



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



OPEN SPACE STUDY OLDHAM COUNCIL MAIN REPORT

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1.0 Introduction

Context

1.1 Open space is important because of its valuable contribution to quality of life, health and the economy. Furthermore, open spaces provide green infrastructure (GI) benefits such as mitigating climate change, flood alleviation, and ecosystem services. The provision of these facilities in our cities, towns and villages is of high importance to a sustainable future and is embedded in national planning policy.

1.2 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021) recognises the opportunities that appropriately located and well-designed open spaces can provide. Paragraph 98 states:

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and supports efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

1.3 Open space provision crosses many other aspects of the NPPF, including:

- Achieving Sustainable Development;
- Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities;
- Building a Strong Competitive Economy;
- Promoting Sustainable Transport;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Meeting the Challenges of Climate Change and flooding; and
- Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment.

Purpose and Scope

1.4 This Open Space Study (hereby referred to as the 'Study') will replace the Open Space Study 2010, adopted by Oldham Borough Council (hereby referred to as 'the council') as part of the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (the Joint DPD) in November 2011.

1.5 Oldham Council is currently undertaking a review of the Local Plan. This Study provides robust and up to date information concerning the demand for, and use of, open space throughout the Borough irrespective of ownership up to the emerging Local Plan end date 2037.

1.6 The Study will support the council's adopted Local Plan objectives:

- SO1 To mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to promote sustainable development in the borough;
- SO4 To improve and value the borough's environment; and
- SO5 To create safer and stronger inclusive communities.

1.7 This Study will ensure that the council can:

- Prioritise the enhancement of open space to deliver a range of benefits;
- Ensure that poor quality open spaces receive investment and improvement;
- Ensure that open space receives sufficient developer contributions to provide for new communities; and
- Assist the council in identifying spaces which can be used to contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) commitments made as a result of future development through reviewing site specific opportunities.

1.8 A sample of sites within the open space dataset were subject to a full quality audit. The criteria for the audit of these sites are set out in the Methodology.

Analysis Area

1.9 The Study looks at the overall provision of the Borough (excluding the Peak District National Park area which falls within the Borough) and across twenty key sub-areas which are aligned with the ward boundaries. This is shown on the Open Space Typologies map and in the figure below.

1.10 Spaces which overlap the Borough boundary (e.g. those which fall partly in the Borough) are included in the assessment of open space provision in the Borough.

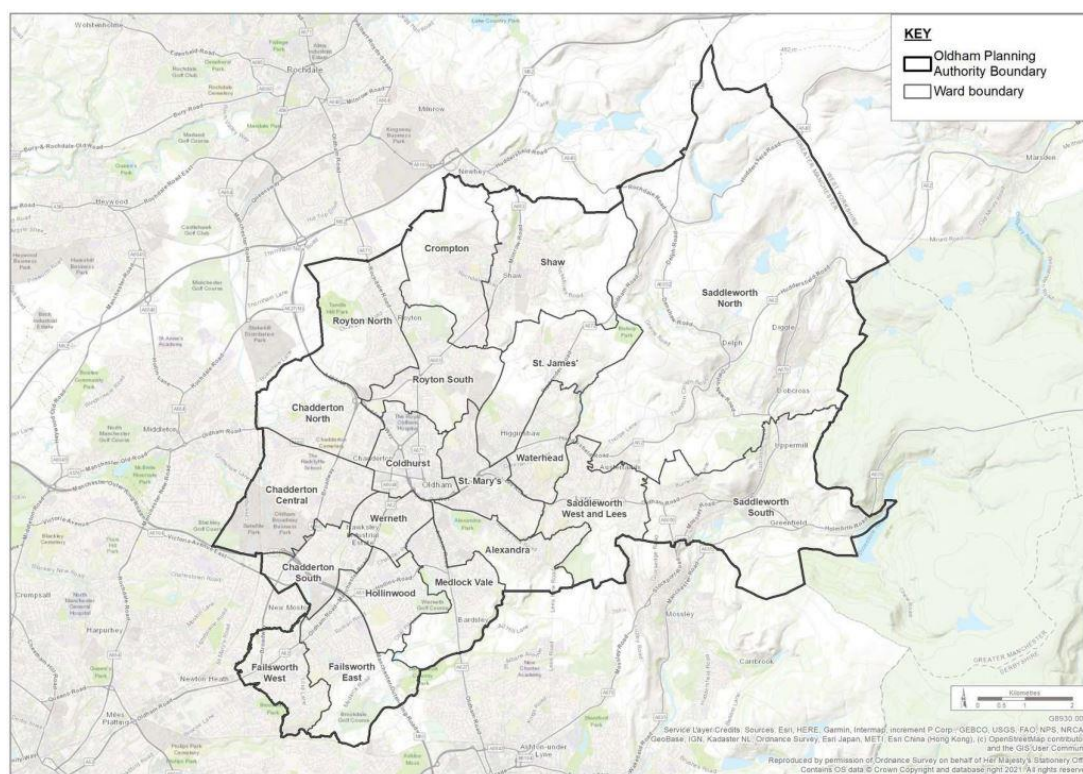


Figure 1: Oldham's Planning Authority Boundary

2.0 Policy Context

2.1 This chapter summarises how open spaces feature in the following national and local policy. Figure 2 illustrates the hierarchy of planning policy for the Borough.

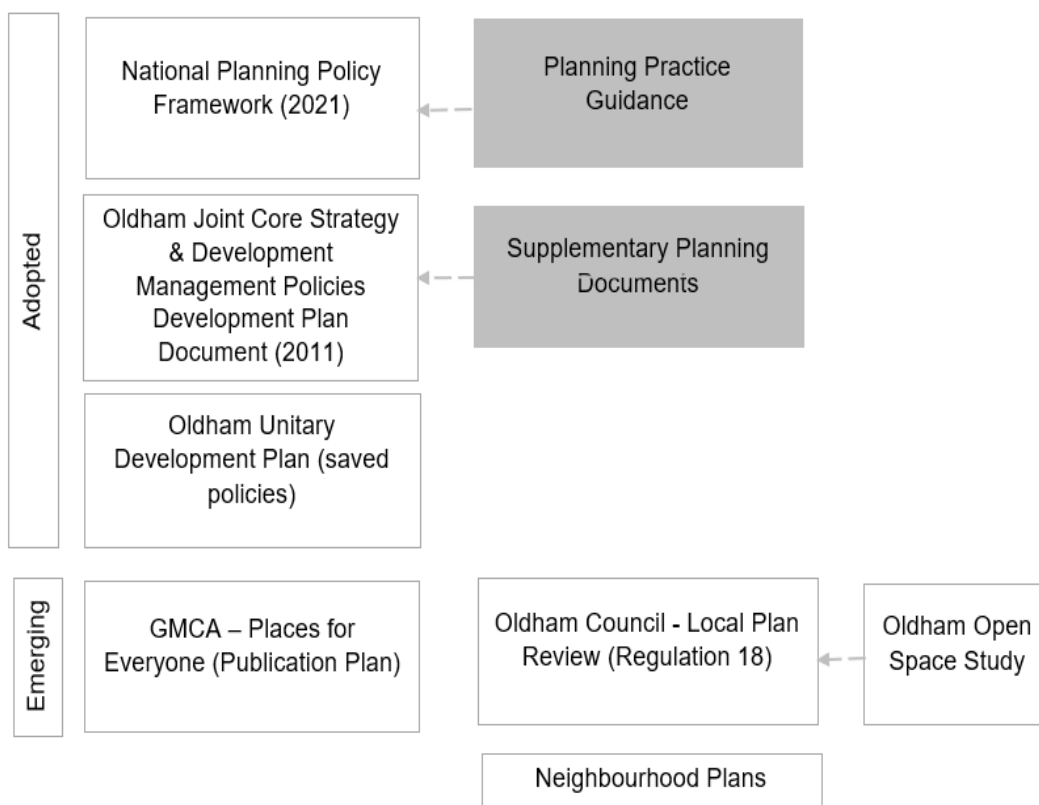


Figure 2: The hierarchy of planning policy for the Borough

National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021)

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2021 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. The NPPF is a material consideration in decision and Local Plan making. The NPPF requirements in relation to open space are outlined in the following paragraphs.

2.3 The NPPF defines 'open space' as:

"All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity".

Plan-Making

- 2.4 Paragraph 20 outlines that Strategic Policies as set by local authorities should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of places, making specific provision for the ‘*conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation*’.

Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities

- 2.5 Paragraph 92 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, safe and accessible places which promote social interaction and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- 2.6 Paragraph 98 states that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.
- 2.7 Paragraph 99 states that existing open space, including sports and recreational buildings and playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space is surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision.

Local Green Space Designation

- 2.8 Paragraphs 101 to 103 in the NPPF set out the Local Green Space designation as a way for communities to identify and protect green space of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. In order for the Local Green Space designation to be used the green space must be:
- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - demonstrably special to the local community with a particular local significance (aesthetically, historical, recreational or environmental); and
 - local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

- 2.9 The NPPF states that local policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

Achieving well-designed places

- 2.10 Paragraph 131 states that trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

- 2.11 The NPPF emphasises that responding to climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- 2.12 Paragraph 153 states that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.
- 2.13 Furthermore paragraph 154 notes that new development should be planned to avoid increased impacts from climate change. In areas which are vulnerable from impacts of climate change, these should be mitigated against and managed through suitable adaptation measures, such as green infrastructure.

Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

- 2.14 Paragraph 174 of the NPPF states that the planning system has a role to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Valued landscapes and ecosystems should be protected, with development prevented from adversely affecting soil, air or water, or from causing noise pollution and land instability.
- 2.15 The NPPF states in paragraph 179 that local planning authorities should plan to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. This should be achieved through identifying and mapping local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them. Furthermore, plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 2.16 Paragraph 180 states that when determining planning applications, opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
- 2.17 With regards to GI, paragraph 181 states that there are opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts through the provision and enhancement of GI.

Planning Practice Guidance

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities; Public Rights of Way; and Local Green Space¹ (March 2014)

- 2.18 This planning practice guidance (PPG) provides advice on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way (PRoW) and the Local Green Space designation. The guidance states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It describes the Local Green Space designation in further detail than the NPPF.

¹ [Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281111/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space-march-2014.pdf)

Healthy and Safe Communities² (March 2014 updated November 2019)

- 2.19 The Healthy and Safe Communities PPG sets out key advice on the how to account for health and wellbeing in the planning process in two ways:
- Creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles; and
 - Identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care and the wider health and care system.
- 2.20 This PPG states how planning can influence the built environment to improve health and reduce levels of obesity in local communities.
- 2.21 The PPG also covers the promotion of the benefits of estate regeneration and supporting safe communities.

Climate Change³ (June 2014 updated March 2019)

- 2.22 The Climate Change PPG advises how to identify suitable mitigation and adaption measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change.
- 2.23 The PPG states that the impact of climate change needs to be taken into account in a realistic way and, as part of this, local planning authorities should identify no or low-cost responses to climate risks that deliver a multitude of benefits, for example, GI that improves adaption, biodiversity and amenity.
- 2.24 Furthermore, the Climate Change PPG states that when Local Authorities are preparing Local Plans and taking planning decisions, they should pay particular attention to integrating adaptation and mitigation approaches and looking for 'win-win' solutions. For example, the provision of multi-functional GI can reduce urban heat islands, manage flooding and help species adapt to climate change whilst also contributing to a pleasant environment that encourages people to walk and cycle.

Natural Environment⁴ (January 2016 updated July 2019)

- 2.25 The Natural Environment PPG advises on land of environmental value, GI, biodiversity and ecosystems and landscape.
- 2.26 The PPG highlights the importance of GI as a natural capital asset. These include community benefits such as enhancing wellbeing, outdoor recreation, food and energy production and mitigating the effects of climate change, such as urban cooling and flood risk management.
- 2.27 The PPG also identifies the benefits of wider environmental net gain to reduce pressure on and achieve overall improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefit they deliver.

² [Healthy and safe communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

³ [Climate change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

⁴ [Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Flood Risk and Coastal Change⁵ (August 2021)

- 2.28 The Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG advises how to take account of, and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.
- 2.29 The PPG highlights that open space provide opportunities to reduce overall flood risk in a development area and beyond. Sustainable drainage systems provide opportunities such as combining water management with green space with associated benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment⁶

- 2.30 The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government actions to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats.
- 2.31 Policies are divided into key areas to focus actions:
- Using and managing land sustainability;
 - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
 - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
 - Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste;
 - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
 - Protecting and improving the global environment.

Greater Manchester Policy Context

- 2.32 The Borough is part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), which is made up of ten local authorities.
- 2.33 The Greater Manchester Strategy⁷ was updated in March 2022. The Strategy is Greater Manchester's plan for all communities, neighbourhoods, towns and cities which make up the city-region. It is a plan for recovery and renewal following the pandemic.
- 2.34 The Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes and the Environment (known as GMSF), was started in 2016 and was a joint development plan between all ten Greater Manchester local authorities. However, in December 2020 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council decided not to continue with the GMSF 2020. Therefore the GMSF 2020 was revised and the Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Plan (Publication Plan, Regulation 19) was published in 2021, covering the nine remaining Greater Manchester local authorities (including Oldham Council).
- 2.35 PfE Joint Plan⁸ (Publication Plan, 2021) which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 14th February 2022 includes key aims for Oldham, which are:

⁵ [Flood risk and coastal change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94422/flood_risk_and_coastal_change.pdf)

⁶ [25-year-environment-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104422/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

⁷ [Greater Manchester Strategy - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/greater-manchester-strategy)

⁸ [Places for Everyone \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/places-for-everyone)

- Make the most of key locations and assets - A strong network of green and blue infrastructure including river valleys, lowlands uplands and woodlands;
- Address disparities - Oldham is a borough which performs significantly worse than Bury and the southern boroughs. The socio-economic measures include levels of economic activity, qualifications, occupation, household incomes, house prices, poor health, population change and levels of housing development; and
- Efficient use of land resources - A key role of the Plan is to manage the conflicting demands, whilst at the same time protecting the environment, urban green spaces, the countryside and the identity of different places.

2.36 Full analysis of the PfE Joint Plan (Publication Plan, 2021) is provided in Appendix A.

Local Policy Context

2.37 A review of local policy context is at Appendix A including a summary of relevant Plans, Strategies and Policies.

2.38 A summary of the related policies in the adopted Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (Joint DPD)) is provided below. The Joint DPD is currently under review. Consultation has been carried out in Issues and Options (Regulation 18) in Summer 2021 and the council is now preparing the Draft Plan.

2.39 The Issues and Options document recognises the importance of Green Infrastructure (including open space) "*Green Infrastructure provision helps to underpin people's quality of life. It has a key role to play in the protection of the environment: supporting biodiversity, habitats and nature conservation; and combating the effects of climate change.*"

2.40 The Issues and Options document recognises the housing need and supply for Oldham over the next 20 years is one of the most significant pressures on open space in the borough as well as reduced capacity at the council to own and maintain open spaces due to budgetary pressures.

Vision and Objectives

2.41 The vision for the Borough from the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management DPD states that:

"Oldham will be a borough transformed by economic diversification, growth and prosperity, regeneration, sustainable development and community cohesion that respects the local natural, built and historic environments. It will have safer and stronger sustainable urban and rural communities; from Chadderton, Failsworth, Hollinwood, Woodhouses, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Shaw to Uppermill, Greenfield, Delph, Denshaw, Diggle, Dobcross, Austerlands, Grasscroft, Grotton, Lydgate, Scouthead and Springhead. We will make the most from our geography, cultural and transport links with Greater Manchester, Leeds and the Peak Park. Oldham will be a confident place with safe neighbourhoods and clean, green spaces for all to enjoy. A university town with good education, learning and training to improve the skills

and choices of our citizens. An address of choice - a healthy and active place with suitable housing for all - with services of choice."

- 2.42 Open space and nature conservation is a key part of the council's vision, including:
- Adapt to and mitigate against climate change and promote sustainable development;
 - Maintain current Green Belt and designate locally protected countryside land ('Other Protected Open Land') and safeguarded land ('Land Reserved for Future Development'). The council will support improvements to the Peak Park, particularly around Dovestone in Saddleworth, which acts as a green lung for Greater Manchester, allowing people to enjoy and benefit from this key recreation asset;
 - Value, protect, conserve and enhance local natural, built and historic environments, GI, biodiversity, geodiversity and landscapes, and their settings;
 - Respect the positive features and characteristics that add to our sense of place and identity by ensuring development respects the positive aspects and distinctiveness of the urban and rural landscapes; and
 - Provide better opportunities for residents to lead healthy, active and longer lives and have access to key health and well-being services and facilities.

Open Space and Recreation

- 2.43 Open space has a key role to play in the protection of the environment, enhancing the biodiversity of the Borough and creating habitats. Access to quality open space is essential to health and well-being, encouraging increased physical activity and exercise and contributing to improved mental health.
- 2.44 The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, Development Plan Document (November 2011) (Joint DPD) states that the council will protect, promote and enhance existing open spaces in the Borough, and will seek to secure new and improved well-designed open spaces where appropriate.

Landscape Designations

- 2.45 The majority of the Borough's open land is designated as Green Belt. However, the council also has locally protected open countryside 'Other Protected Open Land' (OPOL) (see Chapter 5). Oldham also has a small amount of safeguarded land called 'Land Reserved for Future Development' (LRFD) which protects land for future development needs.
- 2.46 As part of the Local Plan review the council has re-assessed all OPOL against the Local Green Space criteria set out in the NPPF. The outcome of this assessment will inform the Local Plan review and proposed policy approach (see section 9.0 for additional information).

Climate Change

- 2.47 Oldham Council has announced a climate change emergency and as such is working to mitigate against the impact from climate change across the Borough. The Joint DPD states that development needs to adapt, to mitigate against climate change and address the low carbon agenda.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

- 2.48 The council values the local natural, built and historic environments, GI, biodiversity, geodiversity and landscapes, and their wider settings. The council will identify, protect, conserve and enhance the multi-functional GI network in the Borough and maximise the benefits associated with GI, such as health and climate change adaptation.
- 2.49 This Study informs a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy which has been prepared for the council by TEP.

Blue Infrastructure and Flood Risk

- 2.50 Blue infrastructure includes areas of water such as rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands and water treatment facilities. Green corridors associated with watercourses and river valleys provide important opportunities for biodiversity, recreation and flood attenuation, therefore will be protected, retained and enhanced where possible. Sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) will also be encouraged in new developments to support flood risk reliance.
- 2.51 The council will also use opportunities from developments alongside river or canal corridors to rehabilitate and enhance these corridors to provide green infrastructure benefits, including increasing biodiversity and mitigating flood risk.

Environment and Biodiversity

- 2.52 The Borough has two European designated sites that fall partly within the Borough, Rochdale Canal (Special Area of Conservation) and South Pennine Moors (Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area). The council aims to support habitat creation and repair Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified in the Greater Manchester Ecological Framework⁹.
- 2.53 The Joint DPD states that new development and growth pressures must be balanced by protecting, conserving and enhancing our local natural environments, GI, biodiversity, geodiversity and landscapes to ensure a high quality of life is sustained. The council will value, protect, conserve and enhance the local natural environment and its functions and provide new and enhanced GI.

Air Quality

- 2.54 The council are part of the Greater Manchester Wide Air Quality Action Plan and are working to tackle air pollution.

⁹ [Greater Manchester Ecological Framework 2008 | Oldham Council](#)

Community and Sense of Place

- 2.55 The Joint DPD states that sustainable development includes creating a sense of place and improving quality of life for residents, which in turn will enhance the Borough's image. Furthermore, the Borough aims to promote and address the needs of local neighbourhoods, to create sustainable communities, including community cohesion and improved health and well-being.
- 2.56 The council will support improvements to the health and well-being of residents by working with health partners and through use of developer contributions to facilitate the development of new and improved facilities for health and wellbeing.

Housing

- 2.57 The Joint DPD set out a housing requirement of 289 new homes per year, net of clearance, on average over the plan period up to 2026. Oldham's adopted Local Plan is more than five years old, based on the standard methodology for calculating local housing need, Oldham's current housing requirement is 683 new homes per year¹⁰.

Sustainable Travel

- 2.58 Open spaces provide opportunities for safe and accessible travel opportunities across the Borough. The Joint DPD encourages and aims to promote walking and cycling, which contributes to the council's objectives to provide better opportunities for residents to lead healthy, active and longer lives.
- 2.59 The council will support the Sustainable Modes or Travel Strategy 2010 and will support the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2008-2017) which includes proposals to improve existing public rights of way and to create a 'Green Walk' linking Oldham Edge to Alexandra Park and a 'Green Loop' connecting Oldham Town Centre to key green space sites and rights of way routes to the south and east of Oldham.

Developer Contributions

- 2.60 The Joint DPD sets out requirements for developers to provide or contribute to the costs of appropriate infrastructure that results from the development and/or to mitigate the effects of the proposal through a commuted sum.
- 2.61 Where a financial contribution for open space is provided, the developer will be required to enter into a planning obligation with the council for the provision and maintenance of the open space. This will be in accordance with the national circular on planning obligations and the council's Good Practice Guide.

Economy

- 2.62 Natural England's report 'The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure'¹¹ (2008) states that environmental attractiveness, enhances the value of property, further boosting the local economy. The approach also recognises that workers with access to open spaces and GI are healthier and more productive.

¹⁰ Places for Everyone (PfE, Publication Plan 2021) proposes a stepped housing requirement for Oldham of 352 homes for 2021-2025; 680 homes for 2025-2030; and 868 homes for 2030-2037

¹¹ [The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure.pdf \(greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk\)](https://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/The_Economic_Value_of_Green_Infrastructure.pdf)

Design

- 2.63 The Joint DPD highlights the importance of high-quality design, which brings economic, social and environmental benefits, adding to quality of life.
- 2.64 The Urban Design SPD (October 2007) expands on local planning policies and sets design principles for all types of development. The principles identify what development should do to achieve design quality.

3.0 Method

Guidance and Best Practice

- 3.1 This Open Space Study is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 3.2 Whilst the Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principles and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.

Stages of the Study

- 3.3 The Open Space Study process follows five stages as illustrated in Figure 3.

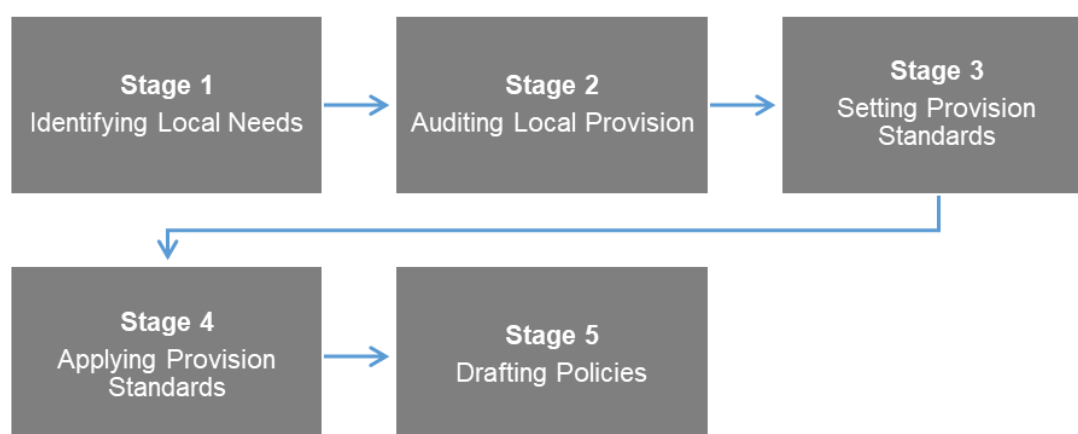


Figure 3: Open Space Study Process

- 3.4 The typologies included within the Study are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Open Space Typologies

Open Space Typology	Description
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.

Open Space Typology	Description
Churchyards and Cemeteries	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.
Green Corridors	Linear natural infrastructure, such as trees and plants, that link up other green and open spaces to form a green urban network
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Usually in the form of pitches or other sports provision, such as football, rugby or cricket pitches as well as tennis courts or bowling greens.
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities and may have one or more of the other types of open space within them.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities for young people and children.

Quantity

- 3.5 The quantity assessment has been carried out through a desk-based GIS exercise, using open space data provided by the council. Open space sites were mapped in a GIS geo-database which provides total area in hectares of each site. Each site is assigned an open space typology so that a total area in hectares of sites by typology can be calculated.
- 3.6 The quantity provision of sites is based on the council's existing open space sites dataset. Further updates to the open space data were captured during the site audits in 2021.
- 3.7 When combined with population figures, quantity can be expressed in terms of a hectares per 1,000 population figure. This is the way that local authorities express their quantity of open space and is how quantity standards for open space are expressed.

- 3.8 In this Study, total typology area (ha) has been used to calculate the current quantity provision for the Borough and each ward. Projected population figures have been used to calculate the ha per 1,000 population figures for each typology on a Borough wide and ward basis, for the current (2021) and future (2037) projected population.

Quality

- 3.9 A selection of sites within the council's existing open space dataset have been audited as part of the assessment process. The methodology for auditing sites is outlined in Figure 4:

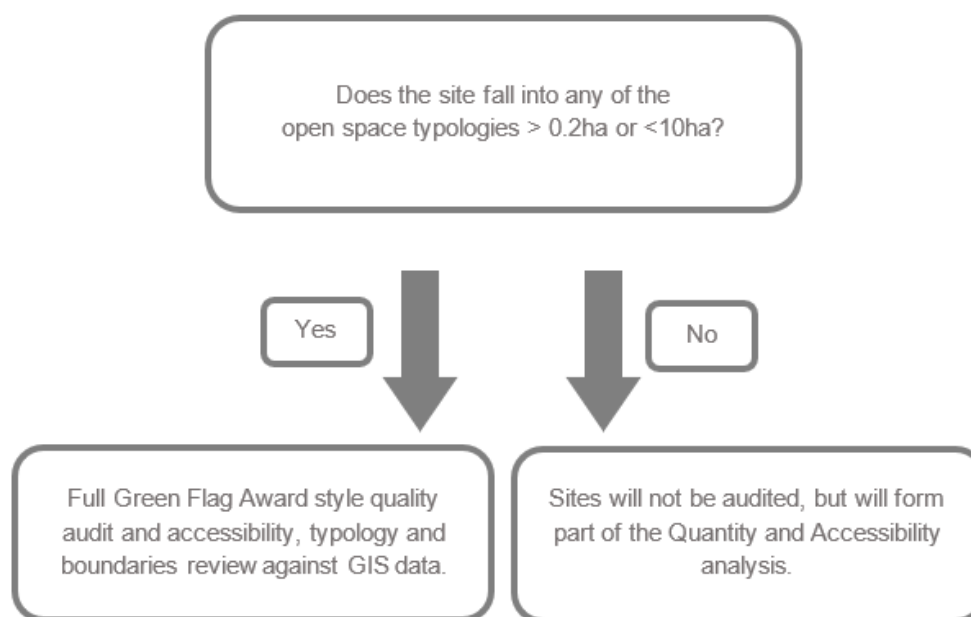


Figure 4: Audit levels

- 3.10 The open space quality assessment is based on site audits aligned to the Green Flag Award assessment criteria. The Green Flag Award is widely recognised as a quality benchmark for parks and green spaces, is advocated by Fields in Trust (FiT) and used by many other local authorities as part of their open space studies.
- 3.11 The following open space typologies were not included in the site audits, for the reasons set out below:
- Sites smaller than 0.2 ha (except for Provision for Children and Young People). Smaller sites have limited usage compared to larger sites and have limited multi-functionality (however it is recognised they may serve some quantitative/ landscaping function);
 - Sites larger than 10 ha as these sites are too large to record accurate information;
 - Indoor Sports Facilities as these are not freely accessible;
 - Outdoor spaces associated with education sites as these are also not publicly accessible; and
 - Inaccessible or 'land-locked' OPOL sites.

- 3.12 The quality assessment method for the site audits uses some of the Green Flag Award criteria (described in Table 2) based on those that can be applied to all typologies of open space. This allows a quality benchmark to be applied to all the Borough's open spaces.

Table 2: Green Flag Award Criteria

Green Flag Award Criteria	Description
Welcoming Place	Signage
	Entrances
	Safe Access
	Access for All Abilities
	Boundaries
	Car parking/Cycling Provision
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Facilities and Activities
	Clear Sightlines
	Shelter
	Lighting
Well Maintained and Clean	Bins, Dog Bins and Recycling
	Overall Site Cleanliness
	Hard Landscape Features
	Buildings
	Soft Landscape Features
	Site Furniture

- 3.13 The quality assessment does not attempt to 'judge' all sites as to whether they would pass or fail the Green Flag Award. This would not be appropriate to do as part of an Open Space Study due to the types and nature of the sites; the proportionate amount of time needed to spend assessing each site in full; and the information available to undertake the assessment. The full Green Flag Award process involves reviewing a management plan for each site, and undertaking a site visit with the site managers, key stakeholders and the local community.

- 3.14 Not all open spaces are within the council's ownership.

3.15 The bandings for the open space quality audits are as follows and are based on a scoring system of 0 - 4 to each relevant criteria:

- Excellent - 90% to 100%;
- Very good - 80% to 89%;
- Good - 70% to 79%;
- Fair - 50% to 69%; and
- Poor - 0% to 49%.

3.16 The full site audit results are included as Appendix C. Full details of audit results including accompanying notes have been provided to the council.

Value

3.17 The open space value assessment is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17¹² (September 2002). Although PPG17 has been superseded by the NPPF 2021, there has been no supporting guidance published to supersede 'Assessing needs and opportunity: a companion guide to PPG17'. This is the most up to date guidance for value assessment of open spaces.

3.18 Each site was assessed using the surveyors best professional judgement based on experience and competence. The assessment is based on a 'snapshot' of the site on the day of the audit, using the conditions and pointers available to assess against the criteria.

3.19 Table 3 details the value criteria used for this Open Space Study.

Table 3: Value Criteria

Value	Value Criteria
Context Value	Value as a cycle or pedestrian route
	Value in terms of a linked series of green or hard spaces
	Value in terms of a linked openness in a densely developed area
	Value in terms of providing a setting for buildings (e.g. Georgian square)
Historical/Heritage Value	Value as a designed landscape
	Value of historic buildings within the space
	Value of other historical features (e.g. statues, fountains, headstones)

¹²

Value	Value Criteria
Contribution to Local Amenity, Vitality and Sense of Place	Contribution to the appearance of the neighbourhood
	Evidence of use for events
	Value as a noise buffer
	Value as a visual screen or buffer
	Value in terms of 'sense of place'
	Value in terms of 'business' for social interaction
	Value in terms of local air quality and amelioration of pollution
	Visual attractiveness
	Proximity to hospital/health centre/school/other community hub
Recreation Value	Value for community events
	Value in terms of health benefits (e.g. jogging, health walks)
	Value of informal recreation opportunities (e.g. walking, relaxation)
Play Value	Value in terms of variety of finishes and experiences
	Value of space for adventure play
	Value of space for kickabout
	Value of space for seeing birds and animals
Ecological/ Biodiversity Value	Nature conservation designation
	Value as a green corridor for wildlife
	Value for public enjoyment of nature
	Value of habitats within the space (including water)
	Value of trees to the neighbourhood
	Buildings have potential for green roofs/walls
	Buildings have potential for rainwater harvesting

- 3.20 To determine a site's value score, each site was assessed against each value criteria relevant to the site being scored 0 - 4. A percentage score was generated based on the overall value scored divided by the total maximum score. For example, if there are no buildings on a site, the potential for green roofs/walls was not included in the calculation.
- 3.21 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:
- High - 60 to 100%;
 - Medium - 40 to 59%; and
 - Low - 0 to 39%.

Quality and Value Matrix

- 3.22 The value of a site, in conjunction with the quality, can be used to guide planning decisions about the future of the sites as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Quality and Value Matrix

<p>Poor Quality High Value</p> <p>High value sites that are poor quality should look to be enhanced in terms of their quality</p>	<p>Good Quality High Value</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fall into this category, and decisions focused on protection of the best sites</p>
<p>Poor Quality Low Value</p> <p>Where possible look to enhance quality and value, or review if sites are surplus to requirements</p>	<p>Good Quality Low Value</p> <p>Where possible look to enhance value in terms of the functions the sites provide, or consider if value could increase by a change of use</p>

Accessibility

- 3.23 The accessibility assessment applies Walking Thresholds ('as the crow flies') to open space sites. Walking Thresholds are shown on accessibility maps in this report to indicate areas with access to each type of open space, and those without.
- 3.24 Table 5 sets out the walking distances and walking thresholds from the FiT Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard, the Existing Open Space Study (2010), and how the distances, in metres (m) can be interpreted as walking time.
- 3.25 An advantage of using the Open Space Study 2010 is that a comparison of the results on the maps produced for this Study can be directly made with those contained within the previous study.

Table 5: Walking Distance, Thresholds and Time

Typology	Benchmark Standard ¹³	Existing Accessibility Standard
Allotments	None set	N/A
Amenity Greenspace	480 metres	15 minutes' walk time/ 720 metres
Cemeteries and Churchyards	None set	N/A
Civic Spaces	None set	N/A
Golf Course	N/A	20 minutes' drive time/ 12.63 kilometres
Green Corridors	N/A	N/A
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	720 metres	15 minutes' walk time/ 720 metres
Strategic Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces (20ha and above)	N/A	20 minutes' drive time/ 7.85 kilometres
Outdoor Sport Facilities (excluding Golf Courses)	1200 metres	15 minutes' walk time/ 720 metres
Local Parks and Gardens	710 metres	15 minutes' walk time/ 720 metres
Strategic Parks and Gardens (of 15ha and above)	N/A	20 minutes' drive time/ 7.85 kilometres
Provision for Children	LAP - 100 metres LEAP - 400 metres NEAP – 1,000 metres	10 minutes' walk time/ 480 metres
Provision for Young People	LAP - 100 metres LEAP - 400 metres NEAP – 1,000 metres	10 minutes' walk time/ 480 metres

¹³ [FIT Guidance](#)

4.0 Identifying Local Needs

- 4.1 National, Greater Manchester and local strategy documents are assessed as they provide wider context to national, regional, and local needs, and priorities in relation to open space.

National Strategy Documents

- 4.2 The following strategy documents provide an overview of the national strategic context and actions in relation to open space and are summarised in Appendix B:

- Promoting Healthy Cities (Royal Town Planning Institute, 2014);
- Green Infrastructure Strategies (Natural England guidance, 2014);
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011); and
- Everybody Active, Every Day (Public Health England, 2014).

Great Manchester Strategy Documents

- 4.3 The following strategy documents provide an overview of Greater Manchester's strategic context and are summarised in Appendix B:

- Greater Manchester Strategy - good lives for all (2021 - 2031);
- Greater Manchester's Springboard to a Green City Region (GMCA);
- Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan (GMCA, 2019); and
- Northern Forest Project (from 2018).

Local Strategy Documents

- 4.4 The following strategy documents provide an overview of the council's strategic context and actions in relation to open space and are summarised in Appendix B:

- 'Creating a Better Place' vision;
- Corporate Plan (2017-2020);
- The Oldham Plan (2017-2022);
- Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (2020);
- Local Green Space Assessment;
- Open Space Study (2006);
- Oldham Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan, 2015-2025 (Oldham Council, 2015);
- South Pennines Regional Park; and
- Northern Roots, Oldham Council (since 2019).

- 4.5 The following Topic Papers are from the Local Plan Review:

- Climate Change and Flood Risk Topic Paper;
- Natural Environment Topic Paper;
- Open Land Topic Paper; and
- Communities Topic Paper.

Population

Current Population

- 4.6 The current population of Oldham is estimated at 238,984 people (Office for National Statistics, 2018)¹⁴.
- 4.7 For this Study, the current population figures have been provided by the client and split by ward.
- 4.8 Oldham has a higher proportion of non-white Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents than in Greater Manchester, the North West and England. The ethnic composition in Oldham currently stands at 77.5% White, 10.1% Pakistani, 7.3% Bangladeshi and 5.1% 'other' (2019). The overall structure of the population has shifted downwards due to the growth in Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, which have younger age profiles.
- 4.9 Changes in Oldham's ethnic composition are likely to affect patterns of residence within Oldham. There may be an increased need to support community relations, particularly within neighbourhoods where ethnic compositions are shifting rapidly.
- 4.10 Increases in Oldham's population will increase demand for universal services and will also bring opportunities for economies of scale, as well as higher funding.
- 4.11 It is expected that the number of older people in Oldham's population will grow by 40% within the next 24 years. This will bring major challenges for adult social care and health provision.
- 4.12 The age structure of Oldham is relatively youthful with a high proportion of residents aged under 16 (22.6%) and fewer residents aged over 65 (15.8%). This is compared to the England averages of 19.1% and 17.9% respectively.
- 4.13 Levels of deprivation across the borough are generally ranked among the highest in the country. Relative to other authorities, Oldham's levels of deprivation have maintained a steady downward trend (worsened) since 2004, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.¹⁵

Future Population

- 4.14 The projected future population for Oldham in 2037 is 254,829 people. This is based on the current population data and a percentage forecast change from ONS of 6.36% between 2021 and 2037.
- 4.15 A summary of current (2021) and future (2037) projected population figures is provided in Appendix D.
- 4.16 The Communities Topic Paper from the current Local Plan Review acknowledges that Oldham has an aging population which brings issues of social isolation and loneliness.

¹⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/sunationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2018based>

¹⁵ Oldham in Profile, Business Intelligence Service April 2019

- 4.17 Healthy life expectancy in Greater Manchester is currently three to four years below the national average for men and women. The average life expectancy in the least deprived areas is more than a decade longer than in the most deprived areas.

Consultation

- 4.18 In August, 2021 TEP and Oldham Council consulted with key stakeholders including key council employees, community interest groups and strategic projects across the Borough. Key stakeholders were invited to answer a set of bespoke targeted questions related to management, use and perception of open space in the Borough.

- 4.19 The consultation aimed to:

- Provide key stakeholders across the Borough with information about the Open Space Study;
- Allow key stakeholders to comment on the challenges in implementing and maintaining open space;
- Allow key stakeholders to comment on the vision and approach to managing and developing open spaces within the Borough; and
- Consider feedback received as a result of the consultation process.

- 4.20 The key stakeholder questionnaire was issued via email link for participants to respond to. Five responses were received from the Key Stakeholder questionnaire. Questions and a summary of responses are outlined in Appendix E.

- 4.21 Key stakeholders included Elected Members, local conservation groups and community interest groups from across the Borough. Whilst the consultation received a low response rate, qualitative feedback was meaningful in determining key challenges faced in the Borough and as outlined below.

Key Stakeholders

- 4.22 Key stakeholders were asked to complete 12 questions issued by email, which covered usage, accessibility, quality, quantity, play space and open space improvement. Key stakeholders were also asked additional targeted questions related to open space they manage.

Usage

- 4.23 Respondents used and/or managed a range of open space typologies. Green Corridors and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace were used and/or managed by the most (5) respondents, closely followed by Amenity greenspace (4). Three respondents use and/or manage Allotments and Community Gardens, Churchyards and Cemeteries, Civic Spaces, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People.

Accessibility

- 4.24 Borough-wide respondents noted that walking opportunities to open spaces were generally Good and Average. Cycling opportunities were below average and driving opportunities were scored good and average.

4.25 The response to public transport was mixed, with two respondents noting that public transport was Below Average, particularly in rural areas. One respondent noted that there is a lack of safe cycling routes whilst another acknowledged that active travel through investment in infrastructure should be encouraged.

4.26 In relation to public transport consultees noted that public transport does not tend to run at sufficient intervals and that links to public transport needs a coordinated approach with footpaths and cycleways.

Quality

4.27 One respondent noted the quality of sites their organisation uses and manages as Excellent, three respondents noted sites as good and one respondent as average.

4.28 Borough-wide four respondents rated the quality of open space across the borough as Good, and one respondent as average.

4.29 One respondent acknowledged that Parks are generally of Good standard compared to others in the region and the public value this. Staffed sites were noted as a better community facility where people feel safe.

4.30 Consultees noted that urban areas are very well maintained but rural areas received less care and maintenance.

Improvements

4.32 When asked what improvements respondents would like to see to open spaces they use or manage, borough-wide Better Maintenance was scored highly with respondents noting that increased litter collection and dog and litter bin emptying would improve open spaces in the area.

4.33 Four respondents would like to see better access to sites they use and or manage. One respondent acknowledges that improvements to access such as surfaced paths is not seen as an attractive item to fund and it is difficult to undertake routine maintenance.

Quantity

4.34 Respondents were asked to rate the quantity (amount) of each typology for sites they use and/or manage.

4.35 Key stakeholders noted that there was below average provision of Allotments and Community Gardens.

4.36 Respondents noted Cemeteries and Churchyard provision was Good on sites they use and or manage, and Good (2) and Average (2) borough wide.

4.37 One respondent thought the provision of Civic spaces was Excellent borough-wide, however two respondents thought this was average.

4.38 Amenity Greenspace provision was noted as Average. Key stakeholders generally noted that the provision of Green Corridors was Good.

4.39 One respondent acknowledged that there is a lack of access to open spaces surrounding the town centre including within Coldhurst and St Marys wards.

Threats

- 4.40 Key stakeholders were asked to identify the potential threats or barriers to adequate provision of open space in Oldham. Funding, anti-social behaviour, housing provision targets and poor design of spaces received the most (4) responses.
- 4.41 Specific responses noted the lack of funding for the council to adopt open spaces, and the ongoing requirement for investment to ensure open spaces are maintained to the required standard.
- 4.42 One respondent acknowledged that developers should work in partnership with greenspace providers and managers to ensure open space provision provided on new developments benefit the end user.

4.43 Opportunities

- 4.44 When asked about the opportunities for the adequate provision of open space in Oldham a broad range of opportunities were noted:

- Grants and funding (4);
- Effective use of S106/CIL (4);
- Community engagement and increased community events (4);
- Improved management (4);
- Engagement with developers (4);
- Marketing and social media (4);
- Grants and funding (3); and
- Additional engagement with communities.

- 4.45 One respondent acknowledged that a coordinated approach cross council to target health and wellbeing, transport, sports and community cohesion would allow open spaces to provide an ideal setting for both formal and informal activities.
- 4.46 In relation to funding, additional flexibility with planning obligations was highlighted as an opportunity allowing investment where it is needed including ongoing management and improvement of existing open spaces.
- 4.47 Better, open and honest communication is needed between the council, other managing organisations responsible for open spaces, developers and the community to ensure open spaces positively contribute to an area.

Issues and Options Consultation Review

- 4.48 In addition to the online consultation, TEP has reviewed responses received to the Issues and Options consultation undertaken by the council as part of the development of the emerging Local Plan. Responses have been assessed to add weight to this Study. This included a Neighbouring Authorities Stakeholder Workshop held in December 2021, which was attended by representatives of Calderdale Council, Kirklees Council, Manchester City Council, Rochdale Council, Tameside Council, the Peak District National Park Authority as well as Oldham Council.
- 4.49 The agenda for the workshop was to examine the green infrastructure of Oldham, the Local Plan – Issues and Options, Priorities, Vision, Needs & Opportunities and Cross Boundary Opportunities.

- 4.50 There were several responses relating to flood risk and management of cross-boundary issues. Responses focussed on rivers and canals which run through multiple local authorities and how improvements to these watercourses can be made for community use and to reduce impact of flooding.
- 4.51 Responses noted that a lot of people travel across boundaries for leisure and recreational purposes e.g. to sites including Dovestone Reservoir, Tame Valley, Medlock Valley etc so there are opportunities to improve the condition and GI within these sites.
- 4.52 Stakeholders discussed a focus on key cross-boundary linkages. There are opportunities to improve landscape which was previously degraded, especially in cross-boundary locations e.g. blanket bog over shared border with Kirklees and destroyed moorland due to wildfires (shared with Tameside).
- 4.53 Headline outcomes of this workshop are that there were a lot of responses on flood risk and water quality as well as biodiversity. Many of the responses were in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the associated targets that offsite delivery should be as close to the site as possible. Consultees discussed the aspiration that developers should use Green Belt for BNG and that protecting ancient woodland and embedding water quality into the GI environment is paramount.
- 4.54 Green Infrastructure comments focussed on retaining nature and creating more open spaces. There were specific references to ancient woodland and how further sites should be identified going forward. There are new opportunities for linking development and therefore creating green corridors within the Borough as well as looking to provide a buffer to the Peak District National Park and enhancing water quality. It was noted that the consultees want to see strong policy wording around Green Belt, particularly surrounding the requirement to meet the housing need within the Borough.
- 4.55 All of the above consultation provides a clear picture that open space and GI is a priority for the council and this should be considered when balancing its provision against the requirement to provide housing, infrastructure and employment. It is vital to establish the quality and value of the existing open space within the Borough and to provide a mechanism to protect them when looking to achieve these other targets within the Local Plan.

5.0 Auditing Local Provision

Introduction

- 5.1 This section presents the results of the quantity, quality, value and accessibility assessment for the Borough as a whole, each ward and each of the open space typologies. Further analysis per ward is provided in Chapter 8, including both surplus and deficiencies in typologies, and quality and value assessment for each ward.
- 5.2 At the project outset, a site list was provided by the council. This dataset and associated GIS files were assessed, and a data consolidation exercise undertaken prior to site audits to capture any additional open space sites which should be included in the Study.

Borough Overview

Quantity

- 5.3 The number, area and percentage of each type of open space within the Borough is shown in Table 6. The highest proportion of open space (42.33%) is provided by Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace due to the proximity to moorland and other areas of countryside close to the outskirts of the Borough.
- 5.4 Civic Spaces provide the lowest proportion of open space (0.14%) due to the nature of the typology, followed by Allotments (0.95%) and Provision for Young People (0.6%).

Table 6: Open Spaces by Typology, Number and Area

Open Space Typology	Description	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	36	14.93	0.95
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	383	90.14	5.71
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	78	83.94	5.32
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.	22	2.18	0.14

Open Space Typology	Description	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Green Corridors	Linear natural infrastructure, such as trees and plants, that link up other green and open spaces to form a green urban network	26	38.07	2.41
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.	217	667.97	42.33
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Usually in the form of pitches or other sports provision, such as football, rugby or cricket pitches as well as tennis courts or bowling greens.	253	478.81	30.34
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them.	49	192.52	12.20
Provisions for Young People and Children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skateboard parks.	95	9.54	0.60
Final Total - Rounded to two decimal places		1159	1578.09	100.00%

5.5 Appendix F provides the breakdown of typology borough-wide and per ward.

5.6 The current population of Oldham is estimated at 238,984 people and the total amount of open space of 1,578.09 ha, current provision of open space is calculated at **6.61 ha per 1,000 population**.

- 5.7 Using the future population projections (see Chapter 4) it is also possible to calculate future provision of open space in the Borough. The area (ha) of each open space typology per 1,000 population (current and future) is shown in Table 7. 2037 figures are based on provision of each typology as it is now against the projected population.

Table 7: Open Space by ha per 1,000

Open Space Typology	2021 ha/ 1,000	2037 ha/ 1,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.06	0.06
Amenity Greenspace	0.38	0.35
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.35	0.33
Civic Spaces	0.01	0.01
Green Corridors	0.16	0.15
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	2.80	2.62
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.00	1.88
Parks and Gardens	0.81	0.76
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.04	0.04
Total rounded to two decimal places	6.61	6.20

Accessibility

- 5.8 The Open Space Accessibility Maps for Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Parks and Gardens, Provision for Children and Young People and Outdoor Sports Facilities (Excluding Golf Courses), show accessibility to these typologies.
- 5.9 A review of accessibility for each of these typologies is included in Chapter 7.
- 5.10 Accessibility thresholds have not been assigned to Civic Spaces as they are limited to a very small number of sites in urban areas, so an accessibility threshold would not be appropriate.
- 5.11 Following best practice (PPG17) Cemeteries and Churchyards, and Green Corridors have also not been assigned an accessibility standard due to the nature and use of these typologies.

Quality

- 5.12 A selection of open spaces across the Borough were audited fully based on methodology set out in Chapter 3. Initial data provided by the council at the outset of the project detailed 1,159 sites. Following a desk-based exercise to consolidate data a total of 578 open spaces were identified and taken forward to audit.
- 5.13 Following completion of site audits, a further data consolidation and ground truthing exercise was undertaken to:
- Omit sites which are no longer open spaces - e.g. sites which have or are being developed;
 - Update site typology where appropriate; and
 - Update to site boundaries.
- 5.14 The range of scores from the quality audits are provided in Table 8 and the quality score split by each typology is in Table 9. A total of 455 sites were successfully audited.

Table 8: Open Space by Quality Score

Quality Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
Excellent	39	8.55%
Very Good	84	18.46%
Good	135	29.67%
Fair	162	35.60%
Poor	35	7.69%
Total	455	100%

Table 9: Quality Score for Open Space Typology

Open Space Typology	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0	2	0	0
Amenity Greenspace	7	29	43	45	5

Open Space Typology	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Cemeteries and Churchyards	9	14	10	5	2
Civic Spaces	0	2	2	1	0
Green Corridor	0	1	1	16	2
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	8	7	29	72	20
Outdoor Sports Facilities	13	15	24	20	5
Parks and Gardens	1	9	21	2	1
Provision for Young People and Children	1	7	3	1	0
Total	39	84	135	162	35

5.15 Table 10 identifies the highest and lowest scoring sites by typology.

Table 10: Highest and lowest quality scoring sites by typology.

Typology	Highest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score	Lowest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score
Allotments and Community Gardens	Stott Lane Allotments, Failsworth West	72%	-	-
Amenity Greenspace	Norfolk Crescent, Failsworth Ags, Failsworth West	100%	Chapel Road, Hollinwood	32%

Typology	Highest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score	Lowest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score
Amenity Greenspace	Howard Street, Waterhead	100%	Chadderton Fold, Chadderton North	42%
Amenity Greenspace	Dunwood Park Courts AGS, Royton North	99%	Hodge Clough, St James'	48%
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Holy Family Church, Hollinwood	99%	Holy Trinity Church, Failsworth West	27%
Cemeteries and Churchyards	St Thomas' Church, St James'	95%	St Chads Churchyard, Saddleworth South	46%
Civic Spaces	Werneth Park Monument, Werneth	85%	George Square Civic Space, Coldhurst	69%
Civic Spaces	Royton Market Square, Royton North	80%	High Street Pedestrianisation, Coldhurst	73%
Green Corridor	Delph Donkey Lane, Saddleworth North	84%	Oldham / Bardsley Recreation Route, Alexandra	49%
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	Waterworks Road Nsn, Waterhead	100%	Shoveler Lane Nsn, St James'	14%
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	New Croft, Failsworth East	91%	Harry Street Open Space, Royton South	18%
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	Brownhill Visitor Centre, Saddleworth North	90%	Twingates Community Nature Area, Shaw	23%

Typology	Highest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score	Lowest Quality Scoring Sites	Quality Score
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Shaw Cricket Club, Shaw	99%	Cathedral Road Playing Fields, Chadderton North	24%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Holy Family R.C Primary School, Hollinwood	99%	Pearl Mill Close OSF1, Alexandra	35%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Woodhouses Cricket Club, Failsworth East	98%	Greenfield Mill Football Ground, Saddleworth South	42%
Parks and Gardens	Westway, Shaw	92%	Sholver Millennium Green, St James'	38%
Parks and Gardens	Royton Park, Royton South	87%	Daisy Nook Country Park, Failsworth East	63%
Provision for Young People and Children	Dunwood Park, Shaw	90%	Ladhill Road Park YPC, Saddleworth South	69%
Provision for Young People and Children	High Crompton Park, Crompton	89%	Bardsley Play Area, Medlock Vale	70%

Value

- 5.16 The value standard is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17' and was assessed by TEP's experienced Green Flag Award judges. This allows a balanced assessment of each site. The value standard is:
- High - 60 to 100%
 - Medium - 40 to 59%
 - Low - 0 to 39%.
- 5.17 The range of value score from the audits of open space is shown at a Borough level on the Open Space Value Assessment map.

5.18 The range of value scores from the audits of open spaces are provided in Table 11 and the value scores for each typology are in Table 12.

Table 11: Open Spaces by Value Score

Value Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
High	190	41.76%
Medium	144	31.65%
Low	121	26.59%
Total	455	100%

Table 12: Value Score for Open Space Typologies

Open Space Typology	High	Medium	Low
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0	2
Amenity Greenspace	35	36	58
Cemeteries and Churchyards	14	17	9
Civic Spaces	2	3	0
Green Corridors	12	8	0
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	68	41	27
Outdoor Sports Facilities	31	25	21
Parks and Gardens	23	9	2
Provisions for Children and Young People	5	5	2
Total	190	144	121

- 5.19 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows the results of the value assessment by site, and results are broken down in Appendix C.

Key Findings on Quality and Value

- 5.20 Table 13 provides an overview of the range of quality and value scores achieved in the sites audits, and results are presented in Appendix C.
- 5.21 35 sites were scored as poor quality including Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Green Corridor, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens. The greatest range of quality score is within the Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace typology.
- 5.22 190 sites were of high value, the greatest value scores range was for Amenity Greenspace.

Table 13: Range of Quality and Value Score by Typology

Open Space Typology	Sites Audited	Range of Quality Scores	Range of Value Scores
Allotments and Community Gardens	2	72-72	30-30
Amenity Greenspace	129	32-100	12-81
Cemeteries and Churchyards	40	27-99	23-80
Civic Spaces	5	69-85	46-69
Green Corridors	20	49-84	46-80
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	136	14-100	21-87
Outdoor Sports Facilities	77	24-99	15-77
Parks and Gardens	34	38-92	38-86
Provisions for Children and Young People	12	69-90	30-68

Allotments and Community Gardens

- 5.23 Allotments and community gardens provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

Quantity

- 5.24 There are 36 sites providing 14.93 ha of Allotments and Community Gardens in the Oldham Borough, this equates to 0.06 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.25 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) does not provide a national benchmark for Allotments and Community Gardens.
- 5.26 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.27 Two Allotment and Community Gardens were audited as part of the Open Space Study.
- 5.28 Quality and Value scores for audited Allotments and Community Gardens are summarised in Appendix C in order of their quality audit score. Quality audit results are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.29 The average quality score for Allotments and Community Gardens is 72 which falls under the Good category as shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Quality Score Range for Allotments and Community Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
72	Good	0	0	72	0	0

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.30 Allotments and Community Gardens have not been assigned an accessibility threshold.

Amenity Greenspace

- 5.31 Amenity Green Spaces are informal green spaces providing opportunities for informal recreation for residents and workers whilst enhancing the appearance of the area.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.32 There are 383 sites providing 90.14 ha of Amenity Greenspace in the Oldham Borough, this equates to 0.38 ha per 1,000 population.

- 5.33 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) provides a benchmark of 0.6 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales which found that the median level of provision of Amenity Green Space sought was 0.55 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.34 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.35 Quality and value scores for audited Amenity Green Spaces are summarised in Appendix C in order of their quality audit score. Audit results are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.36 129 Amenity Greenspace sites received a full quality audit.
- 5.37 The average quality score for Amenity Green Spaces is 72 which falls under the Good category as shown in Table 15. The greatest number of sites fall into the Fair category, with Good being the next highest scoring category.

Table 15: Quality Score Range for Amenity Greenspace

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
72	Good	5	45	43	29	7

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.38 Amenity Spaces have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 15 minute walk time / 720 metres.
- 5.39 The Open Space Accessibility - Amenity Spaces Map shows that there is good coverage in most of the urban wards, but there is less provision in Shaw and Saddleworth North.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 5.40 Cemeteries and Churchyards include disused churchyards and other burial grounds.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.41 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) does not provide a national benchmark for Cemeteries and Churchyards.
- 5.42 There are 78 sites in the Borough providing 83.94ha of Churchyards and Cemeteries in Oldham. This equates to a quantity provision of 0.35ha per 1,000 population.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.43 Quality and Value scores for audited Cemeteries and Churchyards are summarised in Appendix C in order of their quality audit score. Results are also shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.44 40 Cemetery and Churchyard sites received a full quality audit.
- 5.45 The average quality score for Cemeteries and Churchyards is 78 which falls under the Good category as shown in Table 16. The greatest number of sites fall into the Very Good category, with Good being the next highest scoring category.

Table 16: Quality Score Range for Cemeteries and Churchyards

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
78	Good	2	5	10	14	9

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.46 Cemeteries and Churchyards have not been assigned an accessibility threshold due to the nature of their use.

Civic Spaces

- 5.47 Civic Spaces are hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.48 There are 22 sites classed as Civic Spaces in the Borough, which equates to 2.18 ha. This equates to a quantity provision of 0.01 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.49 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) does not provide a national benchmark for Civic Spaces and Market Squares.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.50 Civic Spaces which were audited for quality and value are listed in Appendix C in order of their quality audit score. Quality audit scores are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.51 5 Civic Spaces received a full quality audit.
- 5.52 Table 17 shows that the Civic Space sites audited were categorised Very Good, Good and Fair. The average score for Civic Spaces was 76 which is categorised as Good.

Table 17: Quality Score Range for Civic Spaces

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
76	Good	0	1	2	2	0

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.53 Civic Spaces have not been assigned an accessibility threshold due to the nature of this typology.

Green Corridors

- 5.54 Green Corridors include linear natural infrastructure, such as trees and plants, that link up other green and open spaces to form a green urban network.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.55 There are 26 sites providing 38.07 ha of Green Corridors in the Borough, which equates to 0.16 ha per 1,000.
- 5.56 There is no benchmark standard within FiT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) for Green Corridors.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.57 The Borough's Green Corridors are listed in Appendix C in order of their quality score, value scores are also shown. Quality audit scores are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map. Value scores at a Borough level are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.58 20 Green Corridors received a full quality audit.
- 5.59 The average quality score for Green Corridors is 63 which is categorised as Fair, as shown in Table 18. The greatest number of sites (16) fall into the Fair category.

Table 18: Quality Score Range for Green Corridors

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
63	Fair	2	16	1	1	0

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.60 Green Corridors have not been assigned an accessibility threshold as there is no benchmark standard for this typology and it would not be appropriate given the nature of its use.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- 5.61 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.62 There are 217 sites providing 667.97 ha of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in the District, which equates to 2.8 ha per 1,000.
- 5.63 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) provides a benchmark of 1.8ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales which found that the median level of provision of Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space was 1.78 ha per 1,000 population.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.64 The Borough's Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces are listed in Appendix C in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. Quality audit scores are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.65 136 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace received a full quality audit.
- 5.66 The average quality score for Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space is 63 which is categorised as Fair, as shown in Table 19. The greatest number of sites (72) fall into the Fair category.

Table 19: Quality Score Range for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
63	Fair	20	72	29	7	8

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.67 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace has been assigned an accessibility threshold of 15 minute walk time (720m), and 20 minute drive time (7.85 km) for sites of 20ha and above.
- 5.68 The Open Space Accessibility - Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace map demonstrates accessibility within 720m. Accessibility buffers are not shown for the 20 minute drive time (7.85km) as the whole borough has access within this threshold.
- 5.69 The Natural and Semi-Natural Accessibility map shows good accessibility to this typology across all wards except Saddleworth North however it is acknowledged that this ward has greater access to the open countryside.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 5.70 Outdoor Sports Facilities are generally in the form of pitches or other sports provision, such as football, rugby or cricket pitches as well as tennis courts or bowling greens.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.71 There are 253 sites providing 478.81 ha of Outdoor Sports Facilities in the Borough, which equates to 2 ha per 1,000.
- 5.72 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) provides a benchmark of 1.6 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.73 Standards of covered further in Chapter 7.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.74 77 Outdoor Sports Facilities were audited and the sites are listed in Appendix C in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. The quality score is shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and Value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.75 The average quality score for Outdoor Sports Facilities is 74 which is categorised as Good, as shown in Table 20.

Table 20: Quality Score Range for Outdoor Sports Facilities

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
74	Good	5	20	24	15	13

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.76 Outdoor Sports Facilities has been assigned an accessibility threshold of 15 minute walk time (720m).
- 5.77 The Open Space Accessibility - Outdoor Sports Facilities (excluding golf courses) map demonstrates accessibility within 720m. The map shows that there is good accessibility across the borough except small areas in Failsworth East, Failsworth West, Chadderton Central and Royton North.
- 5.78 There are large gaps in accessibility to Outdoor Sport Facilities in Shaw, Saddleworth North and Saddleworth South.

Parks and Gardens

- 5.79 Parks and Gardens are generally multi-functional spaces, providing a range of facilities including landscaped gardens, playing fields, play areas and facilities for outdoor sport provision.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.80 There are 49 sites providing 192.52 ha of Parks and Gardens in the Borough, which equates to 0.81 ha per 1,000.
- 5.81 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) provides a benchmark of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales. The survey found that the median level of provision sought for Parks was 1.78 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.82 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.83 34 Parks and Gardens were audited and the sites are listed in Appendix C in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. The quality score is shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map and Value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.84 The average quality score for Parks and Gardens is 76 which is categorised as Good, as shown in Table 21.

Table 21: Quality Score Range for Parks and Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
76	Good	1	2	21	9	1

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.85 Parks and Gardens have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 15 minute walk time (720 metres), and a 20 minute drive time (7.85km).
- 5.86 The Open Spaces Accessibility - Parks and Gardens map illustrates access within the 15 minute walk time (720m) only since the 20 minute drive time covers the entirety of the borough.
- 5.87 Accessibility to Parks and Gardens is mixed across the borough. There are large gaps in access to Parks and Gardens in Shaw, Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South, Saddleworth and West Lees, Coldhurst, Alexandra, Medlock Vale, Failsworth East and Failsworth West.
- 5.88 There is good accessibility to Parks and Gardens in Royton North, Werneth, St James and Royton South.

Provision for Children and Young People

- 5.89 Provision for Children and Young People are areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skateboard parks.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.90 There are 95 Provision for Children and Young People sites, providing 9.54 ha of Provision of Children and Young People which equates to 0.04 ha per 1,000.
- 5.91 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) provides a benchmark of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales which found that the median level of Provision for Children and Young People was 0.25 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.92 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.93 12 Provision for Children and Young People sites were audited and their quality scores are shown on the Open Space Quality Scores map . Value scores are shown on the Open Space Value Assessment map.
- 5.94 Quality scores for audited Provision for Children and Young People are summarised in Appendix C in order of their quality audit score. Value scores are also shown.
- 5.95 Table 22 shows that the average score for Provision for Children and Young People based on the site audits fall into the Very Good banding. The greatest number of sites 7, falls into the Very Good banding.

Table 22: Quality Score range for Provision for Children and Young People

Average Score	Average Banding	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
81	Very Good	0	1	3	7	1

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.96 Provision for Children and Young People have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 10 minute walk time (480m).
- 5.97 The Open Space Accessibility - Provision for Children and Young People map illustrates that there are gaps in access to Provision for Children and Young People across all wards.
- 5.98 The largest gaps in accessibility to Provision for Children and Young People are in:
- Failsworth West;
 - Chadderton North;
 - Royton North;
 - Shaw;
 - Saddleworth North; and
 - Saddleworth South.

6.0 Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) Sites

- 6.1 Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) is a designation within the Joint DPD. Whilst OPOL does not serve the purposes of the Green Belt, it is locally important in preserving the distinctiveness of an area.
- 6.2 The borough has 22 OPOL sites in the adopted local plan (2011), making up a total of 314.17ha.
- 6.3 A total of 76 Open Space sites fall within or overlap with the 22 OPOL sites within the Borough.

Local Green Space Assessment (LGS)

- 6.4 OPOL sites have been assessed by Oldham Council against NPPF LGS criteria and guidance from Planning Practice Guidance to inform the emerging Local Plan review.
- 6.5 Three OPOL sites are proposed for de-designation as part of Places for Everyone and a further two are proposed for de-designation as part of the Local Plan review. OPOLs proposed for de-designation will remain protected until such a time as PfE or the revised Local Plan is in place.
- 6.6 The remaining OPOL sites met LGS criteria, and it is therefore proposed that they will remain protected from future development as part of the revised Local Plan.

Open Spaces within OPOL sites

- 6.7 OPOL sites designated in the adopted Local Plan, have been reviewed as part of this Study due to their potential contribution in providing access to open areas, and their potential local significance.
- 6.8 OPOL sites are a planning designation therefore do not form a separate typology within this Study.
- 6.9 Several OPOL sites comprise open space(s) therefore OPOL sites have not been separately assessed for Quantity.
- 6.10 14 OPOL sites were selected for auditing based on audit criteria set out in Chapter 3. Of the OPOL sites audited, some were unable to be audited due to them being inaccessible because of physical obstructions or being 'land-locked' between privately owned sites. Whilst OPOL sites may be wholly or partly inaccessible they may still meet the Local Greenspace Assessment criteria (see 6.4-6.6 above) and provide valuable habitat to wildlife. Sites do not have to be publicly accessible or publicly owned to function as an open space.
- 6.11 Open spaces which fall within OPOL sites have been assessed using the same quality and value criteria as all other open spaces outlined in Chapter 3. Table 23 below shows the results of the OPOL sites which were audited as part of the study.

Table 23: OPOL Audit Results.

OPOL Site	Ward	Size (ha)	Quality Banding	Value Banding
OPOL 1 Royley Clough, Royton	Royton North	8.57	Fair	High
OPOL 2 Land off Ferneyfield Road, Chadderton	Chadderton Central	9.05	n/a only part of site accessible (see Ferneyfield Road NSN in Section 8.0)	n/a only part of site accessible (see Ferneyfield Road NSN in Section 8.0)
OPOL 4 Foxdenton Hall Park	Chadderton Central	7.97	n/a - site not surveyed - inaccessible.	n/a - site not surveyed - inaccessible.
OPOL 5 Crossley Bridge Playing Field	Chadderton Central	10.81	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 6 Moston Brook, Failsworth	Failworth West	30.19	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 7 Simkin Way, Bardsley	Medlock Vale	2.75	Good	High
OPOL 8 Oldham Edge	Royton South	53.49	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 9 Bullcote Lane, Royton	Royton South	12.17	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 10 Shawside, Shaw (Moss Hey)	Shaw	7.09	Low	Low
OPOL 11 Land at Greenacres, Lees	Waterhead Ward and Saddeworth West and Lees	95.98	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 12 Thornley Brook East, Lees	Saddleworth West and Lees	16.88	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.

OPOL Site	Ward	Size (ha)	Quality Banding	Value Banding
OPOL 13 Stonebreaks, Springhead	Saddleworth West and Lees	7.97	Fair	High
OPOL 15 Wall Hill, Dobcross	Saddleworth North	5.88	Excellent	Medium
OPOL 16 Ryefields Drive, Uppermill	Saddleworth South	1.13	Fair	Medium
OPOL 17 Stoneswood, Delph	Saddleworth North	1.59	Very Good	Medium
OPOL 18 Lumb Mill/Rumbles	Saddleworth North	0.57	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 19 Ainley Wood, Delph	Saddleworth North	2.26	Fair	Medium
OPOL 20 Land South of Oaklands Road, Grasscroft	Saddleworth South	1.80	n/a - site not audited due to size.	n/a - site not audited due to size.
OPOL 21 Land at Summershades Lane, Grasscroft	Saddleworth South	2.12	Fair	Medium
OPOL 22 Cowlshaw, Shaw	Crompton	32.3	N/A	N/A
OPOL 23 Rear of Elk Mill	Royton North	2.1	Fair	High

7.0 Setting Standards

- 7.1 Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis and may be the same as national recommended standards, if appropriate. Where current levels of provision do not meet a national recommended standard this should be viewed as a minimum. Equally, the existing provision may already meet the future recommended standard and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area. By combining the existing level of provision with local views on its adequacy, it is possible to develop a range of new provision standards.
- 7.2 It is important to understand the impact of a site on both the functionality to the public as an open space and as a contributor to the local landscape character and habitats. A surplus of land either by typology or by designation does not necessarily mean that the site should be de-designated or be suitable for development.

Oldham Borough Existing Standards

Quantity

- 7.3 The 2010 Open Space Study set provision standards. Table 24 presents the existing quantity standards for each open space typology as it is set out within Policy 23 of the existing Local Plan.

Table 24: Existing Quantity Standards (ha per 1,000 Population)

Open Space Typology	Existing Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.37 ha /1,000
Amenity Greenspace	0.46 ha/1,000
Cemeteries and Churchyards	None set
Civic Spaces	None set
Green Corridors	None set
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	1.95 ha/1,000 (all sites including those over 20ha)
Outdoor Sport Facilities (excluding Golf Courses)	1.35 ha/1,000 (excluding golf courses)
Parks and Gardens	0.26 ha/1,000 (all sites including those over 15ha)
Provision for Children	0.37 ha/1,000
Provision for Young People	0.10 ha/1,000

Accessibility

- 7.4 Accessibility standards in the 2010 Open Space Study were set for each typology where relevant based on previous stages of the Study. Accessibility standards for Cemeteries and Churchyards, Green Corridors and Civic Spaces were not set due to the nature of these sites.
- 7.5 Existing (straight-line) distance thresholds are shown in Table 25.

Table 25: Existing Accessibility Standards

Open Space Typology	Existing Accessibility Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	None set
Amenity Greenspace	15 minute walk time / 720 metres
Cemeteries and Churchyards	None set
Civic Spaces	None set
Green Corridors	None set
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	15 minute walk time / 720 metres
Strategic Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace of 20ha and above	20 minute drive time / 7.85 kilometres
Outdoor Sports Facilities (excluding golf courses)	15 minute walk time / 720 metres
Golf Courses	20 minute drive time / 12.63 kilometres
Local Parks and Gardens	15 minute walk time / 720 metres
Strategic Parks and Gardens of 15ha and above	20 minute drive time / 7.85 kilometres
Provisions for Children and Young People	10 minute walk time / 480 metres

- 7.6 Access to woodland has not been considered as part of this Study, however ANGSt has been considered (see benchmark standards below). In addition tree planting and access to woodland will be supported in the recommendations.
- 7.7 Larger open spaces, usually natural and semi-natural areas of greenspaces of 20ha and above as well as strategic parks and gardens of 15ha and above were set their own accessibility standard as these sites whilst providing provision for those living in close proximity, also attract people from a wider area serving a borough-wide function and beyond.

Quality

- 7.8 Standards in the Open Space Study 2010 aimed for the council to have good quality open spaces (70% and above).

Benchmark Standards

- 7.9 National Benchmark Standards are from Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) which replaces FiT's 2008 guidance Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Beyond the Six Acre Standard guidance reflects the NPPF, The Localism Act 2011 and the phased introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The guidance draws out new recommendations for accessibility and, alongside formal open space such as sports pitches and play areas, introduces benchmarking for informal open space (e.g. Amenity Green Space and Natural Green Space sites). The latest guidance has been informed by a survey commissioned by FiT in 2014 resulting in a response from 119 local authorities in England and Wales, representing a total response rate of 33%.
- 7.10 In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) produced recommendations for the provision of accessible natural green space, this is often referred to as the ANGSt model. The ANGSt model recommends at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1,000 population which is detailed by tiers of site according to size. The guidelines recommend a provision of:
- at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (five minutes' walk) from home;
 - at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home;
 - one accessible 100 ha site within 5km of home;
 - one accessible 500 ha site within 10km of home;
 - a minimum of 1 ha of statutory local nature reserves per 1,000 people;
 - that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size; and
 - that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.
- 7.11 According to the ANGSt model, a natural green space is based on the level of intervention through management or other forms of disturbance and accessibility is the ability of visitors to physically gain access to a site.
- 7.12 Although the ANGSt model was published in 1996, no other models or standards for accessibility have been produced and therefore it remains relevant to this Open Space Study particularly in relation to proposing accessibility standards.
- 7.13 The Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard aspires to the following guidelines:
- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 ha in size; and
 - there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.

Additional Information on Allotment Standards

- 7.14 There is no legal national minimum quantity provision standard for allotments¹⁶.
- 7.15 The 1969 Thorpe Report recommended a minimum provision equivalent to 15 plots per 1,000 households¹⁷, which equates to 6.5 plots per 1,000 population or 0.16 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.16 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends a minimum level of provision of 20 allotment plots¹⁸ per 1,000 households, which equates to 8.7 plots per 1,000 population or 0.21 ha per 1,000 population. NSALG advises that the standard plot size is 250 sq. metres.
- 7.17 A Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council¹⁹, stated that there is difficulty in considering a standard of provision based on household given the trend of falling household size since the 1950s. The report referenced the Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2006, which showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population, which equates to 0.175 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.18 In the FIT Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play Review, Phase 2 Survey Findings for England and Wales (2014), the median level of provision for allotments, community gardens and urban farms was 0.3 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.19 A summary of national benchmark standards for allotments is provided in Table 26.

Table 26: Summary of National Benchmark Standards for Allotments

	No. of households	No. of Allotment plots per 1,000 household	Population (based on household size of 2.3)	ha (based on pilot size of 250m ²)
Thorpe Report 1969	1,000	15	2,300	0.375
Thorpe Report 1969	-	6.5	1,000	0.16
NSALG	1,000	20	2,300	0.5
NSALG	-	8.7	1,000	0.21
University of Derby	-	7	1,000	0.175

¹⁶ <http://www.allotmoreallotments.org.uk/legislation.html>

¹⁷ Average Household size in England & Wales is 2.3 (2011 Census)

¹⁸ Based on a standard plot of 250 m²

¹⁹ Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council (Ashley Godfrey Associates, January 2010)

	No. of households	No. of Allotment plots per 1,000 household	Population (based on household size of 2.3)	ha (based on pilot size of 250m2)
University of Derby	-	-	1,000	0.3

Proposed Standards

Quantity

- 7.20 The proposed quantity standards are based on a review of the existing quantity provision in Oldham. The context of open space provision in Oldham is a strong consideration in setting standards since the standards should be locally derived based on supply and demand; as well as consideration of the differing nature of the wards across Oldham.
- 7.21 These considerations lean towards protecting the existing amount of open space through setting standards which align with existing provision, rather than standards which require the provision of more open space, which may be less achievable due to land and funding required to implement new open space. New development may be required to provide onsite provision of open space so as not to adversely impact or place pressure on existing provision.

Allotments

- 7.22 The proposal is to not set a standard for Allotments. There is no FiT benchmark standard for Allotments, but the FiT survey to inform the Guidance states that the median level of provision across local authorities was 0.3ha per 1,000.

Amenity Greenspace

- 7.23 The proposed standard is to retain the existing adopted standard at 0.46ha per 1,000 population. The existing Amenity Greenspace standard is lower than the FiT standard of 0.6 ha per 1,000 but this is reasonable and there is currently a deficiency of Amenity Greenspace Borough-wide and in 13 of the wards.
- 7.24 The lower existing standard provides the council with a reasonable target to strive for when considering provision against future housing needs. The standard will assist with decision making during the planning process and deficiencies may be addressed through open space provision as part of new developments.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 7.25 There is no FiT benchmark standard because Cemeteries and Churchyards provision cannot be quantified in this way as their provision is not led by the need for open space and recreation, even though it is acknowledged that they contribute to the overall open space provision of an area.

- 7.26 There is no current quantity standard for Cemeteries and Churchyards, and the recommendation is not to set a standard for Cemeteries and Churchyards.

Civic Space

- 7.27 The proposal is not to set a standard for Civic Space. There is no FiT Benchmark Standard as Civic Space provision cannot be quantified in this way as their provision is not led by the need for open space and recreation, even though it is acknowledged that they contribute to the overall open space provision of an area.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- 7.28 The proposed standard retains the standard of 1.95 ha per 1,000 population for the Borough as a whole. The proposed standard is above the FiT Benchmark Standard of 1.80 ha per 1,000 population however provides a slight surplus of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace to the area, which should continue to be an aspiration for the council where possible.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 7.29 The proposed standard retains the standard of 1.35 ha per 1,000 population for the Borough as a whole. The standard is below the FiT Benchmark standard of 1.6ha per 1,000 population however when applied boroughwide results in a current and future surplus, and a deficiency in 9 wards. The deficiencies should be addressed through future development.

Parks and Gardens

- 7.30 The proposed standard of 0.40 ha per 1,000 population is an increase to the existing standard (0.26 ha per 1,000 population). The existing standard is below the FiT Benchmark of 0.8ha per 1,000 population. The increase will bring the standard closer to this benchmark standard.
- 7.31 Borough wide the existing provision is well above the existing standard, however applying the standard at ward level results in deficiencies across 9 wards. The proposed standard of 0.40ha per 1,000 population results in a current and future surplus of Parks and Gardens boroughwide, however results in a deficiency across 10 wards. These deficiencies are across the borough including urban areas of Werneth, Waterhead, St Mary's and Saddleworth West and Lees.
- 7.32 Demand for Parks and Gardens is set to rise particularly in urban areas given pressures particularly resulting from climate change and deficiencies in this typology should be addressed through future development.

Provision for Children and Young People

- 7.33 The proposed standard is to reduce the existing standard of 0.37 ha per 1,000 population to 0.25 ha per 1,000 population, which aligns with the national benchmark of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population. The current standard results in a large deficiency across the borough. The proposed reduction in standard to 0.25 ha per 1,000 therefore reduces the deficiency which may be addressed through new provision sought as part of the planning process.

7.34 Table 27 summarises the proposed quantity standard for each typology.

Table 27: Proposed Quantity Standards for Oldham

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	National Benchmark	Existing Standard (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.06	No Standard	0.37	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	0.38	0.60	0.46	0.46
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.35	No Standard	n/a	No Standard
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	n/a	No Standard
Green Corridors	0.16	No Standard	n/a	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	2.80	1.80	1.95	1.95
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.00	1.60	1.35	1.35
Parks and Gardens	0.81	0.80	0.26	0.40
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.04	0.25	0.37 (Children) 0.1 (Young people)	0.25

Surplus and Deficiencies by Quantity Standard

7.35 Table 28 compares the existing quantity provision against the proposed quantity standard for Oldham to show the surplus and deficiency for the current population (2021).

7.36 Applying the proposed quantity standards there is a current (2021) deficiency in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People.

Table 28: Existing Quantity Provision against the Proposed Quantity Standard

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.06	No Standard	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.38	0.46	-0.08
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.35	No Standard	n/a
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	n/a
Green Corridors	0.16	No Standard	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	2.80	1.95	0.85
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.00	1.35	0.65
Parks and Gardens	0.81	0.4	0.41
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.04	0.25	-0.21
Total rounded to two decimal places	6.61	-	-

7.37 Table 29 compares the future quantity provision against the proposed quantity standard for Oldham to show surplus and deficiency for the future projected population of 254,829 by 2037 based on ONS forecast population increase of 6.63%.

7.38 Applying the proposed quantity standard results in a deficiency in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People up to 2037.

Table 29: Future Quantity Provision against the proposed standard

Open Space Typology	Future (2037) Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Future (2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.06	No Standard	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.35	0.46	-0.11
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.33	No Standard	n/a
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	n/a
Green Corridors	0.15	No Standard	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	2.62	1.95	0.67
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.88	1.35	0.53
Parks and Gardens	0.76	0.4	0.36
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.04	0.25	-0.21
Total rounded to two decimal places	6.20	-	-

7.39 A further breakdown of Quantity provision against the proposed standard for each typology and per ward is outlined in Appendix F.

Accessibility

7.40 The accessibility standards in the Open Spaces Study 2010 are to be retained because they reflect the needs of the potential users. These are summarised in Table 30.

7.41 The existing Amenity Greenspace accessibility standard of 720m (15 minute walk) does not meet the national benchmark standard of 480m (10 minute walk), when applying the existing standard, almost all residential areas have access to Amenity Greenspace however there are a number of deficiencies detailed in Chapter 8.

- 7.42 Both the Natural and Semi-Natural and Parks and Gardens existing standard meet the national benchmark standard for each typology at 720m (15 minute walk). When applying this standard, most of the borough has access to Natural and Semi-Natural typologies within the 720m (15 minute) standard except for rural areas in Saddleworth North, and the western areas of Chadderton Central.
- 7.43 Applying the 720m (15 minute) accessibility standard to Parks and Gardens highlights a lack of access to this typology across the borough across all wards which strengthens the need for more of these spaces.

Table 30: Existing Accessibility Standards

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Accessibility Standard in Open Space Study 2010
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	480 metres (10 mins walk)	720 metres (15 minute walk)
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard	No Standard
Civic Spaces	No Standard	No Standard
Green Corridors	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	720 metres (15 mins walk)	Natural and Semi-Natural) 720 metres (15-minute walk) Strategic Natural and Semi-Natural over 20ha 7.85km (20 minute drive time)
Outdoor Sport Facilities	1,200 metres	Outdoor Sport Facilities (Excluding Golf Courses) 720 metres (15 minute walk) Golf courses 12.63km (20 minute drive)

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Accessibility Standard in Open Space Study 2010
Parks and Gardens	720 metres (15 mins walk)	Local Parks and Gardens 720 metres (15 minute walk) Strategic Parks and Gardens of 15ha and above 7.85km (20 minute drive)
Provision for Children and Young People	LAP - 100m (2-3 mins walk) LEAP - 400m (20 mins walk) NEAP - 1000m (20 mins walk)	480 metres (10 minute walk)

Quality

- 7.44 The proposed quality standard for open space across the Borough is based on the Green Flag Award criteria (used to complete the quality audits). A Green Flag would be awarded to a site which passes a full assessment award criteria which is based on official standards set and recognised in the United Kingdom and internationally.
- 7.45 The Green Flag Award Raising the Standard manual has eight sections of assessment, however for the purposes of the Oldham Open Space Study, Section 1: A Welcoming Place, Section 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure and Section 3: Well Maintained, were used to assess each site audited. The assessment criteria selected is appropriate to apply to all typologies of open space. Section 1 assesses the signage, accessibility for a wide range of visitors, entrance presentation and the maintenance and definition of boundaries. Section 2 takes into consideration the safety and security of facilities, shelter from the weather, lighting and clear sightlines. Section 3 considers the overall cleanliness of the site and the soft and hard landscaping features present.
- 7.46 The bandings for the quality audits are as follows:
- Excellent - 90% to 100%
 - Very Good - 80% to 89%
 - Good - 70% to 79%
 - Fair - 50% to 69%
 - Poor - 0% to 49%
- 7.47 The existing Study set a quality standard for all typologies of 70% and above (Good).
- 7.48 The national benchmark standards and proposed standards for the Borough are set out below.

Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- 7.49 Generally of a Green Flag Award status the sites would be appropriately and sensitively landscaped and have clear, positive management for the benefit of people and the environment. These sites may feature footpaths where appropriate and will be managed to reduce crime.
- 7.50 The proposed quality standard for these typologies is to apply the national benchmark based on the Green Flag Award ensuring sites achieve a quality score of 70% (Good) or above.

Allotments and Community Gardens, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Civic Space

- 7.51 There is no national guidance however general principles can be established from appropriate Green Flag Award criteria.

Provision for Children and Young People

- 7.52 Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards. Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.

The proposed quality standard of **70%** ensures that all sites achieve at least a **Good quality score**.

Value

- 7.53 Value standards were not considered as part of the 2010 Open Space Study.
- 7.54 The proposed value standard for open spaces in the borough is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17¹¹ (September 2002).
- 7.55 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:
- High - 60 to 100%
 - Medium - 40 to 59%
 - Low - 0 to 39%

The proposed Value Standard of **60%** for destination or flagship sites ensures that these sites achieve a **High value** score.

The proposed Value Standard of **40%** or above for all other sites ensures that all remaining sites achieve a **Medium value score**.

- 7.56 Value standards allow the council to identify and confirm the flagship sites within the Borough and ensure their protection and/or investment going forward. Example sites include Alexandra Park, Waterhead Park or Westway in Shaw.

- 7.57 Adding value to open space is important as it enables them to provide multiple functions including ecosystem services²⁰ and the benefits that can be derived from them. Value can be added in a multitude of ways to draw out their contextual, heritage, local amenity/ sense of place, recreation, play and ecological value.

²⁰ Ecosystem Services are covered in the Oldham GI Strategy (TEP, 2022)

8.0 Applying Standards

- 8.1 This Chapter analyses the open space provision in each of the wards across the Borough. This includes details on each open space typology, including quantity, quality and accessibility. Considering the existing provision against the individual characteristics of each sub-area, including the socio-economic factors, will help inform the most appropriate means of future open space provision. Whilst analysis at a sub-area level provides a level of detail to help decision making, it is not the intention that each ward should have equal provision due to differences in population.
- 8.2 Tables in each section provide a breakdown of open space provision by ward as well as where the proposed open space quantity standards are being met. Additional commentary is provided about whether there is access to open space, as quantity should not be considered as the only measure of provision, particularly at a ward level as people access open spaces regardless of the geographical ward boundaries.
- 8.3 The Open Space Typology map shows open space typologies across the Borough whilst Accessibility maps for each relevant typology demonstrate access provision across the Borough and within each ward.
- 8.4 Appendix F shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology borough-wide and within each ward. The future provision is based on the future population derived forecast population increase of 6.63% by ONS.
- 8.5 Sites which scored Low in Value or Poor quality present the greatest opportunities for improvement and do still provide a range of functions for the local area.
- 8.6 Places for Everyone (2021) and Housing Land Supply (SHLAA) provide a useful predictor as to the location of future communities and their proximity to existing open spaces. The datasets also indicate where open spaces may be lost as a result of development and the need for offsetting this loss with either new on-site provision, or off-site contribution to improve existing open spaces.

Alexandra Ward

- 8.7 The Alexandra ward is to the south of Oldham's administrative boundary and includes the area of Holts as well as areas surrounding Alexandra Park, one of Oldham's flagship "destination" parks.
- 8.8 Alexandra ward has a total of 79 open spaces totalling 97.19 ha which equates to a total of 6.58 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 6.18 ha per 1,000 population (2037). Open spaces within the ward are shown in Figure 5.

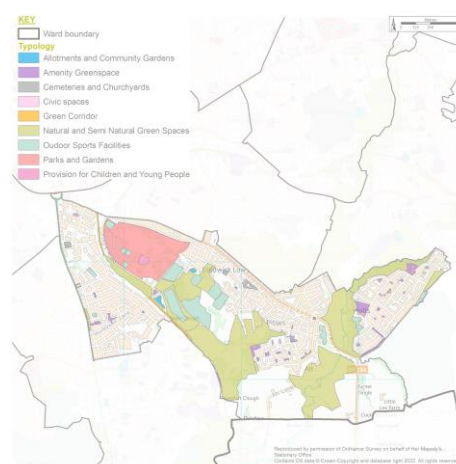


Figure 5 Open spaces in Alexandra

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.9 Alexandra ward has excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.
- 8.10 There is good accessibility to Parks and Gardens to the north-west of the ward with Alexandra Park providing wide-spread access, but there is little access to this typology in the south.
- 8.11 Accessibility to Provision for Children and Young People is generally good, however there are gaps in provision.

Quality Analysis

- 8.12 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.13 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 22 sites were audited in Alexandra ward, 10 of these sites fell in the Fair quality banding.
- 8.14 The highest scoring site was Alexandra Park Play area which scored 84% and falls within the Very Good banding. The lowest scoring site was Pearl Mill Close OSF1 which scored 35% and falls within the Poor banding.



Figure 6 Alexandra Play Park Play Area



Figure 7 Pearl Mill Close OSF1

Value Analysis

- 8.15 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits.
- 8.16 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within Alexandra ward are within the High (12) or Medium (10) value banding.
- 8.17 Holts Village Park scored 79% which falls in the High value banding.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.18 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.19 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Alexandra ward is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.

8.20 There is a current and future surplus in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Garden typologies.

8.21 Table 31 presents full quantity analysis for Alexandra ward.

Table 31: Alexandra Ward Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.19	-0.21
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	1.84	1.61
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.53	-0.58
Parks and Gardens	1.05	0.96
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.18	-0.19

Chadderton Central

8.22 The Chadderton Central ward is to the west of Oldham's administrative boundary close to Middleton which sits in Rochdale.

8.23 Chadderton Central has a total of 52 open spaces totalling 74.4ha which equates to a total of 6.42 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 6.02 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

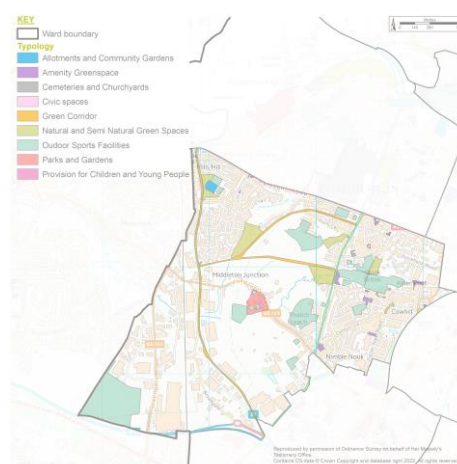


Figure 8 Open spaces in Chadderton Central

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.24 Chadderton Central has good access to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities to the east of the ward.
- 8.25 There are gaps in access to Provision for Children and Young People and Parks and Gardens across the ward however accessibility to each typology is limited to the west of the ward.

Quality Analysis

- 8.26 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.27 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 16 sites were audited in Chadderton Central, 3 sites fell in the Very Good quality banding, 5 in the Good banding, and 8 in the fair banding.
- 8.28 The highest scoring sites were Crawley Way and Foxdenton Park Bowling Greens which scored 88% and fall within the Very Good banding. The lowest scoring site was Ferneyfield Road NSN which scored 63% and falls within the Fair banding.



Figure 9 Crawley Way



Figure 10 Ferneyfield Road NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.29 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.30 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within Chadderton Central are within the High (13) or Medium (3) value banding.
- 8.31 Foxdenton Park and Hunt Lane Recreation Route were of the highest value at 80%.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.32 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.33 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Chadderton Central is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.34 There is a current and future surplus in Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.35 Table 32 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Chadderton Central.

Table 32: Chadderton Central Ward Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.30	-0.31
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-0.99	-1.05
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.31	2.08
Parks and Gardens	-0.17	-0.19
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.23	-0.23

Chadderton North

8.36 The Chadderton North ward is to the west of Oldham's administrative boundary and includes the area of Healds Green.

8.37 Chadderton North has a total of 51 open spaces totalling 59.92ha which equates to a total of 5.33 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 5.00 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

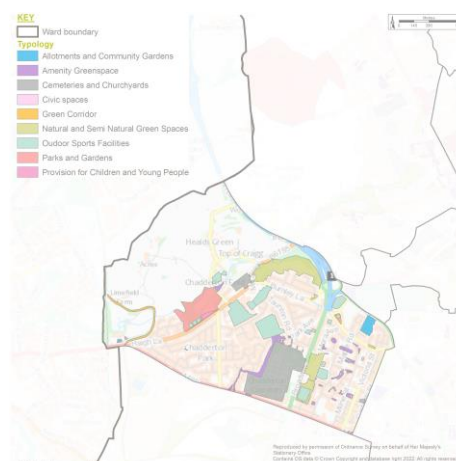


Figure 11 Open spaces in Chadderton North

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.38 Chadderton North has excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sport Facilities and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace. Access to Parks and Gardens is generally good across the ward however there are some gaps in provision to the south of the ward.
- 8.39 There are gaps in accessibility to Provision for Children and Young People, much of the east of the ward does not have access to this typology within 480m.

Quality Analysis

- 8.40 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.41 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 17 sites were audited in Chadderton North, 5 sites fell in the Very Good banding, and 5 in the Good banding.
- 8.42 The highest scoring sites was Chadderton Football Club which scored 86% and falls within the Very Good banding. The lowest scoring site was Cathedral Road Playing Fields at 24% and falls within the Poor banding.



Figure 12 Chadderton Football Club



Figure 13 Cathedral Road Playing Fields

Value Analysis

- 8.43 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.44 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. 8 sites within the Chadderton North ward fell within the Low Value banding, 5 within the Medium banding and 4 within the High banding.
- 8.45 Chadderton Hall Park was the highest value at 81% which falls in the High banding.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.46 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.47 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Chadderton North is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.48 There is a current and future surplus in Parks and Gardens.

8.49 Table 33 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Chadderton North.

Table 33: Chadderton North Ward Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.05	-0.07
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-0.81	-0.88
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.15	-0.22
Parks and Gardens	0.32	0.28
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

Chadderton South

8.50 The Chadderton South ward is to the south-west of Oldham's administrative boundary and includes the area of White Gate End.

8.51 Chadderton South has a total of 50 open spaces totalling 30.10ha which equates to a total of 2.63 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 2.46 ha per 1,000 population (2037).



Figure 14 Open spaces in Chadderton South

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.52 Chadderton South has excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.53 There is good accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace except the far west areas in White Gate End.
- 8.54 Access to Provision for Children and Young People is varied across the ward with gaps in accessibility in the centre of the ward.

Quality Analysis

- 8.55 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.56 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 17 sites were audited in Chadderton South. Sites fell within the Very Good, Good and Fair Quality banding.
- 8.57 The highest scoring sites was Coalshaw Green OSF which scored 84% and falls in the Very Good quality banding. The lowest scoring site was Moston Brook Section 3 which fell within the Fair banding. A masterplan is in place to improve Moston Brook.



Figure 15 Coalshaw Green OSF



Figure 16 Moston Brook Section 3

Value Analysis

- 8.58 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.59 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix B. Sites within the Chadderton South ward are of varied value with the highest value site Coalshaw Green Park achieving 83%, and the lowest value site Moston Brook Section 3 scoring 28% (Low Value).

Quantity Analysis

- 8.60 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.61 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Chadderton South is deficient in all typologies (Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People) at present and up to 2037.
- 8.62 Table 34 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Chadderton South.

Table 34: Chadderton South Ward Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.05	-0.08
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.31	-1.35
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.25	-0.32
Parks and Gardens	-0.13	-0.15
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.22	-0.22

Coldhurst

8.63 Coldhurst is situated in the centre of Oldham and incorporates the main urban centre.

8.64 The ward has a total of 70 open spaces totalling 25.54ha which equates to a total of 1.93 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 1.81 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.65 Coldhurst has excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities. There is good access to Provision to Children and Young People, although there are gaps in provision to the far north and in the town centre.

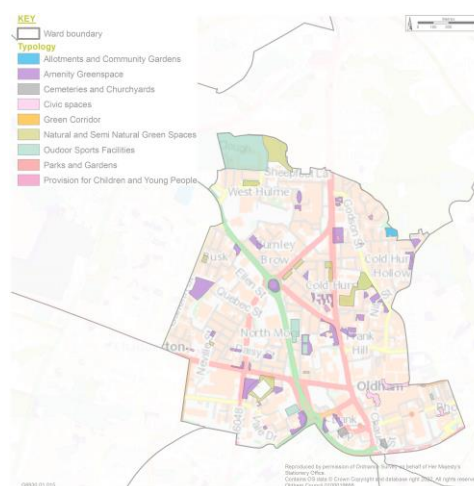


Figure 17 Open Spaces in Coldhurst

- 8.66 Access to Parks and Gardens is limited in the ward to the far north and south of the ward.

Quality Analysis

- 8.67 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.68 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 27 sites were audited in Coldhurst with Quality scores ranging from 82% (Very Good) at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Patrick Roman Catholic Church to 52% Coldhurst Street NSN (Fair).



Figure 18 Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Figure 19 Coldhurst Street NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.69 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.70 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the Coldhurst ward are of varied value with the highest value site Richmond Primary School OSF achieving 68% (High Value), and the lowest value site Franklin Close 23% (Low Value).

Quantity Analysis

- 8.71 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.72 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Coldhurst is deficient in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.73 There is a current and future surplus of Amenity Greenspace.
- 8.74 Table 35 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Coldhurst.

Table 35: Coldhurst Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.23	0.18
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.50	-1.53
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.73	-0.77
Parks and Gardens	-0.40	-0.40
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.23	-0.23

Crompton

8.75 Situated at the northern extent of Oldham's administrative boundary and just south of the M62, Crompton includes the areas of Lower Rushcroft and High Crompton.

8.76 The ward has a total of 46 open spaces totalling 44.56ha which equates to a total of 4.31 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 4.04 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.77 Crompton has good accessibility to Amenity Greenspace with only the northern part of the ward falling outside of any accessibility buffer.

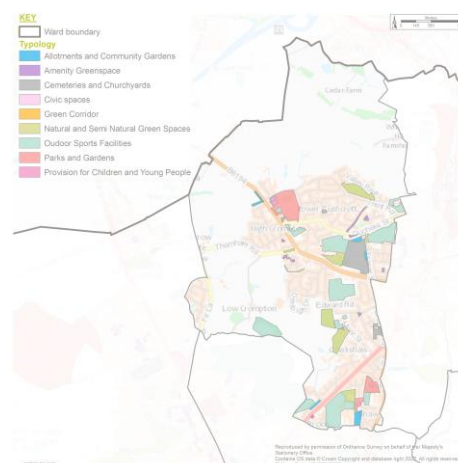


Figure 20 Open Spaces in Crompton

- 8.78 Access to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Outdoor Sports Facilities is generally good although there are some gaps in accessibility at the northern extent of the ward, and to the west.
- 8.79 Accessibility to Provision for Children and Young People is restricted to the south of the ward and High Crompton. Areas of Lower Rushcroft do not have access to this typology within the 480m threshold.

Quality Analysis

- 8.80 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.81 14 sites were audited in the ward, with Crompton Cricket Club achieving the highest score of 95% which falls in the Excellent banding. Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C.
- 8.82 Edward Street NSN scored 33% which falls in the Poor quality banding.



Figure 21 Crompton Cricket Club



Figure 22 Edward Street NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.83 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.84 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. 6 sites in Crompton fell within the High value banding with High Crompton Park achieving 86%. 3 sites fell in the Low value banding including Assheton Road Estate AGS scoring 26%.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.85 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.86 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Crompton is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.87 There is a current and future surplus of Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.88 Table 36 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Crompton.

Table 36: Crompton Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.35	-0.36
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.06	-1.11
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.40	0.29
Parks and Gardens	0.30	0.26
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

Failsworth East

8.89 Failsworth East is situated to the south-west of Oldham's administrative boundary adjacent to Tameside.

8.90 The ward has a total of 58 open spaces totalling 129.02ha which equates to a total of 12.60 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 11.82 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.91 Accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is excellent in Failsworth East ward. There is good accessibility to Amenity Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.92 Only the southern part of the ward falls outside of any accessibility buffer.

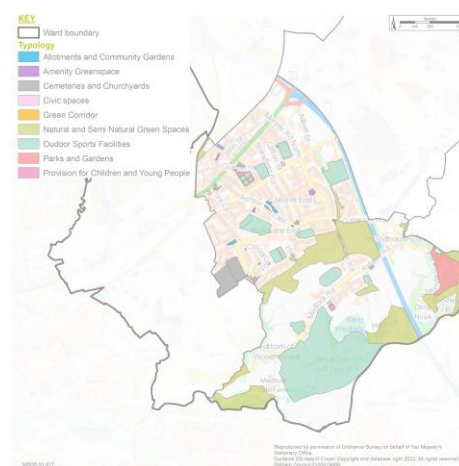


Figure 23 Open Spaces in Failsworth East

- 8.93 There are gaps in access to Parks and Gardens and Provision for Young Children including Holt Lane End and Bottom of Woodhouses.

Quality Analysis

- 8.94 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.95 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 28 sites were audited in Failsworth East, 7 of these sites fell in the Excellent quality banding including Lulworth Crescent Amenity Greenspace and Woodhouses Cricket Club.



Figure 24 Lulworth Crescent



Figure 25 Woodhouses Cricket Club

- 8.96 None of the sites audited fell within the Poor-quality banding.

Value Analysis

- 8.97 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.98 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Daisy Nook Section 2 was the highest value site at 84% (High Value). High Memorial Park OSF falls within the Low value banding at 15%.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.99 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.100 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Failsworth East is deficient in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.101 There is a current and future surplus of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.102 Table 37 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Failsworth East.

Table 37: Failsworth East Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.35	-0.35
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3.09	2.77
Outdoor Sports Facilities	4.58	4.21
Parks and Gardens	0.37	0.32
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.21	-0.21

Failsworth West

8.103 Failsworth West is situated at the far south-western extent of Oldham's administrative boundary adjacent to Newton Heath.

8.104 The ward has a total of 53 open spaces totalling 51.32ha which equates to a total of 4.68 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 4.39 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.105 There is excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

8.106 Access to Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People is limited to the northern extent of the ward.

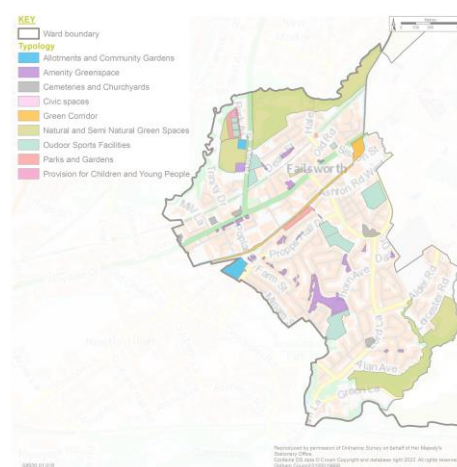


Figure 26 Open Spaces in Failsworth West

Quality Analysis

- 8.107 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.108 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 19 sites were audited in Failsworth West, 3 of these sites fell in the Excellent quality banding and 2 sites fell within the Poor-quality banding. Norfolk Crescent, Failsworth AGS scored 100% which falls in the Excellent quality banding.



Figure 27 Norfolk Crescent, Failsworth AGS



Figure 28 Holy Trinity Church

Value Analysis

- 8.109 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.110 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix B. Sites within Failsworth West fall within the Medium or Low Value banding.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.111 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.112 When applying the proposed quantity standards, Failsworth West is deficient in Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.113 There is a current surplus of Amenity Greenspace (0.02 ha per 1,000 population) however by 2037 there is a deficiency (-0.01 ha per 1,000 population).
- 8.114 There is a current and future surplus of Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace.
- 8.115 Table 38 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Failsworth West.

Table 38: Failsworth West Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Amenity Greenspace	0.02	-0.01
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	1.07	0.88
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.64	-0.68
Parks and Gardens	-0.25	-0.26
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.23	-0.23

Hollinwood

8.116 Hollinwood is situated in the south-west of Oldham's administrative boundary.

8.117 The ward has a total of 58 open spaces totalling 73.31ha which equates to a total of 5.80 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 5.44 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.118 There is excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sport Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

8.119 There are gaps in provision to Provision for Children and Young People to the south of the ward around Lime Side.

Quality Analysis

8.120 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

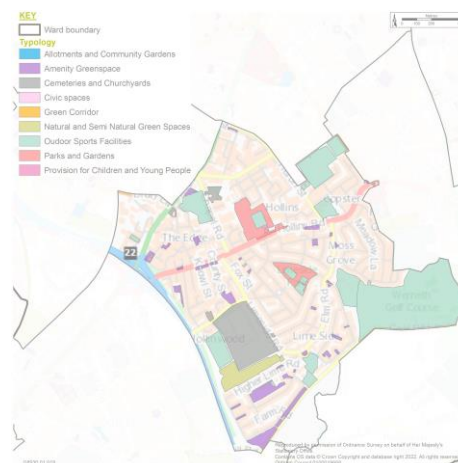


Figure 29 Open Spaces in Hollinwood.

- 8.121 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 18 sites were audited in Hollinwood. 3 sites are within the Excellent quality banding and Very Good banding.
- 8.122 Higher Lime Recreation Ground NSN and Chapel Road both fall within the Poor Quality banding.



Figure 30 Higher Lime Recreation Ground NSN



Figure 31 Chapel Road

Value Analysis

- 8.123 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.124 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. 7 sites achieved a High Value score, 1 site a Medium Value score and 10 sites a Low Value score.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.125 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.126 When applying the proposed quantity standards the Hollinwood ward is deficient in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.127 There is a current and future surplus of Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.128 Table 39 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Hollinwood.

Table 39: Hollinwood Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.09	0.06
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.63	-1.65
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.09	1.88
Parks and Gardens	0.10	0.07
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.24	-0.24

Medlock Vale

8.129 Medlock Vale is situated centrally in the south of the Borough, primarily between Hollinwood and Alexandra.

8.130 Medlock Vale has a total of 70 open spaces totalling 75.69 ha which equates to a total of 5.25 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 4.92 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.131 There is excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace within Medlock Vale.

8.132 Areas of Fitton Hill and Bardsley do not have access to Parks and Gardens within the 720m walking threshold. Access to Provision for Children and Young Person is restricted towards the centre of the ward.

Quality Analysis

8.133 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.

8.134 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 31 sites were audited in Hollinwood and sites ranged from Very Good to Poor. The lowest scoring site was Woodpark Close NSN scoring 47% which falls in the Poor Quality banding.

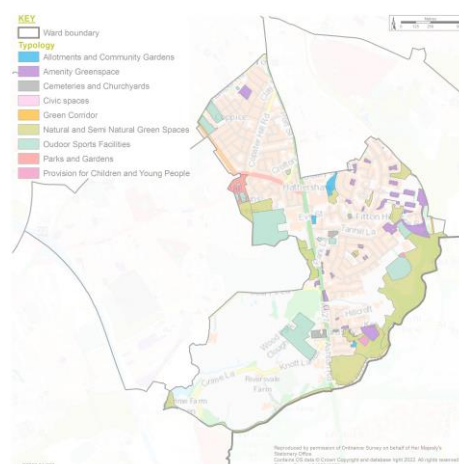


Figure 32 Open Spaces in Medlock Vale



Figure 33 Copster Park NSN



Figure 34 Woodpark Close NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.135 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.136 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall within the High and Medium Value bandings.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.137 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.138 When applying the proposed quantity standards Medlock Vale is deficient in Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.139 There is a current surplus in Outdoor Sports Facilities however by 2037 this typology is deficient.
- 8.140 There is a current and future surplus of Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.
- 8.141 Table 40 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Medlock Vale.

Table 40: Medlock Vale Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.17	0.13
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0.86	0.69
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.08	-0.01
Parks and Gardens	-0.26	-0.27
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

Royton North

8.142 Royton North is in the northwest of the Borough, sharing its boundaries with Chadderton North, Royton South and Crompton.

8.143 Royton North has a total of 45 open spaces totalling 80.86ha which equates to a total of 8.07 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 7.57 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

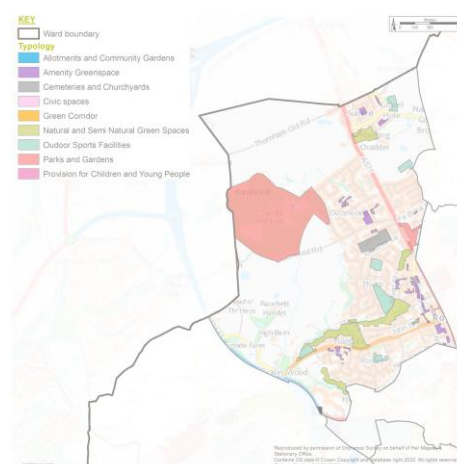


Figure 35 Open Spaces in Royton North

Accessibility Analysis

8.144 Accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Gardens is generally good in this ward with small gaps in accessibility to these typologies.

8.145 There are gaps in the provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities to the central, northern and western areas of the ward as well as Provision for Children and Young people.

Quality Analysis

8.146 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.147 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 19 sites were audited in Royton North and sites ranged from Excellent to Poor. Lancaster Square Estate has achieved the highest quality score in the ward at 95%.



Figure 36 Lancaster Square Estate



Figure 37 Hanging Chadder Lane NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.148 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.149 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across all three Value bandings.
- 8.150 9 sites fell within the Low Value banding, whilst Irk Valley achieved the highest Value score at 77% which falls in the High Value banding.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.151 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.152 When applying the proposed quantity standards Royton North is deficient in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 8.153 There is a current and future surplus of Amenity Greenspace and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.154 Table 41 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Royton North.

Table 41: Royton North Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.06	0.03
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-0.49	-0.58
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.66	-0.70
Parks and Gardens	4.62	4.31
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.23	-0.24

Royton South

Sub-Area Analysis

8.155 Royton South lies centre-north within the council's administrative boundary and has a total of 61 open spaces totalling 124.80ha which equates to a total of 11.54 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 10.82 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.156 Royton South has good accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.157 There are gaps in accessibility provision to Parks and Gardens to the south of the ward, and Provision for Children and Young People within the centre of the ward.

Quality Analysis

8.158 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

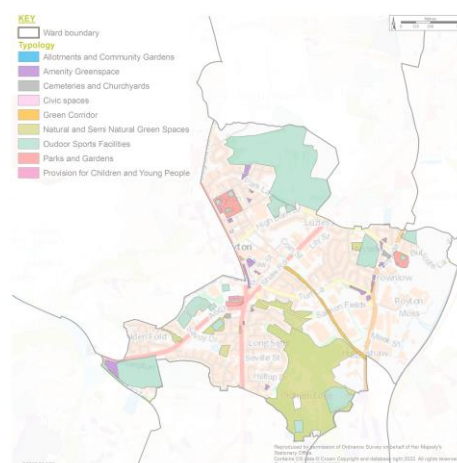


Figure 38 Open Spaces in Royton South

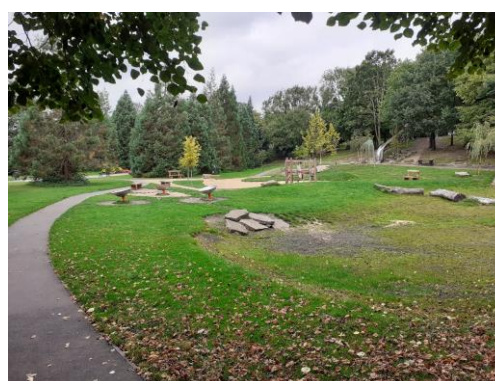


Figure 39 Royton Park

8.159 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 19 sites were audited in Royton South and Quality scores ranged from Very Good to Poor. The highest scoring site was Royton Park which achieved a score of 87% (Very Good).

Value Analysis

8.160 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

8.161 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across all three Value bandings.

8.162 Open space within the Royton South ward ranged from Low Value to High Value. 5 sites were Low value, 12 sites Medium Value and 2 sites High Value.

8.163 The highest value site, Bullcote Recreation Ground achieved a score of 68% (High).

Quantity Analysis

8.164 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.

8.165 When applying the proposed quantity standards Royton South is deficient in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.

8.166 There is a current surplus in Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports and Parks and Gardens.

8.167 Table 42 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Royton South.

Table 42: Royton South Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.14	-0.16
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	2.84	2.54
Outdoor Sports Facilities	4.34	3.99

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Parks and Gardens	0.05	0.02
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.22	-0.22

Saddleworth North

8.168 Saddleworth North is the largest ward geographically and lies at the eastern extent of Oldham's administrative boundary. The ward has a total of 60 open spaces totalling 119.25 ha which equates to a total of 12.00 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 11.25 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

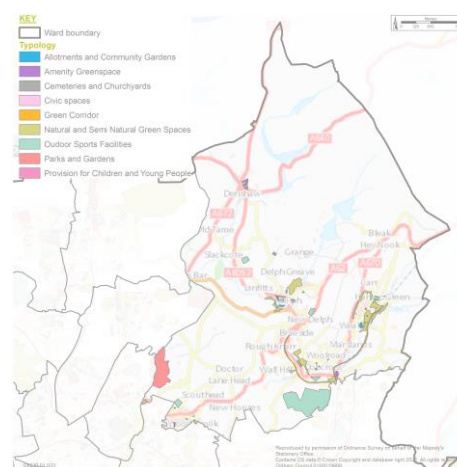


Figure 40 Open Spaces in Saddleworth North

Accessibility Analysis

8.169 There are gaps in provision to Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Provision for Children and Young People and Outdoor Sport Facilities in ward.

Quality Analysis

8.170 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.171 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 15 sites were audited in Saddleworth North and Quality scores ranged from Excellent to Fair. 6 sites achieved an Excellent quality score, 6 a very good score, 10 a Good quality score and 3 a Fair score.



Figure 41 St Thomas's Church

Value Analysis

8.172 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

- 8.173 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across all three Value bandings.
- 8.174 Open space within the Saddleworth North ward ranged from Low Value to High Value. The highest value site, Diggle Fields, Ward Lane NSN achieved the highest value score at 87%.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.175 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.176 When applying the proposed quantity standards Saddleworth North is deficient in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.177 There is a current and future surplus of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.178 Table 43 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Saddleworth North.

Table 43: Saddleworth North Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.17	-0.19
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0.98	0.79
Outdoor Sports Facilities	3.88	3.56
Parks and Gardens	2.54	2.35
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.22	-0.22

Saddleworth South

Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.179 Saddleworth South is situated to the south-east of Oldham. The ward has a total of 78 open spaces totalling 122.65ha which equates to a total of 11.85 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 11.12 ha per 1,000 population (2037).



Figure 42 Open Spaces in Saddleworth South

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.180 Saddleworth South has good accessibility to Outdoor Sport Facilities, Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces.

- 8.181 Sites which overlap the Borough boundary are included in the assessment of open space including Dovestone Reservoir which overlaps with Peak Park.
- 8.182 There are gaps in provision to Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People including around Grasscroft.

Quality Analysis

- 8.183 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.184 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 50 sites were audited in Saddleworth South and Quality scores ranged from Very Good to Poor. 2 sites fall within the Poor quality banding, 31 within the Fair banding, 15 in the Good banding and 2 in the Very Good banding.
- 8.185 The highest quality site audited was Carr Lane AGS which scored 81% (Very Good).



Figure 43 Carr Lane AGS



Figure 44 Mossley Road NSN

Value Analysis

- 8.186 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

- 8.187 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across all three Value bandings although most sites (40) fell within the High Value banding.
- 8.188 Beechfield NSN was the lowest Value site and the only low banding site in the ward achieving 39% (Low Value).

Quantity Analysis

- 8.189 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.190 When applying the proposed quantity standards Saddleworth South is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.191 There is a current and future surplus Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.
- 8.192 Table 44 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Saddleworth South.

Table 44: Saddleworth South Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.24	-0.26
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	6.27	5.76
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.43	0.32
Parks and Gardens	-0.27	-0.28
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.22	-0.22

Saddleworth West and Lees

8.193 Saddleworth West and Lees is situated to the south west of Oldham and includes the areas of Lees and Grotton. The ward has 57 open spaces totalling 115.84ha which equates to a total of 10.57 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 9.91 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

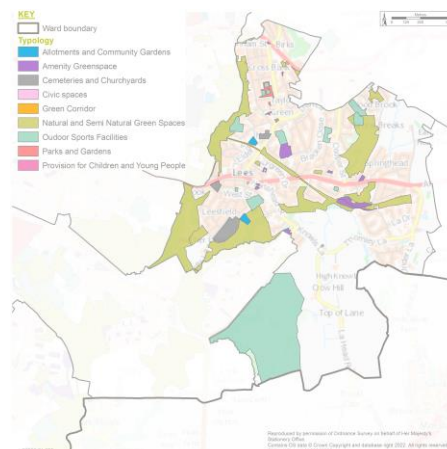


Figure 45 Open Spaces in Saddleworth West and Lees

Accessibility Analysis

8.194 Saddleworth West and Lees has good accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.195 There are gaps in provision to Provision for Children and Young People around Lees, and Parks and Gardens across the ward except the far northern areas of the ward.

Quality Analysis

8.196 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.197 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 16 sites were audited in ward and Quality scores ranged from Very Good to Fair. St Edwards Roman Catholic Church achieved the highest quality score at 84% (Very Good).

8.198 11 sites achieved a Fair quality score including Railway Reclamation which achieved 54%.



Figure 46 St Edwards Roman Catholic Church



Figure 47 Railway Reclamation 2 AGS

Value Analysis

8.199 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

8.200 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across the High and Medium Value bandings.

8.201 Most sites (12) fell within the High value banding, with Radcliffe Road NSN achieving the highest Value score at 80% (High).

Quantity Analysis

8.202 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.

8.203 When applying the proposed quantity standards Saddleworth West and Lees is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.

8.204 There is a current and future surplus Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.205 Table 45 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Saddleworth West and Lees.

Table 45: Saddleworth West and Lees Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.15	-0.17
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3.56	3.21
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.92	2.66
Parks and Gardens	-0.35	-0.35
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.24	-0.24

Shaw

Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.206 Shaw is located to the north of Oldham and includes the areas of Shaw, Moss Hey, and Small Brook. The ward has a total of 42 open spaces totalling 130.74ha which equates to a total of 13.03 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 12.23 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.207 Shaw has good accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

- 8.208 There are gaps in provision for Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens, Provision for Children and Young People and Outdoor Sports Facilities to the north and east of the ward.

Quality Analysis

- 8.209 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.210 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 23 sites were audited in ward and Quality scores ranged from Excellent to Poor. Shaw Cricket Club and Dunwood Park Courts AGS achieved the highest quality score at 99%, four other sites also fell into the Excellent banding.
- 8.211 Twingates Community Nature Area was scored 23% (Poor) and achieved the lowest quality score in the ward.

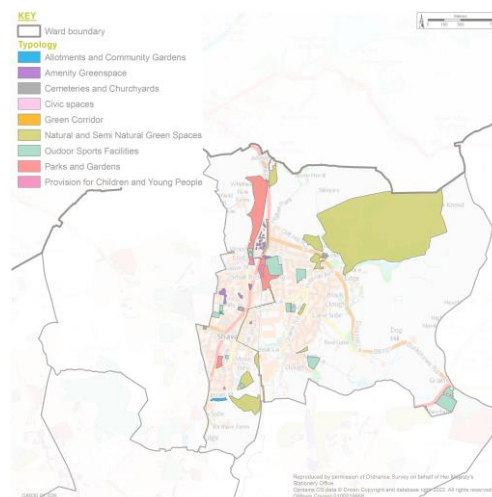


Figure 48 Open Spaces in Shaw



Figure 49 Westway



Figure 50 Twingates Community Nature Area

Value Analysis

- 8.212 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

- 8.213 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across the High, Medium and Low Value bandings.
- 8.214 Most sites (15) fell within the Medium value banding. Dunwood Park achieved the highest Value (81%), whilst Off Beal Lane NSN achieved the lowest value score (28%).

Quantity Analysis

- 8.215 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.216 When applying the proposed quantity standards Shaw is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.217 There is a current and future surplus Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Gardens.
- 8.218 Table 46 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Shaw.

Table 46: Shaw Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.28	-0.29
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.24	7.61
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.59	-0.63
Parks and Gardens	0.92	0.84
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.18	-0.18

St James'

8.219 Situated close to the centre of Oldham's administrative area, St James' ward includes areas of Sholver, Moorside, Broadbent and Acre. The ward has a total of 68 open spaces totalling 90.31ha which equates to a total of 6.98 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 6.55 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

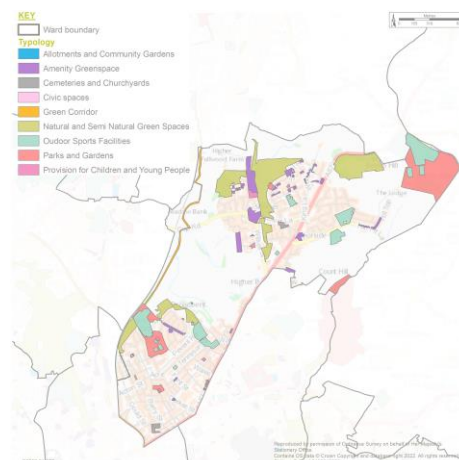


Figure 51 Open Space in St James'

Accessibility Analysis

8.220 St James' ward has excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.221 There is generally good access to Parks and Gardens although there is a gap in provision towards the centre of the ward. Similarly, whilst there is access to Provision for Children and Young People, there are gaps in the provision of this typology to the east and centre of the ward.

Quality Analysis

8.222 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.223 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 35 sites were audited in ward and Quality scores ranged from Excellent to Poor. Stoneleigh Park OSF achieved the highest quality score at 96%.

8.224 Sholver Lane NSN achieved the lowest value score at 25% (Poor).



Figure 52 Stoneleigh Park OSF

Value Analysis

8.225 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

8.226 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix B. Sites within the ward fall across the High, Medium and Low Value bandings with 15 sites falling in the Medium banding, and 14 sites in the Low banding.

8.227 Stoneleigh Park achieved the highest Value score of 86%, whilst Whetstone Hill Road achieved the lowest Value score at 20%.

Quantity Analysis

- 8.228 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.229 When applying the proposed quantity standards St James' ward is deficient Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.230 There is a current and future surplus in all other typologies.
- 8.231 Table 47 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within St James' ward.

Table 47: St James' Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.25	0.20
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0.77	0.60
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.28	0.18
Parks and Gardens	1.35	1.24
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.17	-0.18

St Mary's

8.232 St Mary's ward is located south-east of the main town centre. The ward has a total of 62 open spaces totalling 49.45ha which equates to a total of 3.17 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 2.98 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.233 St Mary's ward has excellent provision of Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.234 There are gaps in the provision of Parks and Gardens to the south-east and north-west of the ward as well as the centre and south-east of Provision for Children and Young People.

Quality Analysis

8.235 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.236 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 32 sites were audited in ward and Quality scores ranged from Very Good to Poor.

8.237 Only 1 site (Roundthorn NSN) achieved a Poor quality score of 49%. The highest quality site was New Jammia Mosque which achieved a quality score of 89% (Very Good).

Value Analysis

8.238 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

8.239 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across the High, Medium and Low Value bandings with 16 sites falling in the low banding.

8.240 Oldham / Lees Recreation Route achieved the highest value score of 68% (High Value), whilst Lord street achieved the lowest value score at 14% (Low Value).

Quantity Analysis

8.241 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.

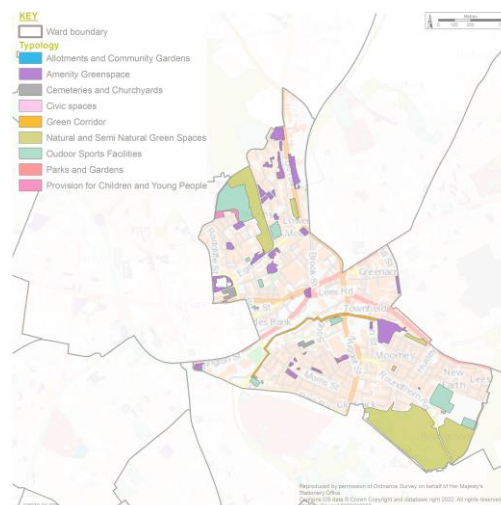


Figure 53 Open Space in St Mary's



Figure 54 New Jammia Mosque

- 8.242 When applying the proposed quantity standards St Mary's ward is deficient in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sport Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.243 There is a current and future surplus Amenity Greenspace.
- 8.244 Table 48 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within St Mary's ward.

Table 48: St Mary's Ward Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	0.22	0.18
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-0.37	-0.47
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.94	-0.98
Parks and Gardens	-0.40	-0.40
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

Waterhead

Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.245 Waterhead is located the centre-east of the administrative boundary and includes areas of Greenacres, Spring Hill and Near Barrowshaw. The ward has a total of 59 open spaces totalling 69.22ha which equates to a total of 5.15 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 4.83 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

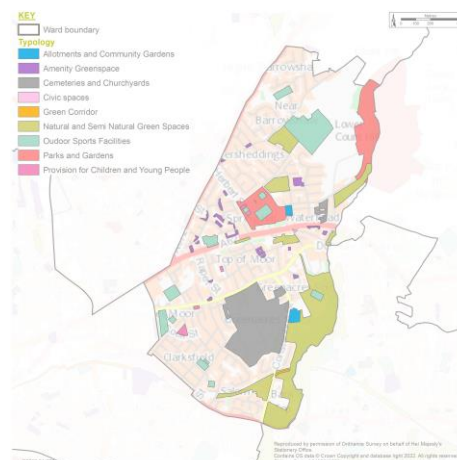


Figure 55 Open Space in Waterhead

Accessibility Analysis

- 8.246 Waterhead has excellent provision of Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities.
- 8.247 There are gaps in the provision of Parks and Gardens to the far south of the ward and Provision for Children and Young People to the far south and north of the ward.

Quality Analysis

- 8.248 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.249 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 20 sites were audited in the Waterhead ward and Quality scores ranged from Excellent to Poor.
- 8.250 6 sites achieved a quality score of Excellent including Waterworks Road NSN and Howard Street which achieved 100%.



Figure 56 Howard Street

- 8.251 Railway Rec NSN achieved the lowest quality score of 43% (Poor).

Value Analysis

- 8.252 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.
- 8.253 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. Sites within the ward fall across the High, Medium and Low Value bandings with 7 sites falling in the High and Medium bandings.
- 8.254 Waterhead Park achieved the highest value score of 85% (High Value), whilst Counthill School achieved 22% (Low Value).

Quantity Analysis

- 8.255 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.
- 8.256 When applying the proposed quantity standards, the Waterhead ward is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People at present and up to 2037.
- 8.257 There is a current and future surplus Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.
- 8.258 Table 49 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Waterhead.

Table 49: Waterhead Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.30	-0.31
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0.54	0.38
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-0.59	-0.64
Parks and Gardens	-0.08	-0.10
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

Werneth

8.259 Werneth is located to the south of the administrative boundary and town centre. The ward has a total of 40 open spaces totalling 13.92ha which equates to a total of 0.99 ha per 1,000 population (2021) and 0.93 ha per 1,000 population (2037).

Accessibility Analysis

8.260 Werneth ward has excellent provision of Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

8.261 There is good access to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People although there are gaps in the provision of these typologies in limited areas of the ward.

Quality Analysis

8.262 The Open Space Quality Scores map shows each open space and the quality score from the open space audits.

8.263 Details of these sites can be found in Appendix C. 7 sites were audited in ward and Quality scores ranged from Very Good to Fair.

8.264 3 sites achieved a Very Good quality score including Werneth Park Playground, Werneth Park Monument and St Thomas Church.

8.265 Larch Street achieved the lowest quality score of 71% (Fair).

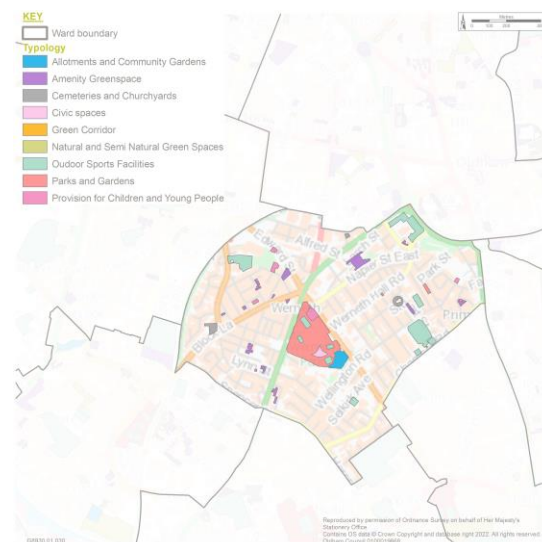


Figure 57 Open Space in Werneth



Figure 58 Werneth Park Playground



Figure 59 Larch Street

Value Analysis

8.266 The Open Space Value Assessment map shows each open space and the value score from the open space audits.

8.267 Details of audit results can be found in Appendix C. All 7 sites in the ward achieved a High Value score with Werneth Park achieving 85%.

Quantity Analysis

8.268 Appendix F presents the current (2021) and future (2037) surplus and deficiency per typology borough wide and for the ward.

8.269 When applying the proposed quantity standards there is a current and future deficiency in Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People.

8.270 There is a current surplus in Parks and Gardens however the ward becomes deficient in this typology by 2037.

8.271 Table 50 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within Werneth.

Table 50: Werneth Open Space Provision Current and Future

Open Space Typology	Current 2021 Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2037) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.35	-0.35
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Green Corridors	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.95	-1.95
Outdoor Sports Facilities	-1.04	-1.06
Parks and Gardens	0.01	-0.02
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.20	-0.20

9.0 Recommendations and Strategy

Adopt the Recommended Standards

- 9.1 This Open Space Study has reviewed local open space provision within Oldham, including the quantity, accessibility, quality and value.
- 9.2 This Open Space Study has resulted in recommendations for standards which are robust and can form a basis for addressing any deficiencies resulting from proposed development and population increase.
- 9.3 It is recommended that the proposed standards are adopted by the council to support the delivery and implementation of Local Plan policies to 2037.

Standards and New Development

- 9.4 There is a growing emphasis on open space to help tackle climate change, create flood risk resilience, reverse biodiversity decline and provide many health and wellbeing benefits for the immediate and wider community. Furthermore, new development is required to provide measurable net gain for biodiversity under the NPPF (paragraph 174) and the Natural Environment PPG. All new development of 10 or more dwellings should continue to provide new open space, but this should be regardless of deficiencies.
- 9.5 The results of this Open Space Study should be used to identify which typology(ies) should be included as part of new development, based on identified deficiencies.
- 9.6 Funding through planning obligations should be used to improve the quality of open space such where they do not meet the Quality Standard, as well as improving walking and cycling accessibility to open spaces through provision of improved path networks and connectivity. A developer's contribution calculator will assist with the open space requirements associated with new development.
- 9.7 Open spaces which have not been assessed against accessibility standards, or where they did not fall within the audit criteria, should still aim to achieve the proposed standard. Opportunities for the improvement of these spaces should be sought. This may best be achieved via targeted consultation with the specific groups engaging with the spaces and gaining an understanding of what they value to be the highest priorities in terms of increasing the quality and value of the specific typology. This may be increased provision and/or increased quality of the existing provision.

Open Space Guidance Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- 9.8 SPD's cover a wide range of issues giving detailed guidance on how policies or proposals in development plan documents will be implemented. A SPD can take the form of a design guide, development brief, masterplan or an issue-based document.
- 9.9 A SPD could be published to outline the open space requirements of new developments to:

- Protect, replace or enhance open spaces impacted by development proposals;
- Implement standards proposed in this Open Space Study; and
- Review local open space provision in regards to the increase in population.

Multi-functional Open Space

9.10 Wherever possible, the council should look to open spaces to deliver multiple functions, including:

- Recreation;
- Green travel route;
- Aesthetic;
- Shading from the sun;
- Evaporative cooling;
- Trapping air pollutants;
- Noise absorption;
- Habitat for wildlife;
- Connectivity for wildlife;
- Heritage;
- Cultural;
- Carbon storage;
- Food production;
- Wind shelter;
- Education;
- Water storage;
- Water infiltration; and
- Water interception.

9.11 Opportunities should be sought for tree planting on open spaces across the borough to assist the council in achieving carbon neutrality as well as providing valuable habitat and canopy cover. The accompanying Green Infrastructure Strategy provides further information on how these multi-functional aspirations can be achieved along with identifying opportunities for tree planting within the Borough.

Long-Term Management of Open Spaces for New Development

Application of Standards

9.12 It is recommended that the proposed standards are adopted as policy, as part of the emerging Local Plan review. Standards relate to the management of open space. New development should use the standards outlined in this document to integrate well designed, quality open spaces which are accessible for all communities, taking into consideration different age groups, abilities, ethnicities and gender.

Management of Open Space

9.13 Once development has been granted planning permission, implemented on the site and practical completion has been achieved, the open space on site is usually either transferred to the council or managing organisation (e.g. third party Management Company, or resident led Management Company).

- 9.14 A Landscape Management Plan is essential for the long-term management of open space and should be produced prior to the transfer of open space. A Landscape Management Plan should provide the following minimum information:
- Desktop review of the site including context, designations and history;
 - Site specific information including ecology, arboriculture and public rights of way;
 - Aims and objective for the management of the site;
 - Management organisation who will be responsible for the open space post-practical completion;
 - Funding of long term maintenance of the site; and
 - Procedure of review and monitoring of the open space and the Landscape Management Plan.
- 9.15 Landscape Management Plans should cover a period of 30 years in line with requirements for BNG however should be routinely reviewed to ensure target habitat conditions are achieved.
- 9.16 It is the developer's responsibility to inform buyers of new properties of the requirement to pay for an annual maintenance contribution (Service Charge/Estate Fee).
- 9.17 Once open space has been transferred to a management organisation, the council or other organisation it is no longer the developer's responsibility to manage the open space. Any costs or other resident commitments in relation to the management of open space on new developments (e.g. service charge) should also be flagged by the appointed solicitor during the conveyancing process to residents.
- 9.18 Where the management organisation or other managing body does not adhere to the maintenance objectives and operations outlined in the Landscape Management Plan, issues should be escalated with the relevant organisation.