

### Strategic context

#### Introduction

- 3.1 It is important to consider the findings of the local needs assessment and audit within the local, regional and national context.
- 3.2 The following sets out the national, regional and local strategic context for Broxbourne Borough Council. Further national guidance can be found in Appendix H. Local strategic documents have also been reviewed within the individual typology sections, highlighting specific strategic objectives that link into this study.

#### National context

- 3.3 At the national level, Planning Policy Statement one states that:

*‘Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.’*

#### **Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)**

- 3.4 Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities. These assessments should cover the distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities.
- 3.5 When planning on developing new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:
- promote accessibility from walking, cycling and transport links
  - locate sites that will contribute to town centre viability and vitality
  - avoid loss of amenity to residents
  - improve the quality of the public realm through good design
  - look to produce areas of open spaces in industrial or commercial areas
  - improve the quality of existing facilities
  - consider the safety of the people using them, ie children
  - meet the regeneration needs of areas, therefore keeping Greenfield sites untouched
  - consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses
  - assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion
  - consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

### ***Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)***

- 3.6 Sport England's aims are for two million more people to be active by 2012 and to provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:
- develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England
  - encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence
  - foster, support and undertake the development of facilities
  - advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.
- 3.7 Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.
- 3.8 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:
- 'Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.'*
- 3.9 Sport England sees the planning system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals. These are:
- taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy
  - identify opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term
  - recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations
  - the development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest
  - using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

### Regional policy documents

#### ***Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) (2004)***

- 3.10 The East of England Plan (RSS14) will replace existing Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) and Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia (RPG6). The East of England Plan will be regional spatial strategy guiding development in Bedfordshire, Luton, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Hertfordshire, Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Norfolk and Suffolk until 2021.
- 3.11 The Plan is currently under review. Upon adoption, it will form part of the development plan for Broxbourne and will provide a framework for more detailed policies in the Council's Local Development Framework.
- 3.12 Policy SS7: Green Belt identifies that reviews of some Green Belt boundaries will be required to identify the most sustainable locations for development. The Green Belt around Broxbourne has been identified for review but notes that this will need to satisfy the national criteria for Green Belt releases and accord with the spatial strategy set out in the RSS.
- 3.13 There are a number of other policies within the plan that have an impact on the open space, sport and recreation provision in Broxbourne. Of particular note is policy ENV1: Environmental Maintenance which states that development plan documents set targets for the provision of natural green space within development areas and provide connected and substantial networks of accessible multi-functional green space.
- 3.14 Policy C2 relates to the provision and location of strategic leisure, sport, recreation and/or tourism facilities, which relates to facilities of regional or national significance. Policy C4 relates to sporting facilities and requires local development documents to meet the needs of rural and urban locations, protect and enhance important existing facilities and to make provision for new facilities where needs have been identified. Policy C5 relates to recreation and natural resources and requires local development documents to ensure satisfactory access to sites and facilities.
- 3.15 Having an open space, recreation and sport strategy in place will ensure that Broxbourne has the tools to develop local development documents and policies in accordance with the East of England Plan.

#### ***Creating Active Places – Sports Facility Strategy for the East of England, EEDA (2007)***

- 3.16 This document provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of existing facility provision in the East of England area and therefore has a key role in supporting the development and delivery of a network of high quality sports facilities across the region.
- 3.17 The vision for future facility provision is *'to develop and maintain a network of quality facilities, fit for purpose and accessible for all, meeting local, regional and national needs'*. The scope of this document extends to sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness gyms (relevant for the indoor sports section of this study) as well as synthetic turf pitches and golf courses (relevant for the outdoor sports section of this study). Playing pitches are not covered.
- 3.18 There was a general conclusion that quantity of sports halls was good across the region, although a number of facilities needed to be upgraded in some areas.

Similarly, pools provision was equally good, although some accessibility issues remain. Population growth was referenced as a future strain on these facilities. The amount of ‘pay and play’ access for health and fitness suites needs to increase. There was an acknowledged need for more synthetic turf pitches that were sport specific and had floodlights.

- 3.19 It was noted the East of England region had poor provision of elite athlete facilities, and it was felt proposals to provide such facilities should be supported. This was linked to the role of London 2012 and the attraction of major sporting events to the region.

### **‘Active Hertfordshire’ – the Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy (2007-16)**

- 3.20 The vision for Active Hertfordshire is:

*“to develop a network of quality and accessible community and specialist sports facilities, with appropriate support services, within Hertfordshire that will facilitate increased participation and achievement of potential, enhance quality of life and improve the health and well-being of local communities”.*

- 3.21 This vision will be supported by six policy objectives:

- demonstrate strategic need, both current and future, to inform need for facility provision
- increase participation countywide by 1% per annum
- ensure provision of appropriate resources for young people, physical education and school sport
- develop countywide capacity of clubs, coaches and volunteers to facilitate participation at grassroots and elite performance level
- improve health, and address social inclusion issues
- develop innovative partnerships for delivery which maximise available resources for investment and development of community and specialist sports facilities.

- 3.22 This study will help establish the various needs in terms of sports facilities specifically for the borough of Broxbourne and will help the borough achieve countywide objectives in terms of sporting facility provision regarding quantity, quality and accessibility.

### **Local strategic documents**

- 3.23 Local strategic documents have been reviewed within the individual typology sections, highlighting specific strategic objectives that link into this study. However, the key principles of each document have been set out in Table 3.1 alongside the relevance of this study to the assessment of local needs.

**Table 3.1 Strategic Context – Implications for this assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities**

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p><b>Borough of Broxbourne Local Plan Second Review (2001-2011)</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 2: Green Belt and countryside</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 7. Sport leisure and tourism</b></p>	<p>This document is the framework for guiding, controlling and bringing forward development in the borough.</p> <p>Two chapters are of particular interest in relation to this study: Chapter 2 relating to the Green Belt and Countryside, and Chapter 7 relating to Sport, Leisure and Tourism. These chapters have been reviewed below.</p> <p>The Council's objectives for its Green Belt and countryside include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protecting the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development</li> <li>• protecting and enhance the appearance of the countryside and conserve and positively manage important landscape features</li> <li>• increasing and promote public access to the countryside</li> <li>• affording appropriate degrees of protection to nationally and locally designated wildlife sites.</li> </ul> <p>The Council's objectives in respect of the provision and retention of community, leisure and recreation facilities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and protect existing facilities for community use and sport and recreation generally, as identified in the Community Plan</li> <li>• to identify a hierarchy of open space including parks</li> <li>• to ensure that adequate provision is made for a wide range of community sporting and leisure activities commensurate with the demands of the population of the borough</li> <li>• to continue to monitor provision against need, providing and/or</li> </ul>	<p>New developments or redevelopments on the Green Belt around Broxbourne will only be approved if they answer specific criteria, including enhancing sport and outdoor recreation facilities, and protect the existing wildlife.</p> <p>The Green Belt area is of great importance to the borough, and needs to be given special consideration in this study.</p> <p>This study will assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of each type of open space in the borough, as well as all the sports and leisure facilities and community halls, to ensure that current and future demand can be met.</p>

Document reviewed	Summary	Links to PPG17 technical study
<p><b>Chapter 8: Heritage and design</b></p>	<p>promoting new facilities when need for such is clearly identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure provision of parks, open space, sports and community and recreational facilities keeps pace with new development/population trends</li> <li>to provide additional and improve children's play areas within those parts of the borough which are currently deficient and ensure adequate provision is made in association with new residential development whether on site or on adjacent land.</li> </ul> <p>The Council will also seek to introduce the concept of 'leisure gardens', "principally an area of allotments provided with central facilities (club room, storage etc) and children's play areas, making allotments a gardening a pursuit more attractive as a family activity."</p> <p>The New River Green Chain is an important visual amenity that passes through the Borough. It is important that its openness is preserved so that it can continue to make a valuable contribution to the character of those parts of the Borough through which it passes and provide a continuous green link with adjoining administrative areas. Public rights of way already run along part of the route of the New River.</p> <p>The Council will seek to ensure that the essentially open character, amenity and wildlife value of all waterside 'green chains' throughout the Borough is protected. This supported by policy HD19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which would have a materially detrimental effect upon the open character of waterside green chains whether located within the urban area or the countryside</li> </ul>	<p>The study will identify specific areas in the borough where there is a need for any type of open space, and will make recommendations as to how to address these needs.</p> <p>Green corridors are considered in this study as a necessary mean to link the various open spaces throughout the Borough. Recommendations will enable the Council to reach its objectives in terms of protection and enhancement of green corridors.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(II) the Council will permit, in conjunction with Thames Water PLC and riparian land owners, development proposals that make a positive contribution to enhancing the biodiversity, wildlife, and amenity value of waterside green chains throughout the Borough and will seek to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are incorporated into any development proposals proximate to these chains.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Broxbourne Community Plan 2007-09</b></p>	<p>This document has been developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, which consists of high-level representation from all public and voluntary sector bodies in the Borough.</p> <p>The vision outlined in the Plan is <i>“to create an area where residents want to live and work and to increase the ‘sense of place’ and sense of community”</i>.</p> <p>It is centred on several themes. Those of relevance to this study are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active and healthy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increasing levels of fitness for all</li> </ul> </li> <li>Young people, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the need for more activities to occupy young people and teenagers, along with places for them to hang around with friends, in order to reduce anti-social behaviour</li> </ul> </li> <li>Places to live, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65% of the borough is located on the Green Belt, which is protected from further developments including housing. This constitutes a challenge for the borough with an increasing population</li> </ul> </li> <li>Cleaner and greener, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting wildlife sites</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Sufficient and adequate sports and recreation facilities are key to obtain the Council's objectives. This study will identify potential areas for improvement.</p> <p>Additionally, the assessment of community halls and teenage facilities will help address some of the issues that are facing the borough.</p> <p>The study will also identify potential sites for redevelopment, in order to preserve the Green Belt and open spaces in general.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving access and information about Lee Valley Regional Park and other natural resources</li> <li>- ensuring that new developments have access to high quality local areas of green space</li> <li>- improving local open space areas in Waltham Cross and Rye Park.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Borough-wide Supplementary Planning Guidance</b></p>	<p>This is a supporting document to the new borough Local Plan. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development standards which the Council will use to assess planning applications</li> <li>• definitions and advice on how certain policies will be interpreted by the Council</li> <li>• checklists of information that may be required when an application is made.</li> </ul> <p>Section 8 of the SPG is specifically related to open space:</p> <p><b>Play areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional provision, whether by expansion of existing facilities or provision of new, will be required as new housing takes place, creating additional demand. The document acknowledges that the situation is not ideal, and all new developments of 15 houses or more will be expected to either contribute to the provision of a play space within the immediate area or include children’s play areas within the new development.</li> </ul>	<p>This study will provide additional standards recommendations for all types of open space with a view to protect, enhance or re-designate existing provision.</p> <p>This study will identify key areas of deficiency to focus the objectives of the Council on the sites where open space is most needed.</p> <p>The standards recommended in this study will be adapted specifically to the characteristics of the borough, and provide a more accurate and realistic target.</p>

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	<p><b>Recreational space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in order to provide a fair assessment of the demand likely to be generated from a new housing scheme for use of recreational open space the Council will have regard to the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standard</li> <li>• the document recognises that recreational open space is unlikely to be provided directly in association with most new housing development. Therefore, a commuted sum payment calculated on the total cost of land cost, site preparation, purchase and installation of equipment and future maintenance costs will be the subject of the legal agreement</li> <li>• the Council will maintain a schedule of recreational land expansion and facility improvement. The development proposed will then be expected to make a contribution to the appropriate facility. Development of 15 dwellings or more on one site will be expected to either provide children’s play space(s) commensurate with the NPFA standard or make a contribution to provision off-site based on the same formula as for recreational land.</li> </ul> <p><b>Amenity Greenspace:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council will insist that a landscaping scheme on a scale appropriate to each new development will be provided.</li> <li>• the Council will seek financial contributions towards the provision or improvement of such facilities from all new residential development. Contributions will be assessed in accordance with the identified needs of the local community and will be linked to the additional demand likely to be placed upon local facilities or facilities, either existing or future.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>The Asset Management Plan 2003</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this document is to describe existing asset management arrangements and planned action to improve corporate asset use. The principal objectives for leisure property include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver a balanced programme of recreational and sporting opportunities that appeal to a wide range of residents and other users, offering opportunities to improve their health, quality of life and lifelong learning</li> <li>• ensure the portfolio of Council owned/leased facilities and properties meets the needs of the community and delivers efficient asset management. Maintain, protect and develop all of the Councils parks and open-spaces to ensure they are safe, attractive and fit to provide quality outdoor leisure experiences</li> <li>• to provide an entertainment, events bar and catering service to the community that is continually improving, balanced and of high quality</li> <li>• to provide a sensitive, flexible, effective and efficient cemeteries service to all users</li> <li>• ensure access and maintain facilities in good condition and protect the local environment</li> <li>• promote and communicate service opportunities effectively to users and residents and consult with users and residents concerning service satisfaction, identifying barriers to participation and new service improvements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Leisure consultation</b></p> <p>During 2001/02 and in 2002/03 the Council consulted the public on the way forward in managing leisure properties.</p>	<p>The report will look at local provision of leisure facilities in the borough, and identify key areas for improvement, as well as make recommendations towards local standards in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility to such facilities.</p> <p>This study is based on extensive consultation with the local residents, sports clubs, and young people, and will provide an updated view on the population’s views.</p>

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	<p>Over 30% of teenagers interviewed were interested in BMX and skateboard activities. As a result, the “No Pedestrians Youth Action Group” was formed to build a “Wheel Park” at Rye Park, Hoddesdon, one of the borough’s hot spots of reported anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The questionnaire distributed to customers of Cheshunt Park Golf Course in 2001 requested feedback on works undertaken at the golf course and suggestions for further improvements. 93% of respondents were either very or fairly satisfied with the facilities overall.</p> <p>There have been substantial investments in Grundy Park Leisure Centre, (replacement health suite and aromatherapy room) parks (works to the lake, new play areas and renewal of pets corner) and John Warner Sports Centre (conversion of squash courts and dance studio into fitness suite and aerobics studio).</p>	
<p><b>Play and Free Time Strategy 2007</b></p>	<p>The strategy is based on an independent assessment of what play and free time activities currently exist in Broxbourne, and what is likely to be needed in the future. The top priorities identified by consultees include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help children and young people feel safe when they play outdoors</li> <li>• address gaps in play provision: North Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Wormley and Turnford, Goffs Oak, Theobalds and Waltham Cross especially in areas of high density housing/flats</li> <li>• provide more play and free time activities ‘close to home’, such as good standard outdoor play areas for a wide age range, and more youth centres</li> </ul>	<p>Play provision for children and teenagers is a key priority for the council. This study will provide recommendations for quality, quantity and accessibility standards for such provision and identify the key areas for improvement.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to address negative perceptions of children and young people gathering to socialise and play and to promote and engage children and young people in the positive value of play and free time activities</li> <li>• increase information about play and free time activities for residents, young people and children. To increase access to children’s play activities and opportunities including natural play in parks, and develop more cycle paths and bike activities, and more practical ‘hands on’ activities for children and young people.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Residents Survey Report 2006</b></p>	<p>This report presents the findings of research conducted by Ipsos MORI’s Local Government Unit on behalf of Broxbourne Borough Council. The survey follows on from previous research conducted by Ipsos MORI for the Council from 1993 onwards, providing the opportunity to monitor change over time. Key findings relating to open space and recreational facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• issues related to crime and anti-social behaviour dominate overall priorities. Crime/community safety is cited by over one in four residents as a priority for the area. This is closely followed by problems with young people and anti-social behaviour. This contrasts to 2001 when development pressures/overbuilding was the most important issue cited by residents in Broxbourne (although this remains the top issue after community safety/anti-social behaviour concerns)</li> <li>• in line with the concerns around problems with young people and crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing the facilities for teenagers is suggested as the top priority for the Council, followed by more police and an improvement in community safety/reduction in crime. These findings mirror those in 2003 and reconfirm the continuing concern around anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	<p>Local residents have expressed what their key issues are. This study will take into account their views as part of the PPG17 process, and standards will be recommended based on several factors including the population’s opinion.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• services which are rated as important but which attract relatively low satisfaction ratings are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- control of the amount of building and land development</li> <li>- facilities for young people.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Facilities for young people remain the only leisure service with a negative satisfaction rating (i.e. more people dissatisfied than satisfied). Given the importance attached to these facilities, improving this negative rating remains a key priority. Perceptions of parks, playgrounds and open spaces and public halls have improved which is a significant change since 2003.</p>	
<p><b>Borough of Broxbourne Housing Needs Assessment Report 2007</b></p>	<p>This report analyses housing requirements in the public and market sector in order to predict changes in the local population and their impact on future housing demands. The report concludes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the population of the Borough of Broxbourne will increase from 86,800 in 2003 to 97,700 in 2021, an increase of 12.6%/10,900 people</li> <li>• the population rise will be across all age groups with the exception of the 30-44 demographic which is forecast to fall by 1100 over the selected period</li> <li>• the largest increases will be in the 45-64 age group (4,800) and the 65+ age group (4,600)</li> <li>• the retired population as a whole (65+) will increase by 34.8% (4800) by 2021</li> <li>• overall there will be a marginal fall in the numbers of younger economically active households.</li> </ul>	<p>The study will identify key areas for improvements in relation to future population projections, to ensure that the needs of the future generations can be addressed.</p>

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<p><b>Borough of Broxbourne Best Value Performance Plan 2006/2007</b></p>	<p>Theme 7 of the Plan, ‘Cleaner and Greener’, outlines an action plan to improve quality of the environment, biodiversity and green spaces in Broxbourne. Priorities open space and wildlife sites include the protection of existing sites, reduction of litter and dumped rubbish and improved access.</p> <p>Community projects are a valuable way of improving sport and recreational facilities while also enhancing community involvement in redevelopment.</p> <p>Broxbourne Council has agreed to provide capital funding to enable the construction of adult learning facilities and two children’s centres to be built in the Borough in 2007/2008. These will be at Flamstead End School and Arlesdene Nursery School and are both located in areas where there are concerns about the skill levels of adults.</p> <p>The Holdbrook South Regeneration Scheme has secured funding from the East of England development agency to improve the shopping precinct and open spaces in the area, while also helping to build a shared community centre/family learning facility and a young people’s ball park.</p> <p>The Council’s goals, outlined in ‘Performance Management’ in the Plan include an aim to improve the quality of parks, open spaces and the ‘street scene’ and improve services to young people with a specific view to securing more supervised activities for youth and affordable amenities for young people.</p> <p>Capital investment in sport and leisure facilities for 2007/2008 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £284,400 for parks and open spaces</li> <li>• £171,000 for investment in youth facilities</li> <li>• £66,500 for investment in play facilities</li> </ul>	<p>The study will make recommendations for improvement on specific sites, which will enable the Council to fulfil its objectives in terms of quality of open space as well as sports and recreation facilities.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £457,550 for improvements within leisure facilities</li> <li>• £237,500 for community plan projects</li> <li>• £47,500 for town centre improvements</li> <li>• £69,500 for ‘street scene’ improvements (bins, seats etc).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy (2005)</b></p>	<p>The Broxbourne Playing Pitch Strategy highlights the surplus and deficiencies of a number of sports pitches in the borough. Key findings from the study are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an oversupply of mini-soccer pitches and adult football pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches</li> <li>• an optimum number of hockey pitches</li> <li>• an oversupply of adult rugby pitches but an undersupply of junior pitches</li> <li>• an undersupply of cricket pitches.</li> </ul> <p>PPS recommendations included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘the Council should re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for sports with an identified shortfall (eg mini soccer), where another solution has not been identified’</li> <li>• ‘the Council should try to secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quality of existing playing fields in the borough and provide new facilities (including re-designation of pitches) where a shortfall is identified’</li> </ul>	<p>Outdoor sports pitches are an important type of open space, providing numerous opportunities for sporting activities and recreation. This study will provide recommendations and standards for all types of outdoor sports facilities.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the Council should continue to focus upon improving pitch quality standards’.</li></ul> <p>The PPS updated the Playing Pitch standard to 0.76 ha per 1,000 population</p>	

## **Summary and conclusions**

- 3.24 The provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, and promoting a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle.
- 3.25 Any development of open spaces (i.e. provision of either new or enhancement of existing spaces) should take into account bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness, as well as facilitating the increase needed in participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.26 Points emerging from the strategic review that are integral to the development of this open space, sport and recreation assessment in the borough of Broxbourne include the need to:
- protect the Green Belt area
  - increase opportunities for play across the borough, and specifically in the targeted areas
  - increase participation in physical activity through improved sports facilities and activities.
- 3.27 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the local importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within the borough of Broxbourne. This local needs study and resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.