

## **Overall summary and conclusions**

### **Introduction**

- 16.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” (September 2002).
- 16.2 The three overall objectives of the study are to:
- deliver a robust technical study in line with PPG17 requirements, which evaluates the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreational land in Broxbourne and recommends appropriate strategy, policy, standards and specific provision required to meet the Borough’s future needs
  - deliver a ‘sub strategy’ for the Council’s priority/directly owned/managed parks and open spaces in the form of a deliverable, SMART Action Plan, informed by the technical study as well as qualitative/value and needs assessments in addition to identifying prioritised activities/tasks to improve local open space and better meet local needs – for the next five years
  - deliver a ‘sub strategy’ for the Council’s priority/directly owned/managed/key partner community facilities in the form of a deliverable, SMART Action Plan, informed by the technical study and qualitative/value and needs assessments and identifying prioritised activities/tasks to improve community facilities and better meet local needs – for the next five years.
- 16.3 It is important to note that the Council only controls a limited amount of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the Council needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the relevant organisations may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Broxbourne Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.
- 16.4 The following table summarises the quantity, quality and accessibility standards set for each typology.

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**Table 16.1 Quality, quantity and accessibility standards**

| Typology  | Quantity standard       | Accessibility standard |        | Quality standards  |   |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|--|---|
|   | Ha per 1,000 population | Method                 | Time   | Essential  | Desirable   |
| Parks and Gardens   | 0.284                   | Walk                   | 15mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• A welcoming place</li> <li>• Plants and trees</li> <li>• Dog mess bins</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community involvement</li> <li>• Access to toilets</li> <li>• Natural features</li> <li>• Achieve Green Flag status</li> </ul> |
| Natural and semi natural  | 1.26                    | Walk                   | 15mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Nature features</li> <li>• Improve biodiversity</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog mess bins</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> </ul>  |
| Amenity Greenspace  | 0.46                    | Walk                   | 10mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Safe and secure</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plants and trees</li> </ul>  |
| Provision for Children  | 0.04                    | Walk                   | 10mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Apply Fields in Trust (FIT) standards</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise range of play opportunities</li> <li>• Supervised sessions</li> </ul>   |
| Teenage Facilities  | 0.018                   | Walk                   | 15mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Apply FIT standards</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well lit</li> <li>• Supervised sessions</li> </ul>   |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities: Grass pitches, STPs, tennis courts and bowls | 1.88                    | Walk                   | 15mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Apply relevant NGB specifications</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car parking</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Changing facilities</li> </ul>   |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities: Golf courses, outdoor swimming pools         | 1.88                    | Drive                  | 20mins |  |   |

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| Typology                   | Quantity standard       | Accessibility standard |        | Quality standards  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|--|--|
|                            | Ha per 1,000 population | Method                 | Time   | Essential  | Desirable  |
| Churchyards and Cemeteries | N/A                     | N/A                    | N/A    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Well laid out</li> <li>• A welcoming place (cemeteries)</li> <li>• Seating</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets (cemeteries)</li> </ul>                     |
| Allotments                 | 0.2                     | Walk                   | 15mins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> <li>• Water supply</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car parking</li> </ul>                              |
| Civic spaces               | N/A                     | N/A                    | N/A    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Access to toilets</li> <li>• Plants and trees</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Access to refreshments</li> </ul> |
| Green Corridors            | N/A                     | N/A                    | N/A    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Improve biodiversity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle tracks</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> </ul>        |

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- 16.5 Standards for indoor sports facilities and community halls are detailed in Appendices I, K and L.
- 16.6 The following table summarises the key findings of the study, under the headings of each typology.

**Table 16.12 Recommendations**

| <b>PARKS AND GARDENS</b>        |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>P&amp;G 1</b>                | Maximise the role that parks and garden sites can play in striving to increase participation in health and physical activity across the borough by effectively promoting these opportunities. Consider and develop the provision of alternative means of exercise such as walks, fitness and walk trails, outdoor gyms and 'play' activities and facilities. |
| <b>P&amp;G 2</b>                | Given the low number of sites within the borough, all park and garden sites should be afforded protection.   |
| <b>P&amp;G 3</b>                | Strive to achieve Green Flag quality criteria at all sites across the borough and target improvements at all sites where quality standards fall short through the development of appropriate management plans.   |
| <b>P&amp;G 4</b>                | Continue to develop and enhance Cheshunt Park to ensure that it meets both local and regional needs. Promote the park as a resource for local people and an example of good practice. The Council should seek Green Flag accreditation at key strategic sites such as Cedars Park.   |
| <b>P&amp;G 5</b>                | Access to Lee Valley Regional Park should be facilitated and promoted through partnership working between the Council and the Lee Valley Park Authority.   |
| <b>NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL</b> |  |
| <b>NSN 1</b>                    | In light of the wider benefits of natural and semi natural open spaces and the expressed importance of these sites by local residents, the Council should protect all natural and semi natural sites from development.   |
| <b>NSN 2</b>                    | Maximise biodiversity on natural and semi natural open spaces through the implementation of effective management and maintenance regimes.  |
| <b>NSN 3</b>                    | Maximise the access and promotion of natural and semi natural areas (including the Lee Valley Regional Park) through communication and effective site and directional signage.   |
| <b>NSN 4</b>                    | Work to establish a network of accessible green corridors to link natural and semi natural sites within settlements to other types of local open space and also to wider strategic sites.  |
| <b>NSN 5</b>                    | If appropriate, consider the opportunity to address access deficiencies to natural and semi natural open space within all areas and promote access to Lee Valley Regional Park to all borough residents.   |
| <b>AMENITY GREENSPACE</b>       |  |
| <b>AGS 1</b>                    | Strive to improve the quality of all existing amenity greenspace sites in the borough so that there is a consistently high quality standard of provision for borough residents. In particular, it is likely that improvements to the provision of ancillary facilities will be of particular benefit to the overall quality of amenity greenspace.           |

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| <b>AGS 2</b>                      | Investigate opportunities of formalising natural and semi-natural amenity greenspace in the Goffs Oak Bury Green, Rosedale & Flamstead End analysis area.   |
| <b>AGS 3</b>                      | Consider the appropriateness for disposal of sites. Capital received through the release of any land should be reinvested in qualitative improvements in the area.  |
| <b>AGS 4</b>                      | Use the findings of the site assessment to prioritise sites for qualitative improvement within the Cheshunt and Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis areas.   |
| <b>PROVISION FOR CHILDREN</b>     |   |
| <b>CYP1</b>                       | There is a need for additional play provision within the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. The preferred site should be easily accessible to all residents within the area.  |
| <b>CYP2</b>                       | The Council to address the significant undersupply in Waltham Cross & Theobalds analysis area by providing a large play facility south of Waltham Cross. Other gaps in provision also need addressing with the priorities currently being west and central Broxbourne and south west of Turnford.   |
| <b>CYP3</b>                       | Quality of sites needs to be enhanced, primarily in the Cheshunt analysis area. Other sites falling significantly below the benchmark should be addressed with the focus being on achieving maintenance and safety criteria.  |
| <b>OUTDOOR TEENAGE FACILITIES</b> |   |
| <b>OTF1</b>                       | The Council should address the significant gaps in quantity and accessibility. In the first instance the seven additional teenage facilities that have already been proposed should be delivered as soon as possible. Following which, additional outdoor teenage facility provision should be built in to any new housing developments in the borough. |
| <b>OTF2</b>                       | The Council should quality benchmark to ensure existing provision is brought up to an acceptable standard and that any new provision reflects the agreed local quality standard. Sites should therefore conform to FIT standards and consideration should also been given to quality and variation of equipment, maintenance and safety.                |
| <b>OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES</b>  |   |
| <b>OSF 1</b>                      | Strive to improve the quality of outdoor sports facilities, to achieve the quality standard. This should ensure that all are fit for their intended purpose.  |
| <b>OSF 2</b>                      | In locations where there is expressed demand for further sporting provision, and where school facilities could be made available to the public but are not currently, the Council should consider the feasibility of formalising community-use agreements at school sites prior to seeking delivery of new outdoor sport facilities.                    |
| <b>OSF 3</b>                      | Investigate the demand for and the potential to deliver further provision of outdoor sport facilities in the Waltham Cross & Theobalds and Hoddesdon North & Rye Park analysis area.  |
| <b>ALLOTMENTS</b>                 |   |
| <b>ALLOT 1</b>                    | Monitor the demand for allotment provision within the borough, with reference to current waiting lists and areas of current accessibility   |

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|                                   | deficiency. Following this, where appropriate, seek to provide additional plots to meet future demand.   |
| <b>ALLOT 2</b>                    | Identify specific sites, which are lower quality and may therefore be a suitable location for redevelopment, and investigate the potential for these sites to be redeveloped with the allotment provision relocated to the Green Belt.   |
| <b>CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS</b> |  |
| <b>CC 1</b>                       | The Council and other providers should recognise and promote the historic and nature conservation value of closed cemeteries and churchyards and develop the ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards.  |
| <b>CC 2</b>                       | The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of closed cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality standard and ensure provision reflects best practice.  |
| <b>CC 3</b>                       | The Council should produce management plans for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds for all. |
| <b>CIVIC SPACES</b>               |  |
| <b>CIV 1</b>                      | The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of civic spaces across the borough in line with the quality standard and to ensure civic spaces provide a value community resource.  |
| <b>GREEN CORRIDORS</b>            |  |
| <b>GC 1</b>                       | Existing green corridors should be linked to open spaces in the Borough, including the Lee Valley Regional Park and Broxbourne Woods. This will provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces.                                  |
| <b>GC 2</b>                       | Those responsible for the green corridors in Broxbourne should aspire to the essential and desirable quality features. The Council should also work in tandem with all delivery partners, such as Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, in order to maximise the use of green corridors.             |
| <b>INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES</b>   |  |
| <b>ISF 1</b>                      | Work in partnership with sports hall providers in the borough to facilitate community access to these sites, to help alleviate any programming conflicts at key sites and address public accessibility deficiencies across the borough.  |
| <b>ISF 2</b>                      | Work in partnership with education providers in the borough to facilitate community access to sports hall provision on school sites and maximise opportunities through the BSF and extended schools programme.   |
| <b>ISF 3</b>                      | Strive to achieve a high quality of sports hall provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.   |
| <b>ISF 4</b>                      | Strive to achieve a high quality of swimming pool provision. Where possible, larger sites should work towards Quest accreditation, the national benchmark for quality.   |

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| ISF 5                  | Investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor tennis facility in the borough in order to address the current deficiency in provision.  |
| ISF 6                  | Strive to improve the quality of indoor sports facilities in the borough to meet the recommended quality standard.  |
| <b>COMMUNITY HALLS</b> |   |
| <b>COMM 1</b>          | <p>Where appropriate, support should be provided to owners of existing community facilities in order to enhance the quality and value of these amenities to local residents.</p> <p>Further investigation should be given to the value of the facilities perceived to be poorly used, and consideration to a strategy for increasing usage should be developed.</p> |
| <b>COMM 2</b>          | Strive to achieve the recommended local quality standard at community facility sites. For larger venues, consideration should be given to working towards a quality assurance award.  |
| <b>COMM 3</b>          | Work to address the current perceived deficiency of indoor youth centres in the borough, to ensure that community facilities are providing for all ages of the local community,   |