative/more effective means. This could mean the replacement/rebuilding of facilities

### **Accessibility**

- 3.27 The key issues currently affecting accessibility to the existing sport and leisure facilities in the City are:
- The need to ensure additional investment in disability access, to build on what has already been achieved; the provision of a replacement facility for the City of Worcester Pool and Fitness Facilities, would address this issue.
  - The need to provide modernised facilities at the dual use sites to accommodate the latent and current demand for participation; the expansion of facilities on both sites will necessitate the provision of additional ancillary facilities, and specifically parking.
  - Increasing opportunities for access at the dual use sites; there is demand for access to facilities during the day, which may be able to be addressed if there could be an expansion of e.g. health and fitness provision at both sites.

### **Key Issues for Indoor Facility Provision**

- 3.28 There are a number of key issues to be considered in respect of the existing indoor facilities in the City, in relation to the PPG 17 assessment. These are summarised below:

#### **Strategic Importance**

- The provision of sport, leisure and physical activity has been identified as a high priority in various community consultation exercises in the City; it is also linked to the need to provide more for young people
- Sport and leisure do not currently feature in any of the Council's corporate objectives, although they have significant potential to contribute to the identified objectives for the City's tourism product and profile
- Corporate funding for sport and leisure is reducing; provision of community services has now become very dependent on S106 funding, which has the potential to be better targeted and prioritised for the service

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

- Tourism, and tourism development is a key corporate priority, but there seems to be few links between this, and the need to provide high quality built facilities, open space, play areas etc; the issue of age also needs to be considered – would the tourism profile for the City, which tends to be the middle – aged/older age groups, be likely to utilise regional quality sports and leisure facilities, or would the provision of such facilities actually attract additional visitors to the City?
- Given that it is not a corporate priority, it is important to make the case for leisure and sport provision, and their critical contribution to delivery of the social agenda e.g. community safety, social inclusion, health, skill development etc
- There is a demand in the City for high quality facility provision; given the age and design of some of the existing provision e.g. Worcester Pool and Fitness Centre, St John's and Nunnery Wood Sports Centres, it is the quality of future facility provision that needs to be addressed, rather than the quantity of provision. The City is currently adequately provided for in quantitative terms, for health and fitness, sports halls (as long as the existing level of dual use provision is maintained)

### **Facility Role**

- Given that Worcester is the county town, there is potential for the indoor facilities to cater for both city residents and those from wider a field. This is particularly relevant given the focus in the city on tourism. The current swimming opportunity is limited in this respect, given the age and condition of the building.
- Given the location of all the existing facilities, the Worcester Swimming Pool, and the St John's Leisure Centre, are the facilities most likely to attract visitor use. Perdiswell currently has the most potential for expansion, and development to provide a wider range of leisure facilities, for both local and visitor use.
- If the City's facilities are to continue to provide for the County, there is a need for investment, particularly in swimming facilities; the issue is capital cost, and revenue costs, as the City would be providing for residents from other areas.

### **Age and Condition of the Facilities**

- The existing Worcester Pool is nearing the end of its useful life, given the design, age and condition of the actual building. There is significant lack of parking provision, and access to the building is poor.
- DDA is still an issue in certain parts of the building e.g. sauna area, although there has been significant investment into disability access throughout the facility.
- St John's Leisure Centre is on a very restricted site, and development/extension of the facility is not possible on the existing site.
- Nunnery Wood Sports Centre is also on a very restricted site, and there is little potential for facility and infrastructure e.g. car parking extension, unless land can be acquired from the adjacent College.



## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

### **Ancillary Provision**

- There is a lack of ancillary facilities, and particularly parking, at all the existing facilities.
- Car parking is an issue at the Worcester Pool and Fitness Centre, and at St John's, as parking provision is very limited. This issue may impact on people's ability, or choice to use these facilities. Re-location of the existing Pool to Perdiswell would address this issue, as there is sufficient parking at the Perdiswell site.
- Nunnery Wood is the worst provided for in terms of customer car parking; a more workable agreement over parking provision on the site would be beneficial for sports users, and this should be discussed further with the school, and College.

### **Management and Operation**

- There are currently two operational management arrangements in the City for indoor facility provision – In house, and Leisure Connection. This results in some differentials in pricing between facilities, which may be confusing to the customer. All fitness facilities are operated by Leisure Connection, and this facilitates a consistent programming and pricing policy across all sites.
- Nunnery Wood and St John's Leisure Centre are both Quest accredited, and provide an efficient, quality service. Although limited by the design, and age of the buildings, both centres are clean, welcoming, and are obviously well managed. Both facilities also have excellent displays of information and activity contacts. Both centres scored highly in Quest.
- Disability access e.g. further work at St John's is dependent on the future proposals for this site, and the re-development of the school), , marketing roles, some elements of customer care, and parallel management of school and dual use (Nunnery Wood in particular), are the key operational areas to focus on in future service delivery.
- There is significant potential to expand the existing facilities at Nunnery Wood; demand is high for the facility for both curriculum and community use. Curriculum demand is also likely to increase with the expansion of the adjacent 6<sup>th</sup> Form College. The real issue at Nunnery Wood is the lack of space for expansion of facilities on the existing site, and the impact any expansion would have on provision of e.g. parking space, which is used by the school, the college, and sports centre users.
- The Quest assessment also identified the need to consider facility refurbishment/replacement, and the need to consider all options for future facility management.
- There are restraints on the programming at Nunnery Wood, given the limited access to the sports hall facility, as the school uses it for exams.
- The facilities at St John's Leisure Centre are also used by the adjacent Youth Club, which does take up some programming capacity.
- There is high demand for the health and fitness facilities in the City; the private sector market has grown quickly, and the existing quality at the City facilities will need to be maintained to compete with such provision into the future.

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

- Perdiswell Sports Centre is in need of some refurbishment in the older parts of the building, although Leisure Connection has invested significantly in health and fitness provision. It is a clean and well-managed centre, but may suffer initially in usage terms from the new sports hall opened at Elgar School (opposite the centre). Investment has focused principally on fitness facilities, to generate increased usage at the centre. The sports hall is frequently used for events and non-sport shows/exhibitions, which generate income, but have an impact on access for sports users. The impact specifically relates to the quality of provision made for sport and physical activity e.g. accessibility, impact on the sports areas and floor surfacing, etc. There are some issues to resolve over access to the facility from golf users.
- The new changing provision will be managed by Leisure Connection on behalf of the Council; relocation of the pool to this site will need to be given careful consideration in terms of its links to the existing building, to ensure access and circulation is improved overall, rather than impeded.

### **New Provision – Planned**

- Discussions are ongoing regarding the potential to replace St John's Leisure Centre through a joint development with Sainsbury's. If the facility is re-developed, it will continue to provide on a dual-use basis; the key issue is where on the new site the facilities would be located, given the requirements of the school for its re-building, and how a location further back from the main street would impact on the Centre's ability to generate revenue e.g. passing trade, café facility etc.
- There is a planning issue over the potential development of the facility, which is currently being discussed with the County.

### **Potential for New Provision**

- There is significant potential to replace the existing City centre swimming pool on the existing site at Perdiswell, to provide a large multi-purpose, wet and dry centre. The existing pool site has the potential to generate a significant capital receipt, which could contribute towards the cost of a new facility. The key issues to consider are the accessibility of Perdiswell from all areas of the City, the availability of appropriate public transport, and the need to increase the provision of e.g.: car parking on the Perdiswell site.
- The future level of indoor wet and dry facility provision in the City must take into account the new facilities provided by education. These include new sports halls, New Opportunities Fund (NOF) funded at Elgar School, and at the Catholic High School.
- There may be some potential for the City Council to work in partnership with University of Worcester, if the proposed development of a new swimming pool goes ahead. The extent and nature of this partnership is likely to depend on capital funding contributions, and the required participation outcomes for each partners.

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

- There is latent demand in the City (identified through consultation), for additional sport and leisure facilities; these are specifically a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation long pile carpet synthetic turf pitch specifically designed for football, and an outdoor netball area (floodlit); the ideal location for the netball area would be at Nunnery Wood, but there is currently insufficient outdoor space available for development, without reducing the already limited parking provision

### Community Recreational Facilities

#### Typology: Indoor Facilities - Community Centres

3.29 Community Centres need to be considered within the context of the findings of the indoor sports facility assessment – community centres, and other venues such as church halls, scout huts and civic halls can all provide valuable indoor space for a range of sport and recreation activities.

3.30 The City and County Council provide the following centres(See Map 5):

Figure 3.5 City and County Provision of Community Centres in Worcester

Centre	Provision	Ward
Dines Green	Youth Club Community Centre(Two separate buildings)	St John's
Ronkswood	Community Centre(One building)	Nunnery
City Centre	Community Centre and Youth Centre (Two separate buildings)	Cathedral
Tolladine	Community Centre (one building)	Gorse Hill
Old Wardon	Youth Club Community Centre(two separate buildings)	Warndon
Lyppard Grange	Community Centre	Warndon Parish North
St John's	Youth Club (County Council)	St John's
St Peter's	Community Centre	St Peter's

3.31 The City Council provision varies in quality from the new purpose built facility in the City Centre to the converted building that serves as a youth club in Dines Green.

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- 3.32 The existing community halls in the City were identified for this study, and questionnaires were sent to all existing contacts, to identify the scale and scope of existing facilities and usage. 21 of the surveys were returned. The assessment is based on the identification of 65+ community halls/centres in the City.
- 3.33 The audit focuses on the extent and location of existing provision, rather than the quality. Given the wide range of halls, their provision, and focus, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons in relation to quality, as there are few similarities between the different buildings, how they are operated, and for what they are used. However, it is important to know the distribution of community halls provision, as it has potential to contribute to outreach development work, in terms of accessing hard to reach groups to encourage them to participate in sport and physical activity, and being able to accommodate activities at local level. Figure 3.6 below identifies the private provision.

Figure 3.6 Private Community Recreation Provision

Ward	Population	Provision Details	Total
Arboretum	5611	2 Church Halls 2 Private Community	4
Battenhall	5216	2 Church Halls 2 Private Community 1 Youth facility	5
Bedwardine	7875	2 Church Hall	2
Cathedral	7458	10 Church Halls 7 Private Community 3 Youth Facilities	20
Claines	7873	4 Church Halls 1 Private Community 2 Youth Facilities	7
Gorse Hill	5524	2 Private Community	2
Nunnery	8011	2 Youth Facilities 2 Church Halls	4
Rainbow Hill	5845	3 Church Halls 1 Private Community 1 Youth Facility	7
St Clement	5493	1 Private Community	1
St John	8033	5 Church Halls 2 Private Community 2 Youth Facilities	9

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Ward	Population	Provision Details	Total
St Peter's Parish	5620	1 Community Facility 1 Youth Facilities	2
St Stephens	5047	1 Community Facility	1
Warndon	5292	2 Church Hall	2
Warndon Parish North	5232	2 Church Hall	2
Warndon Parish South	5224	2 Community Facilities	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>		

### Quantity Findings: Private Community Provision

3.34 From the above audit information, the following can be identified:

- Existing community centre/hall provision is reasonably well distributed across the City
- The majority of the provision is in the central area, which actually has the lowest number of residents (currently)

### Accessibility

3.35 There are a number of accessibility issues in relation to community recreation facilities these include:

- Limited opening times opening times and access arrangements vary greatly, from facilities with fixed, managed opening times to those where opening is on demand
- Private facility hire varied dependent upon the type and usage of the facility

### Key Findings

3.36 The key findings:

- The audit identified 69 private community facilities in the City
- A significant number of community facilities were identified, including youth centres, church halls, community associations, culturally specific facilities, and activity centres. Many of these venues have been identified as accommodating a range of recreational activities ranging from aerobics and keep fit to indoor bowls and in some cases recreational badminton
- The youth centres all offer some form of sport or physical activity, but this is often outdoor, and is not just restricted to indoor provision

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- 3.37 The indoor sports facility assessment has revealed that there are key deficiencies (quantitative) in relation to facilities. This theoretically places pressure on community centres providing for formal sport. A number of key facts need to be considered in light of the findings:
- Community centres (etc.) provide valuable facilities for those not wanting to access a formal sports centre
  - Facilities can be seen as key in providing informal venues for encouraging more people to be physically active
- 3.38 Realistically, there are currently few community halls in the City, which are suitable for formal sport, given their scale and size. They do, however, have some potential to host less formal activities.
- Facilities can often prove to more accessible for certain sections of the community
- 3.39 The assessment of indoor sports facilities has identified a number of key issues on a strategic level. The results of the assessment, and resulting recommendations are presented earlier in this section (Paragraph 3.25).
- 3.40 In relation to the questionnaire distributed, the following key findings are identified:
- Community centres are used for a variety of informal recreation activities including Yoga, play groups, badminton, residents meetings, club/interest activities in addition to local community events and exhibitions (Perdiswell youth centre is an excellent example of a private charity run facility that caters for the needs of the local community)
  - Opening times and access arrangements vary greatly, from facilities with fixed, managed opening times to those where opening is on demand
  - Management arrangements vary
  - The majority of private halls responding did not report any problems with vandalism
  - Few of the private halls have any major facility development plans
  - There is an imbalance in terms of the quality of provision particularly for young people

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### Parks and Gardens

- 3.41 Parks and formal gardens provide accessible, high quality opportunities for a range of informal recreation, formal sporting opportunities and community events. Many parks have historic features and a long heritage. Parks provision has been sub-categorised into, "Major" Parks, "Country Parks and "Local" Parks on the basis of discussions with Community Services Officers about the primary role and function of the parks and garden facilities across the City.

### Definition

- 3.42 *"Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events"*

### Quantity: Parks

- 3.43 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are **3 major parks 1 country park (split over two sites), and 4 local parks (See Map 6)** within the City. These are identified in Figure 3.7 below:

Figure 3.7 Formal Parks

Site Name	Site Classification	Hectares	Ward	Quality Rating
Oldbury Road	Local Park	2.8	St Clement	49%
Hylton Road - Henwick Parade	Local Park	1.4	St Clement	29%
Cripplegate Park	Major Park	4.2	St John	48%
Gheluvelt Park Os	Major Park	7.56	Arboretum/Claines	66%
Fort Royal Park	Major Park	2.1	Catherdal	50%
Land Off Springfield Road	Local Park	1.13	St Peters Parish	50%
Cromwell Crescent	Local Park	2.13	St Peters Parish	33%
Nunnery Wood	Country Park*	22.78	Nunnery	17%
Perry Wood	Country Park*	10.9	Warndon Parish South	51%

\*Nunnery Wood and Perry Wood both form the Worcester Woods Country Park

- 3.44 Figure 3.7 above illustrates the uneven distribution of parks across the City with only 9 of the 15 City wards being served by formal park provision. The distribution is identified in greater detail in Figure 3.8 overleaf.

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Figure 3.8 City of Worcester: Current Parks Provision

Ward	Population	Number of Sites					
		Major Park	Country Park	Local Park	Total Number	Total Hectares	Provision per 1000 pop
Arboretum	5611	0.5	0	0	0.5	3.78	0.6
Battenhall	5216	0	0	1	1	1.34	0.2
Bedwardine	7875	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathedral	7458	1	0	0	1	2.10	0.2
Claines	7873	0.5	0	0	0.5	3.78	0.4
Gorse Hill	5524	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunnery	8011	0	1.5	0	1.5	28.23	3.5
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Clement	5493	0	0	2	2	4.20	0.7
St John	8033	1	0	0	1	4.20	0.5
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0	1	1	3.64	0.6
St Stephen	5047	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon	5292	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	0.5	0	0.5	5.45	1.0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56.72</b>	<b>0.6</b>

3.45 The identified parks cover **56.72 hectares** across the City. From the above figure, a number of observations can be made:

- The distribution of formal parks is uneven, with provision ranging from 0.5 parks in the Arboretum and Claines wards to 3 parks in the St Clement Ward. (Gheluvelt park is split by the ward boundary for Arboretum and Claines)
- In terms of total hectares of formal parks provision, there is significant variance across the City, with 28.23ha of provision in Nunnery Wood ward, and to 1.34 ha in Battenhall ward. 6 wards have no formal park provision whatsoever and open space provision is made through other open space types.
- Provision per head of population also varies significantly, with current provision varying from 3.5ha per 1,000 population in the Nunnery Ward area to 0.25 ha per 1,000 population in the Battenhall Ward. Six wards were found to have no formal park provision (Bedwardine, Gorse Hill, Rainbow Hill, St Stephen, Warndon and Warndon Parish North). It is important to consider that these areas may be served by other typologies of open space.

3.46 The current standard of provision within the City equates to **0.6** hectares of formal park per 1000 population.



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3.47 The average size of formal park is 6.1 hectares and this figure should be used as a minimum size for future provision.

### Quality: Parks and Gardens

3.48 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment proforma is based on a number of key criteria encompassing the quality aspects of the Green Flag Programme, ILAM Parks Management Guidance and the Tidy Britain Scheme. The assessment considered the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of each individual park. In summary the scoring included the criteria of:

- Entrance areas
- Presence and quality of signage and information
- Boundary fencing and hedges
- Roads, paths and cycle ways
- Quality of planted areas (flower and shrub beds)
- Tree management
- The quality of key furniture including seats, bins, toilets
- The quality of specific facilities including play provision, bowls greens and multi use games areas
- Cleanliness

3.49 The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a "snapshot" in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit audit. **Map 6a** illustrates the quality of parks and gardens across the City.

Figure 3.9 City of Worcester: Parks and Gardens Quality Ratings

Ward	Provision Details	Number of Sites Audited	Total	Quality Range	
Arboretum	0.5 major park	0.5	0.5	Range: Average:	66%
Battenhall	1 local park	1	1	Range: Average:	33%
Bedwardine	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	N/A
Cathedral	1 major park	1	1	Range: Average:	50%
Claines	0.5 major park	0.5	0.5	Range: Average:	66%
Gorse Hill	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
Nunnery	1.5 country park	1.5	1.5	Range: Average:	7% -51% 34%

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Ward	Provision Details	Number of Sites Audited	Total	Quality Range	
Rainbow Hill	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
St Clement	2 local parks	2	2	Range: Average:	29% - 49% 39%
St John	1 major park	1	1	Range: Average:	48%
St Peter's Parish	1 local parks	1	1	Range: Average:	50%
St Stephen	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
Warndon	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
Warndon Parish North	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
Warndon Parish South	0.5 country park	0.5	0.5	Range: Average:	51%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3 major parks *2 country park sites 4 local parks</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>17%-64% 44%</b>

2 sites making up 1 Country Park (Worcester Woods)

### 3.50 Key quality findings:

- A variance in the quality of parks and gardens across the City, with scores varying from 17% (poor) to 66% (very good) across the City
- A variance in the average quality rating across areas of the City, ranging from an average of 33% in Battenhall for the 1 formal site in the ward, and 66% in Arboretum and Claines for Gheleveult park that falls within both ward boundaries
- An average score across the City for parks and gardens of 44% average

### 3.51 A number of comments can be made in relation to individual criteria that have been rated. These include:

- A significant variance in scores for main site entrance, signage and the quality of roads/pathways
- Signage was found to be the key qualitative deficiency. Three sites (33%) were found to have no signage and of the three 1 site is identified as a major park, (Cripplegate Park) 1 site is part of the Worcester Woods country park (Nunnery Wood) and the remaining site a local park (Cromwell Crescent)
- 6 sites were found to have no seating and 3 sites no bins

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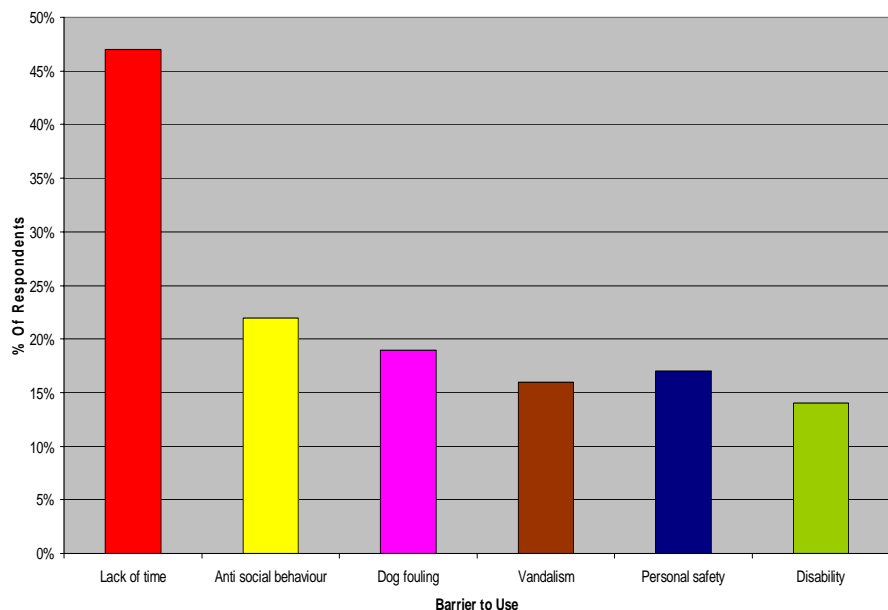
- The two sites that make up the Worcester Wood Country Park (Perry Wood and Nunnery Wood) have no seating, Perry Wood has no bins and signage was found to be in need of improvement. Nunnery Wood has no signage present

### Accessibility

3.52 Accessibility has been assessed using a variety of techniques including mapping exercises and consultation. The key findings show that:

- Over 70% of respondents to the door to door survey use parks and gardens
- Most users walk to park and gardens and travel for an average time of 10.02 minutes equating to a travel distance of 0.67 miles(See Map 6b)
- The audit revealed that there was scope for more facilities for those with a disability
- Few sites had lighting provision which potentially restricts usage to daylight hours

Figure 3.10 Barriers to Use



3.53 From the figure above the largest perceived barrier to use is Lack of time (47% of respondents to the door to door survey), the second biggest perceived barrier identified by respondents is anti social behaviour, closely followed by personal safety (17% of respondents), dog fouling 19% of respondents and vandalism 15% of respondents, 14% of respondents identified disability as a barrier to use.

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### **Key Findings:**

- 3.54 A number of key findings and conclusions in relation to the provision of parks and gardens can be reported. These are:
- High satisfaction with the quality of parks provision (measured through BVPI119 and the door to door survey)
  - High levels of usage
  - A significant variance in the quality of parks across the City
  - Parks and gardens are of a generally reasonable quality, with sites scoring an average of 44%, equating to an average quality rating when compared to the quality value line. Residents rated the quality of parks and gardens highly. However this needs to be treated with caution as individual elements within the parks and gardens do need capital investment and long term management such as the resurfacing of footpaths and tennis courts, the replacement of Children's Play equipment. The introduction of signage and notice boards as well as routine maintenance such as painting of benches and bins and tidying of entrance points
  - The City Council should aspire to provide good quality services to its residents and at present the parks and gardens are slightly below that aspiration

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### Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces (Including Green Corridors)

- 3.55 Natural and semi natural greenspace within the City are comprised of a variety of differing sites. For the purpose of assessment the sites have been classified as Public or Private. Green corridors can be seen to contribute to the overall provision of Natural and Semi natural greenspace and are therefore included within this section.

#### Definition

- 3.56 Natural and semi natural greenspace is defined as:

*'Sites that are provided as nature reserves, woodlands or for wildlife conservation, bio diversity and raising environmental education awareness'.*

- 3.57 Whilst green corridors are defined as:

*'Sites that provide venues for walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others uses. Often they can provide a key "green" link and offer travel routes for both local residents and local wildlife migration'.*

- 3.58 Annex A of PPG 17 – Open Space Typology clearly states:

*'The need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no easy way of establishing or setting a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads'.*

- 3.59 It is therefore proposed not to set a provision standard as PPG17 goes on to state:

*'Planning policies should promote the use of Green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, community facilities such as schools, community centres and sports facilities, places of employment and shops. To this end Green Corridors are demand led. It is down to the Planning authorities to seize opportunities to use linear routes that are established for example canal corridors, river banks or disused railway lines, supplementing them through links from urban areas and developing circular routes and trails'.*

- 3.60 The green corridors provide opportunities in the City to link both semi rural and urban communities together. With a number of the linear routes linking different housing areas and open spaces together.

- 3.61 With regards to green corridors the PPG 17 (Planning Policy Guidance note 17) guidance emphasis appears to be on sites in urban areas, this is due to the guidance adopting the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report 'Urban Typology'.

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- 3.62 As a result elements of the guidance appear to be contradictory for example the guidance suggests that all corridors including those in remote rural settlements should be included, the PPG 17 companion guide insinuates that unless a green corridor is used as a transport route that links facilities such as home to school or town and sports centre it should not be included as part of the audit.
- 3.63 Linear green space in the City plays an important role as a green and wildlife corridor in addition to their wider amenity green space role and natural and semi natural open space.
- 3.64 Green corridors also contribute to the overall provision of natural and semi-natural green space and have subsequently been included in analysis against the English Nature recommended standards of provision.

### Quantity: Natural & Semi-natural greenspace (including green corridors)

- 3.65 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are **57 sites** that have been classified within this typology. **42** are natural/semi natural greenspaces (**18 Private 49.92Ha / 39 Public 147.69Ha**) occupying a total of **203.20** hectares of which **147.69** hectares are publicly accessible. These sites are outlined in the Figure 3.11 below. The location of these sites is presented on **Map 7**.

Figure 3.11 Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace Provision – including Green Corridors

Site Name	Hectares	Ward	Public / Private	Quality Rating
Former Co-Op Sports Ground	2.9	Battenhall	Private	Not audited as no access
Land North East Of Duck Brook (Green Corridor)	4.69	Battenhall	Public	45%
Grove Farm	0.45	Bedwardine	Private	21%
Bromwich Parade Fields	8.98	Bedwardine	Public	50%
Land West Of Athletics Club	6.19	Bedwardine	Public	51%
Bromwich Road Waste Ground	0.73	Bedwardine	Private	Not Audited
Riverside New Road To Weir Lane (Green Corridor)	3.4	Bedwardine	Public	67%
Lark Hill	2.5	Cathedral	Private	Not audited
Grandstand Road Gardens (Green Corridor)	0.73	Cathedral	Public	60%
Thornloe Orchard	2.2	Cathedral	Private	36%
Northwick Lido	3.1	Claines	Public	64%
Droitwich Road Trees (Green Corridor)	1.3	Claines	Public	28. %

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Site Name	Hectares	Ward	Public / Private	Quality Rating
Elbury Park	4.33	Gorse Hill	Public	36%
Gorse Hill Os	4.37	Gorse Hill	Public	44%
Cromwell's Trench	1.4	Nunnery	Private	20%
Prestwich Avenue Spinney	0.45	Nunnery	Public	38%
Land North Of Perry Wood	5.02	Nunnery	Public	29%
Woodside Coppice	13.76	Nunnery	Public	36%
Perry Wood Bank, Ribble Close	0.7	Nunnery	Private	Not audited as no access
Hallow Road Tip (Keppax Country Park)	17.2	St Clement	Public	36%
Penhill Crescent	3.9	St John	Public	52%
Buck Street Open Space	0.34	St John	Public	34 %
Broomhall Way Buffer Zone (Green Corridor)	4.29	St Peter's Parish	Public	20%
Land South Of Broomhill Way (Green Corridor)	9.8	St Peter's Parish	Private	Not rated
Kestrel Drive Buffer Zone (Green Corridor)	0.2	St Peter's Parish	Public	30%
Balancing Area And Spare Land Adjacent To Norton Roundabout (Green Corridor)	0.89	St Peter's Parish	Public	20%
Broomhall Way East Buffer Zone (Green Corridor)	0.77	St Peter's Parish	Public	20%
St Peters Drive Play Area And Cycle Footpaths (Green Corridor)	0.24	St Peter's Parish	Public	60%
Llusty Glaze Os	1.74	St Peters Parish	Public	26%
St Barnabas Woodland	2.1	St Stephen	Public	26%
Northwood Close	0.7	St Stephen	Private	Not audited as no access
Cotswold Way Buffer Zone (Green Corridor)	2.0	Warndon	Public	33%
Woodleason Pond	0.3	Warndon Parish North	Public	56%
Land North Of Cotswold Way	3.03	Warndon Parish North	Public	32%

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Site Name	Hectares	Ward	Public / Private	Quality Rating
Land West of Excel Distribution Depot And Southern Corridor North	2.68	Warndon Parish North	Public	57%
Land West Of Excel Distribution Depot And Southern Corridor South	3.02	Warndon Parish North	Public	44%
North East Of Sainsbury's Distribution Depot	1.62	Warndon Parish North	Public	39%
Ridgeline Woodland Planting South Of Warndon Court	6.9	Warndon Parish North	Private	46%
Warndon Wood	6.3	Warndon Parish North	Public	51%
Woodland Planting Between Tolladine/ Warndon Wood	3.92	Warndon Parish North	Public	47%
Tolladine Wood	2.47	Warndon Parish North	Public	41%
Trotshill Lane Paddocks	0.8	Warndon Parish North	Private	51%
Church Meadow - Habington Corridor	0.9	Warndon Parish North	Public	57%
Canalside Pasture And Red Meadow	3.9	Warndon Parish North	Private	Not audited as no access
South of Warndon Woodland	9.7	Warndon Parish North	Private	Not audited as no access
Land North of Warndon Court	2.8	Warndon Parish North	Private	Not audited as no access
Alford Avenue (Green Corridor)	11.03	Warndon Parish North	Public	37%
Landscape Corridor Beverbourne And Pendesham (Green Corridor)	6.46	Warndon Parish North	Public	63%
Ronkswood Hill Farm	6.03	Warndon Parish South	Public	39%
Mabs Tenement	5.03	Warndon Parish South	Private	31%
Trotshill Pond And Orchard	4.03	Warndon Parish South	Private	31%



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Site Name	Hectares	Ward	Public / Private	Quality Rating
Lyppard Grange Ponds & Associated Corridors	4.47	Warndon Parish South	Public	62%
Topham Avenue Pond	0.8	Warndon Parish South	Private	47%
Pond Tesco PJF Millwood Drive	0.17	Warndon Parish South	Private	27%
Dugdale Drive & Ass Open Space	0.55	Warndon Parish South	Public	Not audited as no access
Bakewell (Green Corridor)	4.6	Warndon Parish South	Public	71%
Corridor In Harley Warren (Green Corridor)	0.32	Warndon Parish South	Public	53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>203.2</b>		<b>147.69 ha Public 55.51 ha Private</b>	

3.66 The City's Wildlife Ranger team is responsible for managing 124 hectares of natural and semi natural greenspace across the City. 54% of the land managed by the wildlife rangers is classified as Local Nature Reserves.

3.67 As the figure above illustrates 27% of the natural and semi natural greenspace within the City is in private ownership and therefore access for the public may be restricted or removed at any given time. Therefore, for the purpose of calculating current provision, only public sites have been used in the calculations. This equates to 147.69 hectares out of the overall total of 203.2 ha identified.

3.68 In assessing Natural and Semi-natural greenspace, consideration has been given to English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. English Nature present a number of recommendations in relation to provision levels, specifically:

- Provision of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 population. This equates to **186.7ha** of provision within the City. As the guidance identifies publicly accessible greenspace then it is important to recognise that provision is split in terms of ownership between sites publicly owned and sites in private ownership (several with developers awaiting handover) then the amount of accessible semi/ natural greenspace is **203.2 ha**
- No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace
- There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home
- There should be at least one 100ha site within 5km
- There should be at least one 500ha site within 10km

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- 3.69 These standards have been applied to the City with the results reported in Section 4 'Applying Provision Standards' For the purposes of assessing against these standards of provision, all provision classified (on the basis of their primary purpose) as natural/semi-natural greenspace, green corridors have been included.
- 3.70 The Figure 3.12 below provides a brief summary of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision within the City.

Figure 3.12 City of Worcester: Natural & Semi Natural Green Space Provision (Publicly accessible and these include Green Corridors)

Ward	Population	Number of Sites	Total Hectares	Provision per 1000 population
Arboretum	5611	0	0	0.00
Battenhall	5216	1	4.69	0.89
Bedwardine	7875	3	18.57	2.40
Cathedral	7458	1	0.7	0.09
Claines	7873	2	4.4	0.55
Gorse Hill	5524	2	8.7	1.58
Nunnery	8011	3	19.2	2.40
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	0	0.00
St Clement	5493	1	17.2	3.13
St John	8033	2	4.24	0.53
St Peter's Parish	5620	6	8.13	1.44
St Stephen	5047	1	2.10	0.55
Warndon	5292	1	2.00	0.37
Warndon Parish North	5232	11	41.73	7.97
Warndon Parish South	5224	5	15.97	3.06
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>147.69</b>	<b>1.58</b>

(\*37 Sites are publicly accessible this includes 22 natural and semi natural greenspaces and 15 green corridors)

- 3.71 From the above figure it is clear that the City wide provision of natural and semi natural greenspace falls short of the 2 ha per1000 population advocated by English Nature. On a ward basis the deficiencies and surpluses vary significantly with residents in three wards Arboretum, Rainbow Hill having no access to natural and semi natural greenspace in their area, whilst residents in wards in, Warndon Parish North, Warndon Parish South, Nunnery, St Clement and Bedwardine are served by a surplus against the 2 Hectare Standard.
- 3.72 It is important to note that whilst surpluses and deficiencies do exist areas may be better served by other typologies to meet local needs.

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### Quality: Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace (Including Green Corridors)

- 3.73 No definitive national or local quality standards exist although specific habitats have recognised time tested methods of management to ensure long term sustainability through effective Countryside management. The Countryside Agency state that land needs to be managed and maintained to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, heritage, bio diversity and local custom.
- 3.74 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment proforma is based on a number of key criteria encompassing the quality aspects of Green Flag, Tidy Britain and ILAM Parks Management best practice. The assessment considered the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of each individual site.
- 3.75 Given that areas of natural or semi-natural greenspace (including green corridors) are likely to have less formal facilities than a formal park, a number of criteria were not included in the quality assessment of this typology. The focus of the quality assessment was on pathways, general access, signage, provision of bins where appropriate etc... Quality ratings are summarised in the Figure 3.13 below. And Map 7a illustrates the distribution of natural and semi natural greenspace (including green corridors) by quality across the City.

Figure 3.13 City of Worcester: Current Natural & Semi Natural Green Space Quality Ratings (Public and Private and these include Green Corridors)

Ward	Provision Details	No of sites audited	Total	Quality Range	
Arboretum	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
Battenhall	2 Site	1	2	Range: Average:	45%
Bedwardine	5 Sites	4	5	Range: Average:	21% - 67% 43%
Cathedral	3 Sites	2	3	Range: Average:	36%- 60% 48%
Claines	2 Site	2	2	Range: Average:	28%-64% 46%
Gorse Hill	2 Sites	2	2	Range: Average:	36% - 44% 40%
Nunnery	5 Sites	4	5	Range: Average:	20% - 38% 31%
Rainbow Hill	No Provision	-N/A	N/A-	Range: Average:	- N/A
St Clement	1 Site	1	1	Range: Average:	34%
St John	2 Sites	2	2	Range: Average:	34% - 52% 43%

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Ward	Provision Details	No of sites audited	Total	Quality Range	
St Peter's Parish	7 Site	6	7	Range: Average:	20%-60% 30%
St Stephen	2 Sites	1	2	Range: Average:	27%
Warndon	1 Site	1	1	Range: Average:	- 33%
Warndon Parish North	16 Sites	12	16	Range: Average:	32% - 62% 48%
Warndon Parish South	9 Sites	8	9	Range: Average:	27% - 71% 50%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>57 Sites</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>20% - 64% 42%</b>

3.76 A number of key comments can be made in respect of the quality of natural/semi-natural sites:

- Quality scores range significantly across the City, from 20% poor to 71% (very good). The City average for all sites was 42% (average)
- Signage (33 sites no signage), benches(37 sites no benches) and bins(33 sites no bins) are absent from the majority of sites
- For the sites within public ownership the quality varied from 21% (poor) to 71% (very good) whilst the private sites varied from 20% (poor) to 56% (good)
- Cleanliness of sites was on average very good

### Accessibility: Natural / Semi-Natural Greenspace (Including Green Corridors)

3.77 Overall, natural and semi natural greenspace areas are considered to have relatively low accessibility if compared with other open space provision.

3.78 Accessibility has been assessed using a variety of techniques including mapping exercises and consultation.

### Key Findings

3.79 The key findings show that:

- A significant proportion of residents (42% of respondents to the survey) access natural / semi natural greenspace, with walking the most common means of travel. The average travel time was 21 minutes to access this equates to a travel distance of 1.4 Miles (2.4 kilometres) **Map 7b** illustrates the catchment of natural and semi natural greenspace within this identified distance
- The site audits revealed a general lack of facilities catering for those with a disability.

## ***SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION***

- There is insufficient provision to meet the quantitative standards set by English Nature. To meet the standard (2ha of provision per 1,000 population) there is a requirement for 187 ha of natural greenspace. There is currently 147.69 ha of publicly accessible provision, and therefore a deficiency of 39.31ha. (a deficiency of 0.42ha per 1000 population) It is important to note that local people believe they have access to enough open space provision in their area.
- A variance in provision levels across the City
- A significant proportion of the provision identified is based in 2 of the 15 wards (over half of provision is within the Warndon Parish North and St Peter's areas)
- 7 wards have no identified green corridor Provision
- Green corridors represent an important chance to link up urban and rural areas and to promote sustainable transport opportunities through walking and cycling.
- Green corridors are well used more so than some formal greenspace provision.
- Levels of maintenance across the City varied and therefore affected quality
- Sites are generally average in quality
- Quantity varies across the City, both in terms of the number of sites and hectares / size of provision.
- There are issues with the accessibility of sites in private ownership and genuine concern that these sites are not properly resourced from the start.
- As a basic standard natural semi natural green space sites that are owned by the City should at least have signage to inform people of the ownership and who to contact if a problem occurs such as fly tipping or abandoned vehicles.
- There are a number of sites that could not be assessed as they had no access and as such provide little benefit to the local communities that live near by. These sites do however provide visual amenity and benefit the neighbourhood they are in.

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

- 3.80 Outdoor sports facilities, for the purposes of the assessment, have been sub-divided in to the following facilities;
- **Playing Pitches** – provision for Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey and Lacrosse have been assessed using the prescribed methodology detailed within *“Toward a Level Playing Field”*. The assessment methodology is provided in more detail within the appendices to this report.
  - **Bowls Greens** have been assessed separately as discrete sports facilities. Where they are present in parks, bowling greens have formed part of the overall quality score for the facility
  - **Tennis Courts**, as with Bowls Greens have been assessed as discrete sports facilities and where they are present in parks, have contributed to the overall score for the park/open space
  - **Golf Courses** have been assessed on the basis of access and opportunities to play
- 3.81 Other more informal facilities have been included within the other listed typologies. For example, a number of Multi-Use Games areas (MUGAs) were identified. Given their intended use, these have been included as part of the assessment of Play areas and provision for young people. The various types of outdoor sports facilities are considered in brief below.

### **Playing Pitches**

- 3.82 Playing pitches in the City are provided through a number of different providers, these are outlined in Appendix 4 identifies sports pitch supply however provision is specifically through the following ; ( Maps 8- 8c illustrate the distribution, pitch type, community use and ownership of pitches across the City).
- 3.83 **City of Worcester Community Services** provides 35 pitches on 14 sites across the City.
- 3.84 **Education** has 31 sites with 75 pitches and is the main provider of pitches.
- 3.85 **Private/ Voluntary Sector.** Facilities are also provided via the private and voluntary sector. These encompass private sports clubs (e.g. Worcester Rugby Club) and facilities which are leased on a long term basis for self-management by local clubs. 21 pitches have been identified.

### **Quantity: Playing Pitches**

- 3.86 The audit of facilities has revealed that there are currently 98 playing pitches available for community use. Appendix 4a identifies the pitches that have been quality audited. These are summarised in the Figure 3.14 overleaf.

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Figure 3.14 City of Worcester: Current Community Accessible Playing Pitch Provision

Ward	Population	Number of pitches						
		Mini Soccer	Junior Football	Senior Football	Cricket	Rugby	Lacrosse	STP
Arboretum	5611	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Battenhall	5216	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Bedwardine	7875	3	4	7	6	7	0	0
Cathedral	7458	0	2	7	0	0	0	0
Claines	7873	11	0	12	2	0	0	0
Gorse Hill	5524	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunnery	8011	0	0	4	0	2	0	1
Rainbow Hill	5845	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
St Clement	5493	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
St John	8033	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Stephen	5047	1	0	9	3	1	0	0
Warndon	5292	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

\*Note: There is also provision of 4 rugby pitches and 1 senior football pitch just outside the City of Worcester boundaries that have had quality assessments undertaken. The rugby pitches are just north of the Warndon ward at Worcester Rugby Club. These figures have not been included in this assessment but have been included in the supply and demand model.

### Quality: Playing Pitches

3.87 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a non-technical visual inspection. The pitch visit proforma provided as part of the Sport England Electronic Toolkit has been used. This will allow comparison with pitch quality findings in future year with other local authorities who have completed local assessments. The key aspects of provision rated include:

- Pitch Slope
- Pitch Evenness
- Grass Cover
- Condition of equipment
- Presence of ancillary facilities
- Presence of common problems
- Proximity to transport network
- Presence of training facilities

3.88 The results of the quality assessments are summarised in the Figure 3.15 below and Appendix 4a gives greater detail of pitch quality findings.

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Figure 3.15 City of Worcester: Summary of Quality Assessment Findings - Community Accessible Playing Pitches

Type of pitch	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Quality Range	
Mini Soccer Pitches	20 pitches	10 pitches	Range: Average:	44% - 82% 67%
Junior Football Pitches	6 pitches	6 pitches	Range: Average:	53% - 71% 65%
Senior Football Pitches	47 pitches	45 pitches	Range: Average:	45% - 90% 73%
Cricket Pitch	12 pitches	6 pitches	Range: Average:	44% - 90% 77%
Rugby Pitch	10 pitches	4 pitches	Range: Average:	47% - 76% 60%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>96 pitches</b>	<b>80 pitches</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>44% - 90% 72%</b>

3.89 Figure 3.16 illustrates the current quality of accessible Playing Pitches available for community use.

Figure 3.16 City of Worcester: Current Community Accessible Playing Pitch Quality Ratings

Ward	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Total	Quality Range	
Arboretum	No pitches identified with Community use-	n/a-	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
Battenhall	1 Senior Football 1 Cricket 1 STP	2	3	Range: Average:	63% - 87% 75%
Bedwardine	3 Mini Soccer 4 Junior Football 7 Senior Football 6 Cricket 7 Rugby	27	27	Range: Average:	44% - 89% 72%
Cathedral	2 Junior Football 7 Senior Football	9	9	Range: Average:	60% - 73% 66%
Claines	11 Mini Soccer 12 Senior Football 2 Cricket	18	25	Range: Average:	55% - 90% 72%
Gorse Hill	1 Mini Soccer	1	1	Range: Average:	56%



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Ward	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Total	Quality Range	
				Range:	Average:
Nunnery	4 Senior Football 2 Rugby 1 STP-	6	7	Range: Average:	63% - 85% 77%
Rainbow Hill	1 Mini Soccer 3 Senior Football	3	4	Range: Average:	61% - 77% 69%
St Clement	1 Senior Football	1	1	Range: Average:	69%
St John	2 Mini Soccer 1 Senior Football	2	4	Range: Average:	45%-66% 56%
St Peter's Parish	No pitches identified with Community use-	n/a-	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
St Stephen	1 Mini Soccer 9 Senior Football 3 Cricket 1 Rugby	8	14	Range: Average:	68% - 90% 82%
Warndon	1 Mini Soccer 2 Senior Football	3	3	Range: Average:	65% - 79% 71%
Warndon Parish North	No pitches identified with Community use-	-n/a	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
Warndon Parish South	No pitches identified with Community use-	-n/a	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20 Mini Soccer 6 Junior Football 47 Senior Football 12 Cricket 10 Rugby 2 STP</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>44% - 90% 72%</b>

STP = Synthetic Turf Pitch    Battenhall - STP pitches are not rated for quality

Nunnery - STP pitches are not rated for quality

St Stephen – Site 94, Elgar Tech College would not grant access to the school but have supplied an indication of pitch provision from school questionnaire

3.90 The audit of pitches has revealed that:

- Quality varies significantly across sites with ratings varying from 44% (Below Average) through to 90% (Excellent).

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- The City average for pitch quality is 72% (Good). This finding needs to be treated with caution given that a significant percentage of site visits were undertaken at the start of the season (when pitches are generally in good condition). The other consideration is the impact of changing rooms on the pitch score – the presence of changing rooms on a site (regardless of their quality) increases each pitch score by 15%.
- Unfortunately access to the changing rooms was not available at the time of the survey and as a result ancillary facilities have not been rated
- Rugby Pitches had the least variance in quality with all pitches above average
- The wards Arboretum, St Peter's Parish, and Warndon Parish North and Warndon Parish South have no identified sites with community use
- Bedwardine, Claines and St Stephen have the highest number of pitches available for community use

Figure 3.17 City of Worcester: Playing Pitch Provision All Identified Pitches

Ward	Population	Number of pitches						
		Mini Soccer	Junior Football	Senior Football	Cricket	Rugby	Lacrosse	STP
Arboretum	5611	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
Battenhall	5216	3	2	1	1	0	0	1
Bedwardine	7875	3	4	7	7	7	0	0
Cathedral	7458	0	3	7	0	0	3	0
Claines	7873	11	0	12	2	0	0	0
Gorse Hill	5524	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunnery	8011	0	1	4	1	2	0	1
Rainbow Hill	5845	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
St Clement	5493	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
St John	8033	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Stephen	5047	1	2	11	4	2	0	0
Warndon	5292	3	1	2	2	0	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

\*Note: There is also provision of 4 rugby pitches just outside the City of Worcester boundaries that have had quality assessments undertaken. The rugby pitches are just north of the Warndon ward at Worcester Rugby Club. These figures have not been included in this assessment but have been included in the supply and demand model.

3.91 From Figure 3.17 above the following observations can be made:

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- Arboretum has 7 pitches that are not available for community use, these pitches are all on school sites(St Georges and Worcester Grammar )
- St Peter's Parish Warndon Parish North, Warndon Parish South have no identified outdoor sports pitch provision
- Mini Soccer- The wards Cathedral and Nunnery and have no identified mini soccer provision
- Junior Football- The wards Claines, Gorse Hill, Rainbow Hill and St John's have no identified junior football pitch provision
- Senior Football- The wards Claines and St Stephen have the highest number of senior football pitches
- Cricket- The wards Cathedral, Gorse Hill, Rainbow Hill and St John's have no identified cricket provision
- Rugby- Only 3 wards have identified rugby pitch provision (Bedwardine, Nunnery and St Stephen
- Lacrosse- Only 1 ward has Lacrosse pitch provision at Cathedral

Figure 3.18 City of Worcester: Playing Pitch Quality Ratings All Identified Pitches

Ward	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Total	Quality Range	
				Range:	Average:
Arboretum	2 Mini Soccer 2 Junior Football 2 Senior Football 1 Cricket	5	7	Range: Average:	82% - 87% 85%
Battenhall	3 Mini Soccer 2 Junior Football 1 Senior Football 1 Cricket 1 STP	7	8	Range: Average:	52% - 87% 74%
Bedwardine	3 Mini Soccer 4 Junior Football 7 Senior Football 7 Cricket 7 Rugby	28	28	Range: Average:	44% - 90% 72%
Cathedral	3 Junior Football 7 Senior Football 3 Lacrosse	13	13	Range: Average:	60% - 77% 68%
Claines	11 Mini Soccer 12 Senior Football 2 Cricket	18	25	Range: Average:	55% - 90% 72%
Gorse Hill	1 Mini Soccer	1	1	Range: Average:	56%

## SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

Ward	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Total	Quality Range	
				Range:	Average:
Nunnery	1 Junior Football 4 Senior Football 1 Cricket 2 Rugby 1 STP-	7	9	Range: Average:	55% - 85% 74%
Rainbow Hill	1 Mini Soccer 3 Senior Football	3	4	Range: Average:	61% - 77% 69%
St Clement	2 Mini Soccer 1 Junior Football 1 Senior Football 1 Cricket	2	5	Range: Average:	53% - 69% 61%
St John	3 Mini Soccer 2 Senior Football	3	5	Range: Average:	45% - 77% 63%
St Peter's Parish	No pitches identified	-n/a	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
St Stephen	1 Mini Soccer 2 Junior Football 11 Senior Football 4 Cricket 2 Rugby	11	20	Range: Average:	56% - 90% 79%
Warndon	3 Mini Soccer 1 Junior Football 2 Senior Football 2 Cricket	4	8	Range: Average:	65% - 79% 71%
Warndon Parish North	No pitches identified	-n/a	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
Warndon Parish South	No pitches identified	-n/a	n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30 Mini Soccer 16 Junior Football 52 Senior Football 19 Cricket 11 Rugby 3 Lacrosse 2 STP</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>44%-100% 72%</b>

STP =Synthetic Turf Pitch

3.92 From the above Figure 3.18, three wards have no identified pitches( St Peter's, Warndon parish North and Warndon Parish South)

3.93 The quality range across the City is diverse with quality varying from 44 %(Average) to 100% (Excellent)

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- 3.94 The lack of pitches in wards can affect the opportunity for 'local' teams to play 'local'.

Figure 3.19 City of Worcester: Summary of Quality Assessment Findings - All Identified Pitches

Type of pitch	Provision Details	No of pitches audited	Quality Range	
Mini Soccer Pitches	30 pitches	15 pitches	Range: Average:	44% - 82% 71%
Junior Football Pitches	16 pitches	14 pitches	Range: Average:	53% - 87% 65%
Senior Football Pitches	52 pitches	48 pitches	Range: Average:	45% - 90% 73%
Cricket Pitch	19 pitches	13 pitches	Range: Average:	44% - 90% 77%
Rugby Pitch	11 pitches	9 pitches	Range: Average:	47% - 100% 75%
Lacrosse Pitch	3 pitches	3 pitches	Range: Average:	74% - 77% 76%
Synthetic Turf Pitch	2 pitches	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>133 pitches</b>	<b>102 pitches</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>44% - 100% 72%</b>

- 3.95 From Figure 3.19 above the following observations can be made:

- Pitch quality varies across the City and the average quality is 72% (good)
- Pitch quality varies by pitch type

### Access: Playing Pitches

- 3.96 Access to pitch provision is influenced by a number of factors, and needs to be viewed differently to access factors for more general open space provision. The following factors need to be considered:

- The need for ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms and car parking to ensure that some league standards are met
- The level of fees and charges for use of the facility – playing pitches have been assessed from the perspective of being formal sports facilities
- The demand "unit" is different to that of other types of open space. A team may not necessarily comprise of residents from the same locality

- 3.97 In light of the above factors defined catchment areas for playing pitch facilities have not been devised.

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3.98 However, it is important to consider the “spread” and distribution of facilities to ensure that access for local teams is in theory equitable. It is also important to consider the nature and ownership of provision that is available as this can influence access. The following findings are reported in relation to access:

- Pricing comparisons with neighbouring authorities has been limited due to lack of information. Based on recent Playing Pitch strategies developed by Strategic Leisure Limited, it would appear that fees and charges in the City are average.

### Key Findings: Playing Pitch Assessment

3.99 Appendix 4b identifies the demand for football pitches in the City, whilst Appendix 4c contains the Sport England Electronic Toolkit calculations for football

3.100 Details of the assessment calculations for playing pitches are provided in the appendices. The assessment calculation provides an indication of whether there is a surplus or deficiency of pitches to meet peak demand. A summary is provided below, by type of pitch.

3.101 **Senior Football:** The assessment has indicated that there is a surplus in pitch provision of **+34 pitches**. There are currently 47 senior football pitches in use to accommodate an estimated 13 adult football games peak time on a Sunday.

3.102 **Junior Football:** The assessment reveals that there are 6 pitches available. On the basis of the methodology undertaken, there is just sufficient provision to meet peak demand. **+/- 0 junior football pitches**. However it is important to consider the opportunities for local teams to play within their local area in doing so the audit has revealed that :

- Battenhall has a **deficiency** of **-1** junior pitch against peak demand
- Claines has a **deficiency** of **-5** junior pitches against peak demand
- Rainbow Hill and Warndon all have a **deficiency** of **-1** pitch against peak demand
- St John's has a **deficiency** of **-2** junior pitches against peak demand

3.103 **Mini Soccer Facilities:** The assessment has indicated a surplus of **+15 mini soccer** pitches. This is based on the availability of 20 pitches and estimated peak demand of 5 games at peak time (Saturday). However when considering the opportunities for teams to develop and grow within their local community area and to play within their local area the audit for Mini soccer has revealed that:

- Claines has a **surplus** of **+5** pitches against peak demand
- Battenhall, Cathedral and Nunnery all have no mini soccer pitches and consequently no teams.
- St Clements has a **deficiency** of **-1** pitch against peak demand

3.104 Appendix 4d identifies the demand for cricket pitches in the City, whilst Appendix 4e contains the Sport England Electronic Toolkit calculations for cricket.

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- 3.105 **Cricket Pitches:** The assessment shows a surplus of pitch provision to meet peak demand with 12 pitches to accommodate 8 games at peak time (midweek). This equates to a surplus of **+4 cricket pitches**. A number of other key findings emerged – from the surveying of clubs it was apparent that there are a number of clubs in the surrounding areas that have not been included in this audit. It is not clear what proportion of the membership of these clubs is made up by residents of Worcester.
- 3.106 Appendix 4f identifies the demand for rugby pitches in the City, whilst Appendix 4g contains the Sport England Electronic Toolkit calculations for rugby.
- 3.107 **Rugby Union Pitches:** The assessment reveals that there are 14 pitches available including pitches at Worcester Rugby Club. On the basis of the methodology undertaken, there is a surplus of **+ 5 rugby pitches** to accommodate an estimated 10 games.
- 3.108 **Lacrosse** no teams were identified during the completion of this study and the pitches at Alice Ottley School in Cathedral ward are not accessible to the community.
- 3.109 The Sport England Electronic toolkit is attached as Appendix 4h.
- 3.110 The sites identified below provide changing facilities; none of these sites have been assessed in terms of the quality of the changing facilities as access was not readily available at the time of auditing.
- Worcester Rugby Club
  - Claines Lane
  - Archdales Sports Ground
  - Worcester City Cricket - Diocesan Sports Ground
  - St Mary's Convent Sports Ground
  - Worcester Royal Grammar School
  - Britannia Square
  - Alice Ottley School Field
  - Worcester Royal Grammar Rugby
  - Worcester City Football Club
  - Old Elizabethans Cricket Ground
  - Worcester County Ground
  - Kays Sports Ground
  - Brickfields Park/King George's Field
  - Kings school pitches
  - Athletics track pitches

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### Bowling Greens

- 3.111 Bowling Greens as sports facilities accommodate a range of formal and casual use. Demand manifests itself through differing uses, such as formal bowling teams using facilities for league games, or for individuals to bowl on a more casual or informal basis. Bowling greens across the City are provided through a network of public facilities (often in parks and recreation grounds) and private facilities (through private clubs and in some cases at Public Houses and Social Clubs). The bowling greens audited are contained within Appendix 4i.

### Quantity: Bowling Greens

- 3.112 The audit has identified a total of **10** bowling greens currently in use (across 7 sites), the audit has also identified 10 bowls clubs across the City (unfortunately no clubs responded to an initial questionnaire survey and 4 clubs agreed to complete a follow up telephone survey). The clubs are registered with the Worcestershire Bowling Association. Appendix 4j contains the bowling green proforma. The Distribution of City Council facilities is illustrated in the Figure 3.20 below and Map 8d.

Figure 3.20 City of Worcester: Bowling Greens

Ward	Population	Number of Sites	Number of Greens
Arboretum	5611	1	1
Battenhall	5216	1	1
Bedwardine	7875	1	1
Cathedral	7458	0	0
Claines	7873	1	1
Gorse Hill	5524	0	0
Nunnery	8011	0	0
Rainbow Hill	5845	1	2
St Clement	5493	0	0
St John	8033	2	4
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0
St Stephen	5047	0	0
Warndon	5292	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

- 3.113 **Ownership.** Of the greens identified, 4 (40%) are owned, managed and operated by the City. All of the City facilities are located within parks and recreation grounds. The other greens identified have been categorised as "private" facilities and broadly consist of:
- Provision as part of private sports clubs. The audit has identified 5 private club sites (this figure needs further investigation as the response from bowls clubs was so low).



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### Quality: Bowling Greens

3.114 The quality of bowling greens has been assessed via site visits and the completion of a non-technical visual assessment, using a standard proforma. A number of criteria have been examined, specifically;

- Presence of floodlighting
- Surface / turf
- Benches
- Condition of gullies / backboards
- Whether the facility is served by a pavilion

Figure 3.21 City of Worcester: Current Bowling Green Quality Ratings

Ward	Provision Details	No of sites audited	Quality Range	
Arboretum	1 Site 1 Green	1	Range: Average:	56%
Battenhall	1 Site 1 Green	1	Range: Average:	74%
Bedwardine	1 Sites 1 Green	1	Range: Average:	60%
Cathedral	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Claines	1 Site 1 Green	1	Range: Average:	64%
Gorse Hill	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Nunnery	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Rainbow Hill	1 Site 2 Greens	Not Audited	Not Audited	Not Audited
St Clement	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
St John	2 Site 4 Greens	1	Range: Average:	82%
St Peter's Parish	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
St Stephen	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Warndon	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Warndon Parish North	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
Warndon Parish South	None Identified	None Identified	Range: Average:	None Identified
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7 Sites 10 Greens</b>	<b>5 Sites 6 Greens</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>56% - 82% 70%</b>

Note that at the time of auditing several sites were not accessible

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3.115 It is important to note that only sites identified within the City of Worcester green space register were audited as no other sites were identified by staff within the City Council **Map 8e** illustrates the quality of Council bowling greens. The results of the audit are summarised as:

- Quality scores range from 56% to 82%
- The average quality score for greens across the City was 70% (good)
- Variance in the quality of provision within individual wards
- None of the bowling greens are served by floodlighting

3.116 4 Clubs using local facilities responded to the consultation. The majority of ratings were positive with:

- 75% of ratings either good or very good
- Clubs stated they expected to increase in membership in the near future

### **Accessibility: Bowling Greens**

3.117 A number of factors affect the accessibility of Bowling Greens. These include the geographical location of facilities, fees and charges applicable, and in the case of club facilities the membership policy. Other factors such as the presence of floodlighting will also have an impact. The key findings in relation to access are:

- Membership policies vary across clubs within the City
- Access arrangements also vary greatly
- The cost of playing bowls also needs to be considered as a key potential barrier to access. The cost of playing Bowls on a casual basis in the City ranges from £55 per season to £75 per season. In some cases, membership of a club entitles you to unlimited access
- The mapping of bowling greens shows the distribution of current provision

### **Key Findings: Bowling Greens**

3.118 The key findings for Bowls are summarised below:

- The key facility issues raised by clubs and stakeholders relate to vandalism and quality, rather than a lack of facilities
- Bowls participation appears to be increasing, with more clubs stating an increase than a decrease in membership numbers.
- There is no national data on average levels of Bowls Green provision.
- The Greens at Cripplegate park are managed by a consortium of 7 clubs, they have complete responsibility for the maintenance and management of the greens

### **Quantity: Tennis Courts**

3.119 Tennis courts have been audited through site visits, questionnaires to known tennis clubs and via school consultation.

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- 3.120 The audit has identified a total of 42 accessible tennis courts (either casual access or via club membership / formal hire) across the City. The tennis court assessment is contained within Appendix 4k and the tennis court proforma is attached as Appendix 4l. The distribution of these is shown in Figure 3.22 below and on Map 8f

Figure 3.22 City of Worcester: Tennis Courts with Community use

Ward	Population	Number of Sites	Number of Courts
Arboretum	5611	0	0
Battenhall	5216	0	0
Bedwardine	7875	3	19
Cathedral	7458	0	0
Claines	7873	3	15
Gorse Hill	5524	0	0
Nunnery	8011	1	4
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	0
St Clement	5493	0	0
St John	8033	1	4
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0
St Stephen	5047	0	0
Warndon	5292	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>42</b>

- 3.121 The audit of sites identified a number of sites where courts previously in use have become dilapidated. A specific example is 'Site 296' in Claines where the courts have become disused and moss is forming on the court surfaces.
- 3.122 The LTA provision standards can be used as a framework for assessing quantity of provision. The standards are based on the assumption that 2% of the population regularly play tennis and demand court usage. On the basis of assumptions about frequency of use, the LTA advocates provision of 1 court per 45 players. Assessment against this standard reveals that there is a need for 126 courts. 115 courts with community access have been identified. A standard is also proposed for the number of floodlit courts based on 1 floodlit court per 65 players. On the basis of this there is a requirement for 87 floodlit courts. Currently only Bromwich Tennis Club provides floodlighting (1 court).

### Quality: Tennis Courts

- 3.123 Tennis court quality has been assessed on the basis of a non-technical visual assessment of all identified courts with community use. The assessment has considered the following factors:
- Presence of floodlighting
  - Quality and condition of the playing surface and fencing
  - Access to ancillary facilities

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- 3.124 Based on a simple scoring system, each facility has the potential to score a maximum of 100%. The range of scores for identified facilities across the City are summarised in Figure 3.23 below.

Figure 3.23 City of Worcester: Quality Assessment Findings – Tennis Courts

Ward	Provision Details	Sites Audited	Total	Quality Range	
Arboretum	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
Battenhall	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	-n/a
Bedwardine	3 Sites 19 Courts	Christopher Whitehead School	4	Range: Average:	51% - 89% 65%
		Bromwich lane tennis club			
		Kays Sports Ground			
Cathedral	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
Claines	3 Sites 15 Courts	Claines Lane	3	Range: Average:	45% - 85% 61%
		Gheluvelt Park			
		Northwick Tennis Club			
Gorse Hill	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
Nunnery	1 Site 4 Courts	Government Office Tennis Courts	1	Range: Average:	62%
Rainbow Hill	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
St Clement	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	-n/a
St John	1 Site 4 Courts	Cripplegate Park	1	Range: Average:	49%
St Peter's Parish	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a-
St Stephen	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
Warndon	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
Warndon Parish North	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a

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Ward	Provision Details	Sites Audited	Total	Quality Range	
Warndon Parish South	No provision identified-	- No provision identified-	-n/a	Range: Average:	n/a
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8 Sites 42 Courts</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>45% - 89% 61%</b>

3.125 Key findings relating to the assessment of quality:

- A substantial variance in quality ratings, ranging from a score of 45% through to 89%
- The key reasons for low quality are lack of floodlighting and no pavilion
- The average for those sites identified and audited was 61%(good)

### Accessibility: Tennis Courts

3.126 As with bowling greens, a number of key factors affect access. These include location of facilities, marketing and promotion of facilities, hire fees and charges and the membership policies of private clubs. Despite a number of attempts to consult with clubs, response to questionnaires and telephone consultation was limited. From the research undertaken, it is clear that in terms of the "cost" of playing tennis, this varies significantly.

### Summary of Consultation Findings

3.127 **Sports Club Questionnaire.** Only two clubs provided details about their activities.

#### Key Findings:

- The provision of tennis courts is through a variety of providers and settings
- Information about the local tennis clubs is limited
- The LTA work on the basis of 2% of the population accessing tennis courts on a regular basis. Given the population increase projected, it is likely that demand could increase particularly amongst the student age population.
- Assessment using the LTA provision standards as a framework shows a deficiency in court provision. Some of this deficiency could be met if the courts identified without community use are brought into play.

### Golf

3.128 There are a number of golf courses located across the City providing a range of opportunities for local residents to play golf. The focus of the audit has been on "access" given that in the case of private facilities, supply is often developed to meet a known demand. The locations of the Golf courses are identified in **Map 8g**.

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### Quantity: Golf Courses

- 3.129 There are 4 golf courses within the Worcester area. These are made up of private courses and the public facilities at Perdiswell.

Figure 3.24 Golf Courses

Ward	Population	Number of Courses	Total Number of Holes
Arboretum	5611	0	0
Battenhall	5216	0	0
Bedwardine	7875	1	36
Cathedral	7458	0	0
Claines	7873	2	18
Gorse Hill	5524	0	0
Nunnery	8011	0	0
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	0
St Clement	5493	0	0
St John	8033	0	0
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	0
St Stephen	5047	0	0
Warndon	5292	0	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	1	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>72</b>

### Quality: Golf

- 3.130 Brief site visits have been undertaken to the golf courses across the City. Quality has not been formally rated using a scored proforma. All facilities visited are of a high standard.

### Access: Golf

- 3.131 Access to opportunities to play golf has been the focus of the assessment undertaken. Telephone consultation with golf clubs has revealed the following in relation to membership / usage arrangements:
- 3.132 Telephone consultation was undertaken with identified golf clubs in order to ascertain information regarding membership. Questions asked included queries on:
- Whether the clubs were private or public
  - The cost of the joining fee and membership fee
  - Whether the clubs were taking on new members
  - The method of application to become a member
  - How much a casual round as a non-member would cost

- 3.133 The findings included:

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- Golf Clubs: Perdiswell Park Golf Club, Tolladine Gold Club, Worcester Golf and Country Club, Ravenmeadow Golf Club. (Worcester Golf Range was also found however it will not be included as part of the study).

3.134 The consultation revealed:

- Three out of the four golf clubs telephoned were private with Perdiswell Park Golf Club being the only public facility.
- Three of the four clubs surveyed had joining fees. The highest joining fee was set at £915 by Worcester Golf and Country Club and the lowest of the fee charging clubs was £42 by Perdiswell Park Golf Club.
- The average joining fee of the clubs who charged was £469. If we include the clubs who did not charge a joining fee the average falls to £352.
- Membership fees for the clubs start at £350 at Perdiswell Golf Club and rise to £610 charged by Worcester Golf and Country Club.
- The average membership fee for all four clubs was £450
- All of the 4 clubs were taking on new members. Worcester Golf and Country Club has a 3 year waiting list.
- In order to become a member of these golf clubs a certain route is normally taken. Application forms and interviews were both mentioned by clubs as requirements to join their membership scheme. 100% of clubs asked for an application form to be filled in and 50% needed to conduct an interview.
- All four courses allow visitors to play a round without a member accompanying them. On average this cost £18. This figure is £7 higher than the average cost for a casual round with a member (£11).

### **Key Findings: GOLF**

3.135 Despite there being a number of golf courses within the City, only one has provision for the public. Consultation reveals that the cost of participation, although varying significantly, is generally high, and membership fees would present a barrier to participation for many people.

### **River Severn**

3.136 The audit identified three clubs that make use of the River Severn for canoeing, Dragon Boat racing and Rowing.

### **Worcester Canoe Club**

- A reasonable sized club with 180 members of varying ages including retired, seniors, youth, juniors and family memberships. The club is experiencing growth with a small number joining each year.
- The club make use of the river most week nights (May to October) for a variety of activities including: sprint, marathon, white water, general recreation and touring. The club also use the river on Sundays from 9am – 12 noon
- The club boathouse (Grandstand Road) is privately owned and the land around the building is leased from the City

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- The Club rate their boathouse as good but recognise it is not as good as other club house facilities
- The boathouse is in need of refurbishment and the club have been applying for funding, most of which goes towards new equipment

### **Worcester Dragon Boat Club**

- Unfortunately the club has failed to respond in detail to the consultation and the only information provided is that the club have a boat house at Stourport, they meet on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings (March to September) and that they do not use the river from October to March.

### **Worcester Rowing Club**

- A reasonable sized club with 120 oarspersons and 200+ members, patrons and friends of varying ability from 'elite', senior to novice
- The club operates winter months on Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30pm

### **Worcester Athletics Club**

- The audit has identified 2 athletics tracks with public access and 1 athletics club has been identified. 'Worcester Athletics Club'. Unfortunately the club did not provide detailed information about their membership or the status of demand. They did identify that they use the facility at Nunnery Wood Sports Centre and that use was on a Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6p.m. until 8p.m
- Unfortunately the Club has failed to respond in detail to the consultation and no information has been made available by the club to identify training venues demand or potential growth. However research taken from the clubs web site identifies the following
- A mixture of different ability groups train, so there is something to cater for everyone's needs. Some members of the club also do a long training run on a Sunday morning, but this is a more informal thing and you would need to make contact with club members to arrange this.
- Club members can also use the nearby athletics track at a discounted rate
- The club reports having a thriving junior section



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### **Amenity Greenspace**

- 3.137 Amenity greenspace fulfils a number of purposes, including enhancing the appearance of local areas and providing opportunities for informal activities such as jogging, dog walking and informal /formal play. In built up areas, amenity greenspace can also provide space for workers or visitors to eat lunch or go for a walk. Amenity greenspace can also help reduce noise and generally provide a natural break in the urban street scene. The sites identified by Council officers vary in function or primary purpose, shape and size. Some sites are small incidental spaces within housing areas that may be used as a kickabout area others are more formal Civic spaces used for quiet contemplation, others may provide space for children close to home.
- 3.138 It is important to recognise that most open space provision forms an amenity function in that it adds to the landscape of an area and may be used on an informal basis. For example sports pitches whilst their primary purpose is for sport are often used informally for dog walking or jogging or as a green lung within built up areas.
- 3.139 It is also important to note that sites have been categorised by the City Council's park staff with a view to the primary purpose of the site. For example Landsdowne Road has been categorised as amenity space even though it has fixed play area.

### **Definition**

*Opportunities for informal activities close to residential areas and improve the visual appearance of residential or other areas*

### **Quantity**

- 3.140 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are **34 amenity greenspace sites** within the City These have been identified and categorised as housing amenity land (HAL), recreation grounds or civic spaces by the City Council's parks service. The key statistics relating to the number of amenity greenspaces are detailed in Figure 3.25 **Map 9** illustrates the distribution of amenity space across the City.

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Figure 3.25 City of Worcester: Current Amenity Provision

Ward	Population	Number of Sites				
		HAL	Rec Ground	Civic	Total Number	Total Hectares
Arboretum	5611	Lansdowne Road	0	Sansome Walk Swimming Pool Gardens	2	8.61
Battenhall	5216	Field Walk	0	0	1	0.09
Bedwardine	7875	Former Bromyard Road Allotments	Pitmason park	0	7	12.08
		Meadowbank Drive				
		Newlands Crescent				
		Bransford Road rec ground				
		Land at Weyburn Close				
		Land to rear of Ontario Close				
Cathedral	7458	0	0	St Andrews Gardens	3	2.21
				Worcester Cathedral Gardens		
				College Yard Green		
Claines	7873	0	Morris Avenue recreation grounds	0	1	1.60
Gorse Hill	5524	Scafell Close	0	0	2	0.38
		Langdale Drive				

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Ward	Population	Number of Sites				
		HAL	Rec Ground	Civic	Total Number	Total Hectares
Nunnery	8011	Sherriff Street Bank	0	0	2	1.09
		Whittington Road play area and buffer zone				
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	0	0	0	0
St Clement	5493	Everard Close	0	0	2	1.15
		Lodge Close				
St John	8033	Ambrose Close Recreation Ground	0	0	2	4.84
		Greenacres Road				
St Peter's Parish	5620	Norton Road	0	toposcope viewing area	4	5.10
		Aldersley Close				
		Land off Springfield Road				
St Stephen	5047	0	0	0	0	0
Warndon	5292	Land off Bisely Close & Painswick Road	0	0	1	0.20
Warndon Parish North	5232	Habington	0	0	5	5.34
		Long Meadow				
		Great Meadow play and kickabout area				
		Pendesham East				
		Pendesham East				

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Ward	Population	Number of Sites				
		HAL	Rec Ground	Civic	Total Number	Total Hectares
Warndon Parish South	5224	Bourne Green	0	0	2	10.13
		Ketteby Open Space & Tree Buffer Zone				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>52.85</b>

3.141 A number of key findings can be made in relation to the quantity of Amenity Greenspace provision across the City. These include:

- A variance in the quantity of provision across the City in relation to both number of sites and hectares
- 25% of the provision is located within 2 of the wards (Bewardine and Warndon Parish South)
- 2 wards have no identified amenity provision according to the classifications identified by Council staff (Rainbow Hill and St Stephen)
- A current provision standard of 0.56 Hectares per 1000 population

### Quality

3.142 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment proforma is based on a number of key criteria encompassing the quality aspects of Green Flag, Tidy Britain and ILAM Parks Management good practice. The assessment considered the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of each individual area, but focussed on key criteria relating to access, and basic provision such as maintenance, signage and cleanliness. As a base level of provision, it has been assumed that all sites should be well maintained (in terms of grass cutting) clean and free from litter. Key findings are illustrated in the Figure 3.26 below and **Map 9a** illustrates the quality of amenity sites across the City.

Figure 3.26 City of Worcester: Current Amenity Quality Ratings

Ward	Provision Details	No of sites audited	Total	Quality Range	
Arboretum	1 Civic Space	1	1	Range: Average:	64%
Battenhall	1 HAL	1	1	Range: Average:	65%

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Ward	Provision Details	No of sites audited	Total	Quality Range	
				Range:	Average:
Bedwardine	6 HAL 1 Rec Ground	6	7	Range: Average:	37% - 73% 53%
Cathedral	3 Civic Spaces	2	3	Range: Average:	71% - 72% 72%
Claines	1 Rec Ground	1	1	Range: Average:	49%
Gorse Hill	2 HAL	2	2	Range: Average:	37 % - 52% 45%
Nunnery	2 HAL	2	2	Range: Average:	22% - 58% 40%
Rainbow Hill	NA	NA	NA	Range: Average:	NA
St Clement	2 HAL	2	2	Range: Average:	48% - 58% 53%
St John	2 HAL	2	2	Range: Average:	34% - 59% 46%
St Peter's Parish	4 HAL 1 Civic Space	5	5	Range: Average:	39% - 68% 56%
St Stephen	NA	NA	NA	Range: Average:	NA
Warndon	1 HAL	1	1	Range: Average:	52%
Warndon Parish North	5 HAL	5	5	Range: Average:	54% - 66% 60%
Warndon Parish South	2 HAL	1	2	Range: Average:	50%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27 HAL 2 Rec Grounds 5 Civic Spaces</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Range: Average:</b>	<b>22% - 73% 55%</b>

Arboretum – Site 132 Lansdowne Road Play Area, only audited as a play area.

Bedwardine – Site 31 Bransford Road Rec Ground, only audited as a play area.

Cathedral – Site 123 Worcester Cathedral Gardens, not audited as no access and signage stating private gardens. 'keep out' The small grass area to the front of the Cathedral was found to be of a generally poor condition, with uneven paths, poor quality seating and evidence of dog fouling, litter and fly tipping

HAL = Housing amenity land

3.143 A number of key comments can be made in relation to the quality audit results, specifically:

- A City average quality score of 55% (Good). Although 6 sites were found to be below the City average (2 sites in St John's, 2 sites in Bedwardine 1 in Nunnery and 1 in Gorse Hill).

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### **Accessibility**

- 3.144 There are no definitive national or local standards for accessibility to amenity spaces.
- 3.145 Accessibility has been assessed using a variety of techniques including mapping exercises and consultation. The key findings show that:
- 10% of the respondents to the door to door survey identified using the open space near to their home on a daily basis, walking is the most common form of travel
  - As with other typologies, site audits revealed a general lack of provision for those with a disability
  - 47% of the respondents never make use of the open space near their home
  - 85% of the respondent walk for up to 10 minutes to access the open space near their home, this equates to a travel distance of 0.67miles( **Map 9b**)
  - Amenity Greenspace is generally good in quality across the City. Residents generally make little conscious use of provision. There was a noted lack of signage, benches or bins on many of the sites within this typology

## **SECTION III PPG17 STAGE 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION**

### **Provision for Children and Young People**

- 3.146 Provision for Children and Young People consists of equipped play areas and specialist provision for young people, including skateparks, Multi-Use Games Areas and Teen Shelters. The provision of facilities for children and young people is important in facilitating opportunities for physical activity and the development of movement and social skills. Provision for children's play is sub-divided into categories in line with the National Playing Fields Association play area categories. These include Local Areas of Play (LAP), Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and Neighbourhood Areas of Play (NEAP). A number of play areas do not fall into any of these categories. Three main types of youth provision have been identified, specifically Skate park facilities (facilities for Skateboarding and BMX), Ball courts (MUGA) and Teen Shelters.
- 3.147 At the time the study was undertaken the City did not have an adopted play strategy. However the City has subsequently adopted a strategy for play that recognises play provision is costly and expensive. The City now has a strategic framework to identify priorities and thereby reduce the opportunities for mistakes in provision.
- 3.148 The guidance used by the City as outlined in the local plan divides the City into 30 play zone areas (zones are set based on severance lines) and within each zone the City aspires to provide as a minimum one equipped play area and one kick about area. Unfortunately the local plan does not clearly identify what level of consultation with young people this provision has been based upon.
- 3.149 Consultation with Council staff has revealed that the City's resources are already stretched with regards to repair, replacement of fixed equipment.
- 3.150 In setting quantitative standards there is a need to take into account current national and local standards, site assessments and consultation of local need.
- 3.151 The Local Plan identifies a quantitative standard of 0.61 Hectares of play provision per 1000 head of population.
- 3.152 Recent developments have seen the establishment of a youth shelter co-ordinated through the City Council Community Development team. The introduction of skate park areas and multi use games areas have all been successful in bringing young people into positive contact with the City Council and in removing teenagers off the streets and play areas designed for younger children.

### **Quantity: Provision for Children & Young People**

- 3.153 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are 52 play areas (total of all LAPs, LEAPs, NEAP's, standalone youth provision and non-classified areas) occupying approximately 8.34 hectares (these are detailed in Appendix 5). Play Areas vary in form and purpose, some are stand alone small fixed play areas whilst others may be located within other typologies, as such further investigation is required regarding hectarage prior to establishing final standards of provision.

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- 3.154 The distribution of play areas, and quantity per committee area is summarised in Figure 3.27 below, it is important to note that the population is based on the population of young people aged between 2 -19 years. (Map 10).

Figure 3.27 City of Worcester: Current Provision for Children & Young People

Area	Population 2-19 years	Site name	Hectares	Total Hectares
Arboretum	1079	Bishops Avenue Play Area	0.20	0.81
		Lansdowne Road Play Area	0.61	
Battenhall	1124	St Dunstan's close playground	0.006	0.116
		Cromwell crescent	0.02	
		Field Walk	0.05	
		Battenhall Rise play	0.04	
Bedwardine	1725	Heron Close Play Area	0.01	0.22
		Margaret Road	0.08	
		Bransford Road	0.13	
Cathedral	1307	Waverley street	0.03	0.21
		Fort Royal Park	0.07	
		Stanley Road school	0.01	
		Spring Hill Play Area	0.08	
		Wellington Close Play Area	0.02	
Claines	1550	Perdiswell Leisure Centre play	0.07	0.26
		Gheluvelt Park	0.1	
		Sabrina Avenue	0.10	
Gorse Hill	1402	Grisedale Drive	0.06	0.06
Nunnery	2065	Newtown Green, Ronkswood	0.10	0.24
		Medway Road play area	0.04	
		County Hall		
		Spetchley Road Play Area	0.09	
Rainbow Hill	1599	Brickfields Park	0.03	0.09
		Green Lane	0.06	
St Clement	1155	n/a		0
St John	1784	Cripplegate Park	0.06	0.2
		Howard Road	0.14	
St Peter's Parish	1248	Heather Close play	0.08	1.19
		Falcon Close	0.08	



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Area	Population 2-19 years	Site name	Hectares	Total Hectares
		Batsford Road Play Area	0.12	
		Tesco Play Area	0.08	
		Springfield Road Play Area	0.04	
		Larkspur Close	0.03	
		Aldersley Close	0.32	
		Trefoil Close	0.04	
St Stephen	1248	n/a		
Warndon	1311	Turners Close	0.30	1.5
		Woodmancote play	0.06	
		Sharp Drive	0.83	
		Chedworth play area	0.20	
		Cranham Drive Flats Lower Play Area	0.03	
		Cranham Drive Flats Middle Play Area	0.06	
		Cranham Drive Flats Upper Play Area	0.06	
Warndon Parish North	1170	Long Meadow		1.15
		Great Meadow		
		Beverborne	0.02	
		Debdale drive play area	0.80	
		Old Tolladine os	0.33	
Warndon Parish South	1270	Oaklands play area	0.09	1.75
		Great Oaty gardens	1.00	
		Threshfield Drive play	0.60	
		Bakewell		
		Lyppard Grange Community Centre	0.06	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20869</b>			<b>8.34</b>

### Quality: Provision for Children & Young People

- 3.155 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. Visits have been undertaken to sites with equipment and play features. Not all LAP's have been rated as part of the quality assessment as they tend to provide limited if any play equipment.

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3.156 The quality assessment proforma for play areas has been based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) "Play Value Assessment" and looks at a variety of criteria including the overall appearance of the site, the ambience and the type of equipment by age range.

- Balancing
- Climbing
- Crawling
- Gliding
- Group Swinging
- Single Swinging
- Ball Play
- Jumping
- Rotating
- Sliding
- Rocking
- Agility Bridges
- Viewing Platform
- Wheeled Play

3.157 A copy of the proforma is contained within the appendices to this report. In summary the following criteria have been used to rate quality and value of local play facilities. It is important to note that play provision is not simply providing equipment it is also about the environment that equipment is situated in, the proforma considers elements that best practice play areas have been found to promote these include diversity in textures, use of wildflowers and landscaping. In supporting the generation of a sense of place it considers whether the play area is locally related to reflect some local significance, this could be for example if the site is near a famous railway, then the play area design reflects this through themed equipment designed around trains and railways.

3.158 Site scores not only consider the condition of the equipment they also consider the play value of the entire designated play area this includes consideration for the different types of activity that the play area allows these include:-

- **Overall site features** including access gates, whether the area is pollution and noise free, presence of shade, access for the disabled, appropriate signage, locally related features and seating
- **Ambience** including layout, visual appeal, presence of Litter or Graffiti
- **Equipment for Toddlers, Juniors and Teenagers** have been assessed as discrete elements within the overall play value assessment

3.159 The assessment proforma allows compilation of two key results – a total numerical score to reflect the "value" and importance of a local play area, and a quality score (presented as a percentage) to reflect variances in the quality of facilities across the City. The score can be rated against a value line that reflects the overall quality of the site and also the age range the equipment is designed for. The value lines are outlined below:

### Site Overall Value

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<20	20-28	29-35	36-47	47+

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### Toddler Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<9	10-13	14-17	18-22	22+

### Junior Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<12	15-25	26-31	32-40	40+

### Teenage Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<9	10-14	15-19	20-26	27+

### Quality: Provision for Children & Young People

- 3.160 A total of 52 equipped play areas have been identified visited and rated. (Map 10a) the main findings are attached in Appendix 5 and a summary of the main findings in relation to quality is provided in Figure 3.28 below:

Figure 3.28 City of Worcester: Summary of Quality Assessment Findings

Ward	Overall Site Quality				
	No of Sites Audited	Score Range (out of 69)	Score Range %	Ambience Score Range (out of 14)	Ambience Score Range %
Arboretum	2	29-46	42%-67%	4-10	29%-71%
Battenhall	4	27-45	39%-65%	4-12	29%-86%
Bedwardine	3	9-36	13%-57%	2-9	14%-64%
Cathedral	5	13-45	19%-65%	2-11	14%-79%
Claines	3	16-39	23%-56%	4-8	29%-57%
Gorse Hill	1	11	16%	1	7%
Nunnery	4	26-49	38%-71%	7-10	50%-71%
Rainbow Hill	2	5-20	7%-29%	1-4	7%-29%
St Clement	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St John	2	29-30	42%-43%	5-9	36%-64%
St Peter's Parish	8	21-42	30%-61%	4-10	29%-71%
St Stephen	0	-n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Warndon	7	8-24	12%-35%	1-7	7%-50%
Warndon Parish North	5	32-49	46%-71%	4-8	29%-57%
Warndon Parish South	5	29-48	42%-70%	4-11	29%-79%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>5-49</b>	<b>7%-71%</b>	<b>1-12</b>	<b>7%-86%</b>

- 3.161 There is a significant variance in the quality and setting (ambience) of play areas across the City with overall quality ratings assessed as:

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Quality	Setting (Ambience)
• 11 sites rated as poor	• 11 sites rated as poor
• 9 sites rated as below average	• 10 sites rated as below average
• 9 sites rated as average	• 11 sites rated as average
• 20 sites rated as good	• 11 sites rate as good
• 3 sites rated as excellent	• 9 sites rated as excellent

Figure 3.29 Play Area Overall Quality and Ambience ratings

Play Area	Ward	Overall Score	Quality Rating	Ambience	Ambience Rating
				Score	
Bishop Avenue	Arboretum	42%	Average	28%	Below Average
Landsdowne Road		68%	Good	71%	Excellent
St Dunstan Close	Battenhall	39%	Below Average	28%	Below Average
Cromwell Crescent		40%	Below Average	28%	Below Average
Field Walk		65%	Good	56%	Excellent
Battenhall Rise		49%	Average	50%	Average
Bransford Road	Bedwardine	52%	Good	64%	Good
Heron Close		56%	Good	57%	Good
Margaret Road		13%	Poor	14%	Poor
Waverley Street	Cathedral	65%	Good	79%	Excellent
Fort Royal Park		33%	Below Average	50%	Average
Stanley Road		42%	Average	79%	Excellent
Springhill		19%	Poor	14%	Poor
Wellington Close		27%	Poor	21%	Poor
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	Claines	56%	Good	57%	Good
Gheluvelt Park		56%	Good	57%	Good
Sabrina Avenue		23%	Poor	29%	Below Average
Grisedale Drive	Gorse Hill	16%	Poor	7%	Poor
Newtown Green	Nunnery	71%	Excellent	64%	Good
County Hall		64%	Good	64%	Good
Medway Road		55%	Good	71%	Excellent
Spetchley Road		38%	Below Average	50%	Average
Brickfields Park	Rainbow Hill	29%	Below Average	28%	Below Average

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Play Area	Ward	Overall Score	Quality Rating	Ambience	Ambience Rating
				Score	
Green Lane		7%	Poor	7%	Poor
Cripplegate Park	St John's	43%	Average	36%	Below Average
Howard Road		42%	Average	64%	Good
Heather Close	St Peter's	52%	Good	71%	Excellent
Falcon Close		58%	Good	50%	Average
Trefoil Close		42%	Average	50%	Average
Batsford Road		61%	Good	57%	Good
Aldersley Close		61%	Good	71%	Excellent
St Peters Drive		56%	Good	57%	Good
Tesco's Play Area		32%	Below Average	29%	Below Average
Springfield Road		30%	Below Average	43%	Below Average
Turners Close	Warndon	25%	Below Average	50%	Average
Sharp Drive		14%	Poor	21%	Poor
Woodmancote		29%	Below Average	14%	Poor
Chedworth		35%	Below Average	50%	Average
Cranham Drive Lower		14%	Poor	7%	Poor
Cranham Drive Middle		12%	Poor	7%	Poor
Cranham Drive Upper		12%	Poor	7%	Poor
Long Meadow	Warndon Parish North	55%	Good	57%	Good
Great Meadow		46%	Average	42%	Average
Beverborne		71%	Excellent	50%	Average
Dugdale		64%	Good	36%	Below Average
Old Tolladine		52%	Good	29%	Below Average
Oaklands	Warndon Parish South	58%	Good	50%	Average
Threshfield		42%	Average	28%	Below Average
Bakewell		69%	Excellent	50%	Average
Lyppard Grange		56%	Good	78%	Excellent
Great Oaty		65%	Good	71%	Excellent

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- 3.162 The City Council needs to aspire to provide play facilities that not only meet good quality standards in terms of the equipment but also in terms of the setting (ambience) and layout of the sites they provide. The City Council provide a number of excellent sites and from the audit 20 sites are already at a good quality status and 11 are to a good standard in terms of setting. These sites need to be used as a benchmark for improvement of other sites.
- 3.163 The quality for play provision is 43% which equates to an average rating.

Figure 3.30 City of Worcester Play Equipment Quality by Age Range

Ward	Rating Range					
	Toddlers Play (out of 34)		Junior Play (out of 59)		Teenage Play (out of 40)	
	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range
Arboretum	6-14	18%-41%	8-28	14%-48%	No provision	n/a-
Battenhall	0-3	0%-9%	5-31	8%-53%	No provision	n/a
Bedwardine	0-12	0%-35%	1-12	2%-20%	0-3	0%-8%
Cathedral	0-13	0%-38%	0-14	0%-24%	No provision	-n/a-
Claines	2-15	6%-44%	7-27	12%-46%	No provision	n/a--
Gorse Hill	6	18%	9	15%	1	3%
Nunnery	4-10	12%-29%	9-21	15%-36%	0-10	25%
Rainbow Hill	0-11	0%-32%	2-19	3%-32%	0-8	0%-20%
St Clement	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision
St John	0-12	0%-35%	0-20	0%-34%	5-21	13%-53%
St Peter's Parish	0-13	0%-38%	0-25	0%-42%	No Provision	No Provision
St Stephen	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision	No provision

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Ward	Rating Range					
	Toddlers Play (out of 34)		Junior Play (out of 59)		Teenage Play (out of 40)	
	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range
Warndon	0-4	0%-12%	0-13	0%-22%	No provision	No provision
Warndon Parish North	0-11	0%-32%	9-18	15%-31%	0-2	0%-5%
Warndon Parish South	0-14	0%-41%	0-17	0%-29%	1	Not Audited
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0-15</b>	<b>0%-44%</b>	<b>0-31</b>	<b>0%-53%</b>	<b>0-21</b>	<b>0%-53%</b>

3.164 Figure 3.30 above show the broad range in the quality of play provision across the City in terms of general appearance and also by age range of equipment. Quality of play provision is affected by a number of factors such as graffiti, vandalism, inadequate signage, dog proof fences and general repair. It is also affected by range of equipment, textures and whether the equipment stimulates creativity. The play areas scored low in quality as many were found to be lacking in basic signage, benches, bins; a number also lacked age separation or appropriate maintenance access.

### Access

3.165 Access to play provision is influenced by a number of key factors. These include;

- Geographical location and proximity to key residential areas
- The appropriateness of facilities provided and target user group
- External factors such as community safety

3.166 A mapping exercise has been undertaken to illustrate geographical proximity to play areas. (Map 10b) illustrate travel time by young people to access provision).

3.167 People identified travelling for an average of 7.5 minutes to their nearest play area which equates to a travel distance of 0.5 miles.

### Key Findings

3.168 The following key conclusions can be made in relation to provision for children and young people across the City:

- There is a marked difference in what is categorised as a play area across the City varying from a solitary old piece of equipment to a number of pieces of equipment designed to suit a wide age range fenced and appropriately signed
- There are examples of best practice provided within the City that need to be used as a model for future developments

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- Engaging young people in the design process is a positive way forward for future planned provision
- Play areas are lacking in basic signage, benches and bins. 11 Sites out of the 52 sites audited lacked appropriate signage that contained corporate information, an emergency telephone number, 12 sites lacked seating and 21 lacked litter bins
- The control of dogs in play areas is a major issue
- Sites generally lacked any attractive landscaping such as ground modelling, tree and shrub planting or areas of shade
- Vandalism and Graffiti is a problem on a number of sites
- The play areas in general do not cater for children with disabilities, 8 sites did not provide a wheelchair friendly surface and 36 do not provide access for people with disabilities
- The play areas offer little educational value through differing textures, tactile surface or creative use of wildflowers only 9 sites were found to have wildflower areas integrated within the play area
- The circulation routes within a number of play areas is limited and age separation is not often clearly defined
- 22 play areas were assessed as having no emergency vehicle access
- The Council need to consider the implications of rationalisation



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### Allotments

#### Definition

*'Sites where the primary purpose is to provide people with the opportunity to grow their own produce'.*

- 3.169 Allotments provide a key type of provision within the overall portfolio of open space, sport and recreation facilities. From the consultation undertaken, the value of allotments is significant, providing facilities for physical activity in addition to the promotion of healthy eating and educational value. The provision of allotments is a statutory function for local authorities under a number of legislative acts including the 1950 Allotment Act.
- 3.170 The Council currently has a strategy for allotment provision, which details the main benefits of allotment gardening, links to local priorities and examples of best practice. The need for allotments is likely to increase as a result of a number of factors, including:
- The recent Health White Paper with an emphasis on physical activity and healthy eating
  - Growth in the interest in organic produce and farming as a result of product placement in supermarkets and media coverage about food production
  - Rising housing densities nationally and locally and the consequential reduction in the size of many gardens
- 3.171 Allotments, like other open space, can provide a number of wider community benefits and hit a number of sustainability targets as well as the primary use of growing produce. These include:
- **Heritage** Allotments can be an important genetic resource for the conservation of rare species
  - **Recycling** Allotments holders are encouraged to recycle and offer the potential for community composting site
  - **Transport** Home grown food means there is less transport (less air miles) and less packaging
  - **Employment and Training** New skills and opportunities whether promotional, managerial or cultivation
  - **Education** Links with schools, special needs and adult learning. Close contact with wildlife can lead to a lifelong interest
  - **Leisure** Promoting local tourism - arts, crafts and volunteering
  - **Sustainable neighbourhoods** - revitalising allotments and neighbourhoods
  - **Community Developments** Co-operation across ethnic age and other barriers. Allotment societies often play a wider role in community schemes, becoming involved with local schools as well as programmes for the mentally and physically ill or disabled Providing people from differing cultural backgrounds the opportunity to meet and share experiences

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- **Health** Increased consumption of fresh foods and more exercise and relief from stress, and therapy for those with mental health problems.
- Providing opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion
- Creating opportunities for people to participate in recreation

3.172 The City of Worcester Allotment Society provides an umbrella group to collectively represent the views of the allotment gardeners, the group meet four times a year and unfortunately not within the timeframe of this study.

### Quantity: Allotments

3.173 The Local Plan identifies allotment provision occupying 32.05 Hectares and equating to 0.4ha per 1000 population. The Local plan also identifies the opportunity for further provision of two new sites (1 in St Peters and 1 in the Trotshill area of Warndon).

3.174 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are currently **23** active allotment sites providing in the region of **1020 plots**. (Map 11) (The exact number of plots is not available as a number of allotment societies failed to complete a questionnaire or return phone calls and as such it is unclear how many plots have been divided into half plots).

3.175 Key quantity statistics are detailed in Figure 3.31 below.

Figure 3.31 Current Allotment Provision

Ward	Population	Number of Sites	Site Name	Total Number of Plots
Arboretum	5611	3	Lansdowne Road South Allotments	141
			Lansdowne Crescent	
			The Grove Allotments	
Battenhall	5216	4	Foxwell Allotments	197
			The Hill Avenue allotments	
			Timberdine allotments	
Battenhall	5216	4	Battenhall allotments	197
			Bromwich Road Allotments	
			Pitmaston Allotments	
Bedwardine	7875	3	Winchester Avenue allotments	72
			Pitmaston Allotments	
			Bromwich Road Allotments	
Cathedral	7458	3	Waterworks Road - Pope Iron Road Allotments	109
			Pitchcroft Lane Allotments	
			Hillsborough allotments	
Claines	7873	3	Perdiswell Allotments	236
			Southall Avenue Allotments	
			Old Northwick Lane	

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Ward	Population	Number of Sites	Site Name	Total Number of Plots
			Allotments	
Gorse Hill	5524	1	Langdale Drive	8
Nunnery	8011	0	No Provision	0
Rainbow Hill	5845	0	No Provision	0
St Clement	5493	1	Henwick Road Allotments	17
St John	8033	4	Oldbury Road Allotments	212
			Comer Avenue Allotments	
			Comer Road Allotments	
			Windsor Avenue Allotments	
St Peter's Parish	5620	0	No Provision	0
St Stephen	5047	1	Land East of St Barnabas Primary School	28
Warndon	5292	0	No Provision	0
Warndon Parish North	5232	0	No Provision	0
Warndon Parish South	5224	0	No Provision	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93353</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>1020</b>

### Quality: Allotments

3.176 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment has been based on a non-technical visual assessment completed to rate the quality of a number of key criteria. An audit proforma was designed on the basis of a number of key criteria, building on a previous audit undertaken and in consideration to the findings of a recent Government Select Committee report into best practice in allotment provision and the Local Government Associations "*A New Future for Allotments*" publication (2000). The allotment quality audit is contained in Appendix 6 and a copy of the site visit proforma is included within Appendix 6a to this report. Information collected using the proforma was supplemented by information gathered through consultation with Allotment Society representatives.

3.177 Key criteria affecting "quality" include;

- The presence of water supply
- Whether the site is served by toilets
- Secure fencing around the site
- Signage to identify management, usage arrangements, special events and the availability of plots
- The presence of facilities such as composting bins, a shop and car parking.

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3.178 Figure 3.32 overleaf provides a summary of the key findings from the quality assessments:

Figure 3.32 Summary of Quality Assessment Findings

Area	Number of Sites	Lowest Quality	Highest Quality	Average Quality
Arboretum	3	10%	53%	29%
Battenhall	4	48%	55%	51%
Bedwardine	3	38%	48%	42%
Cathedral	3	15%	33%	27%
Claines	3	43%	58%	49%
Gorse Hill	1	35%	35%	35%
Nunnery	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
Rainbow Hill	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
St Clement	1	38%	38%	38%
St John	4	33%	55%	43%
St Peter's Parish	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
St Stephen	1	40%	40%	40%
Warndon	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
Warndon Parish North	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
Warndon Parish South	0	No Provision	No provision	No provision
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>40%</b>

3.179 The audit of the quality of current allotment sites has revealed:

- 23 sites were rated for quality, with approximately 1020 plots in total. Quality varies significantly across the city with site ratings ranging from 10% to 58%. across the City, 4 sites were classified as average and 7 sites were rated as poor and 3 sites rated as very poor (**Map 11a**)
- The average (mean) score for allotment sites across the City was 40% (average)

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- 22 allotment sites (out of 23) are not served by any toilet provision (95% of provision or 971 plots)
- Only 5 of the allotment sites (out of 23) are not served by a water supply. Even though this is only 21% of all of the plots it does account for approximately 254 of the 1020 plots (25%)
- More than 70% of the sites do not have access to car parking.

### **Accessibility of Allotments**

- 3.180 A number of key considerations have been made in assessing access to allotments. These have included; the cost of renting an allotment; physical access, particularly for those with a disability; marketing and promotion of sites; location of facilities; range of services provided; availability of plots. The audit undertaken has revealed the following:
- 3.181 **Fees and charges.** It currently costs £20-£23 per annum to rent an allotment plot. Concessionary rates are available to relevant target groups. Increasingly half-sized plots are available at a reduced rate. Although there is no national database or guidance on appropriate fees and charges, the current fees compare favourably with those levied by neighbouring authorities.
- 3.182 **Physical Access** to sites and services. Although a detailed access audit was not undertaken, each site visited was rated for current and potential disability access. Key considerations included the quality of roads and pathways into and within sites, and the presence of specialist disabled facilities (such as raised bed allotments and disabled toilets). The audit revealed that access to allotment sites across the City is poor for disabled gardeners.
- 3.183 **Marketing and promotion** of sites and services is also a key consideration in relation to access. It is important that local residents are aware of facilities and services available, and demand could be stifled if awareness of allotments is low. The assessment has revealed that the Worcester Allotment Forum is responsible for the marketing and promotion of allotments.
- 3.184 **Range of services provided** is a particularly important consideration in widening access to allotments from a broader cross section of the local population to those traditionally likely to comprise the majority of allotment gardeners. Facilities such as car parking, toilets and other amenities need to be considered if allotments are to generate usage from families, local schools and other organisations. The audit revealed that toilet provision is rare and that parking facilities are only present at half of the sites.
- 3.185 **Availability of plots.** From the quality assessments the site at Landsdowne Crescent was almost completely overgrown with bramble and no longer available as an allotment although one or two plots are still operating at the Landsdowne road south end of the site. From the consultation the majority of sites appear to be full and to have substantial waiting lists.

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### **Key Findings**

- 3.186 The following conclusions are made in relation to current allotment provision:
- Waiting lists exceed 140+ people across the City who have expressed a need for an allotment plot
  - Current supply is difficult to assess due to the poor response from allotment societies. There are waiting lists (latent demand) for sites at a number of plots further compounded by low turnover of plot holders.
  - Spare capacity is limited across the City and is non-existent in some areas.
  - There is scope to improve site security and facilities at a number of sites which could in turn facilitate additional and wider use.
  - Sites are poorly served by the basic facilities of water supply, pathways and toilets
  - It is important that sites are not left derelict or overgrown and prone to pioneer vegetation

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### **Cemeteries, Disused & Closed Churchyards, Burial Grounds**

#### **Definition**

*“The primary purpose is for the burial of the dead and for quiet contemplation but also for the promotion of wildlife conservation and to enhance the ecological value of the City”*

- 3.187 Cemeteries, disused church yards and other burial grounds can provide a valuable contribution to the portfolio of open space provision within an area. For many, churchyards can provide a place for quiet contemplation in addition to their primary purpose as a “final” resting place, particularly in busy urban areas. Often Churchyards have wildlife conservation and bio-diversity value. In the context of this study, it is important to acknowledge that Churchyards are not created with the intention of providing informal or passive recreation opportunities. Churchyards only exist where there is a church and as such, standards of provision need to focus on quality, rather than quantity.
- 3.188 As a result of the above, the audit has focussed on provision that is managed and maintained by the City which has the ability, as the direct provider to implement changes and make improvements. The audited sites have not been included into the quantitative assessment of open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 3.189 They can make a significant contribution to the provision of urban green space sometimes providing a sanctuary for wildlife in urban areas devoid of greenspace.
- 3.190 Although many have restricted access they still provide a useful resource for the local community. A wide variety of habitats can be often be found supporting the other open space types such as areas of semi-natural and natural areas.
- 3.191 Within urban areas, churchyards are often among the few areas of greenspace where the local community is able to have some contact with the natural world.

#### **Quantity**

- 3.192 The audit undertaken has identified 2 cemeteries, which are the responsibility of the City and readily accessible to the local community, (a further 40+ churches have been identified although these have not been audited as part of this strategy and no provision detail has been made available, plus one Muslim Cemetery) . These are shown in Appendix7. The distribution of these across the City is illustrated in Figure 3.33 overleaf.

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Figure 3.33 City of Worcester Cemeteries

Site Name	Area	Population	Number of Sites
St John Cemetery	St John's	8033	1
Muslim Cemetery	Claines	7873	1
St Stephen (Astwood Cemetery)	St Stephens	5047	1
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>3</b>

### Quality

3.193 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The proforma used to assess quality was broadly based on the scoring system for other accessible types of open space. Appendix 7 contains the quality audit for the two cemeteries managed by the City and Appendix 7a, contains the quality audit proforma. The key criteria used, given the intended value of this type of provision included:

- Main entrance safety, cleanliness, and natural presence
- Signage
- Quality of roads and pathways
- Provision of bins and seats

3.194 It is important to consider wider facilities that could be developed further at some of the sites. These would include recycling facilities for visitors to dispose of flowers etc...The key findings of the quality assessments undertaken are provided in Figure 3.34 below.

Figure 3.34 Summary of Quality Assessment Findings

Ward	Provision Details	Quality Range
St John	St John's	78%
Muslim Cemetery	Claines	Not audited
St Stephen	Astwood Cemetery	88%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2 Sites Audited</b>	<b>78% - 88%</b>

3.195 The results of the quality assessments can be summarised as:

- An average quality score across of 83% excellent
- St John's would benefit from improvement to the signage and information boards and also the side entrance is in need of upgrading

3.196 A project is currently underway to improve the safety at cemeteries in relation to headstones.



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### **Accessibility**

- 3.197 Accessibility to cemeteries and church yards is difficult to assess. In regard to their overall contribution to open space, given their primary purpose and factors affecting location and provision levels, the assessment has not included a focus on distribution, location or distance thresholds. People make use of this type of provision for a variety of reasons. In terms of physical access, a number of sites had poor access for those with mobility difficulties or visiting in a wheel chair.

### **Key Findings / Conclusions**

- 3.198 The following comments are made in relation to Cemeteries and Closed Church yards on the basis of the sites audited and consultation undertaken:
- Churchyards and cemeteries are potentially under-utilised areas of open space
  - Quality is fairly consistent on the City managed sites inspected, with the main deficiencies relating to signage, information boards and the need to improve side entrances.

## SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS

### Introduction

- 4.1 This section examines the development of local standards for the open space typologies as classified in Section I Methodology (Figure 2.1). The local standards consider surpluses and deficiencies in provision on the basis of the quantitative assessments undertaken. GIS mapping has been utilised to illustrate a number of key aspects, in particular dispersal and access.
- 4.2 The door to door survey of local residents and other consultation findings have been used to inform the appropriate distance thresholds (Appendices 2 and 3 shows these figures in more detail). The consultation and survey findings also reveal the local communities perception of accessibility, quantity and quality of provision.
- 4.3 Local residents were asked a range of questions regarding current open space provision with relation to quantity, quality and accessibility. The responses have been used to set provision standards, which have then been applied using GIS mapping.
- 4.4 In order to set provision standards it is important to consider previous standards used to guide the Council and the planning framework. The City, like so many local authorities has set the standards of provision based on the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) 6 Acre (2.4 Hectare) standard. The 6 acre standard identifies the following levels of provision for outdoor sport and open space per 1000 population. Figure 4.1 below compares the NPFA recommended standards against the City provision standards set for the 6 acre standard.

Figure 4.1 Comparison of Standards

NPFA STANDARD		City of Worcester Standards	
Outdoor Sport	1.6 hectare	Youth and Adult Use (Sports)	1.80 hectares (4.50 acres)
Children's playing space	0.8 Hectares	Equipped Children's Play Areas	0.61 hectares (1.50 acres)
		Casual /Informal Open Areas	0.50 hectares (1.25 acres)
		Allotments	0.4 hectares
Minimum Standard	2.4 Hectares	<b>Total provision</b>	<b>3.34 hectares (8.25 acres)</b>

- 4.5 The above Figure shows how the City has set a minimum standard of 3.34 ha slightly higher than the NPFA 2.4 ha standard per 1000 population.
- 4.6 The local plan identifies that the following land is excluded from the above standards
- Outdoor sports facilities which are not available for public use
  - Verges, woodlands, commons ornamental parks and gardens except for defined sports, games, practice and play areas
  - Golf facilities

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- Water used for recreation, except where it forms a play feature of an outdoor play area

4.7 PPG17 Advocates the development of standards for all the major typologies of provision such as parks and formal gardens, natural / semi natural greenspace.

4.8 Existing deficiencies have been calculated City wide and for each ward. An example of how the calculations for new standards of provision are developed is outlined below:

### **Example**

- The City Council requirement for fixed play facilities is 0.61 hectares per 1000 young people( aged 2-19)
- Bedwardine ward has a population of 1725(2001 Census)
- Therefore the requirement for Bedwardine is 1.0 hectares
- The existing provision in Bedwardine is 0.22
- Therefore Bedwardine has a deficiency of 0.81hectares

4.9 PPG 17 guidance advocates that Councils move away from the NPFA Standard and establish standards based on local need and what best fits the local area.

4.10 From the audit of provision as identified in Section III of this strategy and in accordance with the PPPG 17 guidance a local 'Typology' has been developed to 'best fit' the types of provision with the City. It is from this typology, the quantity, quality audit and the assessment of local needs identified through public consultation, discussions with local groups and key stakeholders that the following standards of provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility have been set. It is important to note that the provision standards are still based on per 1000 population as no further guidance or model has yet been developed by Central Government as a means to calculate provision.

4.11 PPG 17 guidance advocates the use of Sport England 'Towards a Level Playing Field ' Methodology when assessing provision for playing pitches, the guidance also recommends the use of English Nature 2ha per 1000 population for the provision of accessible natural green space.

4.12 The figure below highlights the current provision by typology and establishes the current provision per 1000 population. This therefore establishes a minimum quantitative standard by Typology for the City. ( It is important to note that allotments are a demand based provision and from the consultation and site audits a number of sites are vacant or empty and as such the future provision does need careful consideration as the actual provision falls short of the local plan minimum standard and yet the sites provided have capacity due to vacant plots). A more detailed assessment is required to consider the future of these semi redundant sites.

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- 4.13 The figure provided for outdoor sports has been calculated on the number of pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts with community use, this figure needs to be treated with caution as the audit of provision using Sport England methodology has identified a surplus of pitches across the City. The pitch figure is subject to change as pitches are provided for community use through schools and this can change if schools withdraw pitch use.
- 4.14 The development of standards for outdoor sport (pitches) should be based on demand, The Sport England methodology has identified the need for pitches based on demand. This needs to be treated with caution as the modelling does not take into consideration the need for teams to play local, nor does it allow for pitches that may need to be rested. As a result the City Council should continue to provide pitches and work with local schools with a view to developing greater community use of pitches. The modelling has identified a significant surplus of senior pitches, this need to be utilised to address the deficiencies identified in other sports.

### Quantity Standards

- 4.15 The City currently has approximately **407.47 hectares** of accessible open space this equates to **4.36 hectares** per 1000 population.
- 4.16 Figure 4.2 below identifies the current level of provision by typology across the wards

Figure 4.2 Current Ward Provision by Typology

Category	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	Outdoor Sports Facilities
<b>Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)</b>							
Arboretum	5612	3.78	0	8.64	0.81	4.01	1.15
Battenhall	5214	1.34	4.69	0.09	0.116	5.11	3.16
Bedwardine	7876	0	18.57	12.08	0.22	1.25	33.06
Cathedral	7458	2.1	0.70	2.21	0.21	2.92	11.90
Claines	7875	3.78	4.4	1.6	0.27	6.46	24.30
Gorse Hill	5523	0	8.7	0.38	0.06	0.2	0.30
Nunnery	8011	28.23	19.23	1.09	0.24	0	8.22
Rainbow Hill	5841	0	0	0	0.58	0	4.82
St Clement	5493	4.2	17.2	1.15	0	0.45	1.40
St John	8033	4.2	4.24	4.84	0.2	5.97	4.26

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Category	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	Outdoor Sports Facilities
<b>Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)</b>							
St Peter's Parish	5622	3.64	8.13	5.1	1.19	0.2	0.00
St Stephen	5047	0	2.10	0	0.04	0.73	18.90
Warndon	5294	0	2.00	0.2	1.5	0	3.10
Warndon Parish North	5229	0	41.73	5.34	1.15	0	0.00
Warndon Parish South	5225	5.45	15.97	10.13	1.75	0	0.00
<b>Overall</b>	<b>93,353</b>	<b>56.72</b>	<b>147.69</b>	<b>52.85</b>	<b>8.34</b>	<b>27.30</b>	<b>114.57</b>

- 4.17 From the consultation with residents 80% of the respondents stated there was enough parks and open spaces in their local area.

Figure 4.3 City of Worcester Current Provision per 1000 population

<b>Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)</b>							
Ward	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space	Amenity Green space	Provision for Young People and Children based on population of Young People/	Allotments	Outdoor Sports Facilities
Arboretum	5612	0.67	0.00	1.54	0.75	0.71	0.20
Battenhall	5214	0.26	0.90	0.02	0.10	0.98	0.61
Bedwardine	7876	0.00	2.40	1.53	0.13	0.16	4.20
Cathedral	7458	0.28	0.34	0.30	0.16	0.39	1.60
Claines	7875	0.48	0.56	0.20	0.17	0.82	3.09
Gorse Hill	5523	0.00	1.58	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.05
Nunnery	8011	3.58	2.40	0.14	0.15	0.00	1.03
Rainbow Hill	5841	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.82
St Clement	5493	0.53	3.13	0.21	0.00	0.08	0.25

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Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)								
Ward	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space	Amenity Green space	Provision for Young People and Children based on population of Young People/	Allotments	Outdoor Sports Facilities	
St John	8033	0.53	0.53	0.60	0.13	0.74	0.53	
St Peter's Parish	5622	0.46	3.29	0.91	0.77	0.04	0.00	
St Stephen	5047	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.03	0.14	3.74	
Warndon	5294	0.00	0.38	0.04	0.97	0.00	0.59	
Warndon Parish North	5229	0.00	7.97	1.02	0.74	0.00	0.00	
Warndon Parish South	5225	0.69	3.06	1.94	1.13	0.00	0.00	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>93,353</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>*0.40</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>1.23</b>	

\*Note that the provision for Children and Young People figure is based on population of Young People and Children aged 2-19 years and therefore the overall totals do not add up to 4.36 per 1000 head overall also note that outdoor sports includes pitches within other typologies)

- 4.18 Figure 4.3 above shows the actual provision by typology per 1000 population on a ward by ward basis. The Figure shows the variance by typology per 1000 population across the wards, with several wards clearly being deficient in certain typologies for example Rainbow Hill is completely deficient of parks, semi natural green space, amenity space and allotments, whereas Warndon Parish North and St Peter's and St Clement have a high provision of natural and semi natural greenspace.
- 4.19 The actual provision can be used as a guide to establish provision standards for the future. The City does not currently have a standard for parks and there is no recognised national standard of provision for parks. Therefore to ensure that the current level of provision is met in the future the **0.61 hectares per 1000 population** currently provided should be adopted as the **Minimum** standard for future provision. This follows the guidance identified within the PPG17 companion guide as a means of establishing standards and is supported by local residents who have identified they believe they have enough open space within their area.
- 4.20 For natural/ semi natural greenspace there is a nationally recognised standard of provision, (English Nature 2ha per 1000 population standard). The City currently provides **1.58 hectares** of natural/ semi natural greenspace per 1000 population and is therefore deficient against the English Nature standard by **0.42 hectares** per 1000 population.
- 4.21 The City Council Local plan identifies a local standard for amenity space of **0.5 hectares** per 1000 population. The actual provision is **0.57 hectares** per 1000 population and therefore the City has a slight surplus of **0.07 hectares** against its minimum standard. This figure needs to be kept in context as amenity space can vary from the informal kick about areas to visual amenity space designed simply to contribute to the overall appearance.

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- 4.22 It is also important to recognise that the Local plan does stipulate that the standards it identifies are very much minimum standards.
- 4.23 The City Council Local plan identifies local standards of **0.4 hectares** per 1000 population for the provision of allotments. The audit has identified that the actual provision equates to **0.29 hectares** per 1000 population (a deficiency of 0.11 hectares per 1000 population). The City Council needs to consider this standard in more detail as the provision of allotments should be on a demand led basis. This ensures that plots are not left vacant and uncultivated. The City Council needs to be proactive in the marketing and management of its allotment stock and recognise that allotments do contribute to the wider social agendas of inclusion, health and community engagement. At present the City Council supply falls short of the standard set within the Local plan and there is a significant waiting list of people wishing to take on the responsibility of an allotment plot. However a number of the allotment sites have become hard to let sites as they are felt to be in the wrong place for people to access them easily. Therefore further research is needed into the future development of allotment sites.
- 4.24 The City Local Plan identifies an outdoor sports provision of **1.8 hectares** per 1000 population. PPG 17 guidance advocates the use of the Sport England 'Towards a level Playing Field' Methodology. The methodology advises the use of provision based on supply and local demand for pitches which are publicly accessible. The surplus and deficiencies of pitch provision have been discussed in Section III and are outlined in Section 3.83. Therefore the Council needs to consider the current standard to reflect the requirements identified by Sport England and to also recognise the function that these sites may serve other than sport for the local community. If the Sport England Methodology is to be adhered to then the City has a required standard of 0.54 ha per 1000 of stand alone outdoor sports sites, to allow for the need for pitch rotation and resting this has been increased to 0.8 hectares per 1000 population
- 4.25 For provision for young people and children the City have set a standard of 0.61 hectares per 1000 population. The current provision shows that the across the City the actual provision for fixed play is 0.4 hectares per 1000 young people aged between 2-19 years.
- 4.26 The consultation has identified that local people believe more provision for young people should be one of the Council's priorities. Therefore the Council's 0.61 hectares should be aspired to and seen to be a minimum standard. The development of a hierarchy of provision would lead to the development of larger 'super' play areas that may provide the opportunity to reduce the number of actual play areas whilst providing bigger' better quality across the City.
- 4.27 The recommended standards for the outdoor typologies of parks and gardens, natural and semi natural greenspace (including green corridors), amenity space, provision for children and young people and allotments is outlined below and is based on the current quantitative findings. Figure 4.4 below identifies the current provision per 1000 population on a City wide basis and equates to a total provision of 4.53 hectares per 1000 population.

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Figure 4.4 City of Worcester Recommended Provision per 1000 population for Outdoor Typologies

Typology	Current Provision per 1,000 population	Recommended Standard per 1000 population	Comment
Parks and Gardens	0.61	0.61	The actual provision can be used as a guide to establish provision standards for the future. The City does not currently have a standard for parks and there is no recognised national standard of provision for parks. Therefore to ensure that the current level of provision is met in the future the 0.61 hectares per1000 population currently provided should be adopted as the Minimum standard for future provision. This follows the guidance identified within the PPG17 companion guide as a means of establishing standards and is supported by local residents who have identified they believe they have enough open space within their area.
Natural/ Semi-natural Greenspace (including Green Corridors)	1.58	2.0	For natural/ semi natural greenspace there is a nationally recognised standard of provision, (English Nature 2ha per 1000 population standard). The City currently provides 1.58hectares of natural/ semi natural greenspace per 1000 population and is therefore deficient against the English Nature standard by 0.42 hectares per 1000 population. The setting of standards of provision are discussed in greater detail in section IV of this strategy(The City therefore has a shortfall of 39 hectares of land against the standard)
Outdoor Sports	1.23	0.8	The Local Plan also identifies the opportunity to develop a hierarchy of provision in terms of outdoor playing pitches with multi pitch sites (4 or more pitches) and facilities to cater for a wide range of sports serving a City wide catchment area; sites of 2 or more pitches being aimed at the community level catchment area, and single pitch sites being used by a very local catchment area.. This approach would create opportunities at all levels,



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Typology	Current Provision per 1,000 population	Recommended Standard per 1000 population	Comment
			enabling clubs to develop and to have access to facilities for out of season training whilst also being able to play competitively in their local area. The current provision per 1000 is based on all accessible outdoor sport including pitches within other typologies. The Sport England methodology dictates that pitch provision should be demand led and as such the provision based on demand equates to 0.54 ha per 1000. However in recognition of the need to rotate and rest pitches on stand alone sites this has been increased to 0.8 hectares per 1000
Provision for Children and Young People (based on population of Children and Young People aged 2-19 years)	0.40	0.61	0.61 per 1,000 (0.41 per 1,000 for 13-19 Yrs and 0.2 per 1,000 up to 12 yrs)
Amenity Greenspace	0.57	0.5	Amenity Greenspace needs to be of value to the local community and appropriately designed and resourced in terms of future maintenance to ensure it remains as an asset. Sites should not be provided as active amenity space below
Allotments	0.40	0.40	The figure for allotments also needs to be treated with caution as current provision falls some way below the identified standard of 0.4 hectares per 1000 population identified in the City Local Plan. Allotments are very much a demand led facility and as such people should have access to a plot if they want one and the current waiting list is significant .i.e. on every site except the two sites identified as being difficult to let.

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- 4.28 Figure 4.5 identifies the surplus or deficiency by typology for parks and gardens, natural /semi natural greenspace, amenity space and allotments based on the standards of provision set above. It is important to note that standards for outdoor sport have already been identified. Standards for green corridors and churchyards and cemeteries have not been established as part of this strategy as further investigation is required into the level of use of green corridors, whereas church yards and cemeteries are dependent upon the designation of the land and normally the presence of a church.

Figure 4.5 Surplus and Deficiency by Typology

Ward	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Greenspace	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Young People and Children	Allotments
<b>RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD</b>		0.61	2	0.5	0.61	0.4
Ward	Population	Balance				
Arboretum	5612	+0.36	-11.22	+5.83	+0.15	+2.38
Battenhall	5214	-1.84	-5.74	-2.52	-0.57	+3.60
Bedwardine	7876	-4.80	2.82	+8.14	-0.83	-1.03
Cathedral	7458	-2.45	-14.22	-1.52	-0.59	+0.76
Claines	7875	-1.02	-11.35	-2.34	-0.68	+4.18
Gorse Hill	5523	-3.37	-2.35	-2.38	-0.80	-1.40
Nunnery	8011	+23.34	3.21	-2.92	-1.02	-2.32
Rainbow Hill	5845	-3.56	-11.68	-2.92	-0.40	-1.69
St Clement	5493	+0.85	6.21	-1.60	-0.70	-1.14
St John	8033	-0.70	-11.83	+0.82	-0.89	+3.64
St Peter's Parish	5622	+0.21	-3.11	+2.29	+0.43	-1.43
St Stephen	5047	-3.08	-7.99	-2.52	-0.62	-0.73
Warndon	5294	-3.23	-8.59	-2.45	+0.70	-1.54
Warndon Parish North	5229	-3.19	31.27	+2.73	+0.44	-1.52
Warndon Parish South	5225	+2.26	5.52	+7.52	+0.98	-1.52
<b>Overall</b>	<b>93,357</b>	<b>-0.23</b>	<b>-39.05</b>	<b>6.17</b>	<b>-4.39</b>	<b>0.23</b>

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- 4.29 The above shows the surplus or deficiency within each ward against the new standards set for each typology. The above should be used as a guide for future provision, for example the people who live in Claines and Cathedral wards have limited provision of most typologies of accessible outdoor space.
- 4.30 The City Local Plan identifies that the provision standard for fixed play equipment is 0.61 hectares per 1000 population. For the purpose of this strategy the population is based on per 1000 children aged between 2 years and 19 years. Figure 4.6 below identifies the current hectareage of provision of fixed play equipment on a ward by ward basis.

Figure 4.6 City of Worcester Current Fixed Play Provision Hectareage

Ward	Populations(2-19 years)	Hectares
<b>Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)</b>		
Arboretum	1079	0.81
Battenhall	1124	0.11
Bedwardine	1725	0.22
Cathedral	1307	0.21
Claines	1550	0.27
Gorse Hill	1402	0.06
Nunnery	2065	0.24
Rainbow Hill	1599	0.58
St Clement	1155	0
St John	1784	0.2
St Peter's Parish	1248	1.19
St Stephen	1080	0.0
Warndon	1311	1.5
Warndon Parish North	1170	1.15
Warndon Parish South	1270	1.75
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20,869</b>	<b>8.34</b>

- 4.31 From the Figure it is clear that there is a significant variance of fixed play for young people across the City, two wards (St Clement, St John's,) have been identified with no provision of accessible fixed play.
- 4.32 Figure 4.7 below identifies the provision of fixed play on a ward by ward basis per 1000 population of young people aged between 2 years and 19 years.

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Figure 4.7 City of Worcester Fixed Play Provision per 1000 Population (Aged 2- 19 years)

Ward	Populations (2-19 years)	Provision for Children and Young People
<b>Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population of young people aged 2-19 years)</b>		
Arboretum	1079	0.75
Battenhall	1124	0.10
Bedwardine	1725	0.13
Cathedral	1307	0.16
Claines	1550	0.17
Gorse Hill	1402	0.04
Nunnery	2065	0.15
Rainbow Hill	1599	0.37
St Clement	1155	0.00
St John	1784	0.13
St Peter's Parish	1248	0.77
St Stephen	1080	0.00
Warndon	1311	0.97
Warndon Parish North	1170	0.74
Warndon Parish South	1270	1.13
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20,869</b>	<b>0.40</b>

4.33 Figure 4.7 above shows the actual provision of fixed play per 1000 population on a ward by ward basis. The above shows the variance in the provision across the wards and identifies that the overall City wide provision equates to 0.40 hectares per 1000 young people (aged between 2 years and 19 years). This equates to a deficiency of fixed play of 0.21 hectares per 1000 young people.

4.34 Figure 4.8 below identifies the actual level of provision (surplus and deficiency) against the City Council standard (0.61 hectares per 1000 population). It is clear from the figure below which wards are most deficient in providing fixed play areas for young people.

Figure 4.8 City of Worcester Fixed Play Surplus and Deficiencies

Ward	Populations (2-19 years)	Provision for Children and Young People
Arboretum	1079	+0.15
Battenhall	1124	-0.57
Bedwardine	1725	-0.83
Cathedral	1307	-0.59

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Ward	Populations(2-19 years)	Provision for Children and Young People
Claines	1550	-0.68
Gorse Hill	1402	-0.80
Nunnery	2065	-1.02
Rainbow Hill	1599	-0.40
St Clement	1155	-0.70
St John	1784	-0.89
St Peter's Parish	1248	+0.43
St Stephen	1080	-0.62
Warndon	1311	+0.70
Warndon Parish North	1170	+0.44
Warndon Parish South	1270	+0.98

- 4.35 Figure 4.9 below summarises the current provision by typology and hectareage and also identifies the current levels of provision per 1000 population.

Figure 4.9 Current Levels of Provision

Typology	Population	Provision	Provision per 1000 population
Parks	93353	56.72	0.61 ha
Natural Greenspace (including green corridors)		147.69	1.58
Outdoor sports		114.57*	1.23
Amenity		52.85	0.57
Allotments		27.30	0.29
Provision for Children and Young People		8.34	0.09
Churchyards and Cemeteries			No standards to be set
<b>Total Provision</b>		<b>407.47</b>	<b>4.36**</b>
Provision for Children and Young People based on population of Children/ Young People aged 2-19	20869	8.34	0.40

\*this figure includes counting the hectareage of pitches within other typologies such as parks or amenity space, hence the total provision per 1000 is higher than the City standard of 3.34 ha per 1000 population. \*\*This figure is based on total population (provision for children and young people is based on population of young people aged 2-19 years)

## SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS

- 4.36 English Nature developed standards that require a provision of natural and semi natural greenspace that equates to 2 hectares per 1000 population. The above identifies that provision of semi natural greenspace in Worcester falls slightly short of that figure for the purpose of setting standards the 2 ha English Nature standard has been utilised.

### Indoor Sports

- 4.37 The calculation for indoor sports provision is not shown in the above as the applied methodology is based on square metres per person. Based on the population of Worcester, the following standards have been established for indoor sports centre provision.
- 4.38 Worcester has a population of 93,353 (2001 Census). Existing indoor (City of Worcester) sports and leisure provision, as set out in Section III, comprises:
- 4 public sport and leisure centres, (2 of which are dual-use); of these, three provide dryside facilities, and there is one swimming pool provided by the City Council. There are three other swimming pools which provide for some community use. These are; RNIB New College, Kings School and Worcester Citizens' Pool. The pool at Canon's health club is for members only
  - 1 College facility which offers community use (managed independently by the College, community use is group-based only, except the fitness suite)
  - 5 commercial health and fitness facilities
- 4.39 On the basis of the above, the following provision is identified:

### Standard of Swimming Pool Water Space required per person

#### CURRENT PROVISION

Current water space in Worcester	=	1136m <sup>2</sup>
(Note this figure includes the Canon Health Club 160m <sup>2</sup> , Kings and Worcester Citizens' Pool 312.5m <sup>2</sup> and RNIB New College 207 m <sup>2</sup> )		
Current provision (total publicly accessible)	=	456.5m <sup>2</sup>
2001 population Worcester	=	93,353

This equates to there being **0.0049m<sup>2</sup>** of water space per person or 4.89m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population.

Based on the Sport England model this equates to 2.15 pools or 8.59 lanes (based on 25m pool)

(456.5m<sup>2</sup> / population 93,353 = 0.0049m<sup>2</sup> per person)

This equates to 1 pool per 43,420 people.

## **SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS**

### **SPORT ENGLAND RECOMMENDED STANDARD**

Sport England recommends a standard of **0.01045m<sup>2</sup>** per person or **10.4m<sup>2</sup>** per 1,000 population

According to the facility calculator, this equates to **976.12m<sup>2</sup>** required water space or **18.37 lanes** or **4.59 pools** (based on 25m pool)

(i.e.  $976.12\text{m}^2 / \text{population } 93,353 = 0.1046\text{m}^2 \text{ per person}$ )

This equates to 1 pool per 20,338 people.

### **DEFICIENCY (BASED ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF THERE BEING 456.5M2 OF ACCESSIBLE WATER SPACE AVAILABLE IN WORCESTER)**

There is a deficiency of **519.63m<sup>2</sup>** in total = (i.e.  $976.12\text{m}^2(\text{required}) - 456.5\text{m}^2(\text{actual})$ )

Or **0.0056m<sup>2</sup>** per person = (i.e.  $0.01045\text{m}^2(\text{required}) - 0.0049\text{m}^2(\text{actual})$ )

Or **2.44 pools** (3 pools) = (i.e.  $4.59 \text{ pools (required)} - 2.15 \text{ pools (actual)}$ )

(Sport England have identified that the actual provision of water space equals **823.5m<sup>2</sup>** in total which would mean that there is a lower deficiency. However, the database includes all provision and has omitted the 25 m pool at Kings School).

- 4.40 The Actual Current water space = **1136 m<sup>2</sup>** of overall water space, which gives **0.0121 m<sup>2</sup>** per head of population, based on a population of 93,353. Therefore if all water space is included the City has a very slight surplus when measured against the Sport England Standard.
- 4.41 However in calculating standards it is community accessible water space that counts and as such the City has a required provision (in accordance with the Sport England Calculator) of **976.12m<sup>2</sup>** and an actual provision of community accessible water space of **456.5m<sup>2</sup>** or **0.004m<sup>2</sup>** per head of population. This is below the Sport England (based on the Facility Calculator parameters) recommended provision per head of population.
- 4.42 It is equally important to consider the quality of the publicly accessible provision in the longer term with both the publicly accessible pools being old, dated and in need of substantial upgrade or replacement especially with regards to be compliant with the latest DDA requirements.

### **Standard of Sports Hall space required per person**

#### **CURRENT PROVISION**

Current provision equals **0.032m<sup>2</sup>** per person or **32m<sup>2</sup>** per 1,000 population  
Or Current Provision equals **20 courts** or **5 sports halls**

Size of four court sports hall (Sport England Guidance) = 594 m<sup>2</sup>

## **SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS**

Divide by 4 (badminton Courts) badminton court	=	148.5m <sup>2</sup>
Worcester current community use supply	=	20 Courts
Total current m <sup>2</sup> (20 x 148.5m <sup>2</sup> )	=	2970 m <sup>2</sup>
Total population	=	93,353
2970m <sup>2</sup> / population 93,353	=	<b>0.032m<sup>2</sup></b> per person

This equates to there being a current provision of 1 sport hall per 18,670 people.

### **SPORT ENGLAND RECOMMENDED PROVISION**

Sport England recommended standard equals 0.043m<sup>2</sup> per person or 43m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population

This equates to a requirement for 27.31 courts or 6.83 sports halls according to the Sport England Facility Calculator  
(This equates to a requirement for 28 courts or 7 sports hall rounded up)

Worcester recommended use supply	=	28 Courts
Total current m <sup>2</sup> (27.31courts x 148.5m <sup>2</sup> )	=	4055 m <sup>2</sup>
Total population	=	93,353
4055m <sup>2</sup> / population 93,353	=	<b>0.043m<sup>2</sup></b> per person

(Note that figures alter slightly when rounding up to full courts or full sports halls)

This equates to there being a requirement of 1 sport hall per 13,668 people.

### **DEFICIENCY**

Therefore there is a deficiency of **2 sports halls** (i.e. 7 required – 5 actual)  
**Or 8 courts** (i.e. 28 courts required – 20 actual)  
**Or 0.011m<sup>2</sup> per person** (i.e. 0.043m<sup>2</sup> required – 0.032m<sup>2</sup> actual)

Standard of m<sup>2</sup> space for badminton court space per person Worcester (The Sport England Indoor Facility Model calculates provision based on a 4 court badminton hall)

Required standard of badminton court provision (28 badminton courts divided by 4 x 594m<sup>2</sup>) = **4158 m<sup>2</sup>**

Sport England required standard = **0.043 m<sup>2</sup>** of badminton court space per 1000 head of population



## **SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS**

- 4.43 The current level of indoor sports hall space is therefore below the actual standard required for the City, based on a population of 93,353.
- 4.44 (It is important to note that Halls that only accommodate 1 or 2 Badminton courts have limited use for the community. The Sport England Methodology is based on a four court hall and as such the facility calculator identifies a need for 7 halls based on current population).
- 4.45 It is important to note also the Governments' agenda is to increase participation in sport and as such demand for facilities is likely to increase, it is also important to recognise the University of Worcester has plans and aspirations to increase its intake of students in the near future, again potentially placing increased demand on facilities.

### **Community Recreation Facilities**

- 4.46 Current community hall provision across the City totals 69. These are well distributed across the City. Management of the community halls is varied, but all offer a range of recreational and active recreational activities. Only a small number of the community halls offer formal sporting activities, with purpose built provision and one offers purpose built youth facilities at the Perdiswell young people's centre.

### **Qualitative Standards**

- 4.47 The City should aspire to provide 'Good' Quality Facilities'. As such the City needs to allocate adequate resources to improve those open spaces and indoor facilities that fall below that standard to ensure equality of access for all the residents within the City. As a bare minimum every site that the public use and that is owned by the City should have signage, if the public use it for recreation it should have a bench and a bin, be clean and well maintained as a minimum standard of provision Appendix 8 identifies those sites within the open space typologies that fall below this qualitative standard. Appendix 8 contains the sites that fall below a 'Good' quality standard.
- 4.48 Future provision needs to ensure that it is compliant to the recommended Disability Discrimination Act accessibility guidance.
- 4.49 The quality of the existing community halls is variable, given that all are managed and funded differently, and all provide different levels and scale of provision. Cultural traditions also mean that some provision is accessed and provided differently.

### **Accessibility Standards**

- 4.50 In order to establish the minimum size of future provision the average size of each typology has been calculated and it is recommended that this should be used as the minimum size of future provision. The average or minimum size by typology is outlined below in Figure 4.10:

## SECTION IV PPG17 STAGE III SET PROVISION STANDARDS

Figure 4.10 Average Size and Accessibility Standards for Future Provision

Typology	Average size/ Minimum Size of Future Provision	Required Travel Distance
Indoor Sports	As a minimum new provision should follow recognised standards ( i.e. a four court sports hall)	Residents should have access to a good quality Indoor Sports facility within 15 minutes travel time
Community Recreation Facility	As a minimum new provision should follow recognised standards for community facilities	All dwellings should be within 0.62 miles of a <b>good quality</b> Community Hall, accessible to the whole community.
Parks	6.1ha	Residents should have access to a good quality park within <b>0.67 miles</b> of their home
Semi Natural Greenspace	3.8ha	Residents should have access to good quality natural/semi natural greenspace within <b>1.4 miles</b> of their home
Outdoor Sports	Refer to Figure 4.44	Residents should have access to good quality outdoor sports within 15 minutes or a distance of <b>1.0 mile</b> from where they live
Amenity	1.61ha	Residents should have access to good quality amenity space within <b>0.67 miles</b> of their home
Allotments	1.3ha	Allotments are demand led and as such provision should be to the current City Standard of <b>0.4 ha</b> per 1000 pop as demand exceeds supply with 100+people on waiting lists across the City. From other studies the provision should be within <b>1 mile</b> of where people live
Provision for Children and Young People	400m <sup>2</sup>	Resident should have access to good quality play provision within <b>0.5 miles</b> of their home
Churchyards and Cemeteries	No standards to be set	Churchyards and cemeteries should be maintained to the highest possible standard as a mark of respect

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

### Applying Provision Standards

- 5.1 It is important when setting standards of provision to recognise that the distribution of provision by Typology varies significantly across the City. The City's Local Plan does not identify specific standards of provision for formal parks and gardens or natural/ semi natural greenspace. The Local Plan identifies a standard for casual and informal space that excludes parks and as such it is difficult to compare the current provision of parks against the Local Plan standards. Therefore the current provision for parks (0.61ha per1000 population) should be used as a **minimum** standard to guide future provision, so as to ensure, at least , the current level of provision is maintained.
- 5.2 The recommended standards for open space have been developed using Current provision per typology measured against the total population. The exception to this has been for natural and semi natural greenspace including green corridors where the English Nature 2ha per 1000 population has been applied.
- 5.3 For outdoor sport (playing pitches) Sport England's 'Towards a level playing field' methodology provides a supply and demand based assessment. The methodology has identified against current demand that the City wide provision needs to be as set out in Figure 5.1 below

Figure 5.1 Pitch Requirements against Demand

Recommended Provision standard
<p><b>Senior Football Pitches:</b> Requirement for 13 pitches. Based on the current population of senior football playing age (Male pop 20,374/ Female pop 20,938)</p>
<p><b>Junior Football Pitches:</b> Requirement for 6 pitches. Based on the current population of junior football playing age ( Male pop 3494 / Female pop 3377)</p>
<p><b>Mini Soccer Pitches:</b> Requirement for 5 pitches. Based on the current population of mini soccer playing age (Mini playing pop 4715)</p>
<p><b>Cricket Pitches:</b> Requirement for 8 pitches. Based on the current population of cricket playing age.</p>
<p><b>Rugby Pitches:</b> Requirement for 10 pitches. Based on the current population of rugby playing age</p>
<p><b>Quality</b> All pitch and ancillary provision should be of a good standard All multi-pitch sites should be served by 'Dual Use Changing facilities and adequate car parking</p>

- 5.4 This provision identified through the predicted demand 50.8 ha this equates to 0.54 ha per 1000 population. However to recognise the need for pitch rotation and the need to rest pitches a standard of 0.8 a per 1000 has been established for stand alone outdoor sport pitches

## **SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS**

- 5.5 The figures need to be treated with caution as they do not take into consideration the ability and need for teams to play locally, nor do they consider that teams may operate in conflicting leagues, thereby impacting on the demand for pitches.
- 5.6 The figures also need to take into consideration the fact that the University is set to expand the intake of students and as yet no additional outdoor provision has been identified to cater for this increased demand.
- 5.7 It is also important to consider how the schools have interpreted the term 'Community Use'. The Council's pitches are reportedly fully utilised.
- 5.8 It is recommended that for outdoor sports provision the City develop a hierarchy of provision to ensure people have access to good quality pitches and also can also have access to local pitches. The Local Plan identifies the opportunity to develop a hierarchy of provision in terms of outdoor playing pitches with multi pitch sites (4 or more pitches) and facilities to cater for a wide range of sports serving a City wide catchment area; sites of 2 or more pitches being aimed at the community level catchment area, and single pitch sites being used by a very local catchment area.. This approach would create opportunities at all levels, enabling clubs to develop and to have access to facilities for out of season training whilst also being able to play competitively in their local area.
- 5.9 The recommended standards outlined above are set as a minimum standard for future provision, where the City has a surplus of one typology this should not be seen as a reason for disposal rather an opportunity to potentially change the use to address deficiencies in other typologies within local areas. The recommended standards are:
- **Parks and Gardens** 0.61 hectares per 1000 population
  - **Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace**( including green corridors) 2 hectares per1000 population
  - **Amenity Greenspace** 0.5 hectares per 1000 population
  - **Provision for Children and Young People** 0.61 hectares per 1000 population of young people ( aged 2- 19 years)
  - **Allotments** 0.4 hectares per 1000 population
  - **Outdoor sport** 0.8 hectares per 1000 population for stand alone sports pitches
- 5.10 Figure 5.2 below illustrates the variance in provision of open space across the City Wards by Typology. The figures provide an assessment of the current City wide standard for each particular typology against the actual provision per 1000 population. This is then compared against the recommended standard to demonstrate on a ward by ward basis the surplus/deficiency in the actual level of provision.

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Figure 5.2 Variances of Provision on a Ward by Ward Basis

Typology		Parks and gardens	Natural/ Semi Natural (English Nature Standard)	Amenity	Allotments	Provision for Young People/ Children	Outdoor sports	Churchyards and Cemeteries	
Surplus deficiency based on identified standards		0.61	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.61	0.8	N/A	
Ward	Population	Actual surplus or deficiency against the above standards						Standards set by Sport England towards a level playing field supply and demand calculation	(sees PPG 17 process is not appropriate)
Arboretum	5612	0.36	-11.22	5.83	1.77	0.15			
Battenhall	5214	-1.84	-5.74	2.52	3.02	-0.57			
Bedwardine	7876	-4.80	2.82	8.14	1.90	-0.83			
Cathedral	7458	-2.45	-14.22	1.52	0.06	-0.59			
Claines	7875	-1.02	-11.35	2.34	3.31	-0.68			
Gorse Hill	5523	-3.37	-2.35	2.38	2.01	-0.80			
Nunnery	8011	23.34	3.21	2.92	3.20	-1.02			
Rainbow Hill	5845	-3.56	-11.68	2.92	2.34	-0.40			
St Clement	5493	0.85	6.21	1.60	1.75	-0.70			
St John	8033	-0.70	-11.83	0.82	2.76	-1.09			
St Peter's Parish	5622	0.21	-3.11	2.29	2.05	0.43			
St Stephen	5047	-3.08	-7.99	2.52	1.29	-0.62			
Warndon	5294	-3.23	-8.59	2.45	2.12	0.70			
Warndon Parish North	5229	-3.19	31.27	2.73	2.09	0.44			
Warndon Parish South	5225	2.26	5.52	7.52	2.09	0.98			

Note that minus figures are the total deficiency by typology against the provision standards

## **SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS**

- 5.11 The table above shows the actual surplus or deficiency of land provision in hectares by typology when measured against the recommended standard. For example Arboretum shows a slight surplus of +0.36 hectares of park provision when measured against the 0.61 hectare per 1000 population standard, yet it has a deficiency of -11.22 hectares of natural and semi natural greenspace when measured against the 2 hectare per 1000 population standard set for natural and semi natural greenspace. The City could therefore consider a change of use of those typologies showing an excess in Arboretum (namely parks, amenity and allotments (although allotments needs careful consideration as they are demand led facilities). However in Arboretum even changing the surplus demonstrated within these typologies would still equate to a deficiency of natural and semi natural greenspace within the ward of 3.11 hectares. It is important to note that this would need further research to identify on a site by site basis what local people require and would have to be subject to extensive consultation.
- 5.12 The above shows where future provision by typology needs to be targeted to meet the City standards based on current provision. It is clear from the above that deficiencies exist in the provision of formal parks, natural and semi natural greenspace and amenity space on a ward by ward basis. As stated earlier the figure for allotments needs to be treated with caution as allotments are a demand based facility.
- 5.13 Figure 5.3 below highlights the areas above or below the minimum standard within the wards across the following typologies parks and gardens, natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people, allotments. The analysis has been based on the following thresholds.
- Extensive Over Provision(EOP) – above the minimum standard by over 5 hectares
  - Over Provision(OP)- above the minimum standard by between 1- 5 hectares
  - Average (AV)-above or below the minimum standard by up to 1 hectare
  - Under provision (UP)- below the minimum standard by 1 – 5 hectares
  - Extensive under provision(EUP) – below the minimum standard by 5 hectare or more

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Figure 5.3 Level of Provision per Typology Compared Against the Recommended Standards

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
Arboretum	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Extensive over provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standards for allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Battenhall	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and allotments Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Bedwardine	EOP						Extensive under provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standards for parks and gardens Below the minimum standards of provision for children and young people
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Cathedral	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and amenity greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Claines	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standards for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
Gorse Hill	EOP						Below minimum standards of provision for allotments, amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace Over provision of parks and gardens
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Nunnery	EOP						Below minimum standards of provision for allotments, provision for children and young people and allotments Extensive over provision of parks and gardens
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Rainbow Hill	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace  Over provision of parks and gardens and below minimum standards for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St Clement	EOP						Significant over provision of natural and semi natural greenspace, under provision of amenity greenspace and allotments when compared to minimum standards
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St John	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace  Above the minimum standard for provision of allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						



## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology					Provision Against Minimum Standards
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	
St Peter's	EOP						Above minimum standard for amenity greenspace, extensive under provision against the minimum standard for natural and semi natural greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
St Stephen	EOP						Above the minimum standard of provision for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon	EOP						Extensive under provision of natural and semi natural greenspace Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for amenity greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon Parish North	EOP						Above the minimum standard for parks and gardens and amenity greenspace, Below the minimum standard for natural and semi natural greenspace and allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						
Warndon Parish South	EOP						Extensive over provision of amenity greenspace Above the minimum standard for provision of parks and gardens Below the minimum standard for allotments
	OP						
	Av						
	UP						
	EUP						

## ***SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS***

- 5.14 From the above figure it is clear that the City has to make some informed decisions with regards to future provision, the information above needs to be considered in terms of where can planning policy govern a change of land use to ensure that residents have equal accessibility to provision.
- 5.15 Planning policy needs to redress the surplus and deficiencies on a ward by ward basis; policy needs to consider the disposal of sites in areas above the minimum standard to cater for the deficiencies in other typologies or to ensure that disposal secures funding for outdoor sport and open space facilities.
- 5.16 The City needs to implement area focused protective policies guided by the local development framework for those areas low in provision.
- 5.17 In terms of future provision, outlined below in Figure 5.4 are an indication of where the City needs to protect, provide new provision or potentially change use to fill the gaps in the provision across the wards. It is important that disposal of sites is seen very much as a last resort. Disposal also should only be considered following further consultation with the local community that will be most affected.
- 5.18 It is important to note that no recommendations regarding allotments have been made. Allotments are demand led and further to the consultation undertaken it is not clear if the current allotments are in the right place to meet local needs as sites have traditionally been hard to let or generate low interest

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Figure 5.4 Future Provision

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
Arboretum	EOP			Change/Dispose		
	OP					
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
Battenhall	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av					
	UP			Protect	Protect	
	EUP		New Provision			
Bedwardine	EOP			Change/Dispose		
	OP	Protect				
	Av		Protect			
	UP				New Provision	
	EUP					
Cathedral	EOP					
	OP	Protect		Protect		
	Av				Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
Claines	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
Gorse Hill	EOP					
	OP	Protect				

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
	Av				Protect	
	UP		Protect	Protect		
	EUP					
Nunnery	EOP	Protect				
	OP		Protect/Change			
	Av					
	UP			New Provision	New Provision	
	EUP					
Rainbow Hill	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
St Clement	EOP		Protect/Change			
	OP					
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP			Protect		
	EUP					
St John	EOP					
	OP					
	Av	Protect		Protect	Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			
St Peter's	EOP					
	OP			Protect		
	Av	Protect			Protect	
	UP					
	EUP		New Provision			

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

Ward	Level Of Provision	Typology				
		Park and Garden	Natural and Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments
St Stephen	EOP					
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			New Provision		
	EUP		New Provision			
Warndon	EOP		Protect/Change			
	OP	Protect				
	Av				Protect	
	UP			Protect		
	EUP					
Warndon Parish North	EOP					
	OP	Protect		Protect		
	Av				New Provision	
	UP		New Provision			
	EUP					
Warndon Parish South	EOP			Protect/Change		
	OP	Protect				
	Av		Protect		Protect	
	UP					
	EUP					

## SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS

### Indoor Sport

#### Swimming Pools

- 5.19 If the standard calculation is based on there being a current community accessible water space supply of 456.5m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. excluding private provision with limited club use), then the current provision is 0.0049 m<sup>2</sup> of publicly accessible water space per head of population. This is below the recommended standard for the City (based on Sport England guidelines from the Sport England Facility guidance they have a recommendation of 0.0104m<sup>2</sup> required in the City). This does mean that there should be no loss of publicly accessible water space, without alternative provision being made.

#### Sports Halls

- 5.20 The Sport England recommended standard is 0.043m<sup>2</sup> per head of population. On the basis of all current indoor sports hall space in the City the current provision equates to 0.032m<sup>2</sup> per head of population.
- 5.21 The position regarding existing sports hall provision in the City is misleading; there is little provision for casual access to sports halls during the day (Perdiswell), given that the dual use facilities are not available for casual use during the day. In the evenings there is a significant amount of block booked club use in the available sports halls, which means that casual pay and play access to sports hall provision is limited.
- 5.22 Excluding the dual – use facilities from the calculations results in a total of 2970m<sup>2</sup> of badminton court per person, the current provision equates to a total of 0.032 m<sup>2</sup> per head of population; this is a deficiency compared with the recommended Sport England standard. This deficiency will be reduced with the opening of the new NOF 3 sports hall at Elgar School.

#### Future Population Projections

- 5.23 Based on the 2001 Census figure of 93, 353. This level of population is predicted to increase to 96,400 by 2011; to 98,400 by 2016, and to 100,000 by 2020. On the basis of the identified need, this would require the following level of provision:

Population	2006	2011	2020
	<b>93,353</b>	<b>96,400</b>	<b>100,000</b>
Water space Required per person (0.0121m <sup>2</sup> per head of population)	970 m <sup>2</sup> (4.59pools) 18.38 Lanes	1008.5m <sup>2</sup> (4.75 pools) 18.98 Lanes	1046.21 m <sup>2</sup> (4.92 pools) 19.69 lanes
Badminton Court Space Required	Need 28 courts or 7 x 4 court sports halls	Need 28.22 courts or 7.05 x 4 court sports halls	Need 29.27 courts or 7.32 x 4 court sports halls

## **SECTION V PPG17 STAGE IV APPLY PROVISION STANDARDS**

- 5.24 It is important to note that these standards need to be applied not just to the current population level in Worcester, but to future levels too. The additional requirements for indoor facility provision, to meet the needs of the increased population, are based on the identified local standards for the City.

### **Churchyards and Cemeteries**

- 5.25 It is not possible to calculate standards of provision for Churchyards and Cemeteries. In the context of this study, it is important to acknowledge that Churchyards are not created with the intention of providing informal or passive recreation opportunities. Churchyards only exist where there is a church and as such, standards of provision need to focus on quality, rather than quantity.

## **SECTION VI PPG17 STAGE V DRAFT POLICIES**

### **Introduction**

- 6.1 The PPG17 audit and assessment has identified several specific issues relating to the provision, quality, accessibility and quality of open space, indoor sport and indoor community recreation facilities across the City.
- 6.2 The key priority the City Council needs to consider is to redress the deficiencies in provision both in terms of quantity and quality. The GIS has identified accessibility issues faced by local residents when trying to use facilities at a local level.
- 6.3 The following recommendations are made to address the findings of the assessment undertaken. A number of recommended actions are proposed relating to sites in general, and in relation to specific typologies.

### **Generic Recommendations**

- 6.4 A number of recommendations are made in relation to all sites and the assessment undertaken. These are concerned with the use of information gathered and the further development of the study in future years. The following recommendations are made:
  - a) Audit sport, leisure and open spaces on a regular basis (every two/three years) and publish findings. This will allow trend data to be collated and improvements to be tracked. It is important that findings are published to enable wider stakeholders to track progress.
  - b) Develop a central record of all sports and leisure facilities (indoor and outdoor), and open space to include the findings of the assessment undertaken. Currently many different sections of the Council hold this information; this information is not always consistent (sites listed by different names etc). The central record should include access to GIS mapping.
  - c) Establish a central consultation database for the Council, using the data and contacts gathered through this study. This information is held currently by a number of different sections/individuals in the Council; in the course of this study, a number of inaccuracies/wrong contact details etc have been identified; establishing a central database, which is regularly updated, will address these issues for the future.
  - d) Establish a consultative Steering Group, involving representatives from both sport and leisure, and planning, to consider specific site development proposals relating to existing, former and proposed sport and leisure provision. This inter-departmental group should be established to share, and utilise the expertise of leisure and planning officers, to ensure that specific site development issues are fully considered, and the implications shared, before a planning decision is made.



## SECTION VI PPG17 STAGE V DRAFT POLICIES

- e) Continue to develop the marketing information produced about the parks and open space facilities available, key activities accommodated and access arrangements. The Council should seek to work with key partners in future marketing, such as the local Primary Care Trust (PCT), the wider voluntary sector, education, the Youth Service etc to ensure that open space fulfils a valuable role in meeting wider social objectives (e.g. health improvement, increased active participation).
- f) Develop an access standard regarding physical access for those users and potential users with a disability
- g) Review maintenance standards for open space, and agree with local people any changes. Report on performance annually. It is important to set quality standards for each of the open space categories.
- h) Develop and fund a programme of signage installation. The absence of signage or the presence of outdated signage was found to be a key weakness of many sites audited. Develop a consistent approach to the provision of signage at all sites, through a rolling programme of installation and improvement. All sites should have a sign with site details, ownership and contact numbers. This can address a number of issues including helping with the reporting of vandalism and improving community safety.
- i) Continue to work towards the reduction of the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.
- j) Establish and implement a programme of action to address the actual, and perceived, issues of safety in parks and open spaces. This could take the form of installing CCTV at identified sites, resourcing Park Warden posts, or investing in park/open space infrastructure to encourage increased use, which in turn may have a positive impact on the fear of crime because more people are likely to be around.

### Indoor Sports Facilities

- 6.5 On the basis of the assessment undertaken the following recommendations are made:

#### General Indoor Leisure Provision

- a. Improve the swimming pool provision in the City, through new development or partnership opportunities ideally through the replacement of the Worcester Swimming Pool
- b. Undertake a feasibility study to identify the most appropriate location for new swimming pool provision; the study should also consider facility mix, capital costs and options for future operational management
- c. Review the current pricing policies for indoor sports and leisure provision
- d. Identify the opportunities for refurbishing existing facility provision to ensure it provides for all of City's communities, specifically the black and minority ethnic communities, (specific issues are changing room provision, and the ability to participate without being overlooked)
- e. That the work of the Community Services is supported, and the opportunities to increase participation in a range of sporting activities guide the provision of, and investment in new indoor facility provision

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- f. Seek to attract external funding to support the City's investment in indoor sports and leisure facilities e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Public Service Agreements (Sport and Physical Activity)
- g. Improve the marketing and publicity information available to local people, and ensure that information is communicated and distributed in the most appropriate way e.g. through Mosques, schools, local media, newsletters, to representative community groups/organisations
- h. Seek to provide better and more targeted support to local sports clubs e.g. coaching and coach education, funding, advice on equity, child protection and club development
- i. Work with individual schools to increase community access to on site facilities
- j. Work with the University to develop opportunities for use by young people i.e. specifically the fitness suite
- k. Review the current pricing subsidies, and increase the promotion in deprived and areas of high ethnic origin

### **Leisure Contract**

- l. Review the current contractual agreement with Leisure Connection to ensure that the key needs for participation in the City can be addressed e.g. improved access for young people, review of current programming and pricing policies
- m. Work in partnership with Leisure Connection to improve the quality issues at Council facilities e.g. staff attitudes, cleanliness, availability of information, programming and to continue to secure the QUEST criteria
- n. Investigate future opportunities at all 4 Leisure Centres, which would support local clubs, and enable them to train and compete in the City

### **Community Centres**

6.6 On the basis of the assessment undertaken the following recommendations are made:

- a) Aim to address the need for additional Youth Centre provision in the City by increased hours and improved quality
- b) Ensure that all new residential developments are provided with adequate access to community centre/hall provision
- c) Ensure all community halls/centres are accessible to the community with programmes to suit local needs
- d) Work with all providers of community centre/hall facilities to ensure good quality facilities, together with a co-ordinated approach to activity programming, and activity provision
- e) Encourage and support the use of community halls/centres wherever possible for informal recreational activity, specifically targeted at older people

### **Formal Parks and Gardens**

6.7 Management plans are in place for some of the major parks; the City should recognise the growing importance of the Green Flag Award and aspire to secure the award for its major parks.

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- 6.8 The recommendations detailed below form a response to the assessment undertaken and need to be viewed as complementary to any policies developed within an Open Space Strategy. This principle applies to all managed open space. The recommendations made in this report are focused on addressing facility deficiencies. On the basis of the assessment undertaken the following recommendations are made:
- a) Develop an Open Space Strategy for the City utilising the results, issues and recommendations from the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study
  - b) Identified provision deficiencies are addressed as a priority in the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF).
  - c) Continue to develop and support Friends Groups for key parks and open spaces to increase local involvement and ownership
  - d) Continue to develop and improve Parks Management Plans and extend the practice of management planning to a greater range of parks and open spaces
  - e) Continue to test the quality and "performance" of parks through entering externally judged competitions and quality recognition schemes (e.g. Green Flag)

### Natural / Semi-natural greenspace

- 6.9 A number of recommendations are made in response to the assessment findings. These are:
- a) Identified provision deficiencies are addressed as a priority in the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF).
  - b) Build on the work of the Greenspace study and consider utilising the results, issues and recommendations from the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study.
  - c) Develop a rolling programme of renewal and improvements, e.g. bins, signage and seating.
  - d) Develop a walking strategy to set out how the City's existing walking networks link together.
  - e) Further develop the City's footpath network and link into wider footpath networks outside of the City
  - f) Increase awareness of the opportunities for walking in the City
  - g) Link the use of both open space and sport and recreation facilities with travel awareness initiatives
  - h) Take a strategic approach to the development and provision of cycling routes across the City given the importance and health benefits of this mode of transport in a congested area
  - i) Develop the Biodiversity Action Plan for the City
  - j) Adopt appropriate management and maintenance programmes for the Nature Conservation sites to reflect their natural characteristics, and thereby preserving their special characteristics.
  - k) Develop an education/resource centre to develop better local awareness and understanding of open space, and in particular nature conservation sites
  - l) Protect all existing nature conservation sites in the Green Belt

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### Green Corridors

- 6.10 A number of recommendations are made in response to the assessment findings. These are:
- a) Identified provision deficiencies are addressed as a priority in the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF).
  - b) Develop better awareness at local level of existing and proposed Green Corridors, and their points of access
  - c) Develop a rolling programme of renewal and improvements to include improvements to signage, bins and seating (where appropriate)
  - d) Further develop and extend the green network within the City
  - e) Provide as a priority improved facilities for those with a disability to open up access to Green Corridors

### Provision for Children and Young People

- 6.11 The following recommendations are made in relation to provision for children and young people:
- a) To provide 'Good' quality sites as a minimum
  - b) Improve the security of play areas through introduction of CCTV or staff presence
  - c) Expand signage on all sites with site details and contact numbers
  - d) Improve provision for Young People, especially Teenagers and Toddlers, through a wider range of facilities
  - e) Seek to address the deficiencies in teenage facilities, through the provision of an additional MUGA area, together with appropriate access arrangements, and equipment
  - f) Develop equipment that caters for children and young people with disabilities
  - g) Involve young people in the design and choice of provision
  - h) To develop a hierarchy of provision with major play areas in the City's main parks that are to a PEAP (Premier Equipped Play Area) standard

### Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 6.12 Playing Pitches. The following recommendations are made in response to the findings of the Playing Pitch Assessment. These are:

#### Playing Pitches

- a) Adopt the provision standards identified in this report.
- b) Re-designate some surplus senior pitches to address the deficiencies in junior football pitches.
- c) Use the results of the quality audit to help inform the ratings currently used to set pitch hire fees and charges
- d) Develop the hierarchy of provision as outlined in the Local Plan
- e) Develop a priority list for the development/improvement of changing room facilities based on the deficiencies identified, which reflect the type of pitch usage e.g. competitive, or Sunday pub team

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- f) Establish a policy to ensure that all multi-pitch sites are served by good quality changing facilities, to ensure that all sports and participants, irrespective of gender, can be accommodated
- g) Improve pitch quality across sites where there is regular community use
- h) Work with Private Clubs to ensure pitch quality is maintained, particularly in relation to cricket and rugby provision
- i) Re-assess pitch provision using the 'Towards a Level Playing Field' methodology in 2009 and on a rolling 5 year cycle to ensure that changes in demand and supply are considered

### **Bowling Greens**

- j) Work with the local Bowls Clubs to improve the quality of both existing Greens and ancillary facilities
- k) Priority should be given to the improvement of 'below average' sites.
- l) Work with the local Bowls Clubs to promote the sport in the City, and encourage participation by younger people
- m) Review security measures at greens located in parks, in light of the reduction in staff presence on some sites.
- n) Improve the publishing of information at parks about opportunities to play bowls

### **Tennis Courts**

- o) Retain the current provision of tennis courts and work with key partners and private clubs to maintain quality and improve access for potential new participants
- p) Develop a programme of court improvement in the City Parks
- q) Ensure public courts have appropriate quality nets and equipment

### **Golf**

- r) Maintain and further develop casual pay and play opportunities.
- s) Work in partnership with the 4 golf clubs to ensure opportunities exist for local people to participate

### **Athletics**

- t) Continue to Invest in the track and ancillary facilities at Nunnery Wood to provide quality training and competition facilities for club, casual and school use in the City

## **Allotments**

6.13 The following recommendations are made in relation to allotment provision:

- a) A programme of facility development with a focus on toilet provision needs to be established and prioritised.
- b) Facilities for users/potential users with a disability need to be further developed
- c) Review the mechanism for the allocation of vacant plots to reduce the number of empty plots, and address the local demand for allotments

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- d) Continue to work with Worcester Allotment Society to develop, improve and enhance the existing allotment provision in the this may include consideration of the potential rationalisation of the poorer sites in the City to focus resources on improving the other sites (given that 20% of existing plots are vacant)
- e) Develop partnerships to increase the value and accessibility of allotments. Partnerships could include, schools (where sites are close enough) and the further development of health-related projects

### **Cemeteries**

6.14 The following recommendations are made in relation to cemetery provision:

- a) There is a need to maintain the current quality of the City's cemeteries, given that they are seen, and used as, local open space
- b) There is a need to improve and enhance existing provision through the provision of benches for seating, bins, and signage