



Local Development Plan 2030

Technical Supplement 4 Open Space, Sport & Leisure

September 2019

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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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1.0 Introduction

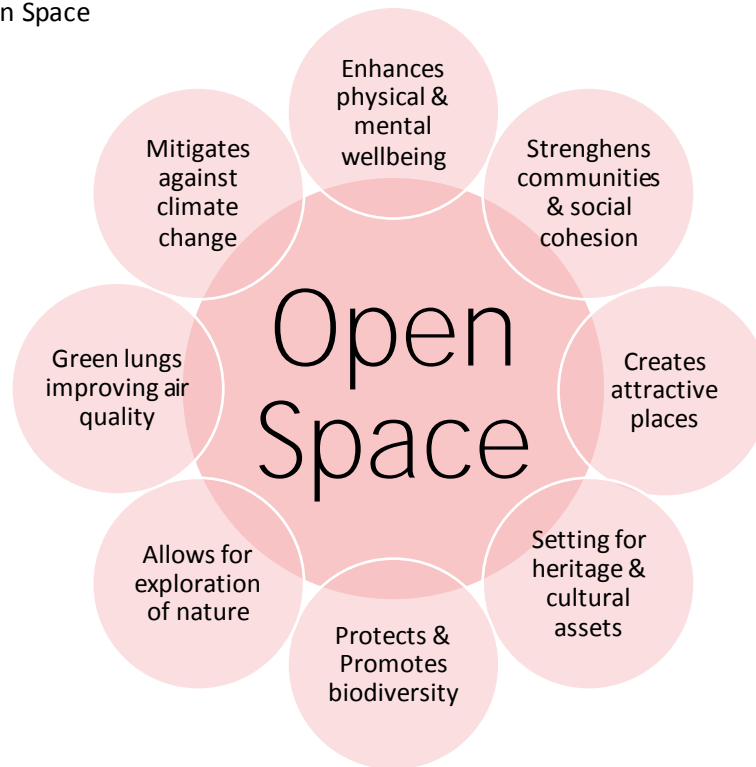
Purpose of this document

- 1.1 This technical supplement brings together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan (LDP) 2030 draft Plan Strategy. It is one of a suite of topic based technical supplements that should be read alongside the draft Plan Strategy to understand the rationale and justification for the policies proposed within it.
- 1.2 This technical supplement builds upon and updates Position Paper 6 Open Space and Recreation which provides baseline information on Open Space and which formed part of the evidence base for the Preferred Options Paper (POP). It provides an overview of the regional and local policy context and the open space, sport and recreation profile of Mid and East Antrim. In addition, it demonstrates how the various strands of the evidence base have been considered in the formulation of the Open Space Strategy SGS9 and Policies OSL1 – OSL7 in the draft Plan Strategy, including responses to the POP and ongoing consultee and councillor engagement.

Planning and Open Space

- 1.3 Open space or green infrastructure, as it can also be referred to, includes all formal, informal and passive open spaces which are of public value. Whilst not an exhaustive list this encompasses parks, gardens, woodlands, forests, outdoor sports facilities such as pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, communal green spaces within housing developments, play areas, kick about areas, green corridors and wedges, allotments, cemeteries, civic space including squares and other hard surfaced areas. It also includes blue infrastructure such as inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs.
- 1.4 Open space is essential for amenity, play and recreation purposes and contributes positively to the character, attractiveness and vitality of our built, natural and marine environment and provides many cultural, health, social, economic and environmental benefits. It can also help to attract business and tourism and contribute positively to urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly when associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote tourism. The use of open space can also support nature conservation and biodiversity, act as a buffer between conflicting land uses, assist place-making, help reduce flood risk, promote pedestrian linkages and provide 'green lungs' that can help to improve air quality. Ultimately, open space and the use of such space contributes to the health and quality of life for all.

Figure 1.1 Benefits of Open Space



- 1.5 The planning system can ensure that there is adequate provision of open space for current and future generations by protecting existing areas of open space and by supporting the delivery of new open space. This plays a vital role in promoting healthy living and tackling inequality through facilitating play, sporting activities, passive activity and interaction with others.
- 1.6 A widely accepted definition of sport is *'all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental wellbeing, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.'* This paper focuses mainly on outdoor recreation, but it also briefly considers provision of indoor recreation in Mid and East Antrim.

2.0 Policy Context

Regional Policy Context

Draft Programme for Government 2016 - 2021

- 2.1 Improving health and wellbeing is a key priority of the NI Executive which is reflected through the draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016 - 2021.
- 2.2 The PfG Framework sets out the aspirations of the Executive for society and provides a strategic context for other key strategies and policies. It contains 14 strategic outcomes. The provision of sufficient and quality open space has a role in helping to deliver on a number of these outcomes, particularly those relating to the creation of attractive and sustainable places to live and work.

Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)

- 2.3 The RDS is a spatial strategy and provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide sustainable development. The links between a quality environment and human health and wellbeing is one of the dominant themes of the RDS. The RDS acknowledges the value of accessible green space as a fundamental component to achieving sustainable development within both urban and rural areas.
- 2.4 Regional Guideline 7 (RG 7) in supporting urban and rural renaissance places importance in providing recreational space within cities, towns and neighbourhoods as well as promoting green and blue infrastructure.
- 2.5 The RDS recognises that proper care of the environment provides real benefits in terms of improving health and wellbeing. Regional Guideline 11 (RG 11) supports the conservation, protection and enhancement of our built heritage and natural environment and recognises the role of open space as part of the delivery mechanism.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

- 2.6 The SPPS was published by the former Department for Environment (DOE) in September 2015. The SPPS sets out the core principles, underpinning the new two tier planning system, one of which is '*improving health and wellbeing*'. It highlights how the protection of existing and provision of new open space within or close to settlements can play a vital role in promoting healthy living through facilitating play, sporting activities, passive activity and interaction with others.
- 2.7 The SPPS also acknowledges that the countryside has potential to accommodate a wide range of recreational activities, and that local development plans should contain policy for the consideration of development proposals for outdoor recreation in the countryside.

Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Guidance

Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (PPS8)

- 2.8 PPS8 embodies the Government's commitments to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity. It sets out the regional planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments (PPS7)

- 2.9 PPS7 aims to encourage good design and quality housing development. It emphasises that a quality residential environment depends not only on built form, but also the supporting infrastructure, including appropriate provision of open space within the development and linkages to the surrounding green network.

Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside (PPS21)

- 2.10 PPS21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. It states that planning permission will be granted for outdoor sport and recreational uses in accordance with PPS8.

Revised Planning Policy Statement 15: Planning and Flood Risk (Revised PPS15)

- 2.11 Revised PPS15 sets out regional policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment. The PPS refers to the importance of open space for flood risk management purposes, including planning for storm exceedance and sustainable drainage and avoiding development in flood plains in order to facilitate the storage and convergence of flood water.

Guidance Documents - Creating Places and Living Places

- 2.12 Both PPS7 and PPS8 are complemented by the guidance document ‘Creating Places’ (DOE/DRD 2000) which provides more detailed guidelines on securing quality design in new residential development. It highlights the importance of integrating ‘green’ areas into the overall design concept.
- 2.13 ‘Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland’ (September 2014) set out the key qualities of good place making. It seeks to inform and inspire all those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and place making (design) of urban places, with a view to raising standards across NI. Open space is referenced in a number of the key qualities, particularly ‘accessible’ and ‘hospitable’, which recognise linking paths to open space can contribute to a valuable network of green infrastructure and encourage active travel.

Exercise, Explore, Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways

- 2.14 The purpose of this Strategic Plan for Greenways (DfI 2016) is to provide a framework to assist councils and other bodies to develop their own local schemes as part of a Greenway Network for NI. It aims to encourage an increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway Network which significantly increases the length of traffic-free routes. It identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. Six routes pass through Mid and East Antrim, one of which (Belfast to Larne) is part of the Primary Network.

Other Relevant Strategies

- 2.15 A wide range of other strategies and documents are relevant to open space, including those produced by government departments and agencies which are listed overleaf. For full details of these refer to Position Paper 6 Open Space and Recreation published at the LDP POP stage.

Other Relevant Strategies
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 - 2019
OFMDFM Play and Leisure Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (2011)
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety - Fitter Future for All 2012-2022
Our Great Outdoors – Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland – DCAL, DETI and DoE (now the Department for Communities) (2014)
Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland 2009 - 2019
Active Places Research 2009 Report and 2014 update
Our Passion, Our Place – NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022
DARD - The Rural White Paper Action Plan (2012)
Northern Ireland Changing Gear – A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015)
Active School Travel Initiative
'Your School, Your Club – A Practical guide to achieving community use of School Sports Facilities' (2014)

Local Policy Context

Legacy Area Plans

2.16 The existing development or area plans that apply to Mid and East Antrim Borough are:

- **Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001, adopted in 1989**
- **Larne Area Plan 2010, adopted in 1998**
- **Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001, adopted in March 2000**

The draft Plan Strategy (para 2.2.3) refers to the somewhat complex situation in regard to the status of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP) which included the former Carrickfergus Borough Council area. Whilst the Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 remains the extant statutory plan for this area, the draft BMAP (2004) as the most recent expression of local planning policy, has also been taken into account in developing the draft Plan Strategy.

2.17 Whilst the draft Plan Strategy has taken account of the existing Area Plans, it has also been necessary to consider their longevity and the fact that all pre-date even the original version of the Regional Development Strategy, published in 2001.

Ballymena Area Plan 1986 – 2001

2.18 The Ballymena Area Plan acknowledged that there was likely to be increased demand for open space and recreation uses over the plan period, and it referred to a number of recreational proposals within Ballymena and surrounding villages such as riverside walks. Within Ballymena town, one area was zoned as open space (see Appendix A Map A1).

Larne Area Plan 2010

2.19 The Larne Area Plan acknowledged that Larne is well served by a range of facilities catering for the needs of different groups including country parks, sports grounds, golf clubs, town parks, playgrounds and picnic areas as well as adequate indoor facilities. It contains policies giving favourable consideration to the provision of recreational pathways, water based facilities and informal/formal open space, where appropriate. The fourth policy/proposal referred to open space zonings, one within Larne town and the other within Ballycarry.

- 2.20 Land was zoned for open space in Larne town which included both recreation and amenity and also passive open space (see Appendix A Map A2). The villages of Ballycarry, Ballystrudder and Glenarm included open space zonings (see Appendix A Maps A3 – A5).

Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001/draft BMAP (2004) in combination with the Planning Appeals Commission Inquiry report

Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001

- 2.21 The Carrickfergus Area Plan highlights that the area is well served by a range of facilities catering for the needs and demands of different groups: sports grounds, golf clubs, town parks, playgrounds, country paths, picnic sites, indoor recreation centres and facilities for maritime pursuits. It zoned land for recreation/open space in Carrickfergus, Whitehead and Greenisland (see Appendix A Maps A6 – A8). It also encouraged the provision of open space/recreation development at Woodburn Reservoirs and the surrounding area. The inclusion of open space within housing developments was also a key consideration set out in the plan as well as seeking to ensure that proposals demonstrated good relationships between housing and open space.

Draft BMAP (2004)

- 2.22 Draft BMAP Strategy and Framework contains policies relating to open space, sport and outdoor recreation which sought to protect open space, facilitate the development of community greenways and to support the provision of new open space. Within the Carrickfergus Borough it identifies land for existing and proposed areas of open space and community greenways (see Appendix A Maps A9 – A11). The policy relating to the protection of open space was subsequently not brought forward as it unnecessarily reiterated the protection afforded by PPS8.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2023

- 2.23 Our Corporate Plan sets out the Council’s vision, themes and objectives that will shape our work and the services that we provide up until 2023. The aim of the Corporate Plan is to deliver the same long term vision and outcomes for the Borough that are set out in the Community Plan. The key objectives of the Plan are identified under five main themes all of which fall under the wider strategic theme to be a high performing council:

- Sustainable jobs and tourism.
- Good health and wellbeing.
- Learning for life.
- Community safety and cohesion.
- Our environment.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Plan

- 2.24 Our Community Plan – ‘Putting People First’ was published in April 2017 and covers the period from 2017 to 2032. The vision of the Community Plan is that: *“Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all”*. The strategic priorities set out in the Community Plan have been identified through joint working with 12 statutory partner organisations and informed by extensive consultation with the public and community and stakeholder groups. The strategic priorities are developed around the five key themes that now inform the Corporate Plan.

- 2.25 The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 sets out a statutory link between the Community Plan and the LDP, in that the preparation of the LDP must take account of the Community Plan. The strategic priorities of our Community Plan have therefore been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy. As work on the LDP progresses, we will seek to deliver on any community planning outcomes where there is an identified spatial land use or local planning policy solution.

- 2.26 Open space provision is particularly relevant to the Good Health and Wellbeing theme of our Community Plan. Identified actions include the creation of greenways, the reclaiming of existing outdoor spaces and the development of an urban/community growing strategy to include the provision of allotments.
- 2.27 Our Community Plan recognises the positive contribution community growing spaces and allotments make to health and wellbeing and the creation of shared space. A Community Growing Strategy is currently under development. Council currently have three allotment sites, located in Carrickfergus, Larne and Greenisland, whilst NIHE have developed growing spaces within some of their estates in Ballymena. The LDP will support community growing spaces and allotments in appropriate and accessible locations in accordance Policy OSL6 Community Growing Spaces and Allotments and land identified for firm proposals will be protected in the Local Policies Plan within open space zonings.

Council Strategies

Draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy and 10 Year Action Plan for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (April 2019)

- 2.28 This strategy provides a direction for the growth, development and management of outdoor recreation across the Borough. It provides an overview of current outdoor recreation provision within the Borough and presents a clear vision of what it aims to deliver over the next ten years.
- 2.29 The strategy refers to the Belfast to Larne and Ballymena to Cushendall regional greenways but notes that successful implementation will depend on Council's ability to negotiate successfully with all landowners along the route to secure access. It acknowledges that these greenways extend into adjoining Council areas. It is noted that a section of the Ballymena to Cushendall greenway received planning approval in July 2019.

Draft Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Out to Play Strategy (July 2018)

- 2.30 This strategy provides a strategic framework for the development of all types of play across the Borough until 2022. It identifies four key themes for play development in the borough, which are: play space for all, play in the community, play programmes, and awareness and outreach. Through this strategy the Council is seeking to improve the quality of play provision in the Borough, noting that this could result in fewer but better quality play areas.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council 'Draft Cycling Routes Masterplan' (February 2018)

- 2.31 This document presents a series of masterplans that illustrate both the existing and the future potential cycling network within the Borough of Mid and East Antrim. Individual plans have been prepared for the major towns of Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus. In addition, Borough wide plans illustrate the existing and potential wider area network, including strategic greenways and links into neighbouring local authority areas
- 2.32 The Masterplan includes proposals for a coastal greenway between Carrickfergus and Jordanstown. In Ballymena the potential for joining up of existing paths to deliver a more comprehensive network. In Larne potential is identified for a link from A8 corridor to the Antrim Coast Road, connecting to the Port of Larne and a route around the lagoon. Other initiatives include a safe routes to school program as well as plans to work closely with public transport centres, community centres and leisure centres to encourage more people to take up cycling.

Mid and East Antrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- 2.33 Many of our open spaces within Mid and East Antrim are rich in biodiversity, and this document sets out a number of objectives which recognise the importance of conserving and enhancing our biodiversity. It highlights that even in the most built up areas wildlife can be found in open spaces.

Cross Boundary Policy Context

2.34 In developing our Open Space Strategy and policies account has been taken of the local policy context as it relates to the emerging LDP’s of our three neighbouring councils:

- **Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council;**
- **Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Belfast City Council; and**
- **Mid Ulster District Council.**

2.35 Neighbouring Council’s Preferred Options Papers, supporting evidence base and published draft Plan Strategies have been taken account of, as these are regarded as the most relevant documents when considering cross-boundary issues. Because Carrickfergus falls within the Belfast Metropolitan Area, there has also been engagement with Belfast City Council and other councils in the Metropolitan area.

Table 2.1 Neighbouring Councils Position on Open Space, Sport and Leisure

Neighbouring Council	Position
<p>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p>	<p>ANBC published its draft Plan Strategy in June 2019. ANBC relevant policies: Strategic Policy 5 Community Infrastructure and DM23 Protection of Open Space and DM17.6 Public Open Space provision in New Residential Developments and Strategic Policy 3 Transportation and Infrastructure.</p> <p>The Council aim is to protect against the loss of open space to other competing uses as it is considered essential for both amenity and recreation purposes and contributes positively to the character, attractiveness and vitality of the Borough. The PPS8 requirement for public open space in residential developments over 25 units is retained and three thresholds are introduced with 10% required for 25-100 units, 15% for 101-200 and 20% required for 200+ units.</p> <p>The promotion of opportunities for reuse of disused transport routes also provide potential for active travel. There is a presumption against development that would prejudice any new transport scheme or reuse of a disused transport route.</p>
<p>Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</p>	<p>CCGBC published its POP in June 2018. CCGBC relevant preferred options: Key Issue OS1 Provision of Open Space, Key Issue OS2 Maintenance Arrangements for New Open Space and Key Issues OS3 Provision of Green and Blue Infrastructure.</p> <p>CCGBC falls significantly short of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum standard for both children’s equipped play spaces and playing pitches. In addition a high number of permissions are for housing schemes of 24 units or less which consequently means that the PPS8 requirement that developments of 25 units or more are required to provide 10% of the site as communal open space is not being reached. CCGBC have tried to address this and their preferred option is 'to review the existing threshold. CCGBC preferred option is also to 'review the existing maintenance arrangements to identify alternative arrangements’ and to have a policy to facilitate proposed green and blue infrastructure in the Borough.</p>

<p>Mid Ulster District Council</p>	<p>Mid Ulster published its draft Plan Strategy in February 2019. Mid Ulster relevant policies: OS1 Protection of Open Space, OS2 Protection of River Corridors, OS3 Outdoor Sport and Recreation, OS4 Indoor Sport and Intensive Outdoor Sports Facilities, and HOU2 Quality Residential Development.</p> <p>The Council’s strategy is to protect existing areas of open space and encourage the provision of new open space. Whilst Policy OS4 encourages indoor recreation/outdoor sports in settlements it also allows for small scale indoor sport and recreation facilities in the countryside in a number of circumstances. Policy OS2 applies to the River Bann, which separates Mid Ulster from Mid and East Antrim. This policies requires a 10m biodiversity strip to be provided along the river edge and proposals should not prejudice existing or future opportunities for a riverside walk. Within Policy HOU2, there is a requirement for ‘adequate public and private open space’. The J&A clarifies that developments over 25 units/sites of 1 ha should provide a minimum 10% public open space, which is adequately equipped and developers should ensure suitable arrangements are in place to address future management and maintenance of the open space.</p>
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- 2.36 The Council has responded to neighbouring Council’s POPs and the draft Plan Strategies for Antrim and Newtownabbey and Mid Ulster as they were published. In addition, the Council is also represented on a number of working groups to discuss cross-boundary issues, for example the Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group and Lough Neagh Forum.
- 2.37 Members of the plan team have also met with officials in the three neighbouring councils during preparation of the POP. In preparation for the draft Plan Strategy, members of the plan team met again in July 2019 with officials in the three neighbouring councils to outline the various broad approaches of our draft Plan Strategy and to discuss cross-boundary issues.
- 2.38 An important cross-boundary open space issue emerging from this engagement is around the creation and protection of greenways that cross council boundaries. For example the cross-boundary Larne/Doagh greenway and the Ballymena to Cushendall route. While no conflicting issues were raised in terms of greenways it was agreed they would be discussed further as work progresses towards the LPP. The latest discussions also highlighted that cemetery space is an area of future cross-boundary working with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council given the current capacity issues in Mid and East Antrim.
- 2.39 It addition, following consideration of Mid Ulster’s policy approach in OS2 Protection of River Corridors, our draft Plan Strategy adopts similar criteria to protect our main river corridors including the River Bann (see CS8 Protection of Main River Corridors). This approach will help ensure consistency on this cross-boundary issue, given the River Bann separates the Council area.
- 2.40 In consideration of neighbouring Council’s development plan documents and discussions held with their officials, it is the opinion of this Council that no conflict is apparent with our draft Plan Strategy, insofar as it relates to open space.

3.0 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Profile

3.1 Mid and East Antrim benefits from a wide range of existing open space and recreation assets. Sports activities are facilitated through assets such as which are integral to our heritage, identity and economy. As well as including numerous sports pitches, marinas and leisure centres. In addition, Mid and East Antrim offers:

Table 3.1 Mid and East Open Space and Recreation Assets (as of August 2019)

12 Registered and 8 Supplementary Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
9 Golf Courses
Approximately 105 kilometres (65 miles) of coastline
1 Ulster Wildlife Trust Wood, 5 Council Woodlands, 7 Woodland Trust Woodlands, 8 Forest Service Woodlands/Forests
70 play areas
18 outdoor gyms (including the borough’s first intergenerational facility)
3 Council allotment sites
20 Council Multi-Use Games Area’s (MUGA’s)

Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

3.2 The SPPS advises that in preparing local development plans existing open space provision should be assessed against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommendation of a minimum of 2.4 hectares of outdoor playing space per 1000 population. This is commonly referred to as the Six Acre Standard¹ (SAS), comprising of 1.6 hectares (4 acres) for outdoor sport² and 0.8 hectares (2 acres) for children’s play, see Table 3.2 below. The SAS was established as a guide to ensure that sufficient land is set aside in appropriate locations to enable the population to participate in sports, outdoor play, games and other physical recreation. It is noted that the National Playing Fields Association became the Fields in Trust (FIT) in 2007.

Fields in Trust – The Six Acre Standard (SAS)

3.3 Fields in Trust (FIT) does not regard ‘outdoor playing space’ to be the same as public open space, rather it is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children’s play. Accordingly it is a significant component, but not the only form, of open space. ‘Outdoor playing space’ is made up of two main components. The first includes land provided for outdoor sport, principally for adults and youths. The second is playing space for children. It is noted that the SAS is not a legislative requirement, but this standard is commonly used as a benchmark in spatial planning throughout the United Kingdom.

¹ The former “Six acre standard” has been superseded in England by revised guidance published by Fields in Trust entitled “Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play” in August 2008.

² The outdoor sport standard of 1.6 hectares (4 acres) per 1000 population is further refined to 1.2 hectares (3 acres) per 1000 population for pitch sports. The balance of 0.4 hectares (1 acre) is to be provided through other outdoor recreational facilities such as tennis courts.

The Six Acre Standard

Table 3.2 Fields in Trust - Six Acre Standard

Outdoor Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilities such as pitches, greens, courts, athletics tracks and miscellaneous sites such as croquet lawns and training areas owned by local authorities, at all tiers; ✓ Facilities described above within the education sector which are available for public use by written agreement; ✓ Facilities described above within the voluntary, private, industrial and commercial sectors which serve the leisure time needs for outdoor recreation of their members or the public. <p><i>Note – Included within the standard for outdoor sport is a specific allocation of 1.2 hectares per 1000 people for sports pitches.</i></p>	1.6 ha per 1000 population
Children’s Playing Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Designated areas for children and young people containing a range of facilities and an environment that has been designed to provide focused opportunity for outdoor play; ✓ Casual or informal playing space within housing areas. 	0.8 ha per 1000 population
Minimum Standard	Total playing space	2.4 ha per 1000 population

Source: Planning Policy Statement 8

3.4 This standard **excludes**: *sports grounds and stadiums, verges, woodlands, commons, the seashore, nature conservation areas, allotments, ornamental parks and gardens, golf facilities, water used for recreation, indoor sports halls and leisure centres and commercial entertainment complexes and theme parks. The NPFA does recognise that there are circumstances where some of these can make a valuable contribution to the total recreational provision of communities, but these are not regarded as substitutes for elements of the NPFA standard.*

Sport NI Assessment for Mid and East Antrim

3.5 In 2009, Sport NI provided an estimation of need in relation to playing pitches within Mid and East Antrim. This was subsequently updated in 2014 but unlike the 2009 publication it took account of the potential value of school sport facilities in addressing facility shortfalls throughout NI. Accordingly, the update produced two tables of revised figures in relation to the shortfall of playing pitches per district Council based on 2011 population projections, one which excluded education grass pitches and one which took account of all education provision. These tables are included within Position Paper 6. Both figures highlighted a deficiency in pitch provision within Mid and East Antrim.

3.6 Since the publication of the 2014 update Sport NI re-assessed the value that they attribute to a synthetic pitch in comparison to a natural surface. The Six Acre Standard recommends the value of a synthetic pitch to be calculated as twice that of a grass pitch. However, Sport NI has recommended the value of a synthetic surface to be calculated at six times that of a natural turf surface. This recommendation is based on the Fields in Trust assumption that natural turf pitches can sustain a maximum 7 hours of use per week. In comparison to synthetic turf pitches which can sustain a minimum of 40 hours per week. This revised value to be placed on synthetic pitches has been taken into account when carrying out the calculations for the existing playing pitch provision within Mid and East Antrim.

Open Space Audit (April 2018)

3.7 Further to the publication of the information by Sport NI, a comprehensive audit was carried out in April 2018 to quantify existing open space provision within Mid and East Antrim (see Appendix B Table B1). This

audit focuses primarily on the types of open space included within the Six Acre Standard, but does include some facilities/land which are excluded from this standard to provide a wider overview of open space provision within the Borough.

- 3.8 However, the open space audit does not take account of all the other informal open space areas such as parks etc., and should not be interpreted that Mid and East Antrim has an overall deficit of open space/recreational facilities. Whilst these facilities are not accounted for within the audit they nevertheless provide valuable opportunities for outdoor activity that cannot be underestimated.
- 3.9 In terms of outdoor playing space, the main element of the Six Acre Standard relates to playing field provision and takes account of both non education and education playing fields, and is calculated based on their size and surface type (grass or synthetic). When the Six Acre Standard is applied to outdoor sport provision within Mid and East Antrim this indicates that there is a shortfall (see Appendix B Table B2). To address some of this shortfall, Council will continue to engage with local schools in regard to their existing or planned pitch developments with a view to seeking agreement for wider community use. Council will also bring forward a Playing Pitch Strategy that will focus on increasing synthetic pitches available within the Borough through the upgrading of existing grass pitches, rather than providing additional new grass playing fields.
- 3.10 Since the open space audit was carried out, additional open space facilities have been completed within the Borough including an outdoor gym (Ballykeel), three MUGA's (Clough, Ballycarry and Glenarm) and also a new synthetic pitch (Greenisland).

Children's Play Space Provision

- 3.11 Within the Borough there is a total number of 70 children's equipped play areas, with approximately half of these being located within the former Ballymena Borough, as illustrated in Table 3.3. Most of these play areas within are located within our towns, although many of our villages also benefit from these facilities. A small number are located within our small settlements and the countryside.

Table 3.3 Number of Children's Equipped Play Areas in Towns, Villages, Small Settlements and Countryside in Mid and East Antrim

Former Ballymena Borough		Former Carrickfergus Borough		Former Larne Borough	
Settlement	Number	Settlement	Number	Settlement	Number
Ballymena	15	Carrickfergus	8	Larne	11
		Greenisland	1		
		Whitehead	3		
Villages	14*	Villages	N/A	Villages	7
Small Settlements	2**	Small Settlements	0	Small Settlements	1
Countryside	5***	Countryside	0	Countryside	3
TOTAL	36		12		22

*7 of these are within proposed small towns

** 1 of these is within a proposed village

***3 of these are within proposed small settlements

- 3.12 The FIT Six Acre standard considers the cumulative size of play space, and when this standard is applied in Mid and East Antrim it indicates that there is a shortfall in provision (see Appendix B Table B2). In addition to the Six Acre Standard, the FIT define a three-tier hierarchy in terms of children's play areas, and recommends different travel times, dependent upon the nature of the facilities and differential travel times, each tier influencing a different catchment area, see Appendix B Table B5.

- 3.13 The Six Acre Standard only takes into consideration the size of children’s play space, whereas Council’s draft ‘Out to Play Strategy’ applies a Play Value Scoring Matrix to assess the quality, accessibility and use of these spaces. As recognised in Council’s draft ‘Out to Play Strategy’ the spatial distribution of children’s play areas is also an important component and this strategy sets a local standard which relates to the majority of households being within a maximum of 500 metres radius of a fixed play area. It states that it may not be applicable to apply this standard across the entire Borough as play areas are generally not located outside settlements. Whilst this standard varies from that of the FIT, it is considered that it is a more appropriate for Mid and East Antrim as it is based on a robust mapping exercise, which identified the scale of and need for play infrastructure across the Borough.
- 3.14 Using Council’s standard an analysis has been carried out in regards to the spatial distribution of play areas within the main towns in the Borough (see Appendix B Maps B1 – B3). These maps illustrate that there are areas which are deficient in play area provision, particularly the north east/east of Carrickfergus. Council’s draft ‘Out to Play Strategy’ states the investment in play space will be evidence led including the play value scoring and mapping of play areas.

Allotments

- 3.15 As well as encouraging physical exercise, the provision of spaces in urban areas for the growing of food provide people directly with fresh healthy food, increase education and awareness about good food and healthy eating.
- 3.16 There are currently three Council allotment sites within Mid and East Antrim:
- Carrickfergus – Beltoy Road;
 - Greenisland – Knockleigh Drive; and
 - Larne – Town Parks
- 3.17 In addition, NIHE have developed growing spaces within some of their estates in Ballymena.

Cemeteries

- 3.18 The majority of cemeteries in the Borough are provided by local churches of various denominations. In addition to these there are currently 27 cemeteries provided and/or maintained by Council.
- 3.19 Appendix B Map B4 illustrates the location of these cemeteries throughout the Borough and indicates the number of unsold plots as of December 2018. Whilst there is sufficient cemetery provision in the Ballymena for the plan period, capacity is restricted within Carrickfergus and Larne areas, and additional land is required for cemetery space during the plan period.

Other Open Space

- 3.20 ‘Outdoor play space’ as defined by the FIT standards, is a significant component but it is not the only form of open space. The standard does not take account of the extensive variety of open space, both formal and informal that is available across our Borough much of which also offers opportunities for outdoor play (see Appendix C Table C2). This includes parks such as Carnfunnock and People’s Park, woodlands and forests such as Glenarm Forest, Ecos Woodland and Bashfordlands Wood, outdoor gyms and green landscape wedges.
- 3.21 We also benefit from countryside that provides numerous opportunities for walking, hiking and cycling routes including a 26 mile section of the Ulster Way as well as part of the National Cycling network. Our coastal location, loughs and inland waterways provide added benefit such as access to green flag beaches and marinas. These areas also provide opportunities for rowing, sailing, diving and other watersports. Leisure centres in each of our main towns complement our outdoor recreational areas, and public provision

of indoor recreation and leisure facilities in our villages and rural areas are mainly supplemented by various community halls and private football/GAA clubs.

- 3.22 It is acknowledged that some of the privately owned facilities may be less accessible to the wider public, but regardless of this they still have public value. In the case of school sport facilities, the Department of Education's 'Community use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools' and Sport NI's 'Your School, Your Club' were launched in January 2014 to encourage more schools to open up their facilities for use by the wider community. These are aimed at increasing sporting participation in the community and to promote health and fitness by encouraging people to get active. There are examples across Mid and East Antrim of such schemes already in operation for example at Larne High School.
- 3.23 As demonstrated above our Borough has an extensive portfolio of open space and recreational facilities which we will seek to protect and enhance recognising the importance they play in enhancing quality of life. For further details of these refer to Position Paper 6 Open Space and Recreation.

4.0 Preferred Options Paper

- 4.1 Council published its Preferred Options Paper (POP) in June 2017. The main purpose of the POP is to inform the next stage in the LDP process, i.e. the Plan Strategy.
- 4.2 Building on the emerging evidence base³, the POP identified some 36 key strategic planning issues relevant to Mid and East Antrim, set out alternative options for addressing most of these key issues, and highlighted Council's preferred option. The POP also included an initial policy review of the operational policies contained in the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) published by the former Department of Environment, now Department for Infrastructure (DfI), also taking account of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).
- 4.3 The POP was subject to 12 weeks public consultation which resulted in 132 responses from members of the public and statutory consultees. A public consultation report on the POP was published by Council in November 2017.
- 4.4 The POP proposed an approach to zone land for new playing pitches in circumstances where Council or education authorities have committed to their development. There was strong support for this approach in the POP consultation. The POP identified five key issues (16 – 19 and 25) and associated preferred and alternative options relating to open space.

Key Issue 16 – Community growing Spaces and Allotments

- 4.5 Our preferred option was to support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments in suitable locations.
- 4.6 Our alternative options were (b) to support delivery of Community Growing Spaces/Allotments within appropriate new housing developments or (c) to have no specific policy for this type of development.
- 4.7 Whilst the majority of respondents (82%) were generally supportive of the preferred option, there was some support for alternative option (b) delivery of allotments within appropriate new housing developments. Statutory consultees were supportive of the preferred option as a proactive measure towards the improvement of health and wellbeing in the Borough. DfI also noted that the preferred option was in line with the SPPS and the Council's Community Plan.

Key Issue 17 – Community Greenways/Pathways

- 4.8 Our preferred option was to facilitate the development of a network of community greenways/pathways. Our alternative option (b) was to have no specific policy to protect greenways.
- 4.9 There was very strong support (93%) for the preferred option due to the multiple benefits such networks can provide. Statutory consultees were broadly supportive of the preferred option and highlighted that it is key that these routes are multifunctional and that they feed into establishing a wider green network.

Key Issue 18 – Play Park Provision

- 4.10 Our preferred option was to set out strategic policy requiring residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of five hectares or more to provide an equipped children's play area, unless otherwise specified through key site requirements.
- 4.11 Our alternative options were to (b) set out policy to accommodate children's play areas in locations owned by council or (c) retain existing Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 (play area required in sites over 100 units/over 5 hectares) or (d) require developer contributions from sites over 100 units/5 hectares to

³ A series of 14 topic based position papers informing the POP, plus our annual housing monitor are available on the Council website.

create/maintain council play parks or (e) alternatively taking account of our Play Strategy assess local need and where necessary use key site requirements to deliver in housing sites or use developer contributions to create/maintain council play parks.

- 4.12 Whilst the majority of respondents (54%) were generally supportive of the preferred option, there was significant support for alternative options (b) council parks (c) retaining existing policy for play parks in residential developments and (e) assessing need and using key site requirements to provide play parks or using developer contributions for council parks. Responses from statutory consultees on this issue was limited and overall non-committal for the preferred option.

Key Issue 19 – Open Space Provision in New Residential Developments

- 4.13 Our preferred option was to retain the current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units and an amended list of exceptions where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable unless otherwise specified through key site requirements.
- 4.14 Our alternative options were to (b) retain the criteria based policy regarding open space contained in Policy OS 2 of PPS 8 or (c) provide strategic policy to secure appropriate open space provision on a site-by-site basis through key site requirements.
- 4.15 The majority of respondents (63%) supported the preferred option. Half the statutory consultee respondents supported the preferred option, whilst the other half were non-committal.

Key Issue 25 – Cemeteries

- 4.16 Our preferred option was to support the delivery of a new cemetery or an extension to a cemetery and to facilitate the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new /extension to a cemetery.
- 4.17 Our alternative option (b) was to have no intervention by the LDP and rely on development management to determine cemetery proposals on a case-by-case basis using normal planning considerations.
- 4.18 Despite the low response rate, the majority of respondents (88%) were supportive of the preferred option. DfI welcomed the Council's consideration of this locally important issue in light of the District Profile.
- 4.19 In addition to these key issues, the POP included a review of the existing open space policies and made recommendations as to whether to bring these policies forward with or without amendments. The public/consultees were also asked a number of questions about existing policy to assist with formulation of policy wording for the Plan Strategy.
- 4.20 For full details of the main issues raised by respondents to the POP consultation and Council's consideration, refer to the POP Public Consultation Report November 2017, available at:
https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/downloads/POP_Public_Consultation_Report.pdf

5.0 Consultee and Councillor Engagement

- 5.1 In order to meet the requirements set out in the Planning Act relating to the need for the Plan Strategy to take account of the RDS, other policy and guidance issued by the DfI and other relevant government strategies and plans; Council has engaged key consultees representing relevant central government departments and agencies. Representatives from relevant Council departments have also been engaged to ensure that due account has been taken of Council's Community Plan, as well as other Council strategies and initiatives. This engagement was undertaken by way of a series of eight 'Project Management Team' meetings held between April 2018 and April 2019 and has had a significant influence on the development of the strategic policies and proposals.
- 5.2 The Planning Act requires the Plan Strategy to be adopted by resolution of the Council, following approval by the DfI. Accordingly, elected members have also been engaged in the development of the draft Plan Strategy, to ensure that the document is generally aligned with Council's strategic priorities. This engagement was facilitated through a series of six councillor workshops held between November 2018 and March 2019.
- 5.3 The draft Plan Strategy Open Space Strategy and supporting policies were presented at the Project Management Team meeting held on 26 September 2018 and the Councillor workshop held on 14 February 2019. There was generally agreement with the proposed approach, but minor amendments were made to the strategic subject policies following comments made at or following these meetings.

6.0 Draft Plan Strategy Policy Approach

6.1 The draft Plan Strategy has addressed the issues in regards to open space identified in the POP and more generally through an overarching Open Space Strategy (SGS9) and the strategic subject policies OSL1 to OSL7. The overall aim of these policies is to resist the loss of open space to other uses and to support the provision of high quality sustainable open space, sport and recreation spaces and facilities in accordance with the SPPS. The preferred options and recommendations from the POP have generally been brought forward to the draft Plan Strategy, with minor amendments as follows:

Table 6.1 Amendments to the POP Preferred Options (Key Issues 16-19 and 25)

Key Issue	Relevant Strategic Subject Policy	Changes from POP Preferred Option
16	OSL6 (relating to community growing spaces and allotments)	No change from POP
17	OSL2 (relating to greenways)	Supports proposals for regional greenways, in addition to community greenways
18	OSL4 (relating to public open space in new residential development)	No change from POP
19	OSL4 (relating to public open space in new residential development)	15% open space requirement threshold applies to sites over 10 hectares, rather than 15 hectares/300 units
25	OSL7 (relating to cemeteries and burial space)	No change from POP

6.2 These amendments have taken account of points raised through the consultee and councillor engagement.

6.3 In regards to Key Issue 19 and draft Plan Strategy Policy OSL4, it was considered that the threshold for 15% open space requirement should be reduced from 15 hectares to 10 hectares given that the size of residential applications in Mid and East Antrim are generally well below 300 units.

6.4 Appendix D illustrates how the open space policies and related Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development have evolved through the outworking of the LDP process to date, including Sustainability Appraisal. It provides the rationale where amendments have been made to the POP preferred options and to existing planning policies.

6.5 Council will continue to work together with neighbouring Council's, and other stakeholders, particularly the NIHE, the Education Authority and local schools in regards to matters relating to open space. As indicated in the Open Space Strategy, where firm open space proposals emerge and are notified to Council, this will help to inform the next stage of the LDP, the Local Policies Plan.

7.0 Soundness

7.1 The draft Plan Strategy has been prepared so as to take due regard to meeting the tests of soundness as set out in the DfI Development Plan Practice Note 6: Soundness (Version 2, May 2017). The draft Plan Strategy insofar as it relates to the open space strategy and policies is regarded as sound, because it meets the various tests of soundness as summarised below:

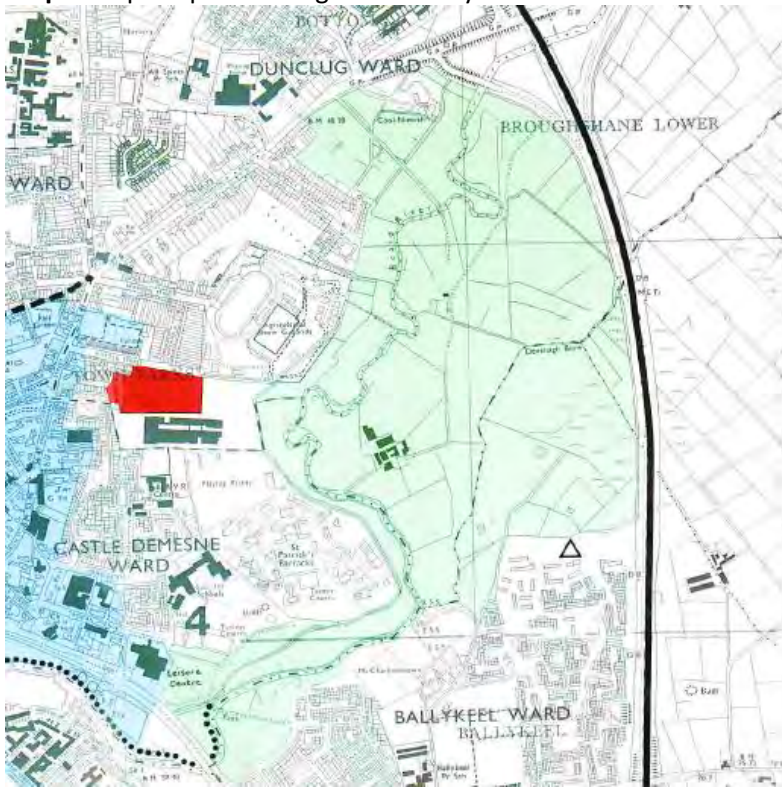
Table 7.1 Consideration of Soundness

Procedural Tests	
P2	The open space strategy and policies as proposed in SGS9 and OSL1 to OSL7 have evolved from the POP and POP Public Consultation Report as described in section 4.0 this document.
P3	The open space strategy and policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal. Further detail is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
Consistency Tests	
C1	The open space strategy and policies have taken account of the RDS particularly RG7. Refer to paragraphs 2.3 – 2.5 of this document.
C2	The open space strategy and policies has taken account of our Community Plan, particularly in relation to the creation of greenways/pathways between areas, and the reclamation of existing outdoor spaces including the development of an urban/community growing strategy to include the development of allotments. Refer to paragraphs 2.24 – 2.27 of this document.
C3	The open space strategy and policies have taken account of the SPPS and existing regional planning policies relating to open space and other relevant government initiatives as detailed in paragraphs 2.6 – 2.15 of this document.
C4	The open space strategy and policies have had regard to the existing development plans and Council strategies relating to open space within Mid and East Antrim and the emerging proposals of neighbouring councils. Refer to paragraphs 2.16 – 2.40 of this document.
Coherence and the effectiveness tests	
CE1	The open space strategy and policies have taken account of the emerging LDP’s of our three neighbouring Councils and it is not considered to be in conflict with them. Refer to paragraphs 2.34 – 2.40 of this document.
CE2	The open space strategy and policies are founded on a robust evidence base including the POP and responses to it, an open space audit of provision within Mid and East Antrim and consultation with consultees including Council’s Parks and Open Space Department.
CE3	The Monitoring Framework within Technical Supplement 1 (indicators 7, 8, 11 and 35) illustrates how public open space in new residential developments and provision of linkages between new housing development and the green/blue infrastructure network will be monitored.
CE4	Open space provision can be reviewed at Plan Review stage, with potential for additional areas to be zoned or existing areas to be de-zoned to take account of changing circumstances (for example population or levels of provision higher or lower than anticipated). There will be flexibility for the Local Policies Plan to zone and protect specific sites (for example for a cemetery or allotment) provided this is confirmed sufficiently in advance. Open space policies and proposals will be reviewed at Plan Review Stage

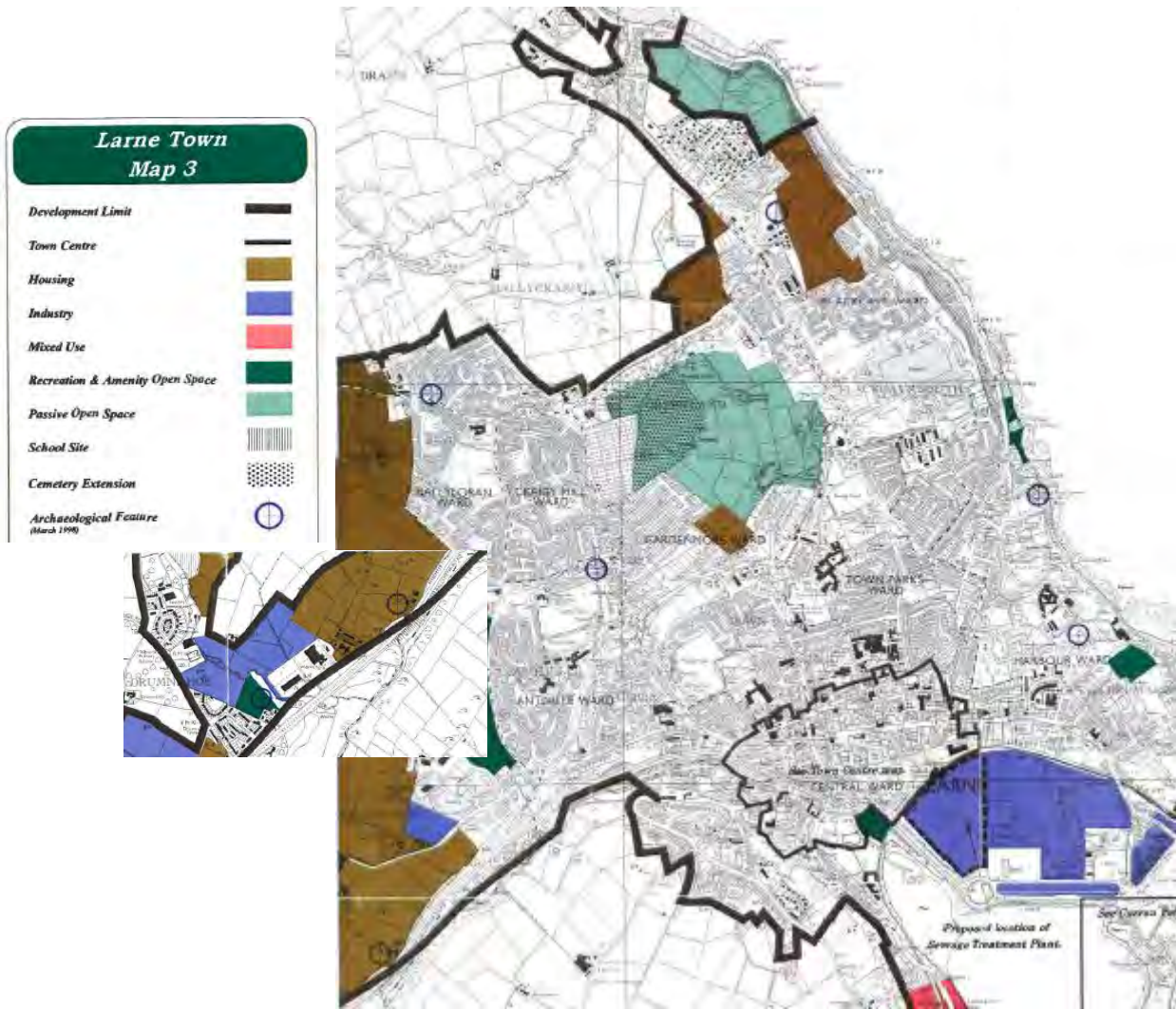
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

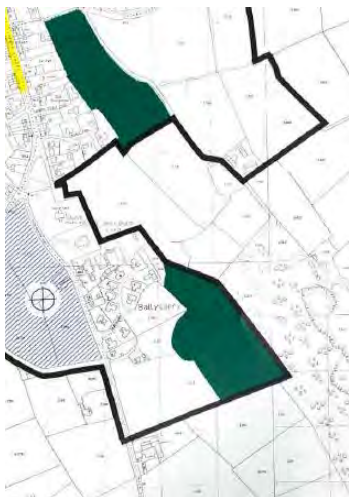
Map A1 Open space zoning within Ballymena Area Plan 1986 – 2001



Map A2 Open space zonings within Larne Area Plan 2010 – Larne Town



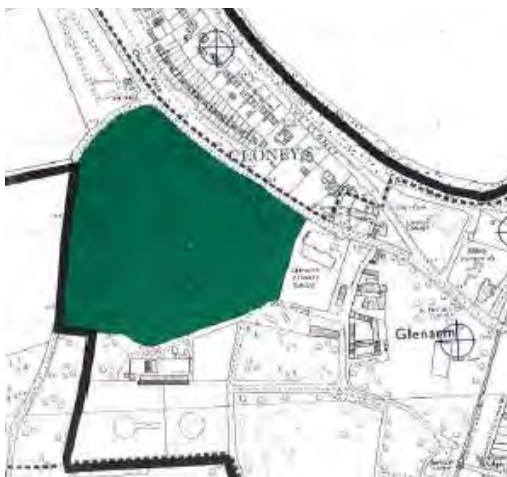
Map A3 Open space zonings within Larne Area Plan 2010 – Ballycarry



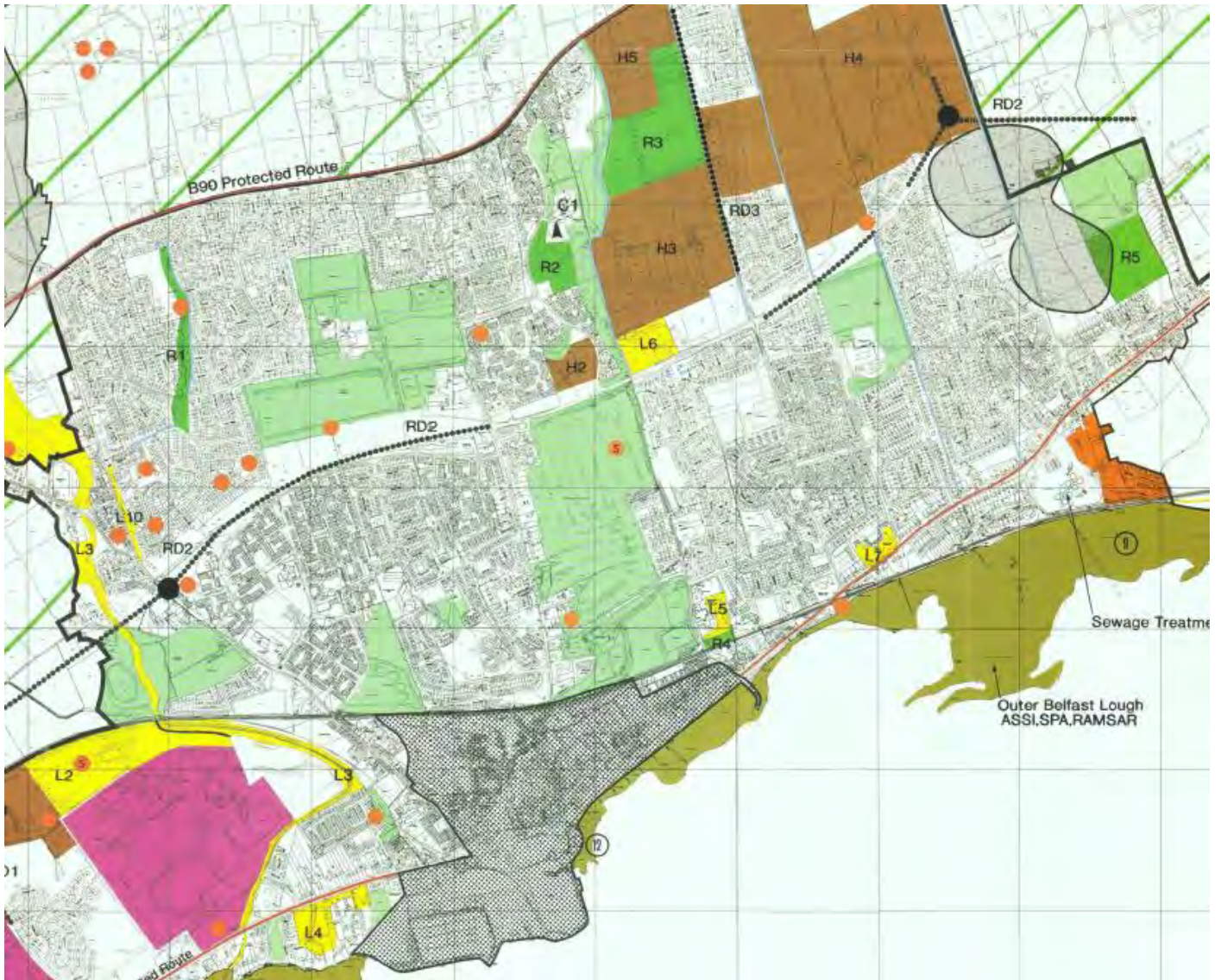
Map A4 Open space zoning within Larne Area Plan 2010 – Ballystrudder



Map A5 Open space zoning within Larne Area Plan 2010 – Glenarm



Map A6 Open Space zonings within Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 – Carrickfergus Town



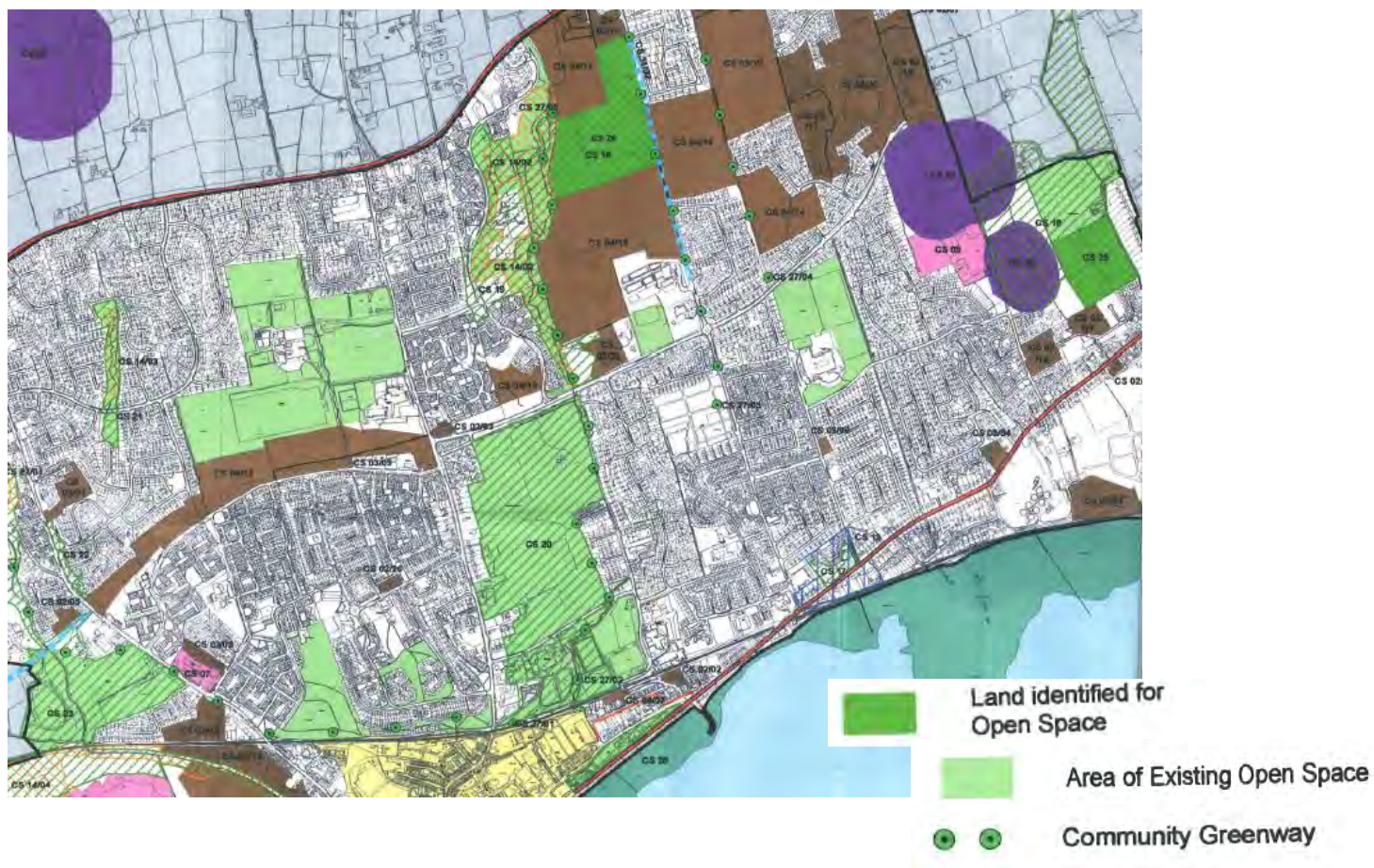
Map A7 Open Space zonings within Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 – Greenisland



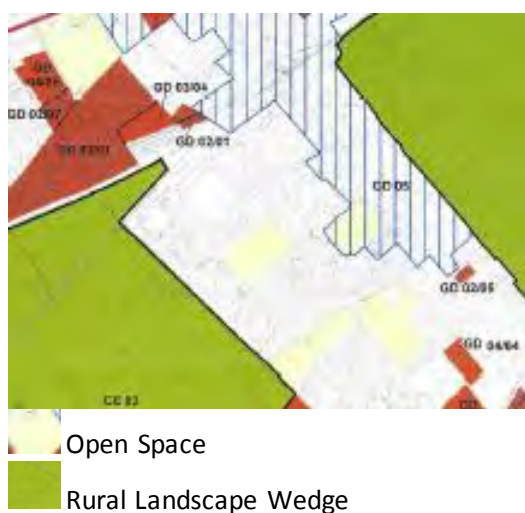
Map A8 Open Space zonings within Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 – Whitehead



Map A9 Open space zonings within draft BMAP 2004/BMAP 2015– Carrickfergus town



Map A10 Open space zonings within draft BMAP 2004/BMAP 2015 – Greenisland



Map A11 Open space zonings within draft BMAP 2004/BMAP 2015 – Whitehead



APPENDIX B

Figure B1 Extract from FIT

FIT: Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (2008)

Facilities falling within the definition of outdoor playing space are:

- Facilities for pitch sports such as football, cricket or lacrosse, **including training areas**
- Facilities for other outdoor sports, such as bowls, athletics and tennis, **including training areas**
- Designated areas for children's play containing a range of facilities and an environment designed to provide focused opportunities for outdoor play, including play areas and playgrounds of all kinds
- Amenity open space suitable for casual or informal play, particularly in housing areas
- Facilities for teenagers and young people.

Sports facilities in the ownership of local authorities at all tiers, and the voluntary, private, industrial and commercial sectors, and sports clubs are included, provided they meet the leisure time needs of the public or their members.

It should be noted that, consistent with the approach to playing pitch strategies taken by Sport England, and the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, **artificial pitches are counted as covering twice the area of natural turf** (Sport NI state six times) because of their capacity for more intensive use.

Such facilities in the **education sector** and those in the ownership of the Defence Estates are specifically excluded **unless they are available for public use by written agreement**. The informal or unauthorised use of such facilities by the public falls outside of the definition.

Below a list is provided of facilities or land that should be **excluded** from the definition of outdoor playing space. Notwithstanding their exclusion from the definition, they can make a valuable contribution to the total recreational provision of communities, particularly those that are deficient in recreational space generally. However, such facilities or land should not be regarded as substitutes for elements of outdoor playing space.

- Outdoor sports facilities which are not as a matter of policy and practice available for public use, including grounds of Her Majesty's Services, educational facilities and professional sports stadia
- Verges, woodlands, commons, the seashore, nature conservation areas, allotment ornamental gardens and parks (except for clearly defined areas within them for sports, games, practice and play)
- Golf facilities
- Water used for recreation, except where it forms an interactive feature of an outdoor play area
- Sports halls or leisure centres and other indoor provision
- Commercial entertainment complexes and theme parks
- Car parks for non-recreational users.

Table B1 Open Space Audit (April 2018)

Type	Sub-Type	Number	Area (ha)
Parks		19	335
Playing Fields (grass)	Public	48	37.6
	Private	33	32.6
	Education*	36	32
Playing fields (synthetic over 2000sqm)	Public	7	3.5
	Private	2	0.84
	Education*	4	2.4
Total Playing Fields		130	444
Other Outdoor Sports	Golf courses	9	265
	Tennis courts**	42	2.4
	Bowling greens	11	1.79
	Gravel hockey pitches**	16	11.2
	Cricket pitches**	9	12
	Outdoor gyms	17	0.14
	Kickabout/small grass pitches	15	5.6
	Other small synthetic pitches	5	0.6
Total Other Outdoor Sports		124	298.8
Play Areas	Equipped play areas	70	4.8
	MUGAs	17	1.3
	Skate park	1	0.1
Total Play Areas		88	6.2
Growing Spaces	Allotments	7	19
	Community gardens	1	0.6
Total Growing Spaces		8	19.6
Cemeteries		27	32
Amenity Spaces			97

*Secondary school level only

**Includes education (includes synthetic & gravel tennis courts)

69 equipped play parks maintained by Council, 1 private

Cemeteries – includes Council provided/maintained

Overall total excludes 0.23 ha of equipped play parks located within parks

Since this audit was completed in April 2018, new open space facilities have been opened in Greenisland (Synthetic pitch), Ballycarry (MUGA), Clough (MUGA), Glenarm (MUGA) and Ballykeel (Outdoor gym).

Table B2 Mid and East Antrim and the FIT Six Acre Standard (based on 2030 projected population)

	Type	Sub-Type	Current Area (acres)	Shortfall (acres)	No. of grass pitches short	No. of full syn. short	
Outdoor Sport FIT need: 568 acres	Playing Fields FIT need: 426 acres	Non-Education	Full size (grass & synthetic over 2000sqm x6)	238			
			Training (grass & small synthetic x6)	13.86			
		Education	Full size (grass & synthetic over 2000sqm x6)	114.8			
			Small synthetic (x6)	4.2			
	Total Playing Fields (excluding training pitches)			352.8	73	29	5
	including training pitches:			370.8	55	22	4
	Non-education and education available to public:			296	130	52	9
	Non-education (inc. training) and education (inc. all syn) available to public:			314	112	45	8
	Other Outdoor Sports FIT need: 142 acres	Tennis courts		6			
		Bowling greens		4.4			
Gravel hockey pitches			28				
Cricket pitches			30				
Total Other Outdoor Sports			68.4	73.6			
Total Outdoor Sport			421	147			
Non-education (inc. training) and education (inc. all synthetic) available to public:			382	186			
Children's Playing Space FIT need: 284 acres	Equipped Children's Playing Space FIT need: 85 acres	Equipped play areas	12				
		MUGAs	3.2				
		Skate park	0.2				
	Total Equipped Children's Playing Space			15.4	70		
	Informal playing spaces FIT need: 199 acres	Kickabout areas		4.6			
		Amenity areas in housing developments		97.2			
Total Informal playing spaces			102	182			
Total Children's Playing Space			117	167			

(Full size pitches use Sport NI average sizes for 3 types of pitches and exact sizes for training pitches)

(112 acres shortfall of pitch space – this equates to 45 grass pitches or 8 synthetic if divided by 6 however, 112 acres also could equate to **13 synthetic pitches** (full size synthetic 6000sqm = 1.48acres x 6 = 8.9acres, 112acres divided by 8.9acres = 12.5 (rounded to 13))

Since this audit was completed in April 2018, new open space facilities have been opened in Greenisland (Synthetic pitch), Ballycarry (MUGA), Clough (MUGA) and Glenarm (MUGA) and Ballykeel (Outdoor gym).

Table B3 Grass pitches within Mid and East Antrim

DEA	Venue Name	Settlement	Ownership	Primary Use
Bannside	Ahoghill Community Centre Playing Field	Ahoghill	Council	Soccer
Braid	Ballee Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Ballee Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Centre Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Community	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Centre Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Community	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Centre Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Community	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Main Arena	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Pitch 3	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Pitch 4	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Pitch 5	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Pitch 6	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds- Pitch 7	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Dunclug College	Ballymena Town	Education	Soccer
Ballymena	Dunclug College	Ballymena Town	Education	Soccer
Ballymena	Dunclug Park Kickabout	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Dunfane Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Dunfane Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Bannside	Galgorm Community Centre Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Bannside	Galgorm Community Centre Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	King George V	Ballymena Town	Council	Kickabout
Ballymena	Lamont Playing Field (Smithfield)	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Bannside	Maine Park Playing Field, Galgorm	Ballymena Town	Council	Kickabout
Braid	Michelin Athletic Club	Ballymena Town	Club	Soccer
Braid	Montague Park	Ballymena Town	Council	Kickabout
Ballymena	Peoples Park	Ballymena Town	Council	Kickabout
Ballymena	Phoenix Park, Leighnmohr Cres	Ballymena Town	Club	Soccer
Braid	Slemish College	Ballymena Town	Education	Soccer
Ballymena	St Louis Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education	Soccer
Ballymena	Tullygarley Community Centre	Ballymena Town	Council	Kickabout
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Braid	Wakehurst Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Waveney Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Waveney Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Waveney Playing Fields	Ballymena Town	Council	Soccer
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Cambridge House Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby

Ballymena	Cambridge House Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	Cambridge House Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education	Rugby
Ballymena	St Patrick's College, Ballymena	Ballymena Town	Education	Gaelic
Larne Lough	Islandmagee FC	Ballystrudder	Club	Soccer
Braid	Broughshane Community Centre Playing Field	Broughshane	Council	Soccer
Braid	Cargan Playing Field	Cargan	Council	Soccer
Coast Road	Stoneyhill Park, Carnlough	Carnlough	Parish	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Barn Utd, Haslett Park, Taylors Ave	Carrickfergus Town	Club	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Carrick Rangers FC, Taylors Ave	Carrickfergus Town	Club	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus College	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus College	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Grammar	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Grammar	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Downshire Secondary School	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Eden Playing Fields, Beltoy Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Eden Playing Fields, Beltoy Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Eden Playing Fields, Beltoy Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Eden Playing Fields, Beltoy Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Carrick Castle	Ulidia Integrated College	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Knockagh	Woodburn Playing Fields	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Knockagh	Woodburn Playing Fields	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus College	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Soccer
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Grammar	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Rugby
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Grammar	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Rugby
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Grammar	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Rugby
Carrick Castle	Downshire Secondary School	Carrickfergus Town	Education	Rugby
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Rugby Club, Woodburn Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Club	Rugby
Knockagh	Carrickfergus Rugby Club, Woodburn Rd	Carrickfergus Town	Club	Rugby
Knockagh	Woodburn Playing Fields	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Rugby
Knockagh	Woodburn Playing Fields	Carrickfergus Town	Council	Rugby
Bannside	Cullybackey Community Centre, Kilmakevit Dr	Cullybackey	Council	Soccer
Bannside	Cullybackey, Kilmakevit Dr	Cullybackey	Council	Soccer
Bannside	Cullybackey High School	Cullybackey	Education	Soccer
Bannside	Cullybackey High School	Cullybackey	Education	Soccer
Bannside	Pottinger Street	Cullybackey	Club	Soccer
Coast Road	Glenarm Estate	Glenarm	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Jubilee Park, Playing Field, Glynn	Glynn	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Larne RFC	Glynn	Club	Rugby
Larne Lough	Larne RFC	Glynn	Club	Rugby
Larne Lough	Larne RFC	Glynn	Club	Rugby
Knockagh	Greenisland War Memorial Sports Club	Greenisland	Club	Soccer
Knockagh	Greenisland War Memorial Sports Club	Greenisland	Club	Rugby
Coast Road	Antiville Playing Fields	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Coast Road	Antiville Playing Fields	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Coast Road	Antiville Playing Fields	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Coast Road	Antiville Playing Fields	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Coast Road	Greenland Multi-Sports Arena (Larne High School)	Larne Town	Community /Education	Soccer

Larne Lough	Inver Park	Larne Town	Club	Soccer
Larne Lough	Larne Youth FC (Sandy Bay Football Pitch)	Larne Town	Club/Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Sandy Bay Football Pitch	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Sandy Bay Football Pitch	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Sandy Bay Football Pitch	Larne Town	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Wellington Rec, Millbrook	Larne Town	Club	Soccer
Coast Road	Larne Grammar School	Larne Town	Education	Rugby
Coast Road	Larne Grammar School	Larne Town	Education	Rugby
Coast Road	Larne Grammar School	Larne Town	Education	Rugby
Coast Road	Greenland Multi-Sports Arena (Larne High School)	Larne Town	Education	Rugby
Larne Lough	Blue Circle Cruising and Sailing Club, Shore Rd	Open Countryside	Private	Soccer
Braid	Carniny Playing Pitches, Carnhill Estate	Open Countryside	Council	Soccer
Braid	Clough Community Centre Playing Field	Open Countryside	Community	Soccer
Knockagh	Greenisland Playing Fields, Glenkeen Ave	Open Countryside	Council	Soccer
Knockagh	Greenisland Playing Fields, Glenkeen Ave	Open Countryside	Council	Soccer
Knockagh	Greenisland Playing Fields, Glenkeen Ave	Open Countryside	Council	Soccer
Braid	Kells Playing Fields	Open Countryside	Council	Soccer
Braid	Ballymena RFC and Cricket Grounds	Open Countryside	Club	Rugby
Braid	Ballymena RFC and Cricket Grounds	Open Countryside	Club	Rugby
Braid	Ballymena RFC and Cricket Grounds	Open Countryside	Club	Rugby
Braid	Ballymena RFC and Cricket Grounds	Open Countryside	Club	Rugby
Braid	Ballymena RFC and Cricket Grounds	Open Countryside	Club	Rugby
Bannside	St Mary's GAC, Ahoghill	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Bannside	St Mary's GAC, Ahoghill	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Braid	Con Magee's GAC, Glenravel	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Braid	Con Magee's GAC, Glenravel	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Braid	All Saints GAC, Ballymena	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Braid	All Saints GAC, Ballymena	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Braid	All Saints GAC, Ballymena	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Bannside	Roger Casements GAC, Portglenone	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Bannside	Roger Casements GAC, Portglenone	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Coast Road	St Killian's College (formerly St Macnissi's)	Open Countryside	Education	Gaelic
Coast Road	St Killian's College (formerly St Macnissi's)	Open Countryside	Education	Gaelic
Coast Road	St Killian's College (formerly St Macnissi's)	Open Countryside	Education	Gaelic
Coast Road	St Killian's College (formerly St Macnissi's)	Open Countryside	Education	Gaelic
Coast Road	Shane O'Neill's GAC, Feystown Rd, Glenarm	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Coast Road	Latharna Og GAC, Brustin Brae Rd, Larne	Open Countryside	Club	Gaelic
Bannside	Portglenone Third Presbyterian Church	Portglenone	Private	Soccer
Larne Lough	Whitehead Recreation Grounds	Whitehead	Council	Soccer
Larne Lough	Whitehead Recreation Grounds	Whitehead	Council	Soccer

Note: As of April 2018 this table **includes** all grass pitches (secondary school level/clubs/ community/church/council) for soccer, rugby and gaelic (including full sized pitches, training pitches and council kickabout areas) in Mid and East Antrim.

This table **excludes**: synthetic pitches, primary school grass pitches/kickabout areas, cricket pitches and hockey pitches.

Table B4 Synthetic Pitches within Mid and East Antrim

DEA	Venue Name	Settlement	Ownership
Bannside	Ahoghill 3G	Ahoghill	Council
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	Ballymena Academy	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	St Louis Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	St Louis Grammar School	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds	Ballymena Town	Council
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds	Ballymena Town	Council
Ballymena	Ballymena Showgrounds	Ballymena Town	Council
Braid	Wakehurst MUGA	Ballymena Town	Council
Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Centre	Ballymena Town	Community
Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Centre	Ballymena Town	Community
Ballymena	Dunclug Play Area	Ballymena Town	Community/Council
Ballymena	Castle Tower School	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	Castle Tower School	Ballymena Town	Education
Ballymena	Castle Tower School	Ballymena Town	Education
Braid	Broughshane 3G	Broughshane	Council
Coast Road	Glenlough Community Centre	Carnlough	Council
Carrick Castle	Amphitheatre Wellness Centre	Carrickfergus Town	Council
Carrick Castle	Carrick Rangers FC	Carrickfergus Town	Club
Carrick Castle	Sunnylands MUGA	Carrickfergus Town	Community/Council
Knockagh	Woodburn MUGA	Carrickfergus Town	Community/Council
Knockagh	Greenisland MUGA	Greenisland	Community/Council
Coast Road	Larne Grammar School	Larne Town	Education
Coast Road	Greenland Multi-Sports Arena (Larne High School)	Larne Town	Community/ Education
Coast Road	The Cliff Sports Complex	Larne Town	Other
Coast Road	Factory Community Centre	Larne Town	Council
Coast Road	Linn Road Mini Pitch	Larne Town	Council
Larne Lough	Wellington Rec/Millbrook Community Assoc	Larne Town	Club/Community
Larne Lough	Larne Town Parks	Larne Town	Council
Braid	Martinstown MUGA	Martinstown	Community/Council
Braid	Clough Community Centre	Open Countryside	Community
Braid	Kells 3G	Open Countryside	Council
Knockagh	Greenisland Football Club	Open Countryside	Club
Larne Lough	Whitehead Recreation Grounds	Whitehead	Community/Council
Larne Lough	Whitehead Recreation Grounds	Whitehead	Community/Council

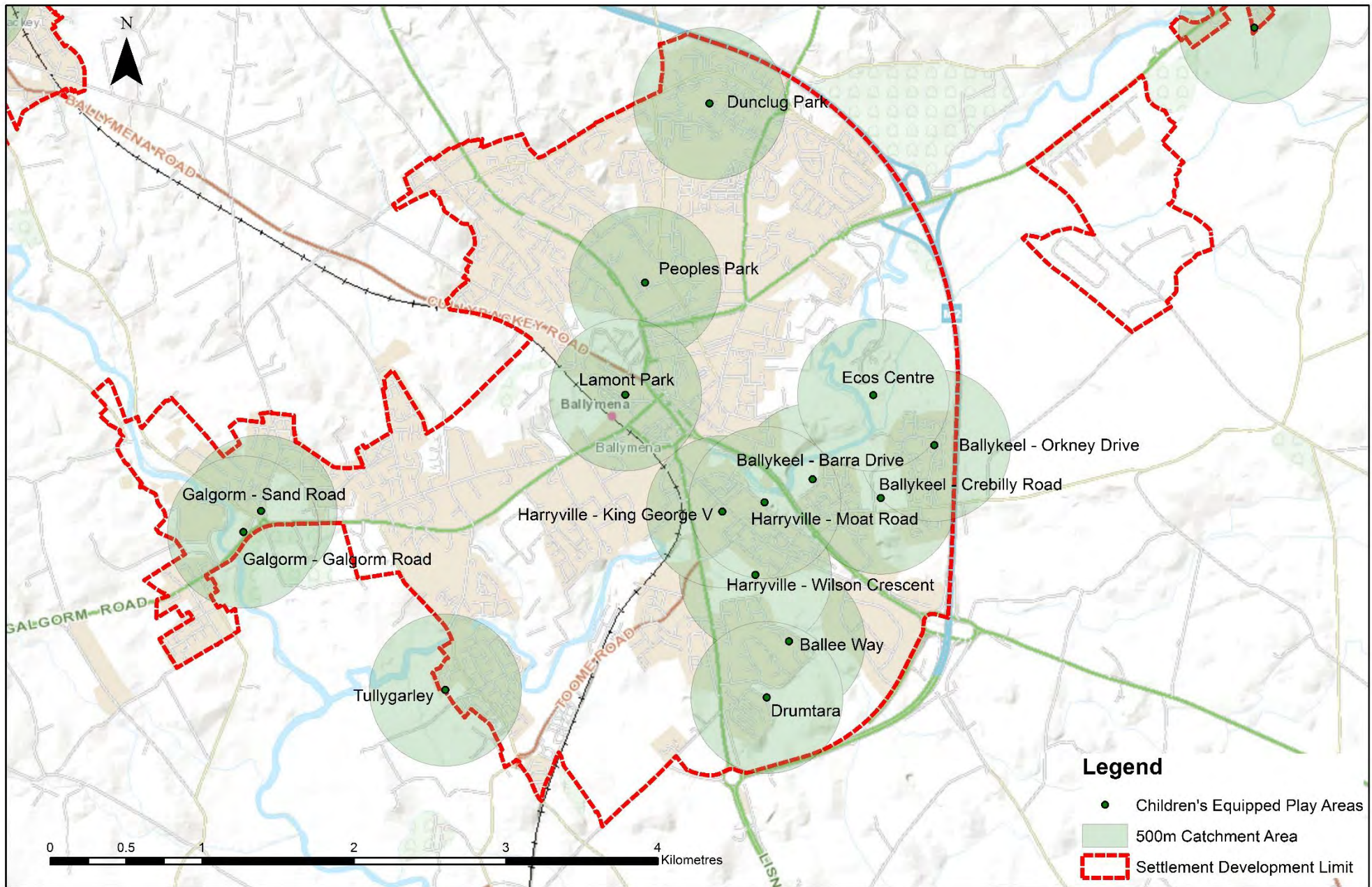
Note: As of April 2018 this table includes all synthetic pitches for (secondary school level/clubs/ community/church/ council) for soccer, rugby, gaelic games and hockey (including full sized pitches/training pitches/MUGAs) in Mid & East Antrim. This table excludes all grass pitches.

Since this audit was completed in September 2018, new open space facilities have been opened in Greenisland (Synthetic pitch), Ballycarry (MUGA), Clough (MUGA) and Glenarm (MUGA).

Table B5 Fields in Trust - Types of children’s play areas and associated walking times

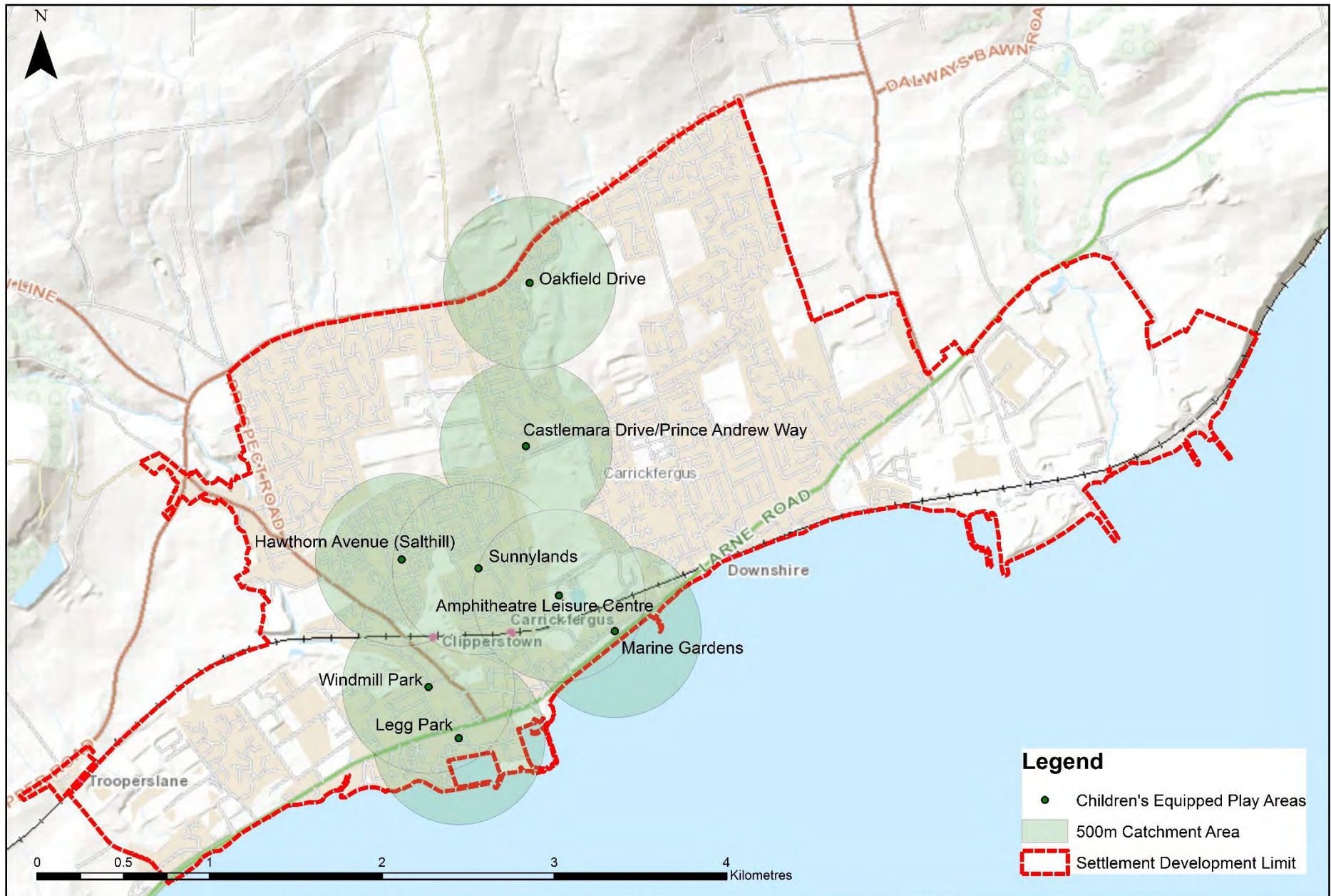
		Walking Time	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line Distance
Local Area for Play (LAP)	These are unsupervised small open spaces specifically designed for young people for play activities close to where they live. Although without play equipment, LAP’s have characteristics that make the area conducive to children’s play. Such characteristics include ease of access, a relatively level site, informal surveillance and modest provision of landscaping so that play is not inhibited. As illustrated above, the FIT consider that LAP’s should be within one minute walking time from home.	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	These are unsupervised play areas that are equipped for children of early school age. While sharing similar characteristics to LAP’s, LEAP’s feature a range of different types of play equipment. The FIT consider these should be located within five minutes walking time of home.	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	These are also unsupervised but they are intended to serve a substantial residential area. While sharing similar characteristics to LEAP’s, NEAP’s feature a significant range of different types of play equipment. It is equipped mainly for older children but also having opportunities for play for younger children. FIT recommend that these should be located within 15 minutes walking time of home.	15 minutes	1000 metres	600 metres

Map B1 Ballymena Town Children's Equipped Play Areas



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Map B2 Carrickfergus Town Children's Equipped Play Areas



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Map B3 Larne Town Children's Equipped Play Areas



Legend

- Children's Equipped Play Areas
- 500m Catchment Area
- ▭ Settlement Development Limit

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6 Kilometres

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Table B6 Equipped Children’s Play Areas within Mid and East Antrim

Settlement	Play Area Location
Ballymena	Ballykeel 1, Crebilly Road
	Ballykeel 2, Orkney Drive
	Ballykeel, Barra Drive
	Ballee Way
	Dunclug Park
	Drumtara
	Ecos Centre
	Galgorm, Sand Road
	Galgorm, Galgorm Road
	Harryville, Wilson Crescent
	Harryville, Moat Road
	Harryville, King George V
	Lamont Park/Smithfield
	Peoples Park
Tullygarley, Riverdale Park	
Carrickfergus	Castlemara Drive /Prince Andrew Way
	Legg Park
	Marine Gardens
	Windmill Park
	Sunnylands
	Hawthorn Avenue (Salthill)
	Oakfield Drive
Amphitheatre Leisure Centre	
Larne	Curran Park
	Dixon Park
	Drains Bay
	Town Park
	Glynn Road
	Linn Road
	Bardic Drive, Antiville
	Greenland Park/Old Glenarm Road (Ferris Park)
	Millbrook
	Seacourt
The Hamptons	

Settlement	Play Area Location
Ahoghill	Brookfield
	Ballymena Road
	Cullybackey Road
Broughshane	The Commons
	Knockan
	Whinsmoor
Cargan	Playing Fields
Clough	Drumagrove Road

Cullybackey	Kilmakevit
Kells & Connor	Gleanaan Park
	Maybin Park
	Condiere Avenue
Grange Corner	Moorlands
Martinstown	Glenravel Road
Portglenone	Marina
	Smyth Crescent
Greenisland	Knockleigh Walk
Whitehead	Castleview Road
	Ransevyn
	Windsor Mews
Ballycarry	Main Street
Ballystrudder	Gobbins Visitor Centre
Ballygalley	Cairncastle Road
Carnlough	Beechlands
	Gortin Park
Glenarm	The Cloney
Glynn	Playing Fields
Mullaghboy	Ashvale Park

Countryside	Play Area Location
Duneany Road	Glenvale
Ballywatermoy	Maine Valley
Craigyarren*	Hazelwood Crescent
Moorfields*	McNeill Park
Slaght*	Carmossan Park
Carnfunnock	Carnfunnock
Newpark	Newlands
Bay Road	Carnlough Beach

*proposed small settlements

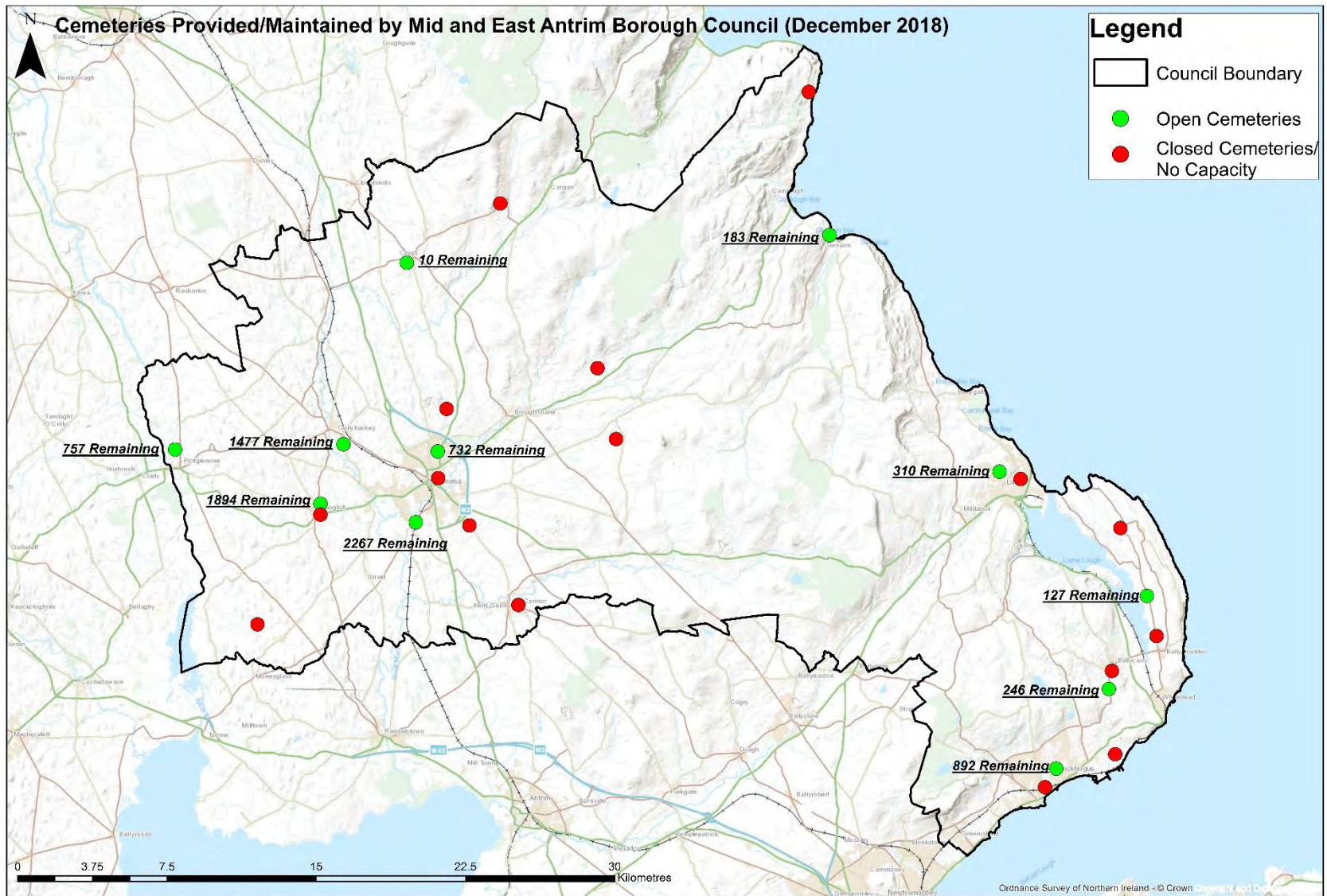
Figure B2 List of Outdoor Gyms within Mid and East Antrim (as of August 2019)

- Peoples Park
- Ballykeel
- Wakehurst Ballymena (1st intergenerational facility)
- Ecos Centre (2)
- Cargan Playing Fields (2)
- Broughshane Play Area
- Ahoghill Play Area
- Bashfordsland Wood, Carrickfergus
- Whitehead Diamond Jubilee Wood, Whitehead
- Blackhead Path
- Recreation Grounds, Whitehead
- Greenisland Playing Fields, Carrickfergus
- Amphitheatre Trim Trial, Carrickfergus
- Town Park/Promenade
- Carnfunnock Country Park
- Jubilee Park Area, Glynn

Table B7 MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas) within Mid and East Antrim (as of August 2019)

Ballymena	Ballykeel Community Area
	Dunclug Play Area
	Wakehurst
Carrickfergus	Woodburn, Hawthorne Avenue
	Sunnylands
Larne	Town Parks
	The Factory Community, Ferris Park, Old Glenarm Road
	Millbrook, Wellington Rec FC
Ahoghill	Ahoghill Community Centre
Broughshane	Broughshane Community Centre
Greenisland	Knockleigh Drive
	Greenisland Football Club
Whitehead	Recreation Grounds
Ballycarry	Ballycarry Community Centre
Carnlough	Glenlough Community Centre, Croft Road
Glenarm	Rear of St Patrick's Church
Kells	Station Road
Martinstown	Glenravel Road
Clough	Clough Community Centre
	Coronation Park

Map B4 Cemeteries provided and/or maintained by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council






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APPENDIX C

Table C1 Main Facilities in Mid and East Antrim Borough Leisure Centres

Facility	Seven Towers Leisure Centre	Larne Leisure Centre	Amphitheatre Carrickfergus
Swimming Pool	•	•	•
Sports Hall	•	•	•
Fitness Suite	•	•	•
Free Weights		•	
Squash Court	•	•	•
Health Suite	•	•	•
Dance/Exercise Studio	•	•	•
Meeting Room/ Conference Facilities	•	•	
Children's Soft Play Facility			•
Café	•	•	•

Table C2 Public bodies including Council providing additional informal and passive recreation opportunities within Mid and East Antrim

Key	
	Former Ballymena Council area
	Former Carrickfergus Council area
	Former Larne Council area

Walks/Paths/Open Spaces		Length Km
Ballee Paths	Path	3.5
Ballykeel II - Open Space	Path	
Broughshane - Buttermilk Walk	Path	2
Dunclug, Ballymena Open Space	Open Space	
Glenravel Open Space	Open Space	
Harryville Motte & Bailey	Open Space	0.8
Kells Pathway	Path	0.8
Tullygarley / Grange Road Path (Sourhill Rd to Grange Av)	Path	2.5
Tobar Park Village Green, Cullybackey	Open Space	
Ecos Paths	Path	8
Sainsbury Riverside Path, Ballymena	Path	0.4
Cullybackey Riverside Path	Path	0.5
Shellinghill Road, Cullybackey Open Space	Open Space	
Galgorm Manor / Cullybackey Path	Path	3
Galgorm Castle Path	Path	2
Slemish	Path	2
Bridgend/Gracehill Bridge, Lisnafillan	Path	1.7
People's Park	Path	2
Sentry Hill, Old Ballymoney Rd, Ballymena	Path	3
Skerry Rock, Newtowncrommelin	Path	1.6
Cargan Picnic Site	Path	0.4
Antrim Hills Way Marked Way	Path	14.5
Highway to Health - Ballymena (from Seven Towns Leisure Centre)	Path	3
Highway to Health - Ecos	Path	3
Highway to Health - Ballee (proposed)	Path	2
Dungonnell Way		15
Ulster Way Glenarm-Ballynure		
Carnfunnock Country Park	Path	8
Cranny Falls, Carnlough	Path	4
Straidkilly	Woodland	1

Layde Walk	Path	3.2
Glenarm Coast Walk		1
Larne Town Parks	Path	4.8
Inver River	Path	1.6
Linn Glen	Path	1.6
Glenoe Waterfall	Path	1.6
Skernaghan Point, Islandmagee	Path	4.8
Portmuck Walk, Islandmagee	Path	3.2
Gobbins	Path	
Highway to Health- Whitehead	Path	2
Whitehead Heritage and Wellbeing Trail	Path	
Blackhead Path, Whitehead	Path	3.8
Ulster Way- Greenisland-Knockagh Monument		
Highway to Health- Carrickfergus	Path	3.5
Timeless Trail, Carrickfergus town	Path	7.7

CYCLE ROUTES

Ecos Trail NCN 97 (Ecos via Slemish to Glenarm)	Cycle Route	
Sustrans Route 93 (Larne-Garron Point & continues along north coast)	Cycle Route	
Loughshore Trail NCN 96 (Portglenone to Toome)	Cycle Route	
Galgorm Rd, Ballymena	Cycle Route	
Larne Road-Ballee, Ballymena	Cycle Route	
Ballykeel-Ecos	Cycle Route	
Larne Town Park	Cycle Route	
Belfast Road, Larne	Cycle Route	






Cycle NI Routes

Slemish	Cycle Route	34
Portglenone	Cycle Route	34
Islandmagee	Cycle Route	27
Carnfunnock Country Parke	Cycle Route	1
Larne-Red Bay	Cycle Route	40
Larne-Browns Bay	Cycle Route	3
Knockagh	Cycle Route	18

(Source: cycleni.com)

FORESTS & WOODS		
Capanagh Forest, Starbog Rd, Larne	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Ballyboley Forest, Larne	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Glenarm Forest	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Portglenone Forest	Toilets, jetty	NI Forest Service DAERA
Top Wood, Finlaystown Rd, Portglenone	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Bann Woods South including Bracknamuckley Forest, Gortgole and Ferrystown, Gortgole Rd, Portglenone	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Cleggan Forest, Carnmlough Rd, Broughshane	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Woodburn Forest, Carrickfergus	No facilities	NI Forest Service DAERA
Seaview Wood, Seacourt Larne	Woodland Trust	
Clements Wood, Ballygowan Rd, Larne	Woodland Trust	
Oakfield Glen, Oakfield Dr, Carrickfergus	Woodland Trust	
Keel Wood, Kennelbridge Rd, Ballymena	Woodland Trust	
Galgorm Wood, Cullybackey	Woodland Trust	
Little Acorn Wood, Fir Park, Broughshane	Woodland Trust	
The Drum, Cargan	Woodland Trust	
Straidkilly Nature Reserve	Ulster Wildlife Trust Wood	

(Source: Woodland Trust Map: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/map/Northern%20Ireland/54.6118278503418/-6.68582010269165/>)

Diamond Jubilee Wood, Whitehead	Council	
Bashfordsland Wood, Carrickfergus	Council	
Ecos Woodland	Council	
Carnfunnock Woodland	Council	
Woodland at Carrickfergus Mill Ponds	Council	

LAND IN NATIONAL TRUST OWNERSHIP

Islandmagee at Skernahan Point, Portmuck, The Gobbins & Mullaghdoe	
Waterfall at Glenoe	

(Source: National Trust website map: <http://www.ntlandmap.org.uk/>)

PARKS

Carnfunnock Country Park	
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Dixon Park	
Curran Park	
Chaine Park	
Town Park	
Marine Gardens	
Knot Garden	
Shaftesbury Park	
Peoples Park	
Memorial Park	
Moat Park	
King George V Park	
Ecos Nature Park	
LOCAL NATURE RESERVES	
Cranny Falls, Carnlough	
Clements Wood, Larne	
Bashfordlands Wood and Oakglen Local Nature Reserve (declared March 2017)	
Carrickfergus Mill Ponds (declared March 2015)	
Beechwood Road Nature Reserve, Whitehead	
Diamond Jubilee Wood (Oct 2018)	
NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES	
Straidkilly	
Swan Island	
CAMPSITES	
Carnfunnock Country Park	
Curran Court Caravan Park	
Ford Form Camping Barn	

Table C3 Main Outdoor Sports Activities available within Mid and East Antrim

Activity	Facilities
Bowling	Outdoor bowling greens and associated clubs at Ahoghill, Portglenone and at the Peoples Park
	Outdoor bowling green and associated clubs in Larne at Curran Road and Glenarm Road
	Outdoor bowling facilities and associated at Carrickfergus, Greenisland and Whitehead
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Carnview Farms, Loughmagarry Rd, Ballymena
Angling/Fishing	Carrickfergus -7 reservoirs hold a rich harvest of brown and rainbow trout.
	Sea fishing-off the rocks and piers at Carrickfergus and Whitehead and Larne/Carnlough Glenarm River
	Killylane Reservoir and Raloo Trout Fishery
	Braid River
	Kellswater River
	River Clough
	Cloughwater River
	Lower Bann- Course fishing
	Riverdale Fishery/Kilgad Fishery
	Hillhead Fly Fishery, Ballymena
	Maine River
	Golf
Carrickfergus Golf Club	
Greenisland Golf Club, Carrick	
Whitehead Golf Club, McCreas Brae	
Cairndhu Golf Club	
Larne Golf Club, Ferris Bay	
Carnfunnock Country Park 9 hole	
Ballymena Golf Club, Raceview Rd	
Galgorm Castle Golf Club	
Walking and Hiking	Ulster Way- Greenisland-Knockagh Monument
	Antrim Hills Way (part of Ulster Way)
	Carnfunnock Country Park
	Cranny Falls, Carnlough
	Glenarm forest
	Glenoe Waterfall
	Inver River, Larne
	Layde Walk, Glenarm
	Linn Glen
	Portmuck Walk, Islandmagee
	Skernaghan Point, Islandmagee (Nat Trust)
	Larne Promenade
	The Gobbins (Nat Trust)
	Buttermilk Bridge, Broughshane
Slemish	
Ecos trails	

	Lisnafillian Walk
	Maine Walk, Cullybackey
	People's Park
	Portglenone Forest
	Skerry Trail
	The Drum, Cargan
Cycling	Sustrans/National Cycle Routes 93 and 97 both pass through Larne and a circular cycling route through Islandmagee has been developed.
	Ecos Cycle Trail / Ballymena to Glenarm- Route 97 of the National Cycling Network.
	Portglenone to Drumoolish and Bellaghy Loop Cycle Route.
	Portglenone loop around Aghnacleshagh Cycle Route
	Toome to Portglenone
Water sports	Carrickfergus Marina- Sailing
	Co. Antrim Yacht Club at Whitehead and Carrickfergus Sailing -Jet-Skiing, Wind-Surfing and Canoeing
	The East Coast Canoe Trail
	Sailing at East Antrim Boat Club in Larne Lough, Glenarm Harbour, Carnlough Harbour and Ballylumford Harbour
	Newferry Waterski club
	Portglenone Marina
	Lower Bann Canoe Trail from Lough Neagh, Toome to Atlantic Ocean, Castlerock includes access points in MEA at Newferry (east) and Portglenone.
	Blue Circle Cruising and Sailing club, Magheramorne
Diving	Islandmagee waters are some of the best in Ireland for diving. North Irish Lodge provide instruction for diving.
Horse Riding	Islandmagee Riding School and Rocklynn Riding Centre
	Galgorm Parks Riding School
	Jumpingdale Equestrian Centre, Moorfields
Tennis	Peoples Park
	Ballee High School
	Amptitheatre
	Town Park
	Castleview, Whitehead (5 seasonal courts)
	Larne Tennis Club, Glenarm Road
Cricket	There are several cricket clubs and grounds throughout Mid & East Antrim, including an artificial wicket at Larne Rugby Club, Glynn (see figure B1.)
GAA	Pitches at various locations across Ballymena including Woodside Road (Ballymena), Gortgole Road (Portglenone), Crosskeys Road (Ahoghill), Cushendall Road (Glenravel) (See figure B1).
	Pitches in Larne at Brustin Brae Road and Feystown Road (Glenarm) (See Figure B1).
Rugby	Pitches and associated clubs and facilities throughout the Borough (See Figure B1).
Soccer	Various public and privately owned indoor and outdoor pitches throughout the District (see figure B1).
Hockey	Various clubs throughout Mid and East Antrim, and also outdoor synthetic pitch available at Amphitheatre, Carrickfergus and also at the Showgrounds in Ballymena (See figure B1).

Please note the above list is not exhaustive, but it does indicate the main activities available.

APPENDIX D Evolution of relevant draft Plan Strategy policy (General Policy and Open Space policies OSL1-OSL7)

Current Operational Policy

PPS 1: General Principles	SPPS	POP Recommendation/Comment	POP Responses and Post Consultation Consideration	Final Wording for Draft Plan Strategy
<p>Paragraph 3 - The public interest requires that all development is carried out in a way that would not cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.</p>	<p>Under the SPPS, the guiding principle for planning authorities in determining planning applications is that sustainable development should be permitted, having regard to the development plan and all other material considerations, unless the proposed development will cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.</p> <p>The SPPS provides five core planning principles as well as strategic policy under 16 overarching subject matters. Across these principles and policies there are a number objectives such as good design and protecting amenity that apply to all development types.</p>	<p>It was recognised in the POP that there were a number of overlapping criteria across the various policies therefore it was suggested that these may be included within a General Policy in order to prevent duplication.</p> <p>It is recommended that consideration is given to bringing forward a General Policy in the LDP Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>No definitive comments received either for or against the inclusion of a General Policy.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration It is recommended that consideration is given to bringing forward a General Policy in the LDP Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development</p> <p>New policy wording developed following the amalgamation of general policy criteria from across a number of existing policies such as PPS 3 AMP 1 and AMP 6, PPS 4 PED 9, PPS 7 QD1, PPS 16 TSM 7, PPS21 CTY 13, 14 &15, PPS 18 RE 2 as well as policies DES 2 and DES 10 in the PSRNI. The policy also takes account of planning principles included within PPS 12 and PPS 13.</p> <p>The proposed General Policy seeks to ensure that all development (except minor proposals) is sustainable, accords with the LDP and will not result in demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledge importance. This policy also provides operational policy for specific forms of development e.g. schools, which are not specifically catered for through other subject policies.</p> <p>The General policy sets out criteria under five headings that all development (except minor proposals) must meet, where relevant. Development within the countryside must also meet a number of additional criteria which are particularly relevant to the rural context.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT Comments Some of the original policy criteria have been amended to take account of comments raised through Councillor workshops and meetings with consultees. However, this engagement did not change the overall shape or thrust of the General Policy.</p>

PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation	SPPS	POP Recommendation/Comment	POP Responses and Post Consultation Consideration	Final Wording for Draft Plan Strategy
<p>Policy OS 1: Protection of Open Space Presumption against the loss of open space irrespective of its physical condition/appearance.</p> <p>Two exceptions are listed: (i) where it is demonstrated that there is substantial community benefit and (ii) or when the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact on amenity, character or biodiversity of an area.</p> <p>The second exception only applies where either of the following circumstances occur: - (i) where the area of open space to be lost is 2 hectares or less and appropriate alternative provision is made and (ii) where playing fields within settlement limits are to be lost, it must be demonstrated that the retention and enhancement of the facility can only be achieved by developing a small part of the existing space (limited to a maximum of 10%).</p>	<p>SPPS accords with PPS 8 although it simply states 'loss of open space' whereas PPS 8 states 'existing open space or land zoned for provision of open space'.</p> <p>SPPS refers to the general exceptions listed in Policy OS 1.</p> <p>However, in regard to the second exception it does not include the same detail as Policy OS 1. SPPS simply states that the loss of open space will be acceptable where it is demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact and does not detail the two caveats listed in Policy OS 1.</p>	<p>Policy OS 1 appears to be working well and there is no evidence to suggest that it needs to be substantially amended.</p> <p>NIHE have stated that they would like to see a policy similar to that set out in PPS 8 (Policy OS 1 and Annex C) which allows an exception to the retention of open space, where development will provide community benefit, retained in the LDP.</p> <p><i>It is recommended that the thrust and exceptions of Policy OS 1 are brought forward in the LDP Plan Strategy and that the current NIHE Protocol (or amended as necessary following discussion with NIHE) is included in the justification text or as an accompanying guidance document.</i></p>	<p>Majority consensus from statutory consultees and public respondents that the NIHE protocol should be retained. NIHE would welcome acknowledgement that social housing is a 'substantial community benefit,' in these exceptional cases. Dfl reminded Council of the presumption against the loss of open space and that a new protocol will have to be negotiated between the Council and NIHE as the current protocol was agreed between DOE and NIHE.</p> <p>One public respondent considered that even where loss of open space is accepted for development providing for community benefit, it should be compensated elsewhere.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation and negotiate new protocol with NIHE similar to current one with DOE.</p>	<p>Policy OSL1: Protection of Open Space New policy similar to OS 1, exceptions have been retained.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT Comments No changes further to Councillor consultation.</p> <p>Council to liaise with NIHE regarding updated protocol.</p>
<p>Policy OS 2: Public Open Space in New Residential Development</p> <p>Requires that a development of 300 units or more or 15 hectares or more should provide a normal expectation of around 15% of the total site area as open space. Developments of 25 units or more should provide a normal expectation of at least 10% of the total site area as open space with smaller schemes being considered on their individual merits. The policy includes examples of circumstances when a relaxation of the standard may warrant consideration e.g. when the site is close to and would benefit from</p>	<p>SPPS requires new residential developments of appropriate scale (generally 25 units or more, or on sites of one hectare and above) to provide adequate and well-designed open space as an integral part of the development. Suitable mechanisms to secure future management and maintenance of open space should be put in place.</p> <p>SPPS does not specify minimum areas in the same way that Policy OS 2 does. Emphasis is on well-designed open space however it does not offer any clarification on this term or how it could be demonstrated. No specific criteria are identified and it also does not offer any</p>	<p>The issue of open space in new residential developments is considered in Chapter 7:</p> <p>Key Issue 19 deals with provision of open space in new residential developments. The preferred option is to retain current strategic criteria based policy regarding public open space contained in Policy OS2 of PPS 8 i.e. setting out a 10% requirement of open space in residential developments of 25 units or more and a 15% requirement for development over 300 units and a slightly amended list of locations where a rate less than 10% may be acceptable unless</p>	<p>Strong support from statutory consultees and public respondents who considered the thresholds for open space provision in Policy OS 2 are appropriate.</p> <p>The majority of statutory consultees and public respondents agreed that in relation to the management and maintenance of open space, the wording of Policy OS 2 should be amended to include additional criteria that proposed open space must meet in order to be considered suitable for adoption by Council.</p> <p>Also see comments for Key Issues 18 and 19.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation.</p>	<p>Policy OSL4 : Public Open Space in New Residential Development The wording of OS 2 has been carried forward with some changes, including amendment to exception criteria to ensure that where existing open space is nearby a reduced rate of provision will only be acceptable when access is direct and unobstructed.</p> <p>New policy amends 15% open space requirement threshold to sites over 10ha rather than for 300 units/sites of 15ha to reflect application sizes in the Borough. Specific reference to Home Zones removed. Wording in relation</p>

<p>existing public open space.</p> <p>Provides criteria against which to assess open space provision.</p> <p>A children's play area is required for developments of 100 units or more or sites of 5 hectares or more.</p> <p>Future management of open space provided has to be provided and 3 examples of suitable arrangements are provided in the policy.</p>	<p>direction with regards to what are suitable mechanisms for management.</p> <p>SPPS is not prescriptive in terms of children's play provision in residential developments but rather it is mentioned within the wider context of assessing the overall provision of public and private open space. The SPPS calls for Councils to carry out a survey to inform the LDP in order to establish existing provision and identify future need and to bring forward appropriate local policies and proposals for the plan area.</p>	<p>otherwise specified through key site requirements.</p> <p>Key Issue 18 deals with playpark provision. The preferred option is to retain current policy i.e. residential developments of 100 units or more, or on sites of 5 hectares or more will be required to provide an equipped children's play area unless otherwise specified through key site requirements.</p> <p>In regard to the management and maintenance of open space it is recommended that the existing policy wording in OS 2 is retained but with additional criteria that proposed open space must meet in order to be considered for adoption by Council i.e. a minimum size of useable play/recreation space of 1000sqm or more (e.g. 50m x 20m) and structured play spaces with an area of no less than 600sqm.</p> <p>This approach would require developers to engage with Council early in the design process to ensure provision of open space/play parks that are suitable for the site and which meets the specific needs of the local area.</p> <p>It is recommended that minor amendments above are made to the wording of Policy OS 2 in line with Key Issues 18 and 19 and brought forward in the LDP Plan Strategy.</p>		<p>to equipped children's play areas has been amended to reflect LDP approach to specify KSRs at LPP. Criteria has been shortened and is now covered in Policy GP1 General Policy for all Development, direction to which is included in Policy OSL4. Detail in relation to management and maintenance of open space reduced in policy and placed in J&A. This also sets out detail of when Council may consider adopting new open space within a residential development.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT Comments</p> <p>No changes further to Councillor consultation. Minor changes made further to PMT comments. In response to Open Space Department comments, the minimum size of open space considered as suitable for adoption by the Council has been increased to 1400sqm.</p>
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Policy OS 3: Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

Sets out 8 detailed criteria such development in the countryside must meet in order to be considered acceptable. The amplification provides further guidance on individual types of recreation e.g. Golf courses, driving ranges, equestrian uses etc.

Recognises the importance of outdoor recreation in countryside provided it is sustainable and does not conflict with need to preserve and enhance the environment.

SPPS generally accords Policy OS 3. It states that LDPs should contain policy for outdoor recreation in the countryside which should have regard to a range of issues e.g. visual and residential amenity, public and road safety, accessibility and impact on nature conservation, landscape character, archaeology or built heritage.

Relevant planning consideration broadly align with Policy OS 3, with some differences for example the SPPS refers to hours of operation but does not mention loss of good quality agricultural land.

Policy OS 3 appears to be working well and there is no evidence to suggest that it needs to be substantially amended.

It is recommended that the wording of Policy OS 3 is brought forward in the LDP Plan Strategy with an additional criteria referring to hours of operation to take account of the SPPS. In addition it is recommended that the amplification text on equestrian uses should be expanded to clarify that this policy only applies to commercial equestrian uses.

CCGBC and the majority of public respondents agreed that additional criteria should be added to allow for consideration of hours of operation in relation to Policy OS 3. NIEA raised concerns regarding possible night time lighting which could potentially impact upon foraging and roosting bats. NIEA request that the protected species policy is signposted within the plan to ensure due consideration throughout the planning process.

The majority of public respondents disagree that this policy should only be applied to commercial equestrian uses in the countryside. However, no one gave any explanation.

Post consultation consideration

The impact of floodlighting on bats will be highlighted in the amplification text of an amended PPS 2 NH 2 policy.

Given the unexplained rationale for disagreement with the POP recommendation as it relates to equestrian uses in the countryside, the policy wording will be further discussed with DfI and other relevant bodies before the Plan Strategy is finalised.

Policy OSL5: Sport and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Amalgamation of 5 existing PPS 8 policies, OS 3, OS 4, OS 5, OS 6, OS 7 and amended to include new policy direction for Sport and Outdoor Recreation in Settlements.

New element of the policy wording sets out that sport and outdoor recreation in settlements will be permitted where Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development is met and the proposal accords with other provisions of the LDP. For other elements of the policy the retained criteria and Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development must also be met. J&A sets out detail in relation to hours of operation and impact of floodlighting on bats.

Councillor & PMT comments

No changes further to Councillor consultation. Further to HED comments policy heading changed to include reference to outdoor recreation facilities.

Policy OS 4: Intensive Sports Facilities

Outlines sports facilities such as stadia, leisure centres and sports halls are generally only permitted in settlements. An exception may be permitted where 4 criteria can be met – no alternative site in the settlement, must be close to edge of settlement/visually associated with it, no adverse impact on settlement and in scale with settlement.

In all cases, 5 criteria must also be met including no impact on amenity, heritage, high standard of design, access, adequate car parking and

SPPS generally accords with Policy OS 4, advising that such facilities must be in settlements. It does allow for exceptions just outside of a settlement but only where clear criteria can be established to justify a departure.

Overall the policy objectives of the SPPS and PPS 8 are the same. The SPPS requires clear criteria to be set and Policy OS 4 provides this.

SPPS also clarifies that an intensive sports facility is defined as a purpose built indoor or outdoor resource which facilitates one or more activity fundamental to maintaining health and fitness.

Policy OS 4 appears to be working well and there is no evidence to suggest that it needs to be amended.

It is recommended that the wording of Policy OS 4 is brought forward in the LDP Plan Strategy.

No comments received from statutory consultees or public respondents to this policy.

Post consultation consideration

Bring forward POP recommendation.

<p>infrastructure.</p> <p>A definition of intensive sports facilities is provided in the amplification along with additional user guidance.</p>				
<p>Policy OS 5: Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities</p> <p>Such developments are only permitted where 3 criteria are met: no impact on amenity, no disturbance to livestock, no conflict with sensitive locations.</p>	<p>SPPS generally accords with Policy OS 5.</p> <p>SPPS states that particular attention should be paid to development proposals that generate high levels of noise. It states they will only be permitted where there will be no unacceptable level of noise to nearby noise sensitive uses, farm animals or wildlife, or where it impacts on local character.</p> <p>Additional strategic guidance on noise as a material consideration is set out in Annex A of the SPPS.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the wording of Policy OS 5 is amended so as to better reflect the SPPS.</p>	<p>No comments received from statutory consultees or public respondents to this policy.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation.</p>	
<p>Policy OS 6: Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports</p> <p>Such developments are permitted provided that 7 criteria can be met e.g. compatibility with existing use of the water, no adverse impact on nature conservation, no adverse impact on character of local landscape, no pollution noise or disturbance, appropriate design and scale.</p>	<p>SPPS generally accords with Policy OS 6.</p> <p>It lists a range of relevant planning considerations that all proposals for sport and recreation activities, including facilities ancillary to watersports should adhere to. These are similar to those listed in Policy OS 6 save for the addition of reference to hours of operation, access and links to public transport, floodlighting, public safety (including road safety) and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Policy OS 6 appears to be working well and there is no evidence to suggest that it needs to be substantially amended.</p> <p>It is recommended that the wording of Policy OS 6 is brought forward in the LDP, and amended to include some of the relevant additional criteria in SPPS.</p>	<p>Strong support from statutory consultees and public respondents for the inclusion of additional criteria within Policy OS 6 as per SPPS.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation.</p>	
<p>Policy OS 7: The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities</p> <p>Such development is only permitted when 3 set criteria can be met. There must be no unacceptable impact on nearby residential amenity, no adverse impact on visual amenity or character of the locality and no prejudice to public safety.</p>	<p>SPPS generally accords with Policy OS 7.</p> <p>Floodlighting is listed as one of the relevant planning considerations for all proposals for sport and recreation activities.</p> <p>SPPS does not provide detailed policy wording beyond this.</p>	<p>Feedback from consultees indicates that Policy OS 7 is generally sound. NIEA Natural Environment Division recommend an additional criterion in regard to safeguarding bats. Having taken account of this comment, it was considered that other policies in the LDP will address this issue.</p> <p>It is recommended that the wording of Policy OS 7 is brought forward in the LDP and the amplification text extended to direct applicants to guidance such as The Institute of Lighting Profession thresholds or equivalent.</p>	<p>NIEA acknowledged that council do not wish to add additional criteria for bats in relation to floodlighting. However, request that the policy signposts the protected species policy within the plan to ensure the impact of floodlighting on bats is considered as it may not be common knowledge.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration The impact of floodlighting on bats will be highlighted in the amplification text of an amended PPS 2 NH 2 policy. Bring forward POP recommendation.</p>	

<p>Annex A: Definition of Open Space</p> <p>Definition of Open Space provided along with a typology illustrating a range of examples of open space that are of public value.</p>	<p>The Glossary of the SPPS includes a definition of Open Space as per Annex A but it does not include the same level of detail.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the detail in Annex A should be brought forward in the LDP.</p>	<p>No comments received from statutory consultees or public respondents to this policy.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation.</p>	<p>The definition of open space has been included within the text of the Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>
<p>Annex B: Summary of the National Playing Fields Association Minimum Standard for Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Sets out detail on the '6 acre standard' and the definition of outdoor playing space</p>	<p>SPPS states that the provision of open space in LDP should be assessed against the National Playing Fields Standard. SPPS does not include the same level of detail.</p>	<p>It is recommended that Annex B is not brought forward in the Plan Strategy as it does not refer to operational policy.</p>	<p>No comments received from statutory consultees or public respondents to this policy.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration As per POP recommendation do not bring forward wording of Annex B.</p>	<p>Annex B has not been included within the Draft Plan Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>
<p>Annex C: Key bodies which make valuable contribution to the development of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation.</p> <p>Lists the role of key bodies such as Councils, Sports Council, and National Trust etc. NIHE are also listed and the Annex refers to large areas of Open Space in some of their estates which if there is substantial community benefit it may be appropriate to redevelop.</p>	<p>SPPS does not contain corresponding text.</p>	<p>NIHE have stated that they would like to see a policy similar to that set out in PPS 8 (Policy OS 1 and Annex C) which allows an exception to the retention of open space, where development will provide community benefit, retained in the LDP.</p> <p>It is recommended that only the wording in Annex C regarding NIHE is brought forward in LDP guidance, and amended as necessary following further discussions with NIHE.</p>	<p>Majority consensus from statutory consultees and public respondents that the current NIHE protocol should be retained. NIHE would welcome acknowledgement that social housing is a 'substantial community benefit,' in these exceptional cases. DfI remind the Council of the presumption against the loss of open space and that a new protocol will have to be negotiated between the Council and NIHE as the current protocol was agreed between DOE and NIHE.</p> <p>One public respondent considered that even where loss of open space is accepted for development for community benefit, it should be compensated elsewhere.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation and negotiate new protocol with NIHE similar to current one with DOE.</p>	<p>Annex C has not been included within the draft Plan Strategy. However Council to liaise with NIHE regarding updated protocol.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>

<p>New Policy OSL2: Greenways</p>	<p>SPPS states that future zonings should take into account the importance of protecting linear open spaces such as greenways.</p>	<p>Key Issue 17 preferred option facilitates the development of a network of community greenways.</p> <p>It is recommended that a greenways policy is included in the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Support from both statutory consultees and the public for our approach to protect and enhance a network of community greenways. Both highlighted the importance of ensuring the protection of existing linear spaces. It was also highlighted that it is key that these routes are multifunctional and that they feed into establishing a wider green network. Statutory consultees and the public raised the importance of considering other issues such as amenity and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation to include a greenways policy with consideration of issues raised.</p>	<p>Policy OSL2: Greenways New policy wording developed.</p> <p>Policy supports proposals that create, protect, extend, complement and/or improve regional or community greenways. Proposals must also meet Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development and accord with other provisions of the LDP. Policy also states that new development should include links to greenways.</p> <p>The policy also protects identified greenway routes by setting out that permission will not be granted for proposals which prejudice them.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>
<p>New Policy OSL3: New Open Space Provision</p>				<p>Policy OSL3: New Open Space Provision New policy wording developed due to the existing policy gap.</p> <p>The provision of public open space (not specifically covered by other open space policies) will be permitted where it meets Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development and where it accords with other provisions of the LDP.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>
<p>New Policy OSL6: Community Growing Spaces and Allotments</p>		<p>Key Issue 16 preferred option supports the delivery of community growing spaces/allotments in suitable locations.</p> <p>It is recommended that a policy in relation to growing spaces is included in the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Support from both statutory consultees and the public for our approach to Community growing spaces/allotments. Comments made in relation to other issues to be considered such as contamination and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Policy OSL6: Community Growing Spaces and Allotments New policy wording developed.</p> <p>Growing spaces/allotments will be permitted where they meet three criteria in relation to site suitability, landscaping and management. Proposals must also meet Policy GP1:</p>

			<p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation to include a policy for growing spaces/allotments with consideration of issues raised.</p>	<p>General Policy for all Development and accord with other provisions of the LDP.</p> <p>Councillor & PMT Comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>
<p>New Policy OSL7: Cemeteries and Burial Space</p>		<p>Key Issue 25 preferred option was for a criteria based policy to support new or extensions to cemeteries. The option would also facilitate the identification and safeguarding of specific locations where there is a firm proposal for a new/extension to a cemetery.</p> <p>It is recommended that a policy in relation to cemeteries is included in the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Support from both statutory consultees and the public for our approach to Cemeteries. HMC and HED raised importance of ensuring archaeological and heritage assets are protected.</p> <p>Post consultation consideration Bring forward POP recommendation to include a policy for cemeteries with consideration of issues raised.</p>	<p>Policy OSL7: Cemeteries and Burial Space New policy wording developed.</p> <p>All existing cemeteries and burial spaces will be protected from inappropriate development. Proposals for new cemetery/burial space will be permitted where they meet Policy GP1: General Policy for all Development and provided they do not conflict with other provisions of the LDP. There should be no adverse impact on the local water environment</p> <p>Councillor & PMT Comments No changes further to above consultations.</p>



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